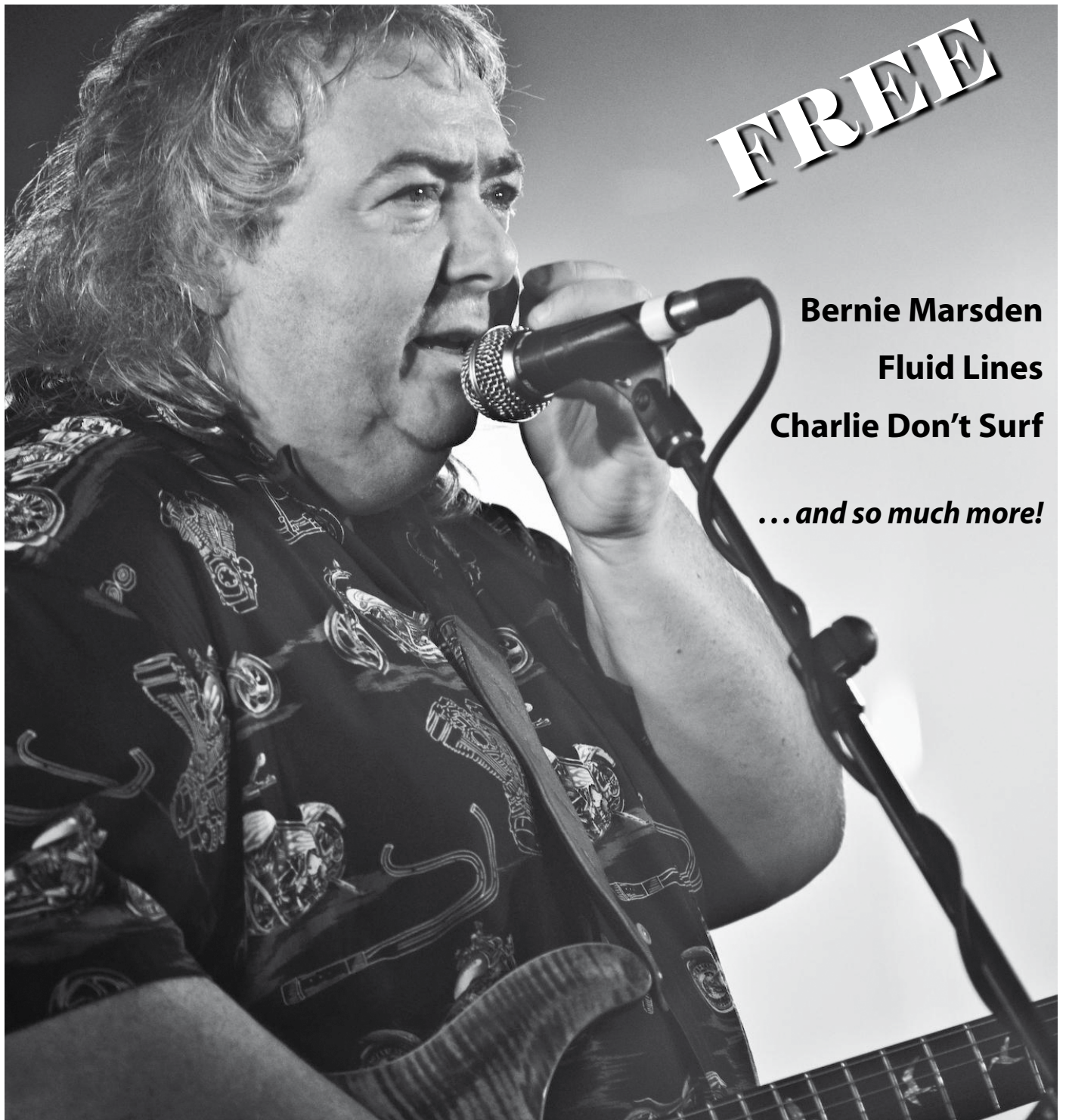


# The New Roxette

[www.theNewRoxette.com](http://www.theNewRoxette.com)

ISSUE TWO – JANUARY 2009



**FREE**

**Bernie Marsden**

**Fluid Lines**

**Charlie Don't Surf**

*... and so much more!*

www.theNewRoxette.com

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Steve Redfearn

**AND A VERY  
SPECIAL  
'THANK YOU'  
TO SERCO**

# Welcome to The New Roxette

## HELLO, and Happy New Year to all

We hope you all had a wonderful and peaceful Christmas and New Year Celebration.

WELCOME BACK to the next edition of The New Roxette. We hope you enjoyed ISSUE ONE, which was a mere taster for what is to come and what you can expect over the coming months in The New Roxette.

