

email: [nightshift@oxfordmusic.net](mailto:nightshift@oxfordmusic.net)

website: [nightshift.oxfordmusic.net](http://nightshift.oxfordmusic.net)

# NIGHTSHIFT

## Oxford's Music Magazine

Free every  
month.  
Issue 165  
April  
2009

### *Two's Company...*

Kate  
**Garrett**

Barney Morse-  
**Brown**

The first couple of Oxford pop launch their  
new record label - *interview inside*

Photo: James Dawson

NIGHTSHIFT: PO Box 312, Kidlington, OX5 1ZU. Phone: 01865 372255

**NIGHTSHIFT** presents the

# OXFORD PUNT

## Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May

### 1 Night, 5 Venues, 18 Acts

*Quite simply the best showcase of unsigned local music of the year*

#### Borders

**6.15 Matt Kilford**

[www.myspace.com/matthewkilford](http://www.myspace.com/matthewkilford)

**7.00 Bethany Weimers**

[www.myspace.com/bethanyweimers](http://www.myspace.com/bethanyweimers)

#### Purple Turtle

**7.30 Pistol Kixx**

[www.myspace.com/pistolkixx](http://www.myspace.com/pistolkixx)

**8.15 From Here We Run**

[www.myspace.com/fromherewerun](http://www.myspace.com/fromherewerun)

**9.00 Beaver Fuel**

[www.myspace.com/beaverfuel](http://www.myspace.com/beaverfuel)

**9.45 Winchell Riots**

[www.myspace.com/thewinchellriots](http://www.myspace.com/thewinchellriots)

#### Thirst Lodge

**8.30 Hearts In Pencil**

[www.myspace.com/heartsinpencilmusic](http://www.myspace.com/heartsinpencilmusic)

**9.30 Dr Slaggleberry**

[www.myspace.com/drslaggleberry](http://www.myspace.com/drslaggleberry)

**10.30 Desert Storm**

[www.myspace.com/experiencethestorm](http://www.myspace.com/experiencethestorm)

**11.30 Dial F For Frankenstein**

[www.myspace.com/dialfforfrankenstein](http://www.myspace.com/dialfforfrankenstein)

#### Wheatsheaf

**8.15 Phantom Theory**

[www.myspace.com/phantomtheorymusic](http://www.myspace.com/phantomtheorymusic)

**9.00 Mary's Garden**

[www.myspace.com/marysgarden](http://www.myspace.com/marysgarden)

**9.45 Response Collective**

[www.myspace.com/theresponsecollective](http://www.myspace.com/theresponsecollective)

**10.30 Black Hats**

[www.myspace.com/blackhatshome](http://www.myspace.com/blackhatshome)

#### Cellar

**9.00 We Aeronauts**

[www.myspace.com/weaeronauts](http://www.myspace.com/weaeronauts)

**10.00 From Light To Sound**

[www.myspace.com/fromlighttosound](http://www.myspace.com/fromlighttosound)

**11.00 Spiral 25**

[www.myspace.com/thespiral25](http://www.myspace.com/thespiral25)

**12.00 Original Rabbit Foot Spasm Band**

[www.myspace.com/theoriginalrabbitfootspasmband](http://www.myspace.com/theoriginalrabbitfootspasmband)

## WANT TO SEE EVERYTHING?

### Get an all-venue Punt Pass.

Only 100 available. £7 each (plus booking fee) from Videosyncratic on Cowley Road, or online from [oxfordmusic.net](http://oxfordmusic.net)

# THE OXFORD GUITAR GALLERY LIMITED



live your dream in Oxford's only  
dedicated guitar and amplifier  
shop – expert, individual advice  
and a relaxed setting


- importers of exclusive USA gear
- selection of vintage and used

9 SOUTH PARADE, SUMMERTOWN, OXFORD OX2 7JL • TEL: 01865 553777 / 514800

WWW.OXFORDGUITARGALLERY.COM • MONDAY TO SATURDAY 10AM-6PM

## THE FINE ART OF QUALITY INSTRUMENTS

**PROFESSIONAL  
MUSIC  
TECHNOLOGY** P.M.T.



**The boyz with the  
Toyz!**

**THE UK'S ULTIMATE  
MUSIC SUPERSTORES!**

**THE UK'S BEST SERVICE, ADVICE & PRICE GUARANTEED!**

**PROFESSIONAL MUSIC TECHNOLOGY**

UNITS 4 & 5, TYNE DALE HOUSE, COWLET ROAD, OXFORD, OX4 1JH

**WWW.PMTONLINE.CO.UK**

• **01865 725221**

• **01865 248083**

# NEWS

**Nightshift: PO Box 312, Kidlington, OX5 1ZU**  
**Phone: 01865 372255 email: [nightshift@oxfordmusic.net](mailto:nightshift@oxfordmusic.net)**  
**Online: [nightshift.oxfordmusic.net](http://nightshift.oxfordmusic.net)**

---

**THE LINE-UP FOR THIS YEAR'S OXFORD PUNT** has been announced.

The Punt is the annual showcase of the best new unsigned acts in Oxfordshire. It takes place over the evening of **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May**, featuring 18 acts across five venues in the city centre. The event features a wide range of musical styles, from acoustic folk to heavy metal, old-time jazz to psychedelia, math-rock to krautrock and indie to electronica.

The full line up is:

**Borders:** Matt Kilford / Bethany Weimers.

**The Purple Turtle:** Pistol Kixx / From Here We Run / Beaver Fuel / Winchell Riots

**The Wheatsheaf:** Phantom Theory / Mary's Garden / The Response Collective / The Black Hats

**Thirst Lodge:** Hearts In Pencil / Dr Slaggleberry / Desert Storm / Dial F For Frankenstein.

**The Cellar:** We Aeronauts / From Light To Sound / Spiral 25 / The Original Rabbit Foot Spasm Band.

Matt Kilford opens the Punt at 6.15pm at Borders, finishing off with The Original Rabbit Foot Spasm Band at the Cellar at midnight. Each act will play for 30 minutes with bands' sets staggered throughout the evening to allow punters to see as many new bands as possible. There are **100 all-venue Punt passes** on sale for fans wanting to move between venues. They are on sale now, priced £7 (plus booking fee) from **Videosyncratic** on Cowley Road or online from **Oxfordmusic.net**.

With the Punt previously having given early exposure to the likes of Young Knives, Goldrush, Little Fish and early incarnations of Foals and Jonquil, it's a great way of discovering the most exciting new music in the area. The Nightshift website forum now has links to all the acts' Myspace sites. Visit **[nightshift.oxfordmusic.net](http://nightshift.oxfordmusic.net)**.

**RIVERSIDE FESTIVAL** returns to Charlbury again this summer. The free two-day live music event runs over the weekend of 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> June, featuring a wide selection of local acts. Confirmed already are Death Of A Small Town, Jamie Foley, Sextodecimo, The Bangalore Torpedoes, Two Fingers Of

Firewater, Billypure and Back To The Border. Any Oxfordshire bands or solo artists wanting to play should send demos to Andy Pickard at 2a Clarendon Court, Charlbury, OX7 3PT by the end of April. Visit [www.riversidefestival.charlbury.com](http://www.riversidefestival.charlbury.com) for more details and festival news.



**SUGABABES AND SCOUTING FOR GIRLS** will headline this year's **Cornbury Festival**. The sixth Cornbury Festival, situated in the picturesque grounds of Cornbury Country House, near Charlbury, takes place over the weekend of the **11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> July**, featuring an eclectic line-up of acts that takes in pop, indie, folk and punk.

*Scouting For Girls* headline the main stage on the Saturday where they're joined by Former-Texas frontwoman Sharleen Spiteri, psychedelic popsters *Magic Numbers*, Britpop veterans *Dodgy* and *Boy Least Likely To*. Opening the festival will be local school band competition winners *Relay*. The Saturday also sees a second stage headline set from punk legends *The Damned* and folkster *Teddy Thompson*, plus *Shortwave Set*, *I Am Kloot*, *Amy Lavere*, *Kingsize 5* and *The Love Trousers*.

Sunday's main stage bill is topped by hitmakers *Sugababes*, who are joined by *The Pretenders*, *Joe Jackson*, *Imelda May* and *Ava Leigh*. The Oxford Folk Festival stage features sets from *Peatbog Fairies*, *Mary Coughlan*, *Eddi Reader*, *Coute Diomboulou*, *Three Daft Monkeys* and local favourites *Stornoway*.

Tickets for the family-friendly festival are on sale now at **[www.cornburyfestival.co.uk](http://www.cornburyfestival.co.uk)** or the credit card hotline on 0871 472 0420. Adult tickets, with camping, are £110, or £65 for under-16s. Under-5s and over-70s are free. Day tickets are also available, priced £55 for adults and £27.50 for under-16s.



**THE FIRST INDIE GUITAR COMPANY FESTIVAL** takes place this summer at **Crown Farm, Ascott Under Wychwood** in West Oxfordshire, featuring a selection of blues, folk, indie and rock acts.

The three-day, 7,000-capacity festival runs over the weekend of **24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> July** and features headline sets from **Mungo Jerry**, **Pigeon Detectives**, **British Sea Power** and **Teddy Thompson**.

Friday's line-up is headed by **Teddy Thompson** on the main stage, along with *The Blues Band* and *The Deborah Bonham Band*, while the big top stage features sets from *Diana Jones*, *The Robin Bibi Band*, *The Gary Fletcher Band*, *Maggie Bell & Dave Kelly* and *Dino Baptiste*.

*Pigeon Detectives* top Saturday's main stage bill, where they're joined by *Starsailor*, *The Holloways*, *Complete Stones Roses* and *Terry Shaughnessy*, while in the big top there are sets from *British Sea Power*, *Blakfish*, *The Joe Allen Band* and *New Rising*.

The final day of the festival rounds off with a headline set from 60s pop stars *Mungo Jerry*, along with *The King Blues*, *The Gathering* and *The Le Brocks*, while the second stage features *Paul Carrack*, *Thea Gilmore*, *Maggie Louise*, *Andy McKee* and the *British Blues Quintet*.

Tickets for the festival are on sale now, priced £79.99 for adults and £49.99 for children (plus £30 camping tickets). For more information, ticket sales and full line-up visit **[www.indieguitarfestival.com](http://www.indieguitarfestival.com)**

**>>>MORE FESTIVAL NEWS OVERLEAF>>>**

# NEWS

## UNDER THE OAK FESTIVAL

returns this summer after last year's successful launch. The two-day mini-festival takes place at North Aston (between Kidlington and Deddington) over the weekend of 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> September. Acts already confirmed include Jonquil, Baby Gravy, The Nominees, Robin Moffatt, Verona Kings and Modern Clichés. Bassmentality will also be hosting a dance tent. A festival website is under construction at [www.undertheoakfestival.com](http://www.undertheoakfestival.com).

Meanwhile the organisers build up to the festival with a series of Oak In The City gigs in Oxford. The first show is at the Cellar on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April, featuring Quadrophobe, Verona Kings, Robin Moffatt and We Buy Gold.



## OXFORD CONTEMPORARY

**MUSIC** hosts its second Open Session on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April. The concert features an eclectic array of local singers, musicians and composers, including this month's Nightshift cover star, Kate Garrett. The singer is joined by acoustic nu-jazz multi-instrumentalist Natureboy (pictured), melodramatic French pop group Ensemble Azuz, acoustic songsmith Kimwei and electronics chap Adam Percussion. The evening kicks off at 6.30pm and entry is £5 (£3 concessions). Visit [www.ocmevents.org](http://www.ocmevents.org) for full details of OCM's spring season.

## SLIDE, SIMPLE AND

**BASSMENTALITY** join forces to

host this year's Out To Graze Festival at Marsh Farm, Shabbington, near Thame from Friday 12<sup>th</sup>-Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June. The two-day dance festival features tents hosted by each of the clubs and includes sets from Krafty Kuts, Dogshow, Jewels & the Jacuzzi, Number Nine, Fridge & Bungle, Mackating and more. Tickets are on sale now, priced £40, from [wegottickets.com](http://wegottickets.com), SS20, Baby Simple and others. Visit [www.outtograze.com](http://www.outtograze.com) for full details.

**COWLEY ROAD** gets a new live music venue this month with the opening of Café Tarifa on the site of the old Moonlight Restaurant (more recently the Organic Burger Bar). The new café is being run by Steve Irwin who ran the Port Mahon until it closed late last year and built up a great reputation for gigs. Steve hopes to host regular local gigs as well as playing and selling local bands' CDs in the café. All acts interested in performing or selling their stuff, should contact the Tarifa on 01865 256091 or email [magic@clintonleisure.com](mailto:magic@clintonleisure.com)

**FRANK TURNER** plays a series of low-key local dates this month, previewing material from his forthcoming album. The folk-punk troubadour will play two dates at the Wheatshaf (Tue 28<sup>th</sup> / Wed 29<sup>th</sup> April), followed by two at the Cellar (Thu 30<sup>th</sup> April / Fri 1<sup>st</sup> May). All four shows are sold out but Frank returns to Oxford for a headline show at the O2 Academy on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October. Tickets, priced £10, are on sale now from [wegottickets.com](http://wegottickets.com) or the Academy box office.

## SMILEX AND MR SHAADOW

release a rock mix of the local rapper's single, 'Look Out, There's



**THE WEEK THAT WAS** (pictured), **BRAKES**, **KARINE POLWART AND DODGY** have all been added to the bill for **Wood Festival** in May. The environmentally-friendly festival, organised by Truck, takes place over the weekend of the 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> May at **Braziers Park**, near Wallingford. Acts already announced include Welsh language pop pioneer Meic Stephens, Spiers & Boden, Stornoway, Jonquil and Danny & The Champions Of The World.

Tickets for Wood are on sale now, online from [wegottickets.com](http://wegottickets.com), or from Videosyncratic on Cowley Road, the Scribbler, the Inner Bookshop, Rapture in Witney, Baby John's in Didcot and Mostly Books and Local Roots in Abingdon. For more information, visit [www.thisistruck.com](http://www.thisistruck.com). Meanwhile, Truck have organised a series of events throughout April in the build up to Wood and the main Truck Festival in July. On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April Robin Bennett hosts a lyric writing workshop at Christchurch College as part of the Oxford Literary Festival, from 6-8pm. Also on the 4<sup>th</sup> is the Cotswold Spring Lager launch at Chipping Norton Town Hall featuring various Truck-related bands. Other events include a Wood Festival launch party on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> at Oakford Social Club with Neil Halstead, The Loose Salute and Danny & The Champions of the World.

A Black Man Coming' as a download-only single this month. The single, on Quickfix Records, is released as a fundraiser for Love Music, Hate Racism, the two acts meeting at a LMHR benefit gig last year. Visit [www.myspace.com/smilex](http://www.myspace.com/smilex) or [www.myspace.com/mrshadow](http://www.myspace.com/mrshadow) for more details. Full review in next month's issue.

**RAPTURE IN WITNEY** celebrates National Record Store day on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April. Oxfordshire's premier independent CD store is part of The Coalition of indie stores that includes Rough Trade in London. The day will involve live in-store bands, signings, indie label freebies and a series of limited exclusive 7" singles from bands including The Smiths, The Stooges, New Order, Jane's Addiction and Tom Waits. As part of Rapture's celebrations, they will be hosting a gig and club night at Fat Lil's in Witney in the evening.

**FLY MAGAZINE'S** local website continues to offer more coverage of the Oxford scene, courtesy of contributor Joby Mullens. The mini site features a regular blog from Joby, covering gig previews and reviews, label features and news. Visit the site via [www.the-fly.co.uk](http://www.the-fly.co.uk).

**THE FLEUR DE LYS** in Dorchester-on-Thames has started a new open

mic session every other Sunday and is looking for performers wanting to take part. Call Jess on 01865 340502. April's open mic dates are the 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.

**DECIBEL STUDIOS** are offering a special 999 credit crunch-beating special offer in April. Bands can book 58 hours of studio time for just £999 throughout the month. Call David on 01460 221541 or 07774 228440, or visit [www.decibelstudio.co.uk](http://www.decibelstudio.co.uk) for more details. Decibel are also offering half-price Monday night rehearsal slots.

**AS EVER**, don't forget to tune into BBC Radio Oxford Introducing every Saturday evening between 6-7pm on 95.2fm. The dedicated local music show plays the best local releases as well as featuring interviews with local and touring bands, a gig and clubbing guide and local demo reviews. The show is available to listen to all week online at [bbc.co.uk/oxford](http://bbc.co.uk/oxford)

**WE CURRENTLY HAVE A THREE-MONTH BACKLOG OF DEMOS** for review. If you have sent a CD or Myspace link and not yet been reviewed, sorry, we will get round to it eventually as we work through the pile. And if you're sending a CD in the post, please make sure you've paid the full postage – we're sure as hell not paying for it.



