



PLEASED TO MEET YOU!

# MANDRAKE HANDSHAKE

HOW THE OXFORD BAND BECAME BEST IN PSYCH ROCK!

INSIDE: SLOW DRIFT, ANDY BELL, YARD ACT, JODY & THE JERMS, LATEST ON FESTIVAL LINE UPS, JAH WOBBLE, HOME COUNTIES AND MUCH MORE...



# THE BULLINGDON

FEBRUARY 2022

GIG & CLUB LISTINGS

<p>Friday 28th January <b>Sukh Ojla: Life Sukhs</b> Doors: 7PM</p> <p>Friday 28th January <b>Drink and Jive</b> Doors: 10PM</p> <p>Saturday 29th January <b>Raydio</b> <b>Harriet Jackson</b> <b>Jam Thieves</b> <b>Jappa</b> <b>Juiceman</b> Doors: 10PM</p> <p>Wednesday 2nd February <b>Fishco</b> Doors: 9PM</p> <p>Thursday 3rd February <b>Josh Berry</b> <b>Rafe Hubris</b> Doors: 7PM</p> <p>Friday 4th February <b>James Taylor Quartet</b> Doors: 7PM</p> <p>Friday 4th February <b>Drum and Bass</b> Doors: 10PM</p> <p>Saturday 5th February <b>Simple</b> <b>Job Jobse</b> Doors: 10PM</p> <p>Sunday 6th February <b>Garfunkel</b> <b>Supamush</b> <b>Sisters of Funk</b> Doors: 7PM</p> <p>Tuesday 8th February <b>Saturn Returns</b> <b>With Caggie</b> <b>Noura Boumi</b> Doors: 7PM</p> <p>Thursday 10th February <b>Jack Hutchinson</b> Doors: 7PM</p> <p>Friday 11th February <b>Ulysses Wells</b> Doors: 7PM</p> <p>Friday 11th February <b>Spa Sisters</b> <b>The Bullingdon Boogie</b> Doors: 10PM</p> <p>Saturday 12th February <b>Reggaeton Party</b> Doors: 10PM</p> <p>Sunday 13th February <b>A Few Too Many</b> <b>Youth Illusion</b> <b>Das Ghoul</b> Doors: 7PM</p>	<p>Monday 14th February <b>Sisters of Funk</b> Doors: 7PM</p> <p>Wednesday 16th February <b>Benjamin Francis Leftwich</b> <b>Elanor Moss</b> <b>Wounded Bear</b> Doors: 7PM</p> <p>Thursday 17th February <b>So Fatch</b> <b>2000s Party</b> Doors: 10PM</p> <p>Friday 18th February <b>HAUS Party</b> <b>Volume 1</b> Doors: 10PM</p> <p>Saturday 19th February <b>Musical Medicine</b> <b>Jamie 3:26</b> Doors: 10PM</p> <p>Tuesday 22nd February <b>Jamali Maddix</b> Doors: 7PM</p> <p>Wednesday 23rd February <b>Mad Dogs &amp; Maddox</b> <b>Feat. Lebourn</b> Doors: 7PM</p> <p>Friday 25th February <b>The Now</b> <b>Concord Drive</b> <b>Haig</b> <b>The Follants</b> Doors: 7PM</p> <p>Friday 25th February <b>Tracksuit &amp; Trance</b> <b>Ibiza 90s Rave</b> Doors: 10PM</p> <p>Saturday 26th February <b>Symmetry Oxford</b> <b>Break</b> <b>Enel</b> <b>Gray</b> <b>Jakes</b> <b>SP-MC</b> Doors: 10PM</p> <p>Tuesday 1st March <b>Airways</b> Doors: 7PM</p> <p>Wednesday 2nd March <b>Melt Yourself Down</b> Doors: 7PM</p> <p>Friday 4th March <b>Larry Dean: FUDINUT</b> Doors: 7PM</p> <p>Friday 4th March <b>Out the Trap</b> <b>Bad &amp; Bully</b> Doors: 10PM</p>	<p>Sunday 13th March <b>Simple</b> <b>Daniel Avery</b> Doors: 10PM</p> <p>Sunday 13th March <b>Trash Boat</b> Doors: 7PM</p> <p>Tuesday 8th March <b>Beans on Toast</b> Doors: 7PM</p> <p>Thursday 10th March <b>Call Me Mayday</b> <b>2010s Party</b> Doors: 10PM</p> <p>Friday 11th March <b>Roving Therapy</b> <b>Cosmic Version</b> Doors: 10PM</p> <p>Saturday 12th March <b>Musical Medicine</b> <b>Crazy P (DJ)</b> Doors: 10PM</p> <p>Tuesday 15th March <b>Aurie Stylo: Green</b> Doors: 7PM</p> <p>Thursday 17th March <b>Dream Wife</b> Doors: 7PM</p> <p>Friday 18th March <b>Soft Machine</b> Doors: 7PM</p> <p>Friday 18th March <b>Bongarz &amp; Lash</b> <b>00s Edition</b> Doors: 10PM</p> <p>Saturday 19th March <b>Skylarkin Soundsystem</b> <b>Mungo's HIFI Soundsystem</b> Doors: 10PM</p> <p>Monday 21st March <b>Lady Bird</b> Doors: 7PM</p> <p>Wednesday 23rd March <b>Warmduscher</b> Doors: 7PM</p> <p>Friday 25th March <b>The Total Stone Roses</b> Doors: 7PM</p> <p>Friday 25th March <b>Soul Sister</b> <b>Grand Theft Disco</b> Doors: 10PM</p> <p>Tuesday 29th March <b>The Skinner Brothers</b> <b>Toef</b> <b>Rolla</b> Doors: 7PM</p>	<p>Thursday 21st March <b>Rosalie Cunningham</b> Doors: 7PM</p> <p>Friday 1st April <b>Sean Walsh:</b> <b>Back from the Bed</b> Doors: 7PM</p> <p>Friday 1st April <b>HAUS Party</b> <b>Volume 2</b> Doors: 10PM</p> <p>Tuesday 5th April <b>Danny George Wilson</b> Doors: 7PM</p> <p>Thursday 7th April <b>Police Dog Hogan</b> Doors: 7PM</p> <p>Friday 8th April <b>Dreadzone</b> Doors: 7PM</p> <p>Tuesday 12th April <b>Mike &amp; the Moonpies</b> Doors: 7PM</p> <p>Friday 15th April <b>Twist and Shout</b> <b>60s Night</b> Doors: 10PM</p> <p>Thursday 21st April <b>Nathan Caton:</b> <b>Let's Talk About Vex</b> Doors: 7PM</p> <p>Friday 22nd April <b>Mclusky</b> Doors: 7PM</p> <p>Friday 22nd April <b>That 70s Club</b> Doors: 10PM</p> <p>Monday 25th April <b>Bambara</b> <b>Nuha Ruby Ra</b> Doors: 7PM</p> <p>Wednesday 27th April <b>The Stevie Watts Trio</b> Doors: 10PM</p> <p>Thursday 28th April <b>Make Emo Great Again</b> Doors: 10PM</p> <p>Friday 29th April <b>Bootleg Blondie</b> Doors: 7PM</p> <p>Friday 29th April <b>Tracksuit &amp; Trance</b> <b>The Euphoria</b> Doors: 10PM</p>	<p>Saturday 30th April <b>Simple</b> <b>Mayday Party</b> Doors: 10PM</p> <p>Thursday 5th May <b>Kristin Hersh</b> Doors: 7PM</p> <p>Thursday 5th May <b>Bobby V</b> Doors: 7PM</p> <p>Friday 6th May <b>Noasis</b> Doors: 7PM</p> <p>Friday 6th May <b>Drum and Bass</b> Doors: 10PM</p> <p>Saturday 7th May <b>Saved by the 90s</b> Doors: 10PM</p> <p>Sunday 8th May <b>Whyte Horses</b> Doors: 7PM</p> <p>Thursday 12th May <b>Stray</b> <b>Vambo</b> Doors: 7PM</p> <p>Friday 14th May <b>Musical Medicine</b> <b>Colleen 'Cosmo' Murphy</b> <b>&amp; Kirolus</b> Doors: 10PM</p> <p>Saturday 14th May <b>Bob Vylan</b> Doors: 7PM</p> <p>Friday 20th May <b>Keston Cobblers Club</b> Doors: 7PM</p> <p>Saturday 21st May <b>Simple</b> <b>Huai</b> Doors: 10PM</p> <p>Wednesday 25th May <b>The Wave Pictures</b> Doors: 7PM</p> <p>Saturday 27th May <b>Back to the 80s</b> Doors: 10PM</p> <p>Wednesday 1st June <b>Musical Medicine</b> <b>DJ Paulette</b> Doors: 10PM</p>
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## SPRING NEWS



