

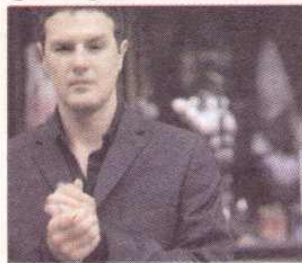
the guide contents

music 4



MARSHALL'S MUSIC: Vote for Richard Marshall's band

going out 5



THE DARK SIDE: Paddy McGuinness at The Hexagon

competition 6



HAVE A PEW: Win luxury garden furniture

cinema 15



CRACKING THE CODE: The Da Vinci Code the film

plus

upfront

Finding sor



When BBC2's *Grumpy Old Women* arrived on our year, it became an overnight success. Now in the **CAROLINE HARRAP** caught up with the star of the

JENNY Eclair is having, shall we say, a bit of an 'off' day – though that's putting it rather politely. What she actually says isn't really printable. "I'm having a f***** awful day," she exclaims. "Absolutely everything has gone wrong this morning. Like the web browser thing on the computer, for instance, which suddenly went down for no reason at all.

"I kept pressing the button over and over again, to try and get it working, but with no luck at all.

"Then the car was late to pick me up to go to rehearsals, which was probably just as well in light of the computer fiasco, but now I'm running massively behind time.

"So no, I'm not having a good day and, quite frankly, I'm in an appalling mood..."

Still, unlike most people, at least when she gets to work, she'll be able to completely let rip and get it all off her chest.

Currently touring the country in the new stage adaptation of hit TV show *Grumpy Old Women*, which also stars regular contributors Dillie Keane and Linda Robson, it's exactly the sort of thing they talk about in the show.

Just like the BBC2 series, which became such a cult phenomenon, they address all those minor irritations faced by women of a certain age.

"We deal with the whole gamut; everything from kids and husbands to frazzled nerves and hypochondria and the cost of a bun in a motorway service station," says Eclair, who has co-written the script with the writer and producer of the TV series, Judith Holder.

"In fact, all the things that trip us up as we go through life.

"It's a similar format to the TV show, but it will be a livelier and smellier version, sort of up close and personal!"

Much of the new material has been devised through a series of workshops, all based on the cast's real-life experiences.

Not surprisingly, she

frustrations with everything from text messaging to automated banking has been an "absolute hoot".

No doubt today's topic for discussion then will be the perils of Google... and the internet generally... and people who are late... and journalists who ask too many questions... and, well, the list goes on.

"I find pretty much everything annoying," reveals Eclair who lives in South London with her partner, Geoff Powell, and their 16-year-old daughter, Phoebe.

"But the thing that irritates me more than anything is

incompetence, both of my own, particularly when something – that's what's biting my arms.

"It's like this morning with the computer; my daughter keeps pressing the button. Mind you, she's a bit of a computer expert, it comes to computers to

"We're all a bunch of old people in this house – we can't even walk now. It's amazing, quite frankly, all sitting in his

Sh



Pop goes the world



Struggling musician Richard Marshall thought he would never get a lucky break. Now he tells VICKY HUNTLEY how a new website is opening doors for him

AFTER 15 years of making dance tracks in a home studio, the fortunes of one of the first unsigned acts to sign up to the new *Popworld Promotes* website are going from strength-to-strength. Bracknell-based trance act Richard Marshall, also



TRANCE ACT: Richard Marshall honed his skills on the electronic keyboard while at school

known as Marshall's Music, joined the music website which showcases unsigned bands, in its first week of operation a month ago.

"I have had an amazing response to my music via the website from all over the world," he says. "I had a relatively small following and needed to find a better way to be recognised and increase the online audience.

"I heard about *Popworld Promotes* launching an online venture for unsigned bands, giving bands like mine that are looking for an opportunity, the chance to be heard."

The 33-year-old from Oxenhope in Wildridings first discovered his musical talent when he had childhood guitar lessons, but honed his skill when he was a pupil at the Brakenhale School.

"I discovered the electronic keyboard at Brakenhale and gradually put the guitar aside in favour of an instrument that interested me more," he explains, "simply because it could create a whole song from bass to drums. I then purchased my first keyboard from Dixons in Bracknell and never looked back.

