

THE AMBER HERD

**NOTTINGHAM LIVE AT SEVEN • GHOSTS WEAR CLOTHES
• THE DEATH NOTES • THE CENTRAL • BIZARRE FESTIVAL
• HOCKLEY HUSTLE • I'M NOT FROM LONDON**

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Editors Welcome

Hi, thanks for downloading issue 2 of our e-zine, I hope you enjoy it.

Firstly thanks to all those who checked out issue one, the feedback has been great and makes all the hard work seem worth while.

As for issue 2 well we think we have bought you and even better issue this time with a host of features and articles. We have a cracking feature on local band The Amber Herd, who tell us how they got started, how they got their name and how they are not to be confused with a certain adult actress.

Will Robinson, from local promoters I'm Not From London, has joined us as a regular columnist, the first of which you can read on page 28 of this magazine. We are pleased to have Will

on board and look forward to bringing you his monthly column.

Nathan Stone has also come on board, a local writer; Nathan brings us a great feature on the high energy Ghost's Wear Clothes, which we are sure you will enjoy reading.

We also have a feature on last months Hockley Hustle with contributions from Will Robinson and The Amber Herd who were both involved in the event, while Deborah Harry brings us a review of new venue The Central and a performance featuring Luxury Stranger.

Last month also saw the launch of Nottingham LIVE at SEVEN and we have a feature and some great pics from the event, the next one is on November 24th and

features Scarletts Wake, The Amber Herd and Ghost's Wear Clothes, all for just £3, we hope to see you there.

We also have some great pics from various shows this month, all contributed by a selection of great photographers, including Steve Rowe, Steve Fisher and Ricki Lage and we thank them for allowing us to use their pics and encourage you to check out their work.

That's all for now, I hope you enjoy this issue and don't forget if you have any suggestions or would like to be involved in this magazine please get in touch by emailing darren@nottinghamlive.co.uk.

Thanks and see you on the 24th

Daz

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The LIVE Team

EDITOR: Darren Patterson

ADVERTISING EDITOR: Geri Richardson

EVENT CO-ORDINATOR: Dave Patterson

CONTRIBUTORS: Will Robinson, The Amber Herd, Deborah H Barry, Nathan Stone, Steph Kirkup, Holly Cassidy

PHOTOGRAPHS: Steve Rowe, Ricki Lage,

Steve Farmer

ORIGINAL CONCEPT: John Semak

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'Shh'

Charity Burlesque Night

Thurs 03 December

Bjoux Burlesque and the Burlesque Belles presents 'Shh'. A night of Burlesque with Proceeds going to Breast Cancer Care and NSPCC.

The Charity Burlesque night will delight in an image of glamour, mischief and sauciness, and rest assured the ladies attract a sophisticated following. So dress to impress and support the Burlesque Belles in their first performance.

Hosted by:

Angel Lavey & Wanda Handful

Performances by:

The Burlesque Belles
Wanda Handful

Venue: Cape Bar, Hockley, Nottingham

Prizes:

- 6 week beginners burlesque course - Bjoux Burlesque
- Free spray tan - Lemporio Hair & Beauty 01159412378
- Free nail set - Lemporio Hair & Beauty 01159412378
- Meal for 2 plus wine - Cape Bar plus more

The Burlesque Belles have been attending burlesque classes in Nottingham for less than 2 months and are amateur performers. For more information on classes email admin@theburlesquebelles.co.uk or call CLAIRE 07912 549924.

Tickets are only £5 and are available now from 'We Got Tickets'.

This is a paperless event so payment is to be taken online or directly with Claire Robinson.

Use the link below to purchase tickets
<http://www.wegotickets.com/event/63133>

A STRANGE DATE

Nottingham Punkers head to Germany

Popular Nottingham post-punk act Luxury Stranger are heading to Germany after networking efforts landed them a gig.

The fast rising band have landed a gig with veteran German punk outfit Die Art at their gig in Dresden in December.

Lead singer Simon York is, unsurprisingly looking forward to the gig:

"The Germany show came about via us basically getting in touch with various bands and booking agents who has similar sensibilities to us in Luxury Stranger. We had several dutch and german bands come back to us saying that they'd like us to go over and tour with them at some point in 2010.

"One particular band, 'Die Art' from Germany, asked us to come over and play in Dresden on the last night of their current tour (19th December) and also play a number of dates with them in Europe in 2010. 'Die Art' have been playing the post-punk circuit since 1986 and have that dark sound that we have and feeling that we'd compliment each other we jumped at the chance.

It's a great deal too as we're getting some decent money plus a posh place to stay in over the week we're over there! We might be also playing a few extra shows there to make it totally worth our while."

Jongleurs, the national comedy venue group, have closed their Nottingham venue as part of cost cutting measures after the firm slipped into administration.

The Castle Wharf venue was closed after administrators BDO announced it was closing the "worst performing sites"

Just The Tonic Comedy club have announced a cracking line up for their Xmas Show.

Benidorm & Ideal start Johnny Vegas will host the event, with acts confirmed so far being Jim Jeffries and Will Smith, with more acts to be confirmed.

The event takes place on Monday 21 December at The Royal Concert Hall with tickets costing £20, tel 0115 989 5555 for tickets.

RUNNING HORSE CLOSES

Last month we reported on the sad demise of local venue The Log-gerheads, now another popular local live music venue has followed suit in shutting it's doors.

The Running Horse at

Canning Circus has shut down amidst plans to sell the building, however the team from the Running Horse have launched The Central, a brand new live music venue in the heart of the city.

So while we are sad to see yet another popular and much loved venue close we are all excited by the launch of this new, bigger venue and what it will offer.

NOTTINGHAM GOES BIZARRE

A concoction of the unusual, weird and bizarre heads to Nottingham in December

Cassidy Event Management is proud to present Nottingham's first Bizarre Festival. Saturday 12th December 2009 from 8pm-2am. The Festival is organised by Cassidy Event Management and will be taking place at SEVEN Live Music Venue & Bar, 6 Ilkeston Road, Canning Circus, Nottingham, NG73GE

The Festival will be officially open with fire performers and stilt walkers greeting the audience with an outdoor performance at 7:30pm, everyone is invited to come along and enjoy this rare opportunity to get bizarre with live music from the theatricality and catchy-as-hell rock of Trioxin Cherry, the Punk/Theatrical/Rock style of Satnam Tash, Zadkiel will be playing some of the best Psychedelic Grunge/Indie Rock music you will ever hear.. and The Death Notes a female fronted, alternative rock band, producing dark melodic songs that have drawn comparison to Sonic Youth. The evening entertainments also include tattoos by Mad Tattooists, Double Entendres burlesque dancers with a natural flair for the stage, ann summers and other bizarre stalls and much much more!!!!!! I love surprises *evil laugh*. OVER 18S ONLY.

The Festival offers a great evening of adult entertainment with its live music, a host of bizarre delights and a chance to let your wild side show.

DRESS TO IMPRESS, the audience are encouraged to become part of the evening, we want twisted glamour. NO JEANS. NO TRAINERS!!!!!!

Nottingham is diverse in many ways, please show your support and come and take part in Nottingham's first Bizarre Festival, we want to build a strong following from all walks of life and attract a bigger audience each year, providing a boost to the city's diversity and highlighting the wonderful mix of communities living in Nottingham today.

Whatever your taste, there's bound to be something to entertain you!

For more information contact Holly Cassidy, Festival Co-ordinator on 07722142145 or email holly.cassidy@googlemail.com





WORTH WALKING UP A HILL FOR

by Steph Kirkup



The Maze has one of the most friendly and intimate atmosphere's for gigs and club nights in Nottingham and even in the depths of these Winter months there is always certain nights worth the walk up Mansfield Road (you can always pop into one of the dozen other boozers on the walk up to keep you warm!) so here is a brief guide to what's worth the walk in run up to Xmas!

Friday November 20th - Percussion Presents Royal Gala.....Percussion are a DJ collective from Nottingham who will be celebrating 7 years of bringing top disco party nights to the city at this gig! In their 7 year run they have hosted nights at some of the cities best venues including Junktion 7, Loggerheads, The Marcus Garvey and The Maze. They always bring a great range of dance worthy party music and have hosted all of Nottingham's top bands including in the past Wholesome Fish, Deep Sound Channel, Bison and Fists, and this birthday bash is no different with Royal Gala bringing their awesome mix of Latin, Breakbeat, Ska, Funk, Dirty Disco and Balkan dance!