### Oxfordshire Music Magazine Wants You!

Calling all writers! Forget about 'Cutin' going full tonto for #www3, the global plague or cheese-n-wine-gate (oh, you already have?) and do your bit for the Oxfordshire music scene - OMS needs You!

We're looking for enthusiastic music and culture-lovin' writers to bolster our established team and mix things up a little. You can review local gigs, new releases and interview your favourite bands. This is an excellent way to get involved with your local music scene, or to take your first steps towards a writing path by getting your work published. You don't need experience, just a strong interest in music, whatever style or genre - and something to say! If you're interested in writing for OMS, drop us a line at [back2left@gmail.com](mailto:back2left@gmail.com).

To celebrate the return of gigs - and therefore OMS - we're stoked to announce the next **OMS Live** gig. Self Help are topping the bill with Oxford's In Flight Movie and mellow London mavericks, Booyah Settlement. Catch them - and us - on May Day (Sunday May 1) at the city's legendary Jericho Tav. You can't get much more Oxford than that...

After 2 years of tumbleweed, the local festivals are getting ready to rock back into action, as are we - camp chairs, crate of cider, wellies and camping trolley ready to go. Can you tell we've missed this!

How about an indoor metro - multi venue event in Reading to get you back in the mood - **Are You Listening?** is stationed just down the road in Reading and has fast gained a reputation for shaping the finest up and coming indie and electronic programmes, all the venues a stone's throw away from each other. First lineup is just out and features **Alfie Templeman**, **Bob Vylan**, **Pip Blom** and **Jack Goldstein** and much more. They always have a healthy dose of Oxford acts too, so we're there! Various venues, Reading May 7, 2022.



Folk Weekend Oxford is all over the weekend of April 22 - 24, their first since 2018. Every available space in the city will be rocking to the finest in folk from around the world. Highlights include **Martin Carthy** at OFS, **Jackie Oates** at the Story Museum and Australian sister duo **Charm of Finches** (pictured) at the Holywell Music Rooms. There will also be a run of more intimate gigs at the Blue Room at St. Aldates Tavern, workshops at Pitt Rivers and free music sessions over the weekend. Get the full picture at [folkweekendoxford.co.uk](http://folkweekendoxford.co.uk)

Tickets are on sale now for **Wychwood festival** on June 3 - 5 at Cheltenham Racecourse. Family fun to a T, the, couldn't possibly be more varied and entertaining, lineup of greats from the past and the future boasts **Peter Hook** and **The Light**, **Deacon Blue**, **Selector**, **Levellers**, **Undertones**, **Boney M**, **Dreadzone** and **The South**. For ticket info and full lineup go to [wychwoodfestival.com](http://wychwoodfestival.com).

It's not just the familiar names coming back - we're delighted to share the news of a new addition at Kirtlington Park. Describing itself as a festival of ideas and music, **Kite** aims itself squarely at the more discerning end of the festival spectrum.

They'll be welcoming **Grace Jones**, **TLC**, **Mavis Staples**, **Nubian Twist** and **Self Esteem** to their main stage, and there's a **Heavenly Records** lineup featuring **St Etienne**, **Baxter Dury**, **The Orielles** and **Katy J Pearson** joining a host of speakers including **George Monbiot**, **David Miliband**, **Delia Smith**, **Armando Iannucci** and **Jarvis Cocker** - now, that will be an interesting backstage area! Visit [kitefestival.co.uk](http://kitefestival.co.uk) for further lineup announcements.

Also back is West Oxfordshire's legendary music mash up, the **Witney Music Festival**. This year, catch an eclectic line up performing over 2 weeks in various venues from street to main stage. Never mind the B\*locks, look out for some seriously alternative entertainment fit for a queen over the hijacked Jubilee bank holiday. WMF runs May 27 - June 11. See you down the front!



**WMF** 27th MAY-11th JUNE  
2022

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SEEING BANDS AND WANT TO  
WRITE ABOUT LOCAL MUSIC





## RANT N ROLL

With Owen Collins

The downside to covering live poetry is it's often a one-night only thing; and by the time you'll read any reviews I write, the artist in question will have been and gone, leaving my glowing recommendations or desperate warnings to be insightful, but perhaps not too practical.

That's why, to kick off my first column of 2022, I thought I'd shine a light on the poets and performers arriving soon who I already know to be excellent, and who you should make a belated New Year's Resolution to catch while they're in town...

### MOLLY NAYLOR AND JOHN OSBORNE (March 29, 30, 31, Burton Taylor Studio)

The visit of either Molly Naylor or John Osborne (co-writers of Sky 1's After Hours) to Oxford would be cause enough for joy; that they are at the Burton Taylor Studio in the same week on consecutive nights is reason to rebuild the city walls and hang flags of celebration from their crenellations. Two of the best poets in the country, each is a verbal treat in their own right.

Naylor's tour offers itself up as "an anti-self help show (that might actually help)" and takes its title from her most recent collection, out with Burning Eye. It's a slim volume, so narrow you can barely make out the title on the spine, but it's nevertheless overflowing with some of the most beautiful, defiant doubt you'll ever read. If the tour is as good as the book, it will be essential.

Although John Osborne's latest show is storytelling, rather than poetry, he has always blurred the lines between the two expertly. He offers such an inviting lack of pretension that to hear him weave his words is like catching up with an old friend; as with his verse, My Car Plays Tapes promises to mine the extraordinary from the ordinary in a way that is so simple yet magical you'll want to punch the air just listening to him.

Owen Collins is a performance poet and playwright from West Oxfordshire; Twitter @OGBCollins



### WILL POUND BAND – A Day Will Come (May 20, North Wall)

Now here's an intriguing proposition: Polish poet Bohdan Piasecki has joined forces with melodeon maestro Will Pound and his band to pay homage to "the free movement of European instrumental music", putting the verse in traverse on a cat's-cradle tour of the continent – taking in Swedish polska, Irish jigs and Bulgarian rachenitsa (no, me neither, shamefully).

