

GIG GUIDE

TODAY

The Torn, Blindfold Aide (rock), 7pm, The Shed, 5 Yeoman Street, Leicester, £5.
Greg Abate Quartet, 7.45pm, (masterclass 5pm), Cafe Piazza, Charles Wilson Building, Leicester University, 0116 252 2455, £8/£10.
Bob Dillings open mic night, 9.30pm, Queen Victoria, Southampton Street, Leicester, free.
Horror Show, Fubar, Narborough Road, Leicester, 0116 255 9789, Free.
DJ Freaky D and Scully, 9pm-1am, Hub 49 Braunstone Gate, Leicester, 0116 285 2438.
Sinner Boy (Roy Gallagher Tribute), The Musicians, Crafton Street, Leicester, 0116 251 0080.

Open Mic Night, 8.30pm, Olwes Bar, 95 Queens Road, Leicester, 0116 210 1671, free.
Eleanor Graff-Baker, Timothy Lees Concert, 1.30pm, St Margarets Church, St Margarets Way, Leicester, free.
Soar Valley Accordion Club, Club Night, Village Hall, Rothley, 0116 286 7548.
Acoustics night, 8pm, Joules Yard, High Street, Market Harborough, 01858 463 250, free.

Roadrunner, Nemo's Bar, Stoney Cove, Leicester, 077 333 222 54.
The Goodtime Jazz Band, 8.30pm, The Priory, Nantpant, Loughborough, 01509 216 333, £6.

GMT, The Queens Hall, Nuneaton, 02476 347 402, £6 adv, £8 door.

In Dreams, 7.30pm, Assembly Rooms, The Great Hall, Derby, 01332 255 800, £15.50/£16.50.

Martin Stephenson, Assembly Rooms, Darwin Suite, Derby, 01332 255 800, £8/£12.

Def Leppard and Whitesnake, support from Thunder, Trent FM Arena, Nottingham, Bolero Square, The Lace Market, Nottingham, 08444 124 624, £37.50.

Northampton Drumfest, 7pm, Park Inn, Northampton, 01604 230 433, £10/£12 adult, £5 child.

David Sanger, 1.05pm, St Mary and All Saints Church, Fotheringhay, 01832 275 109, £5/£9.

Russian Chamber Philharmonic St Petersburg, 8pm, St Peter's Parish Church, Church Street, Oundle, 01832 275 109, £5/£11.

The Telegraphs, 10pm, Rock City, 8 Talbot Street, Nottingham, 0871 3100 000, £3.

Watermelon Slim, The Rescue Rooms, Masonic Place, Goldsmith Street, Nottingham, 08713 100 000, £12 adv.

Cliff Bywater, Coach and Horses, 15 Upper Parliament Street, Nottingham, 0115 941 7107.

FRIDAY

Agression Download (metal), 7pm, The Shed, 5 Yeoman Street, Leicester, £5.

Ian McLagan and The Bump Band, The Musicians, Crafton Street, Leicester, 0116 251 0080.

The Complete Stone Roses, 8pm, The Charlotte, 8 Oxford Street, Leicester, 0116 255 3956, £11.50.

Al Samsom, 9.30pm, Jolly Miller, Conduit Street, Leicester, free.

Blues Demons, 9pm, Queen Victoria, Southampton Street, Leicester, free.

Hardrive Festival Warmup 4 Indie/Rock, The Victoria Bikers Pub, Whitwick Road, Coalville, 01530 814 718, free adm.

Gala recital Laudis Organi, Peterborough Cathedral Organ Festival, 7.30pm, Peterborough Cathedral, 01832 275 109, £5/£10.

SATURDAY

Refuse All, Smokin The Profit, Burnin Clintons, Red Sheridan, Full Circle, Gone Feral (punk), 7pm, The Shed, 5 Yeoman Street, Leicester, £5.

The Mustangs and The Piranhas, The Musicians, Crafton Street, Leicester, 0116 251 0080.

The Acemen, 3pm, Queen Victoria, Southampton Street, Leicester, free.

SOS Blues and Rick Band, 9pm, Queen Victoria, Southampton Street, Leicester, free.

Steve Parker, 3pm-5pm, The Criterion, 44 Millston Lane, Leicester, 0116 262 5418.

David Wyatt plus support, The Donkey, 203 Welford Road, Leicester, 0116 270 5042, £5.

Bob Dilling, 9pm, The Black Horse, Aylestone, free.

Stiffjoint, The Club Thornton, Main Street, Thornton, 01530 230 251, £2.

Broken Barrel Country and Western Club, Tony Goodacre and Alan West, Shaw Lane Club, Billa Barra Lane, Markfield, 0116 210 9829.

