

## 2/Jan/2002 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

### The Brian Heywood Column

#### 2002 - Local Bands to Watch . . .

At this time of year I like to do a rundown of local bands who've I've either had a chance to see this year or have sent me information and recordings during the past year;



**Devlin** - won their second Luton News pop poll in a row and have been gigging around the area knocking out some great original material. Throughout the year they have been working on a new album called 'Distant Call' which is due out early in the new year.



**Tempest** - have been forging ahead by leaps and bounds during the year with plenty of gigs locally and down in London. In 2001 they've been working with various music industry figures to fine tune their live set and help define their 'sound'.



**Loose Thread** - have had a quiet year after winning last year's Battle of the Bands, appearing every now and then at high profile local gigs. They have spent the year recording a new CD which should be out any day now. Expect to see a lot more of them in the coming year.



**Raw 74** - are still making a big jazz/funk noise comprising of rich brass textures and sweaty jungle rhythms while gigging their socks off in the bargain.



**Markus** - released a CD in the spring called New Jersey Exile which is a compilation both new material and re-mastered tracks from his 'back catalogue'.



**Asha** - the music draws on traditional influences, it is infused with original, blues, soul, jazz and Latin influences, in arrangements guaranteed to get you dancing. They have released an excellent CD called 'Close Enough'.



**Grief Society** - launched their long awaited second album 'Universal Misunderstanding' at the end of spring, showcasing the style and energy that the band has become renowned for. Rock' n' Reel described their sound as "a big chunky sound overflowing with riffs and real tunes that catch your attention".



**Rush Hour** - a trio whose music incorporates a mix of contemporary and traditional styles fused together to form an exciting new sound. The band has produced a CD which has an great acoustic vibe.



**enQ** - original songs and Celtic influenced instrumentals give an exciting live set featuring Sean Devlin on vocals and keyboards. The band went down a storm at this year's Dunstable folk day. Expect to see the first album early in the year.

Drop me an email at [bands@lutonscene.com](mailto:bands@lutonscene.com) and give me details about any local band that you think should be added to the list.

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## 9/Jan/2002 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

### The Brian Heywood Column

#### *More Local bands to watch out for . . .*



**Audio Justice** are a three piece hard rock impact hailing from Letchworth who will be gigging heavily across Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and down in London in the coming months promoting their current CD in anticipation of returning to the studio shortly. They tell me that with a new bassist in tow and some killer new tunes, they're planning to return to the studio in 2002. For more information about the band contact Dan on 07958 753834, email [info@audiojustice.net](mailto:info@audiojustice.net). [Website](#)

**Too Far Gone** are another Luton 'originals' band to watch out for. I saw a subset of the band play down at Brooklyn's in Dunstable recently when they played an acoustic set and was very impressed. They have recently won a heat in the Battle of the Bands at the Horn in St Albans as well as making a number of successful sorties into the London scene with their armoury of high energy songs. [Website](#)



**Hush** is a four piece combo who hail from Dunstable. They formed from a group of school friends in 1997. In 1998 they won took the top slot at the Dunstable Battle of the Bands, serving up a menu of covers of the likes of Ocean Colour Scene, Kula Shaker, Stone Roses, The Verve, Beatles and many more. They are certainly worth taking a look at with their high musical standards and energetic performances. [Website:](#)

**Solace** are another band who kept a fairly low profile in 2001 after putting on a blinding performance at the last Dunstable Battle of the Bands. The band played a number of gigs over the last yea, with acoustic sets and support sets to other bands. The music is original rock influenced by Red Hot Chilli Peppers, Skunk Anansi and Garbage and I can remember being impressed by the tight performance and range of dynamics displayed by the material, and the musicians. They have an album available a lot of new material into the set. They tell me that the revitalised band will be supporting a major head-line band sometime in August and that Aylesbury based Jam central records are taking and interest in the band. [email](#)



