

## 6/Jan/2010 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette) – talking MUSIC

### The Brian Heywood Column

#### *A New Decade*

As we approach the ‘teens’ of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century this column is heading towards its fifteenth birthday. That’s right, in October I’ll have been writing about the Luton and Dunstable music scene for a decade and a half. In that period Luton and Dunstable have both replaced their major arts venues and it has become a criminal offence to play unlicensed live music. Who’d have thought, eh!

That’s enough of the past for the moment, what’s happening this month in the local live music arena?



On 14th January, local promoter PDM music are releasing their “Live Best of 2009” CD at the Hat Factory in Bute St, Luton. This event celebrates their 2009 programme with a double CD includes live tracks by local bands **Imicus**, **Arrows**, **Pirate Radio**, **Our Divide** and **Lester Allen**, amongst others recorded at PDM gigs during the year. As usual, there will only be 100 CDs for sale and all funds will go to the Dunstable charity Kids In Action. This year it’s a double CD with the extra cost being covered by SoundArc Productions ([myspace.com/soundarcpromotions](http://myspace.com/soundarcpromotions)). The live line-up on the night is still being sorted out but **Folk n Ska Souls** and **Trip To Dover** (from Brighton) have already been confirmed, see the PDM website ([www.pdmusic.com](http://www.pdmusic.com)) for full details as they break. Doors open at 8pm with first band on at 8.15. Tickets cost £4 on the door or £3 in advance or with flier. All PDM Hat Factory live music shows are 16+ or accompanied by someone 18+.

Speaking of SoundARC Promotions, they’re putting on a new acoustic nights at The Victoria public house in Hitchin starting this month. Any performers interested in playing a thirty-minute set should get in touch with SoundARC at [www.myspace.com/soundarcpromotions](http://www.myspace.com/soundarcpromotions). PA, microphones and sound engineer are supplied so you’ll just have to turn up and play.

On Friday you can catch this year’s first funk’d up ceilidh / barn dance at the Chiltern Ceilidh at St Mary’s Social Club in West St, Dunstable. This will be the first chance to break out your dancing shoes this year and the gig will feature the calling of **Roger Watson** ([www.rogerwatson.co.uk/](http://www.rogerwatson.co.uk/)). Roger is a superstar on the UK social dance scene and was in the first band to play at the Grove Theatre with his Boka Halat ([www.bokahalat.co.uk](http://www.bokahalat.co.uk/)). There will also be an interval spot from local singer / songwriter **Sarah Doe** ([www.sarahdoe.co.uk](http://www.sarahdoe.co.uk/)). Tickets are £6 or £4 for concessions and accompanied under 10s are free with doors open at 7.30pm. You can email to reserve tickets to [chilternceilidhs@googlemail.com](mailto:chilternceilidhs@googlemail.com) or find more information at [www.chilternceilidhs.info](http://www.chilternceilidhs.info).



Bands who want me to cover their gigs, CD launches and other news in this column really do need to send me the information two weeks before the gig (see contact details below). I give precedence to bands and artists who can be bothered to send me information. I may stumble across stuff on the internet or other places, but on the other hand, I may not.

