

The New Roxette

www.theNewRoxette.com

ISSUE SIX – MAY 2009

Howard Jones

Black Poets

Jump

Where's Keith?

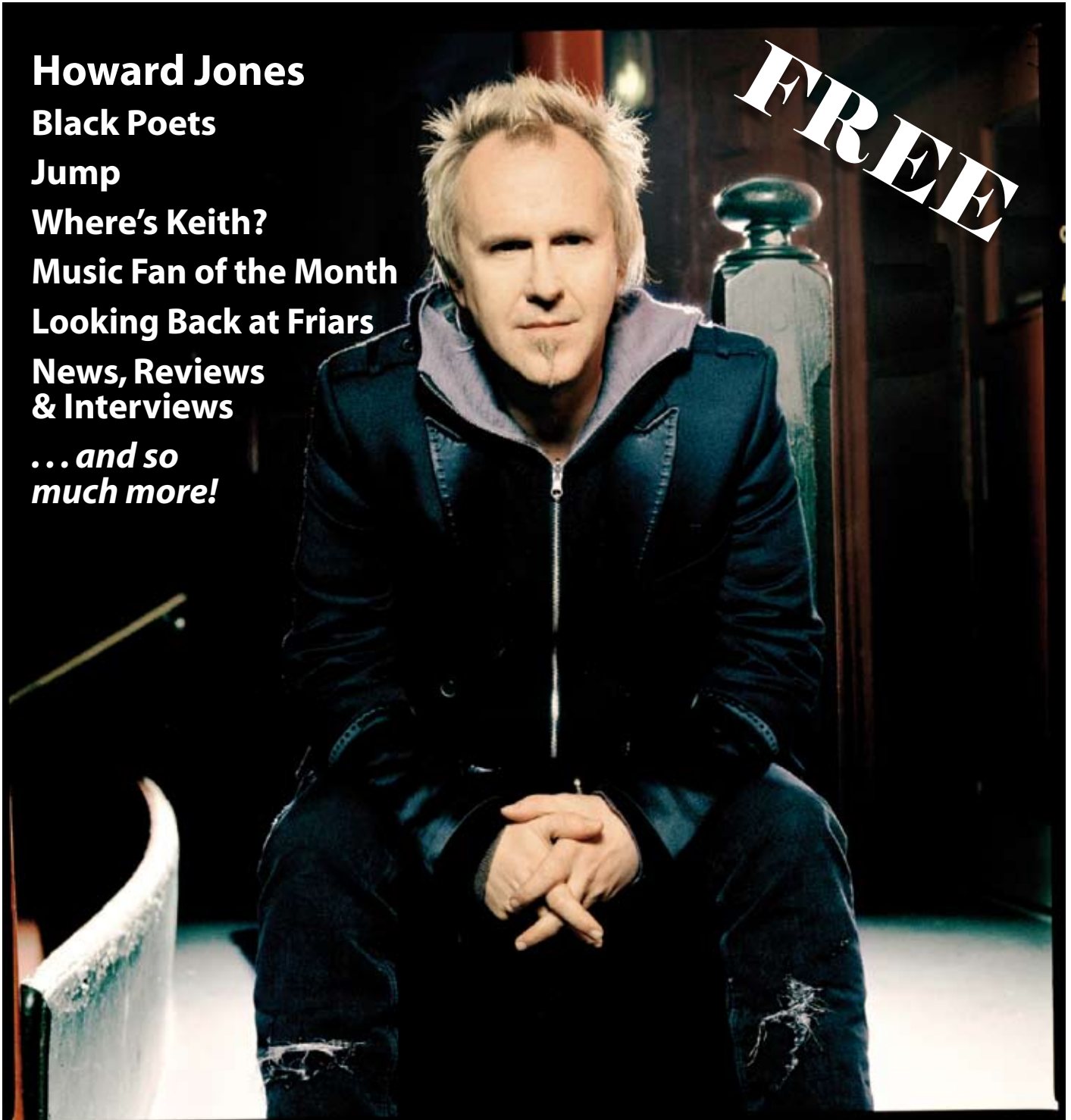
Music Fan of the Month

Looking Back at Friars

**News, Reviews
& Interviews**

*...and so
much more!*

FREE



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**AND A VERY SPECIAL
'THANK YOU'
TO
HOWARD JONES**

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

Welcome to The New Roxette

WELCOME to issue six of **The New Roxette**.

This month in **The New Roxette**, we have an exclusive interview with **Howard Jones**, who will be performing across the UK later this month as part of the 'Here & Now' Tour, plus we're chatting to the '**Black Poets**' and also **John Dexter Jones** from popular local rock band '**Jump**'.

