

The Brian Heywood Column

**Surefire go into Top Gear**



Local rock band **Surefire** are headlining down at the Borderline at 18 Manned Street in Soho, London (near Tottenham Court Rd tube station) tonight, the band is on stage at 9:30pm . The band seem to tapping into the scene in a big way, as well as getting radio airplay on BBC6, Chiltern Radio and Radio Caroline. Their manager Rob Eden tells me that the new series of Jeremy Clarkson's Top Gear may well be featuring the Surefire song 'This is the Start'. The programme makers are also considering some other tracks from the band as well. The band plans to hit the studio to lay down some more tracks during the rest of February and March, but you can catch them March 31 at the Student Union at Luton University. For more information check out their website at [www.surefiregroupuk.com](http://www.surefiregroupuk.com).

On Saturday (Feb 8) Dunstable Battle of Bands winner **Lime** are also playing down at the Borderline. The original eight piece funk band will be playing their sexy Latin/jazz funk grooves and promoting their new 7 track CD - Take Us to Your Stereo. If you want to support the band then they are laying on a mini-bus from Luton Train station on the night. Email [rodney\\_sir@hotmail.com](mailto:rodney_sir@hotmail.com) if you want to grab a space on the bus.



If you fancy a more local gig then indie acoustic rockers **The Tempest** are playing at The Sadlers Bar in Luton tomorrow night (Thursday) with a band called **Thin Ice**. For more information you can contact Rob at White Blossom Management on 07956-812831 or email him at [robbringham@yahoo.com](mailto:robbringham@yahoo.com) or check out their website at [www.the-tempest.com](http://www.the-tempest.com).



Next Tuesday (Feb 11), local supergroup **Devlin** will try and top their recent triumph at the national Battle of the Bands when they take on **3's A Crowd** and **Coast** in the St Albans competition at The Horn in Victoria Street (next to the main line station). They will be pedalling their individual brand of original songs - they have been compared to Crowded House with added funk-rock - and Sean's almost legendary stage presence. Music starts at 8pm and if costs £3 to get in.

Don't forget that you can make your voice heard in the controversy about the new licensing bill that could make the performance of unlicensed live music a criminal offence. You just need go to online and point your web browser at [www.petitiononline.com/2inabar](http://www.petitiononline.com/2inabar) and sign the on-line petition which now has a staggering 65,000 signatures. This could be the last chance you have to make your voice heard.

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## 12/Feb/2003 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

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On Saturday night (Feb 15), Milton Keynes based **The Peartree Bridge Family** will be playing a variety of classic rock including AC/DC, Motorhead, Queen, T-rex, Deep Purple Rock Cover Band down at the The Wheatsheaf public house in Dunstable as part of the venue's regular Saturday night programme. AJ tells me that punters should expect a massive night's entertainment with over two hours of live music and comedy provided by the whole band, some of which is pretty near the knuckle, but all meant in good fun. The pub is always on the lookout for new talent so if you are a band, or know of a band, that needs a venue then call AJ or Lorraine 01582 753245, or better still send them a demo they'll call you. The address is The Wheatsheaf, High Street North, Dunstable.

Hertfordshire based band - **My Pet Junkie** - have an alternative Valentine's Day event for all those who want a break from the sickly sentimental approach to this annual smaltz-fest. They tell me that they have two gigs which have no mention of the words Diamonds, Hearts, Flowers, Romance, Jewellery,

Greeting Cards, Celine Dion and Rings. Instead just some wholesome musical entertainment that won't put the 'Heart in Hertfordshire'. You can see them at The Horn in St Albans tomorrow night (Thursday) along with Bouncer and Gambler or on Friday (March 14) at Club 85 in Whinbush Road, Hitchin. For further information you can send an e-mail to [mypetjunkie@hotmail.com](mailto:mypetjunkie@hotmail.com).

