

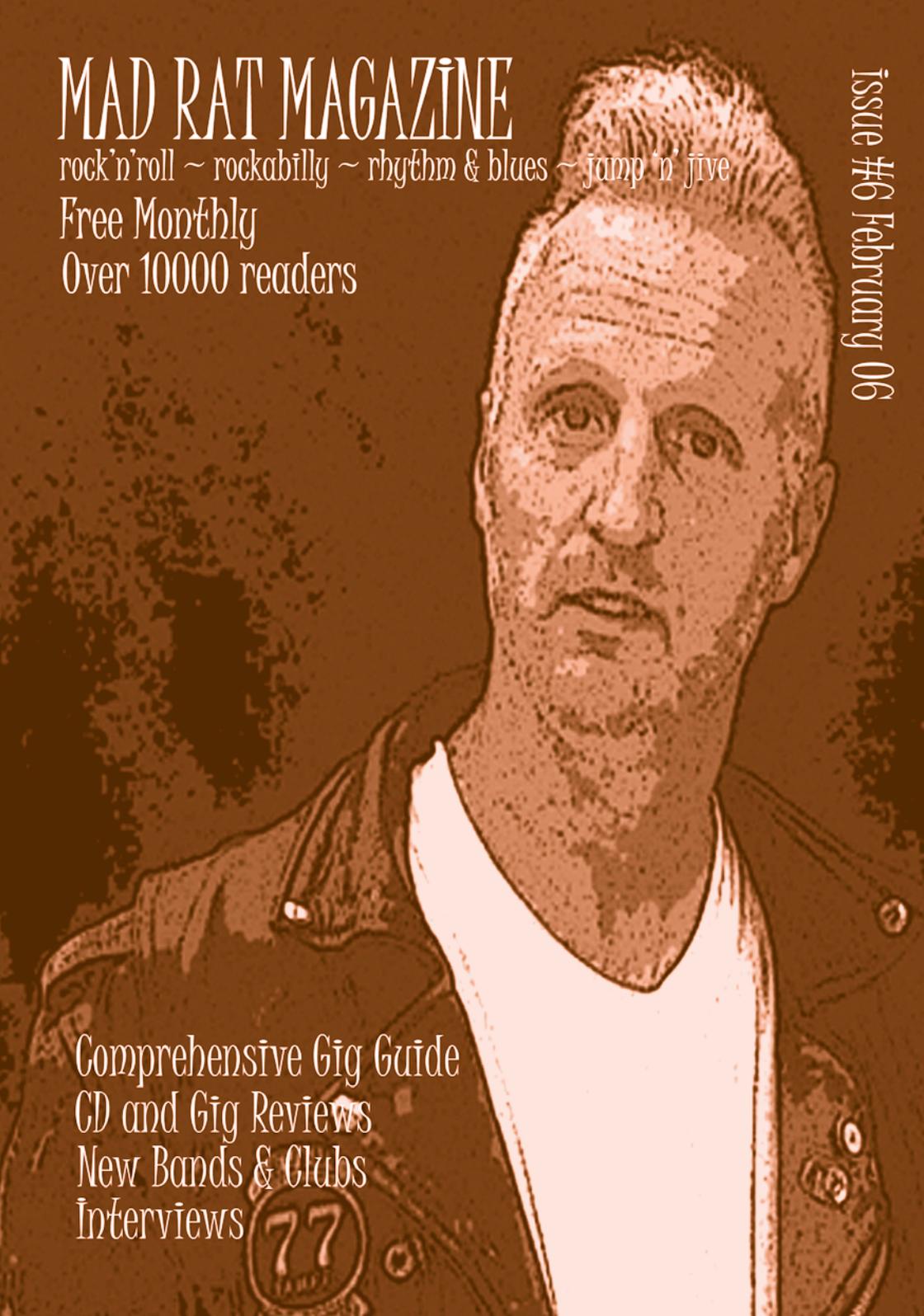
MAD RAT MAGAZINE

rock'n'roll ~ rockabilly ~ rhythm & blues ~ jump 'n' jive

Free Monthly

Over 10000 readers

issue #6 February 06



Comprehensive Gig Guide
CD and Gig Reviews
New Bands & Clubs
Interviews

ORGANISED BY CHERISHED MEMORIES WEEKENDER LTD

Easter Rock-n-Roll <> Friday 14 Sunday 16 April 2006



Eddie Cochran
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(Saturday)



**Robert Gordon
with Marco Di Maggio**
(Saturday)



**Jet Harris
with the Rapiers**
(Sunday)



**Chas Hodges
Rock-n-Roll Trio**
(Sunday)



Terry Dene and The Aces
(Friday)



Matchbox
(Saturday)



Ervin Travis
(Friday)

Kid Kane & The Pirates

Brian Gregg, Clem Cattini and Joe Moretti
(Friday)

**Friday
Jack Rabbit Slim
Wanderers Duo
Halle-Bop**

PLUS

**Saturday
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& the Motel Men
Eager Beavers**

Sunday

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PROGRAMME IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE



SPIKE SPOUTS

Oī Oī

Well, here we go again. Yep, we're six months down the line with the reincarnation of the Roaming Mad Rat Mag and I'm absolutely overwhelmed at the response it's been getting from the clubs, pubs and distribution points around the UK. Every time I visit a club with some Mags I'm astounded at the speed at which you guys rip them out of my mits. I'm also pleased to note that the British invasion continues.... as I'm now sending the Mag out to Holland, France, Italy and to distributors in California and New York. Global recognition at last. People will be sick of the sight of my mug soon...if not already.

For those who have contributed so far and to all who help the Mag tick over by placing ads, I thank you and please keep sending in your reviews, band profiles and CDs. Don't forget, if you want be seen out there, this is the place for you to expose yourself !

Well 2006 has gotten off to a fantastic start and as I'm usually not THE WORRYING KIND, I am definitely not going to worry about THE STATE I'M IN. I DON'T NEED NO CHOCOLATES WITH CHERRIES

INSIDE to tell me that this year is GONNA BE LOVED by you all. IF YOUR LOOKING FOR A LOVER then I predict men this year you'll find a HIGH CLASS LADY and girls if you NEED A MAN then get out and grab one before the SUMMERTIME BLUES get ya!

TAKE A TRIP ON A ROCKET SHIP

if you must, don't sit on that LONESOME TRAIN get out and about and ensure ROCK 'N' ROLL IS HERE TO STAY. TAKE THE BULL BY THE HORN put on your RED DRESS BABY get together with MAYBELLINE and SHIRLEY and ROCK THIS TOWN any town.

Well OK, it was a bit pants but the language we all love is in there somewhere and now is the time to make sure we are all talking In the same tongue. All over the world people are rockin' around the clock. Our scene is relatively small and the sudden realisation that less really is more leaves me with the knowledge that the strength we hold as a scene is all powerful and has the ability to make or break us. Back to old clichés use it or lose it try a bit of everything , try a new club, see a new band, book a new band, bring a friend and share the wealth. Such happy times and such happy music and everyone busy moaning about everything, well not on my page! This is exclusively my moan off and this issue it holds a severe warning (be nice to the little people on your way up because you will surely need them on the way down.) Try really hard to enjoy each others company and enjoy the events, the bands and the fabulous DJ's and lets not take anything for granted because one day and it might be sooner than you think it may well just disappear and if you think I'm joking go back a couple of decades and remember the abyss that once was a solid scene and thank god for the people that rebuilt it, YOU!

See ya out there

Rockin' regards
SPIKE

Sandy Ford The Seventies Rockin' Era Creation or Evolution ?

One of my first gigs was at the Burnell Arms in the early to mid eighties and the band that secured my passion for rock'n'roll/rockabilly played that night to a packed, smoky lively venue with very few rules except enjoy yourselves. If there was a space to dance then you danced be it on the dance floor or the carpet or even on some occasions a table. If you couldn't see you stood on a chair and if you felt like it you'd stand right in front of the stage nudging harmlessly against other rockers soaking up the music and worshipping their hero. That was twenty odd years ago the band I saw was already well into an established career which had started in 1976 and the band with few line up changes since my first gig continue to pack venues all over England and Europe and its front man is still a true blue rockin hero.

If Sandy Ford's name appeared in the Oxford English I wonder what it would say, the Peter Pan of the 1970's Rock'n'Roll/Rockabilly revival achieved legend status and continued to perform to sell out concerts forever and ever and ever....

Well lets hope so. Recently someone said that they had heard someone remark that they were so pleased we were all still living the 70's rock'n'roll lifestyle, well excuse me I think I beg to differ as far as I know we are all still living the fifties rock'n'roll lifestyle and Sandy Ford hero of the seventies, to date, is still living that same fifties rock'n'roll lifestyle and as a modern fifties rockabilly band Sandy and his latest Flying Saucer incarnation do exactly that with style. So did Sandy Ford and his fellow Flying Saucers originally set out to create the seventies era or were they just fans of the fifties genre and the seventies sound happened accidentally? Not a publication to give up on a lively debate Mad Rat Mag phoned Sandy Ford to ask him, this is what he had to say....

"When the Flying Saucers were formed we didn't set out to create a new era but we did set out to bring the rock'n'roll circuit obscure and authentic tracks that we played our way, also for the first time The Flying Saucers and Cavan had song writers which the fans loved. I'd bring into rehearsal old 78's and the guys would say "cor I never heard that" and we would set about playing it. As for this new sound that was created by us it wasn't deliberate you just put guys together and see what happens thankfully what happened was very different energetic and good solid rockin and that new sound caught the hearts of the youngsters. Writing our own songs and them being accepted by the crowds in the UK and Europe made us a modern rockabilly band and people would comment that they liked the new stuff better than the old and then another would say of our covers its far better than the original. I think it's strange now that the seventies is classed as a different era when all we did was set out to play rock'n'roll ,rockabilly in a different way."

Well there you have it. It was you the fans that created the seventies rockin era not the bands they just played what they loved best the fifties music and wrote in the style of the fifties music and you ended up with gut wrenching foot tappin' energy that was then modern rockabilly. Lets not get ahead of ourselves though Sandy Ford is very grateful for that seventies era, in 2005 he did two gigs in this country one in Southend and one in Luton and he says of those gigs it was just like being back in the seventies absolutely brilliant.....everyone dressed in their drapes, very smart with their, just enjoy it heads on. Great to see old faces and get such a brilliant reaction from the people. So it's still the fans that make a good gig, well done you! The scene may have gotten bigger but it has not changed as much as you think eh!

Linette Richardson

THE ROCKABILLY RAVE PREVIEW

Not only are most of us being conservative in our spending following Christmas, in an effort to repair much damaged bank balances, there are a fair number saving the pennies as the countdown to the UK's first big shindig of the year, The Rockabilly Rave, looms ever closer.

