

# BARRY'S BLOG by Barry the Hedgehog

‘Just to prove we *can* share’! (hedges)

October 2012

Hi Guys! Welcome to my blog. It seems like an age since I was recruited by the BBC World Service to appear on their show ‘*Contrasting Cultures*’ - to broadcast the best of British in this Olympic year of 2012. Basically, they took three celebrities and sent us out to have a go at the parallel bars - Liam Gallagher, former Oasis frontman (now lead sinner with The Beady Eye), Gary Mitchell, formerly of The Drunkards comedy group, now writer, historian, and member of Radio Boscombe, and finally me, Barry the



Hedgehog - *bon vivieur*, stuffed toy, and small, replica, spiny mammal. Yeah, I know, asking for trouble weren't it! To be honest, I think most reality TV shows **want** a bit of ‘aggro’ to pull in the viewers, and if that's what they wanted - they got. They made me apologise to Alex Salmond's sporran, but frankly it was an easy mistake to make after a few beers in the dark, and I'm sure we've all been there. Shame too about the hotel bill. I thought the BBC were going to pay the bar off and to get the Volvo out the pool, but ‘no’, somehow that's all my fault! What **do** we pay our licence fee for?

That was back in August so, having to leg it in September I found myself in Bournemouth, a seaside town in Dorset with a severe shortage of pubs thanks to 19<sup>th</sup> century attitudes to booze back in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Gary M's a mate and has let me stay under his shed - though his wife seems to have ‘behaviour expectations’ about something called ‘tidying up’ (?), not having lady hedgehogs to stay overnight, and stopping the party just as it's getting going. I wouldn't mind,

but the local vets have refused to supply my medicine on prescription, and at £25 a bottle 'Jack Daniels' is not cheap if you have to go private.

As I said, Gaz is a mate, and not a bad guy for a human, so I said I'd help him and his band

[Radio Boscombe](#) out on '[Livewire Live](#)' on '[Hope FM](#)' radio. The host, [Tim Heywood](#) is a nice guy for a Cornie. Not that I'm racist, you understand. I mean, they can't help living in the Third World and having to come to England to steal our jobs, can they? Also cewl for a biped is his co-host [Chinners](#) - top promoter with 'Rock Regeneration'. This is a pic of us dealing out phat sounds to da kidz in da hood for the BH postcode posse. Far out!



Also there in September was Mr Webb of HM Comedy Inspectors 'OffCom'. '[Livewire Live](#)' got awarded a 'notice to improve'. Yeah - right! Like **that's** gonna happen!

I was back to help 'em out a month later, October 2012. Well it's cheaper than the 'rent' Mrs M thinks I should pay. Me! A tortured artist, driven to seek the consolation of drink after being accused of a crime I didn't commit! Anyways, young George looks ill in this pic - but more on that later. To quote Tim's blog '*a rather inebriated Barry the Hedgehog, who's allegedly been involved of a high-jack of a Jack Daniels tanker (other bourbons are available).*



*Barry slips into hibernation, which turns into a drink-induced coma, causing some diversion!'*

Listen pasty-face! - us hedgehogs **need** to hibernate - Ok! I just needs a little to drop off (as you can see in the pic above). As I told the magistrate - it's purely medicinal.

Getting back to the tanker bit **I know nuffin' about it, Ok?** And nor does Lozza Jerome 'cos she weren't there either, and neither of us know who planned the blag weeks in advance and stole it while the driver was in the khazi at Pickett Post, emptied out the JD into bottles, stashed 'em in her Dad's garage, and left the tanker empty by the side of the road, Ok? I mean, I'm cute, do I look like a crim?



Anyroad, since I've been unjustly accused I decided to make a movie about it (**see right**). Pleased to say I won '*The Golden Prickle*' for 'best documentary film by a hedgehog' at the Venice film festival, in Venice, Italy. Wow! Terrible floods they had there, but some nice bars... even if Mrs M was there to insist on her 'behaviour expectations' being met. Yeah, I thought it was a Charles Dickens novel as well. Anyroad, my movie proves the images of me were faked by the men who shot JFK...

Now, I mentioned about young George not looking well. Well, it turns out he had a collapsed lung, due to doing his own stunts in '*Oklahoma*', which is a musical as well as a farm in America. Gary and I went to visit him in





Bournemouth hossie, and I had to stay overnight as, apparently, I (quote) 'have a problem with alcohol'. Get real! **Alcohol has a prob with me!** Whatevs, anyway they take poor George to Southampton to operate and re-inflate his lung. Isn't medical science wonderful - you can stick a pipe down a person's throat and 'blow 'em up' using a car battery and a piece of kit from 'Halfords' (other motorbitz supplier are available) rehab - but I don't wanna go to rehab, I say no, no, no. So I get myself expelled... I won't say what I did, but had I been a doctor I'd have been struck off. So kidz, even if you have a white coat it's no guarantee the off-licence will let you have beer on a forged prescription.

On getting back to Bournemouth I have an unexpected visit from my sister, Betty the Hedgehog (see pic). Now, between you and me she's been deported form Ibiza, from her job at club 'Spines'. I won't go into the details here, but the porcupine got off with a caution. Mrs M isn't very happy, but I explain it's a 'visa problem' about Betty working as a 'Polish dancer' that's upset the flamenco people. Guess what sort of dancing Bet really does? I think she's gonna sneak back in to Spain with Lozza J, when she (Loz) goes there to entertain the ex-pats - but as far as Mrs M's 'behaviour expectations' are concerned stumm! Well that's all for the mo. More soon.





