

EDITION 7

14th 2026



DRIVING THE SCENE

AN EXCLUSIVE WITH THE FAT CONTROLLER

Also included in this edition:

CONNEXIONS CLUB BOSS
JAKEEQ OPENS UP
ALL THE LATEST RELEASES
WHATS ON IN AUGUST
THE TRUTH BEHIND MENS
MENTAL HEALTH
NEW BEDROOM TO STAGE
ARTICLE BY DJ TECH
AND LOADS MORE.....



www.twistedofficial.com

IF YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED IN FEATURING IN THE TWISTED MAGAZINE - PLEASE CONTACT US AT info@twistedofficial.com

By Nicole Cousins – Founder of Twisted

Welcome to the July edition of Twisted Magazine.

What a month it's been!

Behind the scenes, the Twisted team has been working harder than ever to bring you more of what we're passionate about: supporting artists, celebrating creativity, and shining a spotlight on the people who make our music scene what it is.

This month marks an exciting new chapter as the Twisted Up & Comer Awards officially evolve into the Music Recognition Awards. While the name has changed, our mission remains exactly the same: recognising talent, passion and dedication, regardless of experience, age or following. We believe everyone deserves the opportunity to be recognised for their contribution to music, and we can't wait to see this year's entries.

Applications remain open throughout July, so if you've been thinking about entering, now is the time. Don't let self-doubt hold you back. Every established artist started somewhere, and your journey could be just beginning.

We're also incredibly excited to welcome **Ranski MC** to the Twisted Magazine editorial team. Ranski will be joining us as an Editor, helping to secure exclusive interviews with some of the most exciting artists in the industry while bringing his own experience, creativity and unique perspective to our editorial content. His passion for music and the scene makes him a fantastic addition to the Twisted family, and we can't wait for you to see what he has in store over the coming months.

Inside this month's issue, we're proud to bring you an exclusive front-page interview with The Fat Controller, alongside interviews with talented artists, event previews, industry news, music releases and features from across the UK music community. Whether you're a DJ, producer, MC, promoter, venue owner or simply someone who loves discovering new music, there's something here for everyone.

Twisted continues to grow beyond the magazine too. Twisted Recordz is welcoming exciting new releases, our events continue to expand, and we're working on several new projects that we'll be revealing over the coming months. It's an exciting time for us, and we can't wait to share what's next with you.

As always, none of this would be possible without the incredible support from our readers, contributors, photographers, writers, artists, advertisers and everyone who continues to believe in what we're building together. Thank you for being part of the Twisted family.

If you've got a story to tell, music to share, an event to promote or a business you'd like featured, we'd love to hear from you. Twisted has always been about giving people a platform, and that will never change.

Until next month...

Stay loud....
Stay authentic....
Stay Twisted....

Nicole Cousins
Founder – Twisted



For better
mental health



From the Bedroom to the Stage with DJ Tech

Thirty years behind the decks. Free parties, legendary raves, club promotions, streaming before it was fashionable and a passion for helping the next generation of DJs. Every month DJ Tech shares the lessons he's learned so you can avoid the mistakes he made and build your own journey from the bedroom to the stage.

Hi there, my name's David George, better known as DJ Tech, from Luton in the heart of the UK.

I've been DJing since 1993, and I got my first break at a free party called Exodus. It wasn't easy to start with, if I'm honest. I'd turn up to parties with my record box hoping for a set, only to spend most nights watching everyone else play. But I kept showing up. After I'd managed to get a handful of sets under my belt, things slowly became easier.

For about a year I'd turn up alongside another 20 or so DJs, and eventually they decided I'd passed the test and invited me to become one of the residents. Needless to say, I wasn't about to turn that down! The very first event I played was on top of Dunstable Downs in 1993. Around a thousand people turned up, and I was completely blown away. After that I still got knocked back a few times, but I kept turning up and trying to blag a set. Looking back now, I'm pretty sure it was all part of the test. I must have passed because I stayed with Exodus until they eventually disbanded in 2000.