Also this month, we have some more exclusive information regarding the very special **FRIARS Aylesbury** concert at The Aylesbury Civic Centre, which celebrates the 40th Anniversary of this legendary club – as it rises from the ashes once more after a 25 year break, on **Monday 1 June 2009**. Tickets went on sale last month, and this event has already generated enormous interest, and received significant media interest including the BBC, Music Week, Music-News, The Bucks Herald, and of course **The New Roxette** to name but a few!

Opening the night on stage at 7.30pm will be **The Groundhogs**.

Second on at 8.30pm will be **Edgar Broughton** and headlining the evening's event will be **The Pretty Things**.

For FULL details and more information visit the Official Friars Website:

www.Aylesburyfriars.co.uk or online at www.theNewRoxette.com

Since our last issue, **The New Roxette** has been gaining even more fans and generating even more publicity and interest, including that of a certain Mr David Bowie! **The New Roxette** is now being read all over the world, and we are proud to announce a direct link has even been added from the Official **David Bowie** website to www.theNewRoxette.com ☺

Sales of the wonderful limited edition debut EP "**WISH**" from local singer-songwriter **Claire Batchelor** continues to grow. If you haven't already picked up a copy, then you can still buy this fantastic EP from the official Jam Central Records website or from Claire at any of her forthcoming gigs; (while stocks last) – www.jamcentralrecords.com

The line-up for this year's **Aylesbury Festival** (11 & 12 July) has also been revealed, and this too has already received tremendous support and interest ...

Visit www.Aylesburyfestival.com for further details.

Don't forget to check out the Official (**New Roxette**) Website too for the FULL interviews, plus the **MYSpace**, **FACEBOOK** and **TWITTER** pages for all the very latest news and gossip...

Anyway, until then ... have a fantastic month and see you again soon ... !
Enjoy!

The New Roxette NEWS ROUND UP

Popular local record label **Jam Central** are lining up to release some fantastic new albums and singles shortly, including the brilliant single "**Anymore**" by **Lost Minute**, plus the Official **FRIARS 40th Anniversary** Compilation Album. For all the latest information visit: www.jamcentralrecords.com

John Otway returns to the Limelight Theatre on 8 May. www.qpc.org

Rickmansworth Canal Festival: 16 & 17 May.

The Hohodza Band (from Zimbabwe) make a welcome return to Aylesbury on Sunday 17 May for a live music performance and workshop in Kingsbury (Aylesbury).

Tring Canal Festival: 23-25 May. www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

Larks by the Lake: returns on 24 May to Watermead (Aylesbury).

Music in the Market: once again this popular local event takes place in the heart of Buckingham on 24 May.

Jump returns to the Limelight Theatre on 30 May. www.qpc.org

The Harrow, Aylesbury will be hosting a new Open Mic / Jam Session on the last Sunday of every month. (31 May, from 6pm). All musicians, All abilities, All instruments welcome! It's a place to **network**, meet other musicians and listen to some fabulous live music... ***NOT TO BE MISSED***



Queuing for their **FRIARS** tickets,
Friday 17 April 2009 (2pm).



Buying the **FIRST** Friars Aylesbury
Tickets in 25 Years!

NEW RELEASES

Slashed Seat Affair	– "No Lies" (single)	– 4 May 2009
The Maccabees	– "Wall Of Arms"	– 4 May 2009
Bloc Party	– "Intimacy" – Remixed	– 11 May 2009
Green Day	– "21st Century Breakdown"	– 11 May 2009
Lunatic	– "Lovethief"	– 14 May 2009
Jarvis Cocker	– "Further Complications"	– 18 May 2009
The Lightning Seeds	– "4 Winds"	– 18 May 2009
Manic Street Preachers	– "Journal For Plague Lovers"	– 18 May 2009
Escala	– "Escala"	– 25 May 2009
Madness	– "Liberty Of Norton Folgate"	– 25 May 2009

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



Escala

When The New Roxette says JUMP ...!

JUMP are a six piece band formed in 1990 in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

During their career they have released ten independent studio albums plus two live albums and recently have released their first E.P. (reviewed in Issue 3). They have toured extensively both in their own right and as an opening act for artists including Marillion, Fish, Midge Ure, Sam Brown, Wishbone Ash, The Blockheads, IQ, Arena, Arthur Brown and John Young.

We caught up with frontman **John Dexter Jones** following their recent acoustic set supporting *Katie Buckhaven* at The Limelight Theatre in Aylesbury.