"At secondary

school I took music as a subject and that is when my interest in electronic keyboard and synth playing accelerated and my first performance was in front of a packed hall of fellow pupils and parents."

Richard's early inspiration came from 80s synth acts like Howard Jones, Depeche Mode, OMD, Petshop Boys and A-ha, bands which prompted him to start up his own venture with friend Andy Jackson.

"We called ourselves Rough Image and often recorded very basic songs at home using a computer to record, sequence and layer the song," he reminisces.

"When practising we would suddenly find ourselves with an audience listening outside, which made us realise that perhaps our music wasn't that bad after all.

"In those days, everything was recorded on tape. Every now and then we would head over to have the latest song recorded in a professional studio in Bracknell in the hope that perhaps this song could be the one to make us. It wasn't unusual for us to write the lyrics to the song en route to the studio."

Fifteen years on and Andy is no longer in the band but Richard says things haven't really changed much.

"The studio keyboard collection has grown significantly since the early band days along with the technology. I'm also working on a new album in my home studio, as well as balancing that with a full-time job as a research

scientist for Syngenta in Bracknell, which takes up most of my time."

The single *Be OK* currently holds the number 48 slot out of 440 acts on the *Popworld Promotes* website.

Popworld, the iconic Channel 4 TV show, already showcases well-known music talent alongside interviews and videos hosted by off-the-wall presenters. But *Popworld Promotes* has aspirations to put new talent on the map.

Music aficionados know that the internet has become a key tool in helping to promote new talent. Sheffield-based rockers The Arctic Monkeys achieved 363,735 over-the-counter sales during their first week of release after building their fan base solely through live performances and self-publishing on the internet.

"I jumped at the chance to join," says Richard. "I really hope that it will make my name and my music more well known. That's the beauty of it – you know people are listening to your work. Whether they like it or not is up to them but they'll know who you are.

"I think that's the most important thing any musician can do, just try and get their music heard as much as possible. Don't worry yourself too much with trying to make it; make the most of what's available."

The bands featured on the website get points for the number of listens, downloads and votes they receive so fans can support their favourite band. The act with the most points each month will appear live on the TV show.

"I really want Bracknell to support me," Richard says. "I'd really like it if they logged on to the website and voted for me."

■ Listen to and rate *Be OK* by Marshall's Music at www.popworldpromotes.com

gig guide

Thursday 18

- **The Arches** (Reading) – Hugh Turner Quartet
- **3 B's Cafe Bar** (Reading) – Bohemian Night – live acoustic music
- **Collar Bar, South Hill Park** (Bracknell) – Unplugged and intimate, weekly songwriter night
- **Corn Exchange** (Newbury) – *Cheliso*
- **Face Club** (Reading) – Classic Wonder Reggae DJs plus guests
- **Global Cafe** (Reading) – Chill Out. Eclectic downtempo tunes
- **Hexagon** (Reading) – Magic – A Kind of Queen
- **Italian Job** (Reading) – Alex Routledge
- **Monument** (Newbury) – Open mic night
- **Panof's Dog** (Reading) – Acoustic night
- **Po Na Na** (Reading) – Zac's Basement
- **Rising Sun pub** (Reading) – Shiny Mully
- **South Street Arts** (Reading) – Bad Influence plus support

Friday 19

- **After Dark** (Reading) – Top of the Pops – 60s-90s disco
- **3 B's Cafe Bar** (Reading) – Lounge Lizard. DJs play chill-out
- **Bar 38** (Reading) – Resident DJs play mix of funky US house and R'n'B
- **Bar Med** (Reading) – DJ John. Dance and party tunes
- **Bar Oz** (Reading) – The Office. Feelgood party
- **Boxing Club** (Reading) – Bukandskill live band night
- **Casa Bar** (Reading) – Recollet. Funky and retro house

- **Revolution Bar** (Reading) – Werk. Hip-hop, drum'n'bass, house, R'n'B
- **Rising Sun Arts Centre** (Reading) – Pirate Pete and Preachers Jon's Open Floor Night
- **South Hill Park** (Bracknell) – Unplugged and intimate – singer-songwriters night
- **Swan Inn** (Arborfield) – Procellar
- **Wycombe Swan** (High Wycombe) – Big Chris Barber Band

