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

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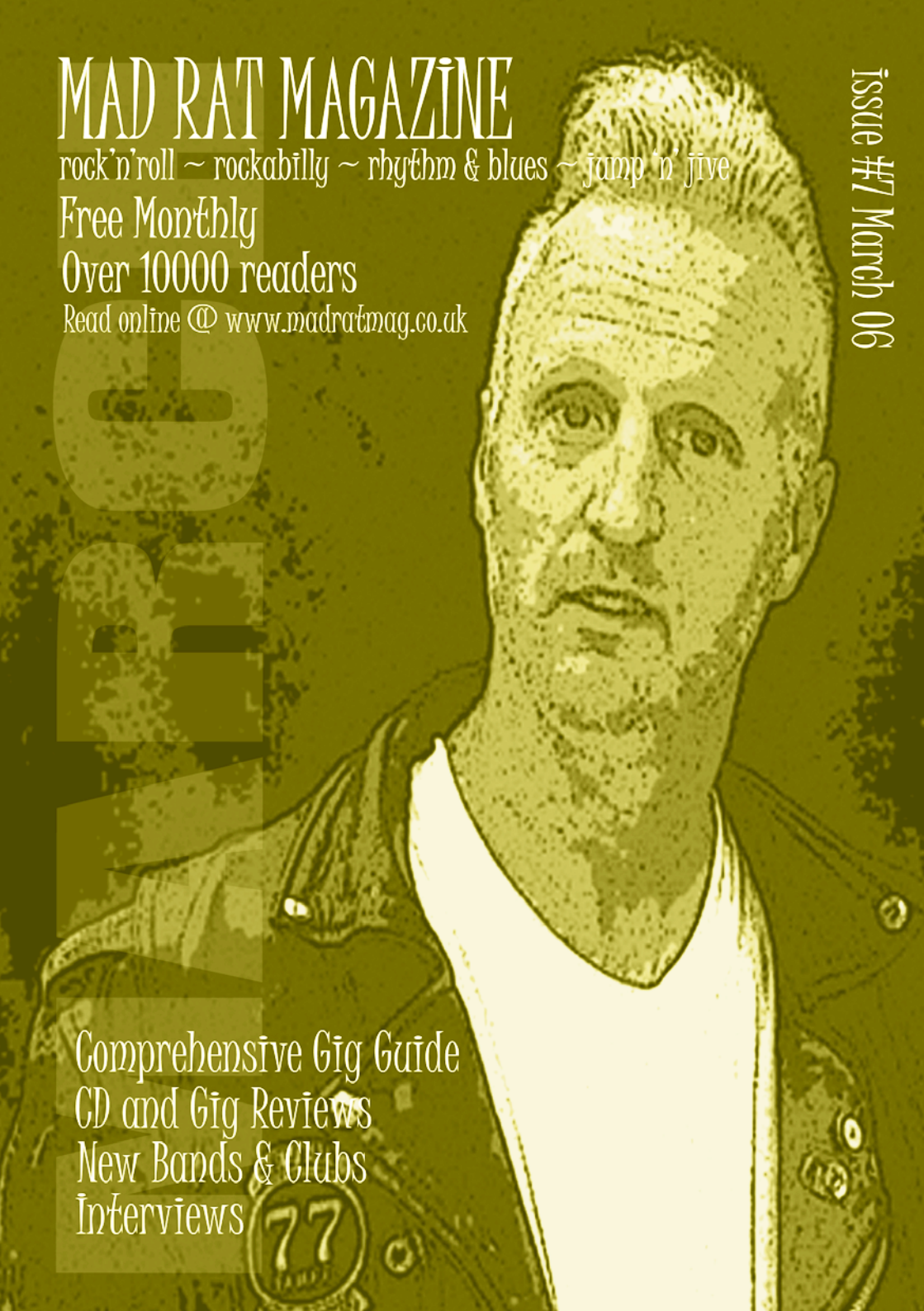
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issue #7 March 06

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# ROCK'N'ROLL SENSATION



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# SPIKE SPOUTS

## Oï Oï

OK, so I've had a few good moan offs and a few deep and meaningfuls with you guys, but this issue I just want to show my appreciation to the backbone of the rockin' scene. Those guys and girls that warm you up and hold it together, that read the crowd and perform spur of the moment request spots and spend fortunes bringing you the music you love. Those that never quite manage a place on the stage but get a table just off of the fire exit underneath the strip light and the ones who rarely get a clap at the end of the night. Yep, the DJ's are the most overlooked link in any gig, rarely even managing a billing unless of course that DJ runs the club, then its guaranteed. I would just like to say that I have had the pleasure of working with some good solid DJ's over the years and I really appreciate all the work that they have done for me and for my clubs.

At present I have working with me, Radar one of my regular DJs and very popular all around t h e South.

Catman John, a man who could probably tell you how many grooves there are in each record and quizmaster extraordinaire. CJ The DJ who is now deserting ship on occasion to DJ around the country with his addictive and very original sets. I consider it an honour to have worked with you all. Of the many guest DJ's, Woody, The Flat Top Brothers, Skinny Jim, Kev The Quiff, Cruisin, Chubby Brown, Cat Talk Lee, Suzy Q, Moonshine Mama and Ray. You have all rocked my place. Also, a very special mention to Pirate who has saved my bacon on many occasions.

So no moaning and no lessons to learn and only a little nagging. Just spare a minute at the end of the night to raise a glass of appreciation to your DJ, whoever he or she may be and appreciate all the work that goes into filling those dance floors.

On another note, I thought I'd also advertise the fact that you can read this Mag online through our web site, found at [www.madratmag.co.uk](http://www.madratmag.co.uk). I've heard that we're being read by hundreds of people each month over the Net and from as far flung places as India, Australia and even Bromley. The word is getting around !

See you on the dance floor

Rockin' Regards

Spike



# Rockabilly Boogie



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**Band:** The Kingcats  
**Venue:** Loudwater Royal British  
**Legion:** Date: 27/1/06

This is the way to start the weekend! A chilly Friday night was warmed up noticeably by the latest Live2Jive event at this excellent venue, entertaining a good crowd, with a high proliferation of 50's style clothing, leather jackets and quiffs.

A rocking "Honey Don't" kicked off the live music and, with an impeccable backbone of Kevin Dulford on percussion and Calvis Cash on bass, the Kingcats packed the dance floor with happy jivers for the next few hours. The band knocked out a clean rockabilly style sound, helped enormously by the ringing tones of Gabriel Allen's guitar, notably during standards like "Marie Marie" and "Matchbox", as well as a selection of their own compositions, including "Rockin' Queen" and a swinging "Saturday Nite".

Their overall sound is spearheaded by Bill Crittenden's distinctive vocals, which really take us back to the style made famous by the likes of Buddy Knox and Eddie Cochran in the late 50's, particularly during "Swingin' Daddy" and "Teenage Heaven", the latter sparking mass strolling.

The band ably varied the pace, to

allow some dancers a breather and others a chance to adopt a more swing or lindy hop style, especially during "Beautiful Brown Eyes" and "A Fool Such As I". Pretty soon though, the tempo was increased during "Good Rockin' Tonight" and their own "Kingcat Boogie" that upped the perspiration level as we headed towards last orders. A lightning "I'm Coming Home" ended their set, but only until the surprisingly slower encore that really highlighted David Allen's talented keyboard skills.

Finally, an extended "Whole Lotta Shakin'" brought the curtain down in grand style, leaving the breathless dancers to gratefully head for the bar or the queue for the complimentary coffee and Danish pastries served up by Fred and Beckie, for that all important sugar boost!

I'll sure be looking out for the Kingcats appearing locally in the future!

### Darrell Parsons



# CATMAN'S QUIZ

What was the name of Jerry Lee Lewis's cousin, who recorded the songs "Tootsie", "You Are My Sunshine", "Little John's Gone" and "Daydreaming" Plus which record label did he record for?

Answers on a postcard OR mail@madratmag.co.uk to win a MAD RAT T- SHIRT or MUG

Feb Quiz answer: Ronnie Self : Bop A Lena/Pretty Bad Blues  
Winner: Frantic Franky De Block from Belgium.

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## Eddie Cochran Festivals

Further to our announcement that there will be two Eddie Cochran festivals this year, we stand corrected and announce three Eddie Cochran festivals.....

Details are as follows.....

Showtime Enterprises in conjunction with The Ace Café present on Sunday April 16th a fundraising event for the Eddie Cochran Statue that will eventually rest in Chippenham. Billed as a Car and Bike Cruise, the line up for the anniversary event on the date of Eddie and Gene's last show together will start from the Bristol Hippodrome and follow the exact route that Eddie, Gene and Sharon would have taken in the days before the motorway and will finish with a host of big name acts at the Ace Café, Ace Corner, North Circular Road. On the bill for this monumental event are Sandy Ford's Flying Saucers, Red Hot From Bristol with Rockin' Gerry, The Muskrats, Chris Fender Black and The Blackettes and DJ's; The Fabulous Flat Top Brothers, loads of guest appearances and much more. Admission for this event is £ 10. If you would like to join the cruise either at the Hippodrome or en route, then contact Gwen on 0117 904 2658 or email [rocknrollhq@aol.com](mailto:rocknrollhq@aol.com) or go to [www.rocknrollhq.com](http://www.rocknrollhq.com)

On the same weekend there is the Eddie Cochran Cherished Memories Weekend at The Olympiad, Monkton Park, Chippenham Wiltshire, which features Robert Gordon, Albert Lee And Hogans Heroes, Chas Hodges Rock'n'Roll Trio, Terry Dene And The Aces, Matchbox, Ervin Travis, Jet Harris with The Rapiers, Marco DiMaggio and Sue Moreno and many more. Children are welcome at this event at half the standard fee running Friday

14th - Sunday 16th April. Whole weekend ticket is £45 and Friday Day Ticket £15 Saturday Day Ticket £25 Sunday Day Ticket £10 book online at [www.yourtickets.co.uk/weekender](http://www.yourtickets.co.uk/weekender) or call 0044(0)7879 040 723 or email [eddiecochranweekender@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:eddiecochranweekender@hotmail.co.uk) for more details and camping information.

