

3/Feb/2010 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette) – talking MUSIC

The Brian Heywood Column

The Glasgow Wakes hit Luton

Next Friday (Feb 12) **The Wakes** are appearing at O'Sheas in Castle St, Luton. The band describes themselves as a bunch of Scottish/Irish Folk 'n' Roll hooligans and outlaws who write their own material as well as performing traditional ballads and tunes. The venue's manager, Michael, has been trying to get the band down from Glasgow and has arranged that the ever-popular **Biblecode Sundays** as support. Both bands will be staying locally and they will be doing a session before the Rugby the next day where musicians are welcome to come along and join in. Tickets are £8 in advance or £10 on the door, call 01582 414 061 for more details.



Fans of seventies folk rock superstars - Steeleye Span - will be interested to know that fiddler Peter Knight's band will be playing at Bedford Corn Exchange on Friday. Peter's band is called **Gigspanner**, which is musicians' slang for a bottle opener, which provides a take on Knight's emotionally loaded and life enriching take on British traditional and world music. The rest of the band is guitarist Roger Flack and Vincent Salzfaas on congas and djembe. The music starts at 8pm in the Harpur Suite and tickets are £14 or £12 for concessions. For more information contact the Box Office on 01234 269519.

Don't forget that on Saturday (February 6) you can catch the return visit of **Diana Jones** at the Radcliffe Centre in Buckingham. The support act is local singer **Katie Buckhaven** who tells me "For this gig, I've teamed up with the very talented singer songwriter **Chris Corney**" (myspace.com/chriscorneysongwriter). Apparently, Katie has been recording backing vocals for his new album, and he's returned the favor by laying down some guitar parts for her current recording project. Tickets for the gig are £15 in advance, £17 on the door and are available online from www.empty-rooms.com. Doors open at 6:45pm.

Next weekend is going to be a great one for dedicated dancers with two events locally. On Friday (Feb 12) you can shake a leg to caller **Roger Watson** and the house band at the Chiltern Ceilidh at St Mary's Social Club in West St, Dunstable. There will also be an interval spot from local singer / songwriter **Jonny Fever** (myspace.com/jonnyfevermusic). Find more information at www.chilternceilidhs.info. On the Saturday, you can catch the **MoonDance Ceilidh Band** at the Leighton Buzzard Theatre for a Valentines' Dance with caller **Dave Townsend**.

10/Feb/2010 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette) – talking MUSIC

The Brian Heywood Column

Retro Heaven at the Hat Factory

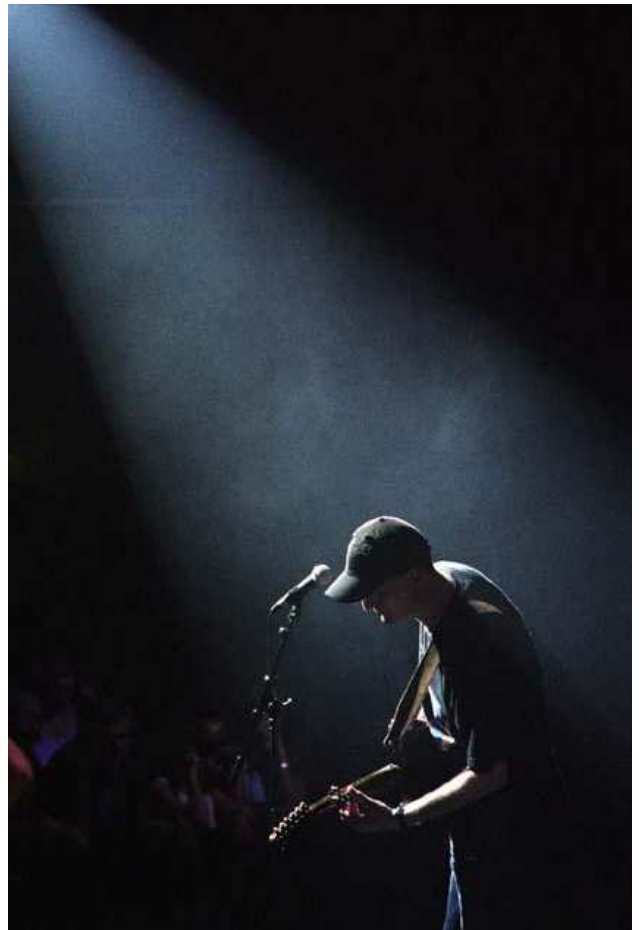
Tomorrow night at the Hat Factory you can catch Cambridge band - **Isaacs Aircraft** - who will be doing a special extended set of their somewhat retro pop with a touch of dance. Described by Tom Robinson on BBC Radio 6 as “bucking the trend with storming live shows”, the band’s songs have an immediate impact with catchy hooks and a joyful up-tempo groove which I find very appealing.

Also on the bill are Dunstable based **Due To Loss** who also have a retro pop sound though more late 60’s / early 70’s British pop and **The Crush** who are a four piece outfit playing edgy rock originals and covers with a late 70’s guitar rock influenced sound. It sounds like it’s going to be a stunning night, doors open at 8pm with entry £4 on the door / £3 with a flyer, Vibe Card or in advance. See www.pdmusic.co.uk for full details and links.

On Friday the ‘BBC Introducing...’ team take over the venue with the first of a new monthly music night where the BBC Three Counties Team will be introducing touring bands alongside the best in local and regional artists. The bill for the first gig is **The Broadcast**, **Scholars**, **Tonight We're Electric** and **Lost Without Cause**. This is a 16+ gig (unless accompanied by a responsible adult) and tickets are £6.