So, sit back with your cup of tea and chocolate hobnob, and enjoy our next issue. Don't forget to tell us what you think about this new free magazine, and feel free to contact us if you know a band / gig / or have local music-news that we need to know about.

This is YOUR magazine as well, so keep in touch, and see you again next month! – Enjoy!

## Kris Needs

... continued from Issue One:

**January 1977** was dominated by Keith Richards' three-day drugs trial at Aylesbury Crown Court. The Stones guitarist had been busted for coke and acid while driving along the M1 near Newport Pagnell. It was wonderful, the town turned into a circus for three days as Keith staggered in from the Bell at Aston Clinton every morning to eventually get off on one of the charges and escape jail with a fine on the other. He later told me how touched he'd been by the support of the local fans. Obviously we devoted most of Issue Six to Keith's trial, although the Eagles-influenced Tamburlaine also popped up as well.

Otway finally made it onto the cover with Issue Seven,

accompanying a family tree [which I did]. We'd restructured, so editing and layout was down to me, Colin, Fraser and Geoff. Pete still headed the contributors, of course. Much more local band coverage in this one as Friars could only boast UFO and Greenslade that month.

Issue Eight is one of my favourites: Iggy was on the cover and his keyboards-player Bowie was on the back, accompanying my review of the pair's Friars gig on 1st March, the first to mark Iggy's comeback album *The Idiot*, which Bowie produced. I also did a whole page on the New York invasion which had taken place at High Wycombe's Nags Head with Johnny Thunders and the Heartbreakers [still one of the best gigs I've ever seen], Wayne County and Cherry Vanilla [backed by some dorks called the Police!]. We carried the Friars poll

results [the Bucks fourth best local band!], Frame did a whole page of expounding and there were reviews of local gigs including a sparsely-attended Hunt Hotel where the Jam were playing!

By Issue Nine punk was in full swing. The Ramones' long-campaigned-for Friars appearance graced the cover [What a night that was!] and I did a page on The Clash's White Riot tour which had slaughtered St Albans [same night Aylesbury played host to Steve Hillage!]. Pete had asked me to take over as editor of *Zigzag* which meant leaving the paper. I was spending most of my time in London with the Clash, Sex Pistols etc while we felt this idea had gone far enough anyway.

**The Roxette had been a massive laugh and one of those magic times, never to be repeated... Or is it???**

## Dear Roxette

**Dear Editor,**

Thank you for launching The New Roxette. We really enjoyed the first magazine and hope it gets the support it deserves!

Looking forward to the next issue already!

Regards, JP

**Dear Roxette,**

Will you review/feature my band in the paper if I send you our latest EP?

Cheers, John

**A:** Thanks John – we currently receive A LOT of CDs, but please feel free to send it in with your press kit, and if we can include it for review, then of course we will. Our Address is: **The New Roxette, c/o Jam Central Records, PO Box 230, AYLESBURY, Bucks, HP21 9WA. [Please DO NOT email MP3's].**

**Dear Roxette,**

How does my band get to play at Hobbie on the Cobbles 2009?

Is there a waiting list, or a registration form?

Thanks, Paul

**A:** The Official Website:

**www.AylesburyShowcase.com** has the 2009 Registration Forms available for download. Simply print out, complete and return. Good Luck!

**Dear Roxette,**

Will you advertise my gigs on the Gig-Guide please?

Nice mag BTW!!!, Ben

**A:** Thanks Ben. If you email your LOCAL gigs to: **office@jamcentralrecords.co.uk** then we shall upload them to the website. This is currently a free service to help promote the bands and local music scene, though if you wish to create an actual colour advert, for even more promotional support and exposure, contact us TODAY, and our sales team will explain the various promotional packages we have available.

**Dear Roxette,**

I still have the 'originals'; good to see it back, found you through the Friars site! I played a gig there once in the 'Anal Surgeons', and was a member from early 74! Welcome back!

Regards, Vince

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# Looking back at Friars – January 1972

## 29 January 1972 – David Bowie

**Some authorities will tell you that it all started at the Toby Jug, Tolworth on the 10th February but that was still twelve days away. Friars was where it *really* began. Almost everything was in place, from the new image with its attendant publicity, to the new songs. There was just a six month wait until the album was released.**

We piled into the Borough Assembly Hall full of eager anticipation. So fast in fact that Ronno, still on stage fiddling with his pedals, had to exit rapidly as we staked out an area at the front and settled down to wait.