Then on September 15th, 16th and 17th Showtime Enterprises presents The Eddie Cochran Weekender at The Olympiad Leisure Centre Monkton Park Chippenham Wiltshire featuring Charlie Gracie and The Strollers, Wee Willie Harris and Red Hot, Big Bad Shakin', John Leyton and The Rapiers, Crazy Cavan And The Rhythm Rockers, Chas Mcdevitt and The House-rockers, The Stargazers, Chris Black with his C'mon Everybody Show, Flying Saucers, Blue Flames, Rockin' Gerry and The Sundown Boys, The Itchy Feet Trio and The Spitfires.... Admission is £40 for the whole weekend, £17.50 on Friday, £23 on Saturday, £23 on Sunday contact Ken or Gwen on 0117 904 2658 or email [rocknrollhq@aol.com](mailto:rocknrollhq@aol.com) or go to [www.rocknrollhq.com](http://www.rocknrollhq.com)

### JOHN LEYTON AND EDDIE COCHRAN

By Steve Etherington

(John Leyton's Manager)

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

Some months ago I received a booking enquiry from Paul Barrett asking me if John Leyton and The Rapiers were available to play at the Eddie Cochran weekend event taking place at Chippenham on September 15th-17th 2006.

Fortunately both John and The Rapiers are available that weekend and I accepted the booking. I say, fortunately, because I also had a personal reason for

that booking to happen, apart from the fact that Paul has kindly arranged for John and myself to have lunch with Charlie Gracie and his wife.

I have been a fan of Rock 'n' Roll music since I can't remember when, well since I first heard the fantastic sounds generated by the legendary rockers of the late 50's and early 60's, Chuck Berry, the Everly Brothers, Jerry Lee, Little Richard, Fats Domino, Elvis etc. etc.

However my personal favourites have always been and always will be Gene Vincent and the great EDDIE COCHRAN.

Somethin' Else was Eddie. Sadly I was too young to have seen him perform live, but I managed to see Gene a few times. My collection of Eddie's material is a large one and my thanks go to Tony Barrett and his great Rockstar label for keeping Eddie's music alive.

More recently I have also got into the music produced by Alan Wilson and John is currently recording his first CD since



the 70's at Alan's Western-Star studios. Alan has become a good friend of John and myself. As an aside, what a great group that Jack Rabbit Slim are and as a bonus we hope to cut a song that Bob Butfoy has specially written for John for his new CD. John is a rocker at heart and loves singing some of those great rock 'n' roll songs. John never toured with Eddie but he did a mini-tour with Gene and has many great stories of that tour. John was also very fortunate in that he knew Elvis and met him many times whilst they were both filming at the same studio in Hollywood in 1966.

In my collection of Eddie's material, I have a few photographs but it seems that two of them, one of which is pictured in this article, have created a bit of interest in that they 'appear' to be unpublished. I put this one up on John's website to advertise the Eddie Cochran weekend appearance of John and The Rapiers and sent a copy of it to Gwen for her website.

A few days later Bill Beard, The Eddie Cochran Connection, contacted me to ask where I had got the photograph of



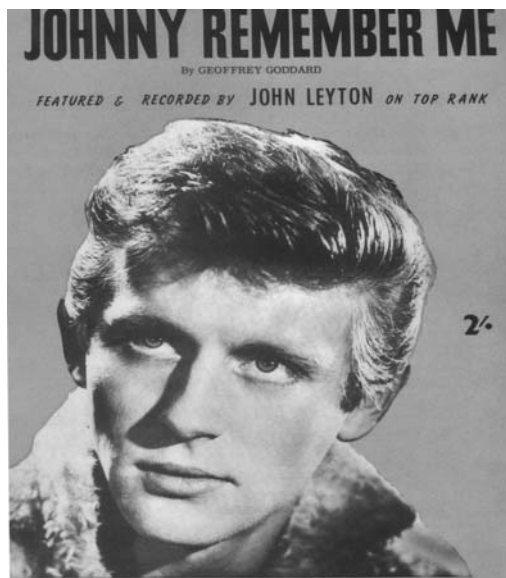


Eddie. If my memory serves me correctly I can remember writing to 'Disc' magazine enclosing a postal order for a few 'shillings', money saved from my paper round, asking them if I could purchase some photographs of Eddie Cochran. A few weeks later a couple of photographs arrived.

It appears that Eddie went to the offices of 'Disc' whilst in London to attend his press conference at the offices of Decca. I can remember reading an interview that he did for 'Disc' and both Bill and myself presume the photos were taken there.

I do not claim that I own the copyright to the photograph that has been used and it is not my intention to make any personal gain from it. But if it brings some pleasure to Eddie's many fans then I'm pleased. Hopefully John, The Rapiers and myself will see some of you at Chippenham in September.

My best regards.  
**Steve.**



# DADDY COOL'S

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**Band:** The Topcats**Event:** The Rockers Reunion,  
Rivermead Leisure Complex,  
Reading**Date:** 21st Jan 06

I know that all of you who attended this years event had a wail of a time, I also know that the acts that graced the Rivermead stage were all truly class rockin'. I also know that nobody really gives a hoot whether the acts are good bad or indifferent because this truly is the social event of the year and it starts the year off with a bang and has done for 23 years. However, the band that starts the Rockers Reunion at 5.15pm (after a short blast from either Pete or Pete on the decks, while everyone piles in through the doors, gets stamped and meets and greets old friends and new), in my opinion have the hardest job of any other first band in any event in the country.

This years first band were the Topcats from Burton on Trent. Now, I know the Mad Rat loves this band he has had them play for him many times but I had never caught their set so, I was really looking forward to seeing them. Wildwax introduced them in his inimitable style and the Topcats, who had been advertised as a full throttle powerhouse, struck their first chord and the audience sat up and listened.... Er Hello it's 5.15 there's got to be nearly 2000 people here to speak to and your watching and listening to the first band!!!!!! A brilliant sound from the technicians, was the first thing I noticed. From where I stood I could see people slowly filing down to the front of the stage until there was a huge crowd caught in the addictive sounds of the Topcats.... WOW a bit of

everything and a bit more. Oh Boy, Run-away Boys, C'mon Everybody, One Hand Loose, My Veronica, Ice Cold, Long Black Train, My Way, House Of The Rising Sun, just a few of the songs they managed to squeeze into their half hour set. People danced, they sang, they bobbed, they tapped their feet, clapped their hands and thoroughly enjoyed these Topcats!

Didn't I read somewhere recently that this band were rubbish and not rock'n'roll? Ho hum, well, you can't please everyone all the time, but I am telling you that the Rockers Reunion crowd just wanted more and more and more.

Viva Las Vegas finished the guys set after screams for more and more. Wildwax saw the guys off stage after apologising to the audience for not giving them more Topcats LIVE!!!!

The Topcats have been giggin for a very long time but you will see more and more of them on the rockin' scene in future and they deserve every minute of your time. Three fantastic lads with a great sound a tremendous stage presence and an emotive set well worth the listening.

**Mad Rat Mag**

# RADIO ROUND UP

Well Here I am again with another column to bore you with

So what's new, what's old and what's been happening over the terrestrial, cable, satellite and internet airwaves since my last issue.

I've been listening in to my area's local short term stations on FM and found that they were advertising that they had rock n roll in their programming schedules, so I duly listen in.

The content was very mainstream and included some average tracks with the occasional "not usual for them" artists material. However, this was mixed in with 60's Beat and later music or on the other station included music from the "Radio 40's EG Vera Lynn & Dance Band" through to the aforementioned period. Not Exactly "Rockin' " , more like the hits and perceived memories of those decades, just like the period dictated (even then) what you should be allowed to listen to. Of course the Sixties brought the Beatles which was taken on board willingly by the broadcasters of the day after thinking they had quashed rock n roll.

Isn't it odd though how some think that the 60's and that Liverpool group are Rock n Roll without really knowing that they deliberately changed from their previous leather jacketed rockin' image to become the sensation that changed that decades music.

Anyway I digress, back to radio matters and off my soapbox. My own stint on local radio, which was licensed for four weeks, was well received and although I had to comply with a more generic form of RnR I still managed to include some interviews with the Lennerockers, Charlie Gracie, Bob Fish of Johnny & the Rocco's and a band that was playing in the area – Ian Fenn & the Starcats featuring much of their material in the first of the two hour shows.

The second hour consisted of peoples phone requests and a suitable choice of music, though not all the kind of mainstream material that most

other regular terrestrial stations might play.

One good thing about the station I am with though, is that the general Rock n Roll & 50's music was played usually after the news, probably three or more tracks from that 50's & early 60's period, mainstream again though, but more than other stations in the area would normally play (excepting one BBC Station).

Oh, I didn't mention the station I am with did I, well I won't, else I might be accused of being biased, but you can always find out for yourselves easily enough.

Satellite Radio still only holds with Radio Caroline which has Dell Richardson's Good Rockin' Tonight, now changed to Tuesdays from 6pm – 9pm UK Time, a good show to listen in to.

Whilst internet browsing you might like to try the following Stations URL's

[www.dbrighton.rockabillyradio.net](http://www.dbrighton.rockabillyradio.net) (yes I'm in there but the station plays continuous rockin' tracks too)

<http://www.wcbn.org/gokatgo/> The shows track listings are also available to view.

<http://www.teddyboycollared.com/> An interesting Teddy boy Website that also has a Rock n Roll Show by Brian Rushgrove

<http://www.hepcat.plus.com/> Another in the same vein hosted by Big Dave A.

<http://www.dooopcafe.net:8005/listen.pls> As it Say's , it's Doo Wop for diners.

<http://www.live365.com/stations/djradio59> Try this on live 365 and possible links to others.

[www.wdvrfm.org](http://www.wdvrfm.org) In the USA. Listen to the 'WDVR Heartlands Hayride' every Saturday night 6-8pm EST on WDVR 89.7FM (in the Delaware Valley); 91.9FM

That's it from me this month.

**Dave B**



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## SHAWN HARVEY Prince of Retro Rockabilly Root's & Country

Not since the dawn of time have my neighbours made a good comment about any music blaring from my lounge window, but this winter 'CD day' struck when Shawn Harvey's CD took a spin in the player. Now, I know you wouldn't have heard much of Shawn and I know that some of you don't like your Rockin' mixed with country or with anything else for that matter but I thought that those of you with an open mind might like to take a trip through the looking glass to see the kind of cross over Rockin' that is earning Shawn rave reviews, critical acclaim and sell out tours, all around the world.

