

Gary Murphy - November 2007

Greetings music lovers everywhere. November already, and the Wirral International Guitar Festival is about to get under way.

My show on the 7th November is the opening concert of the 19th year of this great event. The Pacific Road Theatre is now a leading Merseyside venue, and since the closure of The Floral Pavilion Theatre in New Brighton, The Pacific Road has had to take on The Guitar Festival, more or less, single handedly.

There are a number of ways the theatre can be used, i.e., some concerts are standing only, others are with tiered seating, and finally, like I have chosen for my show on the 7th, Cabaret seating.

In my view is the best way as you each have your own seat and you can come and go to the bar as you wish, without having to pass anybody in line as you have to do in tiered seating arrangement. I also think cabaret seating is better acoustically as there is enough room on the ground floor for the sound engineer to put in the mixing console.

With any other plan the sound engineer normally is put up in the gods and in my view, doesn't receive a true sound. Also, he is where the audience is, and his ears receive that part of the room, which is very important. As I've said I'm really looking forward to the gig, and to another great year for the guitar festival.

Moving on now to a local charity which was held at The Beechwood Social Club last month. The Beechwood estate is renowned for raising money for good causes, and Jimmy Conway and all his staff continue every year to raise thousands of pounds with the help of local artists. Last month was no exception.

Nearly £2000 was raised for a local cause, and The Beechwood Social Club would like to thank the following entertainers, PJ Lane, Denny and Yozzer from Shout, Craig Murphy, Sonia, Girl Duo Two-Faced, D Rifter, Vinny Connolly, Brian Hardman, and myself for helping to raise such a big amount of money in one night. Well done to everyone who gave their time and effort for free.

Moving on to Radio Merseyside's 40 Years of music and laughter show, which I mentioned last month. If you're thinking of going to the show please book now as it is nearly sold out.

It's bound to be a good night, with so many stars from past and present appearing on one bill. Billy Butler has worked tremendously hard putting the show together and only Billy could have achieved getting so many big names together on the same night. Well done to Billy, and I'm looking forward to playing with the band with so many greats.

Christmas is coming, and each year someone, somewhere, will be looking to buy a guitar.

Nowadays, you can buy a guitar pack, which includes an electric stratocaster type copy, including an amplifier, tuner, guitar strap, and learning DVD to get you started. All this can be purchased for around £150. The best place to buy your guitar or any musical instrument this Christmas is Market Music in Birkenhead Market. Ask for Alan or telephone 0151 650 1030 and I'm sure you will get a good deal.

I mentioned earlier about PJ Lane at The Beechwood. P.J recently recorded his new album called 'The Losers Lounge'. I produced the CD, and really enjoyed working with him. He's a great guy and has a great voice, and now has a great CD. Check it out, the title track called 'The Losers Lounge', was written by local guitarist Vinny Connolly. It's a country song, in fact the whole album is country, and I think it's well worth a listen. You can buy the album at PJ's gigs. Lots of luck PJ, I hope it goes well.

Well that's all from me. I'm off now to order my X Factor Christmas number one, as usual.

What ever happened to Slade, Wizard, and Cliff?, and games like Kerplunk, Buckaroo, Raving Bonkers, and Matchbox motorway series?, oh yer, and Mouse trap?, and ecthosketch?, and Spiro graph?

I wonder if the Queen will ever do a rap speech, written by Puff Daddy?

We'd have to ask Simon Cowell if it was OK?

Ah well., that's enough from me,

Keep Buzzin'

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