Looking ahead to next week, on Thursday (Feb 18) the Modest Music Group presents the UK’s top blues slide guitarist and his band when **The Michael Messer Band** hits the stage. Playing contemporary blues with its heart in US delta country and urban Chicago, Michael is listed by the American magazine, ‘Spirit’, as one of the greatest slide guitarists in the world alongside Duane Allman and Ry Cooder. The Blues Club doors open at 8pm and tickets are £6 (£5 concessions).

Next Friday **Pama International** will be playing a mix of ’60s soul with ’70s reggae from their album ‘Pama Outernational’. The nine-piece band features members from The Specials, Fun Boy 3 and Kasabian so it should be a big sound. Doors open at 8pm and tickets are £10. For more information contact the Hat Factory Box Office on 01582 878100.



17/Feb/2010 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette) – talking MUSIC

The Brian Heywood Column

Strangers in the night...

Local band **Fate of a Stranger** are headlining at the next DTA gig at The Hat Factory in Luton on March 4th. The five piece post-hardcore rock band is made up of five friends share a passion for music and who have come together to bring their own self styled brand of rock to the music scene. Also on the bill is a brummie five-piece rock outfit - **iSpyStrangers** - who have just recorded their first full-length album, which is set for release later this year. You can also catch two relative newcomers to the local music scene; **The Quiet Things** which was formed at the end of last year by Josh and Matt from Elanors Tribute and a new metalcore band from Toddington - **Hig Widget**. For full details of the gig and links to the bands go to www.dtamusic.co.uk.

Next Thursday (Feb 25) you can catch local hero Paul Young's band **Los Pacaminos** when they appear at the Horn in St Albans. The band plays good time Tex Mex music, which is a mix of Zydeco and Rock 'n' Roll with cowboy hats – and is great fun to boot. This should be a good night out. For more information

see you can find the band's website www.los-pacaminos.com. The Horn is in Victoria St, St Albans almost next to the main line station. Tickets for this gig are £15 or £12 in advance, call 01727 853143 or see www.thehorn.co.uk for more details.



Local rock / metal / alternative outfit – **Imicus** – tell me that they will headlining down at the Hope & Anchor in Islington (London) on the first Saturday of next month (March 6) as well as being confirmed to appear with Skindred at The Academy, Dublin later in the same month. They also tell me that the video for 'Visceral' is doing well on Scuzz and ask fans to keep those requests rolling in by emailing requests@scuzz.tv. The band also have new T-shirts which you can either get at any of the live shows or order online at the band's official website - www.imicusband.com. For more news, full gig details and free downloads check them out on the web at www.myspace.com/imicus.

Don't miss The Michael Messer Band tomorrow night at The Hat Factory The Blues Club. Mr Messer plays contemporary blues influenced by Delta Country and Urban Chicago blues.

According to the promoter his playing encompasses the entire history of the blues but is totally individual and contemporary. His use of turntables in the band adds a new element to the music and Messer's haunting vocals ooze authenticity and integrity." Sounds like a great gig. Tickets cost £6 (£5 concessions) and doors open at 8pm. Call the box office on 01582 878100 for more details or to book.

24/Feb/2010 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette) – talking MUSIC

The Brian Heywood Column

Just like Clockwork at Charlie Browns

There's new live music club night over at Charlie Browns near Luton station on Friday featuring no less than four live bands. The night is being promoted by local musician Callum Brown and the BBC Introducing team will be there and broadcasting from the event.

Headliners will be Luton based rock, indie and alternative outfit **LSD Blues**

(www.myspace.com/lbdblues) supported by

Gun Crime, Hitchin based alternative

electronica band **Out of the Trees** (www.myspace.com/outofthetreesmusic) and Callum's alternative grunge/shoegaze band **Bipolar** (www.myspace.com/bipolarbipolarmusic).



As well as the music you'll be able to stock up your wardrobe as Vintage Delightz will be selling vintage clothes and bags on the night, with most items costing less than £10. There will also be drink offers and DJ to fill the gaps during the night. Charlie Browns is on Midland Rd, within sight of Luton railway station and the doors open at 8pm with entry a miniscule £3 (less than a pound a band). It's an 18+ event so be sure to take ID if you look younger than 21.

Meanwhile, over in Dunstable on Friday, if you fancy a more rock based musical experience then a revised **Portly, Fat and Schnider** will be playing over at the Four Kings in Dunstable. Bass player and vocalist Gary Corcoran tells me that the band has had a change of personnel with guitarist Pete Boston moving on. Ace guitarist Stuart Buckle will be taking over lead and rhythm guitar duties and there is a second guitarist - **Marc Flye** - in the wings to bring the band up to a quartet. The band will be rocking through classic covers from the days of Cream and Madness and entry is free. The music kicks off at 8:30pm and the Four Kings is in High St South, Dunstable. Call 07709779196 or surf to www.fourkingsbar.co.uk for more details.

While I'm on the subject of The Four Kings, tomorrow night is the second 'Country Bunker' where you can catch some country rock and new country. The music is from the **Hoedown Band** (www.hoedownband.com) with songs ranging from the Dixie Chicks and the likes of Keith Urban to classics from the Eagles, Johnny Cash and even Janice Joplin. Last month saw some great spots from musicians who had 'come on down' and this month we should be able to get some dancing in as well. So, if you fancy having a bit of a play then bring your instrument, or just your voice to strut you stuff. The Four Kings Country Bunker, see www.fourkingsbar.co.uk or call 07709 779196 for more details. Doors open at 7:30pm and entry is free.

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