For those new to JUMP could you explain the JUMP sound?

Er...no... not really... we've been described by Classic Rock Mag as the band that's impossible to pigeonhole... our sound is what we write, what we fancy and...er... so that'll be a bit of rawk... folk... bit of blues... some (apparently) prog... I honestly don't know... we just like it and we've recorded 13 albums so it seems a few other folks enjoy it too!

For a band that have been together for 19 years, how have you managed to maintain such a stable line-up?

Well we've had a couple of personnel changes over the years... but the nucleus of the band remains... I guess that we understand each other... we can really fizz creatively in a work situation (and we certainly DON'T agree about everything) but we have built a trust and respect for each other that means that by the time we reach the pub/service station/next day...we've learned some more.... JUMP is very democratic but has clear cut values that we agreed on before our first gig in 1990 and the band won't compromise our own code.



Have you heard much about Hobble on the Cobbles and how do you feel about playing the event this year?

Oh yes...we were dead chuffed to get the invite... it's funny 'cos a few of our friends have played it so we feel connected! Fish did it... we toured with him a while ago and guess what... we're doing a gig for him a couple of weeks before Hobble... the wheel keeps turning!

At HOTC you will be playing in your acoustic guise as 'John Dexter Jones & The Steven Twins'. How did that come about?

Well we'd done some 'JUMP acoustic' things opening for Sam Brown, Wishbone Ash and Arthur Brown and the like, and then we got a call asking us to do some shows with Midge Ure... after a few of those we started getting serious requests for an album of acoustic stuff so we did the JDJ album when a guy from the U.S. dipped into his pocket and financed it! Really it IS just acoustic JUMP but hey, I've got a fancy long name so we thought it would work better – particularly when you're getting half hour theatre support slots and people can associate your name with a forensic scientist TV serial killer....

And the New full length CD is due later in the year, what can we expect? *Well to be honest you can expect the unexpected! We've followed our noses and seem to be mining a real folk-rock tinged thing... mind you Ronnie is still crunching out loony power-chords and mind-boggling solos so I guess the word 'hybrid' springs to mind... AGAIN...! Lyrically there's a lot of family history... AGAIN...!*



Finally what other plans do the band have for the rest of 2009?

Write, record, gig, record, write, gig, record, gig, write.....go down the pub...and then start again....

Well many thanks for spending some time with us John and we'll see you at The Limelight (Aylesbury) on 30th May.

For more information on JUMP visit:
www.jumprock.co.uk

The Quick Fire Five ...

What was the first gig you attended?

Ginger Baker and Friends, Bangor University Refectory.

Who is your biggest influence?

Bill Lewis my old English teacher... developed my critical faculties.

What is your musical high point?

Finishing a new song that you know is going to knock 'em dead.

What are you currently listening to?

My son Sam's ipod which dominates the house. I have no choice.

What item can't you live without?

Wales...it's not an 'item' but I'm hardly going to say car, pen or Shure SM58 am I...? so Wales...simple!

By Peter Brockwell

For the FULL Interview visit the Official Website: www.theNewRoxette.com



To many of you reading this, out in 'Roxette land', Pearl Handled Revolver will be an unfamiliar name... You may have encountered Lee Vernon (vocals/harmonica) at a couple of Aylesbury Showcase gigs last year where you'd remember him as the cool bloke who played occasional harmonica with *The Red Bullets*. He is also responsible for the artwork on their *Echo Sessions EP*, but as for his music...

This should all be changing in the near future when *Pearl Handled Revolver* break out of their current gig circuit and bring their unique brand of dirty blues, rock and everything else to a venue near you as they tour to promote their new album.

After an interesting but unplanned tour of Bedford we finally get to meet up with Lee, Simon (Organ, Piano), Andy (Guitar) and Oli (Bass, Guitars), for a pre-gig interview. Fergus (Drums) was running late... (Was he lost in Bedford as well? Geographic Ed.)

First off, can you give us some history, background, first gig etc?

Lee and Simon have been playing together musically for some time and have been recording together for 3 or 4 years. Prior to PHR we played in 'Blunderherd'. Following a small EP release called 'Embryo' we decided we had to play the songs live... Oli had already played with Simon, and Andy we found somewhere in a cabbage patch! What is important to us is that we are friends and get on well and then the musicianship follows. We played our first gig for Lord McAlpine. There was no Deep Purple gig that day, Jon Lord and Ian Paice are both neighbours and friends of Lord McAlpine. They were also taking full advantage of the free food, drink and entertainment. Jon Lord was probably one of the most humble and pleasant Rock Gods that we could have ever wished to meet. It is great to be able to say that we have never had a bad gig.

