

## 2/Apr/2003 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

### The Brian Heywood Column

#### *A Feast of Folk . . .*

Folk superstar **John Kirkpatrick** is appearing at the Roots @ Zaks in Church Street, Wolverton next Wednesday (April 9). John is one of the most prolific, and well respected, musicians on the English roots scene. He has established an enviable reputation as an instrumental virtuoso and a leading interpreter of English folk music, performing solo, in duos, in acoustic and electric bands including The Richard Thompson Band, The Albion Band, Umps and Dumps, Steeleye Span, Brass and Band of Hope. As songwriter, composer, choreographer, and musical director, he has also contributed to over sixty plays in the theatre and on radio. As featured artist, band member, or session player, his playing can be heard on over 200 different commercial recordings. His film credits are as diverse as 'Captain Corelli's Mandolin' and 'Harry Potter and The Philosophers Stone' and his television credits recently include 'Mr Micawber' starring David Jason. Tickets are £7 and doors open at 8 p.m. For tickets and more information from 01908-310278 or [www.crackingmusic.co.uk](http://www.crackingmusic.co.uk) and John's website is [www.johnkirkpatrick.co.uk](http://www.johnkirkpatrick.co.uk).



This year's New Roots competition looks like it's going to be a good one. The judges have now listened to all the demo tapes and have selected the final twelve entries to perform on Sunday (April 6) at the Trestle Arts Base, Highfield Park, St. Albans. In all there were twenty-one acts who applied to enter, the largest yet in the history of the competition. The actual event kicks off at 2.00 p.m. (entry is free) and the judges will be Horizon Award winners **John Spiers** and **Jon Bowden**, **Lynne Heraud** and **Andy Stafford**. Prizes for the finalists will be performance opportunities at clubs and festivals throughout the next year. So if you want the chance to hear some up-and-coming folk and roots artists before the rest of the world finds out about them! For further details see [www.stalbansfolkmusic.org.uk](http://www.stalbansfolkmusic.org.uk)



You'll have two chances to see renowned singer/songwriter **Harvey Andrews** locally this weekend, on Saturday (April 5) he'll be performing at The Barn Theatre, Handside Lane, Welwyn Garden City 8p.m. tickets £6.50 from Sylvia Pepper 01707 266688. On Sunday (April ) he'll be at the Hitchin Folk Club, The Sun Hotel, Hitchin at 8p.m. For more information call 01462 812391

The music licensing petition now has over 80,000 online signatures and Graham Dixon - who set-up the petition - has an ever increasing pile of hard copies (A4s over a foot high). Graham tells me that the original intention was to close the petition on 15th March and deliver before the end of the month, however he now feels that the opportunity for maximum publicity would be compromised (what with the war et al) if it was delivered now. Graham is working closely with the Musicians' Union and is keep it open for a little while longer so that they can maximise its impact when it is presented to Tony Blair. If you would like to sign and haven't already done so please go to [www.musiclovers.ukart.com](http://www.musiclovers.ukart.com)

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## 9/Apr/2003 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

### The Brian Heywood Column

Local band **Surefire** tell me that they are getting themselves noticed. Apparently they've been recording tracks at Sawmills recording studios in Cornwall for their first album - 'This is the Start' - to be released on R2 Records later this year. The band are no sticklers for tradition though, they've just signed a deal for world-wide distribution of their music with Peter Gabriel's On Demand Distribution (OD2). Paul Smith, who is the marketing Manager at OD2 says "We are delighted to be working with R2 Records, a deal which represents a significant move forward in providing unsigned artists with a quick and direct route to market across Europe". The first three tracks will be available for free on their website today (Wednesday). For more information contact the band's management (All Fired Up) at [robbeden@aol.com](mailto:robbeden@aol.com) or point you browser at [www.surefireuk.com](http://www.surefireuk.com).

**Gina Le Faux** is appearing at The Hollybush pub just down the road in Redbourn tomorrow night (Thursday). Last time she tried to play there, appalling weather frustrated the attempt. Anyway, 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. 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](http://www.lemonrock.com).