## FAT LIL'S

LIVE MUSIC AND COMEDY CLUB

**APRIL**

Wed 1<sup>st</sup> Open Deck: Open slot for DJ's to take the stage and play some tunes. Free Entry - door 7.00

Thu 2<sup>nd</sup> Proceed + Never Means Maybe + 2 other supports - All Indie/Metal - £3, door 7.30, 14+

Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> METALICA UK + Skull Thrash: Europe's leading tribute to Metallica - £8, door 8

Sat 4<sup>th</sup> Lil Fat Comedy Club: Pete Johansson + support - £7, door 7.30

Wed 8<sup>th</sup> Acoustic Lounge: Bands/Solo artists, play your songs on the acoustic stage. Free, Door 8

Thu 9<sup>th</sup> Revolver: DJ's playing the best of old and new rock 'n' roll every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs - £3, door 8

Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Cheap Thrills: Great rock cover band. Everything from Blondie to Muse & Rage. J. £3, door 8

Wed 15<sup>th</sup> Lil Fat Comedy Club presents Joe Caulfield Mock The Week etc - £7, door 7.30

Thu 16<sup>th</sup> Arc Angel + Midnight Drive + 2 other supports - All Indie/Metal - £3, door 7.30

Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Witney Music Festival: Great night of live music. Lots of local bands. See website for details

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> International Record Store Day + in association with Rapture. See Website for details

Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> Acoustic Lounge: Bands/Solo artists, play your songs on the acoustic stage. Free, Door 8

Thu 23<sup>rd</sup> Beelzebop + Head Count + Beaver Fuel: Indie Bands live - £3, door 3

Fri 24<sup>th</sup> Sneaky Bonus: One of our favourite cover bands. Foo's, Hootie, Reef etc etc - £4, door 8

Sun 26<sup>th</sup> Big Blues Jam: Join the house band for a jam or just relax and enjoy. Free Entry, door 3 to 7

Cool, intimate venue where you'll see the best of local, national & international rock, acoustic, blues, indie, tributes and comedy. Open 'til late serving great drinks.

Get Your Music World!

[www.fatlils.co.uk](http://www.fatlils.co.uk) Fat Lil's 64a Corn Street, Witney, OX28 6BS - Box Office 01993 703385 We Got Tickets



# **The Indie Guitar Music Festival**

24th, 25th & 26th July 2009

Tickets on Sale Now



Visit our Web Site for the Line Up...  
... Some top bands are on it!

£79.99 for a 3 day ticket!

No Fireworks or Cheerleaders - Just Honest High Quality Cool Music!

Only 7000 tickets are available, so if you buy early you are in!!!!!!

We have a Cool Musical Diversity - we're Family Friendly - Safe -  
and Welcome Festival Goers of all ages who want a Great Time...

In the beautiful West Oxfordshire countryside,..with ample camping.

[www.indieguitarfestival.com](http://www.indieguitarfestival.com)

subject to licence

A quiet word with

# Kate Garrett & Barney Morse- Brown

Photo: James Dawson



## EVEN IN THE PANTHEON OF OXFORD'S

unsung music heroes, Kate Garrett and Barney Morse-Brown stand out.

Between them they have done things most other musicians only dream of, and, particularly in Kate's case, have worked tirelessly to make Oxford's music scene a better place.

## AS A TEENAGER IN HER NATIVE DORSET

Kate played in a duo with PJ Harvey; in the early-90s she was part of The Mystics, one of Oxford's best-loved bands, who signed to Fontana and toured the States. She also sang with all-female *a cappella* act Trio Hysteria. Since then, in tandem with her subsequent solo music career, Kate has worked at the Ark-T young musicians' project and founded the Oxford Young Women's Band Project, offering advice, encouragement, equipment and space to aspiring local female singers and musicians.

Barney, meanwhile, a classically-trained cellist, has toured with Eliza Carthy's band, won a BBC Radio 2 Folk Award with The Imagined Village Band and performed twice on *Later... With Jools Holland*.

Together, the couple have recently launched their own record label, Garrett-Brown Music and last month they jointly launched their latest CDs – Kate's own 'King Of The Birds' EP and Barney's Duotone project debut CD, 'In The Evening'.

## KATE AND BARNEY MET A FEW YEARS AGO

at an Ark-T session Kate had organised, inviting the innovative cellist to come and help inspire the young musicians. Since then they have married and their musical lives have been closely interlinked. Garret-Brown Music is the logical conclusion of their partnership.

Musically the pair, together and separately, lean towards the folkier side of pop, Kate's songs elegantly wistful, full of longing and dreamy imagery, her voice pure and limpid, akin to Opal's Kendra Smith or one-time 4AD starlet Heidi Berry,

Barney's swooning cello playing adding a melancholic gravitas to each song. Barney's Duotone, meanwhile, carries a similar feeling of isolation and an easy grace, closer to Nick Drake's pastoral winter-in-July ambience.

## WELL KNOWN AND HIGHLY RESPECTED

not just on the local scene but on the national folk scene, Barney Morse-Brown has always split his time between his own projects and working with other bands. Duotone sounds like his most complete solo material to date.

The cello in contemporary pop music tends too often now to be used just to simply bolster the sound, to give it a nominally orchestral feel, while Barney uses it as a lead instrument; how does he feel he can change people's perceptions of the instrument?

BARNEY: People are often quite surprised by the fact that the cello has more of a leading role in the music that I write, and I don't really approach this with the desire to change people's views of how the cello should be used, just show them how it can be adaptable by doing what comes naturally to me.

"Working with Kate, and playing in a duo together really opened my mind to the possibilities of what the cello could do. She really started the ball rolling for me, getting me to improvise and step out of my musical comfort zones. She also arranged a lesson for me with Chas Dickie, a cellist who played on a PJ Harvey track, 'Plants and Rags', from her album 'Dry'. He was the first, and probably only cellist I'd come across who was really experimenting with the sound of the cello. That meeting got me even more interested in improvisation and really started me off on a new path."

You're part of The Imagined Village Band (the award-winning collective that has variously involved the likes of Billy Bragg, Afro-Celt Sound System's Simon Emmerson, Martin and Eliza Carthy and Sheila Chandra); how did you come to join them and

what's it like to work with such an array of musicians?

BARNEY: "It was through Kate's suggestion that I join the band back in 2006, and after playing with the band, plus a few pub sessions, I got a call from Simon asking me to do a recording session for the Imagined Village album. One session turned into a few more and I was then asked if I'd like to be part of the live touring band. Being a part of Imagined Village has been the marker for the start of my professional music career, as it's since led to playing with the Eliza Carthy Band and Chris Wood, plus being given the opportunity to support Eliza on tour as Duotone.

You won a Radio 2 Folk Award in 2008 for Best Traditional Track with Imagined Village and were nominated with Eliza Carthy for Best Original Track this year; how did that feel and has it changed things for you since? You also subsequently played on Jools Holland – how was that?

"I've always have had lots of dreams and goals that I'd like to reach as a musician and before I joined the Imagined Village, I was hoping and working towards reaching those goals. I didn't expect though that I'd achieve one of them, which was to play on *Later...* It was really a snowball effect since winning the Folk Award, culminating in probably the most memorable IV performance of the summer at Cambridge Festival and being recorded for BBC4."

## WHILE BARNEY HAS BEEN PLAYING WITH

the great and the good of the UK folk scene, Kate's musical travels have taken her to equally exotic places and alliances. The earliest of these was playing with childhood friend Polly Jean Harvey.

KATE: "Polly and I did music together at school and formed a duo supporting local blues acts that her mum promoted. We were two moody gothic hippy teens! We did Dylan and Michelle Shocked covers and some of Pol's early songs. We have a good laugh about it now! Our art teacher recorded a demo for us. Polly was older than me and went off to college, becoming part of Automatic Dlamini, her first band with John Parish, and I think this was an inspiring new direction for her. We were out of touch for years but we went to her warm up show in Dorset for her new record with John Parish a couple of weeks ago and she was brilliant, so in her prime and her voice is dynamically amazing. Recently we have become very close again."

Despite growing up in Dorset and playing mostly folk music, Kate moved to Oxford in the early-90s and teamed up with Sam Williams to form The Mystics, a band who have since earned almost legendary status in the city for their darkly aggressive take on psychedelic pop.

KATE: "I met Sam at a party in Dorset, we played music that night and just kept on playing, I would go up to Oxford for a week to do some writing with him and then back down to Dorset. I realised then at 19 that I needed to experience city life. I borrowed some money from my grandad to buy a drawbars organ and got lent an acoustic guitar. Then began a steep learning curve to learn electric guitar; Sam and (Mystics guitarist) Woody really helped and I bought some books! It felt great to be playing rock, great

fun to be strutting around with a guitar in glittery tops! I couldn't believe how loud it was at first!"

What are your memories of those days now, and how do you feel about The Mystics' legacy?

"Going to LA for five weeks and playing Sunset clubs was a mind-blowing experience. I remember when we first got to the beach house in Malibu where we would be staying, I took a bath, opened a bottle of beer and lay there and thought my mum had never been able to do this and had a bit of a cry. It was the trip of a lifetime. The highlight was playing the Viper Rooms: we were behind a curtain with lots of stage smoke and I was wearing a leopard bikini and covered head to foot in silver paint, which I'd hunted for the day before in theatrical shops in Hollywood. That was such a buzz as the curtain went back.

"I'm proud of what we did; it's tempting to think what may have happened if we could have stuck it out a bit longer, but then I would have had a very different life and I'm so happy that I am on this path. I think the music still stands up. The bad memories don't matter now, and they taught me a lot about the business."

**MOVING ON TO KATE'S MORE RECENT** solo career, her debut album, 'Vertigo', was released back in 2000.

Listening back to it now, how does she think her new songs have moved on?

KATE: "Vertigo was a body of songs that I wrote during The Mystics. After the band broke up I was keen to produce something just the way I wanted it and was lucky to get to work with Jonathan Nesmith, initially in LA, and then to finish the album with Will Gibson in Oxford. Mark Wood from the Mystics played loads of guitar, which was heaven. It was a struggle to get it done, I did whatever work I could like painting and decorating to get the next few tracks done and pay the musicians, then went to work again until I could afford the next bit. Stylistically, it still had more rock influences and was more of that period. I feel it's important to just produce work of its time and not to look back and be over critical.

"The songs on the new EP have all been written in the last few years and are a return to my acoustic roots. I'm really inspired by the craft and power of songwriting and the lyrics have become a lot more important to me. The forthcoming album continues in this way, it's more honest and direct, with my love of Dorset being a constant theme and weaving folklore and country tales into contemporary songs."

How did the idea of Garrett Brown Music come about?

KATE: "It's an idea we had been floating for a while. We both come from self-employed families who are craftsmen, artists and instrument makers and loved the idea of having our own cottage industry that we can run and manage from home. It's a time where grass roots music-making is back in abundance and the internet is a hugely beneficial tool to help this."

Are the pair musically in tune with each other?

KATE: "Very much in tune. Because we both write songs we can express our own visions through that music and it's really all about making as much music as we can with different projects or together. I find Barney's playing and writing an inspiration. When we record our own individual music, each person is totally in charge of how they want it. We do offer suggestions or production ideas to each other, but it's their baby.

BARNEY: "Even though we often have different styles of writing, there have been very few occasions where we have disagreed and, as Kate

says, we respect each other's ideas.

### DESPITE HER ENVIABLE REPUTATION

locally as a singer and musician, perhaps Kate's most important work over the years has been with The Oxford Young Women's Band Project, something she remains passionate about.

KATE: "I worked on some similar projects in Dorset and Somerset in 1999 and realized that there was nothing like it in Oxford. Finding (Oxford author) Mavis Bayton's book *Frock Rock* was a total eye opener and an inspiration too. I got really serious about it when our Ark T music project programmed the Youth Music stage for the Cowley Road Carnival a few years ago and drew bands from all around the county. When I did the figures at the end I realised we had five females out of 60 performers and thought, this has to change. So we set up regular workshops, found out where all the girls were hiding and brought them in to record their songs. I hired industry women, MU reps, session guitarists and professional engineers to come and talk about their career paths and give workshops. It's all about confidence, role-models and a safe space to develop their playing. The project includes girls from many backgrounds, some in care or outreach programmes from social services. I worked one-to-one with some girls on singing and songwriting and they produced such honest and daring work about their experiences. The buzz for them was singing their songs to a crowd for the first time or hearing themselves recorded. At the first launch, I was fine until the night and then felt very emotional as I realised one girl was singing her beautiful songs having lost her mum in a car crash when she was a baby; another has been in 13 care homes since a child. Music can really empower young people.

"It has to be said, though, that things can go backwards very fast: there are still far fewer instrumental players who are female coming through and since we stopped the project for a while, there has been a decline in numbers again. Zahra from Baby Gravy is doing a great job of keeping the fires burning and will be restarting the workshops soon and including more MC and DJ elements. She has been a trainee at the project and is now employed to work at the centre. These projects are vital everywhere, both the boys and girls need encouragement, the girls just a growing space until they feel confident to play with anyone."

**IN MAY 2007 KATE** was diagnosed with cancer. Since that time her health has fluctuated. Currently she is back in Dorset but concentrating on writing her album and running Garrett-Brown

Music. Despite her ill health, Kate performed both solo and with her former Trio Hysteria bandmates at a special launch gig for the new CDs last month in Oxford, an intense, emotional and celebratory occasion.

KATE: "A life-threatening disease turns your world upside down. You learn to let things go and live in the present. I have been working so intensely for the last ten years, co-running the Ark T Music Project, teaching singing, and managing my music career. The thing that suffered was my time to write more music. Being unwell has given me time to replenish my imagination, read lots of books and get lost in new ideas. I'm just letting the music flow now. It's frustrating to not be able to do many gigs but I do them when energy allows. Even though I can't plan too far into the future I am enjoying promoting our music. I am archiving as much music that I have been involved in as I can, and releasing past projects on our label. Sam Williams and I are going to put up a Mystics Myspace site soon where people can look at footage and photos and buy the music.

"Barney and I have been overwhelmed by the support and love of all our friends, it really confirms your faith in community and humanity."

**'King Of The Birds' by Kate Garrett, and 'In The Evening' by Duotone' are both out now on Garrett-Brown Music. Kate plays the Northwall Arts Centre in Summertown on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April as part of the Oxford Contemporary Music Fringe Festival Open Session. Visit [www.garrettbrownmusic.com](http://www.garrettbrownmusic.com) [www.thekategarrettband.com](http://www.thekategarrettband.com) [www.myspace.com/thekategarrettband](http://www.myspace.com/thekategarrettband) [www.myspace.com/duotoneuk](http://www.myspace.com/duotoneuk)**

# The Wheatsheaf

Live Music in April

Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>MARK LOCKHEART GROUP</b> 8pm/£5/£7
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>SOUL KID + MARY'S GARDEN + DRUNKENSTEIN</b> 10pm/£5
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>BORDERVILLE + THE LONG INSIDERS + DIAL F FOR FRANKENSTEIN + ROADHOUSE FIVE</b> 8pm/£5
Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>BOBBY WELLINS</b> 8pm/£5/£7
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>HARRY ANGEL + WE ROCK LIKE GIRLS DONT DESERT STORM + HARLEQUIN</b> 10pm/£5
Sat 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>MEPHISTO GRANDE + WHISKEY BLITZ</b> 10pm/£5
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>4 OR 5 MAGICIANS + WHITE SAILS THE GRESHAM FLYERS</b> 8pm/£4
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>VICARS OF TWIDDLY + ARCHIE</b> 8pm/£5
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>THREE BLIND MICE PRESENTS...TBC</b> 8pm/£4
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>THE MEDICINE + SIMPLE TOWN</b> 8pm/£5
Sat 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>NUNS + CHERRY BUT NO CAKE GEORGE CHOPPING</b> 8pm/£4
Tues 28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>FRANK TURNER (SOLD OUT)</b> 8pm
Wed 29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>FRANK TURNER (SOLD OUT)</b> 8pm

Every Monday - Oxford Inns Comedy Club (8-11pm) Every Thursday - The Spin Jazz (8-11pm)  
For all gig enquiries email [wheatsheaf.music@btinternet.com](mailto:wheatsheaf.music@btinternet.com) or visit us @ [www.myspace.com/wheatsheaf\\_music](http://www.myspace.com/wheatsheaf_music)  
The Wheatsheaf, 129 The High Street, Oxford OX14DF | Telephone: 01865 721156



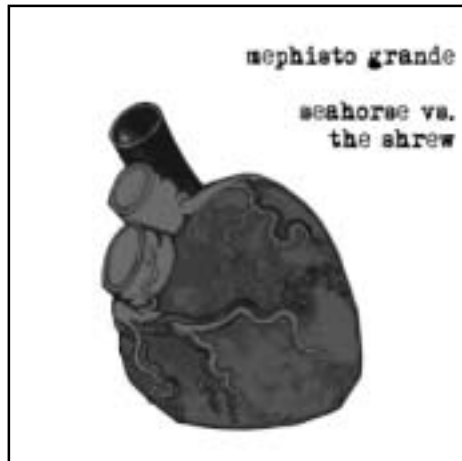
## MEPHISTO GRANDE

### 'Seahorse Vs. The Shrew'

(Refusés)

'Seahorse Vs. The Shrew' features three traditional gospel songs radically reinterpreted, plus an elephant solo. But as anyone who's witnessed Mephisto Grande lately will attest, that's just par for the course from a band who feature not only the most startling vocal talent in Oxfordshire (and some distance beyond) but also a man in gold lamé pyjamas who plays saxophone and clarinet simultaneously.