#### *Local gigs . . .*

- On Sunday afternoon you can see a local band playing original music at Brooklyn's in High Street North, Dunstable. Kick off at 4pm.
  - Sunday evening; The Blue Angel Acoustic Café, a semi-acoustic weekend wind down session at the Horn in St Albans. Entry free and performers get a free drink.
  - You can find a list of local gigs online at [www.gig-guide.co.uk](http://www.gig-guide.co.uk).
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## 16/Jan/2002 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

### The Brian Heywood Column

#### *Greivous Acoustic Behaviour in Letchworth*

On Sunday (Jan 20) you'll get a taste of some 'Greivous Acoustic Behaviour' if you go down to Letchworth's Arena Tavern. The event features three local bands in the form of **Audio Justice**, **Idle Idols** and **Mexicola** and the evening promises to be a laid back affair providing some high quality acoustic relief. **Mexicola** will be kicking off the show, playing some set favourites and songs from their recently released CD 'Less Is More'. **Audio Justice** are next in line with some reworked versions of their songs, and aim to be releasing a new double A side acoustic CD on the night. Last in line, or top of the bill depending which way you look at it, will be a welcome return to Luton's own Jamie and Nick (formerly of **Eesifreek**) in their current guise of **Idle Idols** to finish off the night. Dan of **Audio Justice** tells me; "We're all really looking forward to this, It's going to be a great night and there should be a few surprises in store!". Proceedings kick off at the Tavern at 8pm and entrance is free.



Live original music at Brooklyn's in High Street North, Dunstable, kicks off again on Sunday (Jan 21) afternoon with a packed programme of three acts, **Pale Marble Movie**, **Rush Hour** and **Devlin**. This gig is a great way to keep in touch with what's going on in the local scene while chilling out after a busy weekend. By all accounts **Pale Marble Movie** is a duo to watch with a lot of talent and the potential to go right to the top of the music scene, don't miss it The music starts at 4pm and it costs £2 on the door to get in.

#### *Local Gigs...*

- On Thursday (Jan 17) **Steve Mulhern** (fiddle) and **Ian Laws** (guitar, banjo mandolin & percussion) are playing music of their respective regional traditions and their own material at The Goldcrest Inn, High Street, Baldock.
  - On Saturday (Jan 19) **Grapevine Blues Band** are playing a mix of original material and favourite Blues standards down at the George II, Bute Street Luton, with the full band line-up featuring top Russian Blues guitarist Dr Ike and Mike Chase on vocals.
  - Also on Saturday two top UK Ska outfits - **20 Dead Camels** (with Pauline Black) and 80's Giants **The Selector** - are playing at the Esquires in Bedford.
  - On Sunday (Jan 20) **Pale Marble Movie**, **Rush Hour** and **Devlin** are playing at Brooklyn's in High Street North, Dunstable. Music starts at 4pm.
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**23/Jan/2002 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)**

**The Brian Heywood Column**

***Bon Temps Playboys at the Hammersmith Mardi Gras***

After the sell-out success of last year's Hammersmith Cajun Mardi Gras Party the organisers will be repeating it this year, on Saturday February 2. Topping the bill is the Hemel Hempstead based Cajun outfit the **Bon Temps Playboys** who will playing numbers from their repertoire of steamy Louisiana, foot stomping, swamp music. As at last year's party, to encourage dancers to come along, there is a reduction for people coming as a result of publicity from Cajun emailings, websites, or the Cajun press, so be sure to mention the **Bon Temps Playboys** offer and you will get a £3 reduction on the £15 ticket price. The idea is to create a real Mardi Gras atmosphere, with masks, beads, etc. Food is included, and there is a cash bar. The band will start playing about 8.00pm

The full address of the venue is The Baronial Hall, Holy Innocents Church Paddenswick Road which is near Ravenscourt Park tube, there is a map on the **Bon Temps Playboys** website which is at <http://users.aol.com/BonTempsPlayboys>. Anyone phoning for tickets should phone 020-8992-1322 or email [ilshunt@btinternet.com](mailto:ilshunt@btinternet.com) and quote "BTP offer". Admission will be by ticket only - no payment on the door, but tickets bought in advance can be picked up at the door. It was a sell out last year so book early to avoid disappointment.

