

# INSIDE TRACKS

CONTINUED.

Clive  
 We in Oxford's most happening folk-indie-pop-tweed band are pleased to announce the birthday of our debut album! We had a party in our studio for close friends (and BBC Provinces' Terry Tacheman, who always seems to inveigle his way into our events despite our best efforts) and the place was festooned with colourful ribbons! Not because of the party, you understand, but we'd used them to tie round our vocalist's throat during recording to achieve that trademark constricted weasel sound that has the girls all a-quiver! We were going to play 'Dead Lions' too, until our keyboardist observed that this unfairly parodied the conservation struggles of those who work against African big game hunting. Wise words. – Yours truly, Cromarty, Dogger & German Bight, Oxford's best new band (for a given value of "new")

Clive says: Congratulations! Also, Euphonius Sonic Creation Within Pre-Defined County Boundaries magazine, all about Oxfordshire music is celebrating a birthday with the new issue. Well, I guess if you release one a year they're all birthday issues. Not so impressive now I think about it.

clive  
 alembic distillation records is six years old this year. to celebrate we are releasing a new lp by desperate houseflies from barry island. *squashed tomatoes and stew* is a recording of a series of arrangements of tracks from james last's *birthday party favourites for dead-eyed european children album for a jazz big band* encased in a giant jelly moulded into the shape and colours of the kit from *jossy's giants*. the muffled sounds of the music evoke the half-forgotten something something childhood something hauntology something caretaker something do anything for a review in the fucking *wire* something reverb something something.

it comes in seventeen layers of wrapping, each with a chewit hidden inside. don't unwrap it or it will instantly have lost its collector's value, and at seventy-nine pounds and fourteen pence a pop you won't want to risk that.

– *monty pepper and monty moses, alembic distillation records*

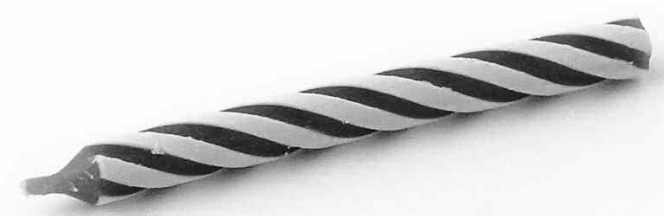
Clive says: I'll buy you a shift key for your birthday, lads.

# THE DENTURE



A REGULAR COMPENDIUM OF ALL THINGS GAPPY TOOTH INDUSTRIES.

THE BIRTHDAYS ISSUE  
 WITH  
 THE ELRICS;  
 COUNTRYSIDE;  
 WE ARE UGLY BUT WE  
 HAVE THE MUSIC;  
 STUFF AND NONSENSE.



# WELCOME TO THE BIRTHDAYS ISSUE.

# INSIDE TRACKS.

PINNING THE TAIL OF OPINION ONTO THE  
DONKEY OF ENTERTAINMENT, WITH CLIVE  
NEWMAN.

When I was a lad I really wanted birthday parties, with ice cream and Andy Pandy and a magician, but my parents said it was a frivolous waste of time. You know, they were right. I feel sorry for today's kids, glutted on Korean TV and fondant fancies. Going without never had any detrimental effect on me.

Right, I'm off for a wank dressed as Hannah Montana.

Dear Clive

It was my birthday yesterday! We had the requisite amount of fun, drinking Frumpston's Bashed Bishop Best Bitter and discussing Mrs Thatcher's greatest shoulder pads. As presents

I got a Norman Tebbit mask and a copy of *The Daily Mail Guide To Why All English Women Look Like Slags (Except Princes Di, Our Plucky Lady Athletes & The Right Sort Of Non-Union Nurses)* to read in the loo. I also got some records, such as *The Best Of The Lighthouse Family*, Elaine Paige *Sings High Quality Melodies* and Fleetwood Mac's *Tango In The Night*. These were, admittedly, the same records I got given last year, but you can't improve on AOR perfection.

