

GO!

Thursday, September 9, 2010

Your seven-day TV and leisure guide to Milton Keynes and beyond starts here...

Citizen

SUBWAY
eat fresh.

Please see inside for great **SUBWAY** deals

Go! South



Celebrated songwriter goes solo – page 5

Go! Solstice



Glaxo stars offer alternative rock – see page 5

Go! Concert



Tune into Mozart clarinet concerto at Stables – page 5



Fawlty Towers reopens

Book in to Torquay's most infamous hotel courtesy of MK Theatre of Comedy

See page 3

Visit our website at www.miltonkeynes.co.uk for lots more leisure news and views

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SONGTIME THEATRE ARTS PRESENTS

THE WIZ

STARRING
STEPH FEARON
FROM BBC'S OVER THE RAINBOW

TUE 14 - SAT 18 SEP

EYE-POPPING FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

'ABSOLUTELY WICKED AND NOT JUST FOR THE CHILDREN'
THE STAGE
TUE 12 - SAT 16 OCT



★★★★★
INDEPENDENT

National Theatre on Tour
The Habit of Art
Alan Bennett

TUE 19 - SAT 23 OCT

'EXPECT TO BE AMAZED'
SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

'ENDLESSLY INVENTIVE. AWESOME!'
EVENING STANDARD

TUE 26 - SAT 30 OCT



Dog show and pet pictures at Hula day out

BID a fond farewell to the summer with HULA Animal Rescue's Summer's End Fete and Companion Dog Show on Sunday.

Proceeds from the event at Glebe Farm in Aspley Guise will be used to improve the welfare of rescued animals.

The event will include a bouncy castle and pet photo show. You can also meet rescued pets, ponies and farm animals.

The fun starts at 12 midday and continues until 4.30pm. Entry is just £2 for adults, £1 for accompanied children. Call 01908 584000 or visit www.hularescue.org for further information.

Get the book, copy the design

IF your home could do with some sprucing up this season, you can get busy 'changing rooms' with the advice of Laurence Llewellyn Bowen tomorrow.

The flamboyant interior designer will be visiting the Routeco Retail Park in Winterhill to offer design advice to customers at Moben Kitchens, Dolphin Bathrooms and Sharps Bedrooms.

As well as suggesting design ideas, he will be signing copies of his book.

The first 20 customers will receive a signed book for free.

Laurence will be there from 2.30pm so arrive early.

It is that easy being Green

THE Pitstone Green Museum will be holding their final Open Day this Sunday, September 12.

On the day they will be tractor and trailer rides as well as the opportunity to visit and go inside a Lancaster Bomber cockpit, model railways and Crossley gas and stationery engines.

Tickets are £4 for adults and £2 for children. For more information visit the website at <http://website.lineone.net/~pitstonemus>.

Wham Bam, it's festival time

ENJOY live music and real ale as The Cock & Bull Society hosts the 5th WhamBam ThankYouLamb! Festival at The Lamb in Stoke Goldington on Saturday.

The fun starts at 2.30pm and entry is just £5. Call 01908 551233 for more information.

Celebrate ten years of peace

THE Milton Keynes Circle of Hearts Medicine Wheel celebrates its 10th anniversary on Saturday.

A ceremony will be held at 2.30pm to commemorate the day the structure, a focal point for people wanting to find their inner peace, was built.

Missing out on Rock Chorus could be bad for your health

PEOPLE who have an interest in singing with a choir with a difference are being invited to show off their skills with the Rock Chorus.

The autumn term starts on Wednesday, September 15 from 8pm to 9.30pm and every Wednesday evening thereafter for ten weeks at Wavendon Gate School, Gregories Drive, Wavendon Gate.

But what is the Rock Chorus I hear you ask? It is a choir with a difference. Since they formed in September of

last year in Dunstable the choir has gone from strength to strength with a repertoire of classic and contemporary rock, pop, soul and gospel music.