Also at Club 85 on Saturday is the amazing percussion duo **Humdrum** featuring Donna Whitlock (Wot Next, MoonDance) and Chris Puleston (Walking on Ice). Anyone who came to the **enQ** CD launch party will have been knocked out by the sheer dramatic energy of their performance. Special guest Saskia Tomkins (violin) is also due to appear with them on the night. **Humdrum** got together when Donna and Chris met in July 2001 and found a unique kind of magic in playing hand drums and percussion together. They should be on stage about 8:30pm. You can check out their website at [www.stonyarts.org.uk/Humdrum/HumdrumAboutNF.htm](http://www.stonyarts.org.uk/Humdrum/HumdrumAboutNF.htm).

The guys from **Eesifreek** emailed me to say that they have joined forces with **Throat Oyster** create a new band called **Stonegrass**. They tell me they've been pretty busy writing and rehearsing new tunes, and recording their first demo EP which you can hear on their website at [www.stonegrass.com](http://www.stonegrass.com). The music has a robust rock feel with a few funky influences buried in there somewhere, worth checking out.

The petition opposing the new licensing bill that could make the performance of unlicensed live music a criminal offence is now up to 70,000 signatures. To make your voice heard, just go online and point your web browser at [www.petitiononline.com/2inabar](http://www.petitiononline.com/2inabar).

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## 19/Feb/2003 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

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Andy from the Luton based **Rush Hour** tells me that they have a couple of new additions to their line up. The band was formed back in February 2001 with **Samantha Gore** on vocals and **Andy Cooper** and **Andy Larmouth** on guitar and the first year was spent gigging extensively around the area well as some high profile London gigs and festivals. Last October they recorded a new demo which featured top violinist **Saskia Tompkins** and not long after, they met **Neil MacLeod** (drums) and **Chris Wilson** (bass) and in a very short space of time, with whom their sound has gone from strength to strength. You can see the new line-up action at the Cork and Bull, Park St. Luton on Sunday (Feb 23) or Club Fabulous, Belsize Park, London on Sunday week (March 2). Check out their website on [www.rushhour.org.uk](http://www.rushhour.org.uk) or email [info@rushhour.org.uk](mailto:info@rushhour.org.uk) for more information.

Ceilidh and Barn Dance enthusiasts should check out the next Unicorn Ceilidh on Friday week (Feb 28) in Hitchin which is featuring Milton-Keynes based **Asha** with top caller **Bob Adams**. The band is made up of **Jackie Allen** (Kitchen Girls, Token Women), **Peter Lubbock** and **Pete Lockwood** (Cock and Bull Band) and the music draws on traditional influences 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' which I reviewed here - see the [www.lutonscene.com](http://www.lutonscene.com) website if you want to read it. The action starts at 8pm and tickets are only £6 (£4 for accompanied under 14s). Call 01582-733113 (day) or 01582-724261 (evening or weekend) for more information.



**Reverie** tell me that they would like to thank all the people who turned up to the George II gig in Luton - due to the high level of interest there they are considering another Luton date before their high profile Sound Republic (Leicester Square, London) gig, at which they are headlining on Thursday March 13. There will be transport provided from Luton for anyone who wants a night out in the town - check out [www.reverietheband.co.uk](http://www.reverietheband.co.uk) for more information. The band also distribute their CD 'BeMyself', released on Latent Lemon Records, free at their gigs or you can send your postal address to: [info@reverietheband.co.uk](mailto:info@reverietheband.co.uk). They plan to have a new CD ready for their London gigs.

### Local Gigs ...

- Friday (Feb 21) - **TooFarGone** and **The Scales** are playing at the George II in Bute Street, Luton.
- Saturday (Feb 22) - **Kiss Thiss** are playing down at the Wheatsheaf in High Street North in Dunstable. This four piece rock cover band recently supported 'The Sweet' and playing their brand or rock covers, including The Rolling Stones, AC/DC, And more.

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Send gig information to "The Brian Heywood Column", PO Box 649, Dunstable, Beds, LU5 or 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>.