As usual there will be a jam session, although this year they are featuring a jam session of double bass players. A must for all you slappers!! Once again they're doing the indoor hot rod show and a host of other fringe activities. Yep, all the Rave favourites are there. The only thing I am a little concerned about is that the organisers have opted for a 5 day festival. This is all very well, but there are many people that have to work. Taking a Friday off to make it a long weekend is probably acceptable....however, there are very few of us that can think up a good excuse to get away with the Thursday as well! It should be noted that Hemsby has reverted to a three day format, maybe there is something to be noted from that?

As for the music, I always consider the Rave to be an event of real quality, it sets the tone

for the year, and is the festival benchmark by which other events follow.

But despite all of this, it's the music that interests us most and this year there are there are acts that, when you see them on the flyer, make you gasp with anticipation. I'll not go through every band appearing, but just some of what for me, are the highlights.



Headlining, if that is the right word.....(most of these acts are headliners!).....will be the Dave n' Deke combo, playing their only UK date as part of a reunion tour. The group feature Deke Dickerson, and frankly that should be enough for anyone! However if it isn't, think Hank Williams, think The Goons, think Carl Perkins and the Barron Knights...now stick them altogether!! They will be musically superb and have a cutting sense of humour that will have you crying with laughter!

Janis Martin (above), yes she's been over here quite recently, but she's ALWAYS worth seeing. If you like your rockin' laid back and ultra cool, then you'll love Big Sandy & the FlyRite boys. They played in Southern England recently and the reception was mixed. The reason is that they are different to many rockabilly bands in that they have been experimenting with different styles. Those who know and love them will be eager to see them again, those who haven't ought to see them anyway, because they are very good at what they do!



One of my all time favourite performers, is **Marti Brom (over)**, (Yummy Yummy!) who I have always felt as underrated by the UK scene. I have several of her CD's and absolutely adore her music. This will be one of the highlights for me!

The Rave has also traditionally been a place for European acts from far and wide and this year there is the intriguing thought of seeing a band called the Neva River Rockets, from Russia. Their publicity pic looks good.....and I know that the Russian Rockabilly scene has been growing and developing at a very fast rate, so they should at the very least be "interesting".

I am also pleased that the Rave is including a smattering of very good UK bands as well. Scotland's Hi Voltage are very talented, and will light the venue up with their good music and sense of humour.

The Skiprats...are one of my favourite bands. They have been one of the best bands on the UK scene for a while, but are still very much in demand.

At the time of writing, I'm not booked up yet, but I reckon after that lot, that Jerry ought to give me a freebie. Jerry? Hey Jerry....where are you going?

Wildcat Mike

Kwiff Kwipps (#4)



The Ed stands corrected

Without meaning to nit-pick and in fact to put more weight behind Spike's argument in his recent editorial, "The Twist" was written and recorded by Hank Ballard in 1958 (King 5171) but failed to ignite due to lack of promotion as this was the B-side of "Teardrops On Your Letter". An earlier version is known to exist on Vee-Jay records but I have never heard it. As we all know, "The Twist" was picked up by Chubby Checker in 1960 and the rest is pop history.

There is a record called "The Twister" by Paul Williams (D-836/D-837) which at 4 minutes, 49 seconds covered both sides of a 78. So "The Twist" has its rightful place in rock and roll history and may we all continue to enjoy this great music that is ours and please tell the DJs that Sam Cooke's "Twistin' The Night Away" goes down really well at a New Year's party too.

Strollin Steve

Nice one Steve !. Ed.

by the Sherriff

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 Feb 18th - The Bull, Horton Kirby, Dartford
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THE KEEN KOUSINS

While taking in my daily fix of 'MySpace' about 6 months ago, I came across, quite by accident, a rockabilly duo by the name of 'The Keen Kousins'. After hearing the tunes they had posted on their 'MySpace' page, I sent a message and an add request. I had to find out more information on these guys.

Now these guys are cousins, it's not a publicity gimmick, and they are keen on their music too. So when I got the chance to interview them for 'Mad Rat Magazine', I jumped at the chance.

I'd just like to say I loved the tunes you posted 'My Space'. I was not too sure of what sound I was going to hear, but I was really impressed. You have a full sound for a duo; because of this do you feel drained after performances?

Phil: If by drained you mean dripping with sweat, hoarse and mentally and physically exhausted... then yes. It's a lot simpler with just two people. I like simple.

Eric: Thanks! I appreciate the compliment; we certainly strive for a three-piece sound even though we are a duo. Call it stubbornness, call it stupidity but we like the challenge of being a duo.

Can you tell us a little about your backgrounds before you joined forces?



Phil: Started my music "experience" in grade school, which carried onto high school. Had my first encounter with the upright bass playing in a high school jazz band. Soon transferred my knowledge and love for rockabilly over to the

bass by learning to "slap". About this time is when Eric's skills as a guitarist began to surface, well and I think you know what happen next...

Eric: I got started late in the game, I was 17, and was learning the trumpet and guitar at the same time. About a year of playing guitar, I started chompin' out some simple rockabilly tunes with Phil, been getting better ever since.

You guys gig regularly in the Santa Cruz area of California, are the shows aimed at a purely rock 'n' roll audience, or do you aim to reach a wider crowd?

Phil: We've played venues like the Catalyst, Moe's Alley, and many other smaller venues around town. I don't know how we did it; somehow we pulled off having a wide demographic.

Eric: Surprisingly almost everyone seems to enjoy what were doin'. From the young to the old. From country to rock. Even punk.

Have you played on any of the U.S. rock 'n' roll festivals (VLV, Greenbay, etc.)?

Phil: Rockabilly Rod Reunion. More to come soon I hope!

Eric: Hopefully VLV soon.

Do you have any plans to tour Europe?

Phil: My "day job" has been kinda hectic, but it's on my list of things to do.

Eric: Looking forward to it, just waiting for the right time.

You've recently been in a studio to record your first C.D. Can you tell us about the recording studio you used and the songs, both original and standard, that you chose to record?

Phil: Our first album has been a huge learning experience for the both of us. Not only are we still learning how to record, but also what methods we want to use. We did the

best we could to emulate the sound of the original records that we have grown to love. For the most part we layed down our tracks live, using straight mic feeds whenever possible. All but one song, Clock Ticking Rhythm, are original tunes. 'Well Alright' I think was the first rockabilly tune I ever wrote. It was only fitting to use it as the title of our first CD. The rest of the songs are those that our family and friends seemed to enjoy the most. The last track is one of my most recent, and my own personal favourite.

Eric: We recorded on ADAT tape, and then bounced those tracks to a ProTools session. From there we edited the songs, and then mixed the tracks to an analog system using analog delay and reverb. From there we got our finished product "Well alright".

How do you promote yourselves, other than MySpace? Are you planning any big promotions of the new album? Do you find gigging sufficient in selling your material?

Phil: I hate selling stuff; I wish we could give it all away. Unfortunately that doesn't work. I just write the stuff.

Eric: MySpace has been a good help. Our CD is on 'CDBaby' and In the process of getting on iTunes. Also a few local record shops also carry our album. In addition to gigging we find that getting press exposure also helps to get our name out there. We hope that album reviews will help.

Some of your musical influences are obvious, but whom do you admire musically that we may not initially guess at?

Phil: I grew up on country. So that influence is hard to stray from completely. Some of my musical heroes include: Dwight Yoakam, Dale Hawkins, Buddy Holly, (Hell the first guitar I owned was a red fender strat. I wanted to be just like him) Johnny Cash, Credence Clear Water Revival, Cake and Weezer.

Eric: Nat King Cole. Benny Goodman. Charlie Christiansen. Jimi Hendrix. The Beatles. Green Day. U2. Ella Fitzgerald.

Have you developed any relationships with other bands in a similar position to yourselves? Is there a good camaraderie between bands in the rock 'n' roll scene?

Both: The rockabilly scene has always been very friendly to us. Everyone is always willing to help. Bands like "The Chop Tops" and "Hopped Up" have helped us out tremendously.

I'm going to ask the question you're probably getting sick of by now. Do you feel that in the future you would consider adding a drummer to the group? Why do you feel this way?

Phil: Don't tell anyone but I hate drummers. They always bring the volume up, and they don't know how to shut up. I guess learning how not to play is one of the last thing drummers learn. Good drummers a great, but there also hard to come by. As for making the band a trio, it's only worth the hassle of another musician if the can bring something that we can't do or don't have. I think I would rather have another guitarist like High Noon before a drummer. Maybe a gal that can sing and play? But for now I am happy with the way things are: simple. Unfortunately we do paint our selves in a corner sometimes not having the ability to keep the full sound with other non-tradition rhythms.

Eric: Probably not, if we did it would be a different group; I don't think that's the Keen Cousins. Some of my favourite rockabilly songs don't have drums. I like that sound. Elvis didn't need drums when he started out at Sun.

Hey, guy's I like the idea of a female singer/guitar player! Thanks for taking the time to do this interview and remember Europe is waiting for you!

The Duke

RAT'S GIG GUIDE

Gratuitously pinched from the web and from information sent by bands & promoters. Please check with venue before travelling

Wednesday, February 1st

Wed 1 Feb Ace Café Ace Corner, Old North Circular Road, Stonebridge, London NW10 record hop only (hot rod night) **Little Carl's Record Hop** 020 8961 1000

Thursday, February 2nd

Thu 2 Feb OuterLimitz Coast View Holiday Park, Shaldon, Devon record hop only (rockabilly/western swing) **Willy & guests** 01626 872903

Thu 2 Feb **Cat & The Hot Tin Trio** The Phoenix Lower Hythe Street Dartford Kent

Fri 3 Feb Birdwell Club Sheffield Road, Birdwell, Nr Barnsley, S.Yorks S70 5UY **Boogie Children** Clive the Jive 01226 742377

Friday, February 3rd

Fri, 3rd, 8:00pm **The Jive Aces** Harlow - The Playhouse, Playhouse Square, Essex, CM20 1LS

Fri 3 Feb Bolton Tonge Ward RnR Club Tonge Ward Labour Club, Ainsworth Lane, Tonge Moor, Bolton, Lancs **Class Of 58** Jivin' Jim 01204 410483

Fri 3 Feb Dale Tavern West Street, Worsborough Dale, Barnsley, Yorks S70 5PG **Cadillacs** Dave B 01226 205611

Fri 3 Feb Rayners Rock'n'Roll Grove WMC, Penleys, Grove Street, York, N.Yorks **Rockin' The Joint** plus DJ 07752 333094

Fri 3 Feb Ritz Ballroom 73 Bradford Road, Brighouse, W.Yorks **Cat Pack / Big Heat** Bradford Dude 01274 392380

Fri 3 Feb Rosecroft Club Chelsfield Road, Orpington, Kent **Revolutionaires** Pete Bruce 01322 407110

Fri 3 Feb Taunton RnR Club North Petherton RFC, Beggars Brook, North Petherton, Somerset record hop only **Boppin' Darrin** 01823 332180

Fri 3 Feb The Pavilion 135 Battersea Park Road, Battersea, London SW11 **TTs** 020 7622 4001