Things seemed to be shaping up for a great night, but unfortunately there was a serpent in the garden in the form of support band Grand Canyon. Where this ghastly bunch of sub Stones chuggers came from and what they were doing sharing a bill with DB will remain one of life's mysteries. The best that can be said is that amongst the tired riffs and sock stuffed split white trousers (weakened seams one assumes), there was an overdose of arrogance

which just about got them through, although even this failed save them from being a pile of llama dung. Anyway, these empty vessels came and went, all bluster and bull, no substance. Ian Hunter once described the fate of many support bands as "a passing irritation before the headliner". Let that serve as Grand Canyon's footnote in history.

The almost named Spiders looked a little uncomfortable in their new stage gear and Trev had yet to grow his sidies to their full silver sprayed garden gnome glory but Bowie and band were tight and well rehearsed which was just as well with the teething problems that followed. It started with the pickup falling off Bowie's new guitar which was quickly gaffa-taped on for the rest of the set, but worse was the intermittent fault that caused Ronno's guitar to cut out continuously. He had a brief respite when he switched to piano for *Life On Mars* but this gig was clearly full of frustrating moments for him.

Eventually Bowie and Ronno swapped amps which seemed to solve the problem. An

enduring memory comes from the end of the set during *Waiting For The Man* with Ronno producing an uncharacteristically clean sound from his Les Paul while Bowie, thrashing great fuzztuned washes of sonic chaos from his twelve string, thrust and gyrated the neck lewdly in the direction of his guitarist's hindquarters. All great stuff and an amusing precursor to the 'electric blow job' which became a regular feature after its debut at Oxford Town Hall that summer. The set finished with *Rock and Roll Suicide* and I have a clear memory of seeing a magazine photo some time later, of a friend, instantly recognisable by her long blonde hair and bright yellow floor length cardy, clutching Bowie's hands as he reached down from the stage.

This was a huge leap forward for Bowie and a massive change made in only four months. Rebirth? Metamorphosis? Your choice. And so, unlike Yeats' rough beast slouching towards Bethlehem to be born, Ziggy came sashaying out of Beckenham fully formed, and in the process made our little corner of the world a better brighter place.



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## All That JAZZ...

**Are you a Jazz enthusiast and want to be kept up to date with who the local musicians and visitors are and where they are playing?**

Aylesbury had the pleasure of hearing Tenor Sax player Robert Fowler twice towards the end of last year. The Pasadena Roof Orchestra played with his own quartet at the *Queens Park Arts Centre's Limelight Theatre* and local man Robert Fowler; (who has toured with the late Humphrey Lyttleton) featured with the **Ruiz Brothers** at the new Jazz concerts at the *Rivets Sports and Social Club*.

A regular visit to *Mendoza Cafe Bar* on a Thursday and Sunday brings a mixture of different types of Jazz & Blues and a social atmosphere to meet friends and family. Mendoza hosted a number of popular local artists in December such as Mister Charlie, Oktober, Sparkies & The Cathi Cook Quintet. In January brings Steve Giffon (8th) and the multi-talented guitarist and his band James Manders (22nd) playing mainstream jazz. Mendoza is the only place to go to hear Piano Jazz as well.

In Milton Keynes; the purpose built music venue *The Stables* provides an abundance of music in different styles and kicking off 2009 for them is the fabulous Syd Lawrence Orchestra (16th). If you

love big band swing, then this band is one of the hottest touring bands in Great Britain. Highlighting some of the concerts in February are Acker Bilk (5th) & The James Taylor Quartet (12th).

Beaconsfield has a weekly Jazz night featuring some the hottest New Orleans Trad Bands hosted by the Amersham Jazz Club. In January, the line-up is Colin Kingwell's Jazz Bandits (7th), Jeff Cole's Red Hot Five (14th), New Orleans Heat (21) and the Sussex Jazz Kings (28th). Broadcaster Alyn Shipton will be talking about his revised book "New History of Jazz" at the Albion Beatnik Bookstore, Oxford (29th).

The Limelight Theatre in Aylesbury is hosting the Mike Piggott's Hot Club Trio "GRAPELLI – A CELEBRATION" (February 6th). The sound of swinging Violin, Guitar and Bass in the ever increasing Gypsy Jazz style inspired by Django Reinhardt and Stefan Grapelli is something else to look forward to in February.

If you are a Jazz musician and want to participate in a Jazz Jam Session, checkout [www.thejazzjam.co.uk](http://www.thejazzjam.co.uk)

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## 'Here I Go Again'...

As we're here with local guitar legend; Bernie Marsden.

**Thank you for taking the time to talk to The New Roxette.**



**Bernie Marsden** was one of the original members of Whitesnake (1978-1982) having played on the group's first eight releases, and lent a major hand in composing some of the band's most renowned songs, like 'Here I Go Again', 'Fool For Your Loving', and 'Would I Lie To You'.

