

Farewell to Stuart

SCARLET Soho have two special Christmas shows on Friday and Saturday to say farewell to their synth player Stuart Key.

On Friday December 13 they play Mother Live in London at 10.30pm, and on Saturday December 14 they will be at the Railway Inn, Winchester at 9.30pm.

The last few copies of the recent *Hit The Floor — Favorites and Rarities* CD will be available at both gigs.



Early bird Alresford tickets on sale

ALRESFORD Music festival has announced details of its 'early bird' ticket offer.

The festival at Arlebury Park will be held on June 7 2014. All tickets bought through PayPal before January 1 will include free camping.

Prices have been kept low for the fifth year running with an adult ticket is still

only £15, under 18s and concessions only £10 and children under 9 go free.

There is also a family ticket available which provides a discount for two adults with two under 18s.

This year's event raised £10,000 for local charities.

See www.alresfordmusicfestival.com to book tickets.

Intensity way beyond his years

REVIEW Tom Odell at O2 Guildhall Southampton

HAVING seen Tom Odell back in the Brook back in March, where the intimate venue was ideally suited for his intensity, it was interesting to see if he would hold his own in the O2 Guildhall Southampton on November 29.

Despite the bigger venue and crowd, Tom performed with the same unique combination of youthful vulnerability and fervent intensity that seems way beyond his years.

Although his warbled ponderings on love and loss are an acquired taste, there's no denying the 22 year old from Chichester has talent. Having recently received a rare zero-star from NME reviewer Mark Beaumont's for his *Long Way Down* album, it was safe to say from the audience's response to the young singer that they didn't agree with the harsh review.

It is impossible not to be gripped when he loses himself in his music, with his trademark sincerity particularly evident in *Another Love* and *Grow Old With Me* — the highlights of the night without a doubt.

Sadly, not all the songs maintained the same rawness and there were times when I started to feel a little disconnected, and almost bored. Moments of awesomeness are interspersed with moments bordering on bland, where a couple of samey songs lose the momentum of the gig.

However, just as you feel he may be losing you, Tom reels you right back in again with a belter like *Hold Me*, reminding you that once he finds his place, the talented young artist will have a lot to offer.

Jo Reeves



Delays singer's art on display

PREVIEW

Greg Gilbert exhibition at Winchester's ArtCafe

ROCK STAR Greg Gilbert has turned his hand to art as the winner of this year's National Open Art Exhibition for Best in South England.

Lead singer of Southampton band Delays, Greg Gilbert has enjoyed top 30 hits, toured globally and the band's music was featured in films and on television — but another art form has been calling.

The 36-year-old from Bitterne Park currently has work on display at the Jewry Gallery in Winchester's ArtCafe under the title *Portraits of Absence*. It runs until January 25.

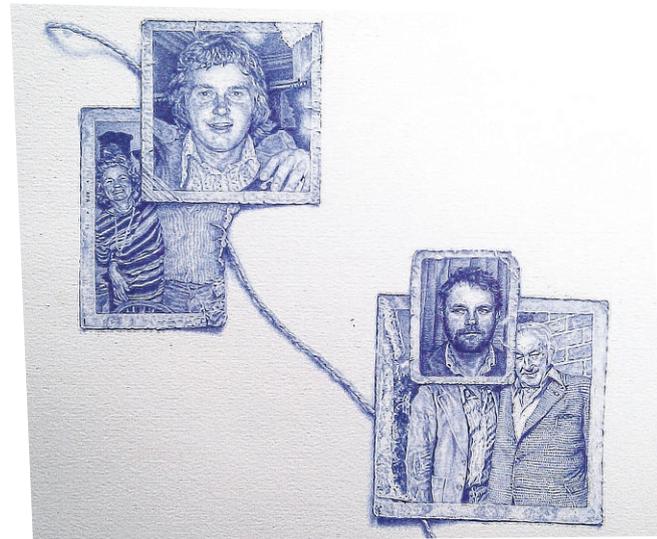
A former Winchester School of Art student, Greg Gilbert said: "I'm insanely serious about the art. It was quite nerve-wracking putting it on show. It's always been quite personal and by opening yourself up, you risk damaging that. It's different to the music because that has a big machine around it but people have been really supportive."

Focusing on intricate, miniature Biro drawings, Greg Gilbert developed his skills while on tour and the artwork is inspired by old family portraits.

His long list of achievements for this year includes winning the St. Barbe Open and Beaulieu Fine Arts Award, exhibiting at the Harbour Lights Picture House and Everyman Cinema in Winchester.



Delays



Some of Greg Gilbert's artwork

Next year doesn't show signs of slowing down, having been invited to exhibit his work at London venues Lloyds Club and the Work on Paper Fair in the Science Museum, as well as continuing with his music career — Greg

Gilbert is a busy man. Delays have their regular Christmas gig at The Brook in Portswood booked for December and are planning on releasing some new material and booking some more dates next year. **Emily Ford**

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