I learned about 99% of my DJ skills by standing in clubs watching the very best in the business. Milwaukee's, just outside Bedford, was like a second home, along with events such as Equinox, Helter Skelter and Dreamscape. I was incredibly lucky to have those influences around me.

One thing I've always enjoyed is helping other DJs. Whether it's teaching techniques or simply passing on what I've learned over the years, I've always believed knowledge should be shared.

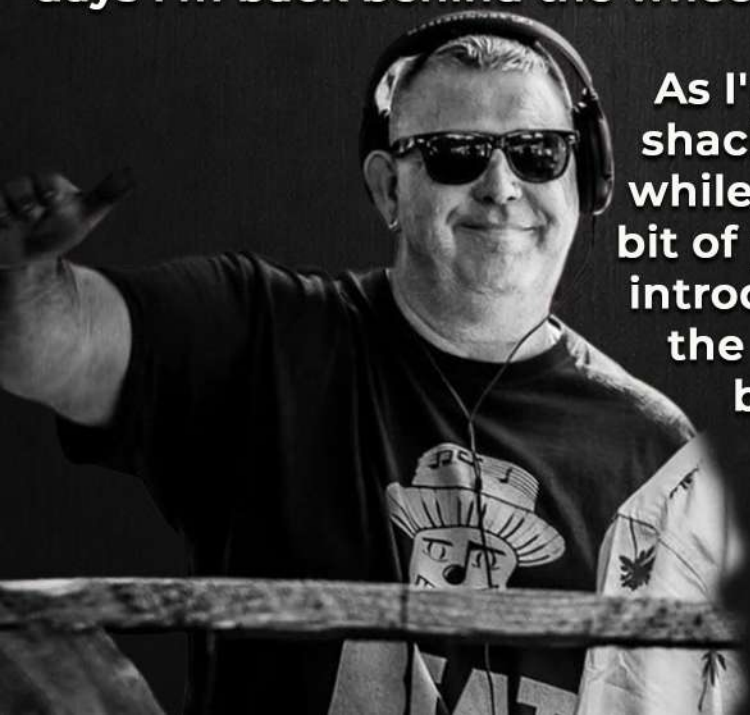
Years ago I lived in a house in Luton with about five other people. Every single one of them ended up becoming DJs in their own right.

Together we started running a Friday night streaming show called Level-1. It might not sound groundbreaking now, but this was before Facebook, before Twitch and before live streaming became something everyone did. It was still the MySpace days, and only a handful of people were broadcasting live over the internet. We later moved into video streaming, which was even rarer at the time, so in many ways we were pioneers.

Before that we'd also promoted a club night called Level-1 in Luton with my good mate Andy. It was doing really well until the venue was declared unsafe and closed. We tried moving to different clubs, but it never quite had the same atmosphere. The drinks got more expensive, the heating was always on... you know the score! Eventually I decided to stop promoting club nights and put all my energy into the streaming project instead. We ended up inviting DJs from all over the UK to play guest sets.

Then Facebook arrived, everyone started streaming, and sadly Level-1 eventually came to an end.

Since then we've been running a night called RESET in Luton, which was going really well until, unfortunately, the venue closed. I was lucky enough to be working there full-time as Promotions Manager, but when the club disappeared, so did my job. These days I'm back behind the wheel driving lorries.



As I'm writing this, I'm sitting in a little shack in a forest in northern Finland while visiting my mum. I've finally got a bit of peace and quiet to write this introduction before we really get under the bonnet of taking you from the bedroom to the stage.

Over the last 30-plus years I've played countless free parties across the UK, along with plenty

of clubs including Q Club, Bagley's, Caesars Palace (Luton) and numerous festivals.

I'm also proud to be the band leader of Beat Jugglers, a UK festival band. These days most of my spare time is spent making music with them.

We're a multi-genre outfit producing mainly Hard Trance, Drum & Bass and Jungle, all with a proper old-school flavour.

Now, there's a fair chance you've never heard of me, and that's absolutely fine. That's exactly why I wanted to introduce myself before we dive into this series. Hopefully you now know a little about where I've come from and why I'm passionate about helping new DJs.