We meet Bernie in his memorabilia store Vinyl Riches in Buckingham and chat about Whitesnake, his amazing and interesting career, guitars, recent gigs and recording inside a 1963 Airstream Overlander Caravan!

**Bernie, you have been in the music industry for over 30 years. You've obviously seen a lot of changes within the industry, how has this affected you personally, and the choices you've made, and the music you've created?**

*I turned pro at the end of 1972, so it's been a while; things change of course, but not that much really.*

*If you looked at a Melody Maker from 1975, headliners are Eric Clapton, Elton John, Rod Stewart, Bee Gees, Deep Purple; well most of those guys are still the main men!*

*I worked with Andy Taylor after he left Duran Duran, he told me a lot of stuff, but as successful as they were, it wasn't Zeppelin was it!*

*The biggest change is recording, you can literally make an album at home now, that was impossible when I started, but it don't make the album any better.*

*I was Mickie Most's house guitarist at RAK in the seventies for a while, - now he knew how to make records, if he was around today he would have been able to pay us even less, no studio costs, he would have me record at his house. Great man!*

**What was it like working with Whitesnake in the early days?**

*Very funny, very hard work, very underpaid, very successful, not necessarily in that order though!*

*It was great time artistically; David, Micky and I knew almost from the first day that we had something special going on.*

*We toured non stop, broke really big everywhere except the US, and then after the band split David had great success over there, thankfully!*

*We made some good albums, I think the test of time is good to them, some are now what they call classic rock, well that will do me!*

*We played with many people in the early days, many would not have us on the bill, no names, but Nazareth did early on, bless 'em, and later AC/DC, and that tour broke us in Germany, we went from 50,000 to 500,000 album sales after the Back In Black tour, we should have gone to the States with them, but David broke his leg in Germany and we couldn't go, who knows what may have happened?*

**You recently played and recorded an acoustic gig at The Radcliffe Centre in Buckingham. How was that, and what else have you got lined up for 2009?**

*I recorded an evening of acoustic music, some Whitesnake, some covers and some new stuff, I played the British Acoustic Festival this year and the gig was amazing, also got a chance to hook up with the Marillion guys after a long break, nice people, a credit to the town!*

*I have an album of covers in the can, Cream, Jimi, Taste, Johnny Winter, stuff I grew up with, Jimmy Copley plays the most amazing drums on the tracks, I have to release it if only for the drummers!*

*I am rehearsing for my "Bernie plays Rory" tour for 2009.*

*I will be celebrating the great man's music from The Taste until his untimely passing.*

*Rory Gallagher was a great musician and a good friend to me, his music is timeless, I won't be impersonating him, nobody can, I will simply try to put across his music my way, if the early signs are to go by, it will be a good show for fans.*

**You recorded this gig with Rockhopper Studios, which is a mobile, fully restored 1963 Airstream Overlander Caravan. How did you find the whole experience and will you be looking to release this album soon?**

*I enjoyed working with Steve and Rockhopper, easy to get along with, and the sound is good, captured the moment(s) beautifully!*

*The CD should be ready for early 2009, and tracks available on the website before that.*

*We also recorded a few guitar instrumentals; I might make them available as a download. I used one of my old Les Paul's through a Marshall, nothing else, - guitar and amp, amazing sound!*

**What other things are you up to at the moment?**

*I'm always up to something! I have a nice situation in Croatia, I have been playing some shows and it's looking good, nice people, nice venues and good weather in the summer for festivals!*

*I will be doing PRS clinics across the country, and in Europe 2009, promoting all of the above no doubt, the main thing will be the Rory shows.*

**THE 'QUICK FIRE FIVE'**

Please complete the sentence!

**I couldn't live without...** *My family*

**My worst habit is...** *poor punctuality*

**My favourite guitar is...** *the next one*

**I'm not particularly good at...** *Mornings*

**Readers will be surprised to learn that...** *I appeared on the stage in The National Theatre's production of The Winter's Tale, by William Shakespeare in 2001 (and that is not the only time I have appeared in Shakespeare at the National!)*

*Not a lot of people know that in the early days Whitesnake were introduced on an ATV show in 1978 by the late Peter Cook, strange but true!*

*I co-starred in a six part German TV drama series in 1995.*

**The FULL interview can be viewed online at:**  
**[www.theNewRoxette.co.uk](http://www.theNewRoxette.co.uk)**



**16 February 2009**  
**[clairebatchelor.co.uk](http://clairebatchelor.co.uk)**

## The New Roxette Round Up

Aylesbury rock four-piece **The Powders** play their FAREWELL GIG on Saturday 9 January, at The Britannia. Full story on page 5.

