

# WHATEVER NEXT?

**FRIDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2007**

**6th Birthday Special**

£5 pre-bought tickets, £6 at the door

**Rumbajax**

- the complete band including editor of The Broad Sheep & other famous Borders musicians. A touch of tango, a touch of world - fantastic sound.

**Jack Brett**

- outstanding young musician. Wowed audiences at Festival Floor - bassist with IzzyJack - unleashed to do his own thing.

**Bel Canto**

welcome return for perfect all female a capella with a touch of wicked humour

**FRIDAY 14TH DECEMBER 2007**

**CHRISTMAS SPECIAL**

**Nikki Preston**

youngster's first time at The Floor, with voice & guitar.

**Rossiter & May**

Paul & Andy doing their own thing

**Benji Kirkpatrick**

son of legendary John Kirkpatrick & Sue Harris. Now established in own right as contemporary folk & bozouki player. Played with Oysterband. Not to be missed.

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# the floor

# b r o a d



## 12th October 2007

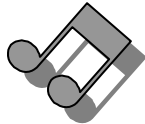
[www.thefloor.org.uk](http://www.thefloor.org.uk)



# WHAT'S ON TONIGHT?

## Floored

*For starters ....*



## Tony Burt

*time served guitarist. Lovely voice. Own songs, Richard Thompson, etc*

## Yvonne Parkes

*Old time American song with banjo autoharp*



## Hoover the Dog

*Borders' own unique trio of guitar, violin, bouzouki and accordion are purveyors of inventive, intelligent music. Fiddler John Hymas' classical, European and jazz influences dominate the Celtic-ish repertoire with a few English traditional tunes thrown in for good measure. The result is wonderfully original.*

*Want to know more? Check out their website at [www.hooverthedog.com](http://www.hooverthedog.com)*



[www.thefloor.org.uk](http://www.thefloor.org.uk)

## Martin SIMPSON & Alistair ANDERSON

**Saturday 15th December at 8pm**

**Bockleton Village Hall**

*Martin's guitar playing is unsurpassed; he is one of the finest finger pickers and slide players of our time, while his unique vocal style brings a fresh understanding to traditional songs from both sides of the Atlantic. Alistair is the leading performer on the English Concertina and a fine exponent of the Northumbrian pipes. He is also one of the most widely respected composers working in the folk field.*

*A coup to have them both together!!*

Tickets £10 & £5 children from Jim 01568 750546

*And, last but not least, one from Ken .....*

### What a Relationship!

The older people among you might remember a Country song from fifty or sixty (or even more) years ago called "I'm My Own Grandpa".

When it was popular, if that's the right word, I was too young to be able to understand the complexity of the relationships that it purported to explain; but recently I came across an American "urban legend" that, I imagine, might have been the basis of the lyric of the song, the story goes like this ....

A man from Pennsylvania was reported to have committed suicide because he was convinced that he was his own grandfather. Here is the letter he left behind:

"I married a widow who had a grown up daughter. My father lived locally and visited us quite often. During these visits he came to know my step-daughter, and, eventually they fell in love and married. So my father became my son-in-law, and my step-daughter my mother, because she was my father's wife. Some time after my wife had a son; he was my father's brother-in-law and my uncle, for he was the brother of my step-mother. My father's wife, ie my step-daughter, also had a son; he was, of course, my brother, and at the same time, my grandchild, for he was the son of my daughter. My wife was my grandmother, because she was my mother's mother. I was my wife's husband and grandchild at the same time. And as the husband of a person's grandmother is his grandfather, I was my own grandfather."

### 5 CENTURIES OF SONG

**Saturday 13th October at 7pm  
in St Michaels Church.**

with *Duo Dolcetini*  
& accompanied on the organ  
by *John Swindells*  
*Proceeds to charities*

### Dylan Thomas' UNDER MILKWOOD

Saturday 13th October  
7pm in St Michaels village hall  
*Tickets: Nigel Williams*  
*on 01568 750510*

Enter the unlikely looking duo **SARAH AND MICK**. Sarah took her place at the keyboard whilst musical maestro and entrepreneur Mick "Zorg" Wood - dressed in a one legged cat suit, pink stocking and footwear comprising of a ballet shoe and an hob nail boot! – strapped on his bass guitar.

