

Straytown

UPDATES AND INFORMATION

ISSUE 2.0 - MAY 2008

Featured Artist - Pete Oliver

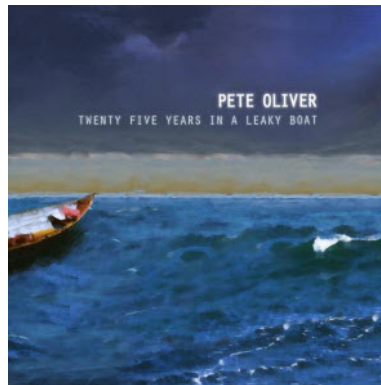
Pete Oliver's new solo album is from the heart of a 41-year-old who looks back on his life and wonders "What have I achieved since I left school?"

'Twenty Five Years in a Leaky Boat' is an album of clever jazz/funk/fusion mixed with feelings of both optimism and disappointment - feelings perhaps familiar to many people.

The eight tracks are:

1. Smile
2. Someone Else
3. I Can See It Now
4. Sitting Around
5. Chosen One
6. Last Time
7. I Can See It Now (remix)
8. Last Time (remix)

Best known as a bass guitarist, Pete has also been writing songs, arranging music and recording for years as part of a band, or as a session musician for others. 'Twenty Five Years in a Leaky Boat' is his first attempt to tell his story in music entirely his way.



'Twenty Five Years in a Leaky Boat' by Pete Oliver

www.straytown.com/pete
www.myspace.com/Peteoliver

As one might expect, there is some great bass playing on the album. But Pete is much more than that. He has brought together thoughtful, well structured lyrics with melodies that challenge singers but not the ears of listeners, and super-smooth arrangements.

It's a mark of the esteem Pete is held in by other musicians that several of the best singers and instrumentalists in the Harrogate area have contributed to this recording.

Twenty Five Years in a Leaky Boat was released on 29th March 2008. It is available on iTunes and other on-line retailers, as well as CD from Straytown.

Pete is keen to hear more remixes of his songs, so if you think you can float his musical boat in a different direction, get in touch.

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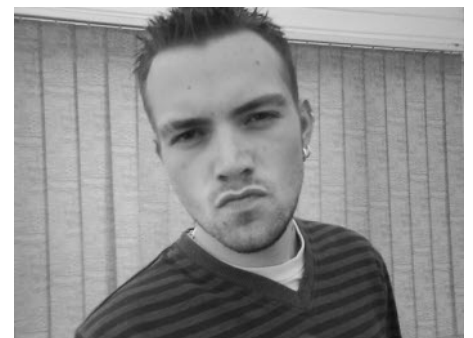
A band from where?

Straytown has signed a deal with Lincolnshire rock band **7th Sense** after a highly impressive recording session at the Harrogate studios.

The three-piece outfit of Scott Griffin, Tony Thackray and Richard Coe call themselves a 'punk/grunge/rock set-up'; there is a metallic edge to their sound and a hint of Foo Fighters in the end result.

Laurie Hopkins, head of Straytown, commented on his latest signing; "I was really impressed by what the lads did. They worked really well with our engineer Ben to produce some great recordings, each with a huge sound, yet with enough space to hear what is going on. I love it."

Seventh Sense will be releasing their debut EP in August and gigging throughout Lincolnshire and Yorkshire before returning to the studio for further recordings.



Lincolnshire is not best known for producing rock bands, but 7th Sense are keen to set the record straight.

NEW RELEASES

| DATE | ARTIST / TITLE | DESCRIPTION |
|---|---|---|
| W/c 2nd June 2008 | Dago Red - Folk 'n' Blues Memories and Other Tales | Dago Red's 1st album available in the UK. |
| W/c 9th June 2008 | Hargreaves - (Bad,) Bad Girl EP | Hargreaves' debut four track release featuring the blues boogie '(Bad,) Bad Girl'. |
| W/c 4th August 2008 W/c 18th August 2008 | 7th Sense - EP Tom Weldon - What We Went Through | Two years of work have gone into this brilliant album of introspective melodramatic pop and rock. |
| W/c 1st September 2008 | Hargreaves - Sooner if not Later | Debut album of soul influenced country and blues |
| W/c 8th September 2008 | Dago Red - 2nd Album (t.b.a.) | Dago Red's 2nd album available in the UK. |
| W/c 3rd November 2008 | Dago Red - 3rd Album (t.b.a.) | Dago Red's New album available world-wide. |