Great to see a band whose music is so eclectic. What are your influences?

Simon: *Classic rock, Free, Doors, Deep Purple, Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin, Tom Waits, John Martyn, 30/40/50's blues – we sort of blend it all together and then mix it up.*
Oli: *Classical and Spanish guitar music. Really difficult to pinpoint a specific genre.*

Andy: *Each of us comes to the table with something different.*

Lee: *If it puts a smile on our faces*

When is the album due out?

We have self-produced the album in Simon's studio and it has taken longer than planned, but it has to be right. Hopefully it will be finished in the next couple of weeks and then we will be mastering with a release date in early May.

Will you be playing locally to publicise the album?

We are planning a publicity tour and want to play the smaller, more intimate venues like Esquires, Bedford. Not massively into playing larger venues as smaller venues work better with our sound.

You live over a wide area – how do you get together for rehearsals etc?

Not a problem, at the moment we are playing in Simon's studio, in Cambridgeshire and usually there is only one evening a week that we can get together. We all work as well as being musicians!

What music are you listening to at the moment?

Fleet Foxes, ACDC, The Answer, David Bowie, Audio Slave, Pearl Jam – also listen to a lot of older music.

Is there one song you wish you had written?

Andy: *Why's A Time – Black Crows*
Simon: *Day In The Life – The Beatles*
Oli: *Mr Big – Free*
Lee: *Blue Valentine – Tom Waits*

At this point the band turn the last question on the interviewer who tries to come up with some lame evasion but is finally forced to own up to 'Terrapin' by Syd Barrett. This appears to go down well with the band, much to his relief...

With the interview over it's up to Esquires where we witness a blinding set by PHR (See review on page 6). With any luck venues in Buckinghamshire will soon be witnessing Pearl Handled Revolver's individual brand of bluesy, funky, sometimes Spanish, trippy, rock. You really owe it to yourselves to check them out. You won't regret it!



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SmartThinking

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Aylesbury Vale Arts Council

The New Roxette chats to Howard Jones about music, touring, Friars and Hobble on the Cobbles...



Hi Howard,
Thank you so much for talking to us
today..!

At your O2 gig last year (celebrating
your 25th Anniversary), you had
various band formats – a big band, a
duo with guitarist Robin Boulton, Trio
and the Cyberpunk Trio (*laughter
from Howard*)... Was this a conscious
decision to run through your musical

history that way or did it just emerge
like that?

*"Both really – it does sort of represent the
history of things but it is also all the things
that I am working on at the moment. I
am doing the acoustic shows with Robin,
working with the trio and then working on
the album with a string section and a large
acoustic band, also doing the HJ Electric
band as well – it is what I am doing at the
moment rather than a historical thing. I
realised that if you are going to be a survivor
you have got to be flexible if the gig calls for
just two people then I am happy with that,
but if you are playing larger venues then
you need a bigger sound"*

**You have been in the music business
now for 25 years. How do you feel
it has changed, both positively and
negatively?**

*"It is changing very fast, mainly in the way
music is delivered to people, causing a
massive revolution. In the past you went
down the local record shop and bought
your vinyl or CD, but most people now get
to have it for free by downloading. So as a
recording artiste how do you make a living?
In the meantime people have had to go back
to playing live and earning a living through
that. Difficult to make money from recorded
work. Focus is definitely on the live work – it
must be very difficult for musicians who only
work in the studio – really they are stuffed
and we are being deprived of their work."*

Is touring still enjoyable?

*"Yes very much so! Last tour was earlier this
year in Australia and I had one of the best
times I have ever had on the road. We made
a video diary of the whole tour and were
filming every day and then up half the night
uploading it onto the website so fans could
get a daily update. The Australians were
great, everything was working properly,
really enjoyed playing live very much"*

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You are playing West Wycombe in the summer are you looking forward to that gig?

"West Wycombe has a great significance for me as I wrote the lyrics for 'New Song' on West Wycombe Hill, so I am very much looking forward to going back and playing there. I am playing as part of the "Here and Now" tour, so it will be mainly the hits that I play."

When was the last time you played in High Wycombe?

"That was when I launched the 'Working the Back Room' album in Wycombe Town Hall. I am hoping to play Wycombe Swan sometime next year."

You have now moved out of Buckinghamshire, is there anything you miss about Bucks?