Saturday, February 4th

Sat 4 Feb New 2nd Venue **The Cathouse Creepers** at Virginia Creepers Club DJ's Frog and The Dirty Bitches

The Duke Of Cumberland High Street Whitstable Kent 07956 295 842

Sat 4 Feb Halifax RnR Club Siddal Ex-Servicemen's Club, Halifax, W.Yorks HX3 9JS **Juke Box Eddies** (ticket only event) D. J. the DJ 01422 354876

Sat 4 Feb Jeanette & Michelle's RnR Club Kewstoke Village Hall, Crookes Lane, Kewstoke, Somerset **Heartbreakers** Rockin' Don 07881 912798

Sat 4 Feb Jivemania Worthing Pavilion, The Pier, Worthing, W.Sussex **Lucas & the Dynamos/Topp Katz/Persuaders** Wild Wolfie Smith 023 9257 1843

Sat 4 Feb Kings Langley Services Club 3 Hempstead Road, Kings Langley, Herts **Rock Of Ages** 01923 262982

Sat 4 Feb Begbrook RnR Club - S&B Stapleton & Begbrook Community Club, Frenchay Park Road, Bristol **Jack Rabbit Slim** plus DJ 0117 969 7326

Sat 4 Feb Harcourt Sands Holiday Village Puckpool Hill, Ryde, IOW PO33 1PJ **Alley-cats** Happy Days Weekend 0870 890 0444

Sat 4 Feb Woodfield Club Woodfield Road, Woodfield, Doncaster, S.Yorks **Hicksville Bombers** Didge/Fred the Ted/Crock 07808 828551

Sat 4 Feb Luton RnR Club Roman Way, Tomlinson Avenue, Luton, Beds **Earl Jackson Band** Tartan Ted 01582 518211

Sat 4 Feb Mytchett Community Centre 140 Mytchett Road, Mytchett, Camberley, Surrey GU16 6AA **Rockin'Bandits/Corsairs/Johnny & The Midnight Trio** Moon 07866 340401

Sat 4 Feb Newtown Social Club Durham Road, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland record hop only (r'n'r/rockabilly/jive) **Rockin' Juke-box Record Hop** 0191 410 2914

Sat 4 Feb Nifty Fifties RnR Club - LLC Lowton Labour Club, 214 Newtin Road, Lowton,

Cheshire **Go Getters** with **Phil Trigwell** and **Shaun Horton And The Tennessee Trio** plus DJ 01942 724166

Sat 4 Feb Rock House Club Sports & Social Club, William Street, Saxilby, Lincoln, Lincs **Porky's Hot Dogs** Wainyboy 01522 681221

Sat 4 Feb Rockin' The Post Winning Post, Chertsey Road (A316), Whitton, Twickenham, Middsx **Cat & the Hot Tin Trio** Wildcat Pete 020 8894 2772

SAT 4 Feb **Tony & The Saints** Ford Club Gardeners Close Basildon Essex 01268 281080

Sat 4 Feb Rock'n Red Hot Club - SH Royal British Legion, Staple Hill, Bristol **Chas Hodges RnR Trio**/Ricky Ford Cockney Rebel 07879 228451

Sat 4 Feb Spa Town Rockabilly Club Palace Hotel, Palace Road, Buxton, Derbys **Smokey Mountain Boys** + Leanne Bulldog 01298 70194

Sat 4 Feb Stage One Cobden Oxford Street, Long Eaton, Derbys **Wildkatz** plus DJ 0115 973 4928

Sat 4 Feb Worcester RnR Club Christopher Whitehead School, Bromwich Road, Worcester, Worcs **Greggi G & his Crazy Gang** 01905 213313

Sat 4 Feb **The Cathouse Creepers** The Duke of Cumberland High Street Whitstable Kent Virginia Creepers Second Venue 07956 295842

Sat 4th Feb **The Rat Pack** Prince Of Wales High Street Strood 01634 711797

Sunday, February 5th

Sun 5 Feb BAWA Club Bristol Aerospace Welfare Assoc, 589 Southmead Road, Filton, Bristol **Revolutionaires** Rockin' John 0117 976 8065

Sun 5 Feb Beauwaters RnR Club Beauwaters Club, Nelson Road, Northfleet, Kent **Go Getters** Pete Bruce 01322 407110

Sun 5 Feb Carshalton Ex-Servicemens Club West Street, Carshalton, Surrey **Ghostriders** 020 8647 1951

Sun, 5th **The Jive Aces** Herstmonceux: The Horseshoe Inn Part of weekend 07808 340776

Sun 5 Feb Erith RnR Club Erith WMC, Valley Road, Erith, Kent **Houserockers** Cruising Record Hop 07973 170056

Sun 5 Feb The Woodgrave 62-64

Southchurch Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2RR **The Zoltans** plus DJ 01702 460133

Thursday, February 9th

Thu 9 Feb OuterLimitz Coast View Holiday Park, Shaldon, Devon record hop only (rockabilly/western swing) **Willy & guests** 01626 872903

Thu 9 Feb Hanworth RnR Club Royal Naval Club, Park Road, Hanworth, Middsx record hop only (rock'n'roll) **Wildcat Pete** 01464 672605

Friday, February 10th

Fri 10 Feb Plinston Live Plinston Hall, The Broadway, Letchworth, Herts **Lynette Morgan & the Blackwater Valley Boys**/ Strollin Steve 01763 241301

Fri 10 Feb Bolton Tonge Ward RnR Club Tonge Ward Labour Club, Ainsworth Lane, Tonge Moor, Bolton, Lancs record hop only **Jivin' Jim** 01204 410483

Fri 10 Feb Plinston Live Plinston Hall, The Broadway, Letchworth, Herts **Swing Commanders** double bill 01763 241301

Fri 10 Feb Saddlers Club Bescot Stadium, Bescot Crescent, Walsall, W.Midlands **Revolutionaires** JD's Record Hop 01902 561921

Fri 10 Feb King Creole RnR Club Biggleswade WMC, Church Street, Biggleswade, Beds **Darrel Higham & the Enforcers** Kevin 07748 306989

Fri 10 Feb Athletic Club - Kettering Rockingham Road, Kettering, Northants **Jets** Dion 01536 510779

Fri 10 Feb Birdwell Club Sheffield Road, Birdwell, Nr Barnsley, S.Yorks S70 5UY **Greggi G & his Crazy Gang** Clive the Jive 01226 742377

Fri 10 Feb Blue Moon RnR Club North Walsham Community Centre, New Road, North Walsham, Norfolk NR28 9DE **Flames** 01692 500863

Fri 10 Feb Cheshire Bopcats - DLC Denton Labour Club, Ashton Road, Denton, Cheshire **John Lewis Rock'n'Roll Trio** Poor Boy Paul 0161 438 0468

Fri, 10th **The Jive Aces** Gainsborough - The Sands, The Old Town Hall, Lord Street, Lincs, DN21 2DB

Fri 10 Feb **The Rat Pack** Trouville Hotel

Seafrost Sandown Isle Of Wight PO36 8LB
01983 402141

Fri 10 Feb Rockin' The Fens Hiam Sports & Social Club, Putney Hill Road, Prickwillow, Ely, Cambs **Kingcats** Rockabilly Bob 01638 741402

Fri 10 Feb - **The Sundowners** Houndogs / Pink N Black Chelmsford Social Club Springfield Road Chelmsford Essex 01279 654205

Fri 10 CJ's - The Hillside Club formerly the Western Club Derby Road Lenton Notts **The Hicksville Bombers** - 0790 1766863

Fri 10 Feb Rose & Crown - Brockenhurst Lyndhurst Road, Brockenhurst, Hants **record hop only** (rockabilly/r'n'r/hillbilly/blues) Terry's Backstreet Boogie 07854 621522

Saturday, February 11th

Sat 11 Feb Ace Café Ace Corner, Old North Circular Road, Stonebridge, London NW10 **Blue Cats** (Gene Vincent tribute night) Big Beat Kris/Wild Wax Stu 020 8961 1000

Sat 11 Feb The Water Rats Theater 328 Grays Inn Road Kings Cross London 07956 295 842
The Voodoo Valentine Party with **The Urban Voodoo Machine**

Sat 11 Feb Bristol Jive Club - FFC Filton Folk Centre, Elm Park, Ffilton, Bristol Rockin Dave Dee (**Elvis night**) plus DJ 0117 938 0483

Sat 11 Feb Eastleigh RnR Club Comrades Club, Leigh Road, Eastleigh, Hants **Memphis '56 Robbie Knight** 023 8061 1953

Sat 11 Feb Festival Hall Hodgkinson Road, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Notts **Glenn Darren&theKrew Katz/Colin Paul&thePersuaders** Dave B 01623 457101

Sat 11 Feb Jive Party - Rivoli Rivoli Ballroom, 350 Brockley Road, Crofton Park, London SE4 2BY **tba** Ken/Graham 020 8946 2664

Sat 11 Feb Stockcross Rock'n'Roll Village Hall, Stockcross, near Newbury, Berks **record hop only** (jive/stroll) 01488 658186

Sat 11 Feb Eastleigh RnR Club Comrades Club, Leigh Road, Eastleigh, Hants **Memphis '56**

Sat 11 Feb Melksham RnR Club Assembly Hall, Market Place, Melksham, Wilts **Fever** Cockney Rebel 01225 706463

Sat 11 Feb Newtown Social Club Durham Road, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland **Spitfires** Rockin' Jukebox Record Hop 0191 410 2914

Sat 11 Feb Paris Rock Club - WAC Waterloo

Action Centre, 14 Baylis Road, London SE1 **House-rockers** Dave 07944 775556

Sat 11 Feb Ritz Ballroom 73 Bradford Road, Brighouse, W.Yorks **Jive Aces** Bradford Dude 01274 392380

Sat 11 Feb Royal British Legion - Chellaston 12 Derby Road, Chellaston, Derbys DE73 1RA **Jump & Jive** 01332 701354

Sat 11 Feb Sounds That Swing RnR Club Shrublands Community Centre, Hawthorn Road, Gorleston-on-Sea, Norfolk **Class Of 58** The Professor/Rockin' Shades 01760 722803

Sat 11 Feb Stockcross Rock'n'Roll Village Hall, Stockcross, near Newbury, Berks **record hop only** (jive/stroll) 01488 658186

Sat 11 Feb Swindon RnR Moonrakers Crossway Suite Cricklade Road Swindon, Wilts **Gene Gambler And The Shufflers** 01793 612378

Sat 11 Feb Thorngate Halls Bury Road, Gosport, near Portsmouth, Hants **Meanstreak** Mr Rusty's Roadshow 023 9242 8732

Sat 11 Feb Welfare Social Club West End Lane, Rossington, Doncaster, S.Yorks **Spoils Of' Dell** Boy 01302 863125

Sunday, February 12th

Sun 12 Feb Beauwaters RnR Club Beauwaters Club, Nelson Road, Northfleet, Kent **Jive Street** Pete Bruce 01322 407110