Wednesday November 18th - Roses Kings Castle.....Adam Ficek, most commonly known to the general public for his day-job as drummer in notorious British rock act Babyshambles, comes to the Maze with his own unique catalogue of quixotic, chiming, and blissfully astute acoustic pop songs. Lost somewhere between Belle & Sebastian's pastoral warmth and the hallucinatory six-string invocations of Syd Barrett, a typical Roses Kings Castles track is buoyed by the finest elements of classic British songwriting; by turns wry, beautiful, and bizarre. Plus 3 of Nottingham's most

talented (Jake Bugg, James Mckay and Joe Slater) support.

Friday November 27th - Muzika Presents Alejandro Toledo and the Magic Tombolinos.....Known as one of the cities coolest underground club nights, Muzika brings a fully decked out room of wonderful gypsy delight to The Maze and this month has one of the hottest bands around playing in Alejandro Toledo! Frenzied Gypsy, Klezmer, Tango and Balkan music played on sax, drums, accordion, bouzouki, double bass and percussion, is bound to get you moving!

Saturday December 5th - Back To Basics.....this clubnight has been hailed as one of the best new nights of 2009. With a real roots feel DJs go back to back, all night long, with MCs playing roots reggae, ska and rocksteady. With close ties to Nottingham's legendary reggae promoters and DJs Highness Sound, back to Basics is the best excuse for a skank n grind you will get!

Sunday December 6th - An Evening with 'The Guitarist's of Little Feat Acoustic Duet'.....Two of Folk's most influential and talented artists, Paul Barrere and Fred Tackett first played together on the album 'Dixie Chicken' some twenty-five years ago, and since then have played together, or individually on numerous recording sessions for Little Feat and countless others, Bonnie Raitt, Taj Mahal, Bob Dylan, Tom Waits, Dionne Farris, and the Wallflowers to name a few. This should be a special night of intimate acoustic music.

Friday December 11th - Rubber Rooms Xmas Party.....Another great DJ night at the Maze celebrates Xmas in style. Expect

twisting on the dance floor and slicked backs on the hair dos as Rubber Rooms brings you a night of 50's Rock n Roll, Rockabilly, Dirty RnB and Old School Garage Rock!

Tuesday December 15th - Funhouse Comedy.....Monthly comedy night at the Maze with an X-Factor style competition with over 10 acts get voted on and off stage by the audience! Come have a giggle!

Friday December 18th - Revolution Sounds Xmas Charity Ball.....Nottingham's top promoter in Ska and Punk brings a special night raising money for The Friary in West Bridgford that helps homeless and unemployed people (among others) get their lives back on track. Music will be coming from some of the UK's best underground folk/punk including Jonny One Lung, Squab, Gecko, Liam O'Kane and Perkie.

See The Maze website www.themazerocks.com for full listings and details



**RUNNING
HORSE**

2010 WILL BE THE YEAR OF THE HERD

Cows are known for a number of things, producing milk and a tasty peice of meat are two things, flatulance being another, they have even made an impact n the movies what with the cow being whipped up in a tornado in Twister and hit by a car in Me, Myself and Irene, they are even immortalised in the catchphrase of one of televisions best loved cartoon characters, however to my knowledge they are not known for being they inspiration behind the names of many rock bands. That though is just the case for one Nottingham band - The Amber Herd, as the bands drummer Mark Lasbury tells us, "The Amber Herd is a name of a prize winning herd of dairy cattle in Derbyshire - Neil (Beards - acoustic guitar/vocalist) saw a sign for the Amber Herd dairy farm on his way to and from work and thought it would fit". The group are not however the

only Amber Herd you may have heard of "We are not to be confused with Amber Heard, who we believe is an actress in films you probably would not want to Google whilst at work!"

The Amber Herd are a group that developed over time, in fact they didn't actually start off as a band at all, "The Amber Herd started off as a solo project for Neil. He had written and recorded a few tracks for a solo album, and contributed a track to a Pink Floyd online covers album."

Then Neil was asked to perform at a Tribute concert for which he needed a full band line-up, and so he called on some old friends to help him out. Mark, and Rachel Edge (Piano, Synth & vocals) were long time friends of Neil's and only to happy to help and took along with them Paul Wentworth (guitars and vocals).

For a while the band didn't have a bassist until they met the ideal guy for the group, "a chance meeting at an acoustic gig at the (much missed) Loggerheads with Guy (Birkin), who we persuaded to come and join us."

The Herds first gig came three years back when they supported Made for Leaves at the Old Angel on Stoney Street, and the performance was anything but the usual fare, "We played an acoustic set of obscure Pink Floyd tracks - which I don't think the sound man at the angel was too impressed with." The gig though gave the guys the bug, and they haven't looked back since, though not all things have remained from that first gig, "It is the only time we have included a penny whistle in our line up - thank god!".

The Amber Herd have built up quite a fan base over the three years they have

been performing appearing regularly across Nottingham and at the likes of the Hockley Hustle. When ask to describe their sound the band tell us that, like many, they find it hard to do so without resorting to the "standard clichés", however they point us towards the kind of comments made in recent reviews about the band, which have described them as, amongst other things being like "alternative music when it was still alternative", a statement they are only to happy to agree with.

The band have a wide range of inspirations, with everyone in their band taking their inspirations from different sources, which they believe is for the best, "everyone in the band has very different inspirations - which we think helps to create the amber herd sound. These range from My Bloody Valentine, Neil Young, The Cure, folk, metal and electronica and everything in between".

For The Amber Herd this last year has been the busiest, and most successful to date, early in the year they released their first single, a double A-sider featuring the tracks "Stage Fright" and "Foot Tapper", while they also spread their wings when it came to performing, both in Nottingham where they "ticked off a lot of the venues on our wish list (including The Bodega, and Rescue Rooms)" and further a field "We've played outside of Nottingham, in Derby and Manchester, and have been well received."

The band have also received some great reviews and radio play, which have included featuring on the Nottingham Evening Post website's LIVE videocast.

After such a busy and successful year it is hardly surprising that, when asked

to pick, they choose a gig from this year as their best to date:

"We recently played at The Rescue Rooms supporting That Petrol Emotion which I think was our best gig."

For the band it enabled them to tick off one of the venue's they had always hoped to play in the city, "when we started we had a list of venues we wanted to play that we had never performed at in our previous bands, and Rescue Rooms was near the top of the list."

It also turned out to be one of them gigs where everything just comes together, despite the band having to make an amendment to the line up to perform:

"We had a great sound and it all seemed to work and come together, Unfortunately Guy couldn't play at this one, so we used a stand in bass player (Dean from Made of Leaves), who was awesome, but we would really like to do it again, with the full band."

If that was the best gig in the three year history of The Amber Herd, then what was the worst? For this band though it seems that all their gigs, no matter how small the crowd, or whatever the venue has been great, "we've been very lucky so far. We have played to 3 people, or in dodgy pub back rooms, but have always really enjoyed it."

We asked The Amber Herd what they thought of the Nottingham music scene, here's what they had to say:

"We recently played the Hockley Hustle, and this really showcased the wide range of amazing talent in Nottingham at the moment. There are some fantastic bands, promoters and venues in the city. We have lost some good venues in the City over the last year or so, but it is great to see some of them coming back, and new ones appearing. The music scene is very healthy with a really diverse range of talent. It is great to see some bands starting to get the recognition they deserve, such as Swimming, and this can only be good for the rest of us!"

With just under two months left of the year it seems the band have no intention of slowing down, as well as performing at the next Nottingham LIVE at SEVEN gig on November 24th the band also have a November date at legendary Notts pub The Olde Salutation, or The Sal, as it's known to its regulars. While in December they head into the recording studio before topping of the year at new venue The Central, a gig the band are definitely looking forward to.

"We're topping the year off on a high with a big show at the new Central venue in town with Luxury Stranger and In Isolation."

Meanwhile plans are already a foot for 2010 to ensure that it is even bigger than this year:

"Next year's plans are already coming together including gigs in London, and hopefully the release of an EP and album. We have a lot of songs we are working on and hope to get recorded and played live."

The band has high hopes for the next twelve months

"2010 will hopefully be the year of the herd!"