### Snippets of reviews.....

Think rockabilly's dead and be proved wrong, as there's at least one young fella who's familiar with the magic of Barbarella to sing about her with a classic slap echo, equally classic rock 'n' roll set of lyrics and a classic "Brown Sugar" lead-in. Pitching himself somewhere near Eddie Cochran, Plymouth's own Shawn Harvey sounds like he's having the time of his

life. "I Drove Up In My Cadillac Car" gently pulls the listener in and takes him for a ride, so comfortable alongside Shawn's unpretentious, boy-next-door's vocals and scintillating guitar lines. Half of the tracks here are graced by the great Albert Lee's presence, which is rather shadowy as Harvey's competent at six-string end himself. When some blues shape up "Baby I'm Gonna Leave You Soon", they ram it all home, even though the prevailing boogie pace, most captivating in piano-driven "Howdy Judy", feels a tad tedious after a while.

Fortunately, the album sounds a bit raw, and that's where its allure lies, in this authentic pre-Fabs rock. Missed that? Run in the hills, then, where a new hillbilly cat's playing.

Colchester based singer-songwriter Shawn Harvey is a real wild card; after the innovative 'Electro Retro Rock'n'Roll' of last single 'Wild Wild Woman', 'In The Hills' takes Rock'n'Roll right back to its roots, mixing up Rockabilly, Country and the Blues. Though it's hard to feel convinced when the Essex lad starts singing about 'Haystack Life', his 'Cadillac Car' or, best of all, being 'A Chainsmokin' Louisiana Man', the well worn pub Rock vibe to these 10 original tracks lends them another kind of authenticity; an eerie familiarity on first listen as the ghosts of Johnny Cash and Gene Vincent present themselves in Harvey's drunken guitar melodies. As well as turning a fine foot tapper on 'I Drove Up In My Cadillac Car' Harvey proves he can play the Blues too on the classic moody clatter of 'Baby I'm Gonna Leave You Soon'.

### The Interview

Hi Shawn, my first question has got to be directed at your internet success many number ones, top twenty hits and a huge internet fan base, technology has been the perfect media for you and your music, how did that happen, deliberate or accidental?

*Well, I always believed in new mediums, strange as it sounds I was always into technology and new ideas, learning early computing at school, got me into the idea of marketing*



and getting to a wider range of people...my first basic website was for the Flat Top Cats back in 94...so quite early into the net as we know it. Also mp3 sites like Besonic and mp3.com which are no more but forerunners of the revolution it was kind of a thought of a way to reach out. Being born in rural Cornwall I was quite cut off down that direction and needed a way to get my music to the masses the net seemed a great idea, although relatively young at the time. I learnt computers/Windows and encoded all my music myself, then obviously from the early days of using analogue reels to record on (a Tascam) and an old W.E.M Dominator amp, I then had to get it all into the pc. That was a lot of songs about 500! But did I go grey :)

Where would you say that your biggest influence musically lies if you could only have one choice?

*Oh musically, my biggest influence...that's really hard! I love so much, but guitar wise I think Chuck Berry...its close between him and Carl Perkins. The twangy sound of Carl is something else and I like the attack of Chuck.*

How many guitars do you have and which one is the best to play?

*Guitar wise at this minute only one! my Shine SH-943 WH (strangely same initials SH!...I have had Fender Telecasters 62 custom, Epiphones, Hohner...but this one is now special so I've narrowed down to just my semi for now...I do enjoy lost of guitars...especially Telecasters for their direct cutting edgy sound...being the endorsee for the guitars means I use it a lot! I like the way its perfect for the country tinge and also that rockabilly twang! Just flick the switch and its there...I mostly play very clean with a little reverb and no extra effects...the real rock n roll sound:)like the pioneers...its nice to add say tremeloe etc etc but I really do have a love for how a guitar sounds naturally. It's very easy to get carried away with effects!*

How did you get Albert Lee and Boz Boorer involved in the album?

Oh Albert and Boz...I really just asked them and they were happy to be a part of the new CD...I have some surprises for the future...and am in touch with some great rockabilly guys...currently i'm going to team up with an ex member of Nick Lowes' band and if that works out which i'm sure it will there should be some great recordings from it, John David (Dave Edmunds) was also involved and he's very much into producing Shaky and Status Quo...he's been a real good fellow and very much someone I admire. Boz and Albert too were great, both real gents and a pleasure to be with, the studio sessions were not rehearsed, took about 4 hours at Mill Hill and we cut each track in only one take. Albert came into the room sat by me...and we played! That was such a good feeling of real Rock n Roll as it happens! So basically what you hear is what came out on the day, very little in the way of production. Which, once Boz got around he was also very happy. I hope to team up with him in the future again and I think that's on the horizon. In July I'll be doing some tracks with my friend Darren Juvie of the Juvies/Cathouse Creepers...that's to be more traditional rockabilly...I do love so many styles within rock n roll from the sax based stuff to the very basic trio set up...it's really such a diverse world and listening to so many songs as a child it's all rubbed off on me...

Do you know how big the rockin' scene is in this country, have you tried to break into it or did you bypass it deliberately?

*Oh I would love to be in the rock n roll scene here. It's really strange how its not had me in it as of yet:)...I think probably my unusual influence may have contributed by having country and rock n roll mixed, but I'm always well received when on stage!*

A man of mystery eh? Do you think your music is more country or more rockabilly?

*Country or rockabilly? I think I like to see myself as a rock n roller really with some country influence, so rockabilly! If you look at Sun, Carl Perkins, Elvis and the like they were rock n roll and country...most of the greats had both*

styles in their music. It's probably how they interpret the guitar and what they hear. If I have a band with sax' etc it would be more driving rock n roll. This project was more country with Albert Lee. For the future, I'm hoping to have a sax sound in there with piano etc...Rock n roll is my first love and country I also like, but I can't shake my legs so much to that.

You can hear a lot of influences in your music is it hard on you vocally?

I guess there are a Lot of influences in my music. It kind of makes it unique. Vocally its quite ok I think, maybe some of the early stuff would have to be key changed but mostly I sing in keys like g,c,d some flats like b7 and of course minors too. This album was easy because its very rootsy and simple chords like a,g,c and e. But say like some of my musical songs I have changes between minor to majors and diminished/augmented notes. I can't read or write music though...being self taught...wouldn't know a crochet if it bit me! the only thing I tend to do a lot with my songs and the way I write them is adding some slightly different turn arounds...for instance "howdy Judy" is capoed and rather than being just e,ab7 etc etc three chord trick..its has a few surprises in there like a g chord...more like a rock chord but still rock n roll!

Your first band Shawn And The Flat Top Cats how long was that about and did you have a good time with it, was that your meander onto the rockin' scene?

The Flat Top Cats....lasted about from 1991 to 1997 ...was a lot of fun...a little trio with myself, Alan (a disabled drummer) and my dear friend...and silke on bass...we cut our very first recordings in meyday studios, Blackwood Gwent...home of the manics...in fact they also recorded there...and one day I bumped into them...literally!

Anyway the second album by fate was recorded at Beatroute Studios, Hirwaun,nr Abredare...by fate, I was there when a young Kelly Jones of the Stereophonics were in there they were then called "the tragic love compa-

ny" I lived in the same road as Stuart Cable, the drummer and they knew me. Anyway, my fame wasn't to be and I knew I would have several more years of work to do...rock n roll has always struggled...I was talking to Bobby Cochran (nephew of Eddie) and he agreed that in the 50s it was hard and it's hard now. But we had such a great time as a band...I taught Alan to drum and Silke the bass! What a start! I still have our very first tape recording of our gig! It's at an old diving club! But we definitely started from zero...no money; I had a cheap semi acoustic and rough shows too...a wedding once ended in chaos! Shutters on the bars coming down and me somewhere in the rut!

What has been your greatest achievement?

Oh my biggest achievement....definitely meeting Albert Lee....that really was great! But I feel there is a lot more around that corner as I've a lot to give, a lot of new songs, lots of new contacts and I'm sure something will work out! I must admit flying is also a big acheivement! Took my first one this year to Germany!

What is your biggest ambition?

My ambition; Oh I'd love to be recognised for all the years of hard work...as a songwriter and guitarist, also a producer....but for this year I shall be over in Holland and germany, Im still hoping to crack the USA....as I think the CD and album deserves success there...but whatever, I'm always happy Rockin and Rollin,' that's my love and it's stayed with me through thick and thin.

Thanks for the chat Shawn!

Well there it is, you can check out Shawn's music for yourself on his website [www.shawn-harvey.com](http://www.shawn-harvey.com) A candidate for the cross over scene, a little bit country a little bit rock'n'roll. We will see.

**Mad Rat Mag**



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# RAT'S GIG GUIDE

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

## Wednesday, March 1st

Wed 1 Mar 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, March 2nd

Thu 2 Mar OuterLimitz Coast View Holiday Park, Shaldon, Devon record hop only (rockabilly/western swing) **Willy & guests** 0 1 6 2 6 872903

## Friday, March 3rd

Fri 3rd Mar Rock-Ola RnR Club Paddocks Long Lane Canvey Island **The Ghostriders** 01268 794734

Fri 3 Mar Barnsley RnR Team - BHSSC Barnsley Hospital Sports & Social Club, Pogmoor Road, Barnsley, S.Yorks **Flames** Jive Bop Record Hop 01977 613841

Fri 3 Mar Birdwell Club Sheffield Road, Birdwell, Nr Barnsley, S.Yorks S70 5UY **Reservoir Cats** Clive the Jive 01226 742377

Fri 3 Mar Bolton Tonge Ward RnR Club Tonge Ward Labour Club, Ainsworth Lane, Tonge Moor, Bolton, Lancs **Colin Paul & the Persuaders** Jivin' Jim 01204 410483

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

Fri 3 Mar Eastleigh RnR Club C o m - rades Club, Leigh Road, Eastleigh, Hants record hop only **Robbie Knight** 023 8061 1953

Fri 3 Mar Memorial Hall - Northwich Chester Way, Northwich, Cheshire CW9 5QJ **Jet Harris & the Rapiers** (featuring Billie Davis) Me & My Shadows Tour 0 1 6 0 6 814640

Fri 3 Mar Reno's Belfast 34-36 Bedford Street, Belfast, Antrim BT2 7FF **Madcatz** 028 9031 1026

Fri 3 Mar Rockin' The Post Winning Post, Chertsey Road (A316), Whitton, Twickenham, Middsx **Good Rockin' Tonite** Big Bounce

020 8894 2772

Fri 3 Mar Rosecroft Club Chelsfield Road, Orpington, Kent **Jets** Pete Bruce 0 1 3 2 2 407110

