

### 3/Apr/2002 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

#### The Brian Heywood Column

Harvey Andrews, who is one of England's best known 'undiscovered' singer/songwriters is making his annual pilgrimage to the Sun Hotel in Hitchin on Sunday (April 5). Harvey is originally from up the road in Birmingham and since his first gig in October, 1964, has been using his native wit and clear insight to lay bare the English soul. Since his debut he has played all over the UK and the world between recording no less than twelve albums - nine of which are still available. His latest CD offering is the Gift which is his fond retrospective on the Folk Club scene which is a real gem.

As well as his live work he's appeared on TV and radio (including sessions for John Peel), has written the theme music for TV shows - one of which charted - as well music for sell-out theatrical shows. His songs have been covered by the likes of Christy Moore, Mary Hopkins, Ian Machintosh, Max Boyce and even been used as course work for the GCSE English exam. Even the papers don't stint their praise of Harvey with New Musical Express accusing him of "sheer talent" and by Melody Maker of being "a perceptive writer".



Why this man is not more famous is a mystery but it's a lucky break for us as we can see him in the relatively intimate setting of the Sun's acoustic music club. In fact, I saw Mr Andrews at the Sun a few years ago and can remember how his songs had the ability to strike right at the core of the matter, with perception and humour. So if you like acoustic music for both the heart and the head then make sure you get over to Hitchin on Sunday. For more details call 01462-711164 or check out <http://www.harveyandrews.com>.

#### *Local gigs . . .*

- Tonight (Wednesday) the full line-up of **ToofarGone** are playing at over at The Horn of Plenty. Worth travelling to see.
  - **Tempest**'s gig list looks like a looks like a mini tour of Luton with appearances at the George Second in Bute Street on Friday (April 5), the Cork & Bull in Cumberland Street on Sunday (April 7), over at the Park in Park Street on Tuesday (April 9) and at the Well in Hightown on Sunday week (April 14). They tell me that they have now completed recording their CD single and are in the process of a final mix.
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## 10/Apr/2002 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

### The Brian Heywood Column

#### *Let the Contest Begin*

This year's Battle of the Bands kicks off tonight (Wednesday) at The Crown in Dunstable (High Street North). The first three bands to go for the highly sought after award are **Tamberlain** - a Luton based Punk Rock band, **Too Far Gone** - a Hemel based five piece Rock & Rollers and **Diskordian** who bring a range of soft to hard rock from Barton Le Clay. There has been a slight hiatus in the competition - which is organised by Dunstable Town Council and supported by Luton's Koolworld Studios and the Dunstable Gazette - because the South Beds District Council saw fit to sell off the previous venue to Asda. Tonight's heat will be hosted by Andy Calvert and is the first of a series of weekly heats running through April and May culminating in a final on June 3 which will be held in the Grove House Gardens outside Performance Area as part of the town's Golden Jubilee celebrations. Next week's bands are **Toy Drum** (5 piece Indie Rock), **Audio Justice** (3 piece Rock) and **Dandelions** (3 piece GRUNGE!). The music starts at 7:30pm and entry is free. For more information about the competition contact Michelle Alexander at Dunstable Town Council on 01582-513000.



Ex-Dunstable instrumentalist **Dan Evans** has a new CD album which due out soon. The CD is called Autumn Dance and features Dan on dulcimer, acoustic guitar and sees him moving into a more electron mode on processed electro-acoustic guitar and samples. The CD also features **Sylvia Seaton** on violin, **Ruth Cohen Rose** on vocals, **Martin Vishnick** on classical guitar, Andy Crowdy on string bass, **John Ward** on bodhran & harmonica and **Mary Evans** on rainstick and wind chimes. For more information about Dan and his music you can check out his web site at <http://www.dansing.co.uk/> or via email at [dansing.music@virgin.net](mailto:dansing.music@virgin.net).



Liam from local band **Reverie** has been telling me what the band's been up to recently. They have had their television debut broadcast twice so far on 'Showcase T.V.' on the 'Men And Motors' Channel. They performed their song 'Hate This Illusion' off their current demo and was aired last month. They also have a high profile gig at 'Sound' in Leicester Square London on the 26th April. The band are really excited as it is such a big break, with bands such as 'Muse' having played there! They have organised a coach to pick people up from 'The Park' on Park St. Luton at 6pm and will bring everyone back at 1am. A high profile 'after show' party is included as well.

For more information you can e-mail [info@reverietheband.co.uk](mailto:info@reverietheband.co.uk) or you can check out their web site at [www.reverietheband.co.uk](http://www.reverietheband.co.uk) where you can download MP3s and sign the guest book.