Luxury Stranger

www.luxurystranger.com

The Crypt @ The Old Angel Stoney Street, Nottingham

£3 (£2.50 w/NUS) 8pm, Friday 13th November 2009

Influenced by the sounds of post-punk / new wave from 1978 - 1984. Imagine: Bowie and Pop's Berlin years mixed with the disparate sound of Joy Division and early Cure with the melodies and power of The Chameleons - "This is Luxury Stranger".

"...the windswept grandiosity of classic line-up Echo and the Bunnymen". (ThisCity Magazine)
"...they just do the song thing so well and create the sort of record you should, depending on age, be cranking up before going out for the night. It's one of those perfect life-affirming collections". (Mick Mercer)

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Nottingham LIVE launched its live local gig night NOTTINGHAM LIVE AT SEVEN last month with three great local acts taking to the stage.

Though the turnout was not as we had hoped, the awful rain we had most of the afternoon not helping, those that did show up were treated to three cracking, and varied sets.

SCOTCH EGG opened the show at eight o'clock with what was there first proper gig and the impressive acoustic rockers overcame their nerves to offer up a cracking forty five minute set which included debut single "Travellin Man" and ended with a cover of Neil Young's classic.

Following on from Scotch Egg were hardcore rockers XPD, describing themselves as "Considerably worse than your band", XPD offered up a rousing, hard hitting sets with highlights including "Who killed Barack Obama".

The final band to take the stage were folk-fusion rock band DAX, this young band put on an cracking set that deserved better than the few people that were left come that point at night.

All in all a great night was had by all and Nottingham LIVE got of to a pretty solid start which we hope to build on. Nottingham has a rich plethora of talented bands and musicians but they need your support.

The next Nottingham LIVE at SEVEN takes place on Tuesday November 24 with sets from SCARLETS WAKE, THE AMBER HERD and GHOSTS WEAR CLOTHES. All for just £3.

NEW GENERATION SUPERSTARS, ARCANITE REAPER, and LIPSTIKK are so far confirmed for our gig on Tuesday 15 December. We hope to see you there!





Scotch Egg opened the very first Nottingham LIVE at SEVEN with their first ever gig, here they share their thoughts on how the event went:

What were your thoughts on the gig overall?

There is definitely room for improvement on the music and performance side, but these things only spring to mind once you have done the gig. Lets face it, it was our first of many more to come, so hopefully we can only get better and more confident, which we will.

What did you think of the atmosphere?

It was a good atmosphere, we were lucky to have the added bonus of family and friends there which always helps

Do you hope to play the Nottingham LIVE gig again?

Absolutely, it was good to interact with the other bands and learn from them which is important.

After getting your debut gig out of the way, do you have anymore shows lined up in the near future?

Well we are planning a few before Christmas and we are going into the studio in December to record the rest of the songs for our first album due out early next year which will be called "No Covers Required".

Other than gigs what is in the immediate future for Scotch Egg?

Mainly to improve on what we already have, the three of us gel really well together, particularly when it comes to song writing. We have written quite a few songs already and a handful in the pipeline. We are going to also integrate a few new instruments such as the Flute and Harmonica on a few of the new songs we are writing.

COMING SOON

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THE HOCKLEY HUSTLE

Nottingham's biggest all day music extravaganza took place recently, the charity event, spread out across a huge array of Hockley venues and supported by a large collection of figures from the local music scene the Hockley Hustle was a great day's entertainment.

Here some of those involved tell all about the day and what a huge event the Hustle is.



A DAY AT THE HOCKLEY HUSTLE

Will Robinson is on of the key figures behind local promotions group "I'm Not From London" who put on the events at The Pit & Pendulum at this years Hockley Hustle, here he recaps the day:

My phone is gone- typical, one thing I could do without losing the night before I'm putting ten acts on for The Hockley Hustle, Nottingham's biggest charity festival. Those pointless cocktails combined with my new phone being so small I sometimes think it's disappeared while it's in my pocket, frantic searching reveals nothing, maybe it's at my friend's house, we may have left it there before we went out last night. In one way it's a terrible thing, on the other hand I expect my day will actually be less stressed, no calls to get equipment the bands should have brought, no asking to swap slots and no venue owners telling me it's too loud and that I must cut the show short as health and safety regulations bla, bla, bla. The liberation of lost communication has begun!

Full fry up with as much meat as I can eat, protein is a good thing on a day like this and I'm very glad I did too as this turns out to be my only meal of the day.



I facebook my compadre's (Danny, Matt and Phil) the producers and soundmen from the studio to bring the P.A down to The Pit and Pendulum, grab my phone charger, order a taxi and pile it up with drums. I know nothing about drums, even less about sound. In a business like putting on gigs, the best way to deal with things is to surround yourself with people far more organised and reliable than yourself thereby negating both accountability and responsibility creating an almost serene order to the chaos. This doesn't always tend to be the case however.

I knock at my friend Nate's house and there is no phone to be found! Balls! Ok it's gone- write it off, no doubt some barfly thief is currently making numerous chatline phone calls to north Brazil at my expense. I knew I shouldn't have got a contract phone! We have a celebrational morning can of ale before setting out to set up the gig. I head to the Broadway after some banter with "Farmyard Records" who have their gig over the road at the Social. Adam Pickering, the organiser is dishing out the envelopes with the bands wristbands, meal tickets and expenses. The P.A needs to be paid for and some of the bands are travelling far so I make sure I keep the cash safe. It's all looking good for the day ahead, the weather is grey yet my spirit is sunny.

First up "The Eviltones", they check out the kit and turns out I need some cymbal stands- we have 20 mins before we plan to start so I run to Sneinton to pick them up, we get back and we're almost ready, the banner is up but the soundmen need gaffer tape and string, the cameramen need tapes so I run out and get these, only 40 mins running over at the moment. More bands come in and ask for their wristbands- I check my pockets- AAAAAARRRRRGHHI- Wristbands are gone, meal tickets gone, money...safe! In my confusion they have either been lost, misplaced, thrown away or some swine has stolen them. I run back to the Broadway and explain the situation, they replace them. Brilliant! Whoever stole that envelope will burn in hell for

eternity. The Eviltones thrash out their garage rock, the lead singer Matt is dressed in a white tuxedo and the sound is pretty amazing. Next up, post rockers from Derby, "Beyond This Point Are Monsters" amaze us with instrumental math rock tracks and clever stop starty rythms. "Alright The Captain" fresh from their tour of Ireland, as a band are tighter than most of the audience's trousers, Martin the lead guitarist helped book some of these acts through his night at Chameleon, "Butttopusher" and continuing the post rock theme "Monsters Build Mean Robots" from Brighton play an awesome set, I would advise most lovers of clever music to check out their myspace.

I go over the road to see how "Farmyard Records" is doing. Ali Bonsai is playing, his throaty blues and whisky inspired songs remind me of Tom Waits and Charles Bukowski novels. The day is going well, I get back to see "The Kull" playing their (in my opinion) best song to date "Amongst the trees", lead singer Andy Shipley has a haunting voice and the guitars with their eerie screeches only add to this, very appropriate considering the venue. So far the timing's going ok too, we're only half an hour behind compared to some of the other venues, next year I'm gonna do a sweepstakes. The trick with putting on an all day gig is to give an hour for each band. Something will always go wrong but in previous years I've learned the hard way that trying to get as many bands as possible on in the day by giving them 45 mins each (30 mins for the bands and 15 mins changeover) will often just annoy bands, venue owners and fans as someone normally has to cut their set short or out altogether. Leaving half an hour for changeover makes things much less stressful for all concerned which is always nice.

"Cuban Crimewave" are up next, the lead singer Nathan is getting ready backstage with black stripes on his face and a red Indian mohawk feather headgear, some of the audience are shocked as he opens his set by leaping into the crowd. The blend of garage rock

and punk are enough for anyone and want to mosh all the smaller people out of the way which is exactly what I end up doing, at 5 foot 6, Jay from Loggerheads and the drummer in the next band seems like the perfect victim so I find an appropriate launching pad and crash down on top of him. Although I didn't take into account, his natural love and propensity for violence (he's Scottish) and he throws me to the floor with ease laughing and still holding his pint. Undeterred by his mocking, I try once more, he does it again. I charge at him in frustration and eventually we fall messily on to the stage. Nathan's on the mic and walks over us pushing into the crowd. I leave sweeter than I entered and as the band finish I go to get a drink. "Hot Japanese Girl" are next up and "I'm Not From London's" first signing. I love their "Queens Of The Stoneage" inspired sleazy rock and roll and lead singer Ali Powers in studded leather jacket and feather boa (also in Dulcinea) has great showmanship often walking through the crowd and out the room whilst still singing (note to self- buy him a wireless mic). The rest of the band are resplendent in top hats and tails and considering this is only their second gig as a full band, pull off another blinder!

