

## ● What's On

# This could be a case for Mulder and Scully

### MEET THE STARS

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Usually all eyes are on the pitch at stadium:mk, but while Bowditch & Co. give their dribbling a rest, punters will flock to the grand venue and eye up the stars instead.

The annual Collectormania feast does the rounds again this weekend, and organisers have assembled a cute cast to grab attention.

And there are some big, big names among the listings, including X-Files star Gillian Anderson, Dr Who assistants Billie Piper (past) and Jenna-Louise Coleman (present), and the ever-so-suave Charles Dance.

If the scary, scary is more your sort of thing, you'll want to get acquainted with Lou 'The Hulk' Ferrigno and Malcolm McDowell who starred in the mindbending, psychedelic crime thriller, A Clockwork Orange.

And if you think they are a tad scary, forget it – Ken Kirzinger from Freddy Vs Jason is one



**A CLOCKWORK ORANGE:** Malcolm McDowell played Alex DeLarge in Kubrick's controversial film from 1971. You can meet him, and dozens of other faces from film and television, at this weekend's Collectormania

scarier...at least behind the mask, he is.

The great thing about Collectormania is that the stars are really there to see you too – you can meet, greet and get your photo snapped with your most desired, and with somewhere in the region of 75 stars turning out between Saturday and Monday, there is plenty of choice.

Actors from the Bafta winning Game of Thrones will show up, including Lily's brother Alfie Allen, and sporting fans can sate their appetite with boxers Joe Calzaghe and Frank Bruno, racing driver Stirling Moss and footballers Jimmy Greaves and Gordon Banks among the guestlist.

Guests aside, and film and TV fans will be able to let the plas-

tic take the strain at the many memorabilia stalls selling unusual, rare and quirky goods – from posters to film props and everything inbetween.

Admission is free, but charges will be made for autographs and photos.

Not all guests will be appearing all days.

Visit [www.collectormania.com](http://www.collectormania.com) for full information.

# Relive fab 40s

### BLETCHLEY PARK

Step back in time at Bletchley Park with The Forties Family Festival, happening this Saturday and Sunday.

The decade was dominated by Second World War – the war effort inspired films and fashion throughout the epoch – and gave us many well-loved Hollywood classics including It's a Wonderful Life.

Re-enactors will bring the time period to life through costumes, vehicles, swing music and a fashion show.

The Northern Forties group will re-enact Soviet Snipers, German Infantry, RAF and the Royal Navy, while Deco in Style will return with their magnificent recreation of a WW2 plotting table.

Meanwhile, marvel as The Model Boat Club displays its fleet on the Lake and relax while the youngsters are kept busy with special activities.

Tours of the Bletchley Park site will continue as usual and the Bombe Team will be on hand to talk to visitors about the machine that helped the Codebreakers crack Enigma.

The Enigma Cinema will show 1940s news reels throughout the afternoons and there will even be a disco in the marquee.

Visit [www.bletchleypark.org.uk](http://www.bletchleypark.org.uk) for more information.



**FLYING THE FLAG:** Bletchley Park steps back in time this weekend. Pic: Simon St Clare

> Mojo is inviting patrons to enjoy an evening with a total dojo tonight.

The champagne and cocktail lounge, located in the Hub, is hosting an Oriental-themed affair, complete with a martial arts demonstration courtesy of Bletchley-based academy Total Dojo.

TD has been running for more than 10 years and was the very first full-time academy of martial arts in the city. From 8pm the Total Dojo team will be showcasing the styles of Jun Fan Gung Fu, Filipino Kali & Escrima, Indonesian and Malaysian Silat.

Call MK 668774 for more.

# Charley's Aunt visits Campus

### STANTONBURY CAMPUS

A record-breaking play with love, laughter and period costumes – the classic farce Charley's Aunt brings some superbly constructed comedy to Stantonbury Campus Theatre on Saturday.

Dashing Oxford undergraduates Jack and Charley are preparing to propose to Amy and Kitty – but it is 1892 and a chaperone is needed or the girls will refuse their lunch invitation.

As luck would have it, Charley's Aunt is arriving from Brazil and will happily step in. However, when a telegram declares her trip is delayed the plan changes... and their good friend Lord Fancourt Babberley finds himself putting on a frock to assume her identity. With a breathtaking chase, musical interlude and an absurd number of marital engagements, prepare for hilarious madness.



**CHARLEY'S AUNT:** 'An absurd number of marital engagements'

Call the box office on MK 324 422.

>The Lux Aeterna String Quartet will be live at G Dad's Collectables in Old Wolverton on Sunday.

They will be performing their own versions of popular, rock

and classic songs in the vintage setting, between 10am and 5pm. Entry is free.

>Kids can enjoy woodland play at Linford Wood, between 2pm and 4pm on Wednesday for the Play Association event. Visit [www.mkpa.org.uk](http://www.mkpa.org.uk)

# Transport fest with va-va-vroom

### EVENTS ROUND-UP

Get on your bike, dust down your vintage motor, rev your motorbike, clamber aboard your army vehicle or just hop into your car – however you get there, discover the wonders of motoring at the Newton Longville Festival of Transport.