Of course I hear you say that there are plenty of choirs around but many of them concentrate on classical or purely religious music but Rock Chorus choir leader, Lauren Field, wanted to go in a different direction and arrange great pop and rock songs for her choirs.

And there is no age range either. Currently the group's age range goes

from 13 to 84, and of all abilities as well. The strong singers and less confident singers work together to support each other and make a great sound.

During this summer alone Rock Chorus have appeared at the Bushey/Oxhey Arts Festival, Dunstable's Party in the Park, for Help for Heroes, The Pepper Festival in Berkhamsted, The Bushey Festival, The Waterside Festival in Great Linford, Sadler's Wells Theatre, Mac Fest 2010 - for the Macintyre charity and Woburn's Oyster Festival.

But that's not all. They have played at a number of charity events throughout the year, and have already received a number of bookings for next year.

Singing is scientifically proven to be beneficial to people's health as it helps to release endorphins which help to relieve stress.

So what are you waiting for? Come along to Wavendon Gate School on Wednesday between 8pm and 9.30pm. For more call 01582 668211 or visit www.rock-choris.com

It's been a perfect 10 for Midsummer Place

THE 'new bit' of the city is finally starting to show its age - but not in a bad way.

And during this weekend Midsummer Place will be throwing a special party, with a host of attractions planned.

Throughout the weekend shoppers will be greeted by stilt walkers, entertainers, face painters and balloon shapers, and to coincide with the 10th anniversary of tin, there will be a steel band performing as well.

Midsummer Place was a £170 million development in the Millennium year that created over 2,000 jobs, welcoming new brands such as Karen Millen, Debenhams and Gap.

It has also become a popular place for

exhibitors and artists to show off their work and shows. It is home to work by some of the most prestigious artists through Fringe MK Centre manager, Martin Hindson, said: "We are all really excited about the 10th anniversary celebrations and are sure it will be a spectacular event for all of our shoppers and retailers."

"We can't believe how quickly the time has gone by and are looking forward to rewarding all the efforts of our team as well as our valued customers."

>For more information about the celebrations visit www.midsummerplace.co.uk.



BIG NEWS AT TEN: Midsummer Place is celebrating its 10th birthday with a weekend long party

Muster up a cheer for a hike or three

PULL on your hiking boots and get a spring in your step for the Newport Muster 2010 on Saturday.

Walkers at Newport Pagnell's annual Muster will find themselves spoilt for choice this year as course designer Keith Yates has devised three routes in and around the town and its picturesque Ouse valley to suit everyone, from experienced walking teams to tiny tots.

For a quick three mile stroll, choose 'The Picnic' route. Those with an

interest in local history will enjoy 'The History', a six mile walk. Finally, serious walkers who want a more physically demanding test should opt for 'The Challenge', a 15 mile circular walk.

With support from the MK Community Foundation, residents who call themselves 'The Levellers' have organised the event.

The Muster is a not-for-profit event that aims to improve community involvement, attract visitors and encourage walkers to raise funds for

charity. Organisers are recommending Willen Hospice as a potential recipient.

The entrance fee is £2 to cover administrative costs and completion certificates. There is no charge for walkers under 14, but children must be accompanied by an adult and appropriate clothing should be worn.

There will be prizes for the oldest walker, the youngest walker, largest team and best fancy dress. Visit www.newportmuster.org for more information.

Film buff paradise at Open University

THIS week sees the start of the 41st season of the ever popular Open Film Society.

Aiming to show the best films from around the world, it will feature 30 films from 18 different countries including 'The White Ribbon' from Austria, 'Mesrine' from France, 'Departures' from Japan, 'Blue Eyelids' from Mexico and 'Broken Embraces' from Spain. On Wednesday the season begins

with 'An Education', Lyn Barbers' award-winning story of teenage life starring Carey Mulligan.

It will screen at 6.15pm and 8pm on Wednesday, September 15. Films will be shown on most Wednesdays until the beginning of May in the Hub Theatre at the Open University, at both 6.15pm and 8.45pm.