Mephisto Grande's self-produced, self-released debut album clocks in at a modest 31 minutes but is staggering in its complexity, ambition and individuality. Those places from where it draws inspiration – Delta blues, gospel, jazz improvisation, French pop – are hardly unexplored areas, but it's where Mephisto Grande take them that makes them such a phenomenal band.



The album opens with 'Wade In The Water', remade as a swampy glam-rock stomp, Zac Gvirtzman's wayward woodwind and brass wandering over Peter Ward's tumultuous rhythms, Liam Ings-Reeves' rough-diamond-dragged-over-

hot-coals growl adding earthy, gothic menace to such devotional lyrics. The entire album is equally restless, from the almost loungey jazz passages of 'Pig' to the scating and Birthday Party-like lurch of 'Drainage Part 1'; from the gravel-gargling rendition of 'Will The Circle Be Unbroken' to the clamouring, chaotic 'Sea Life Part 2', they operate almost a scorched earth policy, torching the sacred terrain over which they ride with satanic abandon. Oh yeah, and not forgetting that elephant solo in the middle of 'Sea Life Part 3', that concludes with a particularly contemptuous snort from Liam.

With Suitable Case For Treatment Liam and Pete formed one of the most innovative and challenging bands in recent Oxford history. With Mephisto Grande they've drawn together an ensemble equally willing and capable of trashing preconceptions and breathing fresh – if often bleak and bruising – new life into music almost as old as the battle between good and evil itself. Did we mention the elephant?

**Dale Kattack**

## THE FOLLYS

### 'Maps To Nowhere'

(Own Label)

Better known around Oxfordshire as a solo acoustic singer-songwriter of a more melancholy disposition, Trev Williams finds an outlet for his brasher, more aggressive instincts with The Follys, a three-piece whose muscular r'n'b is rooted firmly in the pub-rock scene of the mid-70s when a back-to-basics approach retaliated against the excesses of prog and paved the way for punk.

'Maps To Nowhere' is a four-song EP that at once shows Trev does have an ear for a decent tune but can be frustratingly inconsistent. Highlight here by some distance is the title track with its easy, hook-laden chorus and jangly thrash that strips away all the frippery and histrionics of the other tracks. If it has a fault it's that maybe Trev could rein in his vocal stridency, but it's a



tune that sticks in your head long after the CD has finished.

As for the rest of the EP, it fair gushes with eager bullishness but lets itself down either with a need to showboat – 'Don't Let Them Down' in particular keeps stopping to wander off on some vaguely funky excursion when it should stick to the job in hand, while Trev's scalded cat vocal style can grate over a whole EP, particularly the clumsy 'Thinking Of You'. 'Hostile Town' kicks in with plenty of attitude but pulls its punches when total conviction is the order of the day.

**Dale Kattack**

## DRUNKENSTEIN

### 'The Independent Republic Of Drunkenstein'

(Own Label)

With a name like Drunkenstein, and featuring both Snuffy from less-than-serious rockers Marconi's Voodoo as well as a singer, James, who also plays with the equally less-than-serious Beaver Fuel, Drunkenstein have every potential to be a riot of wackiness of the sort best dealt with with a hefty dose of industrial pesticide. In reality, they're a pretty serious bunch. One might almost say sombre. Would goth be going too far? Especially since a couple of the songs on this debut EP sound not a million miles away from Virgin Prunes or Sex Gang Children.

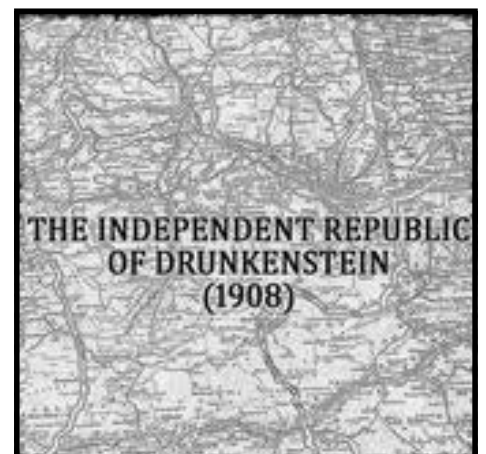
But of course they go and ruin it all with one of those teeth-grindingly kerrazy band biogs that Myspace is littered with, plus a self-consciously self-deprecating narrative that introduces and separates the four songs here, as if desperately

trying to deflect criticism before it's even launched. Have some bloody self-respect!

The thing is, Drunkenstein do themselves a disservice baiting us into hating them from the off; they should simply let the music do the talking, since 'Red Shift' creeps and crawls with inventively skewed pagan malevolence, sneering vocals interweaving neatly over chunky powerhouse funk-rock before meandering off at a complete tangent, while 'Doktorr Black's' gothic fuzz manages to bury its Cluedo allusions enough to be taken seriously. 'Kool Aid' is more awkward – pedestrian vocals failing to do justice to the atmospheric rock beneath.

We've always preached that bands should take their music seriously but not themselves. Drunkenstein seem to have taken such advice beyond the call of duty, and it's to their detriment. Their music is good enough to stand up in its own right, but when a band seems as unable to believe in themselves as this, you wonder why you should take time to care.

**Dale Kattack**



# music video and photography



**YOU DON'T NEED A BIG  
BUDGET TO STAND OUT!**

Get noticed with a professional promo  
video, photos and electronic press kit  
from the Oxford-based specialist

[www.tracking-shot.com](http://www.tracking-shot.com)

[music@tracking-shot.com](mailto:music@tracking-shot.com)  
01235 525207 / 07590 504352

**the backroom**  
@ the bully

162 Cowley Road Oxford  
01865 244516

## April

Every Monday

### THE FAMOUS MONDAY NIGHT BLUES

*The best in UK, European and US blues. 8-12.*

6<sup>th</sup> **THE DEBBIE GILES BAND** (UK)

13<sup>th</sup> **JOANNE SHAW-TAYLOR BAND** (UK)

20<sup>th</sup> **LIGHTNIN' WILLIE & THE POORBOYS** (USA)

27<sup>th</sup> **THE HAMILTON LOOMIS BAND** (USA)

Every Tuesday

### THE OXFORD JAZZ CLUB

*Free live jazz plus DJs playing r'n'b, funk and soul until 2am*

7<sup>th</sup> / 14<sup>th</sup> / 21<sup>st</sup> **THE HOWARD PEACOCK QUINTET**

28<sup>th</sup> **THE ORIGINAL RABBIT FOOT SPASM BAND**

Wednesdays

8<sup>th</sup> **MIND BENEFIT GIG** with **LITTLE FISH / WITCHES /**

**THE FOLLYS / ALPHABET BACKWARDS** (acoustic)

15<sup>th</sup> **TCT** presents **THE BOOKHOUSE BOYS**

22<sup>nd</sup> **TCT** presents **1990s**

Thursdays

2<sup>nd</sup> **GIDEON CONN / SIX DAY RIOT / LUCKYFINGER**

9<sup>th</sup> **MOSHKA** presents **DR SLAGGLEBERRY / 13**

**GAUGE / SONGS FOR SHOWS**

23<sup>rd</sup> **BRAKES / THE VOLUNTARY BUTLER SCHEME**

30<sup>th</sup> **MOSHKA** presents **THE HAND** (featuring **RACHAEL DADD**) / **ICHI / THE JOE ALLEN BAND / ALLY CRAIG**

Every Friday

### BACKROOM BOOGIE

*Funk, soul and R&B. 10.30pm-2.30am; £4.*

Friday Early Shows

24<sup>th</sup> **MELTING POT** with **KING OF SPAIN / VIXENS**

*Includes entry to Backroom Boogie afterwards*

Saturdays

4<sup>th</sup> **SIMPLE** funky house with **RIVER STARR** 10-3am

11<sup>th</sup> **DJ SEX MACHINE / DREAMS & WHISPERS**. 9.30-3am; £5

18<sup>th</sup> **SOUL & REGGAE**. 10-3am; £7

25<sup>th</sup> **NU-SKOOL**

Sundays

5<sup>th</sup> **COMEDY CLUB** with **IVAN BRACKENBURY /**

**CAIMH McDONNELL / SILKY**. Door 7.45pm; £7.50/£6.50

19<sup>th</sup> **THE DAVID SHIRES BIG BAND** 8-11pm; £3

Coming Soon!

Fri 8<sup>th</sup> May **DAN REED** / Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> June **BLAZE BAYLEY**

## This Reality Podcast



This Reality Podcast – probably Oxfordshire's best music podcast in the world – is expanding. One year old and already we're too big for our boots!

We are looking for a volunteer to review occasional gigs and tell us about which artists you've seen. You will have an opportunity to present your reviews on the podcast and write them up for our soon-to-be expanded website.

You don't need to be an experienced reviewer or journalist (one of us is a writer/professional reviewer, so if you need mentoring then this is an opportunity to get some assistance). The only thing you do need to be is a gig goer.

We are interested in the unsigned band scene rather than mainstream artists; we would like to help 'up and coming' talent get coverage.

Despite our significant listenership – 80,000 downloads per week worldwide – This Reality Podcast does not accept adverts or payments of any kind, we just do this for the fun of it.

If you are interested in joining a labour of love then drop us a line.

Email: [thisrealitypodcast@gmail.com](mailto:thisrealitypodcast@gmail.com)

<http://thisrealitypodcast.com>

# GIG GUIDE

## WEDNESDAY 1<sup>st</sup>

### NIGHT PORTRAITS + INFARED + THE

**ELRICS: The Jericho Tavern** – Dark-natured punk noise and new wave fuzz from promising local newcomers Night Portraits, plus Interpol and Idlewild-inspired indie rocking from Kent's Infared and spiky indie rocking from Elrics.

**AMOROUS JAZZ: The Temple** – Sheila Selway fronts her modern jazz combo every fortnight.

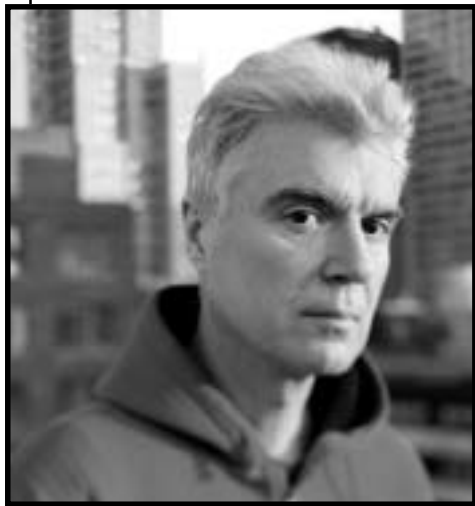
**OPEN DECKS NIGHT: Fat Lil's, Witney** – All-comers DJ session.

*Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>*

## DAVID BYRNE:

### The New Theatre

Purely and simply as frontman of Talking Heads, David Byrne has earned his status as bona fide musical legend, but his talents have spread well beyond even that sublimely inspirational band, most notably his collaborations with Brian Eno. Together the pair created 1981's epoch-making 'My Life In The Bush Of Ghosts', an album well ahead of its time in its use of sampling and electronics as well as its world music influences and found sounds. Around the same time Eno produced Talking Heads' two finest albums, 'Fear Of Music' and 'Remain In Light', which expanded hugely on their initial punk-funk origins and have subsequently inspired generations of bands. Last year Byrne and Eno got back together to make the less experimental, gospel-influenced 'Everything That Happens Will Happen Today', and it's from these four albums that most of this current Byrne tour set-list is derived. Always aware of visual spectacle as well as music, much of the performance features choreography, particularly during the more experimental pieces, while many of Talking Heads' classic moments, from 'I Zimba' and 'Houses In Motion' to 'Life In Wartime' and 'Once In A Lifetime' are brought back to life. Whether Eno himself - resident in Oxfordshire - will make an appearance is uncertain, although he's likely to be in the audience at least, but whatever, it'll be a concert like few others.



## APRIL

### THURSDAY 2<sup>nd</sup>

#### GIDEON CONN + SIX DAY RIOT: The

**Bullingdon** – Cheesy, oddball electro-pop-cum-hip hop-cum-acoustic-lounge-pop from Manchester's quirky songsmith Gideon Conn, somehow managing to come in halfway between De La Soul and a hyperactive Badly Drawn Boy. Expect quirky covers of Barry White and Outkast along the way. London's cutesy, offbeat folk-pop collective Six Day Riot co-headline.

#### SKINT & DEMORALISED: O2 Academy –

Return to town for the south Yorkshire soul-pop duo, mixing up Arctic Monkeys-style earthy narratives with a brassy, lightweight pop froth that sounds like it might have escaped from an old Blow Monkeys album, and the general feel of Robbie Williams slumming it at a Wham! convention. But with a major record label deal under their belts and a debut album, 'Love & Other Catastrophes', featuring Amy Winehouse's backing band The Dap Kings, major league success seems a given this year.

#### WINNEBAGO DEAL + BUICK McKANE +

**BITCHES: The Cellar** – Extremely welcome return to live action for Winnebago Deal, warming up for a tour support with Danko Jones and still keeping the flame of whisky and gasoline-fuelled garage-metal and roadhouse punk alive and fighting and set to release their third full-length album later this year. Support comes from Northampton's spiky post-hardcore outfit Buick McKane and furious bass-heavy rock'n'rollers Bitches.

**THE SPIN: The Wheatsheaf** – Saxophonist and composer Mark Lockheart guests at the jazz club, having played with Loose Tubes in the 80s and more recently worked with Radiohead and Stereolab.

#### THE MOROSE BROTHERS + LAST CHANCE

+ **STONE SALOON + INVISIBLE VEGAS: The Jericho Tavern** – Traditional Scottish and Irish folk sounds from The Morose Brothers, plus classic roadhouse rocking from Invisible Vegas.

#### CATWEAZLE CLUB: East Oxford

#### Community Centre

#### OPEN MIC SESSION: The Half Moon

#### YOU WEREN'T THERE BAND: The Chequers,

**Headington Quarry** – 60s psychedelic rock, from Cream to The Creation and more.

**PROCEED + NEVER MEANS MAYBE: Fat Lil's, Witney**

### FRIDAY 3<sup>rd</sup>

#### KLUB KAKOFANNEY with SOUL KID +

#### MARY'S GARDEN + DRUNKENSTEIN: The

**Wheatsheaf** – Klub Kak mix and match with typical scant regard for taste or fashion, pairing horrible Jamiroquai-like funksters Soul Kid with the considerably more marvellous Mary's Garden, brewing up a billowing storm of gothic rock, plus esoteric dark rockers Drunkenstein.

**GO: AUDIO: O2 Academy** – Electro-tinged emo-lite of the kind that makes Fightstar sound like Pantera from the band who have been seen supporting McFly and Scouting For Girls.

**STARSAILOR: O2 Academy** – The original Radio 2-friendly indie balladeers return with the surprisingly critically-acclaimed fourth album, 'All The Plans', still proffering their epic, piano-led melancholy and anthemic miserablism.

**BACKROOM BOOGIE: The Bullingdon** – Classic, funk, soul and r'n'b every week.

#### ORIGINAL RABBIT FOOT SPASM BAND:

**The Cellar** – Raucous old-time jazz played in punk rock style. Plus DJ Derek playing classic soul, ska, rock'n'roll and reggae.

**GET DOWN: The Brickworks** – Funk, Latin, Afrobeat and more.

**FRANCIE JONES + TREV WILLIAMS: The Cricketers Arms, Littleworth** – 60s-styled pop in the vein of The Beatles and Dylan from Frankie, plus a set of covers, from Oasis to White Stripes, from Trev.

#### KEELING CURVE + HIGHER PLANE + MIKE

**DIGNAM + HAMISH CURRIE: The Jericho Tavern** – Atmospheric, fiddle-lead folk-pop from Keeling Curve, plus folkies Higher Plane.

**OSPREY + SWITCH 60: The Winchester**  
**METALLICA UK + SKULLTHRASH: Fat Lil's, Witney** – Tribute to Metallica, plus local thrash metallers.

### SATURDAY 4<sup>th</sup>

**THE SMITHS INDEED: O2 Academy** – Tribute to Mssrs Morrissey and Marr.

#### THE TRAVELLING BAND + STORNOWAY +

#### THE JOE ALLEN BAND + AIDAN CANADAY:

**The Cellar** – Lovely rootsy psychedelic folk-pop from Manchester's Travelling Band, in the vein of Crosby, Stills and Nash; currently riding high on the back of radio favourite 'Delicate Icicle'. Stornoway provide suitably elegant folk-pop support, while delicately emotive rockers The Joe Allen Band and acoustic singer-songwriter Aidan Canada complete an impressive bill.

#### TRANSFORMATION / TRASHY / ROOM 101:

**O2 Academy** – Three clubs in one with indie and electro at Transformation; trashy pop, glam and 80s at Trashy plus hardcore, punk, and alt.rock at Room 101.

**SIMPLE: The Bullingdon** – Funky house club night with guest River Starr, plus residents.

### SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup>

#### HUNDRED REASONS + JOHNNY

#### FOREIGNER + PHANTOM THEORY: O2

**Academy** – Surrey's original post-hardcore road warriors just keep on keeping on, back on tour to promote new self-released album, 'Quick The Word, Sharp The Action', continuing down an ever more melodic path after their abrasive 2002 debut, 'Ideas Above Our Station'. Big, weighty choruses, chunky rock hooks and heartfelt screaming are the order of the day and it's a formula that's helped the band withstand the onslaught of American noise bands over the past few years and become a genuine bastion of UK underground rock. Excellent short, sharp shock thrash-pop from Johnny Foreigner in support, plus crunching riff-heavy heavy rock and hardcore explorations from Phantom Theory.