9<sup>th</sup> November 2012

Well, staying under Gaz' shed it would be a bit churlish **not** to help out his band [Radio Boscombe](#) on ['Livewire Live'](#) on ['Hope FM'](#) radio, especially since Young George was still ill. As in 'has just had surgery'. Not 'tired and emotional' (sic). The picture here was taken by co-host [Chinners](#) of my sister Bet doing some of her 'Polish dancing' (sic), around a microphone stand. You can't see [Tim Heywood](#) (luckily), but Gaz is growing a'tache for 'Movember', and Bet and I took offence when someone suggested it looks like (quote) 'a hedgehog on mescaline. Ok, well there wasn't a fight and 'no names, no pack drill', the pasty-eater **did** apologise, but personally I reckon Gaz' 'tache is fifty shades too grey to be a 'hog (geddit?) Lozza is moving to Spain to work as a DJ and **not** to help run JD across the border from Gibraltar disguised as sangria - so let's squash that rumour right now, right? (yeah - 'squash' bad gag). Bet will be returning with her as she's taken a fancy to pictures of Lozza's new boss' 'assistant'. I haven't the heart to break it to her the bloke's Scottish and it's actually his sporran. Lol.



6<sup>th</sup> December 2012

Got to do '[Livewire Live](#)' on '[Hope FM](#)' radio with Gary's band [Radio Boscombe](#), including an Christmas appeal for more JD to help 'Hedgehogs In Need'. None yet - usual mayhem. A quiet show for me - but watch out for more hedgehog related stuff coming soon at '[Hope FM](#)' with my showbiz pal Hogarth the Hedgehog. Might be helping out - will keep you posted...

3<sup>rd</sup> January 2013

Woke up after Xmas - where did it go? More to the point - who drank my present? Mrs M says it was me, but I wonder if she 'gave it to the needy', e.g. Gary. Got to do '[Livewire Live](#)' on '[Hope FM](#)' radio with Gary's band [Radio Boscombe](#), including an appeal to help hedgehogs migrate to Barbados for the winter, a cause very dear to my heart. Ironic really, Lozza's last show before she 'migrates' to Spain to work as a DJ and 'Rock Hobbit', but she's taking my sister Betty with her - a neat way to evade the Spanish authorities' draconian entry requirements. Bad day for Gary tho - he *thought* he'd got a knighthood in the New Year's Honours list... but turns out it was a clerical error - and the Queen took it back to give to George instead. Lol! As he says, 'how am I going to tell Mrs Mitchell she's no longer a lady'? Yeah - 'Iron Lady' - I'm still suffering from *her* draconian 'behaviour expectations'.

6<sup>th</sup> February 2013

V cold in January. Double plus bad. Yeah, I now, I've started writing like Bridget Jones, lol. Got to do '[Livewire Live](#)' on '[Hope FM](#)' radio again with Gary's and Chinnners and George and new kidz on da block Sam Hutchinson and Jasmine Newsome-Stone, who's like a folk singer in the Mary Hopkin mould. I missed Lozza 'cos she usually fronts me a JD, and I'm wondering how she's doing in Spain - and whether my sister Betty got back in Ok. Come on, where's the pics of Sun, Sangria and spines you two!!! Also back was Tim - back from 'two weeks scuba diving in Egypt' (sic). Apparently they paid his bail in pasties, lol! I didn't have a big part this month but it's always a blast as I went to the pub after with Tim. After two gigs it all went fuzzy... and I woke up under a hedge. And, no, I DID share it!



23<sup>rd</sup> February 2013

I went with Gary and family to see 'Viva Forever', the musical based on the life and works of my great show-biz pals The Spice Girls (though I hate to name-drop). It was for the birthday of Gary's youngest Olivia, who sue plays a mean guitar on the quiet - and famously got thrown out of 'O'Neil's' in Bournemouth, age 13. Anyway, afterwards we



went to a club with the girls, and I won't say which Mel threw the first punch, but we was provoked, and *any* novelist whose that nasty about the Duchess of Cambridge has it coming, in my book. Livvy was able to make a few Townshend style moves with her guitar before I discovered it's *not* true what they say about the Metropolitan Police, who gave us breakfast before deporting us back to Bournemouth for one of Mrs M's 'behaviour expectations' lectures. Grounded and letters of apology to write - happy days!

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2013

I went with Gary to see my rock 'n' roll pals States Of Matter in concert at top Bournemouth nightspot, The Grove Tavern. This was quite an event as it gave me a chance to catch up with Laura Jerome and her beau (*right*), top Scots ex-pat DJ in Spain, Barrie Michel of top online English-lang Spanish radio show *Venom FM* (<http://www.venomfm.es/>). Now this is where it gets *really* confusing 'cos also





there was Barry Hillier - so every time someone said 'Baz, do you want a drink...' Well, you can imagine... Now, I won't mention any names, but I'm now *convinced* the reason Jack Daniels is so expensive is because a certain Rock Hobbit (no names no pack-drill Loz) is drinking it all, and thereby artificially creating a shortage (*other medicinal whiskies are available - always read the label*). Yo! Girl Power! Emily Davison would be proud! Thing is, the other two Barries were streaming the gig live on *Venom*, which is based in Spain, which is where Loz is working as well. I asked her how my sister Betty was getting on back out there, as I hadn't heard from her, but it seems she's too busy with her new 'Polish dancing' troupe, The Hedgehog Dolls.

Anyways, it's the mark of a good band whether they can do covers well, and in addition to their own finely-crafted material SOM can do this. They're a top-notch harmonic pop/rock band that even Mrs Mitchell approves of - and I'm not just saying that because they buy me drinks, Ok? They're auctioning a guitar for charity, for cancer research, which can't be bad. Ian, their top-flight bare-chested and multi-tattooed bass player told me they've got a



gig in Winchester, and then in London to break into the big-time - so I expect they'll be on *Top Of the Pops* and *Ready, Steady, Go* very soon indeed. Check out their *Facebook* site @ <https://www.facebook.com/#!/statesofmatter.bournemouth?fref=ts> for detail of future gigs. You know, I sometimes think we don't appreciate enough the hard work front-line musicians do, playing live music on a Saturday night, when they could more easily sit at home and watch whatever 'talent show' is being shown on TV - and SOM have two albums (studio and acoustic)





coming out soon, so they're certainly doing their bit for the war effort, and a great time was had by all (*see left - Gaz makes a great 'embarrassing Dad' - doesn't he?*).