The Hard-Drive Rock Fest Weekender, 11am, The Victoria Bikers Pub, Whitwick Road, Coalville, 01530 814 718, free adm.

Mick Ridgway's Mojo Hand, 9pm, Rafter's, Main Street, Barwell.

Global Harmony and Canta Loume a Capella Concert, 7.30pm-9.30pm, Melton Theatre, Asfordby Road, Melton Mowbray, 01509 880 866, £5/£6.

Young organists' presentation recital, 10.30am, Oundle School Chapel, Milton Road, Oundle, 01832 275 109, tickets from £5.

Ensemble Bash, 1pm, Festival Marquee, Milton Road, Oundle, 01832 275 109, £5/£11.

The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain,

Rory's back on the road again

STEVE PUMFREY digs out his A to Z as Aussie singer makes his way to Leicester

Rory Ellis has written songs about love and longing – and now one about Leicester's ring-road system. The Australian singer-songwriter says Home Tonight, from his new album, Two Feathers, was written after he spent a couple of hours trying to hunt down the hotel he had booked into ahead of his gig at the Musician pub in Clyde Street. "I was driving around Leicester with my mate, Arn, and I was thinking that, at some point, this traffic will stop and all these people will be home in bed asleep," says Ellis. "I was heading for some hotel room and the song is about thinking of obscure ways to feel that I'm at home as well. I kept thinking about the olive tree which I can see from the window of my house back in Oz."

"The olive tree reminds him of Drysdale, the old-style 'cowboy' town he has moved to with his family, which is about 70 miles from Melbourne. "It's famous for onions and potatoes and we moved there as my wife had had twins and we were nearer her mum, because I can be on the road for three to six months at a time," he says.

In Leicester, there was a happy ending as Ellis found his bed for the night – and really enjoyed the gig.

"Darren (Nockles), who runs the place, is a great guy," he says. I was taught a long time ago by Aboriginal songwriter Kevin Carmody to always involve the audience.

"You can do that in Leicester because they listen."

STORYTELLER

Ellis is a vivid storyteller, with album opener Passenger coming out of a 5am fishing trip to the Barwon river in which the new Johnny Cash album provided the musical backdrop.

"He's the man, and you could not have wished for a better day," says Ellis.

Suburban Soldier is Ellis' take on the race riots involving young Australians and the Lebanese community in Cronulla, near Sydney.

"My mind's a bit like a computer's hard drive and I store a lot of stuff, although the riots were all over the news.

"I try to be the mediator on the song and encourage both sides to respect the country."

Ellis delivers it all in a lusty, rumbling voice,

causing one observer to comment: "When he opens his voice it's like pulling back on the reins of fear of what might happen to innocent bystanders."

Well worth investigating. ■ Two Feathers, the new album by Rory Ellis, is out now on Villainous Records.

INFORMATION

RORY ELLIS plays The Musician in Clyde Street, Leicester on August 27. Tickets are available at: wegottickets.com



CITY BOUND:
Australian singer-songwriter Rory Ellis

8pm, Festival Marquee, Milton Road, Oundle, 01832 275 109, £5/£14.

Johnny Truant, 10pm, Nottingham Rock City, 8 Talbot Street, Nottingham, 0871 3100 000, £3 NAP.

Ciff Bywater, Wagon and Horses, Redhill, Nottingham, 0115 926 5212.

SUNDAY

Bob Dilling and Adam Gardner acoustic afternoon, 3pm-6pm, Barley Mow, Granby Street, Leicester, free.

Al Samsom and The Dezzerters, 3pm, Queen Victoria, Southampton Street, Leicester, free.

Sunday jam session, 8pm, Cow and Plough, Gartree Road, Evington, Leicester, 0116 272 0852, free.

David Price accordionist, Luncheon, Regency Hotel, London Road, Leicester, 0116 270 9634.

The Cool Dudes Jazz Orchestra, 3pm-6pm, The Donkey, 203 Welford Road, Leicester, free.

The Twisted Jam, 8pm-12.30am, Hub 49 Braunstone Gate, Leicester, 0116 285 2438.

Ocean Colour Scene, 6pm, Sumo, Braunstone Gate, Leicester.

Rock 'n' Roll, 8pm, The Club Thornton, Main Street, Thornton, 01530 230 251, £1.50.

Ned Newitt's Swing Band, 8pm, Cow and Plough, Gartree Road, Oadby.

The Hard-Drive Rock Fest Weekender, 11am, The Victoria Bikers Pub, Whitwick Road, Coalville, 01530 814 718, free adm.

Anstey Acoustic Singaround Folk Club, 8.30pm, Coach and Horses, The Nook, Anstey, 0116 236 8811.

Festival Eucharist, 10.30am, St Mary and All Saint Church, Fotheringhay, 01780 474 292.