Saturday 20

- **After Dark** (Reading) – Success – 80s disco
- **The Anvil** (Basingstoke) – Julia Bliet
- **Bar 38** (Reading) – Resident DJs play mix of funky US house and R'n'B
- **Bar Med** (Reading) – DJ Andy. Dance and party tunes
- **Bar Oz** (Reading) – Global Village. R'n'B, old school, hip-hop, reggae
- **Casa Bar** (Reading) – Sweet Serenation. Funky and retro house
- **Corn Exchange** (Newbury) – King Salsa
- **Foz Club** (Reading) – Chapter One: BTM
- **Jazz Club** (Ascot) – La Cuba Ritmo
- **Jazz Cafe** (Reading) – Some Like It Hot
- **Keller** (Bracknell) – Saturday Night Beaver and DJ Pascal
- **New Theatre** (Oxford) – Out of the Blue
- **O'Neill's** (Reading) – Live music
- **Pack Horse** (Woodcote) – Steve Morano
- **Plug'n'Play** (Reading) – Nathan Fake, Jung Collective and DJs
- **Po Na Na** (Reading) – Close Quarters
- **Red Lion** (High Wycombe) – Live rock 'n' roll bands
- **Revolution Bar** (Reading) – Everything from funk

- **Wycombe Swan** (High Wycombe) – New Seekers

Monday 22

- **Crosses Corner** (Windsor) – Open Mic
- **Foz Club** (Reading) – Rock and alternative night
- **Nettlebed Folk Club** (Nettlebed) – Ashley Hutchings Rainbow Chasers
- **Po Na Na** (Reading) – Glamour Puss
- **Revolution Bar** (Reading) – Beat fest. Hip-hop, breaks and funk night with open mic, breakdancing, graffiti and visuals
- **Rising Sun pub** (Reading) – Six Feet Under. Extreme metal DJs
- **Windsor Arts** (Windsor) – Mellow Mondays – acoustic music and unplugged poetry – open mic

Tuesday 23

- **The Anvil** (Basingstoke) – Ruddy Frame
- **Calcot Hotel** (Reading) – Over 25s disco
- **Foz** (Reading) – The Faculty – student night
- **Global Cafe** (Reading) – Chill Out. Eclectic downtempo tunes
- **Litten Tree** (Reading) – Save Our Students
- **Mango** (Reading) – Soul City. Old school hip-hop
- **Monument** (Newbury) – Mike Lucas's acoustic jam
- **Purple Turtle** (Reading) – Readingrock evolution live bands
- **Red Lion** (High Wycombe) – Live blues night
- **Rising Sun pub** (Reading) – It's a Mesh Mash
- **Riverview Brasserie** (Reading) – Orian Roberts, Nikki Lee, Nat Steele and Luke Steele
- **Sleepers** (Basingstoke) – The Platform, five acoustic acts playing originals
- **Varsity** (Reading) – Indie Night
- **Windsor Arts Centre** (Windsor) – Jazz Platform

choice

The Temple Cooper Clause

3Sixty Bar, Reading University

READING residents The Cooper Temple Clause return to town with a new single *Damage*, while they undertake their first UK tour for two and a half years.

The band's debut album *See This Through and Leave* was released in 2002 to great critical acclaim and 2003's follow-up, *Kick Up the Fire, And Let the Flames Break Loose*, which debuted in the UK top five, achieved the band international recognition.

The Cooper Temple Clause derive their unique hypnotic sound through freeform experimentation with different instruments, drawing comparisons to Pink Floyd and Sonic Youth.

The single is available as a free download from www.drownedinsound.com, the first of many tracks that will be available on a weekly basis. *Damage*, taken from the band's forthcoming album *Make This Your Own*, will also be available as a limited, numbered CD single, with spray-painted sleeve by the band, during the tour.

■ The Cooper Temple Clause play 3Sixty Bar, Whiteknights Campus, Reading University Students Union, on Sunday, May 21 at 8pm. Tickets cost £11.50.