A blast from the past - **Jezebel** from **Groovejet** dropped me an email from Greece to say that their duo has been going down a storm in the sunny Mediterranean climes and despite a mini-odyssey to get connected to the web she is now connected into the rest of the world via the Internet. What more could you want! Good weather and the latest technology. For a look at what Groovejet are up to check out Jezebel's web page at <http://www.aidanbell.com/html/sister.htm>.

I see that our Government's Minister of Culture has thrown out the amendment to allow pubs to have music without a Public Entertainment Licence for small events (i.e. less than 250 people). The argument seems to be that since events such as raves and Glastonbury Festival have some safety considerations then a local pub should not be allowed to hold any kind of music event without having a local authority licence. He even admits that such local authorities will be able to illegally withhold permission and there's not a damn thing that we, or the government can do about it. If you think that this is outrageous then sign the on-line petition [www.musiclovers.ukart.com](http://www.musiclovers.ukart.com)

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## 16/Apr/2003 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

### The Brian Heywood Column

#### *Shine on you crazy diamonds. . .*

Local three piece rock/indie band **Shine** are playing on Sunday (April 20) at the Cork and Bull at the Park Street end of Cumberland Street. This will be the band's first solo gig with their new line-up of **Brian McCrossan** (lead vocals and guitar), **Richard Herity** (drums) and **Danny McGreevy** (bass). The band started up in 1999 when three lads from Cardinal Newman college in Luton got together for a jam, **James Carbin** - who played guitar - along with Richard and Brian. Adding **Liam McMahon** on bass and **Mark Sowden** on vocals, they practised hard (playing mostly covers) and started gigging under the name of **Fenix** which debuted at their college's Sixth Form Review. After the almost mandatory line-up change, Liam left to form **Reverie** who later went on to be finalists in the Dunstable Battle of the Bands.

After more successful gigs, the band grew bored of playing other people's music, Mark left to form **Novacaine** with Brian taking over the lead vocals - Shine were now a three piece. This worked very well and with Brian writing more new songs. The band took on the Luton scene for a year and then decided to hit the 'big smoke'. Their first London gig was early October last year, when the band went down a storm with a set of original songs at Gossips. **Shine** are now appearing on two compilation CDs, one with Matchbox Records and the other with Monstar Records both due out early this year so they must be doing something right! Anyway, you can pick up a copy of their new demo at the Cork and Bull gig on Sunday. For more information about the gig you can call 01582-729586 or check out the band's website at [www.shine-music.tk](http://www.shine-music.tk).

I hear that **TooFarGone** have split up; **Matt Rushton** and **Ian Spratley** have decided to follow other interests and have left the band. The three remaining members, **Andy Sizmur**, **Andy Paris** and **Steve McLeod** are still very keen to work with each other and we are currently looking to join up with new people, with the aim of getting back onto the gig scene soon as soon as possible. The remaining trio have decided not to continue using the same name as they feel it wouldn't feel right. The band will be playing their last gig at The Well (Bute Street, Luton) on Good Friday (April 18).

**Martyn Wyndham-Read**, perhaps the purest voice on the folk circuit for the past 30 years, is playing at Baldock & Letchworth Folk Club tonight (Wednesday). Support will be **Mary Humphries** (superb singing) and **Anahata** (stunning box work) and **The Gravelly Hillbillies** who play contemporary songs with mandolin, guitar, bouzouki and double bass. The venue is **The Old White Horse**, Station Road, Baldock. For more information call 0845-123-2658 or check out [www.madnanny.co.uk](http://www.madnanny.co.uk).

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

### The Brian Heywood Column

#### *For England and St George . . .*

There has been a number of laments over the last few years about how the English have neglected their patron saint - St George - while the other Celtic nations that inhabit these islands - such as the Irish, Welsh and Scots celebrate theirs (St Patrick, St David and Rabbi Burns). Well this seems to be slowly changing with a lot more attention being given to the old dragon slayers birthday, as we realise that it's a fantastic chance to have a party.

