

## 2/July/2008 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

### The Brian Heywood Column

#### *Rock On Luton*

There's no need to camp out in the middle of a damp field if you want to get a dose of some great rock music this summer, just pop down to the Luton Student's Union on the last Saturday in July for a dose of Luton Aid. This annual music festival has been going since 2005 and showcases some of the best live bands on the local scene. In fact the programme reads like a roll of



honour of local bands and includes **3rd Law**, **Rogue** and **Novacaine** as well as bunch of fresh new talent such as **Inertia Falls** and **Sweet Morning Oblivion** who are performing for the first time ever. Other bands set to play on the day include rock cover god's **Cerberus**, techno kings **SWANK** and Punk spectacular the **Adenoids**.

There will be plenty of other stuff going on as well with a barbecue for hungry music lovers, the usual raffle and plenty of merchandise and goodies on sale, and DJ's playing throughout the day to ensure that there's no 'dead air' during the band changeovers. And just to add the icing to the cake; all the proceeds from Luton's very own Live Aid go to the Pasque Hospice. The doors open at 1pm and the first band kicks off at 2pm on the upstairs stage at the Students' Union and the music carries on till midnight. Tickets go on sale from Monday week (July 14) and are available from Coda Music in Guilford Street, Luton and cost £5 in advance or £7.50 on the door. You can get full details from the website at [www.audiostadium.com](http://www.audiostadium.com) or by emailing [mariana.dimmock@ntlworld.com](mailto:mariana.dimmock@ntlworld.com).

The Horn in St Albans - UK Music Pub of the Year - is looking for bands to enter its Battle of the Bands competition, which starts in January. This event is now in its eleventh year and has acted as a stepping stone for local bands to go on to greater things. As well as this there are some decent prizes up for grabs with the winner getting £500 and the three runners up receiving £200 in cash. The competition is sponsored by Relentless Energy Drink, who are also main sponsors of Reading, Leeds and Download Festivals this year so you may be playing in front of judges who will be booking live bands for future events.

Bands that have graced to boards of the Horn in past competitions have included **Enter Shikari**, **The Subways**, **The Runners**, **Mohair**, **Expensive Habits** and **Friendly Fires**. If you want to take a stab at hitting the big time then you should contact Hansi at The Horn on 01727 844627 or email him at [info@thehorn.co.uk](mailto:info@thehorn.co.uk). The competition runs from July through to October and entry is just £4 entry to see four bands strut their stuff. This is a great opportunity to suss out local bands and maybe even cast a vote to help the one of your choice. The Horn is in Victoria Street, St Albans, just across from the mainline railway station so it's easy to get to from Luton, and Leagrave. Check out their website at [www.thehorn.co.uk](http://www.thehorn.co.uk) to find out who's playing.

## 9/July/2008 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

### The Brian Heywood Column

#### *Kilto Take Bedford Record Prize*

The upcoming Bedfordshire based band **Kilto Take** reached the next step up in their musical career. They recently went head to head with hundreds of bands across Herts, Beds and Bucks area as part of a competition sponsored by the 4The Record label which is part of Medical Records. The band stormed their way through to the grand final to a rammed auditorium of enthusiastic fans, grabbing the first prize, a management and associated record contract with the label. Next on the gig agenda is a university tour across the country, support slots for a whole raft of signed bands as well as playing on the Community Stage at the prestigious Bedford River Festival this weekend.



According to lead singer Mark Brooks; “We are over the moon to be selected to play at the Bedford River Festival this year. Coming from Bedford and attending the festival religiously over the years, it is hard to believe that we are now up on stage performing to what will be the largest audience we have ever played in front of.” He goes on to say “Playing this festival will definitely be a highlight moment for us...not only because we get to play our music to the masses, but take part in a festival on our stomping ground...perfect!” So if you want to hear more from the boys check them out at 14.30 on Saturday or if you want a pre-taster, you can find them at [www.myspace.com/kiltotake](http://www.myspace.com/kiltotake).

Also on this weekend is Hitchin’s Rhythms of the World festival which this year is trying out a new format. Instead of being spread around Hitchin town centre, this year’s World Music festival will all take place within the grounds of the beautiful Hitchin Priory. There will be seven stages and performance areas, including the Arena which will be dedicated to local arts, sports and community groups. With over 120 acts of all descriptions over the two days there is something for everybody (too many to mention here) so check out the day by day roster at [www.rotw.org.uk/performers](http://www.rotw.org.uk/performers). The site entrance fee is a mere £5 for adults or £4 for youth and you can get them in advance now at [www.crowdsurge.com/rotw](http://www.crowdsurge.com/rotw).

Singer / songwriter, rising star **Sarah Doe** tells me that she has a gig at Bar Chameleon in Dunstable High Street on Sunday. The band will feature Sarah on guitar and vocals along with sets from **Lester Allen** and **David Lloyd**. If you can’t make this then the next chance to hear Sarah will be on the following Saturday (July 19) at the Norman King in Dunstable along with **Jonny Fever**. You can find more information about Sarah at [www.myspace.com/sarahdoe](http://www.myspace.com/sarahdoe).