In all my gigs I like to add a bit of novelty to the proceedings, before we have had comedy boxing, mexican wrestling, seeing how many leprechauns and Santa Clauses you can fit in a cave, spankathons and fancy dress to name a few. I've always liked a bit of burlesque, a keen fan of "The Pitty Pat Club", I enjoy the cabaret aspect of it and ever since I was a baby I've always been an avid fan of breasts. Some of my friends have long been asking me to put them on as they have just formed a burlesque troupe "Gimme Danger" and I was so glad I agreed as their set was brilliant, a spin on dead celebrities as they paraded on the catwalk complete with nipple tassles and catfighting. Afterwards I thank them heartily whilst trying unsuccessfully to maintain eye contact.

I head down to film "Arboretum Records" gig at Brownes. The barman, Dick Dempsey fixes me a cocktail which with a long straw and umbrella is probably the best way to drink whilst filming. Tim's band "Leisure Class" is unsurprisingly very much on form, local soul artist Natalie Duncan is on the keys and we manage to film their first and last track which I would describe as Funky Indie rock but I don't think that pigeon hole really does them justice, check out their music yourself. Tim comes from a very musical background what with Nick and Chris, his brothers all having their own solo projects including running

"Arboretum Records" (Nick) and playing full time in their own right in London (Chris). As long as I have been in Nottingham they have been playing in bands, Foncheros, Doc Emmet Brown, First Blood plus sessioning with other artists and bands.

I stagger back to the Pit whilst filming and interviewing random people in the street, most are friendly, a group of uncooth youth's advise I should go and inseminate my mother but I decide I would probably enjoy the bands a bit more so head back while I still have my camera.

Next on stage are "Taken By The Tide", we filmed these for "I'm Not From London- The Movie" (out next summer) and the studio was filled with their fans, tonight is no different!

I can't get downstairs so I manage to hang on to a post on the steps halfway up. In my opinion these are definately the best metal band this city currently has to offer on the unsigned front. "Taken By The Tide" have always played metal and it shows, they have some great tracks and the singer John has total command of the audience. They seem to be more melodic than most I have seen in the past probably due some of the band having been in ex-Notts metal demigods "Sanzen". I'm not even a big metal fan but find myself really enjoying their set and before I know it I'm headbanging angrily along with everyone else in the pub.

I run to the Social to tell my mates that "Pilgrim Fathers" are about to play. Due to Ian, their synthesiser man's wife about to give birth, this will be their last gig for a while. Everything seems to be going on time too which is amazing in these situations as everyone's feeling ready to rock it out. Last year they played a tour around europe with "Monster Magnet" which seems to have considerably and notably "raised their game". If you like your progressive psychedelic rock then I definately recommend "Pilgrim Fathers", always keen to put on a good show, they are quite literally dressed to kill. The lead singer Sheif is dressed slickbacked in a bowtie and waitcoat with a big bloody butcher's apron over it. Kev the drummer is in a tartan suit and their bassist, Sam is all wrapped up as a mummy, their lead guitarist Feg has red plastic sunglasses on, a white cap too small for his head, a tweed jacket and cut off denim shorts and tennis shoes with white pull up socks up to his big ginger knees- I assume his costume is badly dressed sex tourist but knowing Feg it could just as likely be laundry day!

Their set blows everyone away, an encore is given twice but sadly there is no true beauty

without decay and all great things must come to an end, we pack everything away and try to decide which party or bar we should go to, no one wants to go home. It's settled when Eric from taken By The Tide says he's been ringing my phone and apparently the bar manager in Bar Eleven has it and I should go and collect it- BRILLIANT- Now where did I leave my charger???



pic by Ricki Lage



pic by Ricki Lage



pic by Ricki Lage



Dancing In The Streets

The Amber Herd's take on The 2009 Hockley Hustle

It's just past lunchtime on Sunday 25th October and Hockley is alive! It's stupidly early for the average gig goer and certainly the average muso but the place is packed! There are not just people crammed into each of the many clubs, pubs, cafe's and barbers(!) lining the route but the streets are full too. Full of burundi drummers, loonies with electric blue facepaint and albino goats on unicycles, to name but three subsets. Herein follows, then, our take on this day and night of unprecedented bachannalian excess....

Following a 2009 where we think we've really raised our local profile, we were thrilled to get the call from Arboretum records to play at Brownes on Carlton Street. We arrived just in time to see the excellent Becky Syon hold the attention of the early afternoon beers and lunch set with a wistful and melodic run of original Joni-esque songs. We started drinking at around this point which proved to be a

sound move as it enabled us to catch up with everyone else and set us up for our show at half past three.

It was great to see Brownes full as we started and loads of people seemed to be arriving throughout. Nothing to do with us, I'm sure- more a reflection of the vibe of the event, where attendees were free to pick and mix between 200 odd acts in 20+ venues all within a few minutes walk of each other. We played a half hour full electric onslaught of a set in order to kick out the jams a little and our gamble paid off. We started, for the first time, with new electro- beast "Wailing Wall" followed by our debut single and usual final song "Stage Fright". It was great to see so many new faces getting into what we were doing and also great to see Kristi from Doledrum and Forge FM, Alex from Frontiers and URN and Dan from the mighty Made Of Leaves checking us out. We dedicated "Magnolia" to the new lovers

(and look forward to plenty of "Hockley's" being Christened next July!) and wound up with a monumental "Thursday" complete with false ending and general mayhem. This is feasibly our next single and it was a nice way to end. The boss of Arboretum flattered us by taking the mic as we left the stage and awarding us the epithet of "Warm and dark! I like it!" That'll do!

The only possible approach after we finished our set was to stow the gear to avoid the tiresome need to take the wheel of a motor car until well into Monday and see what else was cracking off...

We started by popping into the event's hub, The Broadway. On the way back we bumped into Alex Frontiers again and he interviewed us for Tom Whiter's excellent Monday night show on URN (University of Nottingham Radio) Following this we made the dash to Bunker's Hill which was hosting the excellent

Drowned In Sound stage to see the undisputed band of the day-Spotlight Kid. Subdued lighting and the occasional well- placed strobe illuminated the band as they played an amazing set which, to these ears, took the best bits of The Cocteau's and Slowdive and ran it through a modern alt-rock mixer. We're looking forward to seeing what these guys have to offer in 2010.

Things were starting to get a bit hazy now-even though it was only 7.30pm(!) but I believe we found our way to Shaws next to catch up with Dean Jackson's BBC Introducing Stage.

Now, we played a lengthy acoustic set at Shaws a month or so ago on a Saturday night to mainly diners and folk in the bar and it was interesting to see it now as a full on packed-to-the-raffers rock club! I have no idea how any of the bands fitted on the small and very high corner stage but fitted they did and we saw Captain Dangerous and an excellent set from Euler (including an awesome cover of "all along the watch tower"). We managed to have a quick chat with Dean who was understandably proud of the sheer breadth of local talent on display- not just at Shaws but all over this part of town today.

Following a lengthy period just soaking up the atmosphere on Broad Street outside Shaws and The Broadway we popped back to Bunker's Hill where we variously spent the rest of the night either holding court outside in the unseasonably mild Hockley air or upstairs watching the likes of Exit Calm and Boxer Rebellion play solid sets to a still busy room.

The Hockley Hustle 2009 then, very like Glastonbury. Not because of the mud or the drugs but because of the fact that it wasn't really the music that mattered- what mattered most was just being there (man!) and soaking up the massive good vibes emanating from every corner. In the whole 11 or so hours we were there we didn't see one fight, one moron, one bad band or generally anyone at all who was not in a totally positive and euphoric mood. Of course, like

Glastonbury, none of this would have happened in the first place were it not for the music and we saw enough to convince us that not only is the Nottingham scene a scene, it is a rampant kicking and screaming multi- faceted mother of a scene deserving much wider recognition. Huge thanks must go out to the guys from Oxjam for making it happen and of course, all the bands who gave up their time for free.

Following this huge high, we were really pleased that Tom played out the interview we did with Alex on his show on URN on the Monday as part of a full overview of the day, including also a chat with Dean Jackson and Rugosa Nevada together with a play of our Stage Fright single.

