

## 2/Sep/2009 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

### The Brian Heywood Column

#### *Autumn Blues*

The passing of the summer bank holiday marks the end of the festival season. Both Luton and Dunstable have had cracking festivals this year with successful open-air events in St Georges Square (Luton), Grove House Gardens (Dunstable) and on Dunstable Downs. At Saturday's Dunstable Festival a capacity crowd packed into the open-air performance area to see quite a varied programme of local acts followed by a storming set from **Doctor and the Medics**, culminating with their hit – Spirit in the Sky - and an encore of the AC/DC number Whole Lotta Rosie. As the evenings start to draw in, music events tend to head back indoors and regular series are starting up again after a summer break.



Over at the Sun Hotel in Hitchin, the award winning Folk club is starting their autumn schedule on Sunday with a duo performance from **Bob Fox** and **Billy Mitchell**. In their time, both have been described as the finest singer in their field. Billy came to fame when he joined the folk rock outfit Jack the Lad, and later Lindisfarne, with whom he played the Dunstable music festival back in 2002. Bob Fox originally came to fame as half of a duo with Stu Luckley as well as appearing in the BBC Radio Ballads and with Fairport Convention on their “Wood and the wire” tour. Together, Bob and Billy they should be something special and expect a

large helping of humour as they perform material off their new CD - 'Back on City Road'. The Sun Hotel is on Sun St, Hitchin and the music starts at 7:30pm with tickets £12 (£10 for club members). For more details call 01462-812391, email [goodmusic@hitchinfoolkclub.co.uk](mailto:goodmusic@hitchinfoolkclub.co.uk) or find them on the web at [www.hitchinfoolkclub.co.uk](http://www.hitchinfoolkclub.co.uk).

Closer to home you can catch some superior electric blues at the Hat Factory in Luton on Thursday week (September 10). The Blues Club gig will feature **Gary Fletcher** who has emerged from the shadow of the Blues Band and has proved to be a seriously talented singer/songwriter in his own right. He will be supported on stage by ex-Dire Straights drummer - Pick Withers, Steve Ling on guitar and Jack Fletcher on bass. They'll be playing songs from his most recent album 'Human Spirit' which addresses real issues and respected local songwriter and performer Graham Robins tell me that “no-one can fail to be moved by the raw emotion and honesty apparent in so many of his songs”. The Blues Club takes place at the at The Hat Factory in Bute Street, Luton and tickets are £6/5. For more information, call the Box Office on 01582-878100.



Don't forget that you can catch first in the new series of Chiltern Ceilidhs at St Mary's Social Club in West St Dunstable. The dance will feature the nationally known caller Fee Lock and a live band. The event kicks off at 7:30pm and tickets are £5 (£3 concs and under 10s free). See [www.chilternceilidhs.info](http://www.chilternceilidhs.info) for more information.

## 09/Sep/2009 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

### The Brian Heywood Column

#### *Woodland Frolics*

I was a bit premature last week in declaring the festival season over. I suppose I could say that the Woodworks Festival at the Marston Moretaine Forest Centre is the first of the autumn festivals. The two day event is billed as a festival of wood and woodlands. In addition to a packed live music programme, there are a wide range of other activities that fit in with the event's theme. As well as lumberjack displays, story telling, falconry displays and chainsaw carving, you can have a go at woodcrafts, traditional carpentry and bush craft workshops. There also lots of stuff for the kids to do such as face painting and kid's crafts in a child friendly environment with a playground.



The music programme features the music of the joyous folk rockers **ColvinQuarmby**, and acoustic folk from **Barronbrady Ben and Joe Broughton**, **Zoox**, **Jack McNeill** and **Charlie Heys**, and the folk duo **Landermaison**. If you want to get interactive then there's a drum workshop from the well-known local drummer **Chris Puleston** will also be performing with his band **Soma**, which he describes as Indo-Afro-Didgeribluess! The whole shebang takes place at the at the Forest Centre and Millennium Country Park on the edge of Marston Moretaine, Bedfordshire, MK43 0PR and entry

each day is only £6, (£4 concessions) with children under 10 go free and there is free parking. For more information, check it out on the web at [www.marstonvale.org/woodworks](http://www.marstonvale.org/woodworks).

Ryan from the Majick Majick Music Group tells me that they are starting a new series of gigs called Frontline that will be kicking off at the Four Kings in High St South Dunstable next Friday (September 18). The event will continue Majick's policy of promoting new and existing music in the UK with a focus on local acts and musicians. The line-up features the acoustic mastery of Luton's **Antonio**, bone rattling Rock 'n' Roll from **The Voltron**, county, indie and folk grooves from **The Nimblewits** and Post punk rock indie of **Sub Set**. You can keep up with Majick Music Group's projects in the local area via the web at [www.dunstablebob.co.uk](http://www.dunstablebob.co.uk).