Anyways, we was making our way home, nothing having kicked-off *at all* (unlike with some of my showbiz pals I could mention), when who should I happen to bump into - purely by chance - but my

old friend Rachel S. Hedgehog. Poor Rachel was most upset having (apparently) had her handbag snatched by a gang of stoats. Naturally, being a gentlehedgehog, I was obliged to break curfew and help her safely home... so left Gaz to explain to Mrs M where I was... (*Mrs Mitchell writes: 'Whilst I applaud Barry for assisting a lady in distress he should have notified the authorities and not remained overnight, as this could potentially sully her reputation. Miss Austen would not approve!'*).

Can't win, can yer?

March 2013

Got to watch '[Livewire Live](#)' on '[Hope FM](#)' radio again with Gary and Chinnners and George and new kidz on da block Sam Hutchinson and James Cottle of comedy panel game '*A Little Bit Racey*' and top rock band Voodoo Vegas (7<sup>th</sup> March) . Then we recorded some jingles for the show. Lol.



Quiet evening, but fun. Later in the month I saw this ad for holidays in Alderney. Wow! Look at the spines on her! A real hedgehog Kylie! So, my new charity is, 'Send A Bournemouth Hedgehog To The Channel Islands'...

4<sup>th</sup> April 2013 - 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013

Got to watch ['Livewire Live'](#) on ['Hope FM'](#) radio again with a huge crew of Gary and George Attwill, with Sam Hutchinson, James Cottle, Lloyd Morgan and Tom Harrison plus usual suspects Chinnners and Tim Heywood for improve game show '*A Little Bit Racey*' ( [Facebook Page/](#) ). Brilliant fun - although I didn't have a lot to do but help point the finger at the missing flapjacks that disappeared in last month's show... and the reasons why my top rock 'n' roll pals States Of Matter have split up. Again. May and early June are a bit of a blur - but I've been hanging with Gaz and the Radio Boscombe guys, and wondering how sister Betty is doing in Spain with Loz. Can't remember? Can't take it like I used to... I'm - apparently - producing Gary's dreaded 'solo album', so I suggested flying to Berlin to record in an bierkeller with David Bowie.



Apparently Gary's uncle Les used to fly to Berlin on business, regularly, three times a week. He was in the RAF during the war... Well, we got there and the flippin' Berlin Wall has gone! Apparently it was spoiling Chancellor Merkel's view of their football team's changing room, lol! Still, no prob, the keller was still there, and we set to work. Then it was back to Blighty for Glasto on June 29<sup>th</sup> with my rock 'n' roll pal Keef, of popular beat-combo The Rolling Stones. If you look carefully at the BBC footage you can see him pick up an 'energy drink' (sic) at the end of the show. Yeah, right...

August 2013

Got to watch ['Livewire Live'](#) on ['Hope FM'](#) radio again with a huge crew of Gary and David Wylie, top actor Leighton Haberfield (who has 'experience' of working with Madonna as well),



George Lock, EA Ahmed plus usual suspects Chinnners and Tim Heywood. Did improve game show 'A Little Bit Racey' ( [Facebook Page/](#) ). Brilliant fun - and 'chayos' - but still relatively well organised compared with one of Gary's recording sessions. I did, however, get to climb up the bungee Tim uses to hold up the mic. He's a great lad and brought back some Cornish beer. Half way through the show the beer ran out and they couldn't work out why it was ('whistles quietly in all innocence'). Working on stuff with Gary at the mo, possibly for Xmas release. But which year?

September to October 2013

Got to do 'Livewire Live' on 'Hope FM' radio again with all the usual suspects in September, and in October with the full Radio Boscombe crew back. Usual mayhem, and I've been featured in their 'Seasonwatch' sketch. Getting fed up of their jokes about me and Jack Daniels. The scandalous price of JD is no laughing Matter, but a genuine national crisis the Coalition government is failing to grapple with. More on this later.

Oh yes, I'm now also on 'Facebook' at <https://www.facebook.com/barrythedgehog> where

I shall be shamelessly name dropping and musing on life, the universe, and everything ☺ So, who do you think you are kidding Mrs Merkel? These Aldi 'Titan' bars are simply not the same taste as Mars Bars. When I was in Berlin with my pal David Bowie recording in the 70's, we used to have proper Mars Bars flown in. Should 'ave kept the original lyric, David. 'We can be hedgehogs - just for one day' Well, in my case every day... Talking of Germany, at least this time the Americans managed to hack Angela Merkel's 'Enigma' machine without being given the info by MI5. So, *at last* it's more like in the movies for them, lol ☺



November 2013

Got to do ['Livewire Live'](#) on ['Hope FM'](#) radio again with all the usual suspects - but very little time to discuss the cruel 'tagging' of hedgehogs. Gary M says this is for scientific research, but it smacks to me of '1984'. That's the Orwell book, BTW, not mullet hair and new Romantics. I resent being tagged just because some judge thinks I should be. And the photofit was forged - it could have been any hedgehog in the *'Jack Daniels'* warehouse.

Now, as my Comedy pals The Drunkards used to say, 'I'd like to deny that last rumour...' Just because I think Katy Perry is 'cute' doesn't mean anything more. She's the wrong species for a start, but it was fun being in her video. We're just good showbiz pals, so let's squash that one. Yeah, hedgehogs and squashing, not good. That'll need redrafting...



Now, as many of you know I'm now on *'Facebook'*. I just love this new social media for its immediacy - and the ease with which you can instantly abuse those you dislike by deploying your superior wit. If Oscar Wilde was still alive I bet he'd be up for it. So, please follow my posts and ignore what Gary says about me. He's just bitter 'cos he's old and bald. Oh, and ugly. Point! Better go and FB that now

December 2013

Did ['Livewire Live'](#) on ['Hope FM'](#) radio again with all the usual suspects - and in a new studio. No more climbing up the mic to rig it for me - but I did anyway - and a successful show despite Chinnners trying to distract me with some 'hedgehog porn' in a 'wildlife magazine'.