Fri 3 Mar St Marys SC - Batley Melton Street, Batley, W.Yorks record hop only **John - nyWhiteshoes C'monEverybody** 0 7 9 0 6 468585

## Saturday, March 4th

Sat 4 Mar Carshalton Ex-Servicemens Club West Street, Carshalton, Surrey **Bernie Woods & the Forest Fires** 020 8647 1951

Sat 4 Mar Chicken Shack B r o g b o r o u g h Club, Bedford Road, Brogborough, near Milton Keynes, Beds **Slim Slip & the Sliders** Rollin Rock Record Hop 07960 991236

Sat 4 Mar College St Mark & St John Derriford, Plymouth, Devon **Travis Ledoyt** (USA - Elvis tribute)/Sugar Bullets F u r y Rockin' Wax 07729 580393

Sat 4 Mar Halifax RnR Club Siddal Ex-Servicemen's Club, Halifax, W.Yorks HX3 9JS **Rip It Up** (ticket only event)D. J. the DJ 01422 354876

Sat MAR 4th **Cat & The Hot Tin Trio** THE SANDMASTER, GRAYS Drake Road, Chaford Hundred 01375 481056

Sat 4 Mar Horsham RnR Club Drill Hall, Denne Road, Horsham, W.Sussex **Moonshiners / Itchy Feet Trio** 07966 526260

Sat 4 Mar Jeanette & Michelle's RnR Club Village Hall, Westfield Road, off Church Rd, Uphill, Weston-super-Mare, Somerset **Red Hot Rockin'** Don 07881 912798

Sat 4 Mar Luton RnR Club Roman Way, Tomlinson Avenue, Luton, Beds **Crazee Jay & the Partytimers** Tartan Ted 01582 518211

Sat 4 Mar Mytchett RnR Club Mytchett Community centre, 140 Mytchett Road, Mytchett, Camberley, Surrey GU16 6AA **Johnny & the Midnight Trio** Wildcat Pete 0 1 2 7 6 504898

Sat 4 Mar Newtown Social Club Durham Road, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland r e c o r d hop only (r'n'r/rockabilly/jive) **Rockin' Juke-**

**box** Record Hop 0191 410 2914

Sat 4 Mar Perton Civic Centre

**Jet Harris & the Rapiers** (featuring Billie Davis) Me & My Shadows Tour 01902 745971

Sat 4 Mar Rock House Club Sports & Social Club, William Street, Saxilby, Lincoln, Lincs

**Cathouse Creepers** Wainyboy 01522 681221

Sat 4 Mar South Parade Pier Southsea, Portsmouth, Hants **Topp Katz Revolutionaires** Wild Wolfie Smith 023 9229 4767

Sat4 Mar Stockcross Rock'n'Roll Village Hall, Stockcross, near Newbury, Berks record hop only (jive/stroll) 01488 658186

Sat 4 Mar Yeadon Town Hall High Street, Yeadon, Leeds, Yorks **Dominic Halpin & the Honey B's** Strictly Jive 01274 611259

Sat 4th Mar **The Blue Flames** Stage One Club Oxford Street Long Eaton Nr Nottingham NG10 1LY 0115 9322897

### Sunday, March 5th

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

Sun 5th Mar **Cat & The Hot TinTrio**

**/Wildcat Pete** Beaconsfield FC Slough Road Beaconsfield 01494 672605

Sun 5 Mar Carshalton Ex-Servicemens Club West Street, Carshalton, Surrey **Good Rockin' Tonite** 020 8647 1951

Sun 5 Mar Erith RnR Club Erith WMC, Valley Road, Erith, Kent **Rat Pack** Cruising Record Hop 07973 170056

Sun 5 Mar The Woodgrange 62-64 Southchurch Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2RR **Midnight Howlers** plus DJ 01702 460133

### Monday, March 6th

Mon 6 Mar Shepwell Green Social Club Bilston Lane, Willenhall, W.Midlands WV13 2QF **Mark Keeleys Good Rockin' Tonight** plus DJ 01902 602553

### Thursday, March 9th

Thu 9 Mar Cardinal Wolsey The Green, Hampton Court Road, East Molesey, Surrey KT8 9BW **TTs** 020 8487 3651

Thu 9 Mar Hanworth RnR Club Royal Naval Club, Park Road, Hanworth, Middxs

**now appearing**  
 11th March - Plinston Hall, Letchworth (with the Stargazers)  
 25th March - 'Stompin', 100 Club, Oxford St., London  
 1st April - Jive Party, Armentieres, Lille, France  
 21st April - The Winning Post, Whitton, Middx  
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record hop only (rock'n'roll) **Wildcat Pete** 01464 672605

Thu 9 Mar OuterLimitz Coast View Holiday Park, Shaldon, Devon record hop only (rockabilly/western swing) **Willy & guests** 0 1 6 2 6 872903

### Friday, March 10th

Fri 10 Mar Athletic Club - Kettering Rockingham Road, Kettering, Northants **Darrel Higham & the Enforcers** Dynamite Dave 01536 510779

Fri 10 Mar Blue Moon RnR Club North Walsham Community Centre, New Road, North Walsham, Norfolk NR28 9DE **Rhythm Stompers** Eddie's Golden Sounds 0 1 6 9 2 500863

Fri 10 Mar Bolton Tonge Ward RnR Club Tonge Ward Labour Club, Ainsworth Lane, Tonge Moor, Bolton, Lancs **Doomsday Rockers** Jivin' Jim 01204 410483

Fri 10 Mar McCoys Red Hot RnR - BAC Bexhill Athletic Club, Little Common Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, E.Sussex **Moonshiners** plus DJ 01424 211996

Fri 10th Mar **Colin Paul & The Persuaders**  
Kirk Hallam Club Dallimore Road Kirk Hallam  
Ilkestone Derbyshire DE7 4GZ 0115 932 2897  
Fri 10 Mar Rose & Crown - Brockenhurst  
Lyndhurst Road, Brockenhurst, Hants  
(rockabilly/r'n'r/hillbilly/blues) **Terry's Back-**  
**street Boogie** 07854 621522

Fri 10 Mar Taunton RnR Club North Petherton  
RFC, Beggars Brook, North Petherton, Som-  
erset **Rockin' The Joint**  
Tony Sullivan 01823 332180

Fri 10th Mar CJ's The Railway Club Bestwood  
Sports and Social Club Bestwood Road Bull-  
well Nottingham 07901 766863 **The Hip-**  
**bones**

### Saturday, March 11th

Sat 11 Mar Bristol Jive Club - FFC F i l t o n  
Folk Centre, Elm Park, Ffilton, Bristol  
**Juke Box Jive** plus DJ 0117 938 0483

Sat 11 Mar Cuxton RnR Club Village Hall, Nor-  
man Road, West Malling, Kent **J i v e**  
**Street** Two Houndogs 01732 780076

Sat 11 Mar Edmonton Conservative Club  
Balham Road, Edmonton, London N9

### Alleycats

Sat 11 Mar Juke Joint RnR Club S h r u b -  
lands Community Centre, Hawthorn Road,  
Gorleston-on-Sea, Norfolk **Wildkats** North-  
west The Professor/Rockin Shades 0 1 7 6 0  
722803

Sat 11 Mar Miners Welfare Club - Staveley  
Market Street, Staveley, Chesterfield, Derbys  
**Rat Pack** Dino'sGoodRockin' Tonite0 1 2 4 6  
281522

Sat 11 Mar Paris Rock Club - WAC Waterloo  
Action Centre, 14 Baylis Road, London SE1  
record hop only **Mad French Wolf**  
07944 775556

Sat 11 Mar Ritz Ballroom 73 Bradford Road,  
Brighouse, W.Yorks **Colin Paul & the Per-**  
**suaders** Bradford Dude 01274 392380

Sat 11 Mar Sounds That Swing RnR Club  
Wildkats Northwest The Professor/Rockin'  
Shades

Sat 11 Mar United Services Club Dunstable,  
Beds **Rock Of Ages**

### Sunday, March 12th

Sun 12 Mar BAWA Club Bristol Aerospace  
Welfare Assoc, 589 Southmead Road, Filton,  
Bristol **Heartbeats** Rockin' John 0117 976  
8065

Sun 12 Mar Carshalton Ex-Servicemens Club  
West Street, Carshalton, Surrey **Fever**  
020 8647 1951

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

### Thursday, March 16th

Thu 16 Mar Ace Café Ace Corner, Old North  
Circular Road, Stonebridge, London NW10  
**Flying Saucers/Rockin' Gerry & Red Hot/**  
Flattop Brothers - fundraiser 020 8961  
1000

Thu 16 Mar Ace Café Ace Corner, Old North  
Circular Road, Stonebridge, London NW10  
**Muskrats/Chris Black & Black Cat**  
for Eddie Cochran memorial 020 8961 1000

Thu MAR 16th **Cat & The Hot Tin Trio** THE  
PHOENIX, DARTFORD Lower Hythe Street  
DA1 1BQ 01322 220081

### Friday, March 17th

Fri 17th Rock-Ola Paddocks Long Lane Can-

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 Leek New Road, Badderley Green, Stoke-on-  
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 Johnnie 01782 537292

Fri 17th Mar **Rip It Up** 3R's Rock n Roll Club  
 Reading Civil Service Club James Lane  
 Burghfield Nr Reading 01189842664

Fri 17 Mar Birdwell Club Sheffield Road, Bird-  
 well, Nr Barnsley, S.Yorks S70 5UY **Flames**  
 Clive the Jive 01226 742377

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

Fri 17 Mar Eastleigh RnR Club C o m -  
 rades Club, Leigh Road, Eastleigh, Hants  
 record hop only **Robbie Knight** 023 8061  
 1953

Fri 17 Mar Holgate WMC Sticks New Lane,  
 Holgate, York, Yorks Y024 4NT **Revolu-**  
**tionaires** Dave B 07752 333094

Fri 17 Mar Leabrooks Club Greenhill Lane,  
 Leabrooks, Nr Alfreton, Derbys **Blast Off**  
 Mr Jive 01773 833035

Fri 17 Mar Rosecroft Club Chelsfield Road,  
 Orpington, Kent **Hicksville Bombers**  
 Pete Bruce 01322 407110

Fri 17 Mar The Twickenham Boogie Chertsey  
 Road (A316), Whitton, Twickenham, Middx  
**Jive Aces** Jumpin' Jim 020 8894 2772