Mike Trotman from Empty Room Promotions tells me that ex-Faces and Small Faces Hammond player **Ian McLagan** and **The Bump Band** are playing at the Old Town Hall in Buckingham on Sunday week (July 20). Tickets are £16 in advance and £18 on the door, see [www.empty-rooms.com](http://www.empty-rooms.com) for details.

## 16/July/2007 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

### The Brian Heywood Column

#### *New Music Festival for Luton*

Luton seems to be hosting quite a few festivals this year with the next big one being the **Dislocation Festival** which takes place in the middle of August. The idea is to celebrate the diversity of experimental music and multimedia, exploring the interplay between sound and image, via a series of concerts and film screenings. The festival will be covering an eclectic range of musical genres including; improv, ambient, noise, electro-acoustic, glitch, electronica and new folk. The events will take place at The Old Shop in George St and The George Second public house in Bute St in Luton town centre. There will be three main events; two evening performances at The George consisting of an Improv/Drone Night on the Thursday (Aug 14) and New Folk Night on the Friday (Aug 15) followed by an entire day of musical performances and film scores at The Old Shop (Aug 16).

The festival is hosted by VSTM Records and will see the release of several new records on the label, which will be available for purchase at the various events or from the VSTM website. The events at The George will be free and a ticket for all the Saturday events costs just £5 with advanced ticket buyers getting a free CD sampler and a free drink thrown in as well! A full programme should be available for download from the festival website ([www.dislocationfestival.com](http://www.dislocationfestival.com)) in the next week or so and you can see them on MySpace at [myspace.com/dislocationfestival](http://myspace.com/dislocationfestival).

Paul Vitty tells me that the Luton Youth Festival was a great success with hundreds of young people turning up to enjoy a range of music including Luton Steel Orchestra, choirs, soloist and dancers from the inspiration Lea Manor Performing Arts Group and a vast array of bands for those who like their guitars loud and the drums heavy. Event Co-ordinator Paul said: "Not only did we have a fantastic range of activities and music but this year we were particularly pleased to see so many young people become involved in the organisation of the day." Paul goes on to say that the event "will return for its fourth year next summer, if you are interested in being involved or would like to offer sponsorship to the event please email [lywag@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lywag@hotmail.co.uk) or call 07890862626." You can find out more from the Leagrave Youth Work Action Group website at [www.lywag.org.uk](http://www.lywag.org.uk).

Tomorrow you can catch **Drive Like Casey**, **Minimal Damage** and **The Optic Nerves** at PDM's Gig Room at the Hat Factory in Bute St, Luton for just £4 on the door or £3 in advance. Find more information see the PDM website - [www.pdmmusic.com](http://www.pdmmusic.com).

Also at the Hat Factory on Saturday, Blinky Promotions presents **Symbo**, **Rogue Poet** and **Next Page Over** as part of their regular series of gigs. See their website ([www.blinkypromos.co.uk](http://www.blinkypromos.co.uk)) for up-to-date information.

Top local band **Reverie** is pushing the boat out in London on Saturday at The Good Ship in Kilburn on Saturday. They hit the stage about 9.45pm and the venue is open until 4am. For more details about this and other upcoming gigs check them out on the web at [reverieuk.com](http://reverieuk.com) and [myspace.com/reverietheband](http://myspace.com/reverietheband).



## 23/July/2008 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

### The Brian Heywood Column

#### *Local Festival Season*

It's all change at the Dunstable Music Festival this year with the town council deciding to move away from the folk influenced music and programme more mainstream music. The action will start on the Friday night (Aug 29) with Santana sound-alike **Viva Santana** playing Latin, rock and blues at the first ticketed event in the festival's eight-year history. The concert also marks the first involvement of the Grove Theatre in the festival, hosting one of the UK's top tribute acts. The St Albans based band features the inspirational Spanish guitarist Marcos Rodriguez and it looks like it will be a brilliant rock and dance night. Tickets are £12.50, £10.50, £8.50 and £6.50 with concessions available. Call the Grove Theatre Box Office 01582 602080 or visit [www.grovetheatre.co.uk](http://www.grovetheatre.co.uk) and you can check out the band and their sound at [www.myspace.com/vivasantana](http://www.myspace.com/vivasantana).

The Saturday and Sunday concerts are still free with a rock, blues and Americana roots feel on the Saturday with **The Hamsters**, one of the best rock and blues bands on the UK circuit, performing their tribute to the music of Jimi Hendrix and ZZ Top as well as their own material. Supporting them will be **Grapevine Blues Band** featuring Dr Ika on guitar and local Americana outfit **Sons Of The Soil**. The Sunday afternoon concert will segue into the smooth sounds of **Sheela Munro Jazz Band** with **Kaizen** funking it up before the Big Band Finale from Chris Smith's **The String of Pearls** performing songs from swings icons such as Frank Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald.