"I spent a large part of my life in High Wycombe and surrounding areas. Suppose it is how you feel in yourself and how you relate to a place. It was one of the most exciting times in my life, playing at The Osborne Arms, Nags Head and then London gigs. Building a local following was so important and I have a huge affection for that time in my life. The main reason I left was because people started writing not very nice things about me and it became embarrassing for my family and friends and I did not want to put them through that and the best thing to do was to clear off. It was a shame as I was hugely supported by the people of High Wycombe, press can be very powerful and can make things very uncomfortable."

A lot of people have you on their wish list for headlining Hobble on the Cobbles in Aylesbury. Would you like to headline?

"Would absolutely love to do it! Really want to do it and we have already had a dialogue

with the organiser. It is on 'my' wish list to do..."

It is the 40th anniversary of Friars this year, do you have any particular memories of playing there?

"It was pivotal to my early career; I played there so many times. The first time I played there I was in a band called Warrior, I was only 16/17 and still at school. David Stopps had heard of this band with a young keyboard player and we were asked to support Stackridge. It was quite funny as they arrived and their electric organ had gone down so they had to borrow mine, which my Dad was buying on HP at the time! We also played another gig supporting, - I can't remember who! Then I started playing there in the 80's and there was one great night where Kajagoogoo were playing in the main hall and I was playing in the Aston Hall, also think Fashion were playing... (Checked Friars website and yes it was Fashion! Ed.).

Playing Friars was the Holy Grail and it seemed such a huge venue to play. Also supported China Crisis in June 1983, I have so many brilliant memories of Friars and the support that I got from people in Aylesbury."

What bands/artistes have recently excited you?

"I am a real fan of The Killers, I love their music, it has an 80's resonance about it. Love the writing, the sound and the sound of the guys voice. My kids take the p... out of me and my love of the band! Another brilliant artiste is Laura Marling, she is an astonishing young artiste and people should really follow her career. She has an air of Joni Mitchell about her, her lyrics are so thoughtful and poetic and she has a really interesting folk influence. Also a big fan of Noah and the Whale"

Is there one song you wish you had written?

"Would normally answer something like 'Imagine' by John Lennon or 'God Only Knows' by The Beach Boys, but when really thinking about it would answer "Aja" by Steely Dan. If I had to just have one band that I listened to it would be Steely Dan. I have this DVD called 'Two Against Nature' and it is a recording of Steely Dan playing live in a studio in front of an audience and I can watch that over and over and it is ultimately my favourite music. If I had my time again as a young musician I would really learn the roots of jazz."

Howard then wished The New Roxette all the very best of luck....!



Howard is performing as part of the Here & Now Tour commencing on 14 May in Liverpool. FULL details are located on the Official HJ Websites:

www.howardjones.com
www.myspace.com/
howardjonesmusic

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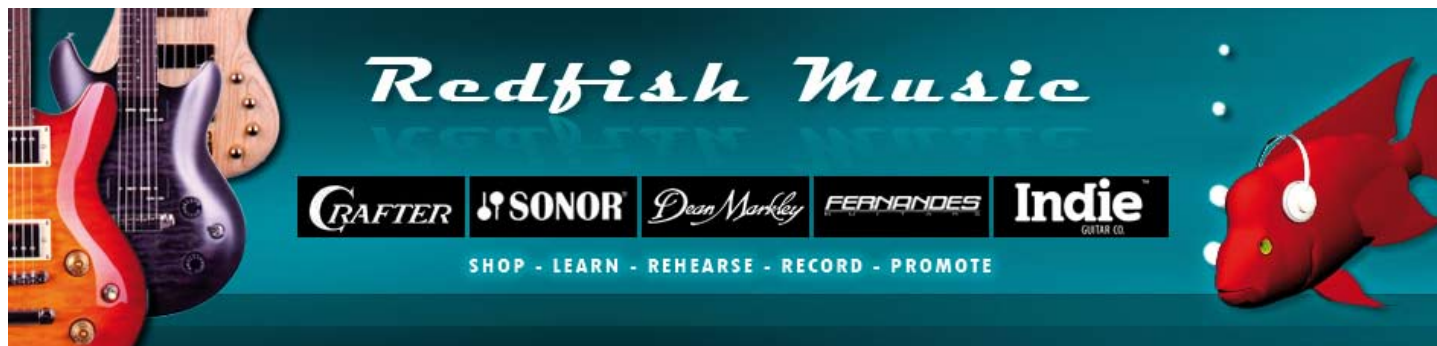
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MUSIC FAN OF THE MONTH



Nicola Parker

What was the first gig you attended and where was it?

Chris Rea at Wembley Arena

What music are you currently listening to?

Muse - Black Holes and Revelations

Do you have a favourite new band at the moment?

