

winter 2023

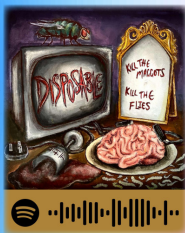
GEAR

LONG LIVE
MOLES!



WHOS DAD?
NOBODY'S DAD

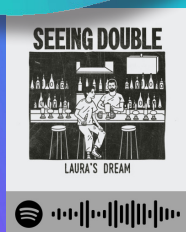
- * The inside scoop on CM's favourite indie band
- * A lookback on the five final CM Socials at Moles
- * Our final farewell to Moles: The infamous venue
- * Music Map outlining CM's gigs and releases



BATTERY ACID: This Alt Punk/Rock band delivered yet again with their new song “Disposable”, now yours to obsess over on all of the streaming platforms!
IG: @battery.acid.band



CLEMENCIE: A pop synth, indie rock banger. If any of those words float your boat, then check out Clemencies's new single “What If One Day He’s You”, a feel good head bopper available everywhere!
IG: clemencieband



LAURA'S DREAM: Recently released “Seeing Double” incorporates up tempo beats and relatable lyrical content destined for your playlist!
IG: @lauras_dream

WHAT YOU M



PENTIRE: Everyone’s favourite indie band is on their SECOND UK TOUR. 2024 is the time to get those tickets lads, see you on the floor!!!! IG: pentireband

THE SURLINGS: A new indie rock project to feast upon, with a single called “Together Forever” followed by an EP named “The World Through A Mannequin’s Eyes pt1”



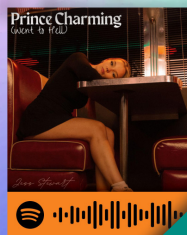


MINDSWEEPER: This Metal-core artist recently dropped “Rats” and “Struck Down”, both tracks mastered by Keir Lawrie! But surely it must be the giving season, as Mindsweeper has an EP coming soon - keep an eye out for that one

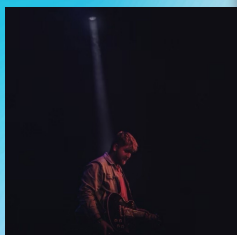
IG: @mindsweeper @keirlawrie

JESS STEWART: The next pop princess tells all with this new soul/pop pop “Prince Charming (Went To Hell)”. Find this on all of your favourite streaming platforms

IG: @jesstewxrt



**DISSED
UP AND COMING**



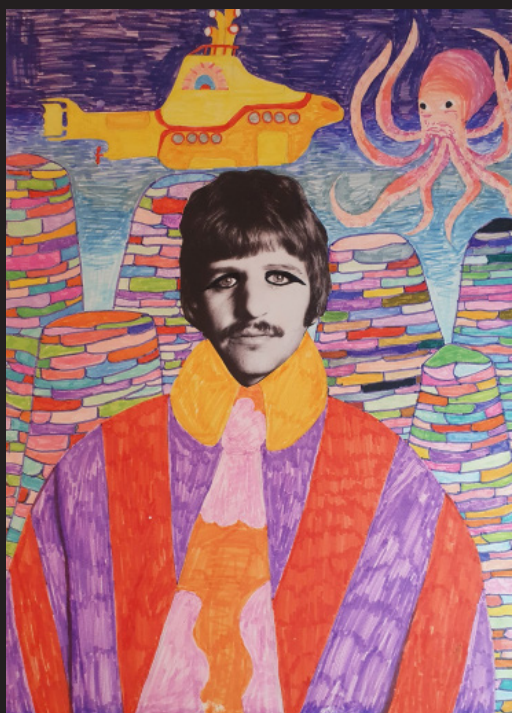
Wes Chamberlain announces an EP at the start of 2024, what a way to start the new year!!! This project, named ‘Moving Day’ takes us through the difficulties of moving away, finding your feet in times of uncertainty and pushing through when it gets hard