Barry The Hedgehog  
I've made a new friend today

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Here's a pic...

Spring 2014

Finally finished producing Gary's solo album '*Life In The Old Git Yet*', available from his website [www.garymitchell.co.uk](http://www.garymitchell.co.uk) . Got to write the sleeve notes to really dish the dirt... Did '[Livewire Live](#)' on '[Hope FM](#)' radio again with all the usual suspects - and this time the new studio almost worked - all to promote Gaz' solo album, which , as I may have mentioned, I rather brilliantly produced. Did '[Livewire Live](#)' on '[Hope FM](#)' in Feb too as special '*Dry for 25*' event. Starting at 07:00 PM I gave up alcohol for nearly a whole half hour. March '[Livewire Live](#)' on '[Hope FM](#)' again, and now Radio Boscombe are getting their act together again helping out there too. New guy Paul Jerome is fun and knows a lot about rock Music, but then being Lozza's Dad I guess he would? I wasn't allowed to tell the boys and girls on the radio about George's 'sabbatical' as the case has yet to come to court, but stay tuned and all will be revealed...



The April '[Livewire Live](#)' on '[Hope FM](#)' say the last ever '*A Little Bit Racey*', so I missed out my chance of taking part there, lol. James and Wylie said I 'wasn't loud enough' (sic). Anyways, after that it was straight into producing the new Radio Boscombe album '*The One Where George Is On A Break...*' Suffice to say they're not easy to work with and an absolute nightmare to record. Ok, so they all got back together, then George went on a sabbatical until 2017 so they recruited Paul, and then Jester came back to do some stuff with them too, and Gary finished his solo album while Laura moved to St Leonard's rather than to Spain, and then Penny married

Chandler, and Amy and Ross got divorced from Sheldon which, basically, is how I met your mother. Confused? You will be... I'm on there too in the rather embarrassing broadcast of 'Seasonwatch', and I'll leave it there. It's out at the end of May and that month's edition of ['Livewire Live'](#) on ['Hope FM'](#) was used to promote it, and to explain about young George's 'legal issues' in America. Throw away the key? Could be... Hugely successful show, but then I am a star... Back again in June, this time with Chinnners in the chair as Tim was down a pasty mine. The guest was self-confessed 'Nice Poet' and singer Coralie Knight, and the episode marked the return of 'Angry Poet', who is an objectionable and untalented little t\*t who would benefit from loosening up with more beer. Fun anyway - and if they said I didn't mean it about traffic wardens, I actually *did*! Not outrageous, just pragmatic, I say...



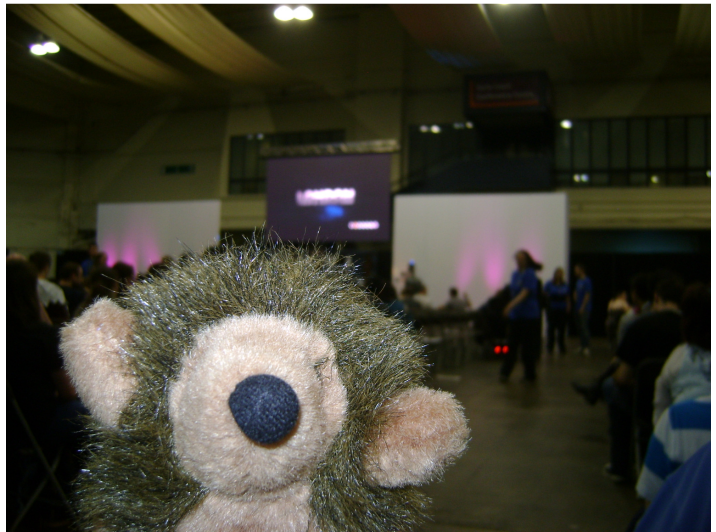
### High Summer 2014

'Summer's here and the time is right for drinking in the street', right? Well, that's what my sister Betty is doing in Spain anyway. Here in England I've really been enjoying the World Cup - despite England's early exit (as in 'earlier than usual', lol). July's ['Livewire Live'](#) on ['Hope FM'](#) was a bit of a rum do - only without the rum. Mr Thomas Adam of the Department of Work and Pensions Veterinary Squad came in to talk about 'animals who claim bogus benefits'. Of course they all started suggesting *I* wasn't entitled to my incapacity benefit, through after my 'medicine' I am often incapable. Anyways, I think I blagged it. Least, I curled up into a ball and hid and they haven't been back since, anyways, which is pretty much the same thing...

In July I went to the *London Film And Comic Con* with Gary and his daughter Olivia. On the train up I discovered British Rail coffee wasn't bad - and now only about £2.00 a slice. They also serve *Jack Daniels* - and to the lady opposite who said 08:00 AM is too early I say if one is sick, one is entitled to one's medicine. She was talking too loud on the train's so-called 'quiet zone'

and causing a kaffuffle, so who's in the wrong there? Gotta say - it was a great show with some amazing speakers and amazing cosplayers. Some of the speakers may have been at the JD, judging by the language used (no names no pack drill but he was the armoury officer in *'Enterprise'*) and Colin Baker is always good value as a public speaker. Bit of a shame if you don't pay you don't get to see the stars, much less be pictured with them, but plenty to empty your bank account with - even for Gary (who is a notoriously tight bastard) and indulged in some shameless self-promotion for his *'Space Vixens From Mars'* thing. Space Hedgehogs from Mars? That'd be a show, I say, in which and intrepid Captain Barry led his team of of beautiful but scantily-clad lady hedgehogs in a trans-galactic search for the legendary life-giving fountain of Jacques Danielless. Whatever, it was all clear evidence that it's a crowded market place writing sci-fant, and unless you're on TV or in the movies you have an uphill struggle... All in all, lotsa fun...