**MOTION IN COLOUR + CANNONS + EMPIRE SAFARI: The Mish, St.Clement's** –

All-ages gig featuring lightweight emo rocking and emotive acoustic pop from Motion In Colour, jangly indie rock from Cannons and strident fuzz-rock from Empire Safari.

### **MONDAY 6<sup>th</sup>**

**MC LARS + FAILSAFE: O2 Academy** – Another chance to see the witty, literary rap philosopher in action, over in the UK to plug new album, 'This Gigantic Robot Kills', his wordy, incisive brand of hip hop, punk and electro now finding him aligned with the emerging nerdcore rap movement.

**THE DEBBIE GILES BAND: The Bullingdon** – Rocking r'n'b from the Guildford-based veterans, playing covers of Stevie Ray Vaughan, Bonnie Raitt and more, plus originals.

### **TUESDAY 7<sup>th</sup>**

**PARTYSHANK Vs GLAMOUR FOR BETTER + TOYBOX: O2 Academy** – Jerky electro-pop party music from Reading's Glamour For Better, possibly the only band ever to be inspired to get together after seeing Test Icicles. Tonight they're back in the company of London's frantic electro-disco-punk duo Partyshank.

**JAZZ CLUB: The Bullingdon** – Free weekly live jazz club. Tonight's band are keyboard-led modern jazz outfit The Howard Peacock Quintet

### **WEDNESDAY 8<sup>th</sup>**

**LITTLE FISH + WITCHES + THE FOLLYS + ALPHABET BACKWARDS: The Bullingdon** – Benefit gig for mental health charity MIND (postponed from last month) with the new-look Little Fish airing songs from their forthcoming debut album. Excellent, dark-hearted orchestral noise-pop from Witches; bullish pub-punk rock from The Follys and an acoustic set from sunshiney pop people Alphabet Backwards.

**OXFORD CONTEMPORARY MUSIC OPEN: Northwall Arts Centre, Summertown** – OCM present their second open session, featuring an assortment of locally based composers and musicians, tonight featuring this month's Nightshift cover star, Kate Garrett. The singer is joined by acoustic nu-jazz multi-instrumentalist Natureboy, melodramatic French pop group Ensemble Azuz, acoustic songsmith Kimwei and electronics chap Adam Percussion.

**DEATHSTARS: O2 Academy** – Black clothes, black hair, black hearts – Sweden's industrial-metal, glam-rock, electro-goth weirdoes return to town,

pitching up somewhere between Rammstein and Sisters of Mercy.

**BORDERVILLE + THE LONG INSIDERS + DIAL F FOR FRANKENSTEIN + ROADHOUSE 5: The Wheatsheaf** – Top-flight local bill of talent at the Sheaf tonight with goth-glam baroque rockers Borderville kicking out an inventive twist on Bowie and Bauhaus, while The Long Insiders shimmy in with an elegantly cinematic brand of pop and Dial F For Frankenstein pile on the melodic hardcore pressure.

**PHAT SESSIONS: The Cellar** – Live funk jam.  
**ACOUSTIC LOUNGE: Fat Lil's, Witney** – Open mic session, all welcome.

### **THURSDAY 9<sup>th</sup>**

**DAVID BYRNE: The New Theatre** – The Talking Heads and world music legend performs his assorted Eno collaborations – *see main preview*

**HOLY THURSDAY: O2 Academy** – Skylarkin club special with a guest DJ set from Massive Attack's Daddy G, plus residents Count Skylarkin and Indecision.

**DR SLAGGLEBERRY + 13 GAUGE + SONGS FOR SHOWS: The Bullingdon** – Moshka club night with ace math-metal explorers Dr Slaggleberry making out in brutally angular fashion.  
**ROMANTIC KILLERS + FOXES! + THE HOT TODDIES: The Cellar** – Grunge pop noise from the headliners, plus a return to town for cutesy electro janglers Foxes!, set to release their new single, 'Who Killed Rob?' this month and coming on somewhere between Apples In Stereo and Young Marble Giants. California's sweet, sunshiney all-girl synth-surf pop outfit The Hot Toddlies bring a little Spector-esque magic to the party.

**SEAN STEWART BROOKES + LUCY ANNE SALE + DESMOND CHANCER & THE LONG MEMORIES: Baby Simple** – Contemplative acoustic singer-songwriter Sean plus we small hours gutter jazz ensemble Desmond Chancer.

**MILE HIGH YOUNG TEAM + DEATH OF A SMALL TOWN + SEFTON: The Jericho Tavern** – Dramatic electro-folk rocking from MHYT, plus dark-minded pop from DOAST.  
**MODERN CLICHÉS + TWENTY FIVE TO NINE + RELOAD TO RADIO + SLAPDASH: Chinnor Social Club** – Moddish indie-punk from Modern Clichés plus melodic grunge rockers Twenty Five To Nine.

**CATWEAZLE CLUB: East Oxford Community Centre**

**OPEN MIC SESSION: The Half Moon REVOLVER: Fat Lil's, Witney** – Metal, hardcore, punk and classic rock club night.

### **FRIDAY 10<sup>th</sup>**

**SLIDE: O2 Academy** – The monthly house and electro club extravaganza welcomes pioneering producer and DJ Adam Freeland top its deck on the eve of his first artist album in six years, 'Cope'.

**HARRY ANGEL + WE ROCK LIKE GIRLS DON'T + DESERT STORM + HARLEQUIN: The Wheatsheaf** – Alternately speed-freak goth-punk frenzy or more contemplative Chameleons-inspired pop from Harry Angel, with support from ace raw, grunged-out garage-punk duo We Rock Like Girls Don't and riffastic metallers Desert Storm.

**WHISKY BLITZ + TARGET 9 + KID ID + CALI COLLECT: The Jericho Tavern** – Trashy heavy rock and punk-metal noise from Whisky Blitz. Chunky heavy rock from Target 9 and angular post-hardcore noise from Cali Collect in support.  
**THE MIGHTY REDOX + THE PETE FRYER BAND + FILM NOIR + DES BARKUS: The Magdalen**



*Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>*

## **PJ HARVEY & JOHN PARISH Brookes Union**

No other recent female artist, with the exception of Björk, has managed to sustain such a prolonged musical career that has been both commercially successful and artistically challenging, varied and inspirational as Polly Harvey. 15 years after she released her debut single, 2007's 'White Chalk' found Harvey surprising everyone by completely ditching her beloved guitars to record an album of piano ballads. Over the years she's worked with artists as disparate as Steve Albini, Nick Cave, Josh Homme, Thom Yorke and Tricky, adapting easily to every environment while remaining very much herself. In as much as anyone knows exactly who Polly Harvey is – she remains one of the most enigmatic rock stars around, giving away only as much of her self as she feels necessary. Tonight's gig is part of a tour to promote her new album, 'A Woman A Man Walked By', a collaboration with long-time musical partner and sometime producer John Parish, their first recorded work together since 1996's 'Dance Hall At Louse Point'. Throughout her career, Harvey has drawn in elements of blues, jazz, folk, punk and grunge and rarely stayed still creatively, but at each turn her work remains immediately identifiable, while she continues to be a reluctant feminist icon in rock music for her steadfastly independent spirit.

**BOSSAPHONIK: The Cellar** – Jazz dance, Afrobeat, Latin, Balkan, nu-jazz and world beats club night with a live set from seven-piece Latin and soul groove band Manteca.

**BACKROOM BOOGIE: The Bullingdon GET DOWN: The Brickworks**

### **SATURDAY 11<sup>th</sup>**

**GOLDEN SILVERS: O2 Academy** – Funky, literate indie pop with nods to Sly Stone and Prince as much as Squeeze and Blur from the London trio who jointly won last year's Glastonbury Unsigned competition and have subsequently been out on tour with Mystery Jets and The Wombats as well as signing to XL.

**MEPHISTO GRANDE + WHISKY BLITZ: The Wheatsheaf** – More macabre missionary zeal, gothic bayou blues, warped jazz-punk virulence and zombie gospel splendour from the mighty Mephisto Grande, plus scuzzy punk noise from Whisky Blitz.



EVOLUTION TATTOO  
23A BANBURY ROAD  
KIDLINGTON  
OX5 1AQ  
01865 375085  
[WWW.EVOLUTIONTATTOO.CO.UK](http://WWW.EVOLUTIONTATTOO.CO.UK)  
EMAIL: [INFO@EVOLUTIONTATTOO.CO.UK](mailto:INFO@EVOLUTIONTATTOO.CO.UK)



*Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>*

## JENIFEREVER: The Cellar

What is it with Scandinavian bands and glacial majesty? We guess that being almost universally beautiful people living in some of the most stunning landscapes on the planet, their bands are unlikely to start gobbling off about kebab shops and ringtones any time soon. And so it is that Sweden's Jeniferever return to the UK to promote their second album, 'Spring Tides', still dreamily capturing the chilly magnificence of northern lands with a Viking-like desire for exploration, only with guitars and pianos instead of bloody great big axes. Lush, glacial, shimmering, ambient, chilling... all words frequently used in conjunction with Jeniferever's shoegazy dream-pop-cum-post-rock soundscapes that tilt in varying measures towards Sigur Ros, Mogwai, Ride and Mew. There's definitely something almost stately in the way their epic songs slowly evolve and blossom, equal parts tranquility and turbulence, the music creating shifting patterns behind singer Kristofer Jönson's softly broken-hearted voice, but for all the inherent melancholy, they're an uplifting, sometimes overpowering experience live.

**THE EPSTEIN + JAKE FLOWERS + PHIL MORRISSEY + JAZZMAN JOHN: The Jericho Tavern** – Exotic country rocking and mariachi pop from The Epstein. Wistful acoustic folk-pop singer Jake Flowers is amongst the supporting cast.

**BASSMENTALITY: The Cellar** – Ska, hip hop and old skool drum&bass club night with Gentlemen's Club Dub and Drunke Uncle Bungle.

**DJ SEX MACHINE + DREAMS & WHISPERS: The Bullingdon**

**FREIZINGER: Castle Mound (12-4pm)** – The psychedelic flautist and wandering minstrel takes to the old castle mound to repel the Norman invaders.

**DENNY ILETT Jr: The Winchester**

**CHEAP THRILLS: Fat Lil's, Witney**

## SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup>

**HEARTS OF OAK + THE NEW MOON + SUE SMITH + PHIL FREIZINGER + THE ISAMBARDS: The Magdalen** – Acoustic session.  
**OPEN MIC SESSION: The Fleur de Lys, Dorchester on Thames**

**REGGAE REGGAE SUNDAY: The Cellar** – Double helpings of reggae, roots and dub.

## MONDAY 13<sup>th</sup>

**N-DUBZ: O2 Academy** – Slick, slightly manufactured young hip hop trio now out touring in the big, wide world after years playing the school circuit. Still, they've earned their dues, won themselves a MOBO Award and debut album 'Uncle

B' has gone platinum so the "So Solid Juniors" tag hasn't done them too much harm.

**JOANNE TAYLOR-SHAW BAND: The Bullingdon** – Another chance to see the rising UK blues star, currently working to do for blues what Duffy has done for soul, matching the American old-timers with a laidback and assured style, coming on like a young, female cross between Stevie Ray Vaughan, Bonnie Raitt and Dusty Springfield, having been playing live around her native Black Country venues since the age of 14, before being discovered by Eurythmics' Dave Stewart and consequently touring in a supergroup made up of him, Candy Dulpher, Jimmy Cliff and Mudbone Cooper.

## TUESDAY 14<sup>th</sup>

**THE AUSTRALIAN PINK FLOYD: The New Theatre** – Theatrical tribute to the prog legends, tonight concentrating on 'The Wall', full stage show and all.

**JAZZ CLUB: The Bullingdon** – With The Howard Peacock Quintet

**INTRUSION: The Cellar** – Goth, industrial and darkwave club night.

## WEDNESDAY 15<sup>th</sup>

**PAPERCUTS + SLEEPING YEARS: The Cellar** – The band formed by San Francisco songsmith Jason Quever (formerly of Casiotone For The Painfully Alone), finally set get a UK release for new album, 'You Can Have What You Want', with a wonderfully hushed mix of melancholy alt.pop, 60s psychedelia, folk and shoegazy ambience, somewhere between Devendra Banhardt, Low and Galaxie 500. Support comes from Irish folk-pop starlet Sleeping Years, mixing up Bon Iver heartache with Elliot Smith-style contemplation.  
**THE BOOKHOUSE BOYS: The Bullingdon** – Nine-piece gothic gospel, surf-pop and folk-rock ensemble out of London with a ghostly mix of Lynchian atmospherics and Nick Cave-style grandiosity.

**SCARLET HARLOTS + THE SCARLETTS + THE NOMINEES: The Jericho Tavern** – Funky ska-punk from headliners Scarlet Harlots, plus promising ska-punk noise from locals The Scarletts and indie rocking from The Nominees.  
**AMOROUS JAZZ: The Temple**

## THURSDAY 16<sup>th</sup>

**PJ HARVEY & JOHN PARISH: Brookes University Union** – Polly and John get back to collaborative ways for new album, 'A Woman A Man Walked By' – *see main preview*  
**CANDIDATES + THE SCARLETTS + THE GULLIVERS: The Cellar** – Brash, energetic ska-punk from Scarletts and dreamy indie ambience from Gullivers.

**CATWEAZLE CLUB: East Oxford Community Centre**

**SKITTLE ALLEY OPEN MIC NIGHT: Stocks Bar, Crown & Thistle, Abingdon**  
**OPEN MIC SESSION: The Half Moon**  
**ARC ANGEL + MIDNIGHT DRIVE: Fat Lil's, Witney** – Local metal and hardcore.

## FRIDAY 17<sup>th</sup>

**4 OR 5 MAGICIANS + WHITE SAILS + GRESHAM FLYERS: The Wheatsheaf** – Characteristically quality indie noise at tonight's Swiss Concrete promotion, with Brighton's blokey lo-fi fuzzsters mixing up various parts McLusky, Pavement and Guided By Voices, while White Sails finds assorted Stomoway people teaming up with local singer-songwriter Ulysse DuPasquir. Lively

indie janglers Gresham Flyers open the show.

**WAHALLA: The Cellar** – Deep house and tech-house with Asad Rizvi, Si Yeats et al.

**JONATHAN SEET: The Jericho Tavern** – Sweetly dreamy, twinkling acoustic pop from recently relocated Canadian singer-songwriter Jonathan Seet.

**YOU WEREN'T THERE BAND: The Chester Arms**

**BACKROOM BOOGIE: The Bullingdon**

**GET DOWN: The Brickworks**

**OSPREY + TALC DEMONS: The Winchester, Crown Street**

## SATURDAY 18<sup>th</sup>

**HORACE ANDY: O2 Academy** – The legendary Jamaican reggae singer hits town – *see main preview*

*Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>*

## HORACE ANDY

*Monday 20<sup>th</sup>*

## THE WAILERS

## O2 Academy

Blimey, two genuine Jamaican reggae legends in the space of three days at the Academy, firstly with an appearance from the pioneering singer Horace Andy, whose career has spanned forty years and almost as many albums. From his early roots work and recording at Studio 1, Andy has helped initiate dancehall as well as recording early dub with Mad Professor. Along the way he's worked with luminaries such as Dennis Brown, Jah Shaka, and most recently Sly & Robbie, as well as singing with Massive Attack, which helped return him to mainstream success. His most successful period was back in the mid-70s when he worked with producer Bunny Lee, including his timeless classic 'Skylarking'. He remains as prolific today as he ever was, but it's for his massively influential falsetto voice that he's most recognisable.

Meanwhile the surviving members of The Wailers (*pictured*) are back on tour, performing the whole of the legendary 'Exodus' album, arguably the greatest reggae album of all time. As Bob Marley's backing band, the Wailers have been touring for over 40 years and have some 250 million album sales under their belts. The current line-up features a good smattering of those who played with Marley, including original member Aston 'Family Man' Barrett, plus Keith Sterling, Chico Chin and Nambo Robinson. Current lead vocal duties are taken by Elan Aticas. Early reports suggest the band sound as good now as they ever did, and it's a rare chance to witness some of reggae's most legendary figures.





**POLLY SCATTERGOOD: O2 Academy** – Quirky, occasionally away-with-the-fairies electro-acoustic pop from Brit School graduate Polly, eschewing the flawless, plastic r'n'b of her former classmates for a more individualistic approach, her unsettling little girl lost voice akin to Kate Bush and Tori Amos at times. Her eponymous debut album is released this month.

**JENIFEREVER + BAYONETS + WISE CHILDREN: The Cellar** – Oceanic indie rocking from the Scandinavian wonders – *see main preview*

**DENNY ILETT Jr: The Winchester SOUL & REGGAE NIGHT: The Bullingdon**

**NATIONAL RECORD SHOP DAY NIGHT: Fat Lil's, Witney** – Rapture Records celebrates the culture of independent music shops with a night of bands and DJs.