**Rockhopper Studios** in Buckingham is now open for business. This fantastic mobile and static Recording Studio/Rehearsal Room/Venue also boasts a full in-house Video & Media Suite. Rockhopper Studios caters for all bands and singer-songwriters at all levels, and being mobile is also available to record your band LIVE at any gig or festival. Contact: **[www.Rockhopper-studios.co.uk](http://www.Rockhopper-studios.co.uk)** for full details, or the Information Hotline: **0845 680 0605**. Just mention 'The New Roxette'!

**The Green Man** (public house) makes a welcome return to Aylesbury.

This 'historic' pub is situated at the bottom of Market Square (formerly The Square). We await confirmation if live bands will be making an appearance once again!

Popular **DJ Dan Blaze** is hosting a 24hour Karaoke Party at The Bell Hotel Market Square from Midday Saturday 17 January till Midday Sunday 18 January.

23 year old guitar virtuoso **Newton Faulkner** performs at the Aylesbury Civic Centre - 24 January 2009.

The wonderful **Chas & Dave** revisit Aylesbury Civic Centre - 29 January 2009.

### NEW RELEASES

The Red Bullets	- "The Echo Sessions"	- Out Now!
Stevie Nicks	- "The Soundstage Sessions"	- 12 January 2009
Francis Rodino	- "Circles & Squares"	- 23 January 2009
Bruce Springsteen	- "Working On A Dream"	- 26 January 2009
Dr Dre	- "Detox"	- 26 January 2009
Franz Ferdinand	- "Tonight: Franz Ferdinand"	- 26 January 2009

*\* All information is correct at time of going to press.*



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## Rockhopper is a professional recording studio based in a fully restored 1963 Airstream Overlander Caravan.

Rockhopper is the brainchild of Buckingham businessman, Steve Redfearn – a keen musician and recording enthusiast, who conceived the idea two years ago, after selling his food ingredients business. In October 2006, Steve bought the 26-foot long vehicle and, with the help of an engineer, set about soundproofing and treating the caravan to construct the recording and control rooms inside.

Finally, he sourced the recording equipment – all professional quality, but small enough to fit inside the caravan... And so the Rockhopper was born!

Steve explains: "We're neither a static recording studio nor a mobile facility... we're both! Imagine a studio with all the facilities for producing great music – that can come direct to you, be it to your gig, your house or even in the middle of a field (if you're playing at a festival!)"

Or, – visit us at our unit in Buckingham where we have additional recording facilities, a showcase stage, a video editing suite with green-screen facilities, a rehearsal room and a live drum recording room".

Steve adds; "We can easily record a 5 piece band "live" inside the Rockhopper.

We can record acoustic drums and, because of the unique curved shape, generate a great drum sound using our studio kit, or your own drum kit.

We also have a big collection of guitars and amps, and can create a vast array of guitar sounds and there are ideal facilities for vocal recording with a great selection of vocal mics. Not only that we can produce, mix-down and master the recordings, and even duplicate CD's for our clients."

**"We're neither a static recording studio nor a mobile facility... we're both!"**

The Rockhopper Team believes a great recording comes from three things – equipment, instruments and the performance. Rockhopper

provides the first two and also the environment for the third. "Bands, singers, songwriters and other musicians love recording in Rockhopper. It's slightly quirky but roomy and comfortable and its shape gives a great recorded sound".

Other services available include video recording, mobile gig recording, self engineered sessions, training, and of course, recording vocals to backing-tracks.

So, whether you're in a band wanting to record a professional album, or if you're a karaoke singer wanting a demo of you singing your favourite song, come along to experience the Rockhopper first hand.

Contact the studio for all the latest promotions and special offer packages that are currently on offer.

**[www.rockhopper-studios.co.uk](http://www.rockhopper-studios.co.uk)**  
**0845 680 0605**

## CHARLIE DON'T SURF inside the Rockhopper...

**Local band Charlie Don't Surf give us their personal account and experience from recording within Buckingham's Rockhopper Studios...**

**The New Roxette hears from Mark Varney, the lead singer of this popular rock covers band.**

"How good was that!!?"

When Dennis (our drummer) told me we were going to do some recording I thought; 'Great, it's about time we got round to putting something new down'. We have been together in the present line-up for seven years, and previous attempts at recording have been disappointing, in that we either didn't actually finish the recording or we got a poor quality demo at the end of it!

So when Dennis spoke so highly about the people from Rockhopper Studios, I was more than keen to 'have a go'!

When I asked where we would be going, he said "It's OK, they will come to us"! ... Oh!!?

Then he said we would be doing the demo in a

converted caravan! ... Oh!!?

We went to our normal rehearsal room in Leighton Buzzard on Friday evening as usual, and didn't know what to expect.