Glasvegas

What do you think of Hobbles on the Cobbles?

Brilliant, loved it.

Who would be your dream headliner?

Dolly Parton, Johnny Cash or Wham!!!!

Which band/artiste do you wish you had seen?

Freddie Mercury with Queen – mainly for the showmanship more than anything.

What was the last gig you attended?

The Powders farewell gig in January!

What do you think of the current live music scene?

Better than it's ever been locally. Lots more venues doing live music. Easier to go out and just come across live bands performing.

What were your musical highlights in 2008?

Killers - Day and Age

Where's 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 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!



Photo: Courtesy of Barry Keen on behalf of Aylesbury Showcase 'Hobbles on the Cobbles 2006'

Where's Keith...?
See if you can spot him!

Reviews

Michael Lee *Face Forward*

Multi instrumentalist Michael Lee appeared last year at the Aylesbury Showcase gigs under the band name *Soul Capture*. On this release he handles guitars, basses, keyboards and occasional drums as well as almost all the vocals. The only other credits go to Will Gates who takes care of the majority of the drums very well indeed and to Christopher Lever for Keyboard chores on two tracks and Martyn Drabik for backing vocals on one.

There are a lot of varied sounds on *Face Forward*, running from 'Trust' with its new wave guitars and solid driving bass which is reminiscent of early 80s band *Fingerprint* through to 'Tired' with its piano driven thoughtful arrangement very much in the same vein as late lamented Irish rockers *The Fat Lady Sings*. The songs continue on by way of the thoughtful, philosophical 'Mystery Of Life' with delicately picked guitar and sensitive vocals and the Iberian/North African vibe of 'Never Enough Time', to the title track with its cinematic piano and solid rhythms.

This album is well worth checking out. Michael is an impressively powerful guitarist, no slouch on the keyboards and a solid, imaginative bassist who leaves you wondering if there's anything he *can't* play. He also sings rather well too...

www.myspace.com/michaellleeuk

Birdeatsbaby *Here She Comes-a-Tumblin'*

Packed in lose feathers, this album from 'Dark Cabaret' artistes Birdeatsbaby refines said darkness into a marvellous Weimar On Sea confection while never falling into the trap of archly camp (Who He? Ed.).

Full of doomed love and polkas, lurching waltz times and piano, bass and strings colliding lasciviously and sometimes angrily, it's easy to imagine Auden cruising their venue or Isherwood sitting in a corner taking notes.

It's hard to pick out individual songs when standards are so high but *Miserable* with its rubber, leather, SM fetish and alcohol abuse sticks in the mind as does *Jim*, a Dear John (or perhaps Dear Jim) number, which manages to cram onanism, television and Keira (Knightley, one assumes) into the first line alone. *Letter To Charlie* with its gentle acoustic guitar and harmony vocals closes the show.

Mishkin Mullaly and the rest of the band have created something worth

its weight in rubies here. Take a copy into your heart and your home. It's guaranteed to behave abominably but you'll just love it all the more.

"Tie me down Charlie Brown, wrap me up in a hospital gown"

www.myspace.com/birdeatsbaby

The Wishing Tree *Ostara*

The Wishing Tree is where Steve Rothery can be found outside of his day job with Marillion. As one would expect Steve plays excellent guitars, he also handles keyboards and comes across as a strong, imaginative bassist without falling into the 'busy' mode that affects some guitarists. Hannah Stobart handles vocals and lyrics in a smooth and almost folk oriented way. Drums are played by Paul Craddick and Jo Rothery and Mike Hunter help out on some backing vocals and keyboards and percussion respectively.

Hannah's vocals and the music complement each other really well throughout this album. From the traditional vibe of the title track through the brooding *Hollow Hills*, the bluesy *Seventh Sign* or the folk rock of *Fly* to the delicate acoustic final track *Soldier*, hers is the constant note. Interesting and mildly eclectic *Ostara* is well worthy of your time.

File under 'Class Act'.

www.myspace.com/thewishingtreeband

Tramp Etiquette – EP

Tramp Etiquette have produced a strong, musically intense offering here. The clearest reference point would be Post Punk with a Gang Of Four feel in Tom Rhodes' funky, driving bass.

There's no padding to be found. Nothing is over arranged and all the songs stand up well. *We Dance* is riff based with instrumental drop outs and rappy vocals and I really like the dictionary definitions. *Cheater* has strong vocals from Joe Payne and sparse choppy rhythm guitar again pushed along by funky bass. *My Life* is a chronicle of a wasted existence with acoustic guitar and folky vibe in some ways reminiscent of Richard Thompson's *God Loves A Drunk* and with a musical feel similar to Doves *House*. Full of disgust/disenchantment with life and the academic rat race it closes the EP with hints of Syd Barrett's almost Morse code guitar as found on *Interstellar Overdrive*.

