



LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL: Left to right: Ian Morton (bass) Paul Barnett (keyboards), Kenny Brunet (vocals), Ferris Cowper (drums), Stuart Wheaton (lead guitar) who appeared at The Links Tavern in Liphook

After years of banging on about council tax... Ferris is now drummer in the band

REGULARS at Liphook's Links Tavern were treated to some rock 'n' roll performances by Grayshott's county councillor Ferris Cowper and his band Good Times Roll.

In complete contrast to his usual civic role, drummer Ferris was rocking and rolling for more than two hours, delivering a vast range of classic songs from the Rolling Stones to the Red Hot Chili Peppers.

Ferris started playing in bands when he was at college and rekindled his musical flame in 1999 by buying a drum kit and joining the Weekend Warriors – now called Get Rockin', a music industry franchise which matches musicians of similar ability.

This led to another band called The Beagles, who were runners up in a Battle of the Bands at the Electric Theatre, Guildford, in 2009, which ended in a "play-off".

Last year, Ferris (pictured right) formed and hand-picked his current band – called GTR for short – and they perform pub and club gigs as well as parties and functions.

Ferris was joined by Liphook-based vocalist Kenny Brunet, who comes from New Orleans, in Louisiana – the "birthplace of jazz" – and has been performing live for more than 35 years across three continents.

Lead guitarist Stuart Wheaton has played with chart-topper Elkie Brooks, Rocky Horror and The Commitments, after he graduated from the University of Surrey in 1997, majoring in guitar performance. While at Guildford, he studied with Carlos Bonell, Mark Eden and Arne Braitland.

Stuart, who lives in Farnham, forged a busy career as a guitar teacher, was head of guitar at Surrey Arts (2002-2005), and now teaches at Bedales School and Churchers'

College, in Petersfield. Bass guitarist Ian Morton turned professional at the age of 19 and toured Australia with a very successful showband for more than two years.

On his return to England he took up musical residency at a large country hotel in Sussex and for four years was musical director of a Tunbridge Wells Review Group. He now lives in Guildford.

Keyboards player Paul Barnett has been performing in bands since he was at school

where he met Jean Jacques Burnel, the bass player in punk band The Stranglers.

Paul, who lives in Grayshott, has played keys alongside Mark Brzezicki, the drummer with Big Country, who is now playing with Bruce Foxton in From The Jam, and Dan McGrath, who was Chris Evans' sidekick on his Radio One Breakfast Show.

For more information visit www.goodtime-srollband.com

GABRIELLE PIKE