The Guys arrived on the dot in a 1960's Streamline American Caravan kitted out with state of the art equipment, simply ran a lead into the room for power and said "OK, let's go"!

We were all very surprised with the space and room we had inside the studio.

There was an electronic drum kit set up in the internal drum booth, which Dennis was very comfortable with and felt at home within minutes.

Jim (our bass player) set himself up using one of the amps already there. Nick (the guitarist) got himself ready too.

They found me a microphone, gave us all headphones and off we went...

We decided to record one of our own songs, though didn't really know which way we were going to go



with it. Bass and Drums were laid down on the second attempt, then Nick's rhythm guitar and then the vocals, followed by the backing vocals and finally lead guitar to finish up.

It seemed too easy!

We listened back to the raw recordings and were extremely pleased. Steve the engineer certainly knew his stuff, and equally seemed to know what we wanted.

I think the whole process was over in a couple of hours, much quicker and easier than any studio we had used before.

After mixing down the track, we listened to the finished CD and have to say we were extremely happy with what we heard, so much so, that we have been over to Buckingham (where the studio is based) to cut four more tracks.

I can't recommend the "Rockhopper" highly enough, and can only repeat what I said at the start... How good was that!!?"



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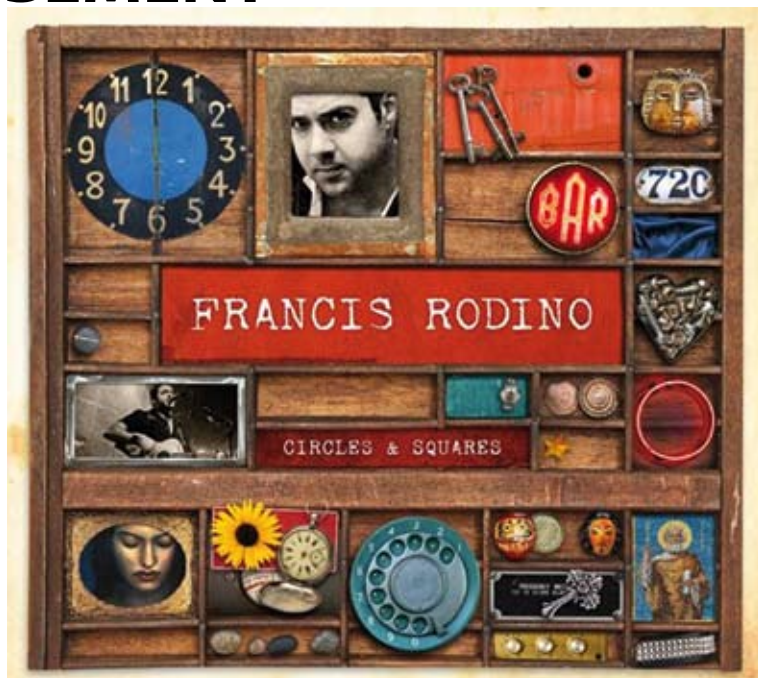
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# Reviews

## The Scene & The Swamis

*The Blues Loft*

*The Nag's Head, High Wycombe – 01.11.2008*

Opening with a howl of feedback and blasting off into interstellar space powered by wild psychedelic free jazz, The Swamis sidestep into mournful bluesy slide guitar. With red stage lights swelling, it seems like the breaking of some sinister Delta dawn and you can almost feel the malevolent shade of Robert Johnson heading back from the crossroads after striking that final, fateful deal with Mr Scratch. Tonight they have an excellent sound mix and just seem to get better with every gig. There's no let up in the power and intensity as they blast through their set, taking no prisoners and winning hearts and minds all the way.

Another band with a strong image, The Scene are also very difficult to pigeonhole. There's a lasting impression of bowler-hatted English eccentricity redolent of dark cellars and cobweb strewn attics haunted by a long retired Syd Barrett. In places they are reminiscent of a meeting between The Only Ones and The Radiators with a young Ian Hunter on vocals. It's all propelled along by guitars carrying occasional traces of John Perry's influence, some really nice subterranean bass and understated backing vocals all underpinned by some great drumming on what is possibly the loudest kit in the world. Well worth catching when they play your town.

All in all an excellent re-opening for the Blues Loft and the first of many great gigs there, we hope.

## Isabelle

*Pink Heels And Gold Guitars*

Some pleasant folk rock with pronounced country overtones from duo Isabelle. Vocalist and lyricist Letty Griffiths and producer/multi instrumentalist Tim Grover have created a chilled out introspective night time feel with subject matter covering relationships and the trials of



life. Alan Baldry guests on additional vocals for a couple of tracks and special mention should go to Lee Crampton and Mark Morris who guest on hammond and lead guitar for one song each.