Sun 12th Feb **Barrence Whitfield + The House-rockers and Hemsby House Band** the Water Rats Theatre Bar 328 Grays Inn Road London Wc2 0208 460 6941

Sun 12 Feb BAWA Club Bristol Aerospace Welfare Assoc, 589 Southmead Road, Filton, Bristol **Maria Vincent & the Millionaires** Rockin' John 0117 976 8065

Sun 12 Feb Carshalton Ex-Servicemens Club West Street, Carshalton, Surrey **Rat Pack** 020 8647 1951

Sun 12 Feb **Cookie And The Bluejays** and Wildcat Pete Beaconsfield FC Slough Road Beaconsfield Bucks 01494 672605

Sun, 12th, 6:30pm **The Jive Aces** Sunderland - Roker Hotel, Roker Terrace

Sun 12 Feb The Woodgrange 62-64 Southchurch Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2RR **The Ravens** plus DJ 01702 460133

Monday, February 13th

Mon 13 Feb **The Jive Aces** 9:00pm London - Stompin at the 100 Club, 100 Oxford St, London, W1

Thursday, February 16th

Thu 16 Feb OuterLimitz Coast View Holiday Park, Shaldon, Devon record hop only (rockabilly/western swing) **Willy & guests** 01626 872903

Friday, February 17th

Fri 17 Feb **Cat & The Hot Tin Trio** The Bull Lombard Street Horton Kirby Dartford DA4 9DF 01322 862274

Fri 17 Feb 3R's RnR Club Reading Civil Service Club, James Lane, Burghfield, near Reading, Berks **Meanstreak** plus DJ no details

Fri 17 Feb Badderley Green WMC 922-924 Leek New Road, Badderley Green, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs **Juke Box Eddies** Mr Rusty's Roadshow 01782 537292

Fri 17 Feb Birdwell Club Sheffield Road, Birdwell, Nr Barnsley, S.Yorks S70 5UY **Starcats** Clive the Jive 01226 742377

Fri 17 Feb Daddy Kool's Brackley Town Football Club, Churchill Way, Brackley, Northants **Slammers Maximum Jive Band** Pin Up Record Hop 01295 276848

Fri 17 Feb Leabrooks Club Greenhill Lane, Leabrooks, Nr Alfreton, Derbys **Ghostriders** Mr Jive 01773 833035

Fri 17 Feb Mytchett RnR Club Mytchett Community centre, 140 Mytchett Road, Mytchett, Camberley, Surrey GU16 6AA **Good Rockin' Tonite** Moonshine Mama 01276 504898

Fri 17 Feb Rosecroft Club Chelsfield Road, Orpington, Kent **Drugstore Cowboys** Pete Bruce 01322 407110

Fri 17 Feb Taunton RnR Club North Petherton RFC, Beggars Brook, North Petherton, Somerset **record hop only** Tony Sullivan 01823 332180

Fri 17 Feb The Twickenham Boogie Chertsey Road (A316), Whitton, Twickenham, Middx **Cadillac Kings** Shaun 'Nappy' Maxwell 020 8894 2772

Fri 17 Feb Ace Café Ace Corner, Old North Circular Road, Stonebridge, London NW10 **record hop only** (rockers n' classic bike

night) Big Beat Kris 020 8961 1000

Fri 17 Feb Bolton Tonge Ward RnR Club Tonge Ward Labour Club, Ainsworth Lane, Tonge Moor, Bolton, Lancs **Jets** Jivin' Jim 01204 410483

Fri 17 Feb Brighton RnR Club David Lloyd Centre, Marina Village, Brighton, E.Sussex record hop only (lesson to start) **Peter Phillips** 07767 358079

Fri 17 Feb Revival Night High Royds Social Club, Menston, Otley, W.Yorks LS29 6AQ **record hop only** (40s/50s swing jive) Shoe Shine Boy 01943 465457

Fri 17 Feb Ye Olde St Annes Castle Main Road, Great Leighs, Essex **record hop only** (rock'n'roll/jive/rockabilly) Maurice's Rocking Machine 01245 361253

Saturday, February 18th

Sat 18 Feb B52 Club Diner Eastern Perimeter Road, Southend Airport, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS2 6YF **The B17s** Radar Record Hop 01268 457767

Sat 18 Feb Braunstone & District WMC Braunstone, Leics **Maria Vincent & the Millionaires** plus 2 DJs 01530 813540

Sat 18 Feb Hamble RnR Club Aerostructure Club, Kings Avenue, Hamble-Le-Rice, Southampton, Hants **Good Rockin' Tonite** Mr Rusty's Roadshow 023 9264 0208

Sat 18 Feb Ace Café Ace Corner, Old North Circular Road, Stonebridge, London NW10 **Meteors** Little Carl's Record Hop 020 8961 1000

Sat 18 Feb Old Georges Dance Hall Conservative Club, Pitt Street, Barnsley, S.Yorks S70 1AW **record hop only** Dave B 01226 244804

Sat 18 Feb OuterLimitz Coast View Holiday Park, Shaldon, Devon **Sugar Creek Trio** Willy/Tony 01626 872903

Sat 18 Feb Pellon Social Club Pellon Lane, Halifax, W.Yorks HX2 0HF **Ian Fenn & the Starcats** DJ the DJ 01422 354876

Sat 18 Feb Hill Park Memorial WMC 78 Highlands Road, Fareham, Hants PO15 6JD **Greggi G & his Crazy Gang** 01329 280782

Sat 18 Feb Jukebox RnR Club Spring Lodge Centre, Powers Hall End, Witham, Essex **Blue Flames** Cat Talk Lee 01245 260506

Sat 18 Feb OuterLimitz Coast View Holiday Park, Shaldon, Devon **Sugar Creek Trio** Willy/Tony 01626 872903

Sat 18 Feb Rockin' At The Legion British Legion, 399 High Road, Tottenham, London N17 5QX **Lonesome Valley Boys** Dixie Sounds 07759 874167

Sat 18 Feb Rock'n Red Hot Club - PH Page Hall, Staple Hill, Fishponds, Bristol **Fever** Dancin' Dave 07879 228451

Sat 18 Feb **The Rat Pack** Southern Jivers Chelmsford Social Club Springfield Road Chelmsford Essex 07767 745770

Sat 18 Feb Shoreham RnR Shoreham Centre, Pond Road, Shoreham-by-Sea, Sussex **Kingcats** plus DJ 01903 243392

Sat 18 Feb Wells Town Hall Town Hall, Market Place, Wells, Somerset BA5 2RB **Alleycats**

Sat 18th - **Space Cadets - The Sunrays** -DJ Skinny Jim - 9pm - 1am Admission £10

RiversideRock'n'Roll Club, Moorlands Sport Club, Newark Road, Lincoln

Tel:01522 -874111 (Club)

Tel. 01522 750883/752453 FOR DETAILS)

Sunday, February 19th

Sun 19 Feb Carshalton Ex-Servicemens Club West Street, Carshalton, Surrey **Persuaders** 020 8647 1951

Sun 19 Feb Erith RnR Club Erith WMC, Valley Road, Erith, Kent **Moonshiners** Cruising Record Hop 07973 170056

Sun 19 Feb Lifford Hall Lower Green, Broadway, Worcs WR12 7BU **Jet Harris & the Rapiers (featuring Billie Davis) Me & My Shadows Tour** 01386 853377

Sun 19 Feb **The Rat Pack** BAWA Club Bristol Aerospace Welcome Club 589 Southmead Road Filton Bristol 0117 976 8065

Sun 19 Feb The Woodgrange 62-64 Southchurch Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2RR **The Sundowners** plus DJ 01702 460133

Tuesday, February 21st

Tue 21 Feb Parklands Ballroom (ex ICI/Dupont SC), Wheatley Hall Road, Doncaster, S.Yorks **Jump & Jive** Dave B 01302 884707

Thursday, February 23rd

Thu 23 Feb OuterLimitz Coast View Holiday Park, Shaldon, Devon **record hop only** (rockabilly/western swing) Willy & guests 01626 872903

Thur 23 Feb **The Rat Pack** Cardinal Wolsey The Green East Molesey Surrey KT8 9BW 0208 487 3651

Thur 23 Feb **The Sunrays**

Hanworth Rock n Roll Club Royal naval Club Hanworth Middlesex Wildcat Pete 01464 672605

Friday, February 24th

Fri 24 Feb Birdwell Club Sheffield Road, Birdwell, Nr Barnsley, S.Yorks S70 5UY **Spitfires** Clive the Jive 01226 742377

Fri 24 Feb British Railway RnR Club Broad Green, Wellingborough, Northants **Rock Back The Clock** Colin 07748 306989

Fri 24 Feb High Royds RnR Club Menston, Otley, W.Yorks **Rockin' The Joint** Flashback Billy 07818 246823

Fri 24 Feb **Dynamite** + Jimmy Slick Basingstoke Rock'n'Roll Club West Side Community Association Paddock Road Southam Basingstoke Hants RG22 6QD 01256 462305

Fri 24 Feb Rose & Crown - Brockenhurst Lyndhurst Road, Brockenhurst, Hants **record hop only** (rockabilly/r'n'r/hillbilly/blues) Terry's Backstreet Boogie 07854 621522

Fri 24 Feb South Wales RnR Club British Legion Club, Penline Road, Whitchurch, Cardiff, S.Wales **Jive Street** Crazee Dave 029 2061 9271

Fri 24 Feb Bolton Tonge Ward RnR Club Tonge Ward Labour Club, Ainsworth Lane, Tonge Moor, Bolton, Lancs **Spoils** Jivin' Jim 01204 410483

Fri 24 Feb The Pavilion 135 Battersea Park Road, Battersea, London SW11 **Alleycats** 020 7622 4001

Saturday, February 25th

Sat 25 Feb AFS Club Victoria Place, Carlisle, Cumbria **record hop only** (rock'n'roll/swing/rockabilly) Fat Mossy & guests 01228 537523

Sat 25 Feb Crescent WMC 8 The Crescent (rear of the Odeon), York, N.Yorks **Phil Haley & his Comments/Cathouse Creepers** Melbourne 01904 690311

Sat, 25th **The Jive Aces** Uckfield - First Move Dance, Uckfield Civic Hall, Sussex

Sat 25 Feb Crondall RnR Club The Village Hall, Crondall, near Farnham, Surrey GU10 5QG **Sundowners** Oh Boy Record Hop

07903 145018

Sat 25 Feb Cuxton RnR Club Village Hall, Norman Road, West Malling, Kent **Doomsday Rockers** Moonshine Mama 01732 780076

Sat 25 Feb Hare & Hounds London Road, Brighton, Sussex **Johnny Gunner & the Raiders** Stompin' Steve 07745 453765

Sat 25 Feb Holiday Rock RnR Club Royal British Legion, Heath and Reach, near Leighton Buzzard, Beds **Fever** Tartan Ted 01525 372994