One last thing... I'm dyslexic, so writing articles like this isn't exactly my strongest point. I'll always do my best, but if the odd spelling mistake sneaks through, you'll just have to pretend you didn't see it... 😂

Next month we'll start right at the beginning.

We'll cover choosing your first equipment, setting everything up properly and getting you on your journey from the bedroom to the stage.

I'm really looking forward to sharing it with you.

See you next month.



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ARTIST

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31 JULY 2026

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TWISTED UP & COMER AWARDS

HOW TO ENTER:



GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- One (1) entry per person per category
- Maximum of three (3) genre submissions (where applicable)
- All participants must have a minimum of 3 months' experience



5.1 DJ SUBMISSIONS

- 15–20 minute video (MP4 format)
- Matching WAV audio file
- Must clearly show:
 - DJ and equipment
 - Use of pitch control
- Sync button use is not permitted
- No MCs or external performers



5.2 MC SUBMISSIONS

- 3–5 minute video performance
- Must include the words: **"Up & Comer"** and **"Twisted"**
- Must be front-facing and clearly audible
- Matching WAV file required



5.3 PRODUCER SUBMISSIONS

- Video showing track within a DAW
- Matching WAV file



BY SUBMITTING YOU AGREE YOUR TRACK MAY BE:

- Uploaded for public voting
- Made available for download by users



5.4 SUBMISSION METHOD

Entries must be submitted via:

- www.twistedofficial.com
- File transfer (e.g. WeTransfer) to: info@twistedofficial.com

Each submission must include:

- Full name
- Artist/DJ name
- Contact details



6. CONTENT & CONDUCT REQUIREMENTS

All submissions must:

- Be original work owned by the entrant
- Not infringe copyright or third-party rights
- Not contain offensive illegal defamatory or explicit material
- Be suitable for public viewing

⚠ FAILURE TO COMPLY MAY RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION.



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WEB:
https://www.twistedofficial.com/register_up_and_comers_awards



"The Fat Controller"

Building The Foundations Of The Rave Scene

The Beginning Of A Lifetime In Music

• For readers who may not know your story, can you introduce yourself and tell us who Jay "The Fat Controller" is?

If I had to describe myself simply, I'd say I'm a DJ and promoter who's been around since time began. More than 40 years on, I'm still doing what I love, and I genuinely believe I'll take my last breath behind the decks. For me, this has never just been a job, it's been my life.

• Your career stretches back to the very beginning of the UK rave movement. How did it all start for you?

It all started back in 1982 at a school disco. To be honest, it was awful. A PE teacher was playing what I thought was pretty naff music, so I said, 'I could do better than that.' The teacher simply replied, 'Prove it.' So I did.

• What first drew you towards DJing?

The music, seeing people dance, and watching them enjoy themselves gave me a buzz from the very first moment, and it still does to this day.

• Before Jungle and Drum & Bass exploded, what was the music scene like when you first became involved?

The very early days of dance music and the emergence of acid house can only be described as an awakening. Before then, clubs attracted a mixed crowd with a wide variety of musical tastes, so people would often only head to the dancefloor when their favourite artist or song came on. When dedicated dance music nights arrived, everything changed. The dancefloor became one, with everyone united by the music, sharing the same energy, the same atmosphere, and the same unforgettable moment.

• Do you remember your first ever set? What stands out in your memory?

My first club set was back in 1983. It's a little hazy now, but I remember it being a warm-up set in a club with no more than a dozen people in the room. I was playing the funky, soulful dance music of the time, and although it was a small crowd, it marked the beginning of what would become a lifelong journey behind the decks.

THERES NO SCHOOL

LIKE THE

OLD SKOOL

FAT
CONTROLLER

AND

I'M THE F**KING

HEADMASTER

FAT CONTROLLER



• When did you realise music wasn't just a hobby but something that would become your life?

My first gig as a mobile DJ was at a friend's 16th birthday party. It was the moment I realised this was what I wanted to do with my life, and from then on I was determined to make a career out of DJing.

• Looking back now, could you ever have imagined you'd still be part of the scene decades later?

Absolutely not. In the very incarnation of dance music, no one had the foresight to see the scene explode with the arrival of acid house, let alone continue to grow and evolve into the huge scene it has become today.