Overall this is a tastefully played and produced album which creditably takes up and runs with the folk/country rock baton. So, if reflective semi-acoustic rock is your thing, you could do a lot worse than lay back and have Isabelle take you for a late night drive.

## Is it Happy Endings for The Powders ... ?

News has recently been made public that 'The Powders' have come to the end of the road and their musical journey.

This is going to leave many people in the Aylesbury area with a sizeable hole in their entertainment schedule, which will surely need to be fixed!

The band has been performing regularly for about seven years, with the current line-up for the last five.

Given the nature of the music industry, for many bands simply staying together that long would be bordering on the miraculous. But when you see and hear how well Andy, Kevin, Joel and Pete work together, you begin to realise not only how this talented and original 4-piece have managed to stay together, but also how they've created such great albums filled with melodic rock and indie pop music.

It's sad that one of the best and longest-lived local bands should decide to move on, but the 'Beauty' and good news is that the guys all say that they'll continue to make music, which of course is good reason to 'Jump For Joy'!

So what of the future? Well if you want to hear The Powders playing together for one last time, they will be 'Waiting For You' at The Britannia (Aylesbury) on Friday 9 January 2009.

For now though, we're going to miss their catchy lyrics, infectious rhythms, and sheer professionalism,

and I'm sure all the fans will want to wish them all good luck for the future.

The Powders latest album 'Warm' is still available from their website, and as digital downloads from iTunes. [www.thepowders.com](http://www.thepowders.com)

## LIVE REVIEW

### The Red Bullets

*The Stables – 06.11.2008*

The evening opened with an acoustic set by Dave Cattermole and Dan Buckland. This was a great performance where the guitars blended seamlessly into one beautiful tone complemented by Dave and Dan's perfect vocal harmonies. For most of the set they alternated lead vocals, one of many standouts being Dan's 'American Girl'. This was a more or less faultless performance given extra edge by Dan's looning and ad-libs. Hopefully they will be performing together again soon.

The Red Bullets played for almost two hours to a sold out Stables. Although it was an immense set there was no padding or extra weight. Everything was lean, toned and honed. The sheer size of the set allowed the band to expand into their extensive repertoire of covers, highlight of which was Supertramp's 'Take The Long Way Home', featuring the excellent Pearl Handled Revolver's Lee Vernon playing harmonica from on-high like some super cool minstrel in the gallery. New song 'The Mice Go Dancing' was premiered to an enthusiastic reaction, reassuring us all that the musical and lyrical inspiration is still very much there and as strong as ever.

A near perfect sound showed The Red Bullet's skills off to their best advantage and particular mention should go to Kyle's ferociously assertive guitar licks. The only gripe to be voiced relates not to the band but to this writer's aversion to seated venues. When standing one feels enclosed to the point of being trapped and immobile and let's face it, it's very hard to remain seated when faced by a band like The Red Bullets. Here's hoping the next venue has a large expanse of unseated but crowded floor.

## Music Fan of the Month

### Chris Lane

#### What was your first gig?

Queen and Mott The Hoople at Oxford New Theatre, November '73. Absolutely brilliant!

#### Have you looked at the Friars Website?

I have looked at the Friars Website but not enough. I've just had a browse on it but need to check it out big time.

#### Were you a regular at the Aylesbury Showcase gigs this year?

Yes, I was at the King's Head and around and about. I didn't make it to Chicago's but I saw a lot of stuff at the King's Head that I was impressed with. The Swamis especially; everyone loves The Swamis. And the Red Bullets! It's all great though, live music, especially at the King's Head, great venue, the courtyard just lends itself to it.

#### What have been your highlights this year?

Geraint Watkins at Dingwalls two weeks ago. Excellent band! I saw Kate Rusby at the Civic, very good, beautiful voice, she was excellent. We've got Mercury Rev coming up and Primal Scream (both at Oxford). Lots to look forward to...



#### What about Hobble on the Cobbles?

Eddie & The Hot Rods were brilliant. It was just a really good day with everybody in town enjoying it. Really good bands and good weather.

#### What about the next HOTC?

As ideal headliners? You hear rumours... Howard Jones would be good!

They do keep it local, and Friars connected. A Mott The Hoople reunion? Split Enz maybe? They could fly them in from New Zealand/Australia.

Or Wilko Johnson? Definitely!

#### Who would be your dream headliner?

From the past? Roxy Music reformed with Eno. From the present? Maybe, The Hours, a brilliant first album.