But books should not be judged by covers! and they proceeded to wow the audience with their stunning set of original, innovative music, featuring Sarah's haunting compositions "Rockets", "Spiders" and "Tangerine" suggesting an arty Kate Bush/ Peter Gabriel type of sound.

Top of the bill **IZZY JACK BAND** took to the stage suited and booted like a bunch of gangsters from an old George Raft movie, with frontman Paul Brett threatening to put his suit onto Ebay straight after the gig (definitely one for the fashion police!)

"The Jacks" - comprising of Mick "Zorg" Wood on drums, Izzy Cook –keyboards and vocals, Andy Cook-violin and mandolin, frontman Paul on acoustic guitar and vocals and up and rising star of the future Jack "the hat" Brett - who's precocious musical talent is limitless – on bass, bouzouki and saxophone - kicked off with old Floor favourite "Man on The TV" before displaying composer Brett's genius with the lyrically complex "Na, Na, Na, Na, Na"!

"Across the Water" with Izzy's fine piano punctuating the beat, was followed by my highlight of the evening, the slick, bluesey, jazz induced "What about Tomorrow" with another talented youngster Alex Cook taking over on bass, allowing Jack to mesmerise the audience with his blue note sax skills and Andy showing his command of the violin, the band went on to conclude a thrilling night's entertainment.

To summarise - each of Brett's compositions suggest a unique musical venture, drawing on life's experiences to decorate the lyrical content that we can all relate to in our own way, while the rest of the band boast tempo, punctuation and the art of blending the instrumentation into tight co-ordination, resulting in a controlled, vibrant energy, without ever getting too heavy, I for one will definitely be investing the princely sum of £7 to purchase the Izzy's latest CD "**Off the beaten Tracks**".

.....Oh, and by the way, the South Africans hammered us 36-0.

**Keep it live! - Keep it at the Floor!**

### **GUITAR FOR SALE**

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## **Welcome .....**

Wow! It worked! Copy for The Floor Broad has been landing in my email in tray! Many thanks to all of you and keep up the good work.

Next month is the 6th birthday bash and we have invited the complete Rumbajax band to entertain you. We have had Little Rumba before but not the big version. We do have to charge a little extra for this privilege. As you know space in the hall is limited so get your tickets at £5 tonight and make sure of your space. If you leave it until the night a) you mightn't get in, and b) it will cost you £6. If you can't get your tickets tonight, book them by contacting Andy or Jim.

For tonight settle back and absorb the brilliant sounds of Hoover the Dog, Tony & Yvonne.

Whatever else you do, spread the word—live music is mighty in St Michaels.

....& NOW ..... ON WITH THE SHOW!!

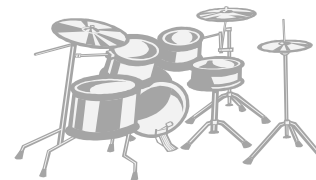
## **How to get onto The Floor**

### **ANDY COOK**

Green Farm,  
Berrington Green,  
Tenbury Wells, WR15 8TQ  
01584 810291  
anjusal@tiscali.co.uk

### **JIM ALLEN**

The Sycamores,  
Bockleton,  
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## Best Seat in the House

Well off we go again, more fantastic performers lined up for you lucky people again this season. Jim & Andy have been searching the counties' musical hot spots to see if they could persuade a few of the local, and not so local, talent to perform at The Floor. In most cases all it took was the promise of unbridled appreciation and respect from a well groomed audience like what we is at The Floor. I have to say that the pole dancing club that was visited has had a big influence upon our Jim. You may have noticed that he has started to slowly introduce the idea at The Floor - has anyone clocked that shiny pole lurking on stage? Let's see what develops in that department. And I must insist that, purely from a scientific point of view, Simon and I must attend any auditions that are arranged.