There will be something for every enthusiast, and even those who are not totally enamoured by vehicles will be kept entertained with emergency services displays, martial arts demonstrations, Punch and Judy shows, a bouncy castle, craft and plant stalls and the annual dog show.

Secklow Brass will provide some musical entertainment as you go.

Admission is £4 for adults, concessions £2 – all profits go towards restoring St Faiths Church in Newton Longville. > Attention to detail and a

clever use of light can make a world of difference, as one-locally based artist will reveal on Wednesday.

Sonia Bacchus, originally from Poland, is returning to speak to the Milton Keynes Society of Artists at 7.30pm at the Buszy after being asked back by popular demand.

She will share some secrets and demonstrate her use of oils with an emphasis on water and reflections. Her work is primarily focused on painting portraits, pets, landscapes, still life and nudes, and her visuals are nothing short of stunning. Visit [www.mksa.org.uk](http://www.mksa.org.uk)

Contemporary artist and painter Lhouette will be officially opening The Stani Art House in Stony Stratford on Saturday.

It will complement the distinctive art of its long-established sister gallery – The Stani Gallery – with a wide

range of original paintings, limited edition prints, innovative ceramics and stunning sculptures.

The new gallery will be open Monday to Saturday from



9.30am until 5.30pm and 10am until 5pm on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

> Pop in before June 1 and pick up your free raffle ticket to be in with a chance of bagging a limited edition framed print by Lhouette worth £395.

# Get hooked on Fish classics...

## MUSIC

BY SAMMY JONES  
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**Monday's Stables gig isn't simply another stop-off on the UK tour for Fish, it's more than that.**

He has played here numerous times – when Marillion were busy pouring themselves into the live circuit and flirting with the mainstream success that would eventually be theirs, they were a regular name at The Starting Gate in the heart of town.

In fact, it is the only place they played a gig as a four-piece. Not many people know that. "It would've been around March of '82, something like that. Diz Minnett was our bass player, and the rest of the band had identified him as being the weakest link. In all honesty I knew he was, but at the same time he was my best friend and I was trying to deflect the inevitable," Fish says, relaying the story.

"But before the Milton Keynes gig I ended up having to tell Diz that he was basically being fired.

"He was horrifically upset and said he couldn't do the gig, and that was that. So we went on stage as a four-piece..."

Back then, The Starting Gate was a live music hub. These days it is a homeless shelter. Things change, and they did for Marillion too – a few years later they were still playing Milton Keynes, but had made the shift to The National Bowl. The first time, they supported Quo, and the next?

They headlined the joint. Fish bowed out of Marillion back in 1988, but the music has continued, as has an extraordinarily passionate fan base. There seems to be a real mutual love-a-thon between the artist and his followers who are already counting down to the autumn release of his new album *Feast of Consequences*. Some of the new material will be aired at The Stables show. "We are playing 18 songs in the set, six brand new ones, six pre '88 and six post '88... a good balance," he enthuses.

"I would never be so arrogant to go and play the entire album that nobody knows, because then it'd turn into a study group!"

Unlike the big days of major labels and disposable cash, Fish is now steering his own ship. It's not a new concept – he launched his own label back in 1994 – but flying solo does come with its own problems, and home doubles up as a recording facility.

"When we record, we move the dining table out and put the drum kit in," he says, and presumably so long as no-one tries to lay out the drum kit for Sunday lunch, or take out their devilish drumming on the dining table, it's no problem.

"The costs of everything else have gone up – the cost of wages, session fees, producers etc etc, but at the end of the day, I am lucky, I've still got a really loyal fan base, and because of the way that a lot of bands like myself run, you have got to keep in touch with them, and I enjoy it. It's not a chore for me at all.

"I've always been a willing communicator and something like Twitter or Facebook

**"I would never be so arrogant to play the entire album that no-one knows – it'd turn into a study group!"**

appeals to me, because I like conversing and communicating..."

And Fish isn't out to amass a big wedge, if you will, from those folks keeping him afloat. "These are tough times, and you are very aware that people are struggling out there," he says, "...when a guy turns around and says, 'I either buy your DVD or fill my car up with petrol,' you have to appreciate and respect that."

When Marillion first made their mark, there were two ways to access music – on LP, or on cassette.

These days, CDs are battling with downloads for supremacy.

"I don't think I've embraced downloads as readily because I make albums," he muses. "I only de-construct albums if I

am putting a 'Best Of' out.

"I don't get into the track mentality because I tend to write in loose concept terms, and the download is the antithesis of what an album is, because it is about single tracks.

"I think that's why I have been so slow on the uptake, but I realise that's what we've got to do..."

Support at Monday's gig is coming from Milton Keynes players Solstice.

"I remember them being around back in '82.

"We played with them quite a few times.

"I heard they'd reformed a couple of years back, and when someone suggested them for the show I thought 'that'd be kinda cool.'

"I love The Stables, it's a great gig and it's going to be good for playing the new stuff. It's got a good sound and a really intimate atmosphere.