This is excellent, full of thoughtful lyrics and great playing and I look forward to seeing them at the Aylesbury Festival in July.

www.myspace.com/trampetiquetteofficial

Looking back at Friars ...

MAY 1974

1974 was the pivotal year in Cockney Rebel's history and sealed Steve Harley's place as a Friars Aylesbury legend. The success also smashed the band to pieces. They played four headlining gigs in 1974. The gig in May 1974 was accompanied by scenes of pandemonium as an estimated 500 people congregated outside the Borough Assembly Hall unable to get in and it threatened to turn nasty, which in the end it didn't, not least due to a return gig less than two weeks later hastily being arranged.

As for the band and Aylesbury's lasting effect on them, Steve Harley went on in 2008 to describe Friars as "the gig of gigs" This version of Cockney rebel never played again after June and when Cockney Rebel made their fourth appearance in August, Harley had put together a new band featuring old Friars man Jim Cregan (ex Blossom Toes and BB Blunder).

Steve Harley came back and played Friars again another three times after 1974, the last appearance in 1981.

www.Aylesburyfriars.co.uk



Photo: Neale Wareham

Blackwater Blog

May 2009

by Leon Gordon

This month has seen another local release from **J.Knight** titled 'Aylesbury's No1 Vol.2' – unfortunately I haven't been able to get a copy to listen to but have been hearing good things.

Blackwater Productions has had another busy month culminating with another video shoot for 'I Wanna Party' Terror Feat. Nitro and Riddz in the coming weeks. 'I Wanna Party' is an underground club banger which is being lined up for the soundtrack of 'From The Smoke' a film in the making revolving around the gang culture surrounding London, in a Lock Stock esque guise.

Also on the horizon, Blackwater's artists will be performing a showcase in Milton Keynes. The night is based around an evening with notorious football hooligan turned straight Carlton Leach. **Phoenix Gentleman's Club, Milton Keynes. Sunday 7 June.**

Carlton Leach was heavily involved in the criminal underworld surrounding football in the 90's, but since the death of friend Tony Tucker in the now infamous Essex shootings (*Rise of the Footsoldier*) Carlton has turned his back on the gang world.

Join us next month as we catch up with **Helen Sanderson-White** local performer and teacher as she gives us an insight into developing her own teaching business and gigging around the country.

www.blackwaterproductions.co.uk

BLACK POETS



Hey Billy...

Great to catch up again mate... It's certainly been a while!

I still have fond memories of when we used to play together in my old rock band. Suffice to say I'm pleased it didn't hold you back and it's good to see you are really starting to make waves in the industry.

So, what's been happening since then...? Please tell our readers who you are, and what you're up to.

It's been a busy time. We finished the album and got stuck into creating the live show – We played with Pete Doherty and Babyshambles, which helped get us a bit of attention. Now we're concentrating on a video shoot for the first single.

Your latest album 'Innocents And Thieves' has received a lot of fantastic press and coverage already. What was the inspiration and story behind this record, and do you personally have a favourite track from it?

Gerard Lecain writes the basic songs. Lyrically it's deeply personal to him, but in the form of this record it becomes quite accessible I think. I guess

few subjects have been lucky enough to dodge the plunder of songwriting, but I don't think I've heard the songs on this album before, I really don't. These things seem never to have been said.

Picking a favourite would be meaningless, really. As humans, we're quite useless at knowing what we want, so it's probably best we just make ourselves available.

The album was produced and engineered by Pete Abbott (engineer Editors/ Guillemots/ Athlete/ Spiritualized) and mastered by John Davis (White Lies/ Bloc Party/ Kaiser Chiefs). That's some credentials... How much impact and input have they had in creating the sound/style of the band and the record?

Very, very talented people, who added enormously to the sound of the album. Pete Abbott perfectly captured the music, but we were very clear from the outset how this record should sound. The first time we picked up our instruments, before Black Poets was anything more than a name and an idea, there was a musical template. Sessions have been aborted on an inappropriate string bend, or an over-elaborate bass line.

Everyone in the band has their differing musical influences, but mostly when we convene, it falls quite naturally into our interpretation of post-punk.

Black Poets almost entirely use 70's and 80's analogue technology to create their distinctive sound. Are you all heavily influenced by the 70's/80's then?