– Kenny MacColon, *Oxo-Tube (Oxford Music Videos Online)*

Clive says: Ooh, bit leftfield for me, I prefer *Behind The Mask*



AND WHAT ARE THE IMPORTANT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PLAYING SOLO LAPTOP STUFF AND THE SHINY PSYCHEDELIC CABARET OF THIN GREEN CANDLES?

With We Are Ugly I feel more pressure to put on a show as watching some fat bald bloke press buttons is not that interesting. Also with We Are Ugly there are a lot fewer mistakes as I am not worried about what the others are doing or what that strange noise coming from James' guitar is.

YOU MENTION THE INFLUENCE OF CLASSIC ACID – CARE TO CHOOSE SOME '88 PLATTERS TO TAKE TO A DESERT ISLAND WAREHOUSE RAVE? WE'D HAVE 'WHERE IS YOUR CHILD?' BY BAM BAM, LIDELL TOWNSELL'S 'GET THE HOLE' AND BABY FORD'S 'OOCHY COOCHY'.

Black Riot – "A Day In The Life"; Wood Allen – "Airport 89", I really like the way it builds; Ecstasy Club – "Jesus Loves The Acid", nice and simple. These are all tracks that I went back and found after I got in to the whole rave scene. The first electro track I really remember playing over and over again is Beats International, "Dub Be Good to Me". I still love that song. One of my favourite rave tapes was Fantazia New Years Eve 91/92 when Easygrove drops Liquid's "Sweet Harmony", it still sends shivers down my spine.

WHAT IS YOUR BEST BIRTHDAY EXPERIENCE? RECENT, OR FROM THE RECESSES OF MEMORY.

I spent my 24th birthday doing a pub quiz in some proper rough Irish bar in New York – great fun. When me and the wife finally left the pub at 3am, there was 2 foot of snow on the floor and New York had been turned in to a winter wonderland, we went for a walk around Central Park and had a snowball fight. Looking back it's lucky we did not get raped and murdered.

HOW DO YOU MARK YOUR BIRTHDAYS NOW YOU'RE ALL GROWN UP: HUGE BOOZE UP, CAKES IN THE OFFICE, OR WEEPING IN THE KIDLINGTON GUTTERS?

I spent most of my youth in the Kidlington gutters in one form or another so I try to avoid that now. I guess I am all grown up and boring now, last few years it's been a meal with friends then a club; for my 30th I spent the night in one of the old cells at the Malmasion, that was nice.

THANKS FOR YOUR TIME – WHILST WE'RE HERE, TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAVOURITE LONG GONE OXFORD ACT, AND WHY WE SHOULD SEEK THEM OUT ONLINE.

There are so many but I really loved Holy Roman Empire ([www.myspace.com/holyromanempirepop](http://www.myspace.com/holyromanempirepop)). Their songs were really well thought out and catchy I still find my self humming "Benazia Bhutto" and "My Life Or Yours". Their song "Left Winger" is in my top ten. Live they were shambolic, out of tune and out of time, but loads of fun... a bit like Thin Green Candles. Also worth a mention are The Bigger The God and The Daises.

# THE ELRICS.

[WWW.MYSPACE.COM/THEELRICS](http://WWW.MYSPACE.COM/THEELRICS)



OXFORDBANDS.CO.UK SAID THAT YOU REMINDED THEM WHY THEY "LIKED ROCK 'N' ROLL IN THE FIRST PLACE". A PRETTY NICE QUOTATION! BUT WHAT DO YOU MOST LOVE – AND HATE – ABOUT ROCK 'N' ROLL?

We love its honesty and direct 'in your face' nature. Hates? Hmm, I could list bands... but I won't.

WELCOME ALONG TO GAPPY TOOTH; HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO A GTI GIG BEFORE? ANY PREDICTIONS, PRECONCEPTIONS, SUSPICIONS OR FEARS?

We haven't before but we have heard great things, very much looking forward to it.