## 13/Jan/2010 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette) – talking MUSIC

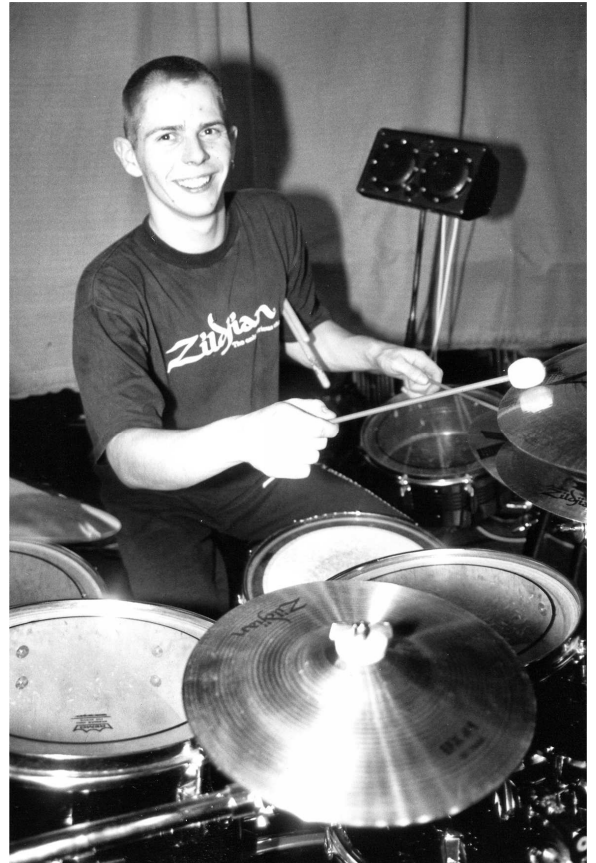
### The Brian Heywood Column

#### *Always take the Weather with you.*

January is here with the predictable moans about the cold/snow/rain/plague (delete as appropriate). However, there is still plenty of live music out there if you want to leave the cabin fever behind and have some fun. Down in St Albans, Hansi from the award winning Horn (UK Music Pub of the Year) tells me that they are still open and there'll be plenty of great entertainment coming up in the next few weeks - see [www.thehorn.co.uk](http://www.thehorn.co.uk) for the full programme.

If you do feel you have to stay indoors then there's some interesting stuff to be had on the web. Dunstable born drummer Richard Spooner – who is now living in Switzerland – appears on a really appropriate song for the this month, namely the 70's hit from Pilot called "January" which has been re-recorded by Paul Murray's - **Dun The Veil**. The song's author, David Paton, sent the band an email saying how much he loved the new version of the song and the video (on YouTube at <http://tinyurl.com/dr-spoons>). Richard tells me that the video was videoed around London in the winter of 2007 and features the band plus a cast of thousands – well nearly.

Richard – who is also known locally as Doctor Spoons – tells me that the lead singer Paul just wandered up to random people and videoed them singing to a mix on his iPod – "He shot hundreds of different peeps and then spent hours editing it all together". Richard's shot has him playing drums on a Central line tube train and he says: "you've no idea the trouble we had getting a kit set up on the central line". He goes on to say "it's been a long project for Paul, he wanted to release two other singles before letting this one out, so prior to this 'Tears on the Window Pane' and 'Easy Street' have both been released by Dun The Veil."



Also, check out the video for Sudan365 which aims to raise global awareness for the plight of Southern Sudan. The fear is that instability in the run-up to next year's independence referendum (or its aftermath) could reignite a civil war and cause massive human rights abuses. Then video – called "A beat for Peace" features internationally known drummers as percussionists such as Evelyn Glennie, Stuart Copeland (The Police), Phillip Selway (Radiohead), Caroline from the Corrs, Nick Mason (Pink Floyd) and Jonny Quinn (Snow Patrol) as well as drumming groups from around the world.

The cool thing is that that drummers can take part by posing a video reply on YouTube with a line in the description about who's doing the drumming and where it's happening, then tag it with 'Sudan365' and 'beat for peace'. The Sudan365 campaign will then take the best responses and mix them into a final video - containing clips of drummers from across the globe - to demonstrate the support for international action to prevent further conflict. To check out the video and add your video response just go to the YouTube page using this web address - <http://tinyurl.com/sudan365>.

## 20/Jan/2010 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette) – talking MUSIC

### The Brian Heywood Column

#### *It's Magic Majick Music Time*

On Friday, you can get a huge dose of sparky rock down at the Students' Union on the Luton Campus of the University of Bedfordshire. The gig is collaboration between the Majick Music Group and the BBC Introducing... team from BBC Three Counties Radio. The night features four bands and the peeps from the beeb - Gareth Lloyd and Kelly Betts – on stage to add to the fun. The bands are a mix of local talent and bands on the touring circuit starting with the slightly retro guitar based rock of **Rotating Leslie** ([myspace.com/rotatingleslie](http://myspace.com/rotatingleslie)) whose sound reminds me somewhat of the early Midnight Oil when they were gigging around Sydney in the late 70's.

Next on the bill, fresh from a great show at the Wheatsheaf with their Block Party/Joy Division sounds, is **Dutch Order** followed by some indie, post punk and rock from up-and-coming North London outfit **SubSEt** ([myspace.com/subsetlondon](http://myspace.com/subsetlondon)). Next up is Dunstable Battle of the Bands semi-finalist **The Fabulous Weapon** ([myspace.com/thefabulousweapon](http://myspace.com/thefabulousweapon)) who have a great 'goodtime feel' so it should be quite a party. The gig is at The Luton Student Union (in Vicarage St) with entry £5 and doors opening 7.30pm. Normal age restrictions for the Luton Students' Union apply (16+).