You can see latest Internet review of the up and coming local acoustic rock band **Tempest** at <http://www.bulaka.co.uk/tempest.htm> or follow the link from the band's website at <http://www.the-tempest.com>. The band's next London gig is Thursday 14th Feb at The Kashmir Klub which is at 6 Nottingham Place W1 (<http://www.kashmirklub.com>). Call Bob at White Blossom Creations on 07956-812831 for more information.

On Sunday (Jan 27) ex-Steeleye Span, Fairport Convention and Albion band bass player **Ashley 'Tiger' Hutchings** is appearing at the Sun Hotel in Sun Street, Hitchin along with the fantastic vocalist **Chris While** and multi-instrumentalist **Phil Beer**. Known collectively as the **Ridgeriders**, they will be playing a selection of newly written songs from the highly successful Meridian TV series. Ashley has been at the forefront of the folk revival since the early 70's so he should be able to put on a good show. The music kicks off at just after 8pm, for more information call Maureen Jones on 01462-711164.

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## 30/Jan/2002 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

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Planning is already well underway for the Dunstable Folk Day at the beginning of September with top 70's folk/rockers **Lindisfarne** likely to top the bill as well as a return visit from the Euro-dance outfit **Prego** who went down a storm last year. Like last year, many of the events will be organised by local musicians, dancers, venues and other organisations all co-ordinated by Dunstable Town Council. Anyone interested in getting involved in this growing high profile event should contact Michelle Alexander at Dunstable Town Council on 01582-513000.



The New Roots competition for young traditionally based singers and instrumentalists is going ahead again this year. To be eligible you need to be under 25, sing or play in a traditional or contemporary acoustic style and live in the Anglia TV area. The actual music can be traditional or self penned. There are two categories; under 18 and 18-24 and prizes include performance opportunities at festivals and music clubs. To enter you need to send a cassette or CD with 15 minutes of your music to; Alison Macfarlane, 40 Warwick Road, St Albans, AL1 4DL. The closing date for entries is February 28, 2002 and the finals will be at the Abbey Theatre in St Albans on Sunday April 14.

While we're on the topic of folk, I hear that another folk, roots and acoustic music club has started up at the Silver Cup in Harpenden on Friday nights. The programme features a mixture of local singers and occasional guests such as **Mick Pierce, Bill Caddick, Mike Rothwell & Hillary Ward** - all in a smoke free environment. The organiser - John Breeze - is looking for artists to promote at the club. For more information you can call John on 01923-404566.

Local folk rockers **Shave the Monkey** are appearing at Caldecote Social Club on Saturday (Feb 2) featuring their new electric fiddle player Fran who is replacing their melodeon player Steve who has moved on to other musical endeavours. The doors open at 8.00pm, admission £5. If you want more information about the gig you can e-mail their agent Mel at [mel@shavethemonkey.net](mailto:mel@shavethemonkey.net) or phone her on 01954-212123.

### *Local gigs...*

- **TooFarGone** and **Hush** are playing together at Brooklyns on Sunday (Feb 3). Starting time 4pm.
- On Tuesday (Feb 5) ex-Dunstable guitarist **Dan Evans** and singer **Ruth Cohen Rose** are appearing at the lunch time recital at Grove House in High Street North, Dunstable.
- Next Thursday (Feb 7) Brian Peters is appearing at the Baldock & Letchworth Folk Club (Goldcrest Inn, High Street, Baldock). Considered as one of England's best squeezebox players he is also a fine singer and polished guitarist.

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Send gig information to "The Brian Heywood Column", PO Box 649, Dunstable, Beds, LU5 4XD and you can also email details of gigs, gossip, web sites or anything else to [info@lutonscene.com](mailto:info@lutonscene.com). A search-able archive of the column is available on the web at <http://www.lutonscene.com>.