If you want to catch some folk then you can catch five 'full on' days of music and dance just cross the Bucks Border at Towersey Village Festival over the late summer bank holiday weekend (Aug 21 to 25). This year's concert programme features the **Kathryn Tickell Band**, **Lunasa**, **Martin Simpson**, **Chris Wood** and **The Poozies** at the top of the bill with dance action from **Blowzabella**, **Whapweasel**, **The Woodpecker Band**, **The Gloworms** and **Asha**. This family orientated green field festival has loads of other activities for season ticket holders including workshops, dance displays and a fantastic market of specialist clothing, food, festival knick-knacks and music stalls. Alternatively, if you just want to pop across for the day you can catch some of the best acts in the arena and check out the food and stalls. See the website at [www.towerseyfestival.com](http://www.towerseyfestival.com) for full details and ticket options.

Gareth Lloyd from The BBC Introducing programme on Three Counties Radio has sent me the line up for the Luton Summer Festival gig in St Georges Square in the centre of Luton on Saturday August 16. The event is a full day of local 'unsigned' bands and will feature; **The Friday Nights**, **Amy Lee & the Integrals**, **Pirate Radio**, **Terrapin Trainstation**, **The October Game**, **Critical Path**, **The Raid**, **Fruition**, **The Ruby Shoes**, **Shapes**, **Imperial Vipers** and **The Runners**. Gareth tells me that the BBC team will be comprehensively recording and interviewing the bands both before and after their performances for subsequent broadcast. For more information, check out the 'BBC Introducing ...' pages at the [www.bbc.co.uk/threecounties](http://www.bbc.co.uk/threecounties) website.

## 30/July/2008 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

### The Brian Heywood Column



#### *Dunstable Rocks on Friday*

Don't forget that Friday sees the first of the high profile 'Dunstable at the Grove Theatre with a night of heavy metal/screamo bands headlining **Fell Silent**. This up-and-coming band from Milton Keynes has supported big name acts such as Enter Shikari, Devil Sold His Soul and Bring Me The Horizon. Support will be from another Milton Keynes band **Envision** along with **Kill The Senses** (formerly Psychomanche) from Dunstable and **Fate Of A Stranger**, from Houghton Regis. Two locals - Brittany Melly and Amy Sinclair – who aim to put the South Beds area back on the national music map with the help Youth Opportunities Fund (StreetCred) and South Beds District Council - are promoting the gig. For full details see [myspace.com/dunstablegigs](http://myspace.com/dunstablegigs), the 'Dunstable Gigspace' group on facebook or e-mail [dunstablegigs@live.com](mailto:dunstablegigs@live.com). The event will cost £8.50 and tickets are available from the Grove Theatre box office on 01582-602080 and online at [www.grovetheatre.co.uk](http://www.grovetheatre.co.uk). Be sure to support this new event and get some real live music into the Grove Theatre.

If you want a warm up to the big event then the Gig Room event inn Luton tomorrow features local talent from **Penny Racers Last Journey** (Alternative / Psychedelic / Post punk), **Third Law** (Rock / Indie / Pop Punk), **Sunflies** (Alternative / Gothic / Indie) and **A Third Wish** (Rock / Punk / Indie). This gig is one PDM's regular showcases for new bands as they start out on their careers and takes place in the basement bar at the Hat Factory Arts Centre in Bute St, Luton. Admission is £3 with a flyer (you can download it from the [www.pdmmusic.com](http://www.pdmmusic.com) website), in advance from the Hat Factory box office (01582 878100) or £4 on the door without a flyer. The doors open at 8pm and there are no age restrictions.

If that's not enough, on Saturday you can catch **Henry Homesweet** from Ipswich, playing Electronics, Trance and Happy Hardcore, with support from **CasioKid** (Emotronic / Emo / Electronica), **Falco Lombardi** (Experimental / Electronica / Melodramatic Popular Song), **Big Chip** (Electro / Powerpop / Experimental), **Combat Dave** (Electronica / Emotronic / Powerpop) and **The Tin Foil Hat Brigade** (Experimental / Minimalist / Hardcore). This gig is also at the Hat Factory and all tickets £6 with the doors opening at 8pm, see the DTA website ([www.dtamusic.co.uk](http://www.dtamusic.co.uk)) for more details and information about the rest of their programme.

Looking forward to next week; on Thursday (Aug 7) DTA are tying up with the "BBC Introducing..." team again with the Countiessound2 gig which will be showcasing local bands **Shapes**, **The Raid**, **Kilto Take** and **Pirate Radio** at the Hat Factory. "BBC Introducing..." is a great radio programme, fronted by **Gareth Lloyd** and **Kelly Betts**, and highlights the best new local musical talent as well promoting local live events. This is essential listening if you want to hear what's happening on the local music scene either when it's broadcast on Fridays (BBC Three Counties at 7pm) or using the 'Listen Again' option on the BBC website ([www.bbc.co.uk/threecounties/introducing](http://www.bbc.co.uk/threecounties/introducing)).

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Send gig information to "The Brian Heywood Column", PO Box 649, Dunstable, Beds, LU5 4XD and you can also email details of gigs, gossip, web sites or anything else to [info@lutonscene.com](mailto:info@lutonscene.com). A search-able archive of the column is available on the web at <http://www.lutonscene.com> and on MySpace at [lutonscene](http://lutonscene.myspace.com).