### Saturday, March 18th

Sat 18 Mar **Juke Box Jive** Stage One Club  
 Oxford Street Long Eaton Nr Nottingham  
 NG10 1LY 0115 9322897

Sat 18 Mar B52 Club Diner Eastern Perimeter  
 Road, Southend Airport, Southend-on-Sea,  
 Essex SS2 6YF **Fat Cat Trio** R a d a r  
 Record Hop 01268 457767

Sat 18 Mar Chertsey Social Club Chertsey,  
 Surrey **B17s**

Sat 18 Mar Hare & Hounds London Road,  
 Brighton, Sussex **Sundowners** Stompin'  
 Steve 07745 453765

Sat 18 Mar Hill Park Memorial WMC  
 78 Highlands Road, Fareham, Hants PO15  
 6JD **Alleycats** 01329 280782

Sat 18 Mar Jive Party - Rivoli R i v o l i  
 Ballroom, 350 Brockley Road, Crofton Park,  
 London SE4 2BY **tba** Ken/Graham 020 8946  
 2664

Sat 18 Mar Melksham RnR Club A s s e m -  
 bly Hall, Market Place, Melksham, Wilts

**Skyrockers** Cockney Rebel 01225 706463  
 Sat 18 Mar Newtown Social Club Durham  
 Road, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland r e c o r d  
 hop only (r'n'r/rockabilly/jive) **Rockin' Juke-**  
**box Record Hop** 0191 410 2914

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

Sat 18 Mar Preston RnR Club Deafway Cen-  
 tre, Brockholes Brow, Preston, Lancs  
**Brick Lane Boogie Boys** Cheshire Cat  
 01253 852594

Sat 18 Mar Rockin' At The Legion British  
 Legion, 399 High Road, Tottenham, London  
 N17 5QX **Moonshiners** Dixie Sounds  
 07759 874167

Sat 18 Mar Rock'n Red Hot Club - SH  
 Royal British Legion, Staple Hill, Bristol  
**Lennerockers (Germany)/Sandy Ford**  
 Mr Rusty's Roadshow 07879 228451

Sat 18 Mar Sandhill WMC Broxtowe Drive,  
 Mansfield, Notts NG18 2JE **Boogie Children**

Sat 18 Mar Thorngate Halls Bury Road,  
 Gosport, near Portsmouth, Hants **Joey &**  
**the Jivers** Wild Wolfie Smith 023 9242 8732

### Sunday, March 19th

Sun 19 Mar BAWA Club Bristol Aerospace  
 Welfare Assoc, 589 Southmead Road, Filton,  
 Bristol **Linda Gail Lewis + Some Like It**  
**Hot Slim Reed** - Not Before '54 0117 976  
 8065

Sun 19 Mar Carshalton Ex-Servicemens Club  
 West Street, Carshalton, Surrey **Midnite Fly-**  
**ers** 020 8647 1951

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

## Thursday, March 23rd

Thu 23 Mar Butlins - Skegness Ingoldmells, Skegness, Lincs **Matchbox/Alley-cats/Cat & The Hot Tin Trio** 0870 242 2002  
 Thu 23 Mar Hanworth RnR Club Royal Naval Club, Park Road, Hanworth, Middx **Kingcats**(rock'n'roll) **Wildcat Pete** 0 1 4 6 4 672605

## Friday, March 24th

Fri 24 Mar Bolton Tonge Ward RnR Club Tonge Ward Labour Club, Ainsworth Lane, Tonge Moor, Bolton, Lancs **Mark Keeleys Good Rockin' Tonight** Jivin' Jim 01204 410483  
 Fri 24 Mar Chelmsford RnR Club Chelmsford Social Club, 55 Springfield Road (behind Tesco), Chelmsford, Essex **Moonshiners** 01787 462979  
 Fri 24 Mar Hillside Club (ex-Western Club), Derby Road, Lenton, Nottingham, Notts **Boogie Children** Charlie/Dino 07901 766863  
 Fri 24 Mar Rose & Crown - Brockenhurst Lyndhurst Road, Brockenhurst, Hants record hop only (rockabilly/r'n'r/hillbilly/blues) **Terry's Backstreet Boogie** 07854 621522  
 Fri 24 Mar Taunton RnR Club North Petherton RFC, Beggars Brook, North Petherton, Somerset record hop only **Moose** 0 1 8 2 3 332180  
 Fri 24 Mar 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, March 25th

Sat 25 Mar Acacia Ballroom Glaxo Wellcome Club, High Street, Dartford, Kent **Revolutionaires** Pete Bruce 01322 407110  
 Sat 25 Mar Ace Café Ace Corner, Old North Circular Road, Stonebridge, London NW10 record hop only (blacktop boogie) **Bill Guntrip** 020 8961 1000  
 Sat 25 Mar AFS Club Victoria Place, Carlisle, Cumbria record hop only (rock'n'roll/swing/rockabilly) **Fat Mossy & guests** 01228 537523  
 Sat 25 Mar Banbury RnR Club General Foods S & S Club, Spiceball Park, Banbury, Oxon **Wanderers** Rockin' Bandit 01295 278127

Sat 25 Mar Crondall RnR Club The Village Hall, Crondall, near Farnham, Surrey GU10 5QG **Jack Rabbit Slim** Oh Boy Record Hop 07903 145018  
 Sat 25th Mar **Rip It Up** Festival Inn Ilkeston Road Trowell Nr Notts NG9 3PX 0115 932 2897  
 Sat 25 Mar Eternit Sports Club Whaddon Road, Meldreth, near Royston, Herts **Rock Of Ages**  
 Sat 25 Mar Holiday Rock RnR Club Royal British Legion, Heath and Reach, near Leighton Buzzard, Beds **Rockin' The Joint** Tartan Ted 01525 372994  
 Sat 25 Mar Quorn Jump Jive & Swing Village Hall, Leicester Road, Quorn, Nr Loughborough, Leics **Swing Commanders** Steve/GI Jive 01455 843292  
 Sat 25 Mar Ritz Ballroom 73 Bradford Road, Brighouse, W.Yorks **Jets** Bradford Dude 01274 392380  
 Sat 25 Mar Roosters RnR Club - DIDANISH Invader, Empingham Road, Stamford, Lincs **Cathouse Creepers** Poor Boy Paul 01778 560664  
 Sat 25 Mar Shoreham RnR Shoreham Centre, Pond Road, Shoreham-by-Sea, Sussex **Ruby & the Rockers** plus DJ 01903 243392  
 Sat Mar 25th **Cat & The Hot Tin Trio** Prince of Wales, High Street, Strood near Rochester 01634 711797  
 Sat 25 Mar Starfighter RnR Club Village Hall, Wreningham, near Norwich, Norfolk **Strollers** Rockin Roland 01508 494735  
 Sat 25 Mar Swamp Rock Club All Saints Arts Centre, 122 Oakleigh Road North, London N12 **Slammers Maximum Jive Band** 020 8810 7454  
 Sat 25 Mar Swindon RnR Club Moonrakers (Crossways Suite), Cricklade Road, Swindon, Wilts SN2 5AA **Bad Boys** Leon Oddsocks 01793 612378  
 Sat 25 Mar Tam O'Shanter Club Hertford Place, Earlsdon, Coventry, W.Midlands CV1 3JZ **Mark Keeleys Good Rockin' Tonight** Woody 024 7633 6533  
 Sat 25 Mar Vikings Hotel Western Road, Goole, Humber DN14 6RG **Juke Box Jive** 01405 721821  
 Sat 25 Mar Welfare Social Club West End Lane, Rossington, Doncaster, S.Yorks

**Skyrockers** Ol' Dell Boy 01302 863125

### Sunday, March 26th

Sun 26 Mar BAWA Club Bristol Aerospace Welfare Assoc, 589 Southmead Road, Filton, Bristol **Rudy la Crioux & the All Stars**

Rockin' John 0117 976 8065

Sun 26 Mar Carshalton Ex-Servicemens Club West Street, Carshalton, Surrey Meanstreak 020 8647 1951

Sun 26 Mar Ex-Servicemens Club - Northampton Sheep Street, Northampton, Northants **Revolutionaires** (afternoon 4pm - 7pm) Tartan Ted 01604 493713

Sun 26 Mar Link Club Parsloe Road, Harlow, Essex CM19 4RT **Rat Pack** Strollin Steve 01763 241301

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

Sun 26 Mar Warmwell Holiday Park Warmell Holiday Camp, near Weymouth, Dorset **Alleycats** (afternoon) 020 8593 1947

### Wednesday, March 29th

Wed 29 Mar Ace Café Ace Corner, Old North Circular Road, Stonebridge, London NW10 record hop only (blacktop boogie) **Bill Guntrip** 020 8961 1000

### Friday, March 31st

Fri 31 Mar Borough Green RnR Club Village Hall, Borough Green, Kent **Mark Keeleys Good Rockin' Tonight** plus DJ 01732 887033

Fri 31 Mar British Railway RnR Club Broad Green, Wellingborough, Northants **Phil Haley & his Comments** plus DJ 07748 306989

Fri 31 Mar Eastleigh RnR Club Comrades Club, Leigh Road, Eastleigh, Hants record hop only **Robbie Knight** 023 8061 1953

Fri 31 Mar High Royds RnR Club High Royds Social Club, Menston, Otley, W.Yorks LS29 6AQ **Juke Box Jive** Flashback Billy 07818 246823

Fri 31 Mar Junction 27 RnR Annesley Social Club, Derby Road, Annesley (A611), Notts **Starcats** Dave B 0115 953 4918

Fri 31 Mar South Wales RnR Club British

Legion Club, Penlline Road, Whitchurch, Cardiff, S.Wales **Rob Dee and the Fury Sound** Crazee Dave 029 2061 9271

Fri 31 Mar The Pavilion 135 Battersea Park Road, Battersea, London SW11 **TTs** 020 7622 4001

Fri 31 Mar Warners - Hayling Island S i n a h Warren, Hayling Island, Hants **Slammers Maximum Jive Band** 0870 601 6012

Fri 31st Mar Rock-Ola Paddocks Long Lane Canvey Island Essex **The Reservoir Cats** 01268 794734

PLEASE NOTE  
deadline for gig listings is the  
15th of the month  
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thanks.