Next up for us as we head towards the end of a hugely successful year is a show for Flux at The Olde Salutation on Saturday 21st November with a great line up of electric bands upstairs and acoustic ones downstairs. We will be joined upstairs by Made of Leaves and Satnams Tash amongst others.

After this is the big one-the Nottingham LIVE night at Seven on Tuesday 24th Nov with Scarlet's Wake and others.

After that we are hunkering down in the studio to record at least a new e.p which we hope to have available very early in the new year. Our annual Xmas show is, this year, at the Central where we'll be a part of The Funeral Party II, Luxury Stranger's celebration of all that is dark and warm and possibly sticky. We hear

that advance tickets for this once in a lifetime show have already gone so get in quick!

Thank you to those who saw us at the Hustle. Hopefully see you all at our forthcoming shows. Check us out on <http://www.myspace.com/theamberherd>

And remember, keep herding!

The Amber Herd x



Luxury Stranger

www.luxurystranger.com



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"...the windswept grandiosity of classic line-up Echo and the Bunnymen". (ThisCity Magazine)
"...they just do the song thing so well and create the sort of record you should, depending on age, be cranking up before going out for the night. It's one of those perfect life-affirming collections". (Mick Mercer)

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**MY FIRST, MY LAST,
MY EVERYTHING**

Pat Lockley

Fave Music Genre: Dance / Rock

Fave Current Artist: Micachu

Fave Single: The Rat by the Walkmen

Fave Album: Stone Roses Stone Roses

1st Single Purchased: Pump up the volume by MARRS

1st Album Purchased: Human Racing by Nik Kershaw

Last Single Purchased: Talons EP

Last Album Purchased: POS Never better

1st Gig Attended: Ash, 60ft dolls and Bis

Last Gig Attended: Teeth and E and E at the Chameleon

Best Gig: Probably Art Brut

Worst Gig: Ian Brown

Who would you like to duet with: No one

Music you Dislike: Metal

Song that Psyches you up: In yer face by 808 state

Song that Moves You: A house is not a motel by Love

Pat L is member of the Sensitive, manager of With Knives, runner of For the Kittens record label, soon to be gig promoter

BLUEWATER OPEN DAY

Bluewater Studios, the Ollerston based recording complex, are hosting an open day on Saturday 21st November offering a great chance for artists to find out more about this group who are the backers of local online radio show Sherwood Radio.

The event which runs from 2 to 8pm will offer the chance to meet the staff and find out what goes on behind the scenes of a recording studio, you can also find out more about the huge range of services that Bluewater offer, including Audio and Video Production, DVD and CD duplication and Graphic/ Web Design, there will also be news about some of the exciting new community projects the group offer.

Budding musicians and bands will have a chance to speak to professionals and experts about the music while both the recording studios in the building will be open for anyone that wants to have a go at recording, join in a jam session or try the "vocals over backing" service which offers you the chance to sing along to your favourite backing track.

Bluewaters brand new Studio Shop, Bluewater Music, will also open on the day and will be selling a huge range of musical accessories from strings to picks and is proud to be a Rotosound dealer.

The day will also be host to the Sherwood Radio In Sessions event, where unsigned bands can record songs which will air on the show that day.

If all that is not enough Bluewater will be hosting a Open Mic night at the Snooty Fox pub which is right across the road from the studio.

So make sure you get down to the Bluewater Studios open day and find out more about this local recording complex, for further information on the event visit www.bluewaterstudios.co.uk or call 01623 823236.

Check out our interview with Bluewaters Kathie Smart on page 21

Hi Kathie, can you tell us a bit about the Sherwood Radio In Sessions event taking place at the Bluewater Open Day?

Sherwood Radio is dedicating the afternoon from 2pm to 10pm purely to The Unsigned Show For Bluewater Studios Open Day. So not only will it be featuring artists that have previously sent along their music we will also be playing recordings of artists live "In Session". The "In Session" is working on the Radio 1 Maida Vale "Live Sessions" concept. Bluewater Studios are inviting artists to come down to the studio for the Open Day on Saturday 21st November to play a track in our Studio 2 live room where they will be recorded. A copy of this recording is free to all participating artists. The recording will then be aired on Sherwood Radio that day along with a short interview with the participating artists. We are also inviting acoustic artists to play live ON AIR up in Sherwood Radio Station. Artists can also bring along any other material either on a usb memory stick on mp3 format or bring along CD's to play tracks during their interview with Sherwood Radio. There will also be a massive reduction in the cost of recording which will be available to artists attending the event if they should wish to take Bluewater up on the offer!

How can a band get involved in this?

All bands have to is turn up! A backline of Mics, Drums and Amps will be provided simply bring your instruments e.g bass, guitar, violin, Sax etc.

Do you have any requirements from bands that wish to take part?

Have an idea which track you

are going to play and thats all really... just a bit of enthusiasm for their music and have a great time!

What else on the day can you recommend to members of the local music community?

We have loads going on there is a media display in the Green Room (chill out zone). Free nibbles, competition, Drum Lab and Vocals over backing. All in attendance are invited to get as hands on as they like. They can record singing to backing tracks have a bash at drumming with a pro tutor. Visit and meet the staff at Bluewater Studios and sherwood radio check out our gear and much more! There's also a bit of a bash over at The Snooty Fox where we are holding an Open Mic Night and a bit of a booze up for everyone after the Open Day. The Snooty Fox is literally one minutes walk across the road from the studio :D

Anything else you'd like to ad?

If you are an artist that would like to attend the In Sessions we currently have over ten artists confirmed so if you can drop us an email to kathie@bluewaterstudios.co.uk or unsigned@sherwoodradio.com to let us know that you are coming. This isn't essential feel free to just drop in with your gear! However it just makes it a bit easier to schedule you in for an interview. Also BIG THANKS to ALL that have confirmed they are attending already. DONT FORGET you can bring as many people with you as you like! And we CANT WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE!

P.S Bluewater Studio's are also celebrating their 7th Birthday so come down and enjoy the fun!

the Central.

A few pics from the
opening night of new
live music venue

THE CENTRAL
on Thursday October 29

pics by Steve Rowe



The Death Notes

For those out there who don't know, who are The Death Notes?

We are a five piece alternative rock band based in Nottingham. The roll call goes something like this:

Elaine - Vocals
Martin - Guitars
Kitt - Drums
Nick - Bass
Jamie - Keyboards

Up until the start of this year the band were gigging locally as The Room. With line up changes and the recording of the EP we decided to have a fresh new start and were re-christened The Death Notes.

You have just released a brand new EP, can you tell us a bit about it?

Its 5 tracks which form the backbone of the bands live set. I guess it's really an introduction to The Death Notes. It's a mix of new material like Sleepers and Cold Dawn and some old stuff. Some of the tracks go back a long way, Seismic and Decided were originally written in the bands previous incarnation 'The Room', when the bands line up changed last October they found a new life with new bass parts and the addition of keyboards.

The EP was originally recorded in March. Illness and the loss of our original bass player delayed its release. So it's been a difficult birth but it's finally here.

How was the recording process for the EP?

The EP was recorded pretty much live. Almost everything on their was recorded on the first take, from memory I think only one track needed a second take. There were a few guitar and vocal overdubs but that's it. All 5 tracks were recorded and mixed in a day. I think it surprised us all how quickly it fell together. Some of that comes down to how well we knew the songs before we went into the studio and how tight we were and some of it is down to luck.

Can you describe The Death Notes sound?

This is a question we seem to get asked a lot. I don't think it's easy

to describe any bands sound so I tend to just fall back on what other people have said. The bands we get compared to most often are Sonic Youth, Joy Division and The Pixies. Elaine's voice often gets compared to Dolores O'Riordan of the Cranberries and Sinéad O'Connor (I'm not sure if that's just an accent thing?). When we get pigeon holed we tend to be labeled as either Alternative or Post Punk.

The EP got a five star rating in the Evening Post EG magazine, how big a boost was that for you guys?

It was a massive boost. All we had really set out to do is record music we liked and enjoyed making. So when we started getting radio shows and podcasts all over the place playing tracks from the EP we were kind of surprised. The review in the Evening Post was the icing on the cake really. I mean you get friends and family telling you they like the songs but when you get people you've never met before playing your music on their show and people giving you really positive reviews it's a real buzz. Who doesn't like positive feedback. What more could you want than for people to listen to your music and like it.