I hear that the well-known local singer / songwriter and vocal coach, **Lauren Field**, is starting up a "Rock Chorus", a choir with a repertoire of classic and contemporary rock, pop and gospel. The rehearsals will be at Icknield Lower School in Burr Street, Dunstable and the sessions will start on Tuesday week (September 22) with Juniors (6-10) at 4:30pm, Teens (11-18) at 6pm and adults at 8pm. For more information email [info@rock-chorus.com](mailto:info@rock-chorus.com) or check out [www.rock-chorus.com](http://www.rock-chorus.com).

Don't forget that you can catch some superior electric blues at the Hat Factory in Luton tomorrow night when Gary Fletcher (Blues Band) gigs there with his band. For more information, call the Box Office on 01582-878100.

I hear that the there were over 4,000 people at the tenth Dunstable Music Festival on August bank holiday which must make it one the best attended ever. I've put some video footage up of the **enQ** performance the web at [www.myspace.com/enqk](http://www.myspace.com/enqk).



## 16/Sep/2009 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

### The Brian Heywood Column

#### *Loz Jones Takes a Break*



Loz Jones emailed me to say that tomorrow night's gig at the Hat Factory in Bute St Luton will be the last one this year for the **Loz Jones Band**. Loz says that he's going to use the break to work on new material and maybe even head off in a new direction. Other acts on tomorrow night are **Arrows** (Rock / Gospel / Grime), **Load** (Alternative / Rock / Experimental) and **Third Law** (Rock). The music kicks off at 8:15pm, entry is £3 for all ages with all funds that would have gone to the bands, and the promoter being donated to the Love Music / Hate Racism campaign. Third Law will also be releasing a limited edition single that will be available at this gig only with any sales income going towards the cause. You can find out more about Loz and his plans at [www.lozjones.com](http://www.lozjones.com) and about the gig at [www.pdmmusic.com](http://www.pdmmusic.com).

Next Friday (September 25), you can catch the next Unicorn Ceilidh with the acclaimed contra outfit Stick Shift and caller Adam Hughes. Contra is the American version of e-ceilidh and has a lot of the same energy albeit with smoother feel. Stick Shift is a trio that play a mix of Scottish, Irish and American tunes to produce a driving, melodic sound. Unicorn Ceilidhs take place at Hitchin Town Hall (Brand St, Hitchin). Doors open at 7.30 and tickets are available on the door at £8 for adults and £4 for children under 14, £6 for concessions and a Family Ticket (2 adults and up to 3 children) is £20. You can pre-book tickets or get more information from 01582 733113 / 724261 or [www.unicornceilidhs.org.uk](http://www.unicornceilidhs.org.uk).

Don't forget that the new Frontline gig series will be kicking off at the Four Kings in Dunstable on Friday. Promoted by Majick, who recently organised the recent Dunstable Battle of the Bands, the line-up features **Antonio**, **The Voltron**, **The Nimblewits** and **Sub Set**. You can find the Four Kings on High St South in Dunstable or on the web at [www.fourkingsbar.co.uk](http://www.fourkingsbar.co.uk).

Hansi from The Horn in St Albans tells me that they have won yet another award - the UK Live Music Pub of the Year 2009 for the Southeast region - which was presented to the team at The Great British Pub Awards held at The Hilton in London a couple of weeks ago. It's great to have such a great little venue just down the road from us, but wouldn't it be even better if some pub in Luton were in the running. Any takers?



I see that the petition calling on the Prime Minister to free small venues from the burden of getting a licence has passed the 10,000 signature mark over the weekend. This puts it at 15th in the list of over 4,400 petitions on the Number 10 site and shows the support that live music has amongst the electorate. If you want to support the petition then you can add your voice to the growing chorus by going to <http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/livemusicevents>.

## 23/Sep/2009 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

### The Brian Heywood Column

#### *Autumn Blues*

Now that the summer is behind us, there's lots of live music around to drive away those Autumn blues. On Friday you can catch The Billy Fury Story "Halfway to Paradise" at The Grove Theatre in Dunstable. The show marks the fiftieth anniversary of Billy Fury's first single release - Maybe Tomorrow - and the band is **Fury's Tornados**, Billy's longest serving band, backing him throughout the seventies. After Billy ceased touring through ill health, the band split and went their separate ways, convinced that no one could ever come close to sounding or looking like their old friend, colleague and boss. However back in 1996 they linked up with **Colin Gold** and the following year "The Billy Fury Experience" hit the stage. The show kicks off at 7:30pm and tickets are £16.50 and £18.50. For more information and tickets, contact the Box Office on 01582 60 20 80 or you can book online at [www.grovetheatre.co.uk](http://www.grovetheatre.co.uk).

Over in Luton you can catch Dunstable Battle of the Bands winners **In Remission** when they play at the University of Bedfordshire Student Union next Thursday (September 24). This Clophill based outfit play their own brand of progressive melodic metal with influences ranging from the falsetto, epic leanings of Muse, to the guttural beat downs of hardcore bands like Underoath. Other bands on the same bill are; **Chaos Calling** who fuse the elements of metal, progressive rock and funk, **Decimate The Weak** who combine the heaviest sounds around with upbeat grooves, **Decimate The Weak** who are a five piece metal band from Luton and **Ascension** who mix melodic riffs, frantic drums and pounding bass with powerful vocals. The music kicks off at 7pm and tickets cost £6, see [www.dtamusic.co.uk](http://www.dtamusic.co.uk) for more information.