# ROCKIN' AT THE LEGION

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# RHYTHM & BLUES REVIEWED

## Diary of a Rhythm Riot Sax Man - 2005 Part Two (of three)

To re-cap, I was the lucky tenor sax player in the Kings of Rhythm house band at the Rhythm Riot 2005, and with the first night out of the way (backing Shirley Gunter and L'il Rachel) the pressure was starting to ratchet up for the Saturday night show featuring Warren Storm (USA) and Roy Gaines (USA). Warren is known as the King of the Louisiana Dance Halls, and with bloomin' good reason. He had his first hit in 1958 with the Prisoners Song, and extended his career by working as a session musician (drums) for the likes of Slim Harpo, Lazy Lester and Lightnin' Slim. Roy Gaines is a Texas r&b blues guitar legend. He has worked with world class acts such as Ray Charles, Chuck Willis, Roy Milton, Junior Parker and the one and only Billie Holiday, as well as recording extensively for many labels, including RCA Victor.

But let's get post-gig Friday night out of the way first. Bloater and Lisa are still knocking back the hard stuff like sailors on shore leave, while at the bar Al (bass) was looking unbelievably cool and relaxed and every inch the groovy geezer he is. Matt (k'bd's) was in the sights of a femme fatale that has honorary membership of the Canadian Mounties because she always gets her man, Bomber (drums) was fighting the rockin' pneumonia and boogie woogie flu for real, and Mr Baritone Sax Pete (ready, steady,) Cook was watching us all get slowly 'mellow' and wondering if we'll ever grow up...

With the nights excesses out of the way, come Saturday midday and Pete and I are comparing notes for the show. That means playing every song on a portable cd player, checking our music for accuracy and arranging our charts to co-ordinate harmonies and solos. Warren Storm's material was fairly standard but also had a couple of haunting r&b numbers that I had not heard before. Incidentally all his song titles (16 in total) are in the following, sorry, letter home...

Dear Mama Mama,  
Send me some lovin'. I'm so sick and tired, and

I've shed so many tears over Lucille, Matilda and Fannie. May Mr Sand Man come for these lonely, lonely nights. Now I hear the prisoners song, it's time to slow down, With only sweet little sixteen years to go, I thank you so much, honest I do, your ever lovin' son...Back to the gig.

With music under one arm and saxophone under the other I made way over to the ballroom for rehearsals. Not as easy as it sounds. Given the poor weight distribution I could manage right turns only, which made for an interesting route. In the field next to the site I met some very hip sheep ('born to flock' ) and you'd be surprised at their knowledge, Regulars had been 'freeloading' next to the Rhythm Riot for some years now and were looking forward to the nights entertainment. On the way home that night I swapped arms and took a left turn only route home so ended up missing any criticism.

On stage at the ballroom Warren Storm was a complete gentleman. He was totally relaxed, playing a little drums to get into the swing of things and putting us all at ease. He knew all his material and before long he was calling solos from us as and when it fitted and making sure that we all felt comfortable. The point being that the recorded versions were just a guide for the performances. Warren said up front that if he felt - in the heat of battle - that an additional solo was musically apt, he'd call it. This suited us as we were all experienced enough to keep ears and eyes open to look for cues. His show was goin' to be just fine. And later that night it duly was. Warren sang extremely well, confidently and with the authenticity that makes most of the visiting USA acts that little bit special. His experience fed across to us and it went very smoothly from start to finish. Solid. Which was a completely different approach to our next guest.

Roy Gaines was scary. But good scary. By that I mean his show was going to be virtually completely unpredictable. To explain...

For preparation Bloater had supplied us with recordings of the songs the that the acts were going to perform, plus, where available, already written arrangements in the form of musical charts. It was down to us individually to fill any



gaps. Roy Gaines supplied charts for the bulk of his set, plus a few extras for songs of which there were no recordings. But come the rehearsal... the wily old guy.

He came into the Ballroom as we were setting up for the rehearsal and sat to the side with his assistants while we assembled and blew a few notes to warm up. (Incidentally, the horns - that's Pete and I - were augmented by a trumpet player from the USA who'd been booked to play with Stompy Jones later in the evening). Things were taking shape on stage and Roy shuffled on, shaking hands with us and getting his gear plugged in etc.. A few chords later and I knew, I just knew that this was going to be a completely different experience to any thing I'd had before. I've played with some of the UK's 'top' blues guitarists but here was the Real Thing. Roy was going to command this performance in the way that they must have done 'back home' in the USA when things got serious.

I knew all this because after we'd played the first song from the arrangements that had already been supplied (the modern printouts), Roy suddenly turned to a dog-eared folder of music that he'd placed down near his amplifier and pulled out pages of yellowing old manuscript that he proceeded to distribute.

Roy handed me this page of music and I could not believe what I was looking at. This stuff must have been handwritten forty years ago and covered in the jottings that us (horn) guys make on charts for guidance. These were first hand charts (not photocopies) with pencil marks, inky scribbles and frayed at the edges. The Real Parts. In my crazy imagination I wished that I was handling charts that Ray Charles' band might have played. Could David 'Fathead' Newman actually have looked at this as I am now?

So Roy had tested us out on the predictable stuff, and obviously thought that he'd stretch us a bit with the Real McCoy. Songs that could run for chorus after chorus while never losing the power to grip. Simmering with intent, ready for the next musical turn. And I'm so glad he did. I want to learn how it should be done. I want to learn from these guys who have been setting the standard since the 50's. Years and years of one night stands, honing their playing skills along side the real magic dust of stage craft. Taking the audience with you into an experience, a show, not just a succession of songs. Reading the audience,

seducing them, taking them with you on a journey, surprising them, drawing them closer, 'till it all becomes a feeling, with one collective consciousness resting above us all. Not just songs, but a show. That takes real skill, and I believe it's a dying art. I want to see, hear and absorb the skills that these increasingly rare entertainers have spent their lives honing. I was going to play my part, but was also at school, and happy to be there.

And sure enough, on the night he took the risk of plunging us all into the way it was done - is being done - by those that really play from the soul. He played some of the arranged material but was more inclined to launch the band off into 'heads', 'choruses', 'horn riffs' and 'cued ends' that had been run through at the rehearsal. It's vital to be alert (and musically sophisticated enough) as part of this collective, to feel when you should be adding, and when to 'sit out'. So when Roy cues the horns, you add riffs from the original charts or solo as required always mindful of being musical at all times, providing appropriately harmonised lines on the spot. However, for me, sadly, on that night, I didn't play as well as I would have liked. No obvious mistakes, but there were solo spots that I would have loved to have filled but did not feel confident enough to do so. Mike, on trumpet, took some good solos but in the section work I reckon Pete and I did the business.

Roy knew how to work the audience and received an well earned ovation from the crowd, leaving them and us (the musicians) wanting more, even though that night didn't 'take off' to the degree in which I've described above. But I do know that there are those possibilities, and in that situation, that is what I think we should strive for. Fundamentally, Roy Gaines is a legendary r&b guitarist for goodness sake and I don't think he'd tolerate doing it any other way.

Finally offstage and with a few beers consumed to 'come down', it was off into the darkness. With music under one arm, saxophone under the other and clutching a map of the site in my teeth, now it was left turns only back to the chalet and a good nights sleep before tomorrow nights climax with the Five Keys and a night I'll never forget. For me, the best was yet to come...

## Tim Chimes

**Band:** Juke Joint Jump  
**Event:** Jive Weekender 1, Horseshoe Inn, Windmill Hill, E.Sussex  
**Date:** 4th February 2006

A chance to dance the night away is not to be missed especially when the band, formally known as the Bus Stop Boys, are providing the entertainment. The event was an Allways Music weekender organised and compered by that one man impressario Strollin' Steve Ashdown, who worked his rocks off to put on three evenings of good solid jiving entertainment. The Horseshoe Inn was the hosting venue, with a good size room, dance floor and adjoining bar. The jivers were staying at the York Hall hotel some 25 minutes away and were ferried in by coach to the dance hall, which was apparently more suitable than the ballroom provided within the accomodation. I estimated that there were circa 300 people attending, more than enough to create a good atmosphere but not too packed to allow collisions on the dance floor. After an hour or so of spinnin' the wax, Steve took to the mike and announced the Band. The newly formed ex BSBs opened up with a pacy "Nosey Joe" with driving rhythm provided by Ollie on slap bass and Paul on drums, accompanied on boogie piano by Matt Empson (Big Town Playboys & Otis Grand) with ex-Slammer Barry Few & Hemsby horn, Alex Bland on trumpet and tenor and Mr. Ian Gillon Jnr leading from the front on guitar. The sets comprised of classic numbers such as "Messin' With Kid", "My Girl From Kokomo" & "Morning Noon & Night" familiar to Bus Stop fans plus "Reet Petite & Gone", "Big Fat Mamas Are Back Again", "Bootsie" and a superb piece of piano work demonstrated during "Chicken & The Hawk". A few Gillon Jnr



penned tunes including the slow blues of "Can't Do Right For Doing Wrong" and two rhumba/mambo numbers "Hot Cuban Heat" & "Jokers Wild" were also played with great aplomb. The dance floor was packed from the off and tempos were regulated to ease the newer dancers on the scene, onto the floor. The band brought their energetic show to an end with "Chicken Shack Boogie" but were begged back for an encore which they duly supplied.

I have enjoyed seeing the Bus Stop Boys over the past 6 years or so and was pleased to see that the reincarnation as Juke Joint Jump still had that fun and slightly sassy side to their swinging R'n'B. Having enjoyed Ocean's Seven the previous night and with the Jive Aces on the Sunday, Strollin' Steve must have bruises from all the pats on the back.

### The Cat in the Hat

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# TOP TEN



## DJ BOPPIN' VIC

I've been into Rockabilly from the first time I heard it. Listening to my brother and his friends playing their records when I was just a kid. The Sounds of Buzz & The Flyers, Restless & The Blue Rhythm Boys lit the fire that still burns today.

I Listen to a lot of rockin' music from Rockabilly to wild 50's & 60's Rock'n'Roll Scorchers. Rockin' Blues and Rhythm 'n' Blues. If it moves my feet I listen to it. I'm an avid record collector and love searching for something new to play all the time. I hate hearing the same old stuff year after year.

I started DJing in NYC in the Early 90's during the second US Rockabilly revival. I was spinning Records at various Bars & Clubs around the city till I finally got a regular night at a popular night club. Coney Island high in the Village (NYC's Camden) Where I had a monthly record hop with live bands It was called Dixie Frieday and was the first regular rockabilly club in NYC since the 80's revival Around the same time is when I was asked to DJ The Denver Rock'n'Rhythmbilly Weekender in Denver, Colorado. Soon after I was Djing abroad in the UK at Hemsby & The Rockabilly Rave which was a big thrill for me because no Americans ever Djed these events before and I was also djing amongst DJs that I liked & respected, Mouse, Dave Crozier, Cosmic Keith, Tall Mark, Jerry Chatabox, Big Daddy, Collins Kids, Flattop Bros. and my spliffy friend Blaster plus many more.