Sat 25 Feb Junction 27 RnR Annesley Social Club, Derby Road, Annesley (A611), Notts **Jellybean** Rhythm Stompers Woody 0115 953 4918

Sat 25 Feb Miners Welfare Club - Staveley Market Street, Staveley, Chesterfield, Derbys **Boogie Children** Dino'sGoodRockin' Tonite 01246 281522

Sat 25 Feb **The Rat Pack** The Pavilion Battersea park Road Battersea SW11 0207 622 4001

Sat 25 Feb Riddell Memorial Hall Deans Lane, Walton-on-the-Hill, Surrey KT20 7UA **Elle & Vis & the Hot Bananas** Elvis tribute night 07703 472824

Sat 25 Feb Ritz Ballroom 73 Bradford Road, Brighouse, W.Yorks **Rock Back The Clock** Bradford Dude 01274 392380

Sat 25 Feb Tam O'Shanter Club Hertford Place, Earlsdon, Coventry, W.Midlands CV1 3JZ **Blast Off** JD's Record Hop 024 7633 6533

Sat 25th Feb CHARITY EVENT The Park, Old Slough Town Football Club, Wexham Road, Slough, Berkshire SL2 5QR

Cookie and The Bluejays - Cat & The HOT Tin Trio - Bernie Woods & The Forest Fires and The Kingcats - DJ's Wildcat Pete - Wildwax Stu - Tongue Tied Danny - 07904 667317

Sat 25 Feb **Travis Ledoyt** Nifty Fiftys Irish World Heritage Centre 10 Queens Road Cheetham Hill Manchester 01942 724166

Sat 25 Feb The Shant Sharpness Dockers Club, Sharpness, near Berkley, Gloucs **Flying Saucers** Slim Reed - Not Before '54 0117 904 2658

Sat 25 Feb Ace Café Ace Corner, Old North Circular Road, Stonebridge, London NW10 **record hop only** (blacktop boogie) Bill Guntrip 020 8961 1000

Sat 25 Feb Banbury RnR Club General Foods

S & S Club, Spiceball Park, Banbury, Oxon **Spitfires** Mr Rusty's Roadshow 01295 278127

Sat 25 Feb Crescent WMC 8 The Crescent (rear of the Odeon), York, N.Yorks **Phil Haley & his Comments/Cathouse Creepers** Melbourne 01904 690311

Sat 25 Feb **The Moonshiners** The Birchwood Sat 25 Feb Harston Village Hall Harston, near Cambridge, Cambs **Cordwood Draggers** AV8 Record Hop 01223 573339

Sat 25 Feb Starfighter RnR Club Village Hall, Wreningham, near Norwich, Norfolk **Jack Rabbit Slim** plus DJ 01508 494735

Sunday, February 26th

Sun 26 Feb Carshalton Ex-Servicemens Club West Street, Carshalton, Surrey **Rockin' The Joint** 020 8647 1951

Sun 26 Feb Ex-Servicemens Club - Northampton Sheep Street, Northampton, Northants **Mark Keeleys Good Rockin' Tonight** (afternoon) AJ The Rockin' DJ/JukeBoxQueen 01604 493713

Sun 26 Feb The Woodgrange 62-64 Southchurch Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2RR **Alleycats** plus DJ 01702 460133

Sun 26 Feb Beauwaters RnR Club Beauwaters Club, Nelson Road, Northfleet, Kent **The Persuaders** Pete Bruce 01322 407110

Sun 26 Feb BAWA Club Bristol Aerospace Welfare Assoc, 589 Southmead Road, Filton, Bristol Jive Romeros Rockin' John 0117 976 8065

PLEASE NOTE
deadline for gig listings is the
15th of the month
please mail to
mail@madratmag.co.uk
thanks.

RHYTHM & BLUES REVIEWED

New Year, New York

It's not often that you get a chance to see a music legend whose career has spanned the past five decades and certainly not on a stage five feet away and very rarely on New Year's Eve at a club off Times Square, New York. Well, it must have been my lucky night this December 31st as their I was sitting at a table in the BB King Blues Club in NYC in hand shaking distance of the one and only Mr. James Brown. Dubbed as the Godfather of Soul and a very close relation of the king of R'n'B, JB was to perform two shows at this underground juke joint, one



at 8pm and another to be partly broadcast across the Times Square screens just before midnight. Unfortunately for me the late show was a sell out before arriving in the Big Apple, however I'm sure my bank manager will have breathed a sigh of relief, as tickets for this performance were heading upwards of \$200.

I arrived at the venue, after passing through NYPD barricades (they shut off Times Square and the surrounding six blocks on New Year's Eve) two hours

prior to the show as seats were not allocated at purchase and joined the, all too familiar for sightseers, snake line (queue) for the show. Once inside the main venue I was ushered by a smiley table waitress called Fawn (pronounced Faaaaawwn) to my seat dead centre stage and within an arms reach of the footlights. After settling down to a bottle of fizz with my good lady (well, it was New Year's Eve) we sat in anticipation of the main man's arrival whilst watching footage of appearances on the Ed Sullivan show on the big screens set on both sides of the stage.

As the clock past 8 p.m. the crowds enthusiasm raised to the roof as the Band, consisting of 2 drummers, 2 guitarists, 2 bassists, 3 part horn section and solo percussionist, took to the stage and slammed into their familiar intro number. James Browns' MC stepped up to the mic and started his Las Vegas style introduction to the show and to the fabulous backing singers who slinked onto the stage while bringing the four-hundred strong crowd up to fever pitch by egging them on to chant "James Brown...James Brown" on every first beat of the bar. Mr. Brown didn't keep us waiting and strode onto the stage looking more nimble and ready to get up offa that thing than I had seen him before. Dressed in a green sequened suit, he looked every bit the showman especially when he dazzled the front row with his halogen lamp dentures.

The "Hardest Working Man in Showbusiness" ripped through all the favourites including "Please Please Please", "It's A Man's Man's World", "Living In America"

& "Papa's Got A Brand New Bag" and all the classics that have and still fill dance floors across the clubs throughout the world, only to pause when his wife and former backing singer got up to do a couple of tunes.

The Band were cooking all night apart from one small glitch by the drummer to whom Mr.B gave his four fingered salute, denoting a \$40 fine for slacking! I have never seen a band watch their front man so intensely for direction, all eyes were on the boss who directed the show with a flick of the hand or a nod of the head.

No encores for JB, as he no doubt needed a wee rest, a mug of green tea and a rub down before doin' it all again for the late show. This was probably the slickest and most professional live performance I've ever witnessed and the pleasure was all mine...ooh and Trisha's. HNY.

Paul Richardson

Snippets from the James Brown Timeline

January 23, 1986

James Brown is inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame at the first induction dinner, held in New York City.

December 15, 1988

James Brown is sentenced to a six-year prison term after a year's worth of arrests on various assault, drug possession and vehicular charges. He leaves prison on parole on February 27, 1991.

February 25, 1993

James Brown receives a Lifetime Achievement Award at the fourth annual Rhythm & Blues Foundation Pioneer Awards

DADDY COOL'S

1950's ROCK 'N' ROLL - R 'N' B - DOO WOP -
ROCKABILLY - HILLBILLY BOOGIE - JUMP JIVE

FRIDAY 17TH

FEBRUARY 2006

THE SLAMMERS

MAXIMUM

JIVE BAND

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THE ALABAMA SLAMMERS)

PLUS

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Rob 01869 327348 or 07950 384234

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Sunday 19th February - THE SUNDOWNERS

Sunday 26th February - THE ALLEYCATS

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Billingham Social Club

The R'n'R club scene in the NorthEast has been a little lacking in variety for the past year or so, especially since the closure of one of the top spots at Newbottle, Houghton-le-Spring. The result has been an increasing re-interest in new clubs a little further south of the region. The Rockin Jukebox Hop, ran by Rob and Michelle at Newton Club in Stockton for over 12 months now, has become one of the most lively and well-attended venues for the majority of folk on the scene, mainly because of the central location, good mix of music and friendly atmosphere. However, it seems that the demand in the south of region is still increasing, and so much so that Lance Ash and Mick McLoughlin have put their tailored drapes, and money, on the line and started their own club at Billingham Social Club.

Speaking to Mick and Lance on their opening night, Saturday 14th January, they both excitedly told me of their hopes for the new venue.

Both organisers are regulars at Newtown, but they missed a regular venue every other Saturday when Newton wasn't on. Lance explained, "We would love for people to have a decent club to go to each week.... Billingham Social Club was recommended to us and we approached the committee. We have been given approval for one night each month for the next three months and then hopefully we can make it more regular".

Mick, whose musical influences include Eddie Cochran and Buddy Holly, was delighted at the opportunity to give others "what they want". "We want this to be the best club in the NorthEast. We will listen to the crowd and whatever they suggest we will take onboard. Whatever band people would like to see here, we will try and book, subject to availability". Lance claims to not to dislike any style of Rock 'n' Roll music and plans for the club to be a hotbed of variety. "Neil, our resident DJ, will be playing all styles of music; classics, commercial tunes, rockabilly, blues, western swing, hillbilly, basically anything goes, it will be an open request policy."

The approach to running the venue appears to be very open, flexible and upbeat, and Lance & Mick believe this will help to keep the attendance numbers high and encourage new faces to try out Rock 'n' Roll. They also plan to have a suggestion box available for those that are a little shy in coming forward with their comments and ideas for improvements.

The venue itself has a large wooden dance-floor, in fantastic condition, ample seating, a high stage and cheap bar prices.

Speaking to others who attended the opening night, many were impressed with the venue itself and how enthusiastic the organisers are. A lot of people have high hopes for the club and would love to see it become a success. With the promise of monthly live bands this could well happen in the months to come.

Acts already confirmed for the next two dates are, local lads 'Some Like It Hot', 18th February, and relatively new band on the block, 'Somethin Else' on the 11th March.



Billingham Social Club can be found on Chapel Road, Billingham, Cleveland, 2mins from the A19 with parking available opposite the Smiths Arms Pub.

Gig dates and photos can be found at <http://groups.msn.com/Sugardollsdiner>

Band booking and further information from Mick on 01642 675559, or Lance on 07967725768.

By Emma 'Sugar' Tennant



HEMSBY IS MOVINGTO HEMSBY!

From October 2006 Hemsby Weekender will be moving across Beach Road to the wonderful an un spoilt Seacroft and Hemsby Beach Holiday Villages where we will be able to provide all the rockin' craziness that you have enjoyed for 17half years but with the added bonus of much improved surroundings, greater choice of accommodation and fantastically prices, - some will be reduced !!At Seacroft there will be 3 great music venues, including the magnificent Trafalgar Ballroom with huge sunken authentic 50's dance floor and the Lord Nelson which will host our live music. Add in great food & booze at competitive prices and you will understand why we are excited for the future.