### **SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup>**

**THE DOORS ALIVE: O2 Academy** – Tribute to the dark-hearted 60s rockers.

**THE DAVID SHIRES BIG BAND: The Bullingdon**

### **MONDAY 20<sup>th</sup>**

**THE WAILERS PLAY EXODUS: O2 Academy** – Surviving members of the legendary reggae supergroup perform the classic album and more – *see main preview*  
**LIGHTIN' WILLIE & THE POORBOYS: The Bullingdon** – Another visit to the Famous Monday Blues club for the Texas-born, Pasadena-resident electric blues guitarist, a big favourite on the UK blues circuit with his rocking blues, swing and rock'n'roll that mixes up Otis Rush, Stevie Ray Vaughan and Eddie Cochran.

### **TUESDAY 21<sup>st</sup>**

**JAZZ CLUB: The Bullingdon** – With a live set from The Howard Peacock Quintet.  
**QUADROPHOBE + VERONA KINGS + ROBIN MOFFATT: The Cellar** – Under The Oak Festival warm-up show.

### **WEDNESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**1990s: The Bullingdon** – Classic Stones-inspired rocking from the indie hopefuls – *see main preview*  
**FIGHTSTAR + IN CASE OF FIRE + LARUSO: O2 Academy** – Charlie Simpson's lightweight melodic post-grunge rockers play the first night of a UK tour to promote new album 'Be Human', out on their own label. Epic stadium rocking in support from In Case Of Fire.  
**PHAT SESSIONS: The Cellar**  
**ACOUSTIC LOUNGE: Fat Lil's, Witney**

### **THURSDAY 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**BRAKES + THE VOLUNTARY BUTLER SCHEME: The Bullingdon** – Welcome return of Brighton's almost semi-supergroup Brakes (formed by members of Electric Soft Parade, The Tenderfoot and British Sea Power back in 2005) and their exuberantly spiky blend of Pixies, Violent Femmes and Modern Lovers. Whimsical, sunshiny electro-folk from one-man-band Voluntary Butler Scheme in support.  
**WINTERMUTE: The Cellar** – Taut, angular rocking somewhere between Futureheads and Minus The Bear from Leeds' Wintermute.

**BRICKWORK LIZARDS + OLIVER SHAW + 100 THINGS TO DO IN DOVER: The Jericho Tavern** – Eclectic and exotic blend of 40s jazz, world rhythms, hip hop and rock from Brickwork Lizards, plus singer-songwriter Oliver Shaw.  
**CATWEAZLE CLUB: East Oxford Community Centre**  
**OPEN MIC SESSION: The Half Moon**  
**YOU WEREN'T THERE BAND: The Chequers, Headington Quarry**  
**BEELZEBOZO + HEADCOUNT + BEAVER FUEL: Fat Lil's, Witney** – Local punk tyrants Headcount return from the grave to show feeble-minded punk whelps how it should be done. And how it should be done is with equal parts Killing Joke, Banshees, Therapy? and Adam & The Ants, with a hefty dash of extreme swearing. Job done. Considerable heaviosity too from Beelzebozo, while Beaver Fuel bring extra fuzzy noise pop and rudeness to the party.

### **FRIDAY 24<sup>th</sup>**

**AND YOU WILL KNOW US BY THE TRAIL OF DEAD + MIDDLE CLASS RUT: O2 Academy** – Return of Austin, Texas' one-time venue-trashing great rock revolutionary hopes, still kicking out the garage-punk, art-rock jams, now going it alone after leaving Interscope and having just released their sixth album, 'The Century Of Self', not quite a classic in the vein of 'Source Tags & Codes' but still a blast of fresh, raw melodic American punk noise. Excellent support tonight too from Middle Class Rut, partway between Refused and Jane's Addiction.  
**MELTING POT with KING OF SPAIN + VIXENS: The Bullingdon**  
**MEGAN GODWIN + PHIL KING + NIKKI LOY + EMMA PAYNE: The Jericho Tavern** – Acoustic folk, jazz and soul from Brighton's Megan Godwin.  
**THE MIGHTY REDOX + THE PETE FRYER BAND: The Chester Arms** – Swampy blues rock and psychedelia from The Mighty Redox.  
**BACKROOM BOOGIE: The Bullingdon**  
**HQ: The Cellar** – Monthly drum&bass and hip hop club night.  
**GET DOWN: The Brickworks**  
**FUSE: O2 Academy**  
**COVER ME: The Winchester, Crown Street**  
**SNEAKY BONUS: Fat Lil's, Witney** – Rock covers from Foo Fighters to Hendrix.

### **SATURDAY 25<sup>th</sup>**

**GAPPY TOOTH INDUSTRIES with SANGUINE HUM + CHERRY BUT NO CAKE + GEORGE CHOPPING: The Wheatsheaf** – Another night of eclectic musical fun from GTI, with the return of local prog-jazz man Joff Winks with his new band Sanguine Hum. Indie rock American style from Cherry But No Cake, referencing Sebadoh, Pavement and Built To Spill, plus caustic observational poetry from Devon's George Chopping.  
**MATHIAS EICK: The O'Reilly Theatre, Keble College** – The Norwegian trumpeter and multi-instrumentalist, who has performed with Chick Corea, and his band perform material from debut album 'The Door'  
**THE REPEATS + MC SHUFFLE + FIXERS: The Cellar** – Poppy indie noise taking

We are currently seeking a new artist/band to add to the roster, any genre welcome. Please send a CD or myspace link to the following:

**RADIATE MGT**  
**PO BOX 5038**  
**CHECKENDON**  
**OXFORDSHIRE**  
**RG8 0AW**

jonichap@gmail.com

*Current Roster - Stornoway, Royworld  
A&R experience includes Willy Mason,  
Stereophonics, Daft Punk, the Spinto Band*



**Indie**  
**Recording Studio**

The Indie Guitar Co  
Recording Studio

Oxfordshire, UK

Tel: 0044 (0) 1635 579300

email: sales@indieguitars.com

Web: www.indieguitarstudio.com

"Same Quality Assured for  
Major Artist or First Demo"

Give us a call  
for an informal chat

Producer and engineer with 20 years combined experience.  
Top 10 hits and a modern sound.



**FLASH HARRY ENTERPRISES**

**PA HIRE**

3k / 5k compact & potent **BOSE** other systems available

32 channel desk & foldback  
24 track live recording

Tony Jezzard  
01865 876084 07702 211792

Email: pahire@flashharryenterprises.co.uk  
www.flashharryenterprises.co.uk



**RECORDS & CD FAIR**

OXFORD TOWNHALL

**FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH**

ROCK-POP-DANCE-GOLDEN OLDIES-INDIE-SOUL-TECHNO-HIP-HOP-JAZZ-LATIN-REGGAE-DRUM&BASS-GARAGE—R&B-DISCO-1950s-2000s. Brand new back catalogue CDs £4 - £7

influences from the likes of Talking Heads and Battles as well as African dance from The Repeats.  
**FOY VANCE + IAIN ARCHER: The Jericho Tavern** – Uplifting folk, soul, gospel and acoustic blues from Belfast singer-songwriter Foy Vance, variously likened to Tom Waits, Stevie Wonder and Van Morrison.

**NU-SKOOL: The Bullingdon**  
**THE MATT SAGE BAND + MAPS & MAZES + ELLIE FLETCHER: Stocks Bar, Crown & Thistle, Abingdon** – Skittle Alley bands night with local folk and world music maestro Matt Sage.  
**SHATTERED DREAMS + SLAPDASH + SECRET RIVALS: Folly Bridge Inn** – Lightweight grungy rock from Shattered Dreams, plus lively ska-punk from Slapdash and scuzzy synth-punk noise from Secret Rivals.  
**DENNY ILETT Jr: The Winchester**

## SUNDAY 26<sup>th</sup>

**SPEAR OF DESTINY: O2 Academy** – Kirk Brandon's gothabilly rockers return after their recent Greatest Hits tour.  
**OPEN MIC SESSION: The Fleur de Lys, Dorchester on Thames**  
**ACOUSTIC OPEN MIC SESSION: The Red Lion, Kidlington**

## Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>

### 1990s: The Bullingdon

1990s hail from Glasgow and have a habit of sounding like any other classic rock band of the last 40 years – solid r'n'b and rock'n'roll courtesy of the Stones or even Modern Lovers, all spiked up with a lyrically sharp attitude and a fair dollop of scratchy post-punk funk. So far, so... well, unremarkable. And yet they're signed to Rough Trade and boast Klaxons, Maximo Park, CSS and Beth Ditto as fans. Part of their cult success thus far is doubtless due to their Glaswegian connections – frontman Jackie McKeown and bassist Jamie McMorrow were former Yummy Fur bandmates of Franz Ferdinand's Alex Kapranos, while drummer Michael McGaughrin was in highly-rated Glaswegian band V-Twin previous to 1990s. Such roots have heled them stand out from the pile from the off and with their new album, 'Kicks', produced by current golden boy Bernard Butler, those muso endorsements might finally translate into genuine popularity. In fact it's 1990s uncomplicated rock'n'roll party sound that might steer them closer to the top – it's everyman pop, all girls and bus rides, as at home on Radios 1 and 2 as 6Music, the sort of authentic classic sound that'll appeal as much to the Q-reading massive as the toilet circuit regulars.



**REGGAE REGGAE SUNDAY: The Cellar**  
**BIG BLUES JAM: Fat Lil's, Witney**  
**SILVANITO: The Jericho Tavern**

## MONDAY 27<sup>th</sup>

**GOMEZ: O2 Academy** – After Ben Ottewell's solo show at the Bully a couple of months back Gomez return to action as a full band. Having spent most of the last few years touring the States, they set out on a UK tour to promote new album 'A New Tide', their rootsy blues and folk-pop having previously won them the Mercury Prize.  
**CANCER BATS + THE PLIGHT + SSS: O2 Academy** – Nasty bad men make horrid metal noise chaos mayhem - see main preview  
**THE HAMILTON LOOMIS BAND: The Bullingdon** – Return of the young Texan bluesman who was mentored by Bo Diddley, Clarence Brown and Albert Collins. A virtuoso multi-instrumentalist as adept at piano, drums and blues harp as he is with his trademark Strat guitar, and adding a funky dash to traditional Delta blues.

## TUESDAY 28<sup>th</sup>

**INTERNATIONAL JETSETTERS + CAT MATADOR + THE LONG INSIDERS: O2 Academy** – Excellent triple bill of local rising talents with powerhouse ethereal indie noise from International Jetsetters calling at all stations Mary Chain, Wedding Present and Cocteau Twins on their stratospheric journey into sound. Darkly melodic new wave rocking from Cat Matador, plus elegantly cinematic pop from The Long Insiders.  
**FOUR DEAD IN OHIO: O2 Academy** – Epic psychedelic prog-rockers lean towards Black Rebel Motorcycle Club and Black Angels' gothic-garage rock noise.  
**FRANK TURNER: The Wheatsheaf** – First of a series of local, low-key shows for Frank to try out a set of new songs, Oxford being his second home, and backed as ever by members of Dive Dive. All of the shows – two at the Sheaf, two at the Cellar, are long-since sold out, following on from his recent sold-out Academy show. Another Academy headline show is planned for October.  
**JAZZ CLUB: The Bullingdon** – Tonight's special guests are self-proclaimed "Kings Of Chav Jazz" The Original Rabbit Foot Spasm Band, playing old-time standards with a punk rock attitude.

**WISHBONE ASH: Kidlington FC** – The 70s mellow rock giants keep on keeping on, guitarist Andy Powell now the only original member still with the band.

**THE JON FLETCHER GROUP: East Oxford Community Centre** – The local folk luminary performs his traditional acoustic English songs with Colin Fletcher and Jane Griffiths.

## WEDNESDAY 29<sup>th</sup>

**FRANK TURNER: The Wheatsheaf** – Second night of the folk-punk troubadour's local pub venue residency.

**MOTION TRIO: Wesley Memorial Church** – OCM present the world-renowned Polish accordion trio.

**OFF-FIELD: Baby Simple** – Leftfield noise from Suicide-inspired lo-fi merchant Foetus 502, the Alice Wishart String Trio and 'psychic-laptop' chap Huey Neutron.

**INLIGHT + THE YEAH YOUS +**



## Monday 27<sup>th</sup>

### CANCER BATS: O2 Academy

Firstly the disappointing news – Cancer Bats were originally intended to play the Academy as support to In Flames, but they went and cancelled their tour. But still, Cancer Bats alone is more than worth the effort of dragging your sorry corpse off the sofa and necking several large casks of ale in pursuit of. The Toronto outfit have been around for a while now, supporting the likes of Funeral For A Friend, Rise Against and NOFX, but it was with the release of second album, 'Hail Destroyer', that they started really tuning heads, picking up a 5K review in Kerrang! who subsequently named it as one of the best albums of 2008. The album features contributions from members of Alexisonfire, Rise Against and Billy Talent and finds the band really honing their often anthemic brand of blitzkrieg metalcore, low on subtlety and innovation maybe but big on all-out singalong mayhem and ferocity. Tour support comes from Leeds' heavy duty amp-botherers The Plight, finding a middle ground between Thin Lizzy's melodic hard rock and Black Flag's venomous hardcore.

**LIDDINGTON: The Jericho Tavern** – Epic stadium indie noise from Inlight with nods to Coldplay and Keane, plus ballsy 80s-style soul-pop and Supertramp-meets-The Eagles rocking from new Island Records signings The Yeah Yous. Contemplative acoustic pop from Liddington.  
**AMOROUS JAZZ: The Temple**

## THURSDAY 30<sup>th</sup>

**THE HAND + ICHI + THE JOE ALLEN BAND + ALLY CRAIG: The Bullingdon** – Rachael Dadd's new band, The Hand, headline tonight's Moshka club night, proffering a mellow, atmospheric take on traditional English folk, plus excellent emotive acoustic pop from The Joe Allen Band and skewed Jeff Buckley-esque pop from Ally Craig.

**THE DAYS + THE NOMINEES + PICNIC NOW: O2 Academy** – Classic soul rocking from the Devon crew.

**FRANK TURNER: The Cellar** – Another already sold-out low-key show from the punk-folk troubadour.

**THE DELTA FREQUENCY + THE SCARLETTS + CAT MATADOR: Fat Lil's, Witney** – Monstrous electro-goth rocking from Delta Frequency, plus ska-punk from Scarletts and Clinic-meets-The Cure indie pop from Cat Matador.

*Nightshift listings are free. Deadline for inclusion in the gig guide is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month - no exceptions. Call 01865 372255 (10am-6pm) or email listings to Nightshift@oxfordmusic.net. All listings are copyright of Nightshift and may not be reproduced without permission*

# Oxfordshire's premier website for local music.

For demo reviews,  
contact [stuart@oxfordbands.com](mailto:stuart@oxfordbands.com)  
or [colin@oxfordbands.com](mailto:colin@oxfordbands.com).



OxfordBands.com

## APRILTIVITY FROM TRUCK

**SATURDAY 4th**  
6-8pm **OXFORD LITERARY FESTIVAL**  
lyric-writing workshop  
with Robin Bennett and Jenny Lewis

also ... **COTSWOLD SPRING LAGER LAUNCH**  
Chipping Norton Town Hall  
with live music from D.A.D.S and a free pint

**FRIDAY 10th, 8pm.**  
D.A.D.S rocking the **TRUCK EASTER EGG HUNT**  
at The Chester Arms - **FREE ENTRY.**

**THURSDAY 16th, 10am-4pm**  
**CHILDREN'S RAINFOREST FESTIVAL** at Fusion Arts  
Cowley Road. For children up to 14 yrs.

**THURSDAY 23rd, 8pm WOOD FESTIVAL PARTY**  
The Oakford Social Club, Reading. **FREE ENTRY**

**SUNDAY 26th WOOD PREVIEW 2-7pm**  
Barracks Lane Community Garden  
music and kids' art workshops. **FREE ENTRY**

## TRUCK AND WOOD FESTIVAL TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW

[www.thisistruck.com](http://www.thisistruck.com)

TCTMUSIC PRESENT

[WWW.TCTMUSIC.CO.UK](http://WWW.TCTMUSIC.CO.UK)



PLUS GUESTS

**THURSDAY 30 APRIL**  
**READING HEXAGON**  
0118 960 6060

**SETH  
LAKEMAN**

**WEDNESDAY 27 MAY**  
**READING HEXAGON**  
(SEATED SHOW)

0118 960 6060 / [WWW.READINGARTS.COM](http://WWW.READINGARTS.COM)  
[WWW.KILILIVE.COM](http://WWW.KILILIVE.COM)



THE VOLUNTARY  
PLUS GUESTS BUTLER SCHEME

**THURSDAY 23 APRIL**  
**OXFORD**  
**THE BULLINGTON**



**WEDNESDAY 22 APRIL**  
**OXFORD THE BULLINGTON**



CO HEADLINE TOUR

**THUR 02 APRIL**  
**OXFORD**  
**THE BULLINGTON**

plus guests  
Minor Coles +  
Lucky finger

**OXFORD  
THE  
BULLINGTON**

**Wednesday**  
**April 15th**



plus guests  
The Wookies + Strobolight

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM THE VENUES, [WWW.TCTMUSIC.CO.UK](http://WWW.TCTMUSIC.CO.UK), [WWW.WEGOTTICKETS.COM](http://WWW.WEGOTTICKETS.COM), [WWW.TICKETWEB.CO.UK](http://WWW.TICKETWEB.CO.UK) AND USUAL OUTLETS.