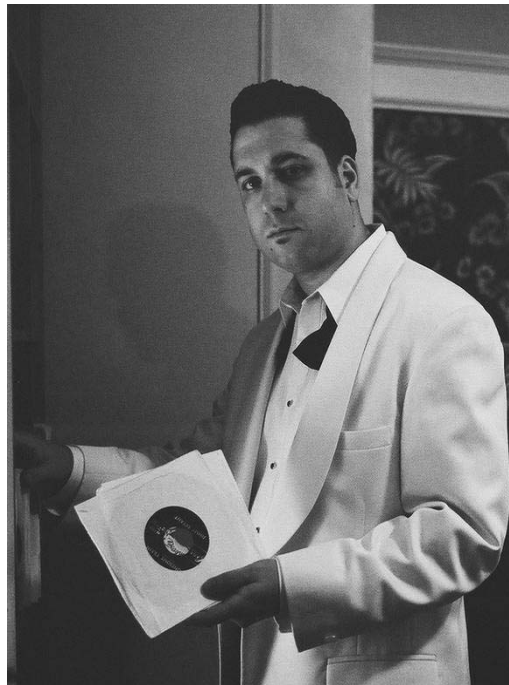
I've been DJing everywhere and anywhere since. Every Viva Las Vegas since 2000, The High Rockabilly in Spain & many others I now have a new rockin' night with my partner in crime Flatfoot Seb in NYC called the

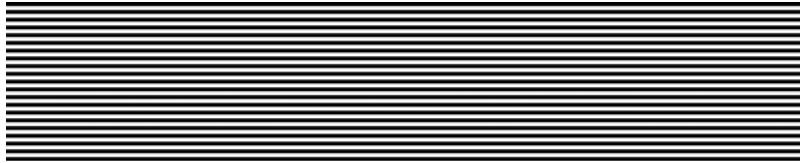
Sunday Night Rockabilly Show, it's a monthly gig with guest record hops and bands from around the country & Europe. For more info you can check out our website at [www.gethottorgohome.com](http://www.gethottorgohome.com)

I'll Be DJing the Rockabilly Rave (UK) in March 06' VLV (USA) April 06' & Portugaloha (PT) in Aug 06'

My Recent Top Ten Songs in no order!

1. Number Nine - I'll cry instead
2. Elvis Presley - Such A Night
3. Jay McCoy - Everybodys Lookin'
4. Mean Devils - Trappin Arms
5. Bobby Nelson Quartet - There Ain't Nothin' About You
6. Star Mountain Dreamers- Rockin Bandit
7. Santos - Juicy Fruit
8. Hi-Strung Ramblers - All that I Need
9. Nick Curran - Shot Sown
10. Jimmy Null - My Girl





Fat Cat Lee of **The Fat Cat Trio** has had one of his nine lives tested whilst tackling a moving transit van. Now with one leg plastered and the other in a brace he and the band plan to launch the bands new CD at the B52 Diner Rochford on the 18th march in traditional Fat Cat style! and I will resist the legless comments!!!! See it to believe it legless or otherwise the Fat Cat Trio rocks on!

**Kent's Acacia Ballroom** plays host to the best of Europe when *Black Raven* (GER) *Mean Streak* (UK) feat. Johnny Angel Teddy Guitar & CIA (FIN) *Rebels Revenge* (NOR) *Cast Iron Arms* (FIN) *The Cosh Boys* (FIN) + GUESTS take to the stage in an attempt to educate us brits in the finer points of rockin'. Dj. Pete Bruce (UK) Dj. Tongue-Tied Danny (UK) will be spinning the wax ACACIA BALLROOM, HIGH STREET, DARTFORD, KENT. 3.p.m - 1. a.m. Admission £15. SAT 1st April 2006 + Pete Bruce Record Stall ( cd's, vinyls, patches, buckles, badges, etc.etc. ) - more info: Pete Bruce ( UK ) pete-bruce@msn.com TEL. 01322-407110 or - more info: Eddie Laakso ( Finland ) ed.crownfirerec@surfeu.fi TEL.+ 358 40 8292 347 www.crownfirerec.4-all.org

**Black Knight On the Air** .Lasse Jonsson drummer in the Swedish Rock'n'Roll act called BLACK KNIGHTS, hosts a weekly RADIO SHOW called "RIP IT UP!" Rock`n`Roll/Rock-A-Billy/Blues/Swing/Zydeco/Cajun both from the 50`s but also the great stuff from the bands of today! This Shows sends now on two radio stations,

RADIO BERG in Jamtland, north Sweden and "FOLKRADION" sent from Gavle, middle of Sweden, and in about two weeks, two more stations are gonna send it, both these stations are sending in the North Sweden..

Lasse needs help to keep this Show up to date, so if bands want to send me CD's, Demos, information about festivals and so on.Then send to

RIP IT UP c/o LASSE JONSSON Forsgärdet  
108 Enviksbyn 790 26 ENVIKEN

SWEDEN E-MAIL rawrhythm@hotmail.com

### **DOCUMENTARY CELEBRATING LEGENDARY ROCK 'N' ROLL PIONEER ARTIST WANDA JACKSON**

*EVERY NIGHT IS SATURDAY NIGHT*, a high-definition documentary that tells the unsung story of rock 'n' roll pioneer Wanda Jackson.

The production team follows the 68-year-old Jackson and her husband/manager Wendell Goodman as they perform in Maine, New York City, Oklahoma City, Washington D.C., honky tonks across the South, and overseas in Sweden and Finland. The film will wrap production in Los Angeles with a concert by Jackson at Amoeba Records in Los Angeles, celebrating the CD release on Feb. 1, 2006. Post-production of *EVERY NIGHT IS SATURDAY NIGHT* is set to finish in summer 2006. The many performers Jackson toured with, highlighted in archival footage, include: Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash and Jerry Lee Lewis. Jackson's early music has recently been immortalized on screen in the Golden Globe winning Johnny Cash movie biopic *WALK THE LINE* which featured her song, "Fujiyama Mama." Presley, whom Jackson dated, was influential in Jack-



# NEWS

son's choice to move from country music to the male-dominated world of rockabilly.

Another Elvis, *Elvis Costello*, will also be featured in the documentary, as an outspoken advocate of inducting Jackson into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Costello recently penned a letter to the nominating committee urging it to induct Jackson, who, in his words, "was standing up on a stage with a guitar in her hands and making a sound that was wild and raw as any rocker, man or woman." "We're setting out to change that and hope this film will finally generate the buzz needed to get her inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame." "Our film takes the audience from the very beginning of Jackson's rock 'n' roll career to present day," "Wanda is still relevant in the music world today, and she's still rocking the house wherever she performs."

Watch this space for news of a release date.....

## Barbara's Vote of Thanks

I am actively petitioning the US Postal Service to issue a stamp for my husband, Roy Orbison in honor of what would have been his 70th Birthday. This is a grass roots campaign from my heart and I am calling on everyone that loved Roy and his music. In political circles, the petition I have circulating the US House of Representatives is nearly complete including a personal letter of support from the President of the United States!

I have an on-line petition which now has over several thousand names and I want to thank all the people who have taken the time to VOTE FOR ROY.

And now...I am asking you TODAY...to please VOTE FOR ROY by simply going to the below link, scroll down and then click on to sign petition and join some of Roy's friends like Olivia Harrison, Bono, Will Jennings, Dan Aykroyd, Pamela Anderson and many others. Thank you for your vote and thank you for forwarding this request to all of your friends.

All my Love,

Barbara Orbison

[www.petitiononline.com/royvote/petition](http://www.petitiononline.com/royvote/petition)



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## Furious

2005 saw established bands quaking in their boots as crazy kids living to a wild rock n roll beat took to the stage. Furious a four piece band all of whom are 18 and under guested at two of the most well known weekends on the scene , blew the crowd away and haven't looked back since. Now with their sights well and truly set on a career in the rockin' music biz mad rat mag tracked them down for that exclusive interview....

Furious Are: Brothers Andy and Mark, Laura all of whom are original members and Oli who is still settling in as their new drummer, the band were originally called The Spoils.

We spoke to Andy who gave us the gen on the new kids on the rock!!!!

Your very young and obviously brought up on the scene, I assume you went willingly and do you all have family members that are rockin' who in your families have been the biggest influence.

*We're not young! We're gettin on a bit now yano! Marks just turned 18 haha!!! Well I*



*cant say we were brought up on the scene, there isn't one where we live. We basically found our dad's old records and loved that wild sound but Oli our new drummer had never heard a rock n' Roll record until we*

*knocked on his door and said be in our band! Its all new to him and he's loving it! Our dad has been our main influence, he cant play an instrument or anything, he was just a bit of a headcase Ted... Without him we probably wouldn't have heard any of this music...*

At what age did you all first decide to pick up an instrument and why did you pick the instruments you did? ...

*When I was four years old, my Ma & Da took me to see Chuck Berry! That Christmas I got a guitar, it was from the tip, I was soo made up but it took me a few years to properly start playing it... Mark's been singing all his life. Still wont stop! keeping me awake about every night... Laura's been going to see bands with her dad for a long time and she just had to pick up that double bass, she started playing when she was 13!...And Oli started playing drums four years ago when he was living in Zambia, he wanted to play guitar but in his school they got free drum lessons...*

Who is the leader and who has the last say in what musical content goes in the set

*I can't say there is a leader or a last say, if we like something we just play it. As long as we all like it, it goes in the set.*

Individually your influences are very strong, can you choose a bandstyle from the current scene that you would choose to emulate?

*We don't really wanna emulate another band, we try to put our own stamp on the music and do it our own way. But Crazy Cavan, Sandy Ford and Darrel Higham are people we look up to.*

How do you think audiences reception of Furious compares to you and the reception you give to your favourite band?

*It's hard to say because everywhere we go the audiences are completely different. Before we got our first gig on the scene we played to about every different kind of audience you can think of. I think the audiences are getting more and more like the ones of our favourite bands though, they like to stand, shout, sing and dance, well do anything they like really. We keep getting told our gigs are like being in the 70's again, not the way we play, but they say they feel the same excitement... we weren't even born then so we cant compare haha*

Have you any plans to join the gigging army and travel across the UK and Europe or will you be staying close to home?