HEMSBY REMAINS THE BIGGEST AND THE BEST

Full details will be announced at Hemsby 36 on 5th-8th May 2006 (3 days only) which sees the return of the great Sun rockers Carl Mann. For bookings and general enquiries call Viv or Ann at Rock'n'Roll Weekenders (0)1522 752453 or email hemsby@freeuk.com

Virginia Creepers Club Launches Second Venue

The Virginia Creepers club will launch its second venue on Sat 4th Feb with The Cathouse Creepers. The new venue The Duke Of Cumberland High Street Whitstable Kent, the format, dress to impress. For more information on the launch night contact Marilyn on 07956 295842 or email marilyn@virginiacreepersclub.com

Contributors Wanted

Billy Jones and I am writing a book about the rockin clubs in London in the 1980s. The book has contributions from Tom Ingram, Wanda Feathers, Paul Roman, Clive Osborne and many many more. If you were on the scene then I would love to hear your memories and see your photos. You can join in the discussion at <http://groups.myspace.com/RockabillyUnderground> or <http://hometown.aol.com/rockinelectro/>. There is a questionnaire which everyone is welcome to have and return if they wish. Please participate and get your memories in the book. - Rockinelectro@aol.com

RACE ROCK DINER

Saturday Nights are Rockin' Nights at the all new Race Rock Diner from Saturday 28th January 2006. The Diner situated in front of a Bike repairs and sales outlet is the perfect place for a night out on a Saturday evening..... 150 Staines Road Feltham TW14 9ED.... The evening rocker/biker events run by Jan and Pete Cole promise to be lots of fun with its jukebox on and its frying pan at the ready. Got to be worth a road trip call Jan and Pete on 07770 394448 – 0208 577 5998 for opening times.

NEWS

Enfield's favourite Monday night haunt is back!!!! A different venue but the same fabulous entertainment being booked throughout the year. The ex- townhouse rock n roll night launches with The Avengers on Monday 6th February at Holtwhites Sports and Social Club 1 Kirkland Drive Enfield EN2 0RN – phone Terry Hooper on 0208 363 4449. Admission is £6..... Future first Mondays of every month will feature Flying Saucers and Blast Off.

The promoters of **CJ's The Hillside Club** Derby Road Len-ton Nottsare offering their very own new faces style competition . The idea is for new bands to come and play a half hour set in the middle of the booked bands set on club nights there will be a panel of judges who will then vote on whether or not the new band returns for a paid gig. Now if your band would like to join in contact Jo on 07901 766863.....

S I X T E E N P L U S

The TTs celebrate 16 years of Rock'n'Roll at the Pavilion Pub, 135, Battersea Park Road, Battersea, London, S.W. 11. On February 3rd. 2006.

The TTs started playing there at the beginning of February 1990, and played every Friday for about 8 years !! Although we play it a lot less frequently now, we still enjoy playing the Pavilion for it's great atmosphere, and sound. It must now be the longest running Rock'n'Roll pub in the country.

The Pavilion, run by Ray, and Mary Reynolds promotes Rockin' music every Friday and Saturday. Other regular bands include, Rockin' The Joint, The Flames, The Rat Pack, Cat and The Hot Tin Trio, Alleycats etc.

It would be great if anyone who was there back in 1990 could make the Anniversary reunion. It's bound to be a great night !

Border Radio wants to thank all our listeners and friends for tuning-in since we hit the Internet 9 months ago. Y'all have made this crazy idea a success that will continue to grow. We have listeners from all over the globe and predict many more will discover Border Radio in 2006.

We also want to thank all of the artists, labels and PR folks for submitting music for broadcast on Border Radio, as well as the listeners that have made donations and bought CD's of the artists through our site. You all have contributed to this unique broadcast. We doubt you will find a free and 24/7 broadcast quite like Border Radio anywhere else, not on regular radio, satellite radio, TV or other Internet stations. Thanks for all the positive feedback and also the criticism. We grow and learn from both. Keep 'em coming. We are doing this for all of you, Border Radio is your station!

We look forward to bringing you more of our tangled-roots broadcast in 2006. We haven't made any money in what we're doing here (still figuring that part out), we do this because we love the music, feel others do as well, and believe all this music needs a unique avenue to be heard. If there is one thing we have in common, its that we all can call this music our own. Thanks to all who have become involved! We have some mighty plans for 2006 to grow the station even bigger, stay tuned and watch it unfold. And, as always, we ask you to please spread the word if you find us worthy.

Send your CD and promo to Border Radio LLC
1313 Harriet Court Austin, TX 78756 USA

The Bumbiters have announced details of their Pissed Pirate Party 06 Thames Boat Trip The Date is Thursday 13th April The Band is Rudy La Crioux & The All Stars and of course a record hop. Tickets are £20 call Caddy Steve 0208 665 9834 or Johnny 07754 176175 for more information

The Nifty 50's Christmas Party 2005! Phil Haley R.O.C.K.'s The Joint! I'm A Comin' Home!

On a cool December evening in the darkest depths of Lowton the scene was set for one of this year's ultimate gigs! The return of Phil Haley & His Comments, and I wasn't going to miss a minute of the action. The man spinning the discs tonight was none other than The Bradford Dude, and what a brilliant job he did.. Also to ensure those last minute Christmas presents were well and truly catered for, Howard from Raucous Records supplied a stall packed with goodies, enough to surpass any budding record collector.



Supporting Phil Haley's Comments is one of the newest bands of the scene, The Cat House Creepers. As we all know, these guys had a resounding success after their debut on the scene in 2004 after they supported The Stray Cats UK tour. I can only describe them as a very likable bunch of guys, who give it 110% every time.

Well, time had descended on us and it was time for the nights action to begin. First on stage was The Cat House Creepers. They hit the stage with a head spinning version of Eddie Cochran's Let's Get Together, which was shortly followed by one of my own personal favourites; I'm Comin' Home. Now the scene was set for a rip roaring first set! Even though the applause was overwhelming, the audience seemed a little slow in advancing to

the dance floor, but that didn't stop both the band and I from enjoying every minute of the action. Speaking of the band, let me introduce them: Lead guitar and vocals ~ Darren, Slap Bass ~ Martyn, and drums ~ Oly.. Oly now replaces Richard who is now with Phil Haley, as well as being the keyboard player with The Cat Pack. Anyway back to the gig.. The band swiftly moved on to another personal favourite of mine, an old track by Rod Willis entitled The Cat. Then it was a sensational version of Eddie Cochran's Let's Coast A While, before a couple of Gene Vincent hits in the shape of; I'm Goin' Home, and Jumps, Giggles, and Shouts, to close the first half of the show. Well, I for one was not willing to let them off that easily.. Ohhh Nooooooo! So it was the classic Dance To The Bop as their final encore. Again, The Cat House Creepers got a rapturous applause.. Well Done Lads.. Time for a well earned break a few pints of Lowton Labour Clubs best!

Time had again moved on and it was Bradford Dude's turn to entertain with his very own brand of red hot rockin' tracks of wax.. It wasn't long before the main attraction was due to hit the stage.. The atmosphere was right, and the crowd were all revved up for the return of Phil Haley after his premature exit from the music scene last year due to ill health..

Well, he's back! and he's better then ever.. The Comments entered the stage to start the night off with the intro to R.O.C.K. Rock, Allen Paris introduced the man himself, Mr. Phil Haley.. At that point he was met with shouts and applause.. Now that's what I call a come back. Time for me to introduce to you Phil Haley & His Comments: On Lead vocals and guitar ~ Phil Haley, on Sax ~ Allen Paris, Double Bass ~ Martyn Savage, and Richard Blanchard on Drums. The band just swelled with enthusiasm as they beat out each number to yet more ecstatic applause. Crazy Man Crazy was shortly followed by You Can't Stop Me From Dreaming.. These guys just were unstoppable as they performed Rock 'N' Roll's swan song, Rock Around The Clock, the crowd just seem to swell on to the dance floor, and to keep them there they continued with Rockin' Through The Rye.. Now that's what I

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call rockin'! These were not finished yet, not by any standards. They went from strength to strength until they had the audience entranced with the spirit of Bill Haley. Rudy's Rock kept the audience suitably entertained as Richard pounded out the beat, and Martyn kept the rhythm, at the same time Allen pounded along with a pair of Richards drum sticks on the double bass. Brilliant piece of showmanship! Then it was time for the title track of bands last album; Talk To Me which was met by shouts, whistles, and yet more applause, this seemed the audiences choice so far.. Well time had now caught up with us, and it was time for both Phil and the lads to call it a night.. Well if you thought that was it, then you was sadly mistaken! Encore after encore and even then the audience wasn't too keen on letting them go, but go they must.. Phil, Allen, Martyn and Richard needed that well earned break after putting on a show like that.. It was pure magic! Stuart aka The Bradford Dude took up pole position again to introduce the nights raffle and Jive Contest. The Jive Contest was entered by five couples who

all worked equally hard, but there could only be one Rudy's Rock Comments Style winner, so it was couple number '5' to take first place.. I didn't catch their names, so if anybody knows them, please feel free to drop me a line, after all it would be better to name them.. Ahhh well..

I don't know about you, but that was a brilliant night of sheer professional entertainment. Both bands worked in excess of 110%, and Bradford Dude did a superb job as both comperes and DJ.. The night could not have taken place without you, the audience. It's with sincere gratitude that I say "Thank You". You keep this club alive, and most of you have supported us through thick and thin. Now I'm not going to leave the gratitude there, I also owe the staff and management at Louton Labour club a big Thank You.

Mike Cookson



ROCKIN' AT THE ACE

Motorcycles, rock n' roll and the Ace Cafe...

The Ace Cafe was built in 1938 as a roadside cafe to cater for traffic using the new North Circular Road. In World War Two, the building suffered major damage and was subsequently rebuilt in 1949. With it's proximity to Britain's new and fast arterial road network, and staying open 24-hours, the cafe soon attracted young motorcyclists, the Ton Up boys, who were bored and searching for their own identi-



ty. They found it at the Ace, together with the 'devils' music - rock n' roll. It wasn't played on radio stations, so the only places it could be heard was at fairgrounds or on jukeboxes at transport cafes.

Come the sixties, the Rocker had emerged, and the Ace Cafe became the launching pad for many of our British rock n' roll heroes, like Johnny Kidd & The Pirates. Gene Vincent also reputed to have visited the cafe on one of his tours. The rock n' roll peak was over by the mid-

sixties, made safe by The Beatles and pushed aside by Carnaby Street and the Mod era. The changes in the social order and growth of the car market, at the expense of the motorcycle saw the Ace serve it's last egg & chips in 1969.

The building remained largely unaltered, and remained in the wilderness of our cultural history until 1993, when Mark Wilsmore, driven by his passion for bikes, rock n' roll and history, set about planning an event to mark the 25th anniversary of it's closure, with a dream to reopen the place. The event in September 1994, attracted thousands of motorcyclists and rock n' roll fans from across the globe.

