

PRESS RELEASE

THE FRIARS AYLESBURY 40th ANNIVERSARY CONCERT CONFIRMED FOR MONDAY JUNE 1st 2009

After a short break of 25 years **Friars Aylesbury** will rise from the ashes on June 1st for a special concert to mark the 40th Anniversary of the legendary Aylesbury club. When the club closed on 29th December 1984 it had over 87,000 members and was regarded as one of the best clubs of its kind in Britain, and some would say the world. American artists such as *Jonathan Richman* would come over, play Friars Aylesbury and London and then return to the USA.

The first ever Friars Aylesbury concert took place on Monday 2nd June 1969 in the New Friarage Hall in Walton Street. The Artists appearing were blues player *Mike Cooper* and prog rock band *Mandrake Paddle Steamer*. The second week saw *The Pretty Things* and *Wild Willy Barrett*. After a year Friars was thrown out of the New Friarage Hall and went into the wilderness for 8 months with a handful of gigs taking place in Bedford, Watford and Princes Risborough. In April 1971 Friars returned with a packed gig featuring *The Groundhogs* at Aylesbury's Borough Assembly Hall and never looked back. In 1975 Friars moved to the current Civic Centre where it continued to present some of the best bands on the planet for a further 9 years.

In keeping with tradition of the first year of Friars Aylesbury this 40th Anniversary Concert will also be on a Monday and will feature three of the bands that played Friars in that first year. Incredibly after 40 years they are still working...

"It's 40 years since we put on the first gig so we're going to make it as authentic as possible" says David Stopps who promoted all the Friars gigs from 1969-84.

He continued, ***"The possibility of this concert has been talked about in Buckinghamshire pubs and supermarkets for the past 25 years. Stuart Robb from Jam Central, Mike O'Connor - who has created the Friars website www.Aylesburyfriars.co.uk, author and journalist Kris Needs, founding father Robin Pike and former AVDC Civic Centre manager John Braley have all helped me put this together. Kris will also be designing the handout and spinning vinyl on the night"***.



Opening the night on stage at 7.30pm will be **The Groundhogs** who first played at the New Friarage Hall in 1970. *The Groundhogs* were a pivotal band for Friars and saved the club on two occasions. Tony McPhee will be playing his heart out as usual.

Second on at 8.30pm will be **Edgar Broughton** who was a legend in 1969, and still is. The Broughton band's famous song 'Out Demons Out' will once again ring out in Aylesbury!

Headlining the evening will be **The Pretty Things** who originally played Friars on 9th June 1969 just after their highly acclaimed album *S.F. Sorrow*, which was the first concept album of its kind and a forerunner to *The Who's 'Tommy'*.

It is hoped that there will be a special Friars Aylesbury double CD and a two-volume book containing all the original Friars newsheets to coincide with this special date.

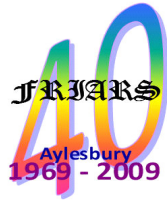
Tickets will go on sale on Friday 17th April at 2.00pm in the afternoon. They will be £20 each and will be limited to two per person.

In keeping with tradition those without their original Friars membership cards will be obliged to join at a price of 25p when they arrive on the night. It is expected that even those with their original membership cards may wish to join again just to get the souvenir of a 2009 membership card.

Tickets will be limited to two per person and ID will be required on the night to prevent e-Bay activity. Tickets will be available at 2.00pm on Friday 17th April from the Civic Centre Box Office or on-line from www.ticketweb.co.uk

"It is hoped that there will be one or two more Friars concerts before the end of 2009 to commemorate the 40th year, so for those who can't get tickets for this one there will be other opportunities".

Over its 15 year history Friars presented bands and artists such as *Black Sabbath, King Crimson, Genesis, Mott the Hoople, Fleetwood Mac, Queen, David Bowie, Lou Reed, Roxy Music, Cockney Rebel, Captain Beefheart, The Ramones, The Clash, The Jam, U2, Blondie, Marillion, Howard Jones, The Police* and hundreds more.



Stoppa concludes; ***"This will be a rare chance to experience the atmosphere of the very first year of Friars once more and we apologise in advance for those who are unable to get tickets"***.

Civic Centre Box Office: Tel: 01296 486009

www.Aylesburyfriars.co.uk

www.ticketweb.co.uk

www.theNewRoxette.com