YOUR NEW RECORD IS CALLED 'FINALLY' – SO, DID IT TAKE A WHILE TO RECORD, THEN?

The actual recording was fast, finding the perfect songs wasn't. We seem to have a revolving door policy with drummers, so *Finally* is us embracing what we should have done years ago. Get off our butts and not rely on anyone else but our holy trinity.

WHAT ARE THE BEST BIRTHDAY PRESENTS YOU EVER RECEIVED? Cock rings, we are now marathon men. As you can imagine, our mothers are extremely proud.

IT'S YOUR PARTY: DO YOU CRY IF YOU WANT TO, OR IS IT ALL ABOUT THE STIFF UPPER LIP? Real men don't cry... they don't dance either.

THANKS FOR YOUR TIME – ANY FINAL WORDS ON THE ELRICS' ETHOS?

We will live and die by this, but if history tells us anything, we'll mostly just get sick.



# COUNTRYSIDE.

WWW.MYSPACE.COM/COUNTRYSIDELAND



LONDON”; HOW DO YOU FIND THE MUSIC SCENE IN THAT PART OF THE WORLD, AND HOW HAVE YOU FOUND YOUR TRAVELS TO OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY?

We started in Somerset, and moved to Bristol about 4 years ago. There are a lot of good bands coming out of Somerset, but I think they tend to head to Bristol for more places to play. We play Bristol a lot and there are enough venues to keep it interesting. We like playing out of town as much as we can, so are especially up for Oxford tonight! We’re coming straight from Dot-to-Dot festival in Bristol, one of three gigs in two days!

CLASSIC QUESTION TO BEGIN WITH: WHAT ARE THE BEST AND WORST REVIEWS YOU’VE EVER HAD?

The best reviews have generally come from America and Europe where people seem to ‘get’ what we do. We haven’t had any particularly bad reviews, we like to fly below the radar.

YOU NOTE ON YOUR MYSPACE THAT SOMERSET IS “A LONG WAY FROM

YOU ENJOY A BBQ, JUDGING FROM COMMENTS ON THE NET. WHAT’S YOUR FAVOURITE BBQ FOOD, BEYOND THE CLASSIC BURGERS AND SNORKERS? WE’RE QUITE PARTIAL TO GRILLED HALLOUMI, OURSELVES...

The countryside burger (gherkin, steak, cheese, mushrooms, onions, french mustard).

WHICH OF THE BAND IS MOST LIKELY TO CAUSE DISASTER BY FORGETTING AN IMPORTANT BIRTHDAY?

I don’t think any of us know any of our birthdays. It’s a bridge we cross together.

BIRTHDAY PARTY FOOD RULES! BUT, WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO IT, DO YOU CHOOSE JELLY OR ICE CREAM?

I don’t know how you do birthday parties in Oxford, but from where we’re from its bonfire or sleeping bag.

THANKS FOR YOUR TIME – WHAT CAN PEOPLE EXPECT FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE EXPERIENCE?

“Countryside are potentially one of the best new English bands out there with their delicate warmth and experimental undercurrent that runs underneath their beautifully sublime songs. Sweetly weaving around our semi subconscious with that slightly glitchy synth textures, the intimate glowing voices, the hopeful uplifting passages of goodness and most importantly the delicate songs that are worth investing so much time in...” – *Organ*

# WE ARE UGLY BUT WE HAVE THE MUSIC.

WWW.MYSPACE.COM/WEAREUGLYBUT

YOU’RE AN ELECTRONICA ACT WHO PLAYS IN VARIOUS LIVE FORMATS – DO YOU PREFER LIVE OR STUDIO WORK?

I really enjoy playing live with Thin Green Candles, we hardly ever find time to rehearse and the songs are very unstructured for the rest of the band so it’s always a bit different. I also usually throw in a new track or play the wrong one. I don’t really do studio work, most of the We Are Ugly stuff is made with me sat on the sofa with my headphones on as the wife sits on the other sofa watching TV and telling me to turn it down as she “can hear the racket I am making”.

