



# New music from a forgotten and eccentric genius

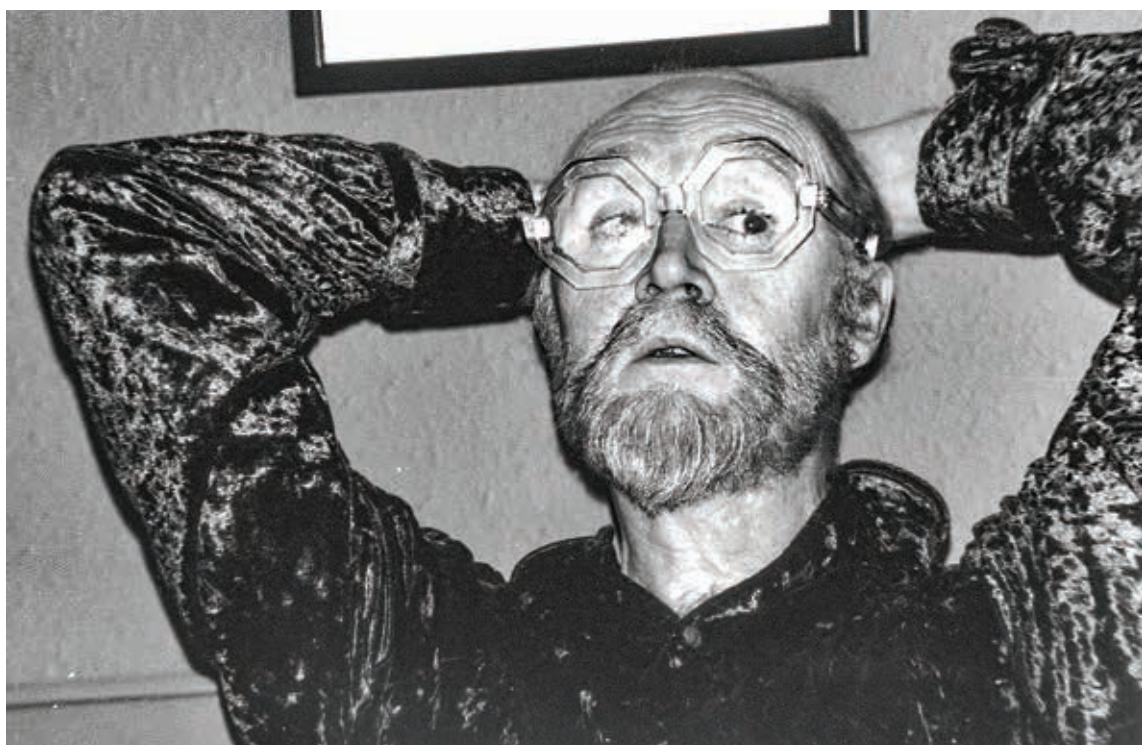
By David Hobbs

There are some people who are so central to popular culture that the mention of their name will always get smiles of recognition. Then there are others who are well kept secrets, and Viv Stanshall is one of those.

He was a founder member of the Bonzo Dog Doo Dah Band, wrote lyrics for Steve Winwood and created the character Sir Henry at Rawlinson End, which started life on the John Peel Show and went on to become an LP and a film starring Trevor Howard. So why is he such a well-kept secret?

Partly this was a consequence of a lifetime of anxiety, alcohol and Valium addiction that left behind broken relationships, missed deadlines and, on his death in a fire at his Muswell Hill flat in 1995, a stack of unfinished music.

On good days he could be charming, witty and engaging in the way you always hoped your heroes would be. When he was drinking he was impossibly disorganised and frightening to be around. When my friend and fellow Stanshall admirer Adrian Taylor interviewed him in 1991 we saw both sides of the man. The first time was when he was drinking and trying to get anything coherent was a forlorn hope. Two months and a trip to rehab later when we went back he was sober, fit and relaxed and working on new music and new ideas.



Larger than life: Musician Viv Stanshall photographed by Adrian Taylor in 1991

Following his death, there was a massive amount of part-finished ideas including an album of songs and new Rawlinson End material. As Rodney Slater, his friend from the days of the Bonzos said about this period at the end of his life: "He was

still incredibly creative in those years, but it wasn't consistent."

## New album

It has taken his son Rupert nearly 30 years to disentangle the mess, including dealing with legal issues and sorting out the music. The tapes that he got back from Warner Bros for the new albums were full of bits and pieces rather than finished songs and eventually producer Andy Frizell was brought in to pull everything together to create

the album *Dog Howl in Tune*.

The Rawlinson's End material was handed to Michael Livesley, who had been performing a one-man show of the original album pulled together using the old Radio 1 material and other recordings Viv Stanshall had made. The results have brought a forgotten genius back to life.

*Dog Howl in Tune* and *Rawlinson's End* are both available via Madfish Music.

## Watch out for destructive winged invader

East Finchley beekeeper Lucie Chaumeton explains how an unwelcome invader could pose a major threat to UK hives and what you can do to help.

This year a Kent beekeeper lost 16 of his 17 hives. The culprit was an invasive non-native species of hornet which has swept through Europe, decimating honeybees and other native pollinators.

Unfortunately, the Asian Hornet has now invaded the UK, with over 40 nests destroyed this year by the hard-working National Bee Unit (NBU), the government body responsible for bee health in England and Wales.

A single Asian Hornet nest

can eat 12kg of native pollinators. Beekeeping associations are doing their best to support the NBU, but here's what you can do.

First, please download the Asian Hornet Watch app from your app store, or use the QR code in this article. This will help you identify Asian Hornets vs similar native species and to report any suspected sighting. All you need to do is upload a photo and the location. Secondly, contact me at [mieldelucie@gmail.com](mailto:mieldelucie@gmail.com) if you'd be will-



Not native: The Asian Hornet ing to print and display A4 posters to boost awareness at home or work. Whilst the national press has helped raise awareness during Asian Hornet Week, some papers wrongly illustrated their articles with pictures of native hornets. Correct information is vital.

An effective measure is to issue the public with specific traps. Please do not use shop-bought products, which kill many native insects too. Correct traps will lure and kill young Asian Hornet queens when they emerge in the spring, before they can establish nests. In Brittany last year, a town council successfully deployed this method and destroyed several hundred queens. I plan to help East Finchley do this in 2024.

Please also lobby government (DEFRA) to request increased funding for the NBU, to help them address the Asian Hornet threat. All our native crawlers and buzzers will thank you!



Ready to ride: Nathy's Mussolo on the way to Brighton

## Novice cyclist conquers long-distance challenge

By Lynn Winton

Nathy's Mussolo only took up cycling this year but comfortably managed to ride the 60 miles from London to Brighton to raise over £650 for Finchley Foodbank.

Nathy's, who has lived in Lancaster Gardens, N2, for 12 years, recently took some time off to complete her master's degree in global health, and on her return she noticed a significant increase in people needing to come to the food bank.

"It all started when I donated food items during Covid and decided I would apply to be a volunteer," said Nathy's. "It was such a well set up system but it

was clear from the queues that they needed more volunteers. Now I have got to know so many of the clients by name, so many lovely people, we hug and we chat when we see each other, and they notice if I miss a session."

If you would like to help boost Nathy's total, her sponsorship page can be found on [Gofundme.com](https://www.gofundme.com) by searching for 'Finchley Foodbank Fund-raiser'.

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