★ Living Through The Birth Of Rave

• You witnessed the birth of one of the biggest youth movements in British history. What was that period really like?

It was very much an "in the moment" feeling. It simply started with a small group of like-minded people enjoying the same music, and then grew at an incredible rate over a short period of time. Everyone felt together as one, living completely in the moment.

• What made those early rave days feel so special compared to today?

Would have to be the simplicity of life back then. People working all week to blow out at the weekend. No phones, no social media, just living for the there and then.

• Were there any clubs, events or moments that changed everything for you?

It would have to be Zena's in Plymouth, where we promoted the city's first acid house nights back in 1988. That was the place that really gave me the bug for putting on events, and it's where my passion for promoting truly began.

• What was the atmosphere like behind the scenes during those early years?

Behind the scenes was a big buzz. All week getting everything organised for the incoming weekend, the anticipation was a hell of a high.

• Did you realise at the time that you were creating part of music history?

You never think that the moment you're living through, during the evolution of dance music, will one day become a defining moment in history.

• What do younger generations often misunderstand about the original rave movement?

I'd say the biggest misconception is the portrayal of drug gangs. It's often made out that organised gangs dominated the early scene, taking over events and kidnapping people, but that couldn't have been further from the truth. While isolated incidents happened, they certainly weren't representative of what the original rave movement was about.

• If you could relive one night from that era, which would it be and why?

It's hard to choose just one, but a memory I'd love to relive is performing a live PA at Dance Paradise in Great Yarmouth. During my set, while playing In Complete Darkness, we had to stop the track three times because ravers were literally dropping with the sheer heat and euphoria of the moment. It was an unforgettable atmosphere and a night that has stayed with me ever since.



Mission Control Records

• Mission Control Records became legendary amongst DJs. How did the shop come about?

I had a distribution company supplying tape packs, magazine, clothing and flyers to shops around the UK. One of those shops sold a lot of tape packs and, when the lady who owned it wanted out, it seemed the best thing to do was take it over.

• What inspired you to open a record shop?

Looking back, I'd say it was simply the opportunity to expand the business.

• What made Mission Control different from other shop at the time?

I'd actually say it was no different to any other record shop at that moment in time. If you frequented record shops in the mid-90s, you'll know exactly what I mean.

• Do you have any funny or memorable stories from behind the counter?

One day we had a representative from Millward Brown come into the shop asking about the barcode on a record that had originated from my shop but wasn't registered with the charts. I'd used the barcode from Mates Condoms on my 1995 remix release of In Complete Darkness as my own way of sticking two fingers up at the establishment.

• Did you ever realise just how many future DJs would pass through those doors?

It still amazes me how many customers went on to become DJs. Even to this day, I still receive messages from people telling me they made it as a DJ after coming through Mission Control.

• How important were independent record shops to the growth of Jungle and Drum & Bass?

Simple. Without independent record shops, those genres would never have evolved into what they have become today.

FAT CONTROL ROLLER





- Do you miss the vinyl era?

I miss the smell of vinyl, especially dubplates, and the excitement of listening to new tracks for the very first time. I've made peace with the fact that we no longer play vinyl at events. Technology has allowed us to create much better sets and be far more innovative in the moment. The simple, linear movement of vinyl is now a thing of the past.

Promoting The Scene

- Alongside DJing you've also been heavily involved in promoting events. What first got you into promotion?

Quite simply, the only way we could play acid house was to put on our own events. Without creating those events ourselves, no local scene would have evolved.

- You've helped organise and promote countless nights over the years. What goes into creating a great event?

Things have changed drastically over the years when it comes to promotion, but the one basic ingredient for a great event has always remained the same... having the right people there.

- How much has promoting changed since the days of flyers, record shops and word of mouth?

Today it's a crazy world of social media, adverts, videos and huge advertising costs. That said, I still use traditional methods like flyers and posters as part of every promotional campaign.

- Were there any events that stand out as career-defining moments?