Local singer/songwriter **Katie Buckhaven** will be taking a break from recording her second album to play a gig up at the Stables in Wavendon on Thursday week (October 1). She tells me that she is excited with the new material for the album and will be performing some of the new songs at the Stage 2, which is a lovely intimate venue, where you can get a bite to eat beforehand. She goes to say that she'll have a full band line-up on the night, plus support from **Jump**. More details call the Box Office on 01908 280800, email [stables@stables.org](mailto:stables@stables.org) or go to [www.stables.org](http://www.stables.org).

If you want to dance away the autumn chill then the nationally known ceilidh band **Stömp** with caller **Adam Hughs** will be playing for a special fundraiser event for the L&D Hospital on Saturday week (October 3). The plan is to raise funds towards the purchase of equipment to help assess stroke patients' ability to drive and ticket numbers are limited. The venue is the Hospital's Social Club, which is in Calnwood Road, Luton, and tickets are £10 or £5 for children under 16. You can get tickets or more information from Gill King on 01525 371248 or [gill.king1@ntlworld.com](mailto:gill.king1@ntlworld.com), or direct from Sarah Newby on 01582 718043 or [Sarah.Newby@ldh.nhs.uk](mailto:Sarah.Newby@ldh.nhs.uk). You can find out more about the band at [www.stompceilidh.co.uk](http://www.stompceilidh.co.uk).



## 30/Sep/2009 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

### The Brian Heywood Column

#### *Bex Marshall Sings the Blues*

Next Thursday (October 8), the Modest Music Group are introducing one of the finest female exponents of UK blues in the second of their series of blues gigs at the Hat Factory (Bute St, Luton). **Bex Marshall** has a gritty voice with all the power of great singers like Tina Turner, Janis Joplin, Joan Armatrading and Bonnie Raitt, but with her own style of subtle, husky yet clear-cut and unforgettable vocals. Bex's pyrotechnic acoustic guitar skills have also been likened to Stevie Ray Vaughan. So, a stunning and charismatic guitarist, an exciting stage presence and songs that are contemporary but shine like timeless classics, what more do you want? The music kicks off at 8pm and tickets are £6 (£5 concessions). For more information go to [www.thehatfactory.org](http://www.thehatfactory.org) or call the Box office on 01582 878100.



Next Friday (October 9) **Viva Santana** are returning to the Grove Theatre in Dunstable to play the music of the living legend **Carlos Santana**. I saw them when they played the Friday gig for the Dunstable Music Festival last year and can vouch that they are the next best thing to seeing the man himself play. Fronted by the inspirational Spanish guitarist Marcos Rodriguez, the six piece outfit is now in their ninth year of recreating the moods, sounds and atmosphere of Santana's music with passion, heart, soul and chilling accuracy. The music kicks off at 7:30pm and tickets cost £16/£18. For more information contact the Box Office on 01582 60 20 80 or surf over to [www.grovetheatre.co.uk](http://www.grovetheatre.co.uk).

Tomorrow night (Thursday), you can see the acoustic trio **Zoos** down at Redbourn Folk Club playing a cocktail of new melodies and traditional tunes with a delicate balance of strings, wind, percussion and voices. The band is made up of musicians **Linda Game**, **Jo May** and **Becky Menday** who between them play an amazing array of instruments ranging from contrabassoon to congas. The music has a lot of influences which include Celtic, Appalachian, Klezmer, African, Cuban, rock, and classical. The venue is the Hollybush Public House in Church End, Redbourn and the music kicks off at 8:30pm. Tickets are £8 and the support act is **Clive Carey**. You can check out the band at [www.zoos.co.uk](http://www.zoos.co.uk) and the Folk Club at <http://homepage.ntlworld.com/ron.clark/folkclub>.

And don't forget that you can dance away the autumn chill to the nationally known ceilidh band **Stömp** with caller **Adam Hughs** at a special fundraiser event for the L&D Hospital on Saturday. The venue is the hospital's Social Club in Calnwood Road, Luton, and tickets are £10 or £5 for children under 16. You can get tickets from Gill King on 01525 371248 or [gill.king1@ntlworld.com](mailto:gill.king1@ntlworld.com), or direct from Sarah Newby on 01582 718043 or [Sarah.Newby@ldh.nhs.uk](mailto:Sarah.Newby@ldh.nhs.uk). Find out more about the band at [www.stompceilidh.co.uk](http://www.stompceilidh.co.uk).

The petition calling on the Prime Minister to remove small gigs from the need to get a licence is creeping up the chart and is now at number 12. To support the petition you can cast your vote at <http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/livemusicevents>.

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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 searchable archive of the column is available on the web at <http://www.lutonscene.com> and on MySpace at [lutonscene](http://lutonscene.com).