*Anyone fancy a banjo bonfire next month? Just an idea I've got.*

I have been told that we have a good selection of top players to abuse later in the year. Joking apart it is good to see all levels of talent are still, and always will be, welcome at The Floor. I have noticed that along with the splendid talent we now attract that the stage is starting to look a little crowded with all the equipment that is needed by individuals. My next challenge is to try and reduce the equipment levels by looking at some pretty smart tried & tested amplifier and sound emulators that are on the market. I have used the devices in a studio situation, and in the touring band I used to work with. We had so much success with them, that we eliminated all of the back line amplification completely. So we shall see what happens. "Hey, maybe Jim will turn up with TWO poles if we find some more space".

Just to let you know that the flying lessons are still going well. *I think*. The plane I use still has all its wheels and wings attached. I've now started on takeoffs and landings although I think it will be a while before they let me loose on a 747. Have you noticed just how narrow those runways are nowadays. Imagine trying to steer a car with your feet doing 80 – 90 mph in a dead straight line with a 30ft length of plywood tied on the roof rack, in an open field where it's windy, with some hubert of an instructor telling you to go faster, then after all that you suddenly find out that you are no longer attached to the piggin runway.

Oh well better get on with the job in hand and start making some noise.

Break a leg

*Henry*

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## THE AUTUMN FLOOR –2007 Review by John Ruffles

“Worry the bottle Mamma, it's grapefruit wine  
Kick off your high heel sneakers, it's party time  
The girls don't seem to care what's on  
As long as it plays till dawn  
Nothin' but blues and Elvis  
And somebody else's favourite song”

It was 5 p.m on an unseasonably, chilly evening in September, when my phone rang. Having just put the finishing touches to a review of the latest offering from “Izzy Jack”, the brilliantly scripted and haunting “Waters Edge”, I was anything but ready for the rapid-fire monologue delivered long distance, from the land of the ancient king Leofric, by a man who introduced himself as Mr. Paul Brett. After half an hour or so of conversation, I came to understand that this garrulous gentleman was inviting me to that celebrated, legendary, Herefordshire music venue “**THE FLOOR**” to observe the performance of a group of random entertainers, to be headlined by his very own band, the incomparable **IZZY JACK BAND**.

Yes, after a miserable, rain soaked summer, the autumn season of The Floor was upon us. Of course I was delighted at the prospect and perhaps even a wee bit flattered to be invited (in a professional capacity!) to such an esteemed venue, even if I was going to miss the Rugby world cup encounter between England and South Africa!

The evening kicked off, as ever with “**FLOORED**”, the resident MC's **ANDY AND JIM** (Oh no! not the banjo!), had lost none of their craft and wit during the summer downpours. They fiddled and plucked their way through and had us instantly singing along to “All the bad times” and ”Speed the plough”- to get us in the mood for a night of random entertainment.

While the crowd replenished their empty glasses with Hobson's best bitter and red wine a couple of local lads from Jim the banjo player's “stable”, **CHARLIE AND JOSH**, occupied the stage and following a few technical hitches they managed to provide an entertaining set showing that the future of “Herefordshire country folk” music is in good hands!

The evening then took on a far more subtle feel as local, long time folk singer **JOHN CHECKITTS** donned his woolly jumper and acoustic guitar and strummed his way through a catalogue of folk classics featuring Mr. Robert Zimmerman's “Don't think twice, its alright” and Tom and Jerrys' much covered “Only living Boy in New York”. John concluded his set with a most interesting (and almost finished!) song about his great grandfather, a British Empire soldier, John Patrick Dolan, who left his native Ireland to fight for king and country in South Africa during the Boer war and with the luck of the Irish and a bit of Irish poetic licence, survived the battle at Rourkes' Drift!

During the following intermission while the audience buzzed with anticipation for the next act to grace the stage, our old friend, the brilliant, scouse wit **LIVERPOOL KEN** had us all in raptures of laughter with some of his, ironic, cynical observations of well.....life!