Much like the European Union itself, it's a slightly contradictory but attractive offer, and it will be interesting to see if and how it all manages to fit together. Beatboxing bassist John Parker is among the musicians chipping in on what will surely be a lively if idiosyncratic evening.

### FUNERAL FLOWERS – Emma Dennis Edwards (April 9, North Wall)

The North Wall's heralded Alchymy Festival has been bringing new writing to North Oxford for several years, and after an online hiatus in 2021 comes roaring back to 3 dimensional life.

Among the line-up this year is Emma Dennis-Edwards' poetry-play Funeral Flowers, which is set to shine a light on the beleaguered edifices that are the care system and the prison system. Inspired by a true story and described in the pre-publicity as funny, fearless and impassioned, it's guaranteed to be a stand-out of the festival.

### Also WORTH CATCHING...

Mugabe, My Dad & Me (Burton Taylor Studio, March 15-19) sees Tonderai Munyevu examine the rise and fall of Zimbabwe's former leader, intertwined with his own family history whilst blending heartfelt storytelling with live mbira music and the speeches of Mugabe himself.

Photo: Owen Collins top left  
John Osborne & Molly Naylor top right

# A NEW VIEW MUSIC

# 2022

SUN~06~MAR~22  
THE BULLINGDON, OXFORD

**TRASH  
BOAT**

& // MODERN ERROR  
& // SO LONG SPACE GIRL

WED~23~MAR~22  
JERICHO TAVERN, OXFORD

**OCTOBER  
DRIFT**

& // PLUS GUESTS

THU~24~MAR~22  
O2 ACADEMY, OXFORD

**GENTLEMEN'S  
DUB CLUB**

& // KIKO BUN

WED~30~MAR **SOLD OUT**  
O2 ACADEMY2, OXFORD

**THE  
VACCINES**  
ACOUSTIC SHOW

FRI~01~APR~22  
O2 ACADEMY2, OXFORD

**DUB  
PISTOLS**  
& // MELLOWMATIC

FRI~01~APR~22  
O2 ACADEMY, OXFORD

**THE CRAIG  
CHARLES FUNK  
AND SOUL CLUB**  
& // PLUS GUESTS

SUN~03~APR~22  
O2 ACADEMY2, OXFORD

**THE  
HARA**  
& // PLUS GUESTS

FRI~08~APR~22  
O2 ACADEMY2, OXFORD

**RIOT JAZZ  
BRASS BAND**

& // PLUS GUESTS

FRI~22~APR~22  
O2 ACADEMY2, OXFORD

**BEARDYMAN**  
& // PLUS GUESTS

SUN~24~APR~22  
O2 ACADEMY2, OXFORD

**THE  
PROTOMEN**  
& // PLUS GUESTS

TUE~26~APR~22  
O2 ACADEMY2, OXFORD

**LEWIS  
WATSON**  
& // PLUS GUESTS

FRI~29~APR~22  
O2 ACADEMY2, OXFORD

**THE PEOPLE  
VERSUS**  
MATT OWENS (NOAH AND THE  
WHALE // WOUNDED BEAR

FRI~29~APR~22  
JERICHO TAVERN, OXFORD

**SAINT  
AGNES**  
& // PLUS GUESTS

MON~16~MAY~22  
O2 ACADEMY, OXFORD

**ALT-J**  
STRIPPED/SEMI-ACOUSTIC

WED~18~MAY~22  
O2 ACADEMY2, OXFORD

**FEET**  
& // LIME GARDEN  
& // BULL

FRI~20~MAY~22  
O2 ACADEMY2, OXFORD

**DUTTY  
MOONSHINE  
BIG BAND**  
& // FUNKE AND THE TWO  
TONE BABY

FRI~27~MAY~22  
THE BULLINGDON, OXFORD

**KING  
AWESOME**  
80'S ROCK TRIBUTE

FRI~27~MAY~22  
JERICHO TAVERN, OXFORD

**PUPPY**  
& // PLUS GUESTS

SAT~11~JUN~22  
O2 ACADEMY, OXFORD

**THE  
INFLATABLES**  
& // KING HAMMOND  
& // ADY 'SHADES' CARVELL

THU~23~JUN~22  
THE BULLINGDON, OXFORD

**ULYSSES  
WELLS**  
& // PLUS GUESTS

SUN~21~AUG~22  
O2 ACADEMY 2, OXFORD

**THE  
RUMJACKS**  
& // SHANGAI TREASON  
& // THE MISTAKES

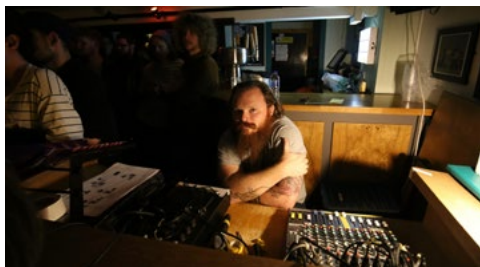
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## THE STUDIO & GEAR SPY with CHRIS MONGER TIGER MENDOZA

THE LOCAL GENRE - DEFYING MAVERICK GENIUS DJ, PRODUCER, REMIXER ALLOWS A PEEK UNDER THE BONNET AT HIS STUDIO AND LIVE CRAFT

Tiger Mendoza (a.k.a Ian de Quadros) has been playing around Oxford for a good few years now, with 32 releases on his Bandcamp at the start of the year, a YouTube channel full of music videos, lockdown DJ Streams and tech walkthroughs and a history of his live shows and recordings which have featured a number of local collaborators (Asher Dust, Octavia Freud, Mike from Deadbeat Apostles, Stuart from Rabbit Foot, Half Decent).

**3 EPs:** After a 26 track lockdown mixtape in 2020, Ian is putting out 3 EPs this year 'I've moved away from doing a big album, 15 tracks is too much to digest for myself. The titles are not very imaginative' he states, named EPONE, EPTWO and EPTHREE', although they do each have subtitles. The first two are available now, the third by the summer. The first one is a bit more spiky, a stronger feeling, it feels like it could fit into Wipeout' (the video game series). 'The second one is slightly more human but a bit robotic and the third one is slower, more human and maybe a bit more soulful'.

**SOLO WORK:** After many collaborations, the first EP is the first in a while to be an entirely solo effort 'it is the first I've done on my own in quite some time. The original idea was to do all three by myself but it didn't work out that way'.

**LOOPS TO START:** The tracks are written and formed in Ableton (see his YouTube channel for some breakdowns of how). 'I come up with loops first thing, Ableton lends itself nicely to working in that format, I come up with a loop or a break then make a version I can put on my phone and walk around, then come back to it normally. I've always got a few tracks on the way, not always planned as an EP, but always have something to come back to.'

Besides the laptop, Ian's setup includes a MIDI keyboard, the MPK MIDI 'I use the keys for playing melody, the knobs are mapped to controls in Ableton', the MPD32 MK1, 'with responsive MPC style buttons', 'I'm a fan of AKAI gear, I like the weight of it and can do live drumming and trigger samples', the Ableton Push 'I picked it up in the middle of North Wales, and using that, organise the loops in a song structure' and the Tracktor Control S1 'a little more unusual, usually a DJ controller but I use it for various things'.

Live, he uses the same hardware, along with the Boss Katana for guitar, but a different Ableton Setup. 'I'll bounce the different instruments to audio and chop it up and build the songs in a live setup. Think of it more like live remixing - if you want to go a bit longer or go back a bit I've got that ability. I can then jam over the top on different instruments and still play my midi keyboard over the top of everything else.