IG: weschamberlain



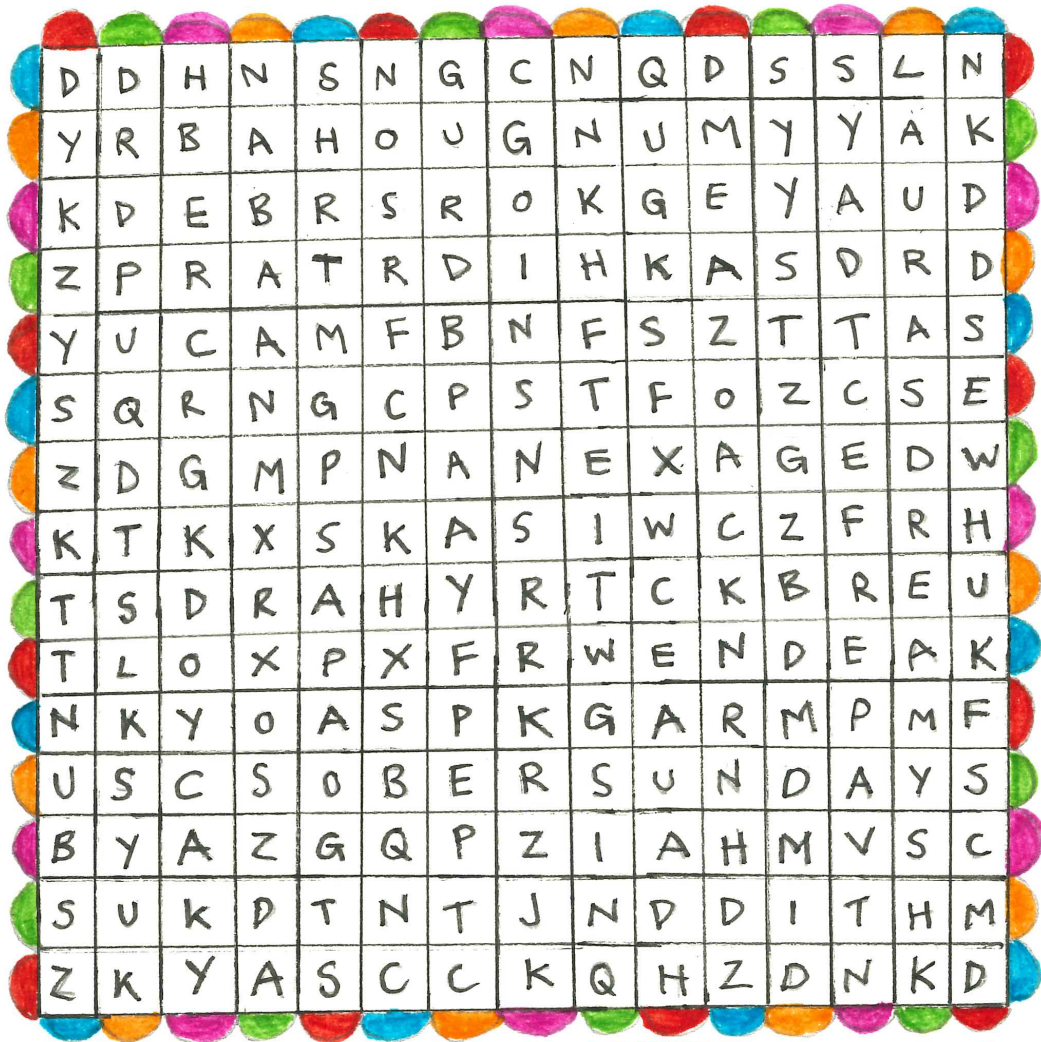
MICRODOG'S 2024: 6th January, The Thunderbolt, Bristol. The second heat of the Underdog Battle of the Band commences, and you're all invited. Featuring our very own Dreamcaster, Intrusive and Battery Acid, it won't be one to miss!

IG: @battery.acid.band @dream-casterband @intrusive_official @underdogbristol



Artwork by Sofia Ballester. @fffffffffa

WORD SEARCH



CUSTARD DREAMCASTER

ZAFFIROS LAURASDREAM SYCOPHANTS

SOBERSUNDAYS PERFECTDAYS

Back To Our Roots

GMVS; the seeds that start it all

The age old, forever loved local. The community centre that you had the best party of your life in when you were 8. That random old hall that is on the edge of town and seems to always have people in it but you can't, for the life of you, work out why. I present to you: Grassroots Music Venues (GMVs).

*But they're not even just social hotspots brimming with unexpected yet invaluable contacts, or a place to become accustomed with real audiences, regardless of size. These stages allow growth for the music industry and economic income for the artists themselves. In 2008, the live sector actually overtook revenue rates in recording. And, sadly, they're not surviving. **Over the last two decades, 35% of GMVs have closed in the UK.** 1/3 of London's 94 venues are facing closure, alongside each venue having to book artists that will guarantee more engagement over newer, untested artists. **The loss of these venues, due to insufficient funding, lack of engagement and increased prices needed to run these forums, would be detrimental to the development of the music industry.***

*The Unsigned Guide described this live music sector as an 'ecology', and I think it perfectly depicts how crucial the foundation of smaller music events/venues are for the rest of the industry. Without the platforms for smaller and emerging artists, the famously rich and notorious British music scene will not survive; Norman Cook, of Glastonbury Festival, spoke his concern by stating **"Glastonbury is running out of headliners"**. Without spaces for new artists to hone performance skills and grow audiences, within a few years, there will not be many artists with enough stature to bring large and diverse audiences to bigger events.*