Tonight (Wednesday) you can see **Little Johnny England** at Zak's in Wolverton rocking the English tradition by playing both traditional and original tunes and songs within a rock framework. They have gained a reputation for providing an excellent evening's entertainment with their muscular folk-rock with a distinctive blend of fiddle, melodeon and electric guitar. The band got together 1999 and have since gathered an impressive following along the way. Their sound exploits the close interplay between **Gareth Turner** (melodeons), **P J Wright** (vocals and electric guitars) and **Guy Fletcher** (violin) backed up by a powerful rhythm section based around the bass guitar of **Mat Davies**. The musicians have a prestigious history, having played with outfits like The Albion Band, The Phil Beer Band and e2K (Gareth), The Dylan Project (P. J.), Dansaul, Tickled Pink (Guy) and Clarion (Mat). Tickets cost £8 and the doors open at 8.00 p.m. for 8.30 p.m. start. Zak's is located Church Street, Wolverton. Tickets and information from 01908-310278 or [www.crackingmusic.co.uk](http://www.crackingmusic.co.uk).

I was chatting to Fahim, who is the Arts Development Officer at Luton Council this week about the new Hat Factory venue in Bute Street. The venue is the replacement for the failed Artezium Arts centre and has already opened its doors to some projects, but won't fully come on stream until later this year while they complete fitting out the facilities. It also seems that 33 Records has found a new home in the revitalised centre, something I suggested as long ago as 2001. Lets hope that the Hat Factory management listen to 33's Paul Jolly who has a wealth of experience in providing opportunities to local talent. More news on this as it becomes available.

On Saturday (April 26) there will be a fund raising concert at Club 85 in Hitchin featuring four local bands - **My Pet Junkie**, **The \$ell Out\$**, **Red Maxx**, and **Smallworld** with profits being donated to the North Herts Sanctuary for the homeless. Entrance is £4 and the doors open at 8pm. Club 85 is situated on Whinbush Road, Hitchin and is 5 minutes walk from the train station.

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## 30/Apr/2003 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

### The Brian Heywood Column

#### *Spring into the Festival Season . . .*

The local festival scene springs into action on bank holiday Monday (May 5) with a free folk festival in Letchworth at Standalone Farm (Wilbury Way, SG6 4JN). The day features **The Great Northern Roadshow** (Tom McConville, Pauline Cato & Terry Docherty), **Siansa, Mise, Ben Paley & Tab Hunter, Bob Fox, and Serious Kitchen**. And there's more than music on offer with a mountain bike stuntman, falconry to fairground rides, face painting, sheep dog trials, Mr Topples and his circus skills, Chester Mazing and his magic show, vintage fire engines, beer tent and food, and more. Visitors will also get free entry into Standalone Farm with its many animals, demonstrations, exhibitions and farm walks. It Sounds like a great day out for all the family. For more details contact Alan Hewson at Mad Nanny Music on 01462-438373 or email [alan@madnanny.co.uk](mailto:alan@madnanny.co.uk).

Newly formed rock covers band **Spooky Toy** is now hosting a regular Jam Night at Eddies Bar in Luton on Thursday nights. The band which plays music by Led Zeppelin, Red Hot Chilli Peppers, Deep Purple, Aerosmith and Guns'n'Roses etc. are inviting local musicians to come and jam with the band and everyone else to come over for some great music in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. The new landlord - Bernard - who is no stranger to running a music venue, plans to retain the Luton live music top spot by expanding the range of bands that appear there. The Bar now has a regular acoustic night every Tuesday, rock jams every Thursday, live music every Friday and Saturday and an opportunity for new bands to appear on Sundays. For more information you can call Eddies Bar on 01582-651050.

Leighton Buzzard based classic rock band **The Dead On Holiday** are playing at Saddlers Wine Bar in downtown Luton on Friday (May 2). The band's sound reflects a mix of Sonic Youth and Thin Lizzy influences and they aim to follow in the spirit of Led Zeppelin as one of the best 'live' rock bands around. Their approach is to create a bold, passionate, inclusive sound; drawing on Rock'n'roll mythology that harks back to entertainment and thrusts musically forward to an exciting present. You can find out more information about the band on [www.clownfish.net](http://www.clownfish.net).

Trevor Coyne, who has just taken over as the manager of Caspers Nightclub in Upper George Street Luton, tells me that he is looking for local bands to play at the venue on Friday nights. All kinds of music are welcome and those interested should contact him on 01582-512040 or 07866-693959.

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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>