Mark sought planning consent to turn the premises back into a cafe and subsequently purchased the site and building. Initially opening part of the building at weekends and putting on events with the help of a mobile burger van for three years. The buildings colourful history continued, when in March 1999, potential disaster struck, with the biggest water burst in the history of Thames Water! A mains hatch buried under the car park exploded in spectacular fashion, wreaking havoc,

with the resultant flooding causing the adjacent section of the North Circular Road to be closed for almost a week. The huge blast had a severe effect on the structure of the building. Debris and bikes were blown skywards on a wall of high-pressure water, shattering windows and damaging the roof. Despite this setback, Mark's determination to save this legendary icon continued unabated.

Let the good times roll...

The Grand Re-opening took place in

September 2001, and the cafe today is a 21st century fully licensed cafe-restaurant and music venue, with plenty of reminders of it's Ton Up, Rocker and Teddy Boy heritage adorning the walls. There are numerous events held throughout the year and regular evening meets to cater for everyone's passion for petrol, from Ton Up Day to Hot Rod Night and everything in between! In fact Hot Rod Night is the longest established car meet, with a top rockin' DJ.

With room to dance, the cafe's gig list can feature rock n' roll artists from Robert Gordon through to a real rockabilly hoe-down with today's bands and DJs. Many gigs are tribute nights to the late and the great, such as Gene Vincent, Elvis, Johnny Kidd, Eddie Cochran, Hank Williams etc. Some are fund-raisers, like the annual 'Sutch A Night' in memory of Screaming Lord Sutch or the 'Halfway To Paradise' tribute to Billy Fury. On such occasions, the cafe is open until 2am. There are also other regular rock n' roll



record hops, like Rockers n' Classic Bike Night on the 3rd Friday of the month and Blacktop Boogie on the last Saturday of the month, which are free to attend.

Special celebrations and parties can be catered for, and if you fancy a wedding with a difference, you can even tie-the-knot there!

Photos: Levi Dexter & The Caravans/ Jack Rabbit Slim launching their new album Sin-Uendo & Ray Campi

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Article & Photos by Linda Wilshire



Band: The Chuck Lewis Band
Venue: Queen's Head, Chelmsford
Date: Friday, January 13th

The Queen's Head, a small, real ale pub in deepest darkest Chelmsford was the unlikely venue for the return of The Chuck Lewis Band and wow was it packed to the anaglypta ceiling with punters eagerly awaiting some good solid rockin' and rhythm and blues. I can honestly say that I can't remember the last time I have stood in a pub and experienced human gridlock.

An unfamiliar name to many as the four piece band only performs a few times a year, this is mainly due to the fact the bass man, Paul Diffin, now lives in San Diego, California.

The Band consists of James Sumner of Ocean's Seven and Big Six fame on



piano and lead vocals, blues master, Rollin' Jimmy Chandler on guitars, Paul Richardson from O7 & Juke Joint Jump on drums and the aforementioned Paul Diffin on slap bass. Paul has returned to the UK for the Xmas and New Year holidays following CD promotional appearances with Rip Carson, Rip Masters and the production and recording of Linda Gail Lewis's new album along with guest-

ing with myriad US rocking outfits.

The Band kicked off their first set with a piano pounding version of "Back in the USA" followed by Jerry Lee's "High School Confidential" and then slowing the pace with "Blueberry (Danbury) Hill" and Troy Shondell's "This Time". The sound system kept on pumping out fat, thick and fast rock 'n' roll with all four guys punishing their instruments throughout every number, especially Paul's expertise on the double bass adding weight to the driving rhythm whilst slipping in triplets and quadruplets into his slap patterns. Awesome ! By now the crowd were on heat, people at the back were standing on tables to witness the spectacle before them. A few more numbers, "I Don't Care Who Knows", "You Better Believe It" and a crazy ballad/swing version of the Coronation Street theme came rollin' down with some unique work from Jim on guitar backed by the whole pub singing the trumpet part from the theme tune. One more number and then a short break announced James, who had been apologising for a croaky voice, not that anyone noticed any hint of larynx trouble.

A few beers later and the boys were back up, but this time with Paul R and Jim making way for some guests, namely, Pat (Sugar) Reyford (Guitar/vox), Terry Orchard (drums) plus Evan Jones (tenor sax) and Barry Few (trumpet) ...hey almost a Flying Fortress reunion !! Pat kicked off with an old Hot Shots tune "E String Rag" followed by the "Queen's Head Shuffle" and "The Freeze" two self penned jammers which had the pub stompin'. James took the mic and finished Pat's appearance with the old Big Six favorite "Walks Right In". Time for another guest, boogie piano man and one

time Joe Brown bruvver, Tony Williams who with Paul back behind the kit and Jimmy back from the gents knocked out a stonkin R'n'B version of "Roll Over Beethoven". The horns stayed up and added harmony to Mickey Jupp's "Don't Talk To Me" and "Big Black Cadillac" plus "Right Now" and Eddie Boyd's "Driftin". The encores could have gone on all night but the landlord called time as his till was too full to fit any more moolar in. What a night !! I'm told that Paul will be back from the States in the summer and some more gigs will be organised. If you are a club looking for some real rock 'n' roll and boogie woogie with a bucket full of R'n'B all wrapped up in a great visual a show, I suggest you get on the blower to the Mad Rat and book this band. They are simply, outstanding.

Jim McLaren



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Days Of Rock N Roll Past

February 1955 - Controversy as R & B sweeps America

Seven of Americas current top 15 pop best sellers have their roots in the Rhythm and Blues field. Produced primarily for the black market, the songs have hit a responsive chord with white teenagers - but they are rushing to buy not the original versions but duplications by white acts who benefit from airplay on US radio stations, most of which are racially segregated. This means that while the McGuire Sisters reign at number one with Sincerely, the original recording by the Moonglows is nowhere to be seen. Similarly the Charms R & B climber, Heart Of Stone, stands at number two in a version by the Fontane Sisters, while both Perry Como and the Crew Cuts are riding high with Ko Ko Mo, originally cut by Gene and Eunice. The exception to the trend is Earth Angel where the original disc by the Penguins is outselling a replica by the Crew Cuts. Atlantic, the top selling R & B label for the past three years, is particularly angry about the proliferation of white copies or cover versions as they are known.

Grapevine

Weighing in with his version of 'You'll never walk alone' former boxer Roy Hamilton is tipped as a new contender for the heavyweight ballad crown.

On tour in Australia Winifred Atwell is feted wherever she goes, said one reporter, England may have won the ashes but well be more than happy to keep Winifred atwell.

Mick Lyons (aka DJ The Pirate - 07979 980185)

VIOLENT DAYS

Directed by Lucile Chaufour
With Frederic Beltran, Serena Lunn

Just to make the UK rockin' scene aware (if they are not already) of the film *Violent Days*. Although in my opinion the film does not give Rockabilly huge amounts of credibility the clothes, hair, music and tattoos are very good. The live footage of the Flying Saucers is tremendous making the film a must see for Flying Saucers fans, and is of good general interest to rock'n'rollers and rockabillys in the UK.

Rolling Rob, Towcester

Three Rockabilly boys spend a night listening to music, playing cards and scuffling in a Parisian apartment, while a bottle blonde girlfriend fusses around them and clears up their mess. The following morning, the hung over quartet pile into a battered jalopy, put a cassette in the tape deck and head to Le Havre, where there's a rock'n'roll gathering of bands and like minds: gangs out for bopping, booze and bother, where all the boys want to be Eddie Cochran and all the girls look like

Jayne Mansfield. Tense, poetic and gorgeously shot in black and white with a wonderful 50's soundtrack.

Michael Hayden

The same sense of everyday emptiness informs Lucile Chaufour's debut feature, *Violent Days*. Opening in a Parisian apartment, where Serena Lunn tries to retain order as boyfriend Frédéric Beltran and his buddies François Mayet and Franck Musard party the night away, the action soon hits the highway, as the quartet makes for a rockabilly gig in Le Havre. The road trip is filled with minor incidents and glorious music from the vaults of Sun Records. But the atmosphere changes the moment the first band takes to the stage, as the venue is staked out by local thugs looking for trouble. Brandishing the pared down authenticity of Free Cinema, the self-assurance of the nouvelle vague and the dramatic naturalism of such US independents as John Cassavetes and Shirley Clarke, this is a disconcerting monochrome odyssey that challenges the mythical innocence of a highly romanticized era.

David Parkinson BBC.CO.UK



The members of a clique in Paris have three things in common: their love for 1950s rock 'n'roll, their working-class origin, and their low status in society. On the weekend, these friends set off for a rock concert in Le Havre. The entire French rockabilly scene is meeting there. Lots of beer is drunk and someone starts a fistfight. The girlfriend of one

of the young men wants to hang out with the group; she more or less becomes their scapegoat.

"In France, depiction of 1950s youth culture is limited to a very few films in the '60s and a few clichéd, third-class productions from the '80s. No wonder French film is hardly interested in the characters Lucile Chaufour portrayed in her first full-length film "Violent Days". The film is neither reactionary nor revolutionary, but is something special, not least because its plot is set in an indeterminate past. The director uses a quite fitting black-and-white, so that the viewer finds it difficult to place the time (it could just as well allude to the militant workers of the '70s). The workers' milieu, which has increasingly weakened in recent decades as a consequence of economic change, melds quite naturally with the rockabilly scene, an autonomous cult movement, often sneered at, that arose in the proletariat. Lucile Chaufour lets the protagonists have their say directly, sometimes in front of the camera, sometimes off screen, thereby achieving more credibility than with construed, fictitious scenes. The result is a film in which the bluntness of the depiction harmonises perfectly with these underprivileged youths violence as everyday pastime. And last but not least: emerging from this gloomy, melancholy, old-fashioned atmosphere is the beautiful, tragic portrait of a woman, played by Serena Lunn."

Julien Welter
Taken from International Forum of
New Cinema

MARIA VINCENT AND THE MILLIONAIRES

Maria Vincent and The Millionaires have been together for four years and have rapidly gained a reputation throughout the UK as one of the hottest live acts on the Swing Jive and 50's Rhythm and Blues dance scene, with their authentic and exciting performances. Concentrating on the 1950'S female American rhythm and blues and swing stars such as Ella Fitzgerald and Ruth Brown and including songs from the likes of Louis Prima and Louis Jordan, their unique blend of swinging jump blues and cool 50's rhythm and blues has wowed audiences throughout Europe.

The Millionaires have played to some of the largest rock and roll and swing weekends including The Rhythm Riot (2002), Hemsby (2003) , and The Americana (2005) having had fantastic receptions. Appearances in Cologne and Walldorf, Germany were promoted by a Radio Caroline sponsored single with US rock and roll king Deke Dickerson and Maria Vincent on the flip side. The band have further performed at many prestigious events such as the Colne and Burnley Blues, Belfast swing weekend, the 100 Club for the London swing Society and Birmingham Jazz festivals. They are much sought after on the corporate, wedding and jive dance scene, playing to full dance floors, having performed for the London Swing Dance Society at the 100 Club, and also for many Modern Jive and LeRoc events throughout the country. Recently signed to Raucous Records, their current CD has been in big demand from mainland Europe and even Canada and Japan, and events in Spain, Germany, France and Switzerland are lined up for 2006.