Full membership is only £60 and allows you to see all the films in

the 2010/2011 season. Associate membership costs £15, allowing you to see each film for £3.

Attend as a guest for just £5 - £4 for concessions - a film. Visitors to the season must be over 16 years old.

> For more information visit www.openfilmsociety.co.uk, pick up a brochure from the library or leave a message on 01908 654925.

Enjoy humour and hummus at Turkish dinner

TUCK into a Turkish dinner and savour some jolly jokes and wining witticisms at the Cock & Bull Night of Humour on Wednesday.

This is the second Night of Humour hosted by the Cock & Bull Society and it will take place at York House Centre, in Stony Stratford, from 8.30pm.

Silly songs, stories, poetry - or at the very least, verse - and traditional jokes will provide the puns.

Entrance is £6 and this includes both the meal, with a hummus starter, and entertainment.

Bring your own drinks for a low-budget night out packed full of loads of fun.

Proceeds will go to York House and 'Bring the Hungarians Back to Story'.

Tickets are available from York House Centre or from Well Past It, in Stony Stratford.

Alternatively, email clayton@cockandbull.org.uk for tickets or more information.

Inspiration for Africa in opera

THE Sherwood Coral Society will present a summer concert in aid of Advantage Africa tomorrow.

'Summer Sunday' by Jospeth Horowitz is a comical, tragic, pastoral soap operetta that will be performed alongside other pieces ranging from Mozart to Mercer.

The concert will take place at 8pm at Freeman Memorial Methodist Church in Buckingham Road in Bletchley. Admission is just £6, with proceeds going to Olney-based charity Advantage Africa.

The charity supports the inspirational ideas of Africans and can be contacted on 01234 711005.

Indian tradition and top food

CURRY on with Calcutta Brasserie on Wednesday as the restaurant in Stony Stratford celebrates its second anniversary.

Traditional Indian singers and musicians will provide entertainment throughout the evening. The celebration costs £15.95 per person and includes a champagne reception, three-course meal and live entertainment.

Call 01908 566577 to book.

Red Dot Bar to welcome back New Town boys

THE New Town Killers will return to their home town this Saturday to launch the new live music nights at the Red Dot Bar at stadium.mk.

The local boys have recently launched their new single 'This Town' and made their debut at Camden's Dublin Castle and Fiddlers Elbow.

They have also been short-listed to support 90s indie icons Suede at the O2 Arena in December. Jett London, Vince Vegas, Dee Troit and Richie Reno will be showcasing their new original material alongside some old favourites.

Doors are open 8pm to 1am, the show begins at 9.30pm.

Discovering a Medieval MK

HEAR Ye, Hear Ye. Come to the Medieval Family Fun Day at Bradwell Abbey on Sunday, September 12.

Between 11am and 4pm visitors will be able to enjoy lots of sights and sounds including have-a-go archery and a falconry display – at 1.30pm.

There will also be a chance to meet medieval soldiers, "kill or cure" surgery and a delicious hog roast.

Also on the same day between 12pm and 4.30pm there will be MK's first medieval symposium. Tickets for this will be just £8. For more call 01908 227229.

Enjoy fun in the Summer sun

PEOPLE will have the chance to enjoy a Summer Sunday – this Friday.

At Freeman Memorial Methodist Church in Bletchley, the Sherwood Choral society will present Summer Sunday by Joseph Horowitz.

It is described as a comical, tragical, ecological, pastoral soap operetta performed alongside pieces from Mozart to Mercer. Tickets are just £6.

Karen sings from the heart

A STUNNING show celebrating the music of The Carpenters is coming to The Stables tonight – September 9.

With superb vocals from Carole Gordon fans are assured a quality show. For more call the Box Office on 01908 280800.

Don't feel blue with Milestones

MILESTONES – Kind of Blue is a show celebrating the music of Miles Davis and features a reprise of the Kind of Blue album.

Tickets are just £16 for tomorrow night's – Friday – performance. For more go to www.milestonesjazz.co.uk.