The Electric Ballroom, London



Our very own Moles, a victim of a lack of funding in a time where GMVs have never been so crucial, has now closed its doors. The venue has seen so many huge stars come through their doors since opening in 1978, such as Ed Sheeran, Radiohead, Tears For Fears, The Smiths and Wolf Alice as well as Oasis in their first ever tour. Moles was famous for its star studded legacy, but it also brought in local bands from the surrounding areas to support, allowing exposure for smaller artists, thus nurturing the future of new music. Without it, Bath's music sector will suffer a huge loss, and it's one of many just this year.

The truth is, the importance of these venues are not a hidden secret. In fact, even the government did something about it (London's grass-roots music venues rescue plan October 2015, 2015), but it was more of a guide of what venue owners could do as opposed to directly supplying funds; that, of course, must come from audiences. Do you see where I'm going with this yet?

If you don't, I'll spell it out here.

KEEP SUPPORTING SMALLER VENUES!!!

Without them, we will not see growth in this industry, nor will we have the pleasure of experiencing new bands find their feet and begin to build their own audiences.

Let's get back to our roots, shall we?

(P.s, go to page 2 to see some examples of up and coming shows to support fellow musicians, and also to help see these beautiful venues in their full glory!!!!)



*Written and Researched
by Daisy McCaig*

NOBODYS DAD

ROUGH TRADE OFFICIAL

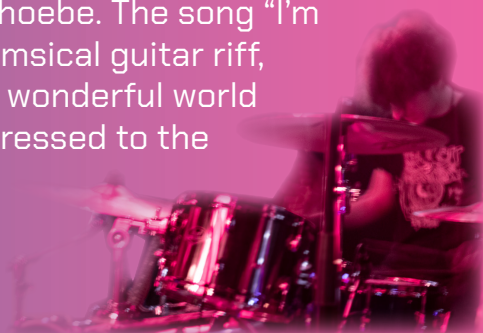
ROUGH
TRADE

On Wednesday 15th November, I had the pleasure of experiencing the sonic world of Commercial Music's very own Nobody's Dad. Echoing punk influences and shoegaze lyricism throughout their debut gig for Rough Trade Bristol, they were a perfect support for the gothic influenced, dream-pop rockers shesin-parties.

Opening the set, a single spotlight highlighted the silhouette of lead singer and guitarist, Phoebe as the "Angel" herself.

As the song began, her melancholic voice filled the crowd with instantaneous interest, and it began to grow once bassist Jules' harmonious vocals created growth through the track.

During the set, I found myself sharing a favourite song with lead singer Phoebe. The song "I'm scared," opened with a whimsical guitar riff, taking the crowd into their wonderful world of music. As the song progressed to the chorus, the drums build to create a feeling of intensity. It was a commercial music masterpiece.






Once the set was finished, i had the pleasure to ask the band a few questions. It went as follows -

What does this gig mean to yourselves as a band?

Phoebe:

"It's really exciting for me because for someone who's gone to a lot of rough trade gigs and looked up to a lot of artists that have played there, it's amazing to even be on the same stage as them. It's a venue that means a lot to us because it really fits our genre, I think so many cool indie artists that get recognised here."



Where are you hoping this gig will lead you in the future?

Phoebe:

"Hopefully, one day, we'll release one of our tracks and will be promoted at this venue - That's the best thing we could hope for, or just

meeting more people would be great"

Jules:

"I think the headline band she's in parties were so good, It would be so nice if they asked us for another support after this gig"

Max:

"To support more bands like she's in parties as well would be really great"



Reveiw and Interview
by Jazz Jones



Did you guys feel any pressure from playing this venue?

All:

“Yes!”

Phoebe:

“It was terrifying because it was such a big opportunity, and you don’t want to mess that up.”

Jules:

“We rehearsed so much.”

Max:

“There was a lot of lead up to this gig.”

Phoebe:

“I think it was worth it though, it was worth it to feel something. If you don’t feel nervous before a gig, you’re not excited enough.”

What was it like to support shesinparties ?

Phoebe:

“They were so kind, and they really looked after us. [Katie Dillon] [the lead vocalist] gave me a hug after our set, she was so sweet.”

Jules:

“They were the first thing that made me relax when I got here”

Max:

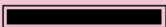
“They were offering to hold doors for us. They were genuinely kind people and it didn’t feel like they were a touring band, it felt like people we were playing with.”