Anyways, Gary and his family went to Rome on holiday - and I tagged along. I say, 'tagged along', but frankly British Airways security isn't all it should be. So, imagine Mrs Mitchell's surprise when I popped up the minute Gary mentioned in-flight 'Jack Daniels' (*other whiskies are available, always read the label to make*





*sure isn't water*). She was not amused and had me on a tight 'behaviour contract' the whole time - even tighter than Gary's.

The Coliseum was interesting, as were several local beers (see pics). It was in the Coliseum gladiators had to fight wild animals. Indeed, I find one of the least attractive facets of ancient Rome was their love of violence for its own sake, and slavery, but I'm sure those ancient hedgehogs gave as good as they got.



Anyways, at the Vatican I took a picture of one of the famous Swiss guards - and then there was a huge kerfuffle! I think he must have seen a rat behind me 'cos he started shouting about 'vermin' and raising his halbard ('ooh er missus'). Well, I ran for it - hid in a confession booth. Would you believe it ('cos Gary didn't) - but





inside was my old humanitarian/ religious pal, Pope Francis. ‘Have you come to confess your sins?’ he asked. Well, I said I was admitting nothing, and anyway it was all the Hobbit’s idea, but we got chatting, and it turns out animals don’t have ‘original sin’, so automatically get in Heaven. Sorted! As for ‘unoriginal sin’ I’ll draw a discreet blank, but he’d dead right when he says the ‘trickle down’ theory is rubbish because ‘the glass keeps getting bigger’, so we can count on him as an ally in the struggle against international capitalism.



The next day, after a bus tour, I slipped away to see my old political pal Silvio Bellisgoni, who recently ‘got off on appeal (sic). Silvio and I agree that if a hedgehog wants to invite lady hedgehogs into his room after hours he should be allowed to, with no questions asked. Mrs M disagrees, however.



The next day Mrs M and the girls went shopping, and after I’d raided the mini-bar and managed to drag Gary away from archaeological sites and museums and all that ‘history stuff’ ( as his daughters call it), I found a shop that sold ‘Jack Daniels’ ice-cream... After that I’m not sure, but being a spiral Trajan’s column is quite easy for a hedgehog to climb. All I needed was Audrey



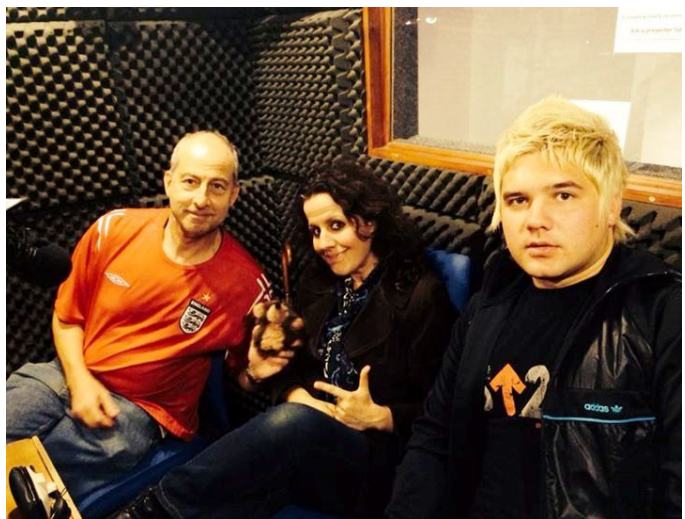
Hedgehog and a Vespa scooter it would have been *la dolce vita* - like in the movies. I *also* think we underestimate the hard work done by the Italian police. And the Swiss guards. Sadly it was then time to return home, the Italian word for which is, apparently, 'deportation'.

Augustish 2014

Well, the night's are starting to draw in, and I'm told dawn is getting later. Any later and I'll have to give her a written warning, boom boom! On 6<sup>th</sup> I went to top poetry recital ['Freeway Poets'](#) at ['The Winchester'](#) to see my top comedy pal Anne Lydon perform. Yep, she's well and truly back, and also also there was her daughter Theresa Smith of top metal band Metaprism, off to play the prestigious ['Bloodstock'](#) rock festival. Great night out, some really original verses, and best of all Gary didn't get to perform any of his twee poems about history teachers, or Angry poet his paens to Diana Vickers. As you can see from the photo, all the nice girls love a hedgehog...



Two ['Livewire Live'](#) on ['Hope FM'](#) in August, first on the 20<sup>th</sup> was with the Charming ['Hope And The New Flower Generation'](#) and I was on my best behaviour. So. Soz about that... Then the week later on ['Livewire Live'](#) on ['Hope FM'](#) it was with top singer and guitarist George Holloway of ['Drift'](#) who had a brush with some hair dye, and with Tim back from visiting his





home village in Cornwall. It's been raining, but not to worry, they're going to have the Bournemouth Airshow indoors if wet...



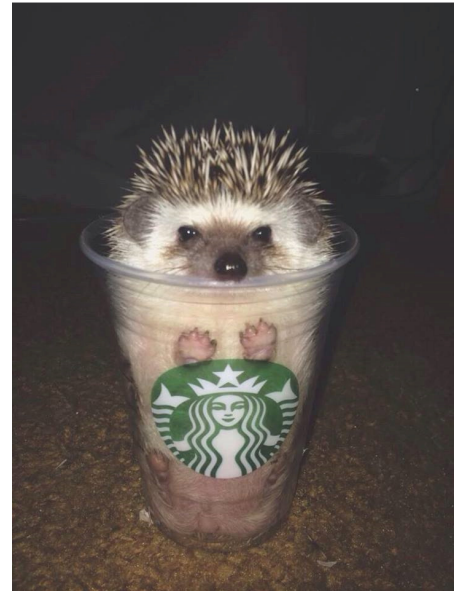
WHERE MRS MITCHELL *THINKS* I  
SHOULD LIVE - AND WHERE I *ACTUALLY*  
LIVE

Yes, I've moved from under Gary's shed to 'The Bell' at Pokesdown. Basically it was the neighbours. Late night parties, anti-social behaviour, drunkenness etc etc... so they got up a petition to make me move - and Mrs Mitchell claims she's 'had enough' of my behaviour', and that I'm a 'bad influence' on Gary. No problem, my new home has easy access to the beer cellar - or is that #beer seller'? Then the week later on ['Livewire Live'](#) on ['Hope FM'](#) it was with top girl band ['The Mood Swings'](#), and I got to swing in the microphone again.