What do you use that's so different to other bands in 2009?

We like the 80's New York sound, but as far as the analogue equipment goes, that's more to do with ensuring we retain an authentic live band sound. Good songs are good songs – but when you reject the standard rock trappings, such as guitar solo's, and add keys, things can become sanitised

and therefore extremely dull. So it's important we keep things raw. Yes, there are treatments – Pete Abbott and John Davis are specialists in their fields – but ultimately our album is a tidy version of blown valves and bloody fingers.

What else have you got coming up this year?

Once the video's done, we're touring the UK through April and May. Dates and venues are on our website and Myspace.

Can you tell our readers where they can buy your album?

You can pre-order *Innocents And Thieves* from our Myspace – It'll be released May 4th 2009 on Tonecity Recordings, through Universal Music Group, and will be available in nationwide independent music stores. We've also got some pre-release Limited Edition Gatefold Digipaks for sale at our shows.

THE QUICK FIRE FIVE please complete the sentence...

My biggest Mistakes were: – Deleted from memory.

My biggest influence is/was: – Anything ordinary with closer inspection.

I'm looking forward to: – Finding a short-cut.

I'm currently listening to: – *Years Of Refusal*

Readers will be surprised to learn that: – Black Poets are in fact Caucasian.

Many thanks Billy, good luck with the album, and we look forward to catching up with you and the guys again soon.

www.BlackPoets.co.uk
www.myspace.com/blackpoetsuk

For the FULL interview visit the Official Website: www.theNewRoxette.com

Aylesbury Showcase would like to thank all the following local businesses and companies, so far, for kindly donating prizes to the **Official Hobble on the Cobbles Prize Draw 2009.**

Donations from the sale of Raffle Tickets will be donated to the: **Florence Nightingale Hospice Appeal**, and this year's chosen charity: **The Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust.**

To make a donation direct, an Official HOTC Fundraising Page has also been set up, which is very quick and easy to use, plus, is totally secure.
<http://www.justgiving.com/hobbleonthecobbles>

Tickets will be available at all the Aylesbury Showcase events (in Aylesbury) or via **The New Roxette:**

Aylesbury Festival 11 & 12 July
Hobble on the Cobbles 23 August

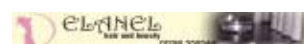
Aylesbury Street Festival 25 July, 1 August, 8 August, 15 August, 22 August, 29 August



Thank you for your support.
If you're reading this and would like to donate a prize to the Official HOTC Prize Draw, then please contact us: office@AylesburyShowcase.co.uk



Aylesbury Golf Club (Bierton)
www.aylesburygolfclub.co.uk



Elanel Hair & Beauty (Duck Farm Court)
www.elanelhairandbeauty.com



Holistic Therapy (Duck Farm Court)
www.holistic-therapy-uk.com



Rogue Racing Aylesbury (Stocklake)
www.rogueracing.co.uk



Mix 96
www.mix96.co.uk

Movements
Movements
(Duck Farm Court)



Jam Central Records
www.jamcentralrecords.com

SCUBANET
(Rabans Lane)

For FULL details and information, including the list of Prizes visit: www.AylesburyShowcase.com

The New Roxette

www.Aylesbury Showcase.com



AYLESBURY SHOWCASE

SATURDAY 11 & SUNDAY 12 JULY

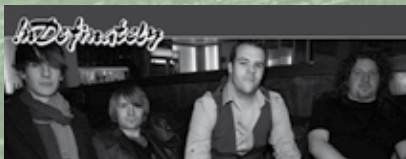


AYLESBURY
TOWN COUNCIL

11am – 4pm KINGSBURY
AYLESBURY TOWN CENTRE

AYLESBURY FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 11 JULY 2009



Chrystina Tomlin

THE BAD HABITS

{THIS IS FREEDOM}

TRAMP
etiquette

The Winner of the
AGS Band Competition

ACOUSTIC STAGE

CALLAGHAN

LOST MINUTE MICHAEL LEE

DAVE EASTER

JOHN ZEALEY with IAN MOORE

SUNDAY 12 JULY 2009



Reason 6



SLASHED SEAT AFFAIR

Lightbox

CLAIRE BATCHELOR

COVERS STAGE

CHARLIE DON'T SURF

THE OBSERVERS

also featuring

PAUL JACKSON

AND DON'T FORGET

HOBBLE ON THE COBBLES 2009

SUNDAY 23 AUGUST • MARKET SQUARE • AYLESBURY



JAM CENTRAL RECORDS
www.jamcentralrecords.co.uk

The New Roxette

www.theNewRoxette.com



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