#### Any Comments on the live music scene in Aylesbury outside of Summer?

Hopefully it will continue. The Bell Hotel's picked up now. Live music in general is so healthy at the moment. There's so much going on, real variety and good musicianship. The Hop Pole's very good as well, doing a great job.

## Where's Keith?

### Have you seen this man ... ?

Well, say hello to Keith!



If you see Keith in any pubs or music venues around town, (buy him a drink) and get your photograph taken with him.

Email the photo with the date/location of sighting to us at 'Where's Keith' – and email to: [office@AylesburyShowcase.co.uk](mailto:office@AylesburyShowcase.co.uk) and if we publish it you will be the lucky recipient of a free CD, AND of course you'll be featured in The New Roxette as well.

What have you got to lose?

Stalkers and Crazy Women Welcome!



# Fluid Lines • Riding Lions

There's a moment, maybe one minute thirty into *'Drugs And Medication'*, where the guitar lines start to twist around each other, the drums are suddenly just there and the bass dances across the surface the way a stone skims across a lake. In this small but perfectly realised point in time it becomes suddenly, dazzlingly clear exactly why God created the rhythm section. And it's this satori (amongst others) which brings your intrepid reporter and photographer to an Aylesbury bar for their first Fluid Lines interview.

Flash back five years and Calum Wood and Ben McKelvey are at school. While the other kids are outside playing football and running round, they are indoors jamming. Calum, inspired by Blink 182 and Green Day has given up his violin and moved to guitar, while Ben, totally knocked out by a drummer he had seen on holiday aged six is "a day away from selling my drum kit" when he and Calum meet on a bike ride. They soon recruit fellow student Bruce Miller on bass.

Initially playing covers, with a vocalist/guitarist called Nick, the band begin to gig regularly on the toilet circuit, often playing venues where they'd be too young to gain access as punters. There follows a period of serious dues paying, the nadir in their collective memory being Wembley Rugby Club, a gig full of beer hurling, whisky sodden 14 year olds. They also survive the iniquitous 'Pay to Play' venues and the cowboys, "We've had promoters in London who've said 'We're not going to pay you because you didn't bring enough people in'; our job is to play, their job is to promote. That's why they're called promoters ... not exactly science is it?" All the time there are still enough good/excellent gigs to keep them believing.

After Nick's departure for University the band eventually recruit Jimmy Wright on guitar in May 2007. "Within the first five minutes we knew this is how it's supposed to sound" In early 2008 they record *'The Lightning Season'*. The sessions are

dogged by fractures, burns and dental disasters, none of which affect the sheer guts, passion and incendiary (no pun intended) performances found on the EP.

Arriving at the present, Fluid Lines are poised to sign a new management deal which, relieved of all routine band chores, should give them more time to concentrate on the music. Some songs are co-operatively written while others come from musical fragments and phrases brought to the table to be worked into complete songs. These highly effective methods take time so the guys all work three day weeks to pay for essentials while dedicating the other four days to writing, jamming, rehearsing and gigs. Although, as Calum points out, time off is equally important, "You do get stressed with each other when you're constantly focussed... You do have to switch off." Inspiration comes from varied sources with *'The Right Place At The Night Time'* taken from experience whereas *'Fire'* with its theme of a waster's redemption adopts a short story format.

The fruits of these labours will be recorded when the guys return to the studio. At the time of going to press, there is no title as yet and the band were tight lipped about which new songs would be featured. A single or an EP could be released some time in the New Year to coincide with their forthcoming tour with M101. Fluid Lines are admirably aware of the needs of the younger members of their fan base and are booked into 14+ venues for much of the tour. They feel that while Aylesbury is "a good place to play" there's no provision for younger fans and the town needs a regular 14+ venue as "pubs are not the best environment for 14 - 15 year old kids to be". Recent Aylesbury shows have been outdoors in the courtyard at the Kings Head but other than that, they believe the only way of reaching their younger fans is through promoting their own gigs, but do they have to become promoters when there are plenty of capable individuals around who could run a 14+ venue?

With the interview over, everyone heads outside to the square for photos. The band end up riding a lion for a few pictures and as they dismount Calum looks up at a statue of a man in uniform and suggests that maybe we should move on from militaristic memorials and one day build a huge likeness of Fluid Lines cast in bronze, riding lions. Ben chips in with the idea that he should be equipped with shield and drumstick rather than lance or sabre. We part, laughing and they head back to rehearsals. Like their music they are sharp, articulate and focussed. They deserve every success now. The statue will come in time!

For more information visit:  
[myspace.com/fluidlines](http://myspace.com/fluidlines)



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# The New Roxette

**coming next month ...**  
**February 2009 – ISSUE THREE**

**The New Roxette talks to**

***Kajagoogoo***



***Also featuring:***

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