Sponsored  
by

hmv get closer

## RED SQUARE / NON-STOP TANGO / OVERRATED / BRAIN DOGS

### The Wheatsheaf

Like me, Red Square are post-everything and at war with the obvious. Actually they were post-everything when they were (free) formed in the 1970s, before "everything" had happened, so now I guess they are post-post-everything.

Tonight's phenomenal set is the first time that Jon Seagroatt, on bass clarinet and soprano sax, guitarist Ian Staples, and percussionist Roger Telford have played together as Red Square since going on to form B So Global, a more consumer-friendly improvisation band, in the early-1990s.

Red Square are the sonic manifestation of a Jackson Pollack painting: initially appearing like an amateurish piss-take, the longer you listen to this tuneless imbroglia the more you're sucked into the individual virtuoso layers coming together as a whole. I'm not sure I'd buy it to play it at home, but as a live, breathtaking, experience it's gig of the year. Genius.

After such extremes, equally avant-gardeners Non-Stop Tango are the only band who could gently bring the audience, that has been trying to gnaw its way out of the building to escape, back to the stage. Fronted by local software wiz Miles Doubleday (who appears to be wearing the pelt of a Friesian cow as a coat), they are steeped in the experimental ways of Arthur Brown and The Bonzo Dog Doo Dah Band, with a keen sense of world music, dub and a deep love of all things King Crimson. It's wildly eccentric, and it has tunes.

With the Klub Kakofanney crowd now feeling bold enough to get back out dancing, bassist Graham Barlow, usually seen tugging cables with Redox and even further back, Nortica, brings his new project to the stage with the MC's



Nikki Silk photography

cry, "This is Overrated!" (oh my aching sides.). Overrated are a real party band: loose-limbed blues that rocks seven on the Richter scale, with some of the best blues harp playing, by the singer, I've heard in a long time. They easily ramp up the audience's mojo 'til it's hard to move out there for flying elbows and cider-waving fruggers.

Sunningwell's Brain Dogs keep with the high energy blues but a more whacked-out, southern Baptist, double bass vibe, and with a George Melly skanky bossanova feel. And is someone singing "All I need is a Chocolate Jesus / It keeps me satisfied" over and over? It's been a long evening; maybe I'm just Pollacksed.

Paul Carrera

## DANA GILLESPIE

### The Bullingdon

One-time girlfriend of Bob Dylan, star in the original cast of *Jesus Christ Superstar* and close friend of David Bowie's ex-wife, Angela, Dana Gillespie could only get more rock and roll if you force fed her Led Zeppelin CDs and told her to 'dance, Dana, dance' to Black Sabbath.

These days she gigs occasionally with her London Blues Band, and tonight she's brought these merry men along for an intimate appearance at the Famous Monday Night Blues in the Bully's Back Room.

In wonderfully good voice, she deliver two hours of fairly broad blues tunes and boogie woogie numbers. Although the highlights come from the more stripped down stuff (her rendition of the 'St Louis Blues' is pretty excoriating), there are more peaks than troughs. Saying that, a lot of the set is uptempo; for a gig that goes on to midnight, that's bloody hard work.

Gillespie's set is well oiled, her band managing the right combination of well rehearsed and spontaneous and her voice is unfalteringly strong and clear.

Although a lot of the songs will probably be only recognisable to die-hard blues bands, or fans that own most of her fifty or so releases, she keeps things fun and uplifting throughout, and keeps a short, but democratic, leash on her band. She allows each of them complex and long (if self-indulgent) solos at the show's climax, the clear standout of which is the lead guitarist, although the harmonica player displays admirable lung capacity.

It's a well put together, crowd-pleasing show delivered by a genuinely great veteran performer, accompanied by a great band. The long-haired guy dancing through the audience in a large pixie hat is good value too.

James Benefield

## OFF THE RADAR / OFF THE RADAR

### The Jericho Tavern

Rosalita are an interesting proposition. Visually, there's something of a shambolic swagger about them – and I'm not really sure about singer Kris's white woollen overcoat, hat, grey jumper and the mockney voice he sings/talks/yelps in – but the music is far more tight. It has a punchy, melodic 80s bass-led and synth-augmented vibe, and there's quite a bit of ska in there somewhere among the hooks.

'Manga Girl' is a nice slice of pop-punk punchiness – something The Faint might do if they lightened up a bit. 'What Would Your Mother Say' (a cautionary tale of a youngster going off the rails) is similarly sparky and 'Art Attack' is – joyously – about Neil Buchanan's *Art Attack* ("Not as good as Hart Beat... TV ain't what it used to be").

All more fun, I'm afraid, than Off the Radar. On paper, they probably sound great. But therein lies the problem – they come over as far

less than the sum of their parts. It's a shame because they've been together for ages and have obviously finely crafted their style and songwriting, but their particular blend of jangly rock'n'roll, blues, indie, pub-rock doesn't work for me. The guitar parts are too frenetic and meander without really nailing anything, and the rest doesn't get anywhere either. There's nothing really wrong with songs like 'Cut to the Chaser' and 'The Man from Del Monte', they're just not very memorable. On the plus side, the harmonies between guitarist Daz and bassist Tim are charming.

The whole experience reminds me of watching a TV programme because it sounded great in the Radio Times, but then realising as soon as it's finished that, while you were quite happy to sit through it, you were never engaged and can't remember anything that happened. Like the second series of *Heroes*, really.

Kirsten Etheridge

hmv Oxford supporting local music  
hmv Oxford 43/46 Cornmarket Street  
get closer to the music, films and games you love



## FROM LIGHT TO SOUND / THIN GREEN CANDLES

### The Wheatsheaf

A conspiracist who believed in an Oxford clique would be appalled by tonight's line-up, a mixture of promoter, reviewer, celebrated musician and message board urchin, who are nearly all in other local projects. Grand esoteric cabal or not, even our paranoid theorist would admit that it was a strong evening's music.

Thin Green Candles is the laptop work of one man, performed live with a further four musicians, who are presumably there because some undying *Rock School* niggle dictates that you're not in a *real* band until you have *real* instruments, but who in reality just muddle along to some decent electronica. Take 'Good Dead', a lively kick-drum thumper with some rasply distorted Kaoss squiggles sounding like an old acid house record played down a CB radio, to which the live ensemble add little, aside from horrible headgear. In fairness, the occasional vocals are sweetly melodic, and the bass has a fruitiness that the synthesised music can't capture, but the guitar is especially clumsy, frequently falling into default Pink Floyd arpeggios. Tellingly, on the final piece the band messes up, coming out of synch with the laptop, and by necessity comes up with an intriguingly noisy solution to ending the

track. "Honour thy mistakes as hidden intentions," as Brian Eno might counsel.

By contrast, From Light To Sound's music is impeccably put together, thoughtfully arranged and expertly, dynamically controlled. This band's members may have juicy CVs, but it's still noteworthy how naturally they're playing together after only a handful of gigs (some over-zealous guitar volume notwithstanding). The rhythm section particularly impresses, Mark Baker bringing an unhurried bass authority from The Workhouse, and Mark "Evenings" Wilden managing to make his drums brutal and cheeky simultaneously. They don't quite have the compositions as yet to do such a band justice: sometimes their tracks resemble offcuts and scrapings from their parent bands, squeezed together like a frugal ball of soap slivers, whilst at worst they sound like a melange of Audioscope-type bands so obvious we can't even be bothered to type them. Go on, have a guess.

So, two new bands which are entertaining and enormously promising, even if they might still have some developing to do. But we would say that, wouldn't we? We're in the clique.

*David Murphy*

## TESTAMENT

### O2 Academy

1988. Long hair, black skinny jeans and enormous white trainers were the order of the day for any fan of thrash metal. Top it off with a Nuclear Assault shirt and you were sure to garner a few giggles in Our Price.

The garb may be gone and almost everything that was extreme about thrash metal has been taken and surpassed by grindcore, and death-metal, but several of the original thrash bands have stuck at it and are now enjoying something of a renaissance.

Testament were always the Aston Villa of the trash scene. They never quite broke into the big four (Slayer, Metallica, Anthrax and Megadeth) and despite some early success by

1992 the line-up changes started, and with those came some inconsistency. Fast forward to 2008/9 and the original line up (drummer excluded) have started to garner interest again.

Opener 'More Than Meets the Eye', from their latest album, is a gallop through lightning riffs, skilfully executed solos, and possesses a hook so huge you could hang an elephant carcass on it. If Metallica hadn't strayed into commercial territory, and then lost the plot, they may well have come up with something like this. Older songs such as 'First Strike is Deadly', 'Over The Wall' and 'Into The Pit' all sound particularly fresh and considerably more muscular than they did when they first appeared 20 years ago. Guitarist Alex Skolnik's return to the group has given them a second wind and his refusal to allow speed to overrule melody in a solo is something that always gave Testament an edge. There are times tonight when his fretboard acrobatics put Eddie Van Halen to shame. A nod too to vocalist Chuck Billy, who's distinctive voice covers these songs like a sheen of bubbling snot and who, with no sense of irony, stands centre stage playing air guitar on his mic stand through out the gig.

The strength of the new songs, and the presence of fans who probably weren't even born when 'The Legacy' was released, suggests that this is more than a nostalgia trip and gives credence to the idea that metal will never die.

*Sam Shepherd*



photo: Sam Shepherd

## OPEN MIC NIGHT

at the

### FLEUR DE LYS.

To run every other Sunday, April dates include 12th and 26th. 8.30pm start.

All singers, musicians, artists and performers welcome.

**Contact Details: The Fleur de Lys, Dorchester on Thames, Wallingford, Oxon, OX10 7HH.**

**Telephone 01865 340502**

## GEEZER AUDIO

Recording, Mixing, Production, Live Sound  
Location Recording, Voice-overs

01865 427901

Or

07964 548240





## **ACTION BEAT / DON VITO / ELAPSE-O**

### **The Wheatsheaf**

What can we say about Elapse-O that hasn't been said before? It's four months since they last played live and still, with only one rehearsal since then, they sound as strong as ever. This two-piece band, plus AppleMac friend, create a unique, innovative sound that's hard to nail in any noise category. Industrial beats, heavy basslines and metallic guitar thumps exude sturdy creativity and melodic atmosphere, broken by flat and devotional vocals. Really, if you haven't seen Elapse-O yet, make it your mission to do so.

Don Vito are an intense three-piece from Leipzig in Germany, consisting of a drummer, guitarist and bassist. This may sound like a boring description of any 'normal' band but in the case of Don Vito, it's far from the truth. Don Vito are experts in supreme tightness; there is no other band that can make such loud noise with such creativity and step away from using rock instruments 'traditionally'. The sudden changes of rhythm, playful drum rolls and passionate shrieks leave you thrilled and out of breath. They're a teaser to the ears, offering complexity, speed and metal-based rollercoasters in 50-second-song brilliance. Don Vito are the godfathers of storm-lighting noise.

Action Beat are a noise improvisation punk band from Bletchley, inspired by Sonic Youth, Glenn Branca, Crystal Antlers, the Boredoms and other guitar-drums ensembles. Even though tonight we have seven musicians on stage, their rotating crew can be up to fourteen, (with four guitarists, a few bassists and up to four drummers). They like to experiment with sound, playing big and bouncy beats, with the intensity of Fugazi or Sonic Youth. Perhaps it is this natural intensity that pulls them together musically, but when it comes to adventurous behaviour and extravagance on the beats, there is no element of surprise. In fact, their three drum kits blend sweatily and blandly as much as their tracks do, one after the other and the other and the other. Ultimately they're perfect music only for lovers of techno music in the form of pure DIY noise.

*Liane Escorza*

## **BLEEDING HEART NARRATIVE / BEN ULPH**

### **Holywell Music Room**

Bob Dylan was famously lambasted for going electric, something that I used to consider ridiculous. What of progress? What of volume? To some an acoustic guitar is often little more than something to strum at like a giant wooden pendent while the singer-songwriter wearing it lists the many things wrong with their life. Those that step outside the pop world for more than two minutes know that the acoustic guitar can offer spine-tingling thrills more often associated with orchestral instruments.

Ben Ulph is one of Oxford's most gifted guitar players, often overshadowed by the guitar-mangling James Sedwards. Tonight he gets a chance to show yet again why he should be considered Sedwards' equal. The folk and blues-infused pieces he plays are not the most technical, but they certainly hit a nerve. They're quite minimal in terms of arrangement, but the repeated phrases gain a momentum similar to a battered utility vehicle chugging down a dirty track road just as the brakes fail. The quiet passages require close attention as Ulph's fingers trip across strings and then, just as you're pulled into a hypnotic groove, he strikes at his

guitar with force and considered precision. You can almost hear it groan as the strings slap and quake, and that *is* as exciting as a guitar amplified loud enough to make your ears bleed.

In the studio, Bleeding Heart Narrative are an outlet for Oliver Barrett. For this performance we find them expanded out into a six-strong ensemble featuring violin, cello, guitar, piano, and a host of beautiful droning voices. On the strength of their album, 'All That Was Missing We Never Had In The World', they would be easily pigeonholed as post-rock, but there is nothing post-rock about them tonight. To these ears, it's almost like a group of pastoral symphonies. Each piece is an exercise in elation, slowly building and pulsing, reaching towards epiphanies as the band's droning vocals mourn and give praise to god knows what in equal measure. If there's a better venue in Oxford or indeed the country in which to hear Bleeding Heart Narrative, I'd be surprised. The acoustics of the Holywell turn their songs into a fog of emotion that fills the room. It's a perfect combination that is nothing short of stunning.

*Sam Shepherd*

## **LIGHTS ACTION / THE WINCHELL RIOTS / SAID MIKE**

### **O2 Academy**

By chance I arrive at this gig fresh from a weekend in south Wales, where the closest to a vibrant music scene I uncovered was a sign advertising 'The Stereo Manics'. Yet tonight's beacon of light is Said Mike from Pontypridd in that very part of the world. Four old school friends who've been doing this for six years, their take on metal is not dissimilar to Biffy Clyro's, but if anything more successfully executed. Singer Tom's voice is quite extraordinary, swooping and soaring above the unrelenting guitar assault that drives their sound. The disappointment is that this level of talent cries out for songwriting to match, and that's where the work needs to be done.

The Winchell Riots continue many of the traditions of former incarnation Fell City Girl: The same self-important, ponderous air, the same endlessly repeated phrases (as if that somehow makes them more significant), the same over-emoting of tortuous lyrics tripping over themselves. Despite an abundance of self-belief you might have hoped that time and experience would have instilled in them some kind of maturity, but the evidence is nowhere to be seen. Their being touted as the next Snow Patrol is a

more savage blow than any critic could possibly land, but on the plus side, they've kept the excellent drummer.

Lights Action provide a welcome breath of fresh air. Unpretentious, passionate and thoughtful, they seem to know their artistic limits and stay carefully within them. It takes me a while to realise that it's early U2 that they bring to mind, combined with a harder take on the Ryan Adams style of modern singer-songwriters. There's more than a touch of vaudeville as well yet, impressive as all this is, I have to go straight back to their Myspace to remind myself what they actually sound like.

In fact, I don't hear one tune tonight that could be recalled the next day; it's almost as though bands are now too busy working on their image and production to devote sufficient time to the tiresome business of actually writing great songs. In the 70s no-one took Abba very seriously, in fact they were regarded as a bit of a joke, but now academics base whole careers on poring over their musical syntax. I don't see any of tonight's bands facing the same future.

*Art Lagun*

# THE SHAKER HEIGHTS

## The Jericho Tavern

Ever been given a present that was wrapped so beautifully, so divinely that you knew it had to be something special? But when you opened it all that was there was just a pair of slippers and some lavender hand lotion from Boots? That's a little bit how I feel tonight with The Shaker Heights. Third song in to their set, and I am having to ask the sound engineer if I arrived on the wrong evening. They sound nothing like what's represented on their website. I was expecting acoustic, edgy folk rock like The Delgados with a touch of The Cure, and instead am getting overdriven guitars, which often drown out fellow band mates. So it's not what I expected but that's okay. One mustn't dwell.

The Shaker Heights are a little frustrating. Not because they sound nothing like their MySpace page. I'm already over that. It's that with almost every song a good idea emerges. A catchy riff, the way the whole band gel together, the bass and drums really feeling a groove, but it never rises to the next level. Whether it's a massive anthemic chorus, or a complete change in dynamics. A sinister starting 'Wrecking Balls' (I think that's what he's singing) is definitely on the right track. It's angular and alluring with all the right makings of something special, but fails to get there.

But I really do feel The Shaker Heights could have much to offer. Lead singer, Vincent Coole, has a wonderfully rich yet vulnerable voice that

reminds me sometimes of Jim Morrison or Richard Ashcroft, but the sound is really letting them down. It's difficult to hear Vincent or much of the keyboards. And so I will go away tonight thinking I would really like to hear them again - but perhaps in a different venue.