Phoebe:

“I would love to see them again, they were so great. Probably my favourite band that we’ve worked with”

Listen to the full interview on the
GEAR soundcloud





meal deal menu



max:

main - cheese triple £3.00

snack - hot pepperami £1.30

drink - bottle of coke £1.85

total: £3.90

tesco clubcard Price: £3.40



rahul:

main - chicken, bacon wrap £3.00

snack - fruit £1.35

drink - bottle of water £1.00

total: £3.50

collect your nectar points !



jules:

main - BLT £3.25

snack - brownie £2.45

drink - fruit smoothie £2.60

total: £4.00

co-op members price: £3.50



phoebe:

main - sushi £1.50

snack - steak crisps £1.00

drink - fruit smoothie £2.35

total: £4.00

morrisons more card: £3.50



thank you, nobody's dad!



cm. socials

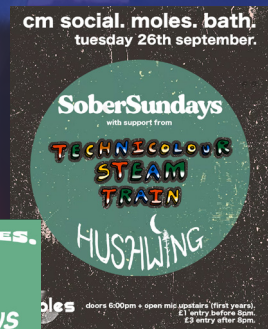
Starting off the semester with a bang, our old friend and beloved music venue, Moles hosted our very own commercial music social! Allowing our first-year family a glimpse of the life in the industry, Moles is a venue that gave all of us the opportunity to share our music in a safe and friendly place. It meant the world to all of us on Commercial Music, Bath Spa University and as a grassroots venue, it will always have a special place in our hearts.

From the first social to the last, we have celebrated all the bands that have played this year – even some tackled our very own commercial music unplugged!

A big thank you to all the bands/artists that have played this year:

Hushwing, Technicolour Steam Train, Sober Sundays, Abby Davies, Tom and Laura, Snake Day, Dreamcaster, Paper Crowns, Abi Robinson, Nobody's Dad, Wicked Chip, Blade of Grass, Intrusive, Isabella Leathly, The Perfect Days, The Dressing Room, Nadia Robertson, Blue Ray, Brogan Ritchie, Red Wine and The Chunks, Monochrome and The Zaffiros

Don't see your bands name?
Come play a CM Social! Contact us @cm.socials.bath



Written by Jazz Jones
Posters by Jazz Jones

A love letter to Moles

On the 5th of December 2023 Moles announced its closure in “its current form”. The closure comes after battling a fire, the pandemic, and the cost of living crisis all within the last 10 years. It’s a devastating blow to both the course and the community. Though the decision to close has been a tough pill to swallow, at GEAR we believe that Moles should be celebrated for all that the venue achieved in its past 45 years as Bath’s musical hotspot.

Opening New Year’s Eve 1978, the venue has always boasted the local talent when drawing in large audiences with glorious global acts and has nurtured the up and coming sounds of artist we love today. From alternative to dance, Moles has been called home by many, housing icons from Radiohead to Ed Sheeran. Moles was an icon itself.

Many of us commercial music students would consider Moles our stomping ground, a place where we could work, play, and create. We have been fortunate enough to host our socials here, which for many acts offered them their first ever gig and allowed a gateway into the wider gigging scene. The venue was the epicentre of the commercial music community, supplying invaluable experience to young creators and will be missed dearly.

Thank you to Tom Maddicott and the rest of the Moles team for the years of dedication to keeping the Bath grassroots scene alive and rich with culture.

Long Live Moles.



Written by Joni Butcher



Artwork by Jules Allarton (@juliet_elizabeth_) and Fred Lawrie (@fredlrie)
for @dreamcasterband

CHRIS-MAS TREE



Ho

ho ho.

If you're

reading this

at the Xmas Ball

give me a wave, I'm

on the mezz level in the

far corner and I always will

be. If you're reading this a few

days later then it's the Xmas hols.

Make sure you get a good rest and have

a lot of fun. This is very important. I'll be at

home with my family, not doing much, wolfing

down other people's chocolate and trying to play the

piano. See you when we all get back next year. Take care.

Might need

to fill this in

for the trunk

THE TEAM



Joni Butcher - Director, Graphic Designer, Writer

Thank you to all those who have contributed and supported GEAR. It has been a true labour of love. To my fellow GEAR girls, Jazz and Daisy, I am forever grateful for your outstanding dedication.

Jazz Jones - Writer, Graphic Designer, Photographer

It's been a pleasure to work on a project that I share so much passion for. Working with friends that have made this dream a reality means the world to me. A big thank you to Nobody's Dad, and the Moles staff.



Daisy Mccaig - Writer, Editor

Never been more excited about a magazine, not even when Robert Pattinson did that one shoot for GQ.



WE WANT YOU!

we are always looking out for new talent to feature on GEAR from writers to artists DM us on instagram @gear.zine