**TOP GEAR - THE BOSS KATANA:** If I didn't have the laptop then none of this would work, but I'd have to say The Boss Katana (Mk2 212) (pictured above), because it's just fucking cool. I am a guitarist at heart and can't get around that. Most of the stuff I do is influenced by me playing guitar and it's really nice just having a good reliable amp with all the Boss effects built into it. It's so handy, the fact I can make it a bedroom amp if I need to, then can go to the stage, I usually play it on 50 watt but it can go to 100 watt'.

Check out [tigmendoza.bandcamp.com](https://tigmendoza.bandcamp.com)



## RIDDIM SECTION

with LEO B

### RIDDIM NEVER RESTS!

As there was little else going on around Christmas in the 'Shire, we snuck down to London to see the **Mighty Jah Shaka**. However, it was another Jah - **Jah Wobble** - who we were looking forward to locally on Jan 21.

### BEHIND THE ORB AND PRIMAL SCREAM

Not, as his name would suggest, a morbidly obese Rastafarian, the man born John Wardle, is still, I think, criminally underrated. We came to his rolling basslines in the '90s via the Orb's 'Blue Room' and Primal Scream's 'Higher than the Sun', long before realising this was the same four-string-slinger who held it down for Johnny Lydon's post Pistols outfit Public Image Limited. Over a long career, Wobble has developed himself into something of an archetypal dubwise cosmopolitan: via punk rock and the East End.

### JAH IN OXFORD

Correspondingly, a Jah Wobble gig is always a musical education. The last time I saw him in Oxford, he declared 'nuffink lark a naaice cuppah tea!' as Japanese flower arranging took place in the background. Then he toured with the Nippon Dub Orchestra. Tonight, he is with the consummate Invaders of the Heart: his second most well-known outfit, after PiL. Opening to 'Take Five' by Brubeck, for two solid hours he played, letting 'Visions of You' off surprisingly early, before reggae/ska riddim 'Liquidator'. He has a puckish, creative sense of humour,

comparing each instrument to an animal. 'The Bass' he explains 'has no natural predators'. The rhythm guitar is furtive 'like a meercat', whilst the keyboard is serpent-like, and the drums elephantine. Then a 'best of' section, quite PiL heavy, as he has just released a dub-version of Metal Box. There are a great many tangential vignettes - musically, going off into parts of covers, like Fleetwood Mac's 'The Chain', and dramatically - with some rather eerie moments when everyone froze, the echoes fading away, before the band kicked in again.

### COMING UP

Looking ahead, also at the Bullingdon, on March 19 is **Skylarkin feat. Mungo's Hifi Soundsystem:** always lively these fellas, with the rather wonderful Eva Lazarus on vocals. Plus. Riddim buddy Wrongtom on the phat vinyl dubplates (doors: 11:00 pm).

April 8 is the majestic **Dreadzone** (doors 7.30). Then looking much further ahead is the **Count**, again, this time with local - boy - done - good **David Rodigan**, who did much to establish the UK/jamdown roots connection on June 3 (doors: 11:00 pm).

Next door on the Cowley Road at the O2 Academy on Thursday March 24 (doors 7pm) is Oxford regulars **Gentlemen's Dub Club** with local live-wire reggae/jungle **MC Zen Lewis** plus **Kiko Bun**. And on Friday April 1 (doors 6.30pm) is the **Dub Pistols**. Back once again with the renegade masters!

Words and pic: Leo B



# MANDRAKE HANDSHAKE

BRAZILIAN INFLUENCES, PLANT DOCUMENTARIES, FLARES & HAIR - STEWART GARDEN MEETS ELVIS & ROW FROM TRIPPY, COSMIC, PSYCH VOYAGERS MANDRAKE AHEAD OF OXFORD APPEARANCE

**What's inspiring to you at the moment musically? Row: MPB (Música Popular Brasileira) - specifically the wondrous works of Milton Nascimento, Chico Barque, Gal Costa, Jorge Ben Jor. Need I mention Gilberto Gil?**

**You've been touring around a lot lately - anywhere particularly big for Mandrake (outside Oxford)?**

Elvis: We played a headline in a packed-out church in Rotterdam and played to maybe our biggest crowd ever at Wide Awake Festival in Brixton? So, nowhere particularly big no.

**You've been working with Andy Ramsey from Stereolab on recordings - how did that come about and what has he brought to the Mandrake sound?**

Row: Trin and I got obsessed with Stereolab a few years ago. I heard their drummer, Andy, had a studio in Bermondsey so I reached out to him. He liked our sound, and said yes!

In terms of the sound, working with Andy definitely brought a subtlety to the arrangements; helping us deconstruct the way we build rhythms. He enabled us to do less with more. He had absolutely no time for anything he didn't see potential in, which was great for streamlining the creative process.

**"We're gonna see all the genders, in all the flares..."**

**And non - music current inspirations - books, movies, poetry?**

Row: I've been watching a lot of plant and reptile documentaries. They're the ones that have really got me thinking.

**A shrinking breed but best venue to play in Oxford - current /closed and best gig you played in Oxford?** Elvis: The Bullingdon has always been our favourite venue to play. When we were students going to gigs there it felt out of reach, but now, it's the stage we feel most comfortable on. We all fit on there; have room to swing our cats. It's just classic.

**And favourite show?** Elvis: Oddball festival in 2019. We were still Knobblehead at the time and we didn't know what we were doing. We got told just before we got on that we could only play 15 minutes. We went on to bash out the most furious and aggressive 30 minutes of our, then, short career. That show was talked about as one of the highlights of the festival. After that, we really started to believe in what we were doing; people started to pay attention.

**And on that note, what's the point where Knobblehead becomes Mandrake?**

Elvis: When the Stereolab manager supposedly said: "you're a great band but you'll never have a career with a name like that. Needless to say... we took that seriously.

**How psych are you - who is the most psych in the band?** Elvis: We like to think of ourselves of Art-Rock... but the answer is yes, incredibly psych.

Row is the most psych in the band - he collects lava lamps, has incense going 24/7, and has a sitar soundtrack droning constantly. He also writes the music and started the band.

**So to the road, there are 10 people in the band - are you a well oiled machine or a logistical nightmare?** Elvis: We couldn't

be a ten-piece band without being a bit of both. But considering how many of us there are, it could be a lot worse. Everyone chips in and the machine works remarkably smoothly.

**And a dream band to support?**

Elvis: Simple. The Brian Jonestown Massacre, because they're the Brian Jonestown Massacre. Duh!? We'd pay to see them anyway so might as well open for them.

We were incredibly lucky to have Honeyglaze support us at our last London show, which was a treat we barely deserve. They are such nice people, write such gorgeous music, and we get along with them really well. They're gonna be big so get onto them quick!

**And to fashion and the band's style**

**- OMS is a little hair obsessed - who do you think has the best hair in the band?** Elvis: Best

hair ever belongs to David St. Hubbins? Or Marge Simpson? There's also a character from the anime Katanagatari - Togame. Her hair is immense. The Mandrake is blessed with magnificent hair-dos. If we answered this question the band may have to break up.

**And flares coming back - where is all this going?** Women have been wearing flares for ages, so it's nice to see men wearing them more. We're gonna see all the genders, in all the flares.

**And so far, what does a typical Mandrake Handshake fan look like?**

Elvis: Stoned. Hot. Stylish. Dancing.  
**OMS: Count us in then!**

MANDRAKE HANDSHAKE PLAY THE BULLINGDON, OXFORD ON APRIL 2  
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## What's in Your Record Collection?