**Katy Jerome**

## VIC GODARD & SUBWAY SECT / LES CLOCHARDS / THE GULLIVERS

### The Wheatsheaf

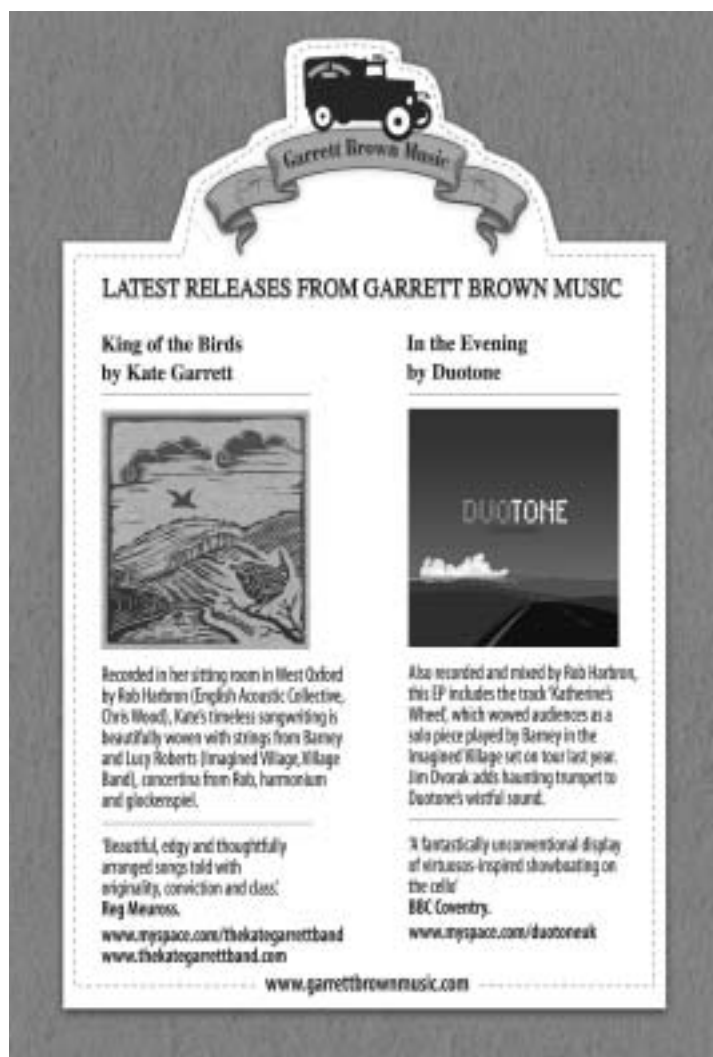
It shouldn't be a surprise to read that one of the legendary lost jewels in punk's crown, Subway Sect, are back, thirty years later, playing and recording once again. Everybody's reforming these days. Soon there'll be no new bands; just older and older incarnations of the same groups, sustaining their careers with a revolving door policy on replacement members. It'll certainly keep the pressures of originality under control, regardless of the inevitable diminishing returns effect on passion and interest. Anyway, on to the matter in hand. The Gullivers look young, but have been around for a few years, I believe. So it's surprising that they seem nervous and prone to slip-ups. They're often on the verge of sounding great and, indeed, the last couple of songs tonight see the elements fall into place to create solid, atmospheric, epic music that could

slot into 4AD's output in, ooh, 1992 or so. It's frustrating that they scupper themselves with bum notes, clashing vocals and an unsteady performance, but if they can work up the glimmers of dynamic, skewed quality into something more consistent, they could become something to be reckoned with.

Les Clochards, conversely, play with almost scientific precision and correctness, but miss out on providing any kind of emotional core to their music. Whilst pseudo-French accordion-led folk music would never strictly be up my musical *boulevard*, it's presented here with such grown-up safety that it's irksome to say the least. Music for a Sunday trip to Ikea.

No such problems for Vic Godard & Subway Sect, who admirably shuffle on stage to just get on with it. What a pleasure to hear these songs played live, and played honest and true, by a man who's still not shy of playing a raw, humble set of songs that typify an effortless, unique sound. He always seemed to eschew the relentless nihilism of punk, in the same way that Buzzcocks did, and that can only help these thirty-year-old songs to sound fresh today. It can't hurt that Godard's guitar tone is a hair away from the clanging metallic shock of Steve Albini, or that, especially in their keyboard-heavy numbers, the band expose the direct line between late-'70s punk and mid-'60s garage. If criticism is necessary, it would be to say that the set should have been three or four songs shorter, but that's about it. Vic Godard still has it, whatever it was that made the original Subway Sect so special. Finally, a reformed band that works.


**Simon Minter**



**Garrett Brown Music**

**LATEST RELEASES FROM GARRETT BROWN MUSIC**

**King of the Birds**  
by Kate Garrett



Recorded in her sitting room in West Oxford by Rob Harbron (English Acoustic Collective, Chris Wood), Kate's timeless songwriting is beautifully woven with strings from Barney and Lucy Roberts (Imagined Village, Village Band), concertina from Rob, harmonium and glockenspiel.

Beautiful, edgy and thoughtfully arranged songs told with originality, conviction and class.  
**Reg Meadows**  
[www.myspace.com/thekategarrettband](http://www.myspace.com/thekategarrettband)  
[www.thekategarrettband.com](http://www.thekategarrettband.com)

**In the Evening**  
by Duotone



Also recorded and mixed by Rob Harbron, this EP includes the track 'Katherine's Wheel', which wowed audiences as a solo piece played by Barney in the Imagined Village set on tour last year. Jim Dvorak adds booming trumpet to Duotone's weird sound.

A fantastically unconventional display of virtuosos-inspired showboating on the cello  
**BBC Coventry**  
[www.myspace.com/duotoneuk](http://www.myspace.com/duotoneuk)

[www.garrettbrownmusic.com](http://www.garrettbrownmusic.com)



MODMUSIC by arrangement with Primary Talent presents...

**THE WAILERS**  
PERFORM THE LEGENDARY ALBUM

**Exodus**  
IN ITS ENTIRETY  
FEATURING:

ATCHA PAREMYN BARRETT - VOICE / GARY WATKINS - SOLO VOCALS / KEITH STERLING - KEYBOARD  
CHICO OBEY - TRUMPET / JIMMY ROBERTSON - TROMBONE / CHAS BUNDS - BACKGROUND SINGERS  
COCOE VICTORY - BACKGROUND VOICES / WYNETH WATSON - DRUMMER / CHERRY - GUITAR

**+ DUBWEISER**

**APRIL 20**  
**OXFORD O2 ACADEMY**

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM:  
THE VENUE BOX OFFICE 01844 77 9000  
[WWW.BESTTICKET.COM](http://WWW.BESTTICKET.COM) / [WWW.WEGOTTICKETS.COM](http://WWW.WEGOTTICKETS.COM)  
[WWW.FIXTICKETS.COM](http://WWW.FIXTICKETS.COM) / [WWW.TICKETWEB.CO.UK](http://WWW.TICKETWEB.CO.UK)  
[WWW.WME.CO.UK](http://WWW.WME.CO.UK)

AFTERSHOW WITH  
THE LEGENDARY  
DJ DEXX  
& COUNT SCHABER  
(TROJAN RECORDS)

## THE SCARLETTS / THE FOLLYS / SECRET RIVALS

### The Bullingdon

Featuring a diminutive girl singer-keyboardist sporting a vast pair of WAG shades, dwarfed by two seriously gangly guitarists, Secret Rivals look a bit of an awkward mess. Which is appropriate because they sound like an awkward mess too. But this is their charm: they're a screeching, scraling blast of shrill fuzz-punk that alternately sounds like Bis played at double speed with all the tunes filleted with a pick-axe handle and replaced by extra shouting, or Huggy Bear played at double speed, falling down a mountain while being eaten feet-first by rabid otters. It's all so two-dimensional they're virtually a cartoon and every song sounds the same as the last, but such is their frenzied simplicity we can't help but enjoy them.

The Follys are twice as proficient but half as much fun. Their brand of trashy, bluesy rock from the mid-70s school of British r'n'b is solid and sometimes energetic enough, frontman Trev Williams a picture of intensity itself as he makes strange chicken noises, but the band can't let its basic simplicity breathe, the guitar parts too flowery and histrionic when all they need to do is chug in

rough'n'ready fashion, while the drummer looks pathologically bored up to the point they murder The Pixies' 'Where Is My Mind', almost rescuing the whole episode with some pretty authentic back vocals. Where The Follys do get it right, as on 'Maps To Nowhere', they display an ability to write meaty, hook-heavy thrash-pop in the style of Nick Lowe or Eddie & The Hotrods. Perhaps they just need to learn that less is so often more.

The Scarletts return us to that earlier feeling of barely-organised musical chaos with its attendant feeling of fun. They're new and still extremely rough round the edges, but they occasionally pull off the difficult task of making ska-punk that doesn't sound like a watered-down sum of its parts. They've got two good songs: 'Fifteen At The Bus Stop', a faux-yobbish skank about underage drinking, and the Libertines-esque 'Piss It Away', either of which are worthy of bigger name ska-punk bands. You feel for now, though, that a full set of such strong material is where they really need to be aiming; the potential is definitely there.

**Dale Kattack**

## LITTLE FISH / DRUNKENSTEIN

### The Wheatsheaf

Springing from the New Year musical void, it's celebratory shows galore this month as Oxford's artisans free their sound offerings from winter hibernation. It's a full house that greets tonight's springtime slew of new material; forthcoming EPs, label signings and summer in the air.

Drunkenstein, warming up for next month's CD launch, bring spears of punky guitar, scenic soloing and gothic melodrama to the packed bar. Tilting from hard rock *Rocky Horror* highs to the musical bleak of breathy, adept texture: the band are ghoulish-bop with vital guitar vocab. Appropriately for a county supergroup, there's a cracking swathe of musical influences in evidence: from creeping bass pop-horror crawling tension to jagged guitar slasher-movie spikes. Had Aleister Crowley ever founded a band, they'd rock sets like this. From divisive, jagged '9/8 Tune' to the slick grunge-razor 'Red Shift', dropping evil funk lines into acid jazz; uncompromisingly original, coating The Doors' instrumental freedom with Zappa-esque humour.

What better than melodrama to introduce Little Fish, here to play a farewell gig before being flung like Oxford sheep amongst Stateside

wolves into the SXSW Media Circus. Exuding all the breathtaking confidence and hypnotic-chaotic stage presence you've come to expect from this city's justifiably hyped export, Juju channels shattered soul to frenetic Juliette Lewis licks with none of the graceless plagiarism of Adele and her ilk. Staccato syllables punctuate heavy bop startling clap-response percussion, mining leftfield indie PJ Harvey, sliding luxuriously into darker pastures for 'Devil's Eyes' with gloriously off-beat, discordant guitar. There's a nod to the Velvet Underground in 'Die Young', knowingly artistic-self destructive, deep drift rock popping between the toms and snare off-shuffle. The set closes to a heroes' reception: encore 'You, Me and the TV' delves variety with a Kinks-y, 60s rock'n'roll closer.

Rapturous reception at The Wheatsheaf aside and whatever happens to the band in Texas, Little Fish were always too big for our pond: driving new music out of a recession-tinted winter, tonight's musical equinox riffs proof that there's plenty to be looking forward to this year.

**Liz Dodd**

## INTRODUCING....

*Nightshift's new monthly guide to the best local bands bubbling under*

## DESERT STORM

### Who Are They?

Desert Storm are Matt Ryan (vocals); Elliot Cole (drums); Chris White (lead guitar); Ryan Cole (rhythm guitar) and Chris Benoist (bass). They formed in early 2007. Elliot, Ryan and Chris White parted ways with their previous band, 20/20 Vision due to the usual musical differences. They joined forces with Matt and Chris who they'd known since school and shared similar tastes in music. The band have just released their debut, self-titled album, which was recorded at Dungeon Studios. After a few local gigs Desert Storm have started to take their stoner-metal noise out of town.

### What do they sound like?

The band's debut album is a fresh take on classic hard rock sounds, from Led Zeppelin, Hendrix and Black Sabbath to more hardcore elements and a heavy stoner vibe throughout. From bluesy hard rock riffs, through old-fashioned roadhouse blues to high-octane psychedelic excursions, with everything beefed up big time with a classic metal heaviness, solos and drum salvos, while singer Matt's great gravel-gargling roar is up there with Killdozer's Michael Gerald in its earthy, ogre-ish belligerence. Despite all this, they paint from a pleasingly mixed palette, drawing in ambient textures and even tabla on occasion. Or, in their own words, "The scream of a banshee resonating throughout the forest until the lush greenery peels back and reveals the harsh cracks in the desert skin of the earth."

### What inspires them?

"Black Sabbath, Led Zeppelin, Clutch, Metallica, Tool and Kyuss."

### Career highlight so far:

"Playing at the Academy supporting Exit Ten last year and headlining the Purple Turtle in Camden, which was our first out of town show."

### And the lowlight:

"Having to play a few shows as a four piece on the odd occasion."



### Their favourite other Oxfordshire band is:

"It's a tough one but it would probably have to be the skull crushing SEXTODECIMO!"

### If they could only keep one album in the world, it would be:

"Well, since its such an influential album to the metal genre as a whole, especially stoner metal it would have to be the first Black Sabbath record."

### When is their next gig and what can newcomers expect?

"Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April at the Wheatsheaf, and also the Punt in May. Newcomers can expect to witness a varied set of crushing stoner metal with a monstrous groove and some experimental psychedelic trips."

### Their favourite and least favourite things about Oxford music are:

"There's a lot of great venues to play in Oxford and bands to watch and of course Nightshift and any other magazine that helps to promote local music. Least favourite thing is the fact that there aren't enough rock/metal promoters about, and as Dr Slaggleberry said last month, there's too many indie bands about."

### You might love them if you love:

Led Zeppelin, Black Sabbath, Killdozer, Mastadon.

### Hear them here:

[www.myspace.com/experiencethestorm](http://www.myspace.com/experiencethestorm)



*The Complete Summer Weekend*

# CORNBURY FESTIVAL

NEAR CHARLBURY, OXFORDSHIRE

SCOUTING FOR GIRLS SUGABABES SHARLEEN SPITERI  
THE PRETENDERS MAGIC NUMBERS JOE JACKSON THE DAMNED  
TEDDY THOMPSON PEATBOG FAIRIES MARY COUGHLAN DODGY  
IMELDA MAY SHORTWAVE SET EDDI READER BOY LEAST LIKELY TO  
AVA LEIGH I AM KLOOT COUTE DIOMBOULOU AMY LAVERE 3 DAFT MONKEYS  
AND MANY MORE

**SATURDAY 11TH & SUNDAY 12TH JULY**

[WWW.CORNBURYFESTIVAL.COM](http://WWW.CORNBURYFESTIVAL.COM) C/CARD HOTLINE: 0871 472 0420

**Absolut.**  
100% GRAPE  
VODKA

**WORD**

**BBC**

OXFORD

**THE INDEPENDENT**

**müller**

**APPLETREE STUDIOS** 

64 TRACK DIGITAL / 24 TRACK ANALOGUE

**21 YEARS OF QUALITY RECORDINGS**

- \* HIGH QUALITY / LOW RATES
- \* FULLY STOCKED WITH ALL THE LATEST GEAR
- \* GREAT LINKS WITH MAJOR AND INDIE RECORDED COMPANIES
- \* GOOD SIZED LIVE ROOM, CONTROL ROOM & VOCAL BOOTH
- \* GREAT LOCATION WITH PLENTY OF PARKING
- \* FREE USE OF DRUMS, KEYBOARDS, GUITARS AMPS AND BASSES
- \* ALSO CASSETTE / C.D DUPLICATING & REHEARSAL FACILITIES

**FOR ALL YOUR RECORDING, MASTERING AND DUPLICATING NEEDS**

**01844 237916**

[www.appletreestudios.com](http://www.appletreestudios.com)

**Warehouse Studios**

24 Track HD Digital Recording  
Full Production & Rehearsal Studios

Oxford 01865-736411

[www.warehousestudios.com](http://www.warehousestudios.com)

\*\*\* Special Local Band Rates \*\*\*

**DUNGEON studios**

Recording and Rehearsals

CONTACT RICH HAINES TEL: 07790193260  
RHAINES.STUDIO@BTOPENWORLD.COM

[www.dungeonstudios.co.uk](http://www.dungeonstudios.co.uk)

**THE OXFORD DUPLICATION CENTRE**  
28 Central Road  
Bulington  
Oxon OX5 1AA

Office 01865 457000  
Mobile 07917 775477

High Quality On-Board Media  
Full Colour CD/DVD Duplication and Print  
All Format Video Tape Conversions  
Design and Printing Services

Recommended by: David Jampton, Peter Straker, The Smiley Mountains Band, English Sinfonia, Voxdolls, Locomotion, Rogues Dicks, Jamie Foley and many more...

[www.theduplicationcentre.co.uk](http://www.theduplicationcentre.co.uk)  
[info@theduplicationcentre.co.uk](mailto:info@theduplicationcentre.co.uk)

**KEYNOTE STUDIOS**

Record. Rehearse. Relax.

**CALL 01189 599944 OR 07740 291635**

[www.keynotestudios.co.uk](http://www.keynotestudios.co.uk)  
[info@keynotestudios.co.uk](mailto:info@keynotestudios.co.uk)

Our engineers have worked with diverse artists from Radiohead to Nine Inch Nails  
Student discount and package deals available.