*I think we've just joined the gigging army, we've been playing all over the country in the last few months trying to get our name about. Its weird hearing all these strange accents haha. We've found the long journeys are a killer though, last week we got home at 4 in the morning and I was up at 6 for work. We would love to do some local gigs but its hard, no one wants to hear 50's music where we live. We did actually play a local one not long ago right in the centre of town in between all the dance clubs with another young local band called Blue Demon. It was a rough club but it was great to see a packed club full of young people all there just to hear some rockabilly. Apparently it was the first real Rock n' Roll night in Liverpool since the 80's.*

*Playing in Europe would be great. We keep hearing stories and seeing pictures from gigs over there... actually a bike gang from Spain sent us a DVD and Rock n' Roll looks very much alive and well in Europe, we would love to see what its like for ourselves...*

Do you have plans for a cd?

*We do! We're currently writing our own stuff, if anyone has seen us live they might have heard a few in our set. When we have enough material, we're happy with them and the new drummer has settled in, we wanna get a demo out to a few recording studios.*

Can promoters get a demo?

*Yes! it's a bit rough because it was recorded live off a camcorder but its got us a few gigs!*

Do you have many gigs at the moment?

*Yea, its about one a week. We've been through a busy phase the last few weeks sometimes doing 4 gigs in a week. But it averages out at about one a week.*

Has anyone from the rockin scene helped you, promoters etc,

*Yea! Sandy took a chance with us putting us on at Skeggy in September when we were completely un-known and Ritchie Gee has helped us loads too! He got us playing at the Xmas Party in pakefield and even got us to do a bit in a film with Mick Green (Guitarist out of Johnnie Kid's Pirates)! Poor Boy Paul is another one, he put us on at the very beginning and he has helped us out with equipment etc. We really appreciate absolutely everything people have done for us!*

Where would you like to be in ten years from now?

*In ten Years..... We'd love to have a tour bus that doesn't break down haha. It'd be great to turn up to gigs and people are there just to see us play what we wanna play. We'd love to have a following, DJ's playing our songs and hopefully still having as much fun as we are now.*

**Mad Rat Mag**

# RECORDINGS



**Band:** The Cat Pack  
**Title:** It Ain't What You Do  
**Label:** Raucous Records

The short intro of The Man With The Golden Arm sets the scene for this album by The Cat Pack 2 trumpets 4 trombones 2 saxophones, drums, bass, guitar and piano.... big beat big sound big band with tracks ranging from Honey Hush to These Boots Are Made For Walking through It Ain't What You Do this is well presented, great sounding get up and dance good time music.

Intricate and imaginative arrangements of some classic rockin' make this a CD of pure class. A bit of everything on this album all rockin' styles covered all treated to a big band sound that apart from the obvious swing/blues orchestras that wont be mentioned the album is incomparable to anything that I have heard recently, I would love to see this live.....With emotive vocals from Darren Juvie, Lisa George, Roman Marek and Katie Ashby with some pretty hot self penned numbers and a spattering of un sung covers, On Revival Day not one you hear a band do often, if at all. On the inside of the cover there are pictures of no less than 35 musicians and vocalists quoted as being the people behind the music well that's a production and a half. There are infectious tracks that get your feet tapping and your love of the music pumping through your veins then there are tracks that ooze sex and get your love of a better half pumping through your veins every track will see you with a new emotion. Now musically I wouldn't know a crochet from a quaver but I know what I like and I loved this although quarter to midnight and headphones is definitely not the way to listen to this album its almost sacrilege not to share this album .

So now Mad Rat Team I am claiming this CD as my personal property. Possession is nine tenths of the law.... GO BUY YOUR OWN! This CD is available from [www.raucousrecords.com](http://www.raucousrecords.com) RAUCD180 Can someone tell me what the CD launch party was like, oh yeah and when you have listened to track 16 don't be in too much of a hurry to turn it off.....Mad Rat Missus says she can't pick a favourite and she definitely can't find a weak track. There's not a bum note or even a spelling mistake and the cover picture is cute too.

**Mad Rat Rating 4/5 - you lose a point for launching it so far away !**

**Kwiff Kwipps (#5)**

**by the Sherriff**







# THE RAT PACK

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*New opening time: 1st Saturday of the month 11am - 6pm*



# The DUKE's Rockabilly Raves

## A Lightning Tour, part two Austin, Texas

Having almost recovered from our Mardi Gras experience (see last month's piece), my new wife and I headed west, Texas bound! Our destination was Austin. I wanted to show Fi the places I'd been raving on about for years, 6th Street, the 'Continental Club', the 'Broken Spoke' and the Austin Motel and its famous sign! We booked a few days at the motel, which is situated on South Congress Ave. (the 'up and coming' part of town) and we made it our base while we stayed.

My first visit to Austin was back in '94. I went there with my buddy Took's in search of great live rockabilly and country music from the local bands and artists. We stayed back then at a rather run down motel, the San José Hotel (which we affectionately called 'El Dumpo') in a much neglected part of South Congress Ave. The whole area at the time was basically a red light district with drug dealers and shady looking characters galore. But it did have one good point; it was within easy reach of 6th street.

I first of heard of this famous music strip on Ray Campi's Rollin' Rock 45 'Rockin at the Ritz'. Ray sang about the bands he'd seen performing there in the late 1940's and early 1950's, and I was drawn to this place via his music. I wanted to know more about bands and singers from Austin and the ones that were attracted there and I made it my goal way back then to get there at some point in my life.

South Congress back in '94 didn't have much (apart from the Continental Club) in the way of music bars to keep us entertained, so a quick look in Austin's local music magazine and we discovered 'Big Sandy and his Flyrite Boys' were playing at 'La Zona Rosa', a club

at 612 West/4th Street. The best thing about touring bands that come to Austin is that they attract the local singers and musicians to their gigs, and once they're spotted in the audience they're invited up to perform a song or two. Thankfully that night was no different. I got to hear for the first time the likes of Wayne ('the train') Hancock, Marti Brom and Sean Mencher of 'High Noon'. Big Sandy was touring and promoting his C.D. 'Jumpin' From 6 to 6' (which is still in my opinion is his best C.D.), so the set was full of great rockin' numbers. Mixed with the excellent atmosphere at the venue and the added bonus of extra guest singers, I would rate that as one of the best gigs I've ever attended. Chatting with Wayne after his guest spot I found out he was playing the very next day at 'Babes', a restaurant/music bar on 6th street. The following night we were treated to four hours of rockabilly/honky-tonk music, with the then unsigned Wayne playing for tips.

Two years on and the next trip to Austin we saw some changes beginning to take place on South Congress. The San José Motel (and cockroaches) had been sold and renamed the 'Hotel San José'. Things were changing for the better; the derelict buildings were being bought and turned into shops and restaurants and with the arrival of the 'South by Southwest' music festival the streets of South Congress were being reclaimed from the drug dealers and pimps. And you now saw sights such as 'First Thursdays', late night shopping mixed with street musicians that attracted visitors from near and far.

Following these (and a couple more) trips to Austin, I had been wishing for sometime to take Fi there. Our honeymoon across America seemed like the perfect opportunity, so when making plans, we tacked on a third week to 'do Texas'.

When we arrived, in February 2005, we were greeted with warm weather and a vibrant South Congress (called 'SoCo' by so-called trendy folk) much had changed from when I first saw it eleven years earlier. I think my wife was impressed with what she saw and a little pleased not to find the motel with uninvited little bugs (I use to wax lyrical about my fights with cockroaches, using Tooks' shoes as a weapon). The Austin motel has 'themed' rooms. This time we were treated to one with a 'swinging Sixties'/ mod theme. How we laughed. What's more, there is a cat called Troy who hangs around in reception. Themed rooms and cats are for Fi two vital ingredients for good accommodation.

Our first port of call was a new vintage clothes/fancy-dress store called 'Lucy in Disguise'. I noted all the shirts (from £8 - £12) and jackets (£13 - £25) I would buy before I left and was amazed by the low prices! We stopped for a drink at Jo's, a coffee shack that shares the car park with the Hotel San José. They have live bands and movies there in the car park. It was where I saw Libbi Bosworth play when I was there in 2001, and it's also next door to our Motel. Plus the Continental Club is just across the road, so we looked forward to a relaxing and enjoyable time for our first night in Austin. The sub zero temperatures of New York seemed far away.

In the evening we went to see Dale Watson at the Continental Club. Now if you like real country\*, this guy is for you. His main influence is Merle Haggard and there was the customary tribute in his set, but most of it consisted of original material. The packed venue was also an indication of how well this local musician is liked. It was my first time seeing Dale and I enjoyed the show, but for purist rockabillys it may not appeal.

The following day we barhopped along 6th Street. Many of the bars had changed beyond all recognition from the first time I drank there. A particular favourite of mine was the 'Hang 'Em High Saloon'. It is now a video sports bar and the music of Hank and Elvis has been

replaced with more modern sounds. Babes' looked and felt the same, as did Emo's and Shakespeare's bar. After an evening meal, we hailed a cab and headed for 'The Broken Spoke' to catch a set from 'The Derailers'. Every time I'm in Austin I make a point of always visiting this excellent honky tonk dance hall. It was built in 1964 by James White, a country music fan looking for something to do with his life, after a career in the forces. James still owns and runs the establishment. There are three main parts to the venue. The front 'welcome' bar has booths and tables where you can enjoy a meal, and the dance hall/ band venue in the rear. But before you enter the dance hall you can check out the tourist trap. A room set aside with hats, guitars and photos of all that have played (Bob Wills, Ernest Tubb, Willie Nelson and George Strait to name a few) at the Spoke past and present. Everybody dances in Texas, (well everyone except me), and if you love to dance and like real country music then this is the place for you.

Because of our limited time we left Austin after three days, we would have stayed longer, but with more travelling and friends to visit in Llano our time stateside was drawing to a close.

Our last port of call was the Fort Worth Stockyards and a look around Billy Bob's, a large venue where you can watch live gigs (I saw Dwight Yoakam play there in 2001) and rodeos, before our flight out of Dallas and home.

## Duke

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\*By real country I'm talking Hank Williams, Johnny Cash, Merle Haggard, George Strait and Alan Jackson. Not the pop influenced stuff that Nashville pours out now.



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