Making the South, Beautiful

HIGHLY successful songwriter and instigator of The Beautiful South with Paul Heaton, David Rotheray has just released his latest album.

Entitled The Life Of Birds, the album is a modern folk concept album, featuring collaborations with a whole host of singers and songwriters from the contemporary scene including Jim Causley and Bella Hardy who will guest with him when he comes to The Stables.

David enjoyed a great level of success in The Beautiful South but this will be your

chance to see him live and in person as a solo artist.

An intriguing collision between Nashville and Whitby, Rotheray's country instincts blend naturally with the Folkier leanings of his collaborators.

Tickets for the show – which will be taking place on Tuesday, September 14 at 8pm – are on sale now and can be ordered by calling the Box Office on 01908 280800.

For more information on the show and David himself you can visit his MySpace page at www.myspace.com/rotheray.



Glasto stars Solstice to offer alternative rock

SOLSTICE are playing a whistle-stop tour throughout September and this Tuesday the band will be performing in concert at Stantonbury Campus Theatre.

The 1980s group encompasses soaring violin and guitar weaving around delicately passionate female vocals and has developed a real following as audiences search for an alternative to shiny mass produced pop groups.

Their new album 'Spirit' has been described as 'nothing less than a masterpiece' by Classic Rock Society Magazine and fans revel in their performances at all the major festivals. Solstice are in huge demand at the moment

– other forthcoming dates include the revered 'Night of Prog' Festival in the Loreley Amphitheatre in Frankfurt, Germany. This will be their first opportunity to play to a big audience since Glastonbury.

Catch Solstice this Tuesday at 7.30pm at Stantonbury Campus Theatre where they will be performing alongside support band Footswitch, the latest graduates of MK Rock School.

All proceeds go to support the Stantonbury Campus exchange programmes with Tanzania and India.

Tickets are £10 – £5 for concessions - and can be purchased online at www.stantonbury.org.uk or on the door.



SOARING VIOLINS: Solstice are coming to Stantonbury Campus Theatre

Welcome return for cappella song birds

ENGLISH vocal harmony trio Artisan hung up their tonsils in 2005 – but the popular cappella group never said never again...

And now, just five years later, the fabulous threesome are back in Milton Keynes.

Their performance will be part of a short reunion tour to remind fans why their success endured from 1985 to 2005.

Fans will be able to catch the group's live performance at the Song Loft,

in The Cock Hotel, Stony Stratford tomorrow at 8.15pm.

Their music strikes a balance between poignancy and a lot of good fun.

The lyrics, written by the male voice of the group Brian Bedford, include much humour and some social conscience.

The harmonies of Brian, his wife Jacey Bedford and Hilary Spencer easily equal those found on the music scene today.

Fans old and new will be on the edge of their seats at this special reunion performance.

Tickets are £15 each and are available from O'Dells in Stony Stratford High Street, The Cock Hotel or by contacting songloft@googlemail.com.

They will also be available on the door, but be early as there is limited seating.

Don't miss out – who knows how long they will be next time?

More to festival than just the oysters

WOBURN is the place to be this weekend as the Oyster Festival comes to town.

Markets and fairs have been held on the Pitchings, the cobbled area at the centre of Woburn, since 1242 and the Oyster Festival continues this tradition.

From 6pm on Friday, September 10, Woburn will host the event that is about more than just oysters.

As well as oysters and seafood, a variety of other food will be available,

including a barbecue and pig roast, a specialist BBQ selling kangaroo, crocodile and ostrich burgers and a traditional Cornish pasties stall.

Street entertainers, bands, including The Barron Knights, pictured, music acts, a cheerleader display, a classic car show and a craft fayre are also lined up.

>The festival starts tomorrow from 6pm-11pm and continues Saturday 8am-11pm and Sunday 8am-6pm.



New Stables brochure has plenty of gems

MUSIC fans will be able to keep the winter chills away this year, with a quick glance at the new Stables brochure revealing plenty of hot acts.