LIVE LISTINGS

| DATE | ARTIST | VENUE | NOTES |
|--------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 2nd May | Tom Weldon | Dry Bar, Manchester | |
| 4th May | Blue Kings | Leeds Blues Festival | |
| 9th May | Blue Kings | Memorial Hall, Boston Spa | |
| 17th May | Tom Weldon | The Black Swan, Harrogate | Solo Performance |
| 17th May | Moneyshot | The Lincoln Imp, Scunthorpe | |
| 18th May | Bluesville & Hargreaves | The Fairways, Rotherham | Also with Dave Dowson |
| 23rd May | Bluesville | The Blues Bar, Harrogate | |
| 24th May | Hargreaves | The West Park Hotel, Harrogate | Cancer Research UK benefit (by invitation) |
| 31st May | Tom Weldon | Joseph's Well, Leeds | Supporting The Whiskey Cats |
| 5th June | Blue Kings | The Bay Horse, Clifford | |
| 6th June | Bluesville | The World's End, Knaresborough | |
| 28/29th June | Blue Kings | Dundee Blues Bonanza | |
| 5th July | Bluesville | Duck and Drake, Leeds | |
| 17th July | Blue Kings | Cricketers Arms, Keighley | |
| 25th July | Bluesville | The Blues Bar, Harrogate | |
| 31st July | Beauty and the Beasts | The Alexandra, Harrogate | |
| 15th August | Bluesville | The World's End, Knaresborough | |
| 16th August | Moneyshot & 7th Sense | The Black Swan, Harrogate | Bare Metal Night |
| 22nd August | Moneyshot | Leeds Festival (Nokia Tent) | |
| 23rd August | Dago Red | GB Blues & R'n'B Festival, Colne | Two gigs in one night! |



A word from The Guv'nor

Founder and Managing Director, Laurie Hopkins, speaks his mind about the music industry and recording. This month, the frustrating business of getting a good guitar sound in the studio.

One of the joys of working in a studio is the satisfaction that comes from making a band sound great. Core to the sound of most blues and rock acts is the guitar sound. But getting a good guitar sound in the studio is surprisingly difficult.

Guitars, both acoustic and electric, sound totally different in three places - the bedroom (where most guitarists seem to practice), on stage, and in a studio. Maybe also in shops.

A good bedroom guitar sound seems to come from loads of gain and

masses of distortion for electric guitars, and laying on your back, staring at the ceiling when playing acoustic. Its partly imagination, but also the reflection and absorption characteristics of walls and bedding.

On stage, you quite often need surprisingly bass-heavy EQ for electric guitars and electro-acoustics that use piezo under-bridge pick-ups. And while you need a decent volume, it is easy to get into an arms-race with other instruments that ends up in making your drummer work incredibly hard, and your singer suffering a pointless sore throat.

In the studio, you have another set of problems, and every engineer has a different approach to achieving that great sound. But here's how we do things at Straytown.

1. Seems obvious, but start off with a good quality guitar, properly maintained and set-up, and with recently fitted strings.

2. Same applies to your amp, or else use one of the studio amps.

3. Go for tone and control, NOT for volume. Always remember that Eric Clapton recorded Layla using a little Fender Champ.

4. Unless you need loads of feedback, keep the sound reasonably clean - it will sound more distorted on the recording than it does when you play.

5. Use multiple sources on acoustic guitars - more than one microphone, on-board pick-ups, the lot, then comp the outputs.