**DJ and Founder of Witney Music Festival, Stuart Foster on first loves from Serge Gainsbourg to Marvin Gaye & Keeping it Local**

**First ever record?** Back in my school days when I got out of my fascination for 'Epic' music - such as Tina Arena and Eternal - and got myself Mansun 'Wide Open Space' with saved up dinner pennies. Though it could've been Felix 'It Will Make Me Crazy' (ironically the name of my gf) or Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Soundtrack on cassette - unless it was Rambo audio book...

**Latest record?** I re-acquired the Red Snapper album 'Our Aim is to Satisfy'.

**Where do you shop?** I try to keep it local, so Rapture would be my hub. Otherwise it's Juno online.

**Most prized vinyl?** 'Je T'aime' Serge Gainsbourg 45 inch.

**If we came round to dinner, what's on the stereo?** To keep it slick and cool it would have to be Curtis Harding 'the new prince of Soul', Cory Henry, Gabriels, alternatively St Vincent, Weyes Blood and Tim Buckley - depends on my mood and guests. Balkan Jazz. Oh and of course Janko Nilović.

**You have to leave your house in a hurry with only one record - what is it?** I'd need all of them!!

**Who is your favourite producer and why?** It's got to be Adrian Young! The dude has got style...

**Favourite sleeve?** So, so many! The one for me is Isaac Hayes 'Hot Buttered Soul' - plus it's an epic LP.

**Do you know what's number 1 in the charts right now?** Nope!

**Any you wish you'd never bought?** None, it's all about developing my taste. I might have liked it at the time! Coldplay! (head in hands moment) C'mon - Parachutes, the first album, certainly wasn't naff! Unlike they are now...

**What has musically inspired you?** The Libertines inspired me to start a band Alofi ukic - we were good at drinking but couldn't play.

**Song you wish you wrote?** Claudio Cecchetto 'Gioca Jouer'.

**Favourite DJ?** Now I've got to keep this local again! I love the Hipshakin' crew: Count Skylarkin, Jason Hughes aka Do The Ska - okay he was local. And obviously Witney Soul Club, Go Indie, SureShot, Groove, ShazHamm, the Cratedigga DJs, Sam Edney seems always to capture the most magical sets. Ray Velour, dude is *wild*. And my Parisian friends Domi, Jean and David from the Soul Parade. Really any that I've seen and have stayed, means they've had my attention. Or my drink's not finished :)

**Car tunes? And what makes the journey go quicker?** BBC Radio 6 all day long - and random cassettes!

**Best hair in rock?** MC5 guitarist Wayne Kramer, just is. Or Buffy Sainte-Marie, Skunk Anansie.

**Post gig chill?** Global underground, James Lavalle in Naples. A must is ambionic, music project by Joe Woodruff. Deep, hypnotic, atmospheric, emotive and cinematic soundscapes you can find on Soundcloud.

**First wedding dance track?** 'I Want to Marry a Lighthouse Keeper' by Sunforest.

**Coolest person on a sleeve?** Has to be Marvin Gaye on the LP 'What's Going On' - or the late Bette Davis on 'They Say I'm Different'.

**Fave Oxford acts?** Look, I'm a Witney boy, so of course so I'm gonna be bland and say I love lots, but here's a bundle - Julie Sophie, Quartermelon, Hipbone Slim, Joely, Inner Peace, Subtheory, Standard, Danny Mellin, George Lewis, Genevieve Miles, Domi, Mosa, The Mezz, The Jerichos, Duddy, Lucille & the Lighting Soul Train, Wednesday's Wolves, Scott Gordon Band & Bethany Weimers. I'm always on the lookout for new bands - looking forward to seeing new young act The Underslept play Witney Music Festival this year.

**If you had to whip up a crowd, what would you 're-quest'?** I wouldn't! Oh heck... Devo 'Whip It'. (Editor: LOLZ).

**Check out Stuesdays on Windrush Radio**

**Witney Music Festival runs: May 27- June 11 various venues**





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Show starts  
7.30pm...

## BAND RECOGNITION!

A look at our favourite local  
band monikers

## SLOW DRIFT

ENIGMA WRAPPED IN A MYSTERY, SLOW DRIFT COME TOGETHER INTERCONTINENTALLY, WITH SINGER / SONGWRITER JENN STEEVES FROM THE DUO IN CANADA, AND MULTI - INSTRUMENTALIST JAMES ASKWITH (EASTER ISLAND STATUES / IN FLIGHT MOVIE) BASED IN OXFORD.

THEY'VE JUST FOLLOWED THEIR DEBUT 'OBLIVION' WHICH WAS DESCRIBED IN OUR LAST ISSUE AS 'ABSOLUTELY SUBLIME' WITH NEW OFFERING 'WINTER' A FURTHER BROODING, SWIRLING ELECTRONIC PERFECTION OUT NOW.

### What came first, the name or the band?

Definitely the band and the music; we only landed on a final name once we were ready to release music - coming up with a name we liked was quite difficult. Harder than making the actual music!

### So, why Slow Drift?

Our first song we recorded (which we haven't released yet) was kind of slow and dreamy, and "drift" just seemed to fit - after months of mixing and matching from lists of words we liked.

### If you weren't Slow Drift, what would you be called?

We went through a space phase and had 'Jupiter's Moons' and 'Ice Giants' as working names for a while.

### Any other slow things you like?

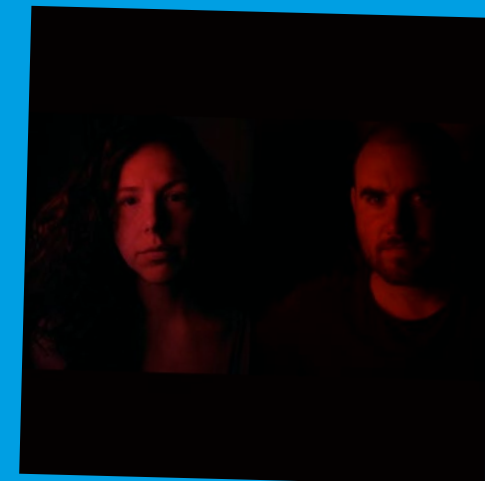
Snails, rocks, trees, glaciers, tortoises, crock pots/slow cookers.

### What is your favourite type of drift?

Snow and continental

### Have you been in any previous bands - and what were you like compared to now?

James plays in The Easter Island Statues and In Flight Movie, both are still going but quite different from Slow Drift.



### Best and worst things about being an intercontinental combo?

Being in different time zones was pretty useful for passing audio files back and forth and having a constant workflow when the songs were emerging. James could send a track at night UK time, and Jenn could record vocal ideas in Canada to send back for the next morning. The worst is obviously that we can't play the songs live in a room together.

### One of your lyrics you're most pleased about?

From our latest single: "Winter's closer, feel her coldest shoulder, I turn my head, see my breath"

### You got together at open mic nights - best night you played and what were your favourite songs to play?

We started playing together at the Firry Mic when it was at the Fir Tree. The stuff we did at open mics was pretty different from the sound that would eventually become Slow Drift - it was mostly built around Jenn's songs which were acoustic and folkier, though James had started to push them toward a more electronic space. Once we did a cover of 'Where is My Mind' by the Pixies which was fun (and featured James singing lead).

