

Leisure Express

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Yourspace



Gekko

www.myspace.com/gekkoband

GEKKO'S meteoric rise has taken them from being small town heroes to becoming a very promising unsigned band. Now they're aiming to take it to the next step.

Next gig: Thursday, February 12 at The Hat factory, Luton.

About the band: The three-piece psychedelic funk rock band's first gig was playing to 250 people at the famous Knebworth Park in 2000. They were performing for Lord Cobbold just a year after forming and winning an unsigned band competition. They went on to play at a number of summer festivals.

publishing deal. They are filming their first music video in the hope that it may drum up hype and get them a slot at one of the big festivals.

Band members: Mark Sullivan, on guitar and vocals, Justin Beattie, on bass and vocals, and John Budge on drums.

Catchline: "New single out now!"

Influences: Led Zeppelin and Pink Floyd, The Police, Jimi Hendrix and Bob Marley.

Songs: Dirt Box, Slow Show, 15 Miles, The Moment.

Total plays: 30,151.

New music biz courses aim to hone wannabe talent

by Abena Bailey
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GET educated for the X Factor, is the message one music and creative media academy is sending to pop star wannabes.

The company, Urban Precinct, has just been accredited by national awarding body NCFE to run a range of courses in music technology and creative media.

It is a new focus for Urban Precinct, an established recording and artist management company, and shows yet another shift in the music industry, which has this time been forced by the recession.

Urban Precinct Manager Charlotte Roel said: "Since 2003 we have concentrated on managing and developing artists in the hope that



READY TO ROCK: Floyd Adams and Charlotte Roel of Urban Precinct. Joel Boggis is on drums at the back.

we could thrust them into the limelight, but those Arctic Monkeys/Sandy Thom-style rises to fame just aren't possible in the current economic climate.

"We feel that education is where it is at now because you can't just show up at a record label hoping your raw talent will get you through, you have to

do your homework and have some useful skills."

Drums, band skills, performance skills and music business are just some of the courses people can take in the music department of Urban Precinct.

Mac courses, video production, web design and photography feature on the creative media side.

The courses start this month and take place at The South Hill Centre, on Cemetery Hill, and at the New Life Pentecostal Church, in Lawn Lane, Hemel Hempstead.

There will be a three-hour bite size course taster at each (cost £25) for people who want to try them out.

For more information call Urban Precinct on 08451 309 548 or visit the website at www.urbanprecinct.com