The following Friday (January 29) the Unicorn Ceilidh series in Hitchin hits its ninth year with Watford based dance band **Random** ([myspace.com/randomceilidh](http://myspace.com/randomceilidh)). This six piece outfit features one of the country's top melodeon players - **Saul Rose** - who also plays with Waterson:Carthy, Faustus and Whapweasel. Saul is ably supported by **Paul Nye**, also on melodeon, the bass guitar of **Keith Holloway**, the guitar rhythms of **Ian Woledge**, the bass trombone harmonies of **Glynn Burch** and the rock-solid drumming of **Roger Smith**. The music is a gutsy, melodic, folk-rock interpretation of tunes with traditional roots to help you shake-a-leg on the dance floor.

Caller for the evening will be favourite local caller **Barry Goodman** and Bedfordshire Lace will provide interval entertainment. The venue is Hitchin Town Hall (in Brand Street) and doors open at 7.30pm with entry is only £8 for adults, £4 for children under 14 and £6 concessions. The first six students through the doors before 8pm get in free (SU card required). Tickets are available at the door, or bookable in advance from 01582 733113 / 724261. For more information, visit [www.unicornceilidhs.org.uk](http://www.unicornceilidhs.org.uk)

Latest news on the music licensing law is the consultation for the proposed exemption of small gigs (i.e. with an audience of up to 100). This would mean that pubs and other venues would be able put on small gigs without going through the expensive and time-consuming process of getting live music added to their license. If you are into live music, then make sure you respond to balance the inevitable wowers who do not want any live music under any circumstances. Remember that you don't have to answer every question for it to be considered as an input to the consultation. You can find the consultation document at - <http://tinyurl.com/pel-consult>.

## 27/Jan/2010 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette) – talking MUSIC

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#### *February Frolics*

Next Friday you can hear **Elements of Refusal** when they headline at the Hat Factory in Bute St Luton playing music put together with a remarkable level of intricacy and attention to detail, both heavy and melodic. Also on the bill is Hertfordshire based quartet **Latitudes** (Metal), **Ascension** (Metalcore) and **Heights** (Hardcore). Tickets are £6 with the doors opening at 8pm. For more information, see the DTA Music website - [www.dtamusic.co.uk](http://www.dtamusic.co.uk).

The day after, Saturday (February 6) you can catch the return visit of **Diana Jones** at the Radcliffe Centre in Buckingham. Adopted as a child and raised in New York, Diana Jones left home at 15 in search of her roots. Unlike her friends, Diana was attracted to the music of Johnny Cash and Patsy Cline, as well as contemporary artists Emmylou Harris and Dolly Parton. Since last year's gig she has toured extensively, appearing at the Cambridge Folk Festival and on Jools Holland's 'Later' programme on BBC2.



According to Q Magazine, Diana "carries with her a flavour of a bygone era: spare acoustic backings and flinty tales about folks fallen on hard times, delivered in a distinctive voice". You can check her out yourself at [www.dianajonesmusic.com](http://www.dianajonesmusic.com) and [www.myspace.com/dianajonesmusic](http://www.myspace.com/dianajonesmusic). Local songsmiths Chris Corney and Katie Buckhaven will be the support and tickets are £15 in advance, £17 on the door and are available online from The from [www.empty-rooms.com](http://www.empty-rooms.com). Doors open at 6:45pm.

The following Friday (February 12), **Tina May** will be showcasing her brand new album 'I Never Told You' at The Luton Library Theatre. Tina, who is considered to be one of the finest jazz vocalists the UK has ever produced, has a long association with Luton via 33 Records who are now based at the Hat Factory Arts Centre. The new CD features songs written by Kenny Wheeler, Oliver Nelson, Horace Silver and Clifford Brown's "Daahoud" which has been re-titled to "Beloved" for the album. Tickets are £10 (£8 for concessions) and you can get them in advance from the Luton Library Box Office on 01582 547474 or online from [www.lutonlibrarytheatre.com](http://www.lutonlibrarytheatre.com). You can find out more about Tina and the new album at [www.tinamay.com](http://www.tinamay.com).

One final thing, if you like country rock, then you can catch some tomorrow night down at the Four Kings Bar & Cafe in Dunstable. The music will be from the **Hoedown Band** ([www.hoedownband.com](http://www.hoedownband.com)), my latest foray into the music of North America with songs ranging from the Dixie Chicks and the likes of Keith Urban to classics from the Eagles, Johnny Cash and even Janice Joplin.

This is set to become a regular event on the last Thursday of the month and we hope to get a club atmosphere with special guests and dancing. And, if you fancy coming down and having a bit of a play then bring your instrument, or just your voice to strut you stuff. So come on down to The Four Kings Country Bunker, see [www.fourkingsbar.co.uk](http://www.fourkingsbar.co.uk) or call 07709 779196 for more details. Doors open at 7:30pm.

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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).