

It is with a heavy heart that we denizens of the LEG publish this month's issue, for the coming of November sees more than just torrential rain and crippling Christmas consumerism, for this month the beloved Boatclub close its doors...

Limerick Boatclub has, in its various incarnations, been a staple of the local music scene for some number of years now. It's a lovely little room nestled just off Sarsfield Bridge, humbly offsetting Limerick's ever-burgeoning riverside skyline. In a HotPress interview, singer-songwriter Mark Geary declared it to be his favourite venue in the whole country, and it's easy to see why, LBC's unique location and warm atmosphere engendering an abiding love in performers and audiences alike. The past year has seen it emerge as a music venue *par excellence*, quickly rising to be regarded as the only place in Limerick to catch a truly eclectic mix of artists. Any given week found LBC bursting at the seams to satisfy all musical tastes, from the Cheebah-run Roots Soundsystem Reggae nights, to Japanese post-rock minimalists Lite, through to Cork pop-rock mentalists Fred.

Limerick Boatclub has also garnered a strong reputation for displaying the best of local talent. With the close of the High Stool, and Dolan's Warehouse proving too unwieldy, our itinerant troubadours and nascent rockers found a new spiritual home in LBC in which to showcase their work. The beauty of the club in this regard was its size and atmosphere-perfectly cosy for the intimate shoe-gazing of acoustic folk like Benoit, Jenny Ronan and Vertigo Smyth, while still capable of catering for the most raucous of rock acts like Secret Police, Roper and Giveamankick. Highlights of the last year have been too numerous to cram into this little article but here's a few of our choice picks...



THE BOATCLUB IS DEAD, LONG LIVE THE BOATCLUB

the venue of the year by a country mile, a sad day is on the way, when **limerick boatclub** has to close it's doors to gig runners, players and goers alike. At least until they find a new home | jeff ree pulls in the oars



Jinx Lennon: Possibly one of the most original artists to have played LBC, this Louth lad has a penchant for penning punk-folk-rap tracks that range from the politically-conscious to the outright hilarious, usually in the same song. Lennon's music draws more inspiration from the Irish oral and poetic tradition than from his fellow songwriters to great effect, effortlessly tapping the dark underbelly of rural Ireland. Add to this the truly lovely Paula Flynn, balancing Lennon's bilious tirades with her sweetly down-home country vocals.

Giveamanakick/Windings: Ah, there's nothing better than the smug, shared pride one can take in catching a local act that blows higher-profile visitors out of the water... And so it is with the first sons of Limerick rock, Giveamanakick. Steve & Keith have been staples of LBC for some time now, and every gig they played was a pleasure to behold- two guys churning out a melodic wall of beautiful noise, to an astonished and appreciative audience. In fact, on first hearing, most people commented on how shocked they were that this kind of sound could come from just two guys. But then, they are pretty sound guys. Side project Windings was also a fave in LBC- a solo Steve formulating the Giveamankick sound into an altogether different beast, more akin to SFA or Mogwai than the former's Rocket from the Crypt/Dinosaur Jr.-infused mania. Bless.

Cheebah/Roots Reggae: It was a match made in heaven- 100 or so lovely Limerick people, a truly monolithic soundsystem and the best reggae this side of Jamaica. The vibrations alone could've seen our little boatclub break off and float down the river, but I don't think anyone would've minded. Those ingenious Cheebah chappies have a knack for running great gigs, and they found their perfect partner in LBC. The good news is, they're cramming one more wee gig in before the boatclub shuts its doors, with a visit from Captain Moonlight, who made headlines recently with his song "Dirty C*nts", a tirade against Bertie, FF et al, wherein he calls them all... dirty c*nts basically. Genius. If that's not reason enough to visit LBC for a last Cheebah blowout then I don't know what is...

So there you go, a few of the highlights from what is soon to be Limerick's most sorely-missed venue. Kudos must go to all of the lads involved, Particularly Ross, Paudie and Albert, 'cos any venue is just another empty room 'til you put the right people in it. Truck on down to LBC one last time on Nov 9th when Donegal rockers Berkeley return to Limerick to ensure that our favouritest place in town goes out with a bang.