6. Listen to what the engineer says it sounds like - you are paying for his expertise so use it.

Cheers - **Laurie**

THE STRAYTOWN ROSTER

- Beauty And The Beasts** Entertain with a passion and enthusiasm rarely found in unsigned bands.
- Blue Kings** A five piece blues combo - blues lovers, rock solid in their appreciation of a genre that is without doubt popular music's most vital and emotional.
- Bluesville** Bluesy, Mellow, Rockin' & Funky! Fantastic Live.
- Dago Red** The best in Folk and Acoustic Blues
- Hargreaves** Soul influenced blues and country with great vocals
- Kill Freida** These boys put the DEATH in METAL. Quite simply awesome!!
- Moneyshot** Glam Rock for the 21st Century!!
- Pete Oliver** Songwriter, Bassist, Arranger - the complete package.
- The Side Effects** Infectious, punked up funk, grabbing audiences wherever they play.
- Tom Weldon** An absolutely stunning young songwriter, multi-instrumentalist and vocalist. Moody, dark and strangely addictive music.
- UK Blues Project** The best in hard blues. "No Rush" - Their philosophy and the name of their latest Album - a blues master class!!
- UniSax** Great Sax Quartet from Harrogate - young, talented, handsome, doh! some guys have all the luck - Check it out!
- 7th Sense** Rock and Metal played the way you want to hear it in your car!

STRAYTOWN LIMITED - THE COMPLETE WORKS

Anyone can set up a record label, right? And all you need to make music is a computer and a copy of Cubase, yeah? So what is it that Straytown Limited offers that you can't get elsewhere? Well ...

... one of the first things we can offer is what you're currently looking at - marketing. We're not a marketing company, but we are from corporate backgrounds, so we understand that no matter how good your recordings, they ain't gonna sell themselves without a bit of help, and before you can sell them you've got to make damn sure they are presented in a way that appeals to prospective buyers. So every band signed to Straytown gets support with their marketing as part of the deal.

We offer a complete service, from rehearsal space, to recording, mixing, mastering, duplication, distribution and promotion. We're also building a list of professional partners who can help with printing, PR, gig booking, p.a. hire, contracts and countless other services that bands need but would rather not have to source for themselves.

Our recording studios offer all the facilities needed by bands and solo artists, and we can even handle small ensemble groups - or else use our portable facilities to record larger groups such as swing bands or orchestras in an off-site location.

Sharon Colgan, lead singer with Bluesville says; "Straytown is a great support for Bluesville. We play live very regularly, and Straytown is always able to come up with the right p.a. and lighting.



On top of that they've put together a great live album for us and provide us with superb rehearsal facilities."

Recording Studio **Tech Spec**

The studio is equipped with just about everything you need to produce top quality professional digital recordings.

Computer:

Ultra quiet 64 bit Quad Core PC with 4 Gbytes RAM & 2 Tbytes Storage

Dual screens

Phonic 18 + 8 Mixing Desk/Sound Card interface

M Audio & JBL near field monitors

Software:

Cubase 4 + many plugins

Mics:

Studio Electronics

Sure

AKG

Peavey

Amps:

Marshall Valvestate

Fender DeVille

Laney valve combo

Ampeg

Revo (keys & bass)

Drums:

Premier kit

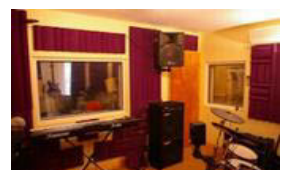
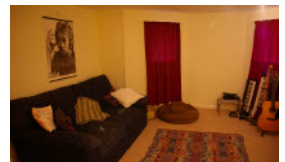
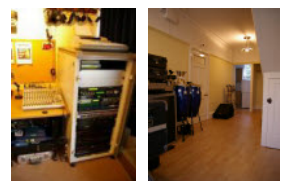
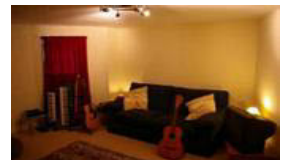
Various cymbals

Keys & Modules:

Studiologic SL880 fully weighted keyboard controller

Proteus 2000 Studio keyboard module

Yamaha RM50 studio module



Straytown Limited

Straytown Studios

76 Cornwall Road

Harrogate

North Yorkshire

HG1 2NE

Tel: 0845 9000 686

Email: info@straytown.com

www.straytown.com

Newsletter produced for Straytown Limited by:

Hargreaves & Webb Ltd

48b Tennyson Avenue

Bilton

Harrogate

HG1 3LF

Tel : +44 1423 223 496 / +44 118 908 0011

christopher.webb@hargreavesandwebb.com

www.hargreavesandwebb.com