### New single 'Winter' out now. Keep up to date with them at [instagram.com/slowdriftmusic](https://www.instagram.com/slowdriftmusic)

James' band **In Flight Movie** play The Jericho Tavern with **Self Help** and **Booyah Settlement** on May 1

## LIVE



Home Counties by Fyrefly Studios

HOME COUNTIES,  
ENJOYABLE LISTENS,  
JERICHO TAVERN

Wednesdays are boring. Neither early enough in the week to still be drunk from the weekend just passed, nor close enough to the next one to get your tummy feeling all funny. No, Wednesdays are dull and Wednesdays are stupid. Unless of course you find yourself at a midweek show like this one.

Enjoyable Listens immediately pique the interest. Lead singer Luke Duffett smoothly slides onto the stage whilst his be-bearded bass player stands statuesque behind him. A shrill backing track starts up and suddenly we're at some sort of electro dub-cabaret. Tongue firmly in cheek, Duffett's Cave-esque, crooning baritone delivery and dry asides sound like Tony Hadley and Jarvis Cocker on a hot supper date at the Berni Steakhouse. Halfway through a set of what often sounds like rejected Lloyd-Webber show tunes retooled for a darker purpose, Duffett starts hawking cheap white gold jewellery to the crowd. It's a pitch perfect addition to an already slightly sleazy show. The bass player barely moves throughout and is the straight man in this classic 1-2 double act. It is all, of course, complete nonsense, but that's what makes it so very good.

Home Counties are a disparate and annoyingly young looking bunch who love a bit of mid-set instrument swapping. On the tiny JT stage it's kind of like personnel Tetris which adds a nice visual companion (and not a little jeopardy) to their performance.

There are sounds to be heard that are deep-rooted in ska but they clearly have a bunch of Squid records in their collection too. The band are a little ragged at times, this kind of syncopated jerk-pop needs to be nailed dead on, but with a little polish they could be a formidable live proposition. Home Counties are the angular sound of Now and these guys could well be your new favourite band in 6 months.

With bigger names playing across town this esoterically enthralling show may have slid right under the radar, but as we toddle off into the darkened night, we are left wondering whether next Wednesday will be quite this wonderful. (CF) *Crosstown Presents*

YARD ACT, TRUCK STORE,  
OXFORD

Part of a proposed quickfire Yard Act double header in the city but their Bullingdon gig was yet another of many gig postponements and was swiftly rescheduled to September. So it was to the lo key leg we went for a Yard Act fix.

Promotional in-stores are funny little oddities. On one level an intimate showcase, on another level a mercantile stop-off on the road to Mammon. This irony isn't lost on frontman James Smith. He quickly acknowledges that whilst many of his lyrics are an agile, caustic and often very funny takedown of free market capitalism, it is a system the band are now gaming to try and beat Ollie Years and Years (and Years and frikkin Years) to the once-coveted number one album spot.

Yard Act are one of the hottest bands around right now and their debut LP 'The Overload' is rightly seeing acclaim coverage across all manner of media. Truck Store is packed, not bad for a rainy Monday lunchtime, and whilst, musically, the unplugged approach doesn't really work (Yard Act's northern cockney post-punk knees-up is best seen full-fat), we still get to spend some time in Smith's rather amusing company, which is no bad thing. And yes we did buy an album but no they didn't get to number one. (CF)



Andy Bell by Fyrefly Studios

ANDY BELL SPACE  
STATION, JERICHO  
TAVERN

When you're one of the founder members of Ride, played guitar for a Gallagher or two and even starred in a #1 Oasis tribute act, you carry a lot of British music history with you.

Andy Bell could dine out on these past glories, foot on the monitor, bandana drenched in sweat and his right arm windmilling, but this was never his style and tonight he doesn't appear at all interested in that particular caper.

Here to perform his latest solo LP to a sell-out crowd, the diminutive Bell stands alone on the stage. He noodles and doodles his guitar whilst a few well placed prog-synth washes envelop him and the Eno-esque sounds are atmospheric, soothing to the ear. It's all a little directionless, but maybe that's the point; this is music meant as meditation.

One thing that's missing is Bell's voice. His vocal was, is, an essential part of Ride's lush harmonic, almost hymnal sound and tonight it's only deployed between movements to thank the massed faithful for their presence, which seems a shame.

Whilst Space Station won't trouble the scribes of music industry history who documented Bell's previous triumphs, these are the compositions of a man who seems at peace with the past, only interested in the present and, perhaps, the future. (CF) *A New View Presents*



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LIVE



## LOS PEPES, JACK GOLDSTEIN, BASIC DICKS, FUSION ARTS, OXFORD

A debate rages as Basic Dicks' dual singers rage: is Fusion Arts a music venue or just a room without a view? Why in Oxford, after the closure of places like the Cellar and the Wheatsheaf, do we seem all too ready to settle for community centres and golf clubs as places to see bands!? As Jack Goldstein sets the place aflame with his interplanetary karaoke-disco variety show, the argument barrels on - what defines a music venue in our town these days?

Los Pepes are an international, interloping rock band supergroup. Led from the front by local guitar hero and ex-Winnebago Deal member Ben Perrier, the lineup includes bass player Seisuke Nakagawa who has flown in from Japan to join them on tour. They shred and they shriek and they shout and they pound, crunching their way through a brutal 90mph set of monstertruck rock. The heaving audience loves every brutal beat of it. And all in the crumbling red brick confines of what is very loosely described as a 'gallery' space.

The debate continues. Weren't all great punk rock shows played in places like this? Isn't this the spirit of the outsider, musicians who are more interested in

tearing stuff down than signing Deals and building stuff up? Tonight's packed show proves that in a lot of ways you don't really need a 'proper' venue. Music with this much passion, attitude and volume could be played anywhere. Heck, these three acts could have performed in the car park and it still would have been a belter. But in the necessary acceptance of this guerilla and - albeit honest - DIY formula, are we ultimately setting our city up to fail? Is a pop-up scene sustainable?

It's pretty obvious that in recent times the alternative musical life of our city has diminished. It needs more 'proper' music venues for its scene, artists and promoters to flourish and, less romantically, make actual money. How can new young artists learn their stagecraft if they can only play places that have no stage? Oxford has some of the most amazing and talented performers, tonight's show proves that, but it needs the venues to match. If we are not careful, soon, there really will not be anywhere for these outsider artists, or any other kind of artist, left to play. (CF)

*Divine Schism Presents*



### LUCY LEAVE - STACK OF BONES

This latest release by Oxford-based rockers Lucy Leave represents a somewhat experimental, self-described "collage of sounds that traverses from the grungy to somewhat ethereal and self-reflective in range via some decidedly more prog, punk and even jazz and folk influences.

The band have produced a 6-minute epic that really reflects the sense of confusion and introspection that you might expect from a track recorded in a patchwork, socially-distanced fashion during the midst of the ongoing pandemic.

Because of the unique nature of the track, it's remarkably (yet refreshingly) hard to properly pigeonhole or describe in simple terms, nor to properly describe the thematic content beyond saying that it delivers a real sense of catharsis in an almost Warholian, semi-abstract way.

I've a strong sense that this track will prove influential to those who listen to it in the long term, but that the brilliance of keeping such vastly disconnected influences coherent throughout the track may require multiple listens to be truly appreciated. This is the best kind of "grower." (KS)

## LOCAL RELEASES

### SPANK HAIR - JUST LIKE ME



This latest 4-track EP launches itself in slightly less "emo" fashion than expected with a skate-punk homage to skateboarding legend Tony Hawk, with the opening track named after the man himself. Or, to be more accurate, the song functions as sort of a love letter to the video game series bearing his name. Although only two minutes long, the song alternates between thrash guitars and a more intricate guitar line over a driving drum line that really seeks to drive interest in the allegorical story being told lyrically.

A solid opener that leads to 'Big Brain' which is brilliantly placed on the EP, transitioning from a more skate-punk influence, evolving into more of an emo vibe as the song continues, whilst continuing to pepper in video game and pop culture references. It's an interesting transitional track that feels like the hybrid of an early Sum 41 track and some of Jimmy Eat World's earlier album stuff.

The final track, 'Walk You Home' firmly takes us into modern emo territory. If you told me that this was ripped from the

mind of Alex Gaskarth or Shaant Hackiyan, I'd absolutely believe you, and by the time the track ended, my younger very-emo self was very much looking forward to hearing more from Spank Hair and, if I'm very lucky, seeing them on the line-up for Slam Dunk in the near future. (KS)

### THE FOAM HEADS - MASS EXTINCTION

The promotional bumpf described this as "a song about the twin pains of relationship breakdown and impending environmental disaster" and I felt my eyes roll involuntarily. But I gave it a chance, and I'm glad I did.

It's a fun little track with some strong 80s synth-pop influences that comes with a cute little anime-inspired video to boot. I'm still not entirely clear, having listened to it through a couple of times, how (or why) we're connecting a relationship breakdown to the climate crisis...But this is a bop. And, hey, most people don't realise that Springsteen's 'Born In The USA' is a political protest song, so it's okay to not be entirely clear and still have a banger on your hands. (KS)







## ALL TIME FLOOR FILLERS (HART)

SWITCH

Since 2013, club night **SWITCH** at the O2 Academy has been smashing it, packing the party punters in and bringing to the city the biggest names in dance for DJ and live appearances. Here's some of their all time standout tunes, picked by resident spinner, **DJ Sound Affect**...

### MAJOR LAZER - GET FREE (ANDY C REMIX)

When it comes to staple songs for a specific genre, there is no doubt this remix of Major Lazer will go down in drum & bass history.

**Andy C returns to Switch, O2 Academy Oxford on March 18th 2022 as part of his XO3.0 UK Tour for an all night DJ set!**

### CHASE & STATUS - BLIND FAITH

No matter your music preference, if this song is heard live it's always followed by everyone screaming the lyrics back at the top of their voice!

### WILKINSON ft. BECKY HILL - HERE FOR YOU

The recently released follow up to the award winning song 'Afterglow' does not disappoint and is already being dubbed a future classic in dance music.

### REDLIGHT - SOURCE 16

One of the most recognisable synths and samples in modern dance music, created by a living legend in both the underground and commercial scene.

### HANNAH WANTS & CHRIS LORENZO - RHYMES

A very appropriately named song made by a UK artist that sampled the infamous vocals from a 'Busta Rhymes' smash hit. During the early days at Switch this house banger was played on repeat!

### METRIK - WE GOT IT (S.P.Y REMIX)

The perfect way to remix a song giving it some new life and energy, yet staying true to the original beauty that is the vocals.

### LETHAL BIZZLE - POW

A hard hitting grime classic that's perfect for DJs to either get a crowd hyped with or to show off their creative skills, as this is arguably one of the most used accapellas in dance music. Grime music exploded in 2015 and this classic, along many others started making its way back into the rave.

### SKEPSIS - GOES LIKE

Having bassline become more of the norm over recent years, this has gifted us a fresh take on electronic music as UK based Skepsis provides one of the most refreshing synths of recent times.

Written and curated by Switch resident DJ Sound Affect (aka Joe Worthington). Keep up to date with future club nights at [switchoxford.co.uk](http://switchoxford.co.uk)

## SWITCH LIVE: RONNIE SIZE, LTJ BUKEM, O2 ACADEMY, OXFORD

Boom shake, shake, shake the room! Like a three headed groove machine, Ronnie Size, LTJ Bukem and Dynamite MC take hold of the stage for three hours straight and don't let it go until the very floorboards are loosened.

Diminutive Mr Size makes a colossal Sound. Prowling in front is dapper, flat-capped Dynamite MC, who melts the mic, non-stop during both DJs. Roni does not trade on past glories: we only caught 'Brown Paper Bag' from his 1997 magnum opus 'New Forms' (sadly no 'Heroes'). His, more contemporary output, has less of the jazzy, upright-bass heavy, acoustic nuance of that era-defining album, and more of the metallic percussion and resonant low end of dubstep.

Bukem - the undisputed King of liquid D'n'B rollers- comes in at 1.30 AM to rapturous applause, but Roni returns on multiple occasions, making it more of a double headlining, B2B mashup, than two distinct experiences. Like Size, LTJ refuses to pander to the nostalgists, playing little from his groundbreaking 'Logical Progressions', preferring more recent fare. Nevertheless there are still classic junglist version excursions: with a blistering 'Unfinished Sympathy' (Massive Attack) and Dawn Penn's 'No, No, No' being standout moments. The Fresh Prince would have been proud. (LB)

## GARY - WHAT'S THAT SUNSHINE / RATE MY TAKEAWAY

Put 'Gary' into a search engine and see how quickly you can find either Octavia Freud or Phil Jarvis, dual collaborators on this project. Gary will blossom in a full-blown LP release mid-2022. Without the full record we have only two sides to go on. Naturally, you can't construct a narrative when most of the book is missing. That's my excuse for why these recordings remind me that DIY culture remains a legitimate force - we have to invent the story.

And it was also my excuse for speaking with Martin Andrews about his vision. Albeit a temporary one, a bit like the 'track' you last skipped on Spotify. Incidentally we had this conversation, not in a pub but in a gallery - on occasion, even in Oxford, they let us in. 'Rate My Takeaway' is an outstanding place to start. It made me want to click on a link and give Kebab Kid five out of five. And that's the level it works on, personally.

Shall we call it indigestion? Martin explains, "Gary is Harry Enfield updated for Boris' Britain." You don't even get a snigger out of me.

If you are of the persuasion that you create work about the environment immediately around you then you'll like this record. I played it twice, without skipping. Octavia Freud has been prolific recently, and her/his work is brassy. If you think bashing away at a guitar a half-century after Kraftwerk is a legitimate form of expression, you have to work a lot harder. Martin gets a word or few in edgewise: "I've created an electronic musical based on Gary's lost weekend. GARY is my frustration on how the working class have abandoned the Left."

Succinctly as plausible I'll sum the fragments we have of the GARY record up. He is all of us, he is anonymous, he is the result of a country where you can't unionise a workplace because discussing what's on Netflix is the common currency of all? How do we fix Boris' Britain?

# LOCAL RELEASES

By switching off the TV, and picking up an actual book? By plugging in a synth? Of course, to do this you need to switch a laptop on, then you have to promote it by going online. Anthem for Doomed Youth. My Trip Advisor review gave this latest outburst a recommendation. Will I revisit? Nah, I just want more and more new music from these folks, and an entire LP as soon as possible. I have no hope of educating Gary. Part of me finds the use of the name patronising. Part of the use of the name feels like home. So there we stand, stuck between a record review and a hard place. (BM)



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# AT HOME WITH: JODY AND THE JERMS

**A LOOK AT WHAT OUR OXFORD MUSIC STARS GET UP TO OFF-STAGE...**

"Blondie Parallel Lines is often on in the kitchen. None of us really like to cook other than cakes, so it lifts the mood."

**We're pleased to report that classic fuzzed up indie pop is thriving in Oxford. The Janis Long championed Jody and the Jerms, a cake - creating real life band couple Niall and singer Jody, have their new album 'Flicker' out now and don't miss their gig at the Bullingdon in June.**

## **Last item of furniture you bought?**

Niall: A bespoke stand for our record player and vinyl – made by OX Rustic Furniture no less.

## **Last meal you cooked?**

Jody: Chili con carni – meat and vegan versions for all our fussy eaters.

## **What was in the fridge last time you looked?**

Niall: A great big bowl of icing for a cake Jody was working on. When she's not fronting the Jerms, she runs her own cake business.

## **Favourite spot in the house?**

Jody – curled up on the sofa with Jed our rescue lurcher. Niall – upstairs hallway where all my guitars hang. Only bit of DIY I have ever enjoyed.

## **Favourite thing in your house?**

Niall: Should say our children, but going to say Jed the dog. Jody: A recent purchase – a print from Jim'll Paint It depicting all the Number 10 naughtiness called 'Work Event'.

## **Late sleeper or early riser?**

Niall: Early riser after 6 or 7 hours. I have always woken up at like 7am – even when I was a student and it was the morning after a big night. Really annoying. Jody – late sleeper. 8 hours, can't beat a good lie in.

## **Second hand or new?**

Niall: Second hand – including cars, guitars, even the dog was.



## **Favourite place to shop in Oxford?**

Truck Records or Rachels in St Clements for refreshments when recording at Safehouse.

## **Album or playlist while you cook?**

Niall: Blondie Parallel Lines is often on in the kitchen. None of us really like to cook other than cakes, so it lifts the mood.

## **Recent binge – watched TV drama?**

Jody: The Tourist on BBC iPlayer.  
Niall: Any episodes of Peep Show, IT Crowd, or Plebs that we have seen a 1000 times already.

## **A song you wrote at home recently?**

Niall: All of them – most recent being Forever Running which is track 4 on the album. I write the chords, Jody the lyrics.

## **Do you put your own music on when people are round?**

Jody: Yes of course.

## **Rock n roll or good neighbour?**

Niall: It is possible to be both. Just invite them all to the party.

## **A gardening tip?**

Niall: Thick gardening gloves to protect those dainty guitar playing fingers. Jody: I grind up my used eggshells from my cake business for a home made fertiliser.

## **Radio show you always listen to?**

Any that plays Jody and the Jerms. Usually Absolute in the car who don't play JATJ. BBC Wales is particularly good at the moment.

**Jody and the Jerms talking to Stewart Garden. Their new album 'Flicker' is out now. They play The Bullingdon on June 16**

# BBC INTRODUCING IN OXFORD

with Liz Green

**It's been too long since the last BBC Introducing column in OMS! The team at BBC Oxford towers have been keeping busy over the last two years, continuing to listen to the incredible tracks that people send us, and it never ceases to amaze me the talent is this fair county.**

## ACT OF THE YEAR

Speaking of talent, at the end of last year we announced Feeo (pictured) as our BBC Introducing in Oxfordshire Act of the Year. We are HUGE fans of her 2021 EP – 'Feels Like We're Getting Older Now' – and we're sure there's more magnificent music to come. Her soulful storytelling cannot fail to entrance. If you haven't given her music a listen, I demand that you do. You won't regret it!

## RADIO I PLAY

In February Home Counties (pictured below) were on the show to talk about their new EP – 'In a Middle English Town' – released by local label, Alcopop. Will and Bill from the, now London band, told us about how nostalgia for Oxfordshire village life informed their writing. We forwarded their dreamy, synth-based track – Village Spirit – to Radio 1's Gemma Bradley and she only went and gave it a spin!



## YOUNG INSPIRED

I also had the pleasure of catching up with Rawz and Kingsley Boyden from Oxford youth project In-Spire Sounds. It was great to hear about the incredible work they are doing with young people. Over lockdown they produced 80 tracks with 12 – 25-year-olds and they've got plans to start a record label in 2022. They also introduced me to just a few of the artists they've been working with and we played 19-year-old rapper – Esskay – for the first ever time. You can find out more about In-Spire Sounds by visiting [inspiresounds.co.uk](https://inspiresounds.co.uk).

## GLASS ANIMALS

Playing people on the radio for the first ever time is what we love to do and it was great to hear from Grammy award winning Glass Animals' Dave Bayley as he fondly reminisced about his first play on BBC Introducing in Oxfordshire back in 2010. Listen back to his interview in January on the Podcast. And remember, It could be YOU. All you need to do is upload your tunes to [bbc.co.uk/introducing](https://bbc.co.uk/introducing).

**You can listen back to BBC Introducing in oxfordshire via BBC Sounds or you can subscribe to our podcast, just search for 'BBC Introducing in oxfordshire'.**



# LOCAL RELEASES



## PECQ - BRITTLE

'Over and Over' is a charming, upbeat pop opener which certainly pecq'ed my interest.

The second of the four tracks on the EP, 'Brittle', is more of the same. Light, airy, easy to listen to without being easy listening and with some interesting guitar work. It has some mixing issues and could do with another trip through the production desk, but it's enjoyable enough and has a kind of "cult indie film soundtrack" quality to it.

'Too Far Gone' is more of the same, but I'm really starting to vibe with this EP. This track feels like it belongs on a good Spotify summer road trip playlist.

The EP rounds out with 'Same Mistakes', and this might be the most musically interesting thing on here. Great beat, a nice melody and some really innovative instrumental choices. More of this please from the Upcycled marque. This gets into the summer shuffle for sure. (KS)

## JODY & THE JERMS - FLICKER

Last issue, I had the pleasure of reviewing single 'High Times', and the album that it forms just a small part of does not disappoint.

The opening track 'Heavenly' has that same throwback pop vibe that I loved from 'High Times', with Jody's vocal reminiscent of Martha Johnson, which fills my obscure 70s pop references quota for this issue.

'Spinning' continues that upbeat vibe, and it's immediately apparent that nothing I've heard from this group so far is a one-off – the vocals, the instrumentals, the composition... it's all exquisite.

'Shiver' changes the vibe for a much more simplistic tale of a regretted ex-lover, while 'Forever Running' takes a slightly more rock-influenced path (with cowbell intro!), but the air of whimsical nostalgia continues through and Jody isn't afraid to throw in a very ear-pleasing, subtle vibrato on her vocal here.

Elsewhere, particular highlights are 'Not In This World' – a song that reminds me so much of 'Teenage Kicks' that I desperately wish John Peel was around to hear it – and 'Breathe', which is strongly reminiscent of The Police. Breathtaking stuff. (KS)



## SLOW DRIFT - WINTER

'Winter' is the second release from one part Canada, one part Oxford duo Slow Drift following 'Oblivion' which detonated them onto the local scene last year.

A slow burn track, not quite as immediate as its predecessor, with some interesting harmonics and a great display of skill in building loops whilst knowing when to employ silence – the layering is excellent and really drives the track forward, singer Jenn's tones minimalist but still icy, mysterious and captivating.

It feels like somebody has learned a lot from Massive Attack here, and those lessons have been very, very well learned. Awaiting the day that these two can come together to perform these live. (KS)

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