Contact Rick at rickb@tinyonline.co.uk



TOP TEN



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World Champion's Top Ten

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2. It's A Crying Shame - The Five Keys
3. Right Now - Gene Vincent
4. Rockin' Gypsy - Joe Maphis
5. Whistle Bait - Collins Kids
6. Up Jump The Devil - Ronnie Dawson
7. Kee-Ro-Ryin - Johnny And Jonie
8. It An't Rght - Number Nine
9. Misralous - Dick Dale
10. Cant Believe You Wanna Leave - The Avengers

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Band: Surfrats

Venue: Mill Beach, Maldon, Essex

Date: Friday 25th November

This was a long awaited gig for the first public appearance of one of the best Essex bands who haven't played together for over ten years and this was the perfect venue as many of the bands best nights were at the same venue over a decade ago and many tracks on their cds were recorded live here too.

The lineup Terry Ian and Lesley are the same but they now have a new drummer in George from the Stingrays and Mark ex Bullitproof, on lead guitar. They still give that hard raunchy loud but clear sound they always had and everyone was wondering how Mark would replace Jems celebrated lead guitar licks, but he performed very well and was well accepted by the

large attendance including Jem who was in the crowd and who sadly has MS which has curtailed his guitar career . Everyone was pleased to see him.

As this initial gig went very well and everyone gelled they are planning on performing at future venues so check them out in 2006.

If you haven't seen them, they are a very versatile band covering anything from the 50's/60's era from Rock'n'roll rhythm and blues and rockabilly. Jem used to specialise in guitar solos from that era and Terry gets into the soul of Johnny Kidd Johnny Burnette and Goffin/King numbers. Some rare numbers which hit a nerve in the brain and you think that was brilliant, I know the tune, but who did the original?...

Chris and Jean Pryke

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RECORDINGS



If you would like your CD or demo reviewed by the Mad Rat, please send to P.O.Box 6212, Basildon, Essex SS14 OAH. Include a stamped and return addressed envelope if you require return of your media. Thanks.



Artiste: Rip Carson

Album: My Simple Life

Label: Golly Gee Records

Originally hailing from Marshall County, West Virginia, Rip Carson was reared on music. Strongly influenced by his great uncle who sang in Bill Sykes and the Rhythmeers. Rip finally moved to California in 1992. Three years later, he formed his first rockabilly group. Rip has played extensively throughout the San Diego and Los Angeles regions, earning the devotion and admiration of fans and fellow musicians alike. He has played at the infamous Viva Las Vegas the past two years, stunning the crowd each time. He formed the well-loved and now-defunct, Rip Carson & The Twilight Trio as well as his R&B endeavor, Rip

Carson & His Chain Gang. Each new project brings a swarm of new fans Rip's way. This particular offering has 14 tracks, recorded at Chapkin Studio's. All tracks bar "Stutterin' Cindy" by Charlie Feathers "Miss Heartbreak" by Jackie Lee Cochran and "Happy Heart" by Pat Reyford/Paul Diffin, are written by Rip Carson and are executed by some great playing and slick production. The genre is strictly country/rockabilly and all songs have great melodies. Rip's vocal style is likened to Buddy Holly meets Gene Vincent and has a good vocal range. The musicians include the UK's Paul Diffin on bass, Joel Morrin on lead & steel guitars, Michael Faughnan on drums and a guest appearance by Sugar Reyford on backing vocals. You can get more details of this release at www.ripcarson.net or www.myspace.com/ripcarson.

Rat Rating (5 out of 5)

CATMAN'S QUIZ

What is the name of the singer/songwriter who wrote hit songs 'Sweet Nothin's' and 'I'm Sorry' for Brenda Lee? He also wrote and sang his own songs. His first and only Billboard Chart entry was a larynx searing frantic rockabilly song. Name him and at least two of his well known songs still played by DJ's today ?

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The DUKE's Rockabilly Raves

A LIGHTNING TOUR OF... NEW YORK - NASHVILLE - MEMPHIS - NEW ORLEANS - AUSTIN

It's a year now since Mrs. Duke and myself got back from our honeymoon in the U.S.A. We took in a few states en route to Texas, starting off with New Jersey. Okay, this state was where our plane landed (Newark) but I'm going to count it anyway. From there we moved on to the 'Big Apple'.

New York was freezing, -7°, and after settling in at the hotel, we set out to explore the city. There was not much going on 'rock 'n' roll' wise but beer, food and friendly locals kept us entertained. On the 29th January the hottest place to be was 'The Rodeo Bar' on 3rd Ave. 'The Two Timin' Three' were playing that night. They are a three-piece band in the old Rockabilly tradition, with lead guitar, rhythm guitar and double bass and they were not too bad either. I liked their version of Elvis's 'One Sided Love Affair'. It was different, but in my opinion good. They were well appreciated by the New York audience. (They are also booked to play at the '10th Rockabilly Rave'). We spent the rest of our time in New York doing tourist stuff. It was my first time there, so I wanted to see all the local landmarks.

After six days we set off for Nashville (via Washington DC) by plane, and then picked up a hire car. The rest of the trip would be completed by road.

Once we settled into Nashville we decided to take a look around the 'Honky Tonk' strip between 4th and 5th streets on Broadway. At the Bluegrass Inn (a bar frequented by Hank Williams after his shows at 'The Ryman Auditorium') we saw 'The Camaros' fronted by Jen Jones. This band leans towards more country than rockabilly, and performs a lot of original material mostly written by Jen. It was a good show, which we enjoyed and was a good end

to our first nights stay in Nashville. You can check them out at www.thecamaros.com.

The Nashville music scene at present is not at all like I was expecting; it's not all big hair and bad music. I, like a lot of other people, am put off country music by the watered down, sugar-syrup music that was coming out of Nashville in the 1980's. We still had Johnny Cash of course, but it was down to the likes of Dwight Yoakam and Rosie Flores to give the kick up the arse Nashville needed back.

Being in the 'Music City U.S.A.' we had to (and wanted too) check out the 'Country Music Hall Of Fame'. It had everything from one of Elvis's 1950's shirts, to Webb Pierce's amazing Cadillac complete with cow horns, gold plating, and guns!

Along the strip there was Ernest Tubb's famous record store that has been doing business in the same place since 1948! Further along the strip was 'Hatch Show Print' famous for all those 1950's show posters of Elvis and Johnny Cash. Pop in and say "Hi" to the resident cat and buy a poster or postcard. If dancing, drinking and Honky Tonkin' is your passion try these bars, all situated on Broadway; Roberts Western World, The Stage, The Bluegrass Inn and Tootsies Orchard Lounge.

While perusing the local music paper I was surprised to see that Rosie Flores was playing the following night at a place called 'The Radio Café' in East Nashville. After a long walk and almost giving up trying to find the place, (it looked much nearer on the map, and my poor feet encased in a brand-new pair of winklepickers did not appreciate this surprise of several extra miles walking) we stumbled on it by complete accident. It was a small venue and looked very much like, well a café, nothing like what I was expecting. We had an excellent night and were made very welcome by the owner and Rosie too. This was also the first time I'd seen Rosie live, and I was looking

forward to a good acoustic set. She played and sang the songs from her recent 'Single Rose' CD. It was just Rosie and her Blue Guitar with help from an excellent guitar player called Dwaine Jarvis and guest guitarist Travis Stephens. The 'Rockabilly Filly' is a wonderful lady to talk to and she didn't get bored with my constant questions about Ray Campi, Dwight Yoakam and Nashville bands. She also told lots of amusing stories about the U.K. tour she was on with Shakin' Stevens in 1990. We went for drinks with them all after her set to, with the intention of seeing Chris Scruggs who was also playing that night. Unfortunately Chris had finished his set, but is a great conversationalist, and his knowledge of country music is amazing. We saw a few more Nashville bars, and met many more local musicians, it was a good night all 'round. To top it off, Travis even dropped us back at our hotel in the early hours. Perfect!

At the end of her gig, Rosie gave us tickets to the Manuel exhibit at the Frist Museum (opposite our hotel on Broadway) as a wedding present. Manuel is the guy responsible for that gold suit Elvis wore in the 1950's, as well as all those crazy C/W clothes worn by the likes of Hank Snow and Dwight Yoakam. We had a look around it the next morning, and as well as the various outfits worn by a surprisingly diverse selection of celebrities, we saw the main feature of this exhibit, fifty handmade jackets, one representing each of the states.

Before our next port of call, we had to make a pilgrimage to our holy land, the distillery of Mr. Jack Daniels. The free tour (no samples) is a must for lovers of this fine brew. Our guide, Joe, knew his stuff and gave an informative and enjoyable afternoon. The distillery nestles in dry county in the Tennessee hills, but you can buy special bottles at 'The White Rabbit Saloon' (basically a gift shop) at the end of the tour. If your guide asks you if you want to wash your hands along the way, do it, the 'water' tastes lovely!

Our next stop was Memphis, and here I was expecting a lot more Rockabilly music, but during the three days that we stayed there, giggering rockin' bands were as rare as rocking

horse poo. But with Sun studio and 'Graceland' in the area we had plenty of other things to occupy our time. The thrill of being at 706 Union Avenue was amazing and again the tour was excellent. We spent way too much money on t-shirts, books and badges. We hung around the Sun Café for ages just taking in the feel of the place. Awesome!

For the intermittent years leading up to visiting 'Graceland' it was never on my 'top of my things I have to do' list. Maybe this had something to do with the decade in which he died. I'm not a fan of the 1970's style and music. And what I read about the decor of Graceland at the time was a definite put off. But I was glad I took the tour and after all we were in Memphis. The feeling was weird, walking around his home and seeing the furniture, the gold records and the planes. The décor was better than I expected, and I especially like the 'jungle room'. Part of the very comprehensive tour includes the graves of Elvis and his family. If I can, I'm going back a.s.a.p.

We took in the bars on Beale Street, 'BB Kings' included, where I drank beer from a mason jar. Again, however, I was a little disappointed to note that most of the music in these bars was not to my taste, and I thought that modern Memphis had little to offer my rockabilly sensibilities. I desperately wished for a time machine at this point.

We left Memphis and after an over night stop in Canton, Mississippi we arrived in New Orleans just in time for 'Mardi Gras'. We spent a couple of days taking in the sights and joining in with the carnival atmosphere. There were no rockin' bands here either, not even a traditional jazz band to keep us occupied. But lots of boobs and heaps of flirting! There was plenty of the party flavour to savour (from afar, with my wife, I am a recently married man, after all!).

Watch this space next month for part two, in which the intrepid travellers reach Austin, Texas.

Duke



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