



# It's Festival time!

**T**op rock 'n roll band **The Saw Doctors** (above) are set to headline this year's three-day Guildford Festival at Stoke Park on 23-25 July. The Irish phenomenon will feature on the main stage alongside well known names like **James, Jools Holland, Bob Geldof** and **Bjorn Again**.

The Saw Doctors came into existence one dark winter's night in Tuam, County Galway in 1987. The band recorded their first album *If This Is Rock And Roll I Want My Old Job Back* in 1991 and reached No 1 twice in Ireland. It was Dave Carton's rural punk history which was to hold the key to The Saw Doctors' success. It was their revamped version of Blase X's *I Useta Love Her* which captured the hearts of the Irish nation and sent it straight to No 1. The band have toured extensively, including America, supported Genesis at Knebworth and have appeared at Glastonbury. All this success has only left the band hungry for more.

Also playing on the main stage will be Jools Holland. Most people will recognise Jools from his many appearances on television as a presenter.

Born in 1958, he learned to play Boogie Woogie piano at the age of 8 and was soon to play pubs and clubs in London. When Jools was 15, he met up with Chris Difford and Glen Tillbrook to form **Squeeze**. Squeeze sold millions of records from their first hit *Cool For Cats* to the top 10 hit 'Hourglass'. In 1990 Jools left the band to concentrate on working with his own group. Long-time Squeeze drummer Gilson Lavis also left the band to work exclusively with him.

One of the popular cover bands, Bjorn Again will be giving us their rendition of some of the greatest hits from ABBA. The band have played a part in the massive ABBA revival and have performed over 1,200 live shows in 30 countries. They are now in their 8th year - Mamma Mia!

The Festival will also have a Tropical Dance Stage featuring **Return To The Source, Cosmix** and **Tsuyoshi Suzuki**; while an Aladdin's Cave stage will feature bands such as **Show Of Hands, Dr & The Medics, Roy Harper** and **Dodgy**.

Dr And The Medics are perhaps best known for their number one single *Spirit in the Sky* (a record made for a bet and which subsequently sold more than 1m copies, topping the charts in 23 countries). Led by 'the Doctor' with his

traditional fused punk/hippie style, the band continues to enjoy a rigorous schedule of gigging and festivals - not bad for the ugliest band ever to get to number one.

Led by the charismatic and bald Buster Bloodvessel, **Bad Manners** are sure to leave the crowd exhausted with their very own version of Ska music when they take to the festival stage on the Sunday.

**Y**ou just can't keep those rockin' rodents out of anything. **The Hamsters** will be playing their usual set of covers and their own power rock numbers for their fifth year at the festival. They will be having their own 'day out' with **John Otway** at Henstridge Airfield, Somerset on 31st July. They're back in this area for a gig at the Chiddingfold Club on August 13th.

Unique folk rockers **Lindisfarne**, who have earned themselves an enviable reputation as a live act with their unusual sound, unpretentious manner and infectious enthusiasm will prove that they are more than just a '70s' band' when they appear in one of the Sunday slots on the main stage. For further information and tickets phone 01483 454159.

**A**ce boogie woogie pianist **Ben Waters** leads his superb band at the Farnham Maltings on 15th July through a set of blues and boogie and rock and roll. Don't miss the talents of 'Smudge' Smith on guitar.

**CBN + Reconsider** will be playing the Maltings on 24th July. This special Saturday night double header features two new outstanding young blues bands. CBN (Can Be Done) play melodic blues/rock while Reconsider offer a rockier sound. Both bands have developed a strong following and have attracted critical acclaim.

This month sees the launch of *300 Pounds Of Joy*, the new album from Nicky Moore's Blues Corporation. The Superlative blues singer, Nicky has shot to fame as a result of his TV appearance in *Lakesiders*. New addition to the band, Tommy Allen, is an outstanding lead guitarist.

The **Band Selector** are among the offerings at the Tumbledown Dick, Farnborough. They play on July 29 and admission is a fiver. Other bands include **After Glow** on July 16, **The Lost Boys & Mead** on July 21 and **Difinitive Article** on August 4. A metalzone night will

be staged on July 30 with **Earshot, Cow Puncture, Vacant Stare** and **Jor**. The next metalzone night is scheduled for August 13 with **Unfounded, Breakneck** and **Underskin**. The pub also hosts open talent nights; musicians interested should just turn up on July 28.

Some real blues from **Too Hot To Handle**, a band of talented youngsters, will play Scratchers, Farncombe on July 18. **Jake** takes to the pub stage on July 24 and **Brobed Stils**, one of the leading reggae and African rock fusion bands in Surrey, is at Scratchers on July 31. Old favourites **Cryin' Out Loud** are back on August 1.



**F**olk ballads and a slower more relaxed pace are the musical ideal for Trevor John (above). But pleasing his audience is always the overall aim, especially on one of his solo spots when he takes requests for everything from classic pop numbers to rock and the blues.

It has been three years since he formed his own band. He's been a soloist for six years and previously was a member of the US rock band Pegasus. It was with them that he performed in the Singapore version of Live Aid. Music is in his family and he taught himself the guitar while in the army regulars of his home country in Singapore.

Now Trevor has his own following and enjoys playing in more relaxed venues that have a good atmosphere. "Those that want to hear will hear. We're not playing for us, we're playing for our audience, and they know what they want to hear." Trevor has his heart in music. "If I had the chance to sign up a contract as a soloist, I would go for it".

One of their biggest gigs as a band was to a crowd of 1,500 in a huge barn at Hayling Island. Gigs coming up include Rogate Village Fete on August 1 and The Chequers, Chichester on August 15.