# DEMOS

Sponsored by

**KEYNOTE STUDIOS**

## DEMO OF THE MONTH

### FROM HERE WE RUN!

Even as do-gooding social worker types tell us to give young bands more encouraging reviews, however crap they are, we point them towards the likes of From Here, We Run!, a bunch of teenagers who need no special dispensation, more than capable of bettering their elders with a rinky-dink form of almost gothic math-pop, with a demure disposition and packed with understated crescendos, discreet fuzz and tumbling drums that cascade around the young female singer with a voice filled with detached wonderment. We're not sure what the lass's name is; it says Consuela on the band's Myspace but then it also says the guitarist is called Papa Nbukto, and a quick glance through the local phone book suggests he doesn't really exist. Anyway, that aside, FHWR! list the likes of Foals, This Town Needs Guns and Don Caballero as inspirations but against the odds they're not just another typical Oxford composite band and sound more like we imagine All About Eve might have if they'd formed during the onset of math-rock: they're sweet, graceful in a Bambi kind of way and full of potential. 'Arrows' feels like it needs to get a bit of a move on at times but 'This House Is A House Is A House' is quite lovely and feels half its six minutes – no mean feat.

### MARK CROZER

Better known in Oxford now as mainstay of ethereal indie rockers International Jetsetters, singer and guitarist Mark Crozer has long been furnishing us with his solo demos and this new one finds him again at his most comfortable when wrapped up in a dreamy fug of 60s psychedelia and surf pop. Meshing sunshiney West Coast pop with a shoegazing shimmer, songs like 'Waiting For June' waft in partway between Ride and Mary Chain's airier moments and The Monkees at their most contemplative. It's uplifting stuff, but lacks the substance and grandiosity of the Jetsetters, although 'Here Comes The Storm' captures the lo-fi heavy distortion and dreaminess of Flying Saucer Attack's earliest, more primitive explorations.

### COLLISIONS & CONSEQUENCES

Occupying a similar middle ground between Coldplay et al's Radio 2-friendly melancholy and Biffy Clyro's anthemic, downbeat grunge

*Demo of the Month wins a free half day's recording at Keynote. Call 01189 599944 to claim your prize and get special deals for local bands!*

as fellow local stars Winchell Riots, Collisions & Consequences will have a fight on their hands to get noticed, but with the right breaks there's no reason why not, given the full-blooded accomplishment of these songs. Veering between tinkling piano and shredded fretboards, they emote with an epic sense of abandonment, gentle guitar twinkles heading skywards as it all kicks off. Meanwhile both 'Paths' and 'Ignite' here twitch and convulse restlessly at the edges, preventing it all getting too comfortable and Keane-like. As we say, they've got the chops, the only real obstacle to making a success of it is the dozens of other similarly-minded bands fighting for attention.

### THE RIVERS OF SOUND

Amid a multifyingly long biog that seems to list every single live music venue between here and Guernsey, The Rivers Of Sound promise us music that draws inspiration from the likes of Joy Division, Echo & The Bunnymen and The Smiths, which tends to make us sit up and wag our ickle tails like wee puppy dogs spying a tantalising bone. But, such is the enduring disappointment of life (which is why we're such a bunch of goths who listen to those sort of bands in the first place), the reality is very little like that, and more like a watered down Editors on such heavy downers they forgot to bring their songbook along. 'Weekend Call' boasts a decent hook-laden chorus, but beyond that they're simply treading water, hoping a vague sense of angsty longing will keep them afloat. They're accomplished and professional enough, but then so is our plumber and we can't imagine throwing ourselves ecstatically and drunkenly around the room to the sound of him replacing a faulty boiler. Although, thinking about it, he can be quite a laugh (unlike this lot) and those metallic banging noises he makes on the pipes do remind us not unpleasantly of Einstürzende Neubauten at times. Whoop whoop. Party on.

### HELL SHRINE

Is it fair to assume we know what to expect from a band called Hell Shrine? Come on, they're unlikely to be singing jaunty acoustic ditties about blackbirds and larks now, are they? Yes, they're a metal band. Well spotted. Unfortunately Hell Shrine appear to have written the most boring band biog in the history of rock music (choice quote: "Vocalist Dan Random saw an ad requesting a singer whilst practising with an old band. He called the contact number. He spoke with guitarist Nick Wright who explained how his band were looking for a singer." Blimey, imagine his surprise), but, hey, they've got a singer called



Dan Random which is worth an extra point from the start. Random by name, random by nature though, unfortunately. It's hard to go wrong with metal, just so long as you play it hard, heavy and tight you're 90% of the way there. Too often though, the band doesn't seem to fit together, as if Mr Random is bellowing from a different song sheet. The guitars churn and chunder with pleasingly heavyweight aplomb and the drummer kicks out a tumultuous beat at times but even when Dan's growling and grunting with some kind of conviction something doesn't feel right. A six-minute token slowie is nothing more than a ponderous dirge topped off with indecipherable moaning and it's frustrating that the closing number, which promises to be a thunderous cacophony, peters out after a minute when it sounds like the dark place they should have been heading towards all along.

## K-LACURA

More metal. Previously on this page we endeavoured to review tracks from K-Lacura's Myspace only for some devilish glitch to get in the way leaving us with nowt but silence for company. Still, everyone deserves a fair crack of (Satan's) whip and here's yer actual solid CD, which is proper loud and angry. In fact K-Lacura's constituent parts seem to be bombast, rage and riffs. Theirs is chestbeating, thunderous metalcore, a high-octane approach that works hard to hide its formulaic sound and structure. Dues are dutifully paid to Killswitch Engage and, to a lesser extent, System Of A Down, and by the end of the demo they've near enough collapsed into a cacophonous mess, so hard are they trying to career towards the exit door, and, while never threatening to be original, it is a barrel of fun, even managing to sound like a container lorry full of girders spilling down a concrete stairwell at one point. An extra bonus point too for the cover picture of Christopher Walken from the climax of *The Deerhunter* drawn entirely in tiny birds and butterflies. We'd love to see the same picture a minute later as blood pours from his skull, all delicately made up of tiny otters.

## HOLE UNVEIL

Blimey – and yet more metal, though of a very different hue to the last couple. Hole Unveil feature Oxford University student Fahad Speninck, but originated in Bahrain. All that sand and heat obviously didn't leave them with a sunny disposition, since this is a morbid, deathly affair in the extreme, more akin to the metal noises coming out of Norway than the Gulf. Having lost a member tragically in a car crash last year the band are now a duo but make the noise of a full orchestra – monolithic industrial grind, ambient doom and gothic death growl vocals that sometimes make way for almost classical metal excursions. 'Ashes' is almost hymnal in its solemn contemplation and tends to go nowhere in particular over seven minutes, like a lost black rain cloud in a clear Bahrain sky,

but 'The Grim Quagmire' has much more thump and grit to it, puncturing the monastic reverie with a more traditional death-thrash guitar attack. Bleak old stuff really, and just what we need to take our mind off the horrors of approaching spring, baby lambs, Easter eggs and all that bloody lawn mowing. Having formed in the Gulf's most liberal island state, it'd be interesting to see how Hole Unveil fared over the water in Iran.

## NOEL REID

Noel Reid's demo comes with a cover picture of a naked hermaphrodite with a scrawled drawing of a devil's face transposed on top and accompanied by a really quite unpleasant photo of a badly diseased finger. Not sure if we're supposed to be shocked or amused or both but it all seems a bit infantile, like a toddler shouting "poo bum willy!" in the middle of Tesco's. And talking of toddlers, most of them could probably come up with music a bit more cohesive and challenging. Essentially it's just five short passages of lo-fi distorted guitar and electronica and some muffled shouting that seems to be aiming for a strange middle ground between base 80s American hardcore and primitive synth-pop, but nothing like as fun, challenging or inventive as that might suggest. It could have been great. The sort of stuff to give middle England a collective migraine-cum-nightmare, but instead is nothing more than mush. Mush with the odd globule of Daft Punk dribbled in for extra flavour. In fact, it's not far from the noise you might expect to hear if the strange man-lady on the sleeve randomly bashed her flaccid appendage against a keyboard repeatedly until it bled. But then, we think Throbbing Gristle did something similar, and far better, back in 1974.

## THE DEMO DUMPER

## INVISIBLE VEGAS

Invisible Vegas have a name that suggests something otherworldly or horribly sleazy – the dark underbelly of all that glitz and glamour – which makes it all the more disappointing to hear their admittedly solid but wholly pedestrian thump and trudge. This is bluesy pub rock by numbers – numbers that haven't apparently changed for generations. Visit any roadhouse rock shack, from Kansas to Kathmandu anytime in the past 40 years and you'd hear this exact same noise kicking sawdust from the stage. Fair play, though, to the band for being so impervious to the passing of time, the vagaries of fashion and even the impatient tap, tap, tapping of our fingers on the desk as we wait for them to finish and fuck off so we can get on with listening to something a bit more contemporary. Like a heavily bearded bloke in a bearskin bashing a mammoth's jawbone against a nearby boulder.

Send demos for review to: Nightshift, PO Box 312, Kidlington, Oxford, OX5 1ZU. Or email MySpace link to [nightshift@oxfordmusic.net](mailto:nightshift@oxfordmusic.net), clearly marked Demo for review.

**IMPORTANT:** no review without a contact address and phone number. No more than four tracks on a demo. If you can't handle criticism, please don't send us your demo.



Interzone House  
74-77 Magdalen Rd  
Oxford OX4 1RE

For bookings and enquiries please phone

**01865 715705**

drum kits available to hire,  
good location + vending machines.  
Rehearsals from just £24 for 3 hours  
Recording £100 per day (mon-fri)

## THE COURTYARD STUDIO

PROTOOLS HD2, MTA 980 CONSOLE 32/24/  
24, OTARI MTR90 MK2 24 TRACK TAPE  
MACHINE, 2 TRACKING ROOMS, SUPERB  
CONTROL ROOM WITH GOOD SELECTION  
OF MICS & OUTBOARD GEAR, + MIDI  
FACILITIES (INC LOGIC AUDIO, AKAI  
S1000, OLD SKOOL ROLAND ETC.)

Residential facilities included.

[www.courtyardrecordingstudio.com](http://www.courtyardrecordingstudio.com)

PHONE PIPPA FOR DETAILS

ON 01235 845800

**shonk  
studios**

Recording Studios

Protocols on Mac

Great Sound

Rates For Local Bands

Phone - 01865 203922

or  
07878960286

[info@theshonk.com](mailto:info@theshonk.com)

[www.theshonk.com](http://www.theshonk.com)

**TURAN AUDIO.co.uk**

Professional, Independent CD mastering



Artists mastered in the studio last month include;

YOU ME AT SIX, NEON CIRCUS, WINTERMUTE,  
GRAMMATICS, CHURCH OF MISERY, FIREBIRD, BLUT  
AUS NORD, KATE GARRETT, THE TREAT, NAZARETH,  
PINT SHOT RIOT, DANCE TO THE RADIO, GLOBAL ROCK  
CHALLENGE, THE JACKS, LES CLOCHARDS, MARK  
HOOPER, THE KICK INSIDE, BAKA BEYOND, HAVOK,  
ALPHABET BACKWARDS, LITTLE JIMMY OSMOND.

01865 716466

[tim@turanaudio.co.uk](mailto:tim@turanaudio.co.uk)

**decibel studio**  
.co.uk

1st 10 bands to enquire in april could  
receive 58hrs studio time for £999  
email for details

**loud is better**

Chalgrave, Oxon 01460 221541

07774 228440

[studiodecibel@aol.com](mailto:studiodecibel@aol.com)

Tues 26th Mar • £7 adv

## Ash Grunwald

+ Palo Blue Eyes  
+ Silverito

Thurs 26th Mar • £7 adv

## Gary Go + VV Brown

Thurs 26th Mar • £5 adv

## glasslights

+ The Repeats  
+ Secret Rivals

Sat 28th Mar • £15 adv

7pm - 10pm

## Stiff Little Fingers

Sun 29th Mar • SOLD OUT

## Jack Penate

Tues 31st Mar • £8 adv

## Josh Pyke

+ South Parade

Thurs 2nd Apr • £5 adv

## Skint & Demoralised

+ Albino + Reik

Fri 3rd Apr • £16 adv

6.30pm - 10pm

## Starsailor

Fri 3rd Apr • SOLD OUT

## Go:Audio

Sat 4th Apr • £5 adv

10.30pm-1am • over 18s only

## Trashy 1940s Special - Burlesque Not Bombs

ft. The Chantilly Belles  
Live Burlesque Show

Sat 4th Apr • £10 adv

7pm - 10pm

## The Smiths Indeed

+ John Byrne

Sun 5th Apr • £7 adv

## MC Lars

+ Palasafe  
+ Smiles  
+ Meet Me At Midnight

Mon 6th Apr • £11 adv

## Hundred Reasons

+ Johnny Foreigner  
+ Phantom Theory

Tues 7th Apr • £7 adv

## Partysbank vs Glamour For Better

+ My Toybox  
+ Mr Shadow

Weds 8th Apr • £12 adv

7pm - 10pm

## Deathstars

+ Marionette  
+ The Daffodil

Thurs 9th Apr • £8.50 adv

10.30pm - 1am • over 18s only

## Holy Thursday 2

ft. Daddy G (Massive Attack)

Fri 10th Apr • £10 adv

11pm - 4am • over 18s only

## Slide's Very Good Friday

ft. Pireland (Live)

Sat 11th Apr • £7 adv

7pm - 10pm

## Golden Silvers

Mon 13th Apr • SOLD OUT

## N-Dubz

Sat 18th Apr • £5 adv

7pm - 10pm

## Polly Scattergood

Sat 18th Apr • £16 adv

7pm - 10pm

## Horace Andy

Sun 19th Apr • £10 adv

## The Doors Alive

+ Motion In Colour

Mon 20th Apr • £17.50 adv

## The Wailers play 'Exodus'

Weds 22nd Apr • £12.50 adv

6.30pm - 10pm

## Fightstar

+ In Case Of Fire  
+ Laruso

Fri 24th Apr • £10 adv

6.30pm - 10pm

## And You Will Know Us By The Trail Of Dead

+ Middle Class Rut

Fri 24th Apr • £14 adv

11pm - 4am • over 18s only

## Fuse ft.

## James Lavelle

(JUNKLE.)

+ DJ MadN  
+ Krazy Baldhead

Sun 26th April • £12.50 adv

## Spear Of Destiny

Mon 27th April • £16 adv

## Gomez

Mon 27th April • £11 adv

## Cancer Bats

+ Plight + SSS

Tues 28th April • £5 adv

## Four Dead In Ohio

+ The Scholars

Tues 28th April • £5 adv

## International Jetsetters

+ Cat Mabador  
+ The Long Insiders

Thurs 30th April • £5 adv

## The Days

+ Picnic Now  
+ The Nominees

Sat 2nd May • £9.50 adv

6.30pm - 10pm

## NME Radar Tour

ft. La Roux  
+ Heartbreak + Magistrates  
+ The Chapman Family

Mon 4th May • £7 adv

## Rolo Tomassi

Tues 5th May • £10 adv

## The Sunshine Underground

+ Boy Cries + Edt Calm

Weds 6th May • £5 adv

## Canterbury

## + All Forgotten

+ Francesca

Fri 8th May • £10 adv

## Holy F\*ck

+ It Hugs Back

Sat 9th May • £10.50 adv

7pm - 10pm

## Boot-Led-Zepplin

Sun 10th May • £22.50 adv

## Little Feat

Fri 15th May • £13 adv

6pm - 10pm

## Gallows

+ Every Time I Die + Hoses

Fri 15th May • £14 adv

11pm - 4am • over 18s only

## Slide ft. M.A.N.D.Y.

(Get Physical)

Fri 15th May • £7 adv

## The Thieves

Sat 16th May • £10 adv

7pm - 10pm

## Polish Fertilizer

ft. Sing Sing Penelope,  
Beabe & Jacczak

Sun 17th May • £9 adv

## Metric

Mon 18th May • £7 adv

## The Soft Pack

Thurs 21st May • £8 adv

## Neil Halstead & Lach

Fri 22nd May • £7 adv

6.30pm - 10pm

## Attack! Attack!

+ Save Your Breath  
+ HCUK + Midnight Drive

Sat 23rd May • £12.50 adv

6.30pm - 10pm

## Scott Matthews

+ James Summerfield

Sun 24th May • £8.50 adv

## Mr Hudson

Rescheduled show • original tickets valid

Tues 26th May • £8 adv

## We The Kings

Sat 30th May • £15 adv

7pm - 10pm

## Mostly Autumn

Weds 10th June • £15 adv

## The Damned

Thurs 11th June • £17.50 adv

## Gary Numan

Fri 12th June • £5 adv

## Jonquil + House Of Brothers

Weds 1st July • £15 adv

## The Cat Empire

Thurs 9th July • £8 adv

## The Birthday Massacre

Fri 25th Sept • £15 adv

7pm - 10pm

## For Those About To Rock

ft. Llewellyn AC/DC  
+ Limehouse Lizzy

Weds 14th Oct • £22.50 adv

## The Proclaimers

Tues 20th Oct • £10 adv

## Frank Turner

Fri 18th Dec • £10 adv

## The Complete Stone Roses

+ The Hazze