

8/Jan/2003 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

The Brian Heywood Column

Bands Round-up for 2002

Last year saw another fine batch of bands surface from the Luton and Dunstable area as well as some stalwarts of the local scene building on their reputation. Here's a few to start off with . . .

Lime

A finalist in this year's Battle of the Bands, **Lime's** infectiously crunchy Latin/jazz dance grooves won over both audience and judges. They've just released their first mini-album 'Take Us to Your Stereo'.

Web: www.limefunk.co.uk



Loose Thread

Last year's Battle of the Bands and pop poll winners are still going strong and have recently signed a deal with Northern independent label Changes One Records.

Web: www.loosethread.co.uk



enQ

Once described as the "Corrs meet the Doors" these original roots rockers have just released their first album "Tear Down the Barriers" on local label POKE Records.

Web: www.enq.org.uk



Audio Justice

Another set of finalists from this year's Battle of the Bands they've released a four track CD-EP called "Bored Games" featuring their grungy original retro material.

Web: www.audiojustice.net



SureFire

Their music has been likened it to a modern version of **U2** and the Rolling Stones by Ian Brown's guitarist (Aziz) and they seem to be making inroads into the world of radio - being featured on Bruce Dickinson's show (BBC 6) on January 4.

Web: www.surefiregroup.uksingers.com



Devlin

Still going strong after all these years they may well break out of the local scene this year after their recent triumph in Leicester. Still yet to release their second album "Distant Call", but it could happen any day now.

Web: www.devlinrock.com



Tempest

Have been slogging away at getting a foothold in the ferocious London gig scene with some success. Their new studio is due to be opened in January so hope to see some recorded output soon.

Web: www.the-tempest.co.uk



TooFarGone

After a line-up change earlier this year the band has been forging ahead, introducing new material. They have released one CD single called "Another sold, another wanted".

Web: www.toofargone.co.uk



Over*Easy

The band have been keeping a fairly low profile since they romped home to first place in the Battle of the Bands with their Trans-Atlantic Groove and hyper-dynamic front man Brett 'Brutha B' Aaron. Look out for a lot more action in 2003.

Web: www.overeasymusic.co.uk



Hush

These boys have been bubbling under for a couple of years now, but have recently been in the studio so expect some plastic action soon.

Web: www.hush.org.uk



Finally, on the biggest threat to live music in pubs, clubs and indeed anywhere. Join the campaign to stop the new licensing bill outlawing unlicensed live music, support the e-petition which will be presented to Downing street next March. To sign the point your web browser at www.musiclovers.ukart.com. The UK government do recognise E-Petitions so it's a way that you can get your voice heard in the corridors of power.

15/Jan/2003 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

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As I mentioned in last week's column, local band - **The Tempest** - now have a new recording studio. This means that they will be recording a bunch of their own material over the next couple of months - in a relaxed - no time pressure environment. Their producer - Dave Dix (ex of Black and currently working with Mint Royale) is also enthusiastic over current developments. **The Tempest** must be the only band I know that also sponsors a football team - Stopsley Athletic FC - who are in the South Beds League and currently doing very well. Looking forward to the Summer, the band has been booked to play the Willow Festival one of the biggest free music events in the UK. If you don't want to wait that long then you can see them down at Sadlers Bar Luton tomorrow night (Jan 16) - along with a new band called **Stickerphase**. Incidentally, I made a mistake with the URL of The Tempest website in last weeks column. Please note that their correct web address is www.the-tempest.com - not 'co.uk'.



Over on the Dunstable side of my patch, I hear that two great local bands **SureFire** and **Shine** are playing over at the Winston Churchill in Church Street on Saturday week (Jan 25). Shine have recently recorded a new CD-EP with the title track - Somewhere Red - being released on Matchbox Records at the end of February. More information and tickets for gig are available through the bands' websites at www.shine-music.tk and www.surefireuk.com.

Bedfordshire/Hertfordshire based song duo **Life and Times** and E-ceilidh band **Time of your Life** tell me that they have completely revamped their respective websites. If you want to have a look at them, then point your web browser at www.lifeandtimes.info and www.timeofyourlife.info. Both these bands feature Hitchin based **Barry Goodman** who recently featured on Ashley Hutchings latest release - "Grandson of Morris On". Guitarist **Graeme Meek** has also revamped his Bedfordshire Songs website to include details of two new songs at mysite.freerve.com/graeme_meek.

Finally, news on the on-going campaign to support live music. There are now over 33,000 total signatures in the on-line petition to oppose the provisions in the new licensing bill. The changes to the law will outlaw any live music in England and Wales that is not authorised by the local authority. If you haven't already added your voice to the chorus of protest against the bill then you can sign on-line at www.petitiononline.com/2inabar. Remember, this will effect all types of live music.

29/Jan/2003 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

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Tilting at Windmills . . .

New Luton band **Tilt** will be playing a mix of their own songs along with covers by The Verve, Paul Weller, U2 and The Small Faces (amongst others) down at the Cork and Bull next Sunday (February 2). The line-up features four lads who were born and bred in Luton and consists of **Martin Kinneary** on lead vocals, **Jamie McDade** on lead guitar, **Peter** and **Alan Cordt** on bass and drums respectively. I've heard that they've done pretty well at previous gigs and are in the process of attracting a cult following in the Luton scene. So if you want hear the up-and-coming sounds of the Luton music scene the get down to the Cork at the corner of Cumberland and Park Streets, you can call 01582-729586 for more information.



Local band **My Pet Junkie** tell me that they have a track - 'Overhanging' - on the 'Lost Marbles' CD Compilation along with bands such as Victim, Big Day Out and The Sell Out's. The compilation is

available for £4 with half the profits going to cancer research UK. For further information you can email to manicrobbie@yahoo.com. They also tell me that their first gig of the year takes place on Saturday (February 1) down at the Dublin Castle in Camden Town, sharing the bill with **Doppler** and **Fancy Dress**. The band are on stage at 8.45pm and entry is £4 with flyer. To find out more phone 07763-607007 or email Mypetjunkie@hotmail.com.



Gina Le Faux is appearing at The Hollybush pub just down the road in Redbourn tomorrow night (Thursday). Gina has been singing and playing the fiddle, guitar and mandolin for almost 30 years and is a well-known performer. Originally from Liverpool, she comes to Redbourn via Scotland, London, Sheffield and finally West Yorkshire. She plays a variety of styles from Baroque to Irish traditional and self penned material, all served with a wicked sense of humour. Tickets cost £5.00 and are available on the door at The Old School Room at The Hollybush Public House, Church End, Redbourn. The music starts at 8:30 with floorspots from local performers. Further details are available from 01582-452954 or 07850-163241 or by contacting The Hollybush on 01582-792423 or on the web at www.lemonrock.com.

The controversy about the new licensing bill that could make the performance of unlicensed live music a criminal offence rumbles on. The stupid thing about the whole affair is that I think that Kim Howells - the government minister overseeing the bill - genuinely does want to see the public performance of music to made simpler. However he is at loggerheads with some of the top legal brains in the country as to how the bill - as currently worded - will be interpreted by the local authorities who will have to enforce the new law. There are obviously a lot of other people worried about it as well, since the on-line petition (www.petitiononline.com/2inabar) now has a staggering 55,000 signatures. Two local MPs - Kelvin Hopkins (Labour, Luton North) and Andrew Selous (Conservative, South West Beds) share our concern about this new bill and have responded to me with supportive letters.

Send gig information to "The Brian Heywood Column", PO Box 649, Dunstable, Beds, LU5 4XD or to info@lutonscene.com. A search-able archive of the column is available on the web at <http://www.lutonscene.com>.

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