Every event holds a special place in my mind and has helped define my career. From the first acid house nights in Plymouth, to running Milwaukeees when it was known as the "King of Clubs", creating the first old skool festival with Lazy Sunday, launching the first old skool rave holiday, Unity in the Sun, with Dan & Sonya, right through to the new concept of the Weekend in the Woods multi-genre weekender.

- What were some of the biggest challenges promoters faced back then?

The biggest challenge from the early days still exists today... convincing venues to put on a rave event.

- How different is today's scene compared to when you first started promoting?

Originally, everything was new and exciting. Today, people have seen and experienced so much more, which makes it even more important to keep finding and creating something fresh and exciting.



• What advice would you give someone wanting to put on their first event today?

Start small and don't overstretch your budget. Make sure you have the money upfront, so you're never risking money you don't have. Small, friendly events with the right people can be your acorn. Nurture it properly, and it will grow organically into something much bigger.

Four Decades Behind The Decks

• Your career has spanned multiple generations of dance music. How has your DJ style evolved?

I'd say the digital world changed my style. I used to play tracks for much longer with simple transitions. These days I prefer shorter DJ edits with impactful drops, building as much energy as possible to create big moments throughout a set.

• Have you always adapted with the music, or have you stayed true to your original sound?

I've always evolved with the music as different genres came and went, moving with the times. These days, though, everything I do is focused around the old skool sound, including my new productions.

• You've played alongside some incredible artists over the years. Which names stand out as career highlights?

There have been so many artists that I've played alongside, it would be unfair to single out just one. We've all simply been doing something we love. That said, there are a few who hold a special place in my heart. Carl Cox, for the way he went on to become such a massive artist and receive the recognition his hard work deserved, and Dave Pearce for always staying true to his genre.

• Has there ever been a set that didn't quite go to plan but became unforgettable for all the right reasons?

Back in 1993, I remember a club night where the sound system was ridiculously loud but the sound quality was so poor it was hard to tell what track was even playing. I started my set with The Horn Track and couldn't even tell I'd put it on at the wrong speed!

• What's been the biggest crowd you've ever played to?

Possibly New Year's Eve at Skegness one year, with around 10,000 people.

• Which venue has meant the most to you throughout your career?

Milwaukee's. Simple!

- Is there one set that you'll never forget?

The one at Dance Paradise Gt Yarmouth mentioned earlier!

♥ The People Behind The Music

- The rave scene has always been about more than just music. What has it meant to you personally?

Life. It's been rooted deep inside me, and I've lived every moment of it.

- You've seen countless artists come and go. What qualities separate those who last from those who don't?

Those who have lasted have generally stayed true to themselves. The moment you start believing you're something more than you are, it's over.

- Have there been any friendships within the scene that have shaped your journey?

I'd say Des at Milwaukee's certainly shaped my journey by giving me the belief that I could achieve things I'd only ever dreamed of. In my early production days, Slipmatt also played a huge part by helping me with the production of In Complete Darkness.

- Looking back, who do you feel deserves more recognition for what they contributed?

There are a lot of unsung heroes within the scene. I'd say Billy Daniel Bunter deserves special recognition for helping to keep the scene alive during some quieter years, around 10 to 15 years ago, through countless events and the brands he was behind.

- What has kept your passion for music alive after all these years?

The sheer enjoyment you get from the ravers and the crowds at events. You only ever get out what you put in, so keep putting the effort in and the rewards will come.

🚀 The Evolution Of Drum & Bass

- Having witnessed every stage of Jungle and Drum & Bass, how do you feel the music has evolved?

From starting out as a Room 2 genre at club events to becoming the soundtrack for major stadium shows headlined by single artists, Jungle and Drum & Bass has evolved massively. That success is down to the love, care and dedication of so many DJs, promoters and everyone else who has helped build the scene.

- Is there anything from the early days you'd like to see make a comeback?

Less MCs... Back in the day, an event would typically have two or three hosts. These days, it's not unusual to have two MCs on every DJ set, often overpowering the music.



FAT CONTROL LER



- What excites you most about today's generation of artists?

The way they've embraced the modern world. Creating a social media presence that lets people into their careers and their journey is genuinely inspiring.

- Do you think the culture has changed as much as the music?