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17/Apr/2002 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

## The Brian Heywood Column

### *Moving Targets*



The Dunstable Battle of the Bands is on the move. Last week's gig was so popular that the venue is just not big enough to hold the bands and the fans. Tonight's journey into the realm of local original live music will be held at Jumping Jack's in the Quadrant in the centre of Dunstable. Your guides for the evening will be **Toy Drum** (5 piece acoustic Indie rock), **Audio Justice** (3 piece alternative rock) from



Letchworth and Caddington's very own **Loomer** (5 piece Indie Rock/Pop). Doors open at 8pm and the first band kicks off at 9 pm, entry is free. For more information about the competition contact Michelle Alexander at Dunstable Town Council on 01582-513000.

Meanwhile at the Modal 2002 alternative music conference in Sheffield, the Labour minister for Music, Dr Kim Howells has pledged to simplify licensing laws to make it easier and cheaper for pubs to obtain permission to stage musical performances. In fact he said; "I want to ensure that everyone, regardless of where they live, their culture or ethnic background, gender or ability to pay, has the opportunity to experience live music.". Well this is all fine and dandy but he should have a word with his department who have just issued a press release (12th April) stating that all "entertainment" in pubs and clubs will need a licence and that it plans NO exemptions, not even for acoustic music. This will also include jam sessions where players come to take part for their own amusement rather than entertain others.

The new law will make it a crime for even one musician to perform in a pub without a local authority entertainment licence. No exemptions at all. The only public singing in a pub that will not need a licence will be "spontaneous" outbursts such as "Happy Birthday to You". Every pub that wants to stage any kind of live music will need a local authority licence for public entertainment. The rule will even apply to private members clubs. As you might expect the government says that the licences will be very cheap and benefit everyone but as these will be controlled by local authorities it means another level of bureaucracy. In fact pubs will need to apply to the local authority with a full business plan for the entire pub operation including showing how often it intends to have public entertainment and what measures it is taking to prevent a public nuisance and to ensure public safety, and so on. We all know how helpful local authorities are, and how low they are likely to set their licence fees, don't we? What's more, these licences are planned to last for the life of the business running the pub, so if the publican doesn't specify exactly what the music policy will be up front then no music will be allowed - ever!



So welcome to the Soviet Union of England (and Wales) where anything not specifically permitted is illegal.

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## 24/Apr/2002 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

### The Brian Heywood Column

#### *Audio Justice is done . . .*

Last week's heat of the official Dunstable Battle of the Bands saw a strong line-up of local bands performing in pretty much ideal conditions at Jumping Jak's in the Quadrant in the town center. **Toy Drum** kicked off the evening in the tough opening slot, playing a dynamic mix of original songs ranging in style from a fusion of Old Skool Heavy metal and Thrash to acoustic rock numbers. The lead singer Jamie Smith - who looks a bit like a young Roger Daltry (The Who) - has a very individual vocal style which gives the band a unique sound which makes them stand out from the crowd.



They were followed by the winners of the night; Letchworth based **Audio Justice** who performed a blindingly tight set of 'short and sweet' alternative pop songs. The band is fronted by Dan Furr (aka Weidemeister) who - as a member of Fog Donkey - came pretty close to winning the last competition in 2000. The band's has a good stage presence and can slip effortlessly between pop and heavy metal without pausing for breath. If you weren't there last Wednesday then you can check out their web site a [www.audiojustice.net](http://www.audiojustice.net) which has some MP3 audio files for download.

Last band of the night was Caddington based Pop/Metal band **Loomer** whose dark gothic audio textures and wall of guitar sound had a few shades of U2 and a lot of good ideas. If they can get their song's endings sorted out they could go far. I was especially impressed by some of the guitar work.

Jumping Jak's is an ideal venue with plenty of space for the audience, good staging and lighting. This means that the bands get a chance to shine in a professional setting. Being a club you need to be over 18 but at least they have a fairly relaxed dress code, though no football shirts or peaked caps are allowed. It's a real shame that due to the licensing laws, younger music fans can't get into the venue, but until the new venue to replace the Queensway Hall is finished I think that this is the best we'll get. At least the final on June 3 will be open to all comers as it is being held in the Town Council's outdoor performance area in Grove House Gardens.

Incidentally, the publican at the Roman Way in Luton is looking for bands to fill a number of Friday night slots in May and June. He's looking for ether originals or covers bands so if you're looking for a local gig call him on 01582-479901. He also tells me that the performance area is not being used on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and could be used by bands that need a place to rehearse.

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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>.

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