Where can people catch you guys in the coming weeks?

We have a couple of gigs coming up:

Thursday 26 November we are playing support for Lahannya on the Nottingham date of her European tour at The Old Angel. It's going to be a bit different from our usual gigs as we haven't really played to a 'Goth' audience before. I'm not sure what they will think of us? Hopefully they will get us.

Saturday 12 December we are headlining Nottingham first Bizarre festival at Seven in Canning Circus. We're really looking forward to this one. It sounds like its going to be a fun night. Live music, burlesque dancers, fire performers and all sorts of craziness.

What are your plans for the near future?

We're going to head back into the studio early 2010 to record our second EP. We've got the songs written. Some of them we've already played live, some of them we will be debuting at our upcoming shows. We're at the polishing and refining stage at the moment just working out some of the creases.

Of course we'll be playing some more shows in 2010, in Nottingham and further afield. No firm dates as yet but I can confirm we have our first gig in Leicester coming up towards the end of February.



MY FIRST, MY LAST, MY EVERYTHING

Holly Cassidy

Fave Music Genre: alternative rock/
pop

Fave Current Artist: lady gaga

Fave Single: love game - lady gaga

Fave Album: Marilyn manson - hi
end of low

1st Single Purchased: Micheal
Jackson - man in the mirror

1st Album Purchased: Micheal
Jackson - heal the world

Last Single Purchased: Tinchy Stryder
- your not alone

Last Album Purchased: Marilyn
manson - hi end of low

1st Gig Attended: blue - all rise tour

Last Gig Attended: pink - im not
dead tour

Best Gig: pink - im not dead tour

Worst Gig: Arcade Fire

Who would you like to duet with: pink

Music you Dislike: rock/metal music
when they just scream all the way
through.

Song that Psyches you up: club
mixes or any remixed stuff

Song that Moves You: the most
recent one, is a acoustic piano
version of Likin Parks, Numb..A all
time fav is Rain by Madonna or
Sarah Mclachlan - In The Arms Of
The Angle

Holly Cassidy is co-ordinator for
the Bizarre Festival

King Claw

Vinyl single Launch Party

20 November



DJ King Kahlua & Beck & Stacey

SEVEN FOOD

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Spaghetti	£3.50
Spaghetti Bolognese	£4.00
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Pineapple	
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NIGHTSTALKER PROMOTIONS UK PRESENT....

Friday 13th November,
THE CRYPT PRESENTS: SUICIDE ASYLUM
8pm - 2am, £3 and £2.50 with NUS card.

"Nottingham's Premier themed rock/
metal/industrial night returns to The Old
Angel in Hockley for another night of girls,
ghouls and metal.

With music from The Shiver <http://www.myspace.com/theshiverband>, Italys
best-kept secret, gothic metal in the vein
of Lacuna Coil and Within Temptation,
and support from Luxury Stranger,
Nottingham's very own goth local heroes
(www.myspace.com/luxurystranger)

With DJ sets from Crypt residents and
Nottingham Uni Rocksoc."

Thursday November 19th,
The Shiver @ The Happy return, Lenton,
Nottingham.

The Shiver play an acoustic set on their
"A New Horizon" UK tour.

Drinks promos: £10 all you can drink on
selected spirits, £6 wine and £2 fosters.

8pm - 12am

Saturday 21st November
THE CRYPT @ SEVEN

Crypt DJs and Nottingham Uni Rocksoc
DJs invade downstairs @ Seven in
Canning Circus! Playing the best in Rock/
metal and industrial...

8pm - 2am £2 before midnight, free entry
afterward...

NIGHTSTALKER PROMOTIONS UK PRESENTS: **THE CRYPT:** **SUICIDE ASYLUM** A NIGHT OF GIRLS, GHOULS, ZOMBIES AND MEDICAL EXPERIMENTS GONE MAD

THE SHIVER™

LUXURY STRANGER

Crypt DJs playing
Rock: Metal: Industrial

the old Angel
Hockley

friday 13th
November
8pm - Late

£3 o.t.d.
£2.50 w/ NUS card

FACEBOOK GROUP:
the crypt



WHO ARE NIGHTSTALKER PROMOTIONS UK?

Nightstalker Promotions are a promotions
company based in Nottingham in the
UK.

Nightstalker Promotions (UK) intends to
bring some of the best up-and-coming
talent right across the spectrum of
alternative music to Nottingham.

They do not believe in limiting ourselves
to sub-genres of the alternative scene,
and intend to bring everything from
Classic Rock, Goth and Punk to Industrial,
Death Metal, Black Metal, Heavy Metal,
Stoner Rock, Doom and everything else
in between.

Nightstalker will be working with several
venues in and around Nottingham,
eventually branching out across the
Midlands... then who knows where?

THE CENTRAL

Deborah H Barry pays a visit to new live music venue The Central as Luxury Stranger, The Hell I Am and more take to the stage

Nottingham – A city full of life in the arts, particularly music. A city where a wide variety of bands from various music genres work together, proving that Nottingham has a healthy and collaborative scene.

The Central – A new Nottingham venue full of life and passion. Based on Huntingdon Street (the site of the old Gatsby's), the Central is determined to put on the best bands Nottingham has to offer as well as out of town acts and successful touring bands/artists (some of which are also from Nottingham). The Central is an event co-ordinators dream – a small acoustic room upstairs and a downstairs bar/chill-out area with the main venue room next door.

I managed to go to the Central on Friday 30th October, not just to check out the new music venue but also to catch two acts I've heard quite a lot about – The Hell I Am and the headline act Luxury Stranger. I was given the pleasure of seeing much more. The sound in the main venue is exquisite and the evening's opening act, Beck Stacey, gave the room a gorgeous yet eerie feel in a Kate Bush / Tori Amos hybrid feel – the clarity of the sound system is something I haven't heard in a Nottingham venue for years. You can tell that someone here cares what the bands sound like!

I decided to spend some time in the main bar area before seeing The Hell I Am – it was quite full, a mixed crowd of old regulars (nice to see) and some new faces (evidently here to support live music to it's fullest – yet, why aren't they in the venue room watching the bands? Some conversations revolved around art, film and theatre and others were in the direction of 'Nottingham band #1 is better

than Nottingham band #2' (are we back in the playground?). At the back of the main bar is a pool table where young wannabes battle it out with their cues and balls... I moved on upstairs to the acoustic room. For this evening, the acoustic room had been booked to house what I believed to be someone's birthday bash. I managed to grab a quick glance of the room (very cute yet edgy) before being asked to leave – I shall return and review this room at a later event...

I returned to the main venue to catch The Hell I Am (who were fantastic – catchy, spiky, sexy, humourously serious like Patrick Moore on speed). Catchy tunes in a heavy Elastica / Lush fashion that you can dance to or just happily tap your feet. I loved this band and will happily pay to see them again. Next up were a band called King Claw (a kind of psychedelic Black Sabbath if you will – great rhythm section, hardcore guitar but I couldn't quite tell what the front man was 'singing' about). I enjoyed King Claw for the novelty of that man's man 70s rock-style – great music for those who are in a retro frame of mind.

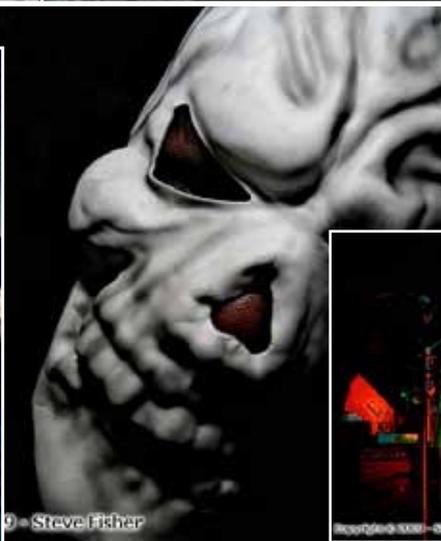
Then Luxury Stranger made their way to the stage – I've heard a lot about this band: the promotion, the performances, the signing to a German record label, the number of gigs they've played (and not just in Nottingham!) and all of this has happened in such a short space of time. There's nothing wrong with this and the bad things I've also heard about them should not have been said – Luxury Stranger do what bands should do, they work hard and work well. The lead singer/guitarist (Simon York), who reminded me of a cross between Bowie (circa Ziggy), Eddie Vedder of Pearl Jam and

Martin Gore of Depeche Mode (but slightly darker and sexier) stares out into the crowd with a fully painted face. Emotion pours out – pain, pleasure, love and loss. And it's felt across the whole band (which to say is only a three piece yet has a massive but non-offensive sound) – very gothic / post-punk with a fresh twist. I managed to drag my eyes off them to check out the audience – all staring, some dancing, feeling the emotion and meaning in each song. It was good to see members from The Hell I Am and King Claw watching Luxury Stranger's performance – THERE is proof of camaradery between Nottingham bands! Luxury Stranger is a band I will definitely pay to see again, in fact I downloaded their album (Desolation) just before typing this up – I feel another review coming on...