Highlights will include former Mott The Hoople, and rock 'n' roll survivor Ian Hunter who returns to the Wavendon haunt on October 8.

Gordon Haskell has a new release in the racks, and he will promote One Day soon with a show on October 27.

Others worth popping into the diary now include Thea Gilmore who has quite some fan base of her own – Bruce Springsteen apparently purchases her records.



IAN HUNTER: Stables date

How cool is that, having The Boss pop down to Walmart (possibly) to pick up a copy of her deliveries?

Tom Waits' percussionist Michael Blair is on the latest record, Murphy's Heart.

Thea will be there on December 7 and Cleo Laine will assume position at her venue for the annual Christmas shows, The Lady Is A Dame.

Tickets go quick for these, and the shows run between Thursday December 16 and Saturday 18.

Reach for the phone and call MK 280800 to make sure of being seated at your preferred choices.

South Sea Co. alternative gig

INDIE-ALT irockers South Sea Company top the bill at a Craufurd Arms bash this Friday with a big bash to officially mark the release of their debut, self-titled mini-album.

Tickets to the Wolverton show are a fiver, doors open at 7.30pm and the remainder of the line-up will feature Equinox, The Scallies and Problem Solved.

A theatre of comedy as Fawlty Towers arrives

FANS of classic 1970s British sitcom 'Fawlty Towers' have the chance to witness the chaos of Torquay's most infamous hotel as Milton Keynes Theatre of Comedy bring the brilliant BBC series to the stage.

From Tuesday, September 14 to Saturday, September 18 you are invited to join Basil, Sybil, Polly, Manuel and a host of long-suffering and much abused guests in their slightly crazy hotel at The Chrysalis Theatre.

Three hilarious stories will form an evening of entertainment bringing to life the sitcom that represents the pinnacle of the golden era of television comedy.

Hotel owner Basil Fawlty's incompetence

and arrogance, wife Sybil's sharp tongue and braying laugh and Manuel's well-meaning but constantly confused state combine to ensure a laugh out loud show.

The Milton Keynes Theatre of Comedy will present the audience with the bedlam one would expect at Fawlty Towers as mayhem surrounds Basil's horse winnings and the fearsome and intermittently deaf Mrs Richards adds to the mix.

There will be further confusion over the identity of the hotel inspectors and what will happen when Manuel's pedigree Siberian hamster gets loose on the day that the Public Health Inspector is visiting?

For farce and innuendo and good old

Fawlty Towers eccentricity, book your tickets now.

Milton Keynes Theatre of Comedy last took to the stage at The Chrysalis Theatre in July 2009 with the world premiere stage adaptation of the 'Ripping Yarns' by Michael Palin and Terry Jones and has previously performed sell-out performances of 'Allo 'Allo' and the 'Lady Killers'.

This latest show promises to reproduce their previous success. Performances run each night at 7.30pm at The Chrysalis Theatre, Campmill.

Tickets are priced from just £9 and can be purchased at www.mktoc.co.uk or through the box office on 0845 2410967.



Concerto played as Mozart meant it

LOOK forward to a real musical treat at The Stables this Sunday which hosts the performance of a special Mozart concerto.

Solo clarinetist Colin Lawson will join professional orchestra, Fiori Musicali, to perform Mozart's famous Clarinet Concerto.

The evening will be particularly special as Lawson will be playing on the basset clarinet as Mozart originally intended it.

Fiori's director, Penelope Rapson said: "Mostly when people perform this piece they have to miss out some of the notes Mozart wrote because they don't fit on the normal clarinet.

"They just aren't there on the regular clarinet as the instrument simply

doesn't go low enough.

"Lawson reinstates the original notes, and the effect is stunning."

Fiori Musicali is one of the United Kingdom's principal providers of baroque and classical music concerts outside London.

The programme also features Tchaikovsky's popular Serenade for Strings and a rare symphony by Wanczura. The performance starts at 7.30pm and tickets are £13, £18, £23.

