

# Lee Blackstone

Lee Blackstone is the latest Country singer to arrive on the scene in Scotland. He has made quite an impact already after moving up from Bath, Somerset, England in May 2007 to settle down with his fiancée Marie, daughter of Liz & Gordon Findlay who run Indian Traders Club in Ardrossan, Ayrshire. Lee's first passion for Country music began as a boy in the early 1980s when his dad, Eddie Blackstone, was making a name for himself on the Country music scene. Lee has fond memories of a trip to West Virginia in 1982 when Eddie was invited to perform at Jamboree In The Hills in Ohio in front of some 45,000 people alongside artists such as Loretta Lyn, Tammy Wynette, The Oak Ridge Boys, Tom T Hall and Carl Perkins to name just a few.

Being only 15 at the time Lee and his younger sister Joanna had backstage passes and were under the guard of an armed state trooper and got to meet some of the stars and watch with pride as his dad entertained the crowd.

Lee wishes he had the opportunity to go back again now because, as you can imagine, he didn't really appreciate the experience to the full as he would most certainly do today. Back then he had no idea that he had any musical ability, least of all that he could sing.

After leaving school Lee worked several jobs, trained as a mechanic, then went on to drive and ended up working as a nightclub doorman, okay bouncer, for 10 years in addition to his day job. It was around this time, 1995, that CMT (Country Music Television) hit our cable tv network and having seen the likes of Alan Jackson, Travis Tritt and George Strait his passion for Country music started all over again. It became



evident that he, like his father, had a great voice for Country music, so he began to learn the songs he liked and would practice them while driving around Bristol in his van. He eventually learned enough material to perform a whole night of music and also took up playing rhythm guitar, with the encouragement and inspiration of his friends Kelvin Henderson and Mike McCoy. He continued to pursue a career performing Country music and the next logical step was to involve a lead instrument and so he hooked up with guitarist Rick Cole to form Blackstone River which proved to be a great success. They began to make a name for themselves in the west country. In 2006 Lee fell for his fiancée Marie while on tour up in Dunoon, Scotland so he moved up to Scotland to be with her and they have since had a beautiful baby boy (Mack) together. They get married on 31st July. Since being in Scotland, Lee has re-invented his Blackstone River duo with guitarist John

Anderson. They are now well established and popular on the Scottish Country music circuit. They have also recently begun to tour around the north east of England and Yorkshire where they have had rave reviews. Hence this feature in Cross Country magazine. Blackstone River are also available as a trio, with the addition of Davie Holland on pedal steel guitar. Lee, John and Davie are also members of an exciting, new, all live, five piece band, Shooter, which is beginning to make its mark on the scene and has been booked for some of the festivals already. As you can imagine, the diary for 2010 is filling up fast. Blackstone River and Shooter have been re-booked for the clubs and festivals they have played so far, so they must be doing something right! Lee's passion to perform Country music is very much alive and he is enjoying making new friends. Book them, you will not be disappointed.

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