Autumnish 2014

Back on ['Livewire Live'](#) on ['Hope FM'](#) in October with top musician ['Matt Black'](#), and to discuss my commission to produce ['Radio Boscombe's'](#) new '30' project for their thirtieth year next year, using new and archive material. It's a huge honour which I'm insisting they pay me for, possible

in *'Jack Daniels'*, though I am worried about this new drug that stops you liking alcohol in case they let vets prescribe it.



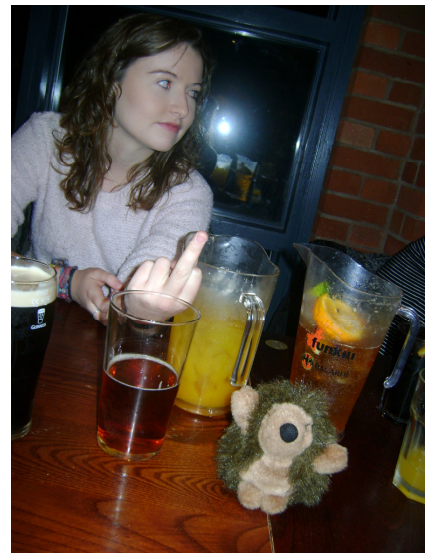
IN THE FINEST  
TRADITIONS OF  
BRITISH  
INVESTIGATIVE  
JOURNALISM...  
HERE'S SOME  
GRATUITOUS  
PICTURES OF CUTE  
LADY HEDGEHOGS

In October I went on a 'promotional tour' of Stratford-Upon-Avon pubs with Gary. I say 'promotional tour'... it was (predictably) more of a pubcrawl in which he delivered publicity copies of *'Don't Fall In Love Too Quickly'*, his novel saga about the rise of a rock band from the



town. Sad to say no live music. *'The Green Dragon'* has gone completely, *'The Cross Keys'* is now an abortion of a gastro-wine bar. *'The Dirty Duck'* is thankfully still there, and in its theatrical bar unchanged. *'The Garrick'* too has escaped the ravages of time - though *'The One Elm'* has been done up. On the plus side the local *Weatherspoons* *'The Golden Bee'* has cheap beer, food and cocktails. *Plus ça change*. As you can see from the picture Deanna 'Red Ginger' Mitchell is benefitting from a university education in manners and deportment. We then went to Warwick Castle, so I guess the picture says it all... An interesting trip down Gary's memory lane, and if the past is (to misquote Shakespeare) 'an unknown country', it's nice to visit, but I wouldn't want to go back and live there.

Back on ['Livewire Live'](#) on ['Hope FM'](#) on Bonfire Night (5/11 for my American fans) to promote ['Radio Boscombe's'](#) new '30' project for their thirtieth year next year, and Tim suggested I was very well behaved all evening. I feel quite insulted. Seriously, do check under your bonfires, because there could be a hedgehog underneath, sleeping off his medicine. Then it was the run-up to Christmas, more fun this year with Tesco's (other supermarkets are available) doing JD at £15 a bottle. So it began with being back on ['Livewire Live'](#) on ['Hope FM'](#) on 3<sup>rd</sup>. Then it gets blurry... But I do recall flashing lights and some policemen in high vis jackets. So, answer me, this, why are all the SNP leaders named after fish? Salmond, Sturgeon? It's like one of Gary's comedy sketches the band threw on the discard pile...





### *'CSI Tower Hill' - In Which I Solve The Mystery Of The Princes In The Tower*

If you've ever been stuck in a long car journey with Gary and Steve P. whilst they bang-on about 'who killed the Princes in the Tower', you'll have some idea what Hull is like. Sorry, 'Hell'. Anyways, I resolved to finally lay the matter to rest by a 'CSI' style investigation.



Well, I got to The Tower in time to be shown around by a very entertaining Yeoman of the Guard called 'Rob' (tip - they're not happy being called 'Beefeaters'). Now, Rob's unit was set up by King Henry VII, so they might be a bit biased (Steve P. points the finger at Henry or (more usually) his Mum, Margaret Beaufort. Anyways, we got to the Bloody Tower (yeah, old joke) the (alleged) scene of the murder of the Princes (which is a bit strange as one of them was actually king, but never mind). Rob qualified (several times) 'there's no proof King Richard did it but...' Mm - at which point the Hipster American dude behind me whispers to his Hipster girl, 'it's like *'Game Of Thrones'*' lol. Yes, it *is*. And there are ravens *are* involved too. And a Traitors Watergate. Anyways,



just the facts. The princes 'conveniently disappeared' on Dickon's watch. He'd already had them legally declared 'bastards' to take the crown for himself (and later his son). I say 'take'... Usurped, or for the good of the kingdom with the will of Parliament to avoid a minority sovereign? You can hear Gary and Steve P. arguing now, can't you? Anyways, a couple of

hundred years later they found two matching bodies bricked up under some stairs (identified as bang on the right age for the princes in 1933), which Charles II had reburied in Westminster Abbey as being the princes.

Coincidence? I know a bloke is innocent until proven guilty, but... The Tower is more fortress than palace - no one could get in and out unobserved. Ok, Lord Stanley *was* warden of the Tower and had access, and he *was* married to Margaret Beaufort, but really? Maybe the princes just died of fever and Richard had to keep quiet - or everyone would think *he'd* done 'em in. But then why not produce the bodies? Fever? Smothered with a pillow? It'd all look the same, right? Anyways, clearly when Henry Tudor landed some people reckoned them already done in so supported him - including the dead princes' Mum,

Elizabeth Woodville. Would she have supported Henry if she thought her boys still alive? No way! But that's still not hard evidence Richard done it, 'cos there's none for his reign, and any later evidence is gonna be a bit suss.... Blimey! The more you look into these historical mysteries the murkier it gets, the harder it gets to find a deffo truth. What we need is Dr Who and a time machine....