>Tickets are available from Wavendon box office 01908 280800 and directly from Fiori Musicali on 01327 360931 (no booking charge). For further information visit www.fiori-musicali.com



FIORI MUSICALI: Catch Mozart's famous Clarinet Concerto – with all the notes

Fame! – I wanna star in this show...

'I WANNA live forever, I wanna learn how to fly' – 'remember' that?

Those destined for stardom listen up.

Dig out your legwarmers, don your dancing shoes and get yourself to the MK Community Theatre open auditions for FAME the musical.

This local company gives the people of Milton Keynes the opportunity to perform in and produce their own full-scale productions at Milton Keynes Theatre. Previous productions include West Side Story, Annie, Bugsy Malone, The Wiz and High School Musical.

They have been rip-roaring success, not only giving performers a chance to shine but also giving those on the production and technical side a chance for some hands-on experience too.

A minimum of 100 cast members are needed to bring to life the trials and tribulations of the new influx of students at the New York City High School of Performing Arts, but ideally 200 performers will have to be cast.

Auditions will be in held on Sunday at Newport Pagnell Youth Club in the form of workshops which seeks performers aged 11 to young

looking 30 year olds to play college students going through the angst-ridden years of growing up within a performing arts school.

There will be three workshops: 10.30am to 12.30pm; 1pm to 3pm; and 3.30pm to 5.30pm.

The production will take place at Milton Keynes Theatre on Saturday, January 22, 2011 with two performances directed by award-winning producer/director Paula Diamond.

Rehearsals will be on Sundays from September until January. Call 01908 618950 for further information.

No need to Panic – it's Panic Room

LED by stellar Mostly Autumn frontwoman, Anne Marie Helder, Panic Room's sound is strong, edgy and full of catchy hooks and choruses.

There are future hits aplenty here, but if people listen carefully and you will hear lots of diverse

influences from the world of jazz, blues, funk, folk and even classical.

The show takes place on Wednesday, September 15 and tickets are just £12.50. For more call the Box Office on 01908 280800.



WILL THEY, WON'T THEY?: Jennifer Aniston and Jason Bateman in run-of-the-mill romantic comedy The Switch

filmfocus

It's Aniston again, so time to switch to another screen

The Switch

IT'S difficult to muster the energy to rail at these romantic comedies that display neither romance nor humour, because regardless of my vitriol, they just keep coming.

Jennifer Aniston and the usually reliable Jason Bateman are the two friends, estranged, reunited, will they/won't they? lovers this time round.

Aniston is a woman with a seven-year-old son by sperm donation, who learns that the sample she wanted was switched by Bateman, who replaced it with one of his own.

Cue, well, you know what it cues, and none of it is worth the astronomical ticket price at the multiplex.

Dinner For Schmucks

LE Diner De Cons is a sublime French comedy about a snob who brings a stranger he meets to his regular 'dinner for idiots' where he hopes his catch will win him the prize of career kudos he so craves.

It's a delightful film with some hilarious moments and dark undercurrent.

This is the inevitable Hollywood remake with an all-star cast that takes a great idea and doesn't quite do it justice.

It's not awful and maybe I'd like it more if

I didn't love the original so much.

Steve Carell plays the schmuck who it soon becomes clear may not be the idiot that Tim (Paul Rudd) has taken him for.

The humour is broad but the subtlety of the relationship, the way it transforms, is ham-fisted and awkward. Lost in translation, you might say.

The Last Exorcism

AN interesting spin on the well-worn exorcism storyline sees a documentary film crew accompanying a demon-weary priest as he attempts what he claims will be his final exorcism.

The result is a film that clearly posits itself between The Exorcist and The Blair Witch Project, but it's in the execution that it lets itself down.

The scares are too rudimentary and the plot too obvious.

There are some genuinely scary moments, despite the 15 certificate, but they are outweighed by overwrought familiarity.

Don't be put off by Eli Roth's name attached either.

He's just 'presenting' and this has far more going for it than those Hostel travesties.