"You feel very close to the audience because of the way the seating is arranged. I think it's going to be perfect for the new stuff."

For the past three decades, Fish has been a constant music man, a survivor in an industry that doesn't like to leave too many unscathed.

There is an obvious passion bubbling here too – for his music and his life in general.

"I never wanted a chateau in France, or anything like that, and I am quite happy with what I've got, even though it may not be as high profile as it was in the 1980s..."

Home is a little haven, by all accounts.

"Within 10 or 15 minutes of my place I am on a deserted beach, and if I go 10 or 15 minutes in the other direction I am walking in the Lammermuir Hills.

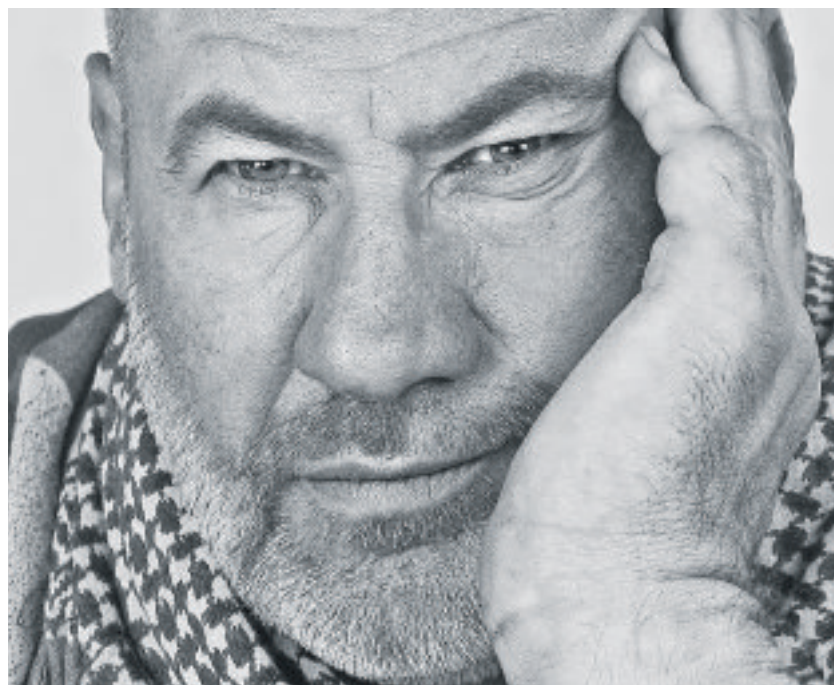
"I do so much and have loads of other interests... I am into my gardening and have a whole lot of raised veg and an organic garden set up with an orchard and stuff... it's not huge, but it's really cool and I am happy with that..."

For now though, it's all about the tour, and then about that *Feast of Consequences* album. "It's one thing making a great album, but then you've got to let everyone know that you've made a great album," he says.

If anyone can get the word out, it's this Scots boy.

For Stables tickets call the box office on 01908 280800.

www.fish-thecompany.com



**A REAL BONAFIDE SINGING FISH:** "I never wanted a chateau in France... I'm quite happy with what I've got," he says.

## Paper Aeroplanes flying high...

### STABLES ROUND-UP

Also at The Stables this week, check out six man a-cappella group The Magnets this evening, listen to comedian Richard Herring Talking Cock (that's not rude, it's the title of the show!) tomorrow and Are You Experienced? do the Hendrix thing on Saturday night.

Expect a fiery guitar, silky voice and hook-laden songs from Brooks Williams over on Stage2 on the same evening. Jazz legend Django Reinhardt's grand-nephew will take the stage on Tuesday with his Latin-Swing Project – pure gypsy-swing with elements of Latin music such as flamenco, tango and bossa nova.

Last up, on Wednesday, is Jane Siberry, performing solo from 8pm.

Call MK 280800 for details. > Paper Aeroplanes have already sold out their date on Tuesday, but visit our website at [www.miltonkeynes.co.uk](http://www.miltonkeynes.co.uk) to find out the tunes that tickle their fancy as they take on this week's Cue and Play.

## Dob-Dob-Dob, Dib-Dib-Dibley

### THEATRE OF COMEDY

Trendy but lonely female vicar Geraldine Granger and her quirky villagers are returning to the city this week in *Vicar of Dibley*, the latest production from Milton Keynes Theatre of Comedy.

Following the sell-out success of the first visit to the fictional Oxfordshire village of Dibley last May, the company will

take over the Chrysalis Theatre in Willen from Tuesday.

The two-act play will follow the exploits of Geraldine – who gently mocks her motley crew of parishioners – in the slightly behind-the-times setting, full of ridiculous situations and broad British humour.

From dippy Alice to big-hearted Geraldine, all your favourite faces from the hit sitcom

are included – by kind permission of Richard Curtis and Tiger Aspect Productions.

The production is running in support of Comic Relief and throws our characters back into the thick of rural village life. The show continues until Saturday, with performances nightly at 7.30pm.

Visit [www.mktoc.co.uk](http://www.mktoc.co.uk) to book.

After all, it's good to giggle.