The Central is a great new music venue with the potential to pull together what the Nottingham music used to be like – not all the same genres, not a competition to get to the top, just working together and supporting each other. After chatting to a few punters, I soon discovered that the people who run the Central are the same people who ran the Running Horse. I loved that place as did many others and things were really doing well there considering the current financial climate. However, it has recently closed reportedly due to structural problems. We'll all miss the Running Horse but will support the Central in the same fashion. I sincerely hope that the Central picks up as much musical history as the Running Horse and becomes a great long-running music venue.

Go there, experience it and support it...

Deborah H Barry (1st Nov 2009)



Photos: Steve Fisher - www.smpics.com

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“Lady Gaga is a fan of ours”

Interview by Nathan Stone

Ghosts Wear Clothes are a band relatively new on the scene in Nottingham in terms of time, but have been popping up all over the city's venues since their arrival, and consist of 3 guitarists (Wain Evans, Iain Anderson and Jamie Neep) and a great electroclash sound full of intricate drum beats and haunting yet powerful synth intertwined with twisting and turning guitar overlays. I caught up with them over the weekend to get to know them and find out their thoughts on what they've achieved so far.

Nathan - So, how did you guys get started as a band?

Wain - How did we get started as a band, boys?

Iain - We were formed on a misty mountain top, with moonlight glittering through the trees.

Jamie - It was something to do really. W - We formed a band called Shut Up Iain around August 2008, as time went on we formed a side project called Ghosts Wear Clothes. As our style had started to change by this point and began to cause artistic differences, we decided we would rather keep our friends and Ghosts became our main effort. Though Greg and Matt from Shut Up Iain are both doing their own things, and they'll be ones to watch for.

So that's how you started, how long have you been together as a group?

J - Erm, a group? That makes this sound like pop stars.

W - Yeah, we're not pop idol.

I - It was around June when we started doing Ghosts Wear Clothes stuff, but it wasn't until July when we got serious.

J - So not long.

W - But we have been playing with each other for around a year.

J - I beg your pardon!

W - you wish, tiff!

What kind of music do you play?

W - Erm, yeah, it's weird.

I - Electronic indie, post rock.

J - With a bit of trance, techno and

god knows what in there.

I - Electronica, the genre that encompasses all that uses laptops and keyboards.

And how do you come up with your music, as your sound is quite unusual.

I - It differs for each of us. I write a lot of my stuff on guitar and fit it to a synth pattern that they (Wain and Jamie) are writing. Or for our latest track I've started to become more involved in the synth mapping and have started to map guitar lines as synths.

J - I just write something, and whatever it comes out as, that'll do. I'm mainly inspired by tea.

W - I wake up with tunes in my head and have to get them out helped along by various herbs, we like to improvise around a theme quite a bit and not over think.

Do you have any influences; is there anything you think you've been shaped by?

J - Depression.

W - And an overwhelming sense of apathy and melancholy. The artists we've been shaped by, erm...

I - With Shut up Iain, towards the end, we were very shaped by the math-rock bands like the Foads. Those sort of intertwined guitar lines, and that's stayed with us.

W - Yeah, that kind of Foads/Bloc Party crossover in the guitar lines, with a bit of post punk as well. We've had a lot of comparisons to 65 Days of Static too, which is a huge compliment.

I - Yes, that's a big comparison, and Mono influenced our style when we went to see them.

J - The guitar line out of Authentic was directly inspired from that night.

J - It varies depending on what we're listening to at the time.

W - We are inspired by the inspirational...

I - We like music and we play music. **W** - ..yeah. Be that a man sitting with his banjo outside Vic Centre or the latest chart topper.

J - Apart from that t***t who's ripping off Imogen Heap.

W - Yeah, you should never rip off Imogen Heap.

Talking of charts and things like that, there's a lot of Electro music around at the moment. Do you reckon you're music is fitting in nicely at the moment?

I - Yeah, it does, it does.

J - Well, obviously Lady Gaga is a big fan of ours.

I - I mean obviously, we taught her everything she knows.

W - And Little Boots. Little Boots, she keeps calling and I'm like 'No, I've got a girlfriend.'

J - And Pixie Lott as well.

Famous fans aside, what do you really think?

W - I think a lot of what's going on in the charts at the moment is far more representative of the fact that electro has been steadily growing in the independent underground for several years now. The industry cottoned on to the fact so they're grooming their own stable of pop wannabes of the vain, which is what happens with all sub-cultures; they become the mainstream for a brief period, until every last penny has been rinsed from them, then when they're diluted and defunct, they fade back into obscurity.

I - Even saying that, there are still musical sub-cultures now that are still very much into the electro sound, you've got the indie-electro, and there's a death metal band who's name escapes me, they released an album last year with a lot of electronic sounds. We would hope were more akin to these artists than the latest chart sensation.

W - I think it's just a progression, that as electronic instruments become more sophisticated they're becoming a much more accepted medium for self-expression, but I don't believe there's anyone in the charts who we can draw comparisons to. We're not looking to get into the charts really, we just like playing music.

J - I've forgotten the question.

I - Yeah, I have too actually.

W - Where are the biscuits?

J - Never mind that, where's the tea?

Moving on. You're fairly well established now in Nottingham, what do you think to Nottingham's live music scene.

I - I've not really had any experience with other music scenes, so I can't comment really. We've not had any trouble getting gigs, and we've had good responses from promoters, venues and audiences alike.

W - For example, when we played at the Canning Circus festival recently, we started our set playing to a handful of bemused looking people, and by the time we were finished we were playing to a pub full of bemused looking people,

I - And we were on after a smooth jazz crooner just to set the mood.

W - The one thing I will say is that there's a lot of good acoustic music around here.

You've done a few gigs now, anything stick out as particularly good, particularly bad?

I - Our mate Chris's leaving do was one of the best ones.

W - Yeah, it was just fun.

I - It was nice playing to friends with the smoke machine and lasers going, and then getting ratarsed afterwards.

J - It would have been better if I wasn't hungover to begin with though.

W - We enjoy all our gigs...

I - Ah, I don't...

W - I do.

I - Sometimes I can't wait to leave the stage.

J - We've had a couple of bad ones, the technical failure gig for instance.

W - Yeah, the technical failure at the Maze was our low point. I think we wanted to die.

J - But it wasn't our fault, and it was hilarious.

W - Yep, everything technological just crashed and died, though we got much kudos for carrying on and a valuable lesson was learnt.

I - I have noticed that, we tend to think it's gone a lot worse than it has.

W - Yeah, a lot of people say nice things about us, they can't all be wrong, I hope.

While you've been gigging, have there been any other bands you've enjoyed playing with?

I - I really like Long Dead Signal.

W - Yeah, Long Dead Signal are great and really nice guys with it, go to a show if you get a chance, well worth it!

J - Bonbonbonbons as well.

W - Dax are good.

I - Dax, yeah.

J - Er, Captain Cor Blimrey.

W - Yeah, I really enjoyed playing with them, real fresh take on the ska vibe.

I - I can't remember their name, but the band that played with us the first time we played the Maze.

W - Yeah, I can't remember their name either, but they were really good.

J - Some of them were out of 25 Past The Skank, but I can't remember what their band was called. They had a trombone and everything.

W - Yeah, they're on our MySpace, we'll have to make a point of looking them up.

I - And of course Timothy Simpson. A lot of the acoustic acts we've played with have been really good. All of them in fact. Tim, Marc Reeves and Michael Lynch to name a few, and then there's my sister's boyfriend, Joe Slater. He's good; I've seen him play a couple of times now.

And so what are you guys doing at the moment, musically?

W - We're on holiday.

J - Yeah, we are on holiday.

I - A writing holiday.

I - We've...well, I say we. Jamie's written a load of tracks, Wain's written a couple. I've written one.