Yes. Club culture is now a distant memory. We've gone from having dozens of club nights every Friday and Saturday across the UK to almost nothing in modern times.

- Where do you see Drum & Bass heading over the next decade?

I'd say we'll see more standalone artists putting on their own events more regularly, along with more crossover tracks reaching wider audiences.

- What role do veteran artists play in helping preserve the history of the scene?

I'd say they play a major role. It's about keeping the stories alive, passing on the history and continuing to play the foundation tracks that built the scene.



Career Reflections

- Looking back over your journey, what achievement makes you proudest?

Not matter what I have achieved in life, the birth of both my children will always be my proudest moment.

- Is there anything you wish you'd done differently?

You cant move forward in life with holding on to regrets. If you made mistakes they happened for a reason, just leave them behind and move forward

- Have there been moments where you've thought about stepping away from the scene?

I actually stepped away for around 12 years or so after I witnessed a terrible car crash that left me with PTSD, although in those days it was not a recognised thing. I was left unable to listen to music. It took what felt a lifetime to snap out of it and come back into the fold.

- After everything you've experienced, what still motivates you to keep going?

The sheer feelings you get from playing out / putting on an event. Thinking the next set will be the best yet, the next event will be the best yet.

• When people talk about Jay "The Fat Controller" years from now, what would you like your legacy to be?

Quite simply, "He was a lovely fella."

Achievements mean nothing if you haven't been a good all-round person with a good heart and good intentions.

⚡ QUICK FIRE ROUND

- Vinyl or digital? Digital
- Jungle or Drum & Bass? Original Jungle
- Favourite rave of all time? Vision
- Favourite club you've ever played? Milwaukeees
- Favourite MC you've worked with? Hooligan
- One DJ who always impressed you? Rob Tissera
- One tune that sums up an era? Edge 1 - Compounded
- Record shop or online store? Shop!
- One word to describe the original rave scene? inspirational
- One word to describe today's Drum & Bass scene? Huge

❤️ Final Questions

- After everything you've seen and achieved, what advice would you give someone just starting their journey today?

Stay true to yourself, put in the effort, love what you do.

- What do you think has been the biggest lesson music has taught you?

Anyone can achieve what they want with effort.

- Is there anything people don't know about Jay "The Fat Controller" that might surprise them?

I once told Steven Spielberg to get out of my fucking way! (In a nice way)

- What projects have you got coming up that you're excited about?

Weekend in the Woods festival is a big current passion, also a new project I have been approached about that I cannot mention yet, that would blow the minds of many involved in the scene

- Finally, where can people follow your journey and keep up with everything you're doing?

All the usual socials, facebook, insta, tiktok and weekly on radio, the #OLDSKOOL Show on Centreforce 883 Tuesday nights 10-midnight.

FAT CONTROLLER



THE BARGE INN PRESENTS

MID-LIFE KRISIS

AVIN IT LARGE SUMMER SHENANIGANS 2026

FEATURING

MILLZ B2B TEMPEST

JUNGLE

DYNAMIC INTERVENTION

HARD HOUSE

RAINEMAN B2B DANEJA

HARD TRANCE

MELODIZE

OLD SKOOL

GUINSTER

DRUM N BASS

TINA ODGERS

HOUSE

O.K.Y

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FRIDAY 7TH AND SATURDAY 8TH AUGUST 2026 THE BARGE

MID LIFE KRISIS EVENTS RETURN TO THE BARGE INN,
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FRIDAY WE HOST PHILG AND HIS TRANCE CLASSICS AND PRESENT
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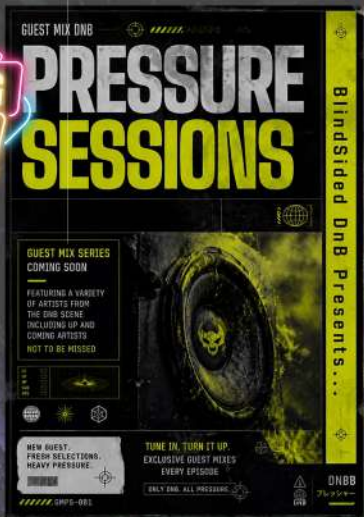
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