

The Making of Milton Keynes

DIVERSITY AND ACHIEVEMENT

Peartree Centre

The original home for the performing arts in Milton Keynes

During the late 70s and early 80s a youth club based at Peartree Bridge (between Inter-Action and the OK Garage) was set up to 'promote the performing arts'. Led by Dick Emmings it became the hub of local music.

No longer just a youth club, the centre became rehearsal studios for many local bands, drama and dance groups as well as one of the most popular live music venues in the area.

In 1980 *The Police* performed at Milton Keynes Bowl and Miles Copeland, their manager, donated a sum of money to Peartree Centre to help encourage the already vibrant local music scene. This investment was used to install recording equipment at the centre as well as staging and lighting for the regular live gigs. It also enabled the production of a compilation album showcasing a variety of Milton Keynes bands. The album *A Warped Sense of Human* was released in 1981 and was very well received. In particular, John Peel championed the album and played several tracks from it on his late night Radio One show.

By 1983 Peartree Bridge had become home to *The Joint* – a night club for alternative dance music – transformed with mood lighting, black walls and drapes. These club nights featured the latest 'underground' bands and DJs and became incredibly popular attracting audiences from across the region.

The colourful life of Peartree Centre came to an end in late 1983, eventually being demolished to make way for new housing in 1985.



The cover of the compilation album 'A Warped Sense of Human'. Released in 1981 it featured local bands *The Dancing Counterparts*, *Offbeat*, *Ethnic Minority*, *NA Pop 2000*, *Ticketz*, *Kingsize Keen* and his *Rockin' Machine* and *Fictitious*

'The music's brilliant and the atmosphere's brilliant. It was more of a community thing than a club.'

Marc Mason – promoter, *The Joint*



Local band *Metropolis* performing at the centre in 1983



The Joint c1983