W - Well, we've just come off of playing 5 gigs in 6 days so we're all knackered.

I - It was 4.

W - It was 5 wasn't it?

I - Not in 6 days, it was Friday to Friday.

W - 5 gigs in 7 days then. We were knackered anyway.

I - Very much so.

W - We're having a bit of time off, to

write some new tunes and get some recording done.

So when do you guys come back?

W - 24th November for Nottingham Live.

I - At Seven.

And finally, what can we expect of Ghosts Wear Clothes in the New Year.

W - Lots of drinking.

J - Hangovers, mainly.

I - I might cut out the middle man and just drink on the toilet.

J - No moving involved.

W - It would save moving. There is that, but think of the children Iain, think of the children.

I - And with no bathroom lock on my door after I kicked the door down...

W - But that's a different story.

I - ...Yes, that's an entirely different story.

W - Er, yeah, I don't know what we'll be doing, more gigs for sure. Finally record an EP.

J - Wait and see.

I - we'll have an EP out soon as that's one thing people have been asking us for at the gigs.

W - It's definitely going to be an interesting year for us, I feel.

Ghosts Wear clothes will be appearing at the Nottingham LIVE gig at Seven on the 24th November, along with Amber Herd and Scarlet's Wake. It's guaranteed to be a great night, so get yourselves down there. If you want to hear more from Ghosts Wear Clothes, check out their MySpace - www.myspace.com/ghostswearclothes or join the Ghosts Wear Clothes facebook fan page.



GIG LISTINGS

If you run a venue and would like your gigs listed here please email darren@nottinghamlive.co.uk

Friday 13 November

THE MAZE: Demo Club Night

SEVEN: Mutiny Clubnight

THE CENTRAL: The Saboteurs

Saturday 14 November

THE MAZE: Ghoul Garden Gothic Club Night

Sunday 15 November

THE MAZE: Revolution Sound presents The Skints, Resolution 242, Breadchasers + Minus Society

SEVEN: The Luchagors, Girlfixer, Hoofbite, Temporary Asylum

Monday 16 November

THE MAZE: Acoustickle

Tuesday 17 November

THE MAZE: Folkwit Records present James Chadwick, V.O., Robert Carl Blank + Someday Jacob

SEVEN: Gay for Johnny Depp, Blakfish, Outcry Collective, Ocean Bottom Nightmare

THE CENTRAL: The Last Picture Show /Dkd

Wednesday 18 November

THE MAZE: Roses King Castle + Jake Bugg, James McKay + Joe Slater

Thursday 19 November

THE MAZE: Cosmic Americans present Headwater

SEVEN: Rocky Horror Picture Show Fundraiser

THE CENTRAL: Thomas Leeb

Friday 20 November

THE MAZE: Percussion present Royal Gala

SEVEN: Therapy Clubnight ft Tripswitch + Defnation

Saturday 21 November

THE MAZE: Moon Whiskey Soul Jam

SEVEN: The Crypt infects Seven

THE CENTRAL: The Smears

Sunday 22 November

THE MAZE: Show of Hands

THE CENTRAL: Dax, Nate Champion, Made of Leaves, Strangeling

Monday 23 November

THE MAZE: Cosmic Americans present Vandeville Falls + Owen Harvey Trio

Tuesday 24 November

SEVEN: Nottingham LIVE ft Scarlett's Wake, The Amber Herd, Ghosts' Wear Clothes

Wednesday 25 November

THE MAZE: Cosmic Americans present Michael Chapman

THE CENTRAL: Riot Promotions present Rachel Stamp, The Sheblats, Patchwork Grace, The Charm Offensive

GIG LISTINGS

Thursday 26 November

THE MAZE: Doledrum present The Eviltones, Whitemoor + more TBA

SEVEN: Buttonpusher present Alright the Captain, Last Days of Iorca, Lost from Atlas

THE CENTRAL: Budukwe, Sychatrissi, Valhalla

Friday 27 November

THE MAZE: Muzika present Alejandro Toledo + The Magic Tombolinos + Gypsy Fire

SEVEN: Blamethrower Club Night ft Oceansize Vessels Brontide

Saturday 28 November

THE MAZE: Rubber Rooms Clubnight

SEVEN: Dirty Filthy Sexy Clubnight

Sunday 29 November

THE MAZE: Riot Promotions present The Pleasures + Drugdealer Cheerleader

THE CENTRAL: Becky Syson Album Launch + special guests

Monday 30 November

THE MAZE: Notts in a Nutshell ft Wake up the Bears, I Only Date Models, Trioxin Cherry, Bullitt + Ghost Cassette

SEVEN: Flashgod Apocalypse, Ingested, Arcane, Theranody Ages

Tuesday 1 December

THE MAZE: The Biscuits

SEVEN: Many Things Untold, Cancer City, Random Conflict, We Stare at Mirrors, Oribine, The Hollows

Wednesday 2 December

THE MAZE: Notts in a Nutshell ft The Myways, The Kingship, Scrapbook Heroes, King Elle + more TBA

Thursday 4 December

THE MAZE: Cosmic Americans present Gurf Morlix

SEVEN: Marya Roxx, Voodoo Johnson, Union X, Liberty Slaves

Saturday 5 December

THE MAZE: Back to the Basics Club Night

SEVEN: Wildside Clubnight

Sunday 6 December

THE MAZE: Cosmic Americans present An Evening with Paul and Fred of Little Feet

Monday 7 December

THE MAZE: Notts in a Nutshell ft 5 local bands TBA

Wednesday 9 December

THE MAZE: Riot presents Symphony Cult + Moscow

Thursday 10 December

SEVEN: You V Me, The Souvenirs, Dirty Tux

Friday 11 December

THE MAZE: Rubber Rooms clubnight

Saturday 12 December

THE MAZE: Ghou! Garden Clubnight

SEVEN: Bizarre Festival ft The Death Notes, Trioxin Cherry, Satnam's Tash + Zadkiel

I'M NOT FROM LONDON

I'M NOT FROM LONDON Promoter Will Robinson brings us the first of a regular column series about what he and the INFL gang are up to:

Hello my friends,

I hope you are all well. Pig flu's are a flying and battles for barrells wars rage in our futile quest for disposal living and material gain, yet still we sit idly by as gaelic twins dance gaily in deperate slaving anticipation of the emporer's thumb.

Hope for real music from real people however, is not all lost! We are still filming and the shit's got legs.

So far we've recorded live performances and interviewed over 50 acts and filmed promoters, venue owners, labels and general Notts people involved in the music scene. We are filming Amusement parks On Fire in L.A and Nottingham's own Hollywood daughter, the actress Samantha Morton has given an exclusive account of growing up in Nottingham and the clubs and nights that she use to call her stomping ground.

Castle Rock have supplied us with beer that we downed responsibly on our road trip to London where we had some of Nottingham's finest bands play a gig rammed quite literally to it's ruffers.

Random Recordings have recorded full tracks on equipment loaned by Fuzz and The Broadway and Notts Trent University have been incredibly supportive with use of their equipment and services.

Our next and final firing and recording of acts will be November 21st and 22nd at The Arts Organisation.

We still have more to film but we will be wrapped in December and our WRAP PARTY will be on FRIDAY 18th DECEMBER at THE SPEAKEASY, we will be holding a prohibition style Speakeasy themed night complete with croupiers, bets for beers, our own shoop shoop girls and waitresses will keep you in order, a comedian,

sit down meals (book in advance), lighting, decor and Tea Den supplied by THE ROARING 1920'S, swing band plus garage rockers THE EVILTONES plus Speakeasy wideboys Dingo and Will will be battling it out in a boxing ring for honour and bar room supremacy and much more TBC- Let me know whoever wants tickets in advance- £5 on the door/£4 in advance - £7 In advance with meal. All must be dressed like sharp shooters, shine your shoes, polish your pistol, straighten out your fedora and keep your broad's looking like a million dollars cos when if it's raining brains, you aint even gonna get wet!

INFL DIARY DATES

Friday 13th November- The Speakeasy- Free Entry!
(Bands playing are- The Eviltones, Hot Japanese Girl and The Cupid Stunt)

Sat and Sun 21st and 22nd Nov -INFL The Movie- Filming-
Arts Org- Free

Saturday 5th December- The Malt Cross- Free Entry!
(Bands playing are Spaceships Are Cool, We Show Up On Radar, Red Shoe Diaries and My Dark StarRise)

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