MONDAY

Happy DJ's, 8.30pm, Fubar, 11 Narborough Road, Leicester, 0116 255 9789, free.

City Acoustic Club, The Musicians, Crafton Street, Leicester, 0116 251 0080.

TUESDAY

Titanic Jazz Band, 12.30pm, The Donkey, Welford Road, Leicester, 0116 270 5042, Free.

Michael Chapman and Chris Conway, The Musicians, Crafton Street, Leicester, 0116 251 0080.

The Old Marina Jazzmen, 8.30pm, The Old Marina Pub, Shardlow, 0115 8469407.

Yoav, 8pm, The Bodega Social Club, 23 Pelham Street, Nottingham, 0871 3100 000, £7 adv.

Electric Eel Shock, 8pm, Rock City, 8 Talbot Street, Nottingham, 0871 3100 000, £7 adv.

WEDNESDAY

Live Jazz, Wit U Cool Jazz Collective, 7pm, The Quarter Lounge Bar, 41 Halford Street, Leicester, 0116 2511 998.

Acoustic competition, 8pm, Pavilion, Victoria Park, London Road, Leicester, 0797 1428 613, free.

Open mic, 8.30pm, Fubar, 11 Narborough Road, Leicester, 0116 255 9789, free.

Al Hughes, Bob Tibbits, Nigel Beck, Martin Nelson, The Musicians, Crafton Street,

CLUBS

FIRST there was Sector Five. Then Alcatraz. Then Oxygen and now Retribution. Since 1968, Leicester's finest rock club has had nearly as many generations as Doctor Who, writes *Austin Ruddy*.

And like the frenetic Timelord, Retribution has just warped to a new location on Wharf Street South, yards away from its old Belgrave Gate home. Formerly Starlite 2001, the new venue is truly Tardis-like, so you'll get more rock for your money.

"We're bigger and better, but with all the best bits that have kept Leicester's rock scene going so strongly for the last 20 years," says manager Kat Frater.

And with three bars, pool tables, pinball, arcade machines, smoking areas, two alternative rock/metal/punk/indie rooms and a 1,000-capacity main arena, she's not kidding.

"It will also be an awesome live venue as it has a huge stage. We've been talking to some great name touring rock bands to play from October. There's also a smaller stage for local bands."

Retribution's grand opening night is on Saturday and promises to be something for seasoned rocknite clubbers and scene newbies.

Kat says: "So many people from the rock scene community have made the club what it is today.

"The clubbers have even helped decorate the new venue, so we're having a big fun night to welcome newcomers and for everyone who has ever worked or partied with us over the years, with everything from guest DJs, cheap drinks – even a live fire show!"

So take a trip this Saturday to planet rock for an out-of-this-world experience. No Daleks allowed.

www.myspace.com/retribution_leicester

ASIAN

SINGING and teaching go hand in hand for Rajesh Kelkar, a leading light in the art of north Indian classical music who's eager to nurture new talent, writes *Harjinder Ohbi*.

An exponent of the lighter form of classical vocal singing, Rajesh has toured the world, performing as well as participating in masterclasses.

"I engage myself with a missionary zeal in teaching various aspects of Indian music, from the principles and theory to chanting and classical to light classical vocal music," he says.

"Personally I like to sing bhajans, a lighter form of classical music, set to ragas. For me, this is an introduction for anyone into Indian classical music."

You can hear him in action at the Belgrave Neighbourhood Centre on Saturday.

Kathak and sitar students from the Centre for Indian Classical Dance (CICD) will perform afterwards. Wish them luck: he's a tough act to follow.

■ For tickets and further information, contact CICD on 0116 255 3862

Leicester, 0116 251 0080.

Born to Boogie, Tiger John, Ken (Warlock) Spencer and friends, The Crow's Nest, Glenfield Road East, Leicester, 0116 233 1296, Free.

Dave Gladdish Irregulars, Noon-2pm, Cow and Plough, Gartree Road, Oadby, 0116 272 0852.

Blaby Acoustic, 8pm, Bulls Head, Blaby, every Wednesday, 0116 2750 637.

Cliff Bywater, 8.30pm, Shearsby Bath, Bruntingthorpe Road, Shearsby, Leicester, 0116 284 8009.

J for Jazz, 8.30pm-11pm, The Black Horse, Main Street, Foxton, 01858 545 250.

Lyrics Born, The Rescue Rooms, Masonic Place, Goldsmith Street, Nottingham, 08713 100 000, £13 adv.

The Butthole Surfers, 7.30pm, Rock City, 8 Talbot Street, Nottingham, 0871 3100 000, £15 adv.

To include an item, e-mail: sarjomistry@leicestermercury.co.uk