So, what's my shock revelation solution? ***After looking at the 'crime scene' I'm more and more convinced we'll never get to the bottom of this one.*** Maybe if the remains in the Abbey are DNA tested, like wot they did with Richard's skelington. But even if they prove to be the princes, that's still now the same as knowing who dun 'em in. But then until they found *that* two years ago Steve P was swearing blind the 'hump' was a Tudor invention.



So, nothing to this 'investigative historian' gig, is there, really? Keep writing and publishing about something that can't be solved all we'll all make a packet. Move over Dan Snow! Put me down for a series of '*Great Hedgehogs Of WWII*'. And the next time you see two middle-aged blokes bickering about a middle-ages mystery - tell them to shut the frack up and get a life.

I know I shall...

### January - April 2015

Back on '[Livewire Live](#)' on '[Hope FM](#)' on 7<sup>th</sup> with Gary and Tim, the latter 'tired' and emotional' over changes to Cornish customs and alleging I'd stolen his drink. Then it gets blurry, suffice to say one of us has spines in his knuckles and the other was on his best behaviour for the rest of the show. Can't wait for next month when my comedy pal '[Anthony Fairweather](#)' will be back in. I thought it had been rearranged - but no! It seems I 'didn't get that email' was 'included out' and all the other platitudes, and I didn't find out until the day. It seems, dear reader, they were filming for '[Anthony Fairweather's](#)' biography, so had to be on their 'best behaviour', hence I wasn't told. Apparently it was a good show despite that - and I *did* manage to get there at the end. There was a scuffle. A well-known 'writer and historian' got some spines in his hand. All friends now, not to mention the war and all that... Anyway, I got out on bail in time for the March show when the special guest was top poet '[Steve Biddle](#)', there to promote his poetry books and stuff. Good fun, but I find my ASBO most constraining - but not so much I can't help produce the boys and girls of '[Radio Boscombe](#)' on their thirtieth anniversary album. Back again on '[Livewire Live](#)' on '[Hope FM](#)' on, appropriately, April Fool's Day, with top band '[Hope & The New Flower Generation](#)' where we had an interesting 'debate', '[Ryan Boydon](#)' finally convincing '[Chinners](#)' we hedgehogs are lactose intolerant, and we need '*Jack Daniels*' put out, not milk.

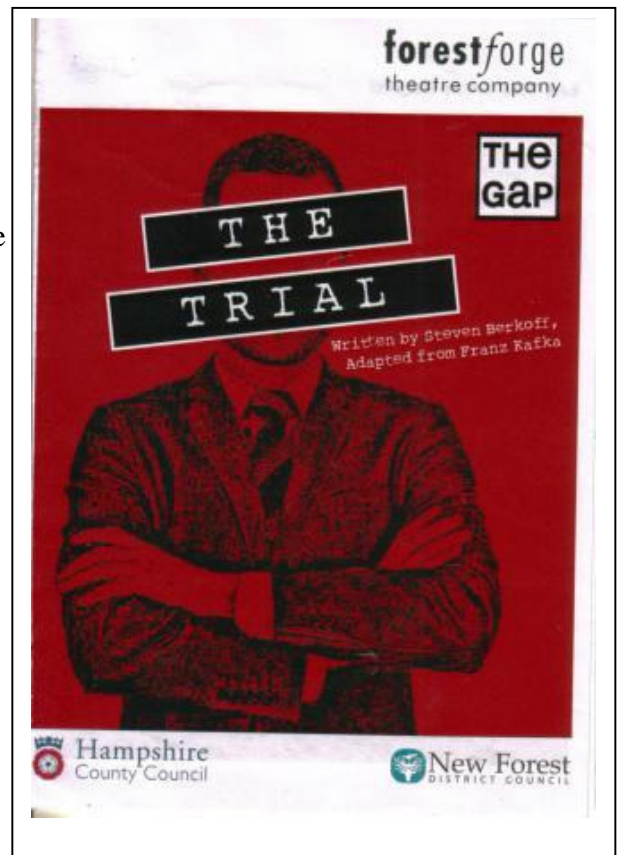
### Summer 2015

Back again on '[Livewire Live](#)' on '[Hope FM](#)' in May for a pre-election special, with Gary and top local poet '[Louise Schachter](#)'. I always vote, but whatever happens the government will still get in. Sadly not one of the candidates is into 'hedgehog awareness', nor has plans to put '*Jack Daniels*' on NHS prescription. I live in hope of sensible policies for a happier Britain. Great show as I work on my 'beach body', sharpening my spines and exercising ready to go surfing...



At the end of May I went to see my comedy pal and sometime member of ['Radio Boscombe'](#) Sir George Attwill in his directorial debut in Kafka's *'The Trial'*. For those of you who don't know Kafka, he doesn't play for laughs but this was a tremendous performance from some talented young actors, Sir George keeping the pace moving with some fast action and careful use of minimal props. So, go see while you can. I think they're doing *'Zulu'* next, 'cos I heard someone say afterwards 'fire at will'...

Back again on ['Livewire Live'](#) on ['Hope FM'](#) in June with guests poets Myriam Word Maker ( [Facebook Page/](#) ) and Paul Point of London's Chocolate Poetry Club. Summer is now here and I'm getting my 'beach body' into shape. Yep, I have a body and it comes to the beach with me... Also, now the gardening season is upon us, don't forget to make a space under your fences for wildlife to get in and out. Here's Gary's new one, opened today by celebrity omnivore [Barry The Hedgehog](#) (me).



And don't forget to put down a saucer of Jack Daniels... Seriously, we hedgehogs are lactose intolerant so don't give us milk or bread. And above all NEVER give them the key to your drinks cabinet.

Anyways, did ['Livewire Live'](#) on ['Hope FM'](#) in July with guests top prog-rock band ['Galahad'](#) . I barely got a word in, but like Gary's ['Radio Boscombe'](#) they're celebrating their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary this yeah (and are big in Poland). Hope I last that long - which I won't if the government keep cutting my benefits and sticking up the price of beer.

### Autumn 2015 – Winter 2016

So, that was my summer. I 'had to go away for a bit' in August and September, as no one would stand bail for me. However, I did get out, and, yes, it must have been another hedgehog with identical DNA to me who broke into the *'Jack Daniels'* warehouse and stole it all, and I'm sure I'll be exonerated on appeal. Anyways, did ['Livewire Live'](#) on ['Hope FM'](#) in October with guest top poet ['Kim West'](#) , also with Gary to promote his ['Radio Boscombe's'](#) 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary CD unimaginatively called '30', as it's also their 30<sup>th</sup> album, and which (for my sins) I have to record. Well, by the last week of October I finally finished producing it, ready for the premiere on ['Livewire Live'](#) on ['Hope FM'](#) on November 4<sup>th</sup>, which went really well despite them accusing me of threatening them with a broken bottle (untrue, it wasn't broken). Now, of course, it's Christmas coming, and time to be festive and distribute orphans as presents which I did in the festive on ['Livewire Live'](#) show on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Tim accused me of being a member of radio Boscombe – so I immediately demanded half their fee. After a quiet Christmas, where I was awarded a CBE for my services to the whiskey industry, it was back to ['Livewire Live'](#) show Jan 6<sup>th</sup> to start the new year.

Sadly I was involved in a 'little mix-up' (very different from girl-band Little Mix) over some weapons grade plutonium that I found – honestly I *did* – in a park in Parkstone. Thinking it was harmless I took it to sell on Boscombe market. Some guy with a pocket Geiger counter called the authorities. Anyways, after a 'chat' with the nice lady from the International Atomic Energy Authority it was all cleared up. So boys and girls, if you find any weapons grade plutonium in

the park that doesn't belong to you, make sure you find a grown-up to help you take it to nearest police station. I've – of course – been on my best behaviour since – and apparently Parkstone is now decontaminated, though still not habitable. Because it wasn't before, lol.

It was back to ['Livewire Live'](#) show on Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>, with guests young writers ['Lois Bodie'](#) and ['Harriet Mandley'](#), which went off quite well and has convinced me I'd like to help nurture and help aspiring young writing talent, and help promote the arts. For a small fee. To cover expenses. Say, 15%? If you're interested – apply now.



I was back on ['Hope FM'](#) for the drivetime show on 12<sup>th</sup> February as part of my service to the community (or 'community service' as the magistrate called it), with Tim and Gary. I think we got away with it, then again in March for the usual show with nice guest Conrad Barr playing live. Gary was late because of a parent's evening – so I bet his Mum and Dad were really angry with his progress. Same again in April. And June and July – I really must get out more.

I spent August 'away' – always a pleasure at Her Majesty's (sic) and was back for on ['Hope FM'](#) for ['Livewire Live'](#) on Sept 7<sup>th</sup>. Poor Tim Heywood, taken ill, but I understand he's gone back to his home village to Cornwell so the medicine man can remove the 'bad spirit' infecting his pasty. As Tim was ill it was me, Gary, station manager Kevin Potter twiddling knobs - with guests singer and author Kimari Raven, Bournemouth poet Laurate Myriam San Marco, and poet Simon Bailey. Sadly in all that I didn't get a chance to mention my current charity, *'Make Hedgehog Poverty History'*, in which rich people give me money. Get well soon Tim!



These days so much of what we do is under the scrutiny of so-called 'social media' – an oxymoron because it's frequently anti-social. I can, however, heartily recommend '*The Railway*' pub in Ringwood, opposite where the station once was. Good food, convivial company, and a wide range of medicine. I'm pleased to see that, although currently 'resting', my Bohemian comedy pal and actor Sir George Attwill is seeking out new drinks and new civilisations.



**Barry The Hedgehog** added 4 new photos.

5 mins · 🌐

Great night down the pub last night with Rockshow Paul Loz Jerome Sir George Attwill and Gary Mitchell . Because no good night out ever involves a glass of dihydrogen-monoxide!





### Most of 2017

After a period of what I like to call 'hibernation' it was back to doing ['Livewire Live'](#) on ['Hope FM'](#) in the new year with guest top poet ['Kim West'](#), also sadly with Gary. A few changes at the station. Tim Heywood has been 'kicked upstairs' to produce the Cornish language service '*Appnin Ab Kernow*'. This means Kimari Raven is in charge. For a human Miss Raven is absolutely charming – but she's very strict. Even the slightest 'inappropriate behaviour' and you'll find yourself on detention on a

Friday afternoon, litter-picking around the 'Hope FM' studio while all the other hedgehogs get to leave early and go down '*Weatherpoons*' (other pubs are available – always read the label) to



hang out with the girls from St. Tiggywinkles. We got away with it, but got set creative writing homework called '*The Purple Poet*'. Kim did some brill poems about human stuff, and you can just about see me in this picture. Back February on ['Livewire Live'](#) on ['Hope FM'](#) with top young comic ['Andrew White'](#), also sadly with Gary (who at least read out my

top poem on air) to prove I've (for once) done my homework. Also back was Jonathan The Jester, always a 'good laugh'. Back again in March – and in April – and in May – and in June –

and July - on ['Livewire Live'](#) on ['Hope FM'](#) . As usual, Miss Raven was very strict and makes us behave. Sometimes I feel I've become little more than a mascot for the show. Meanwhile, I've done some production work for Gary's old group The Drunkards, but more of that anon.

Summer break coming up. Where others 'kick-back' I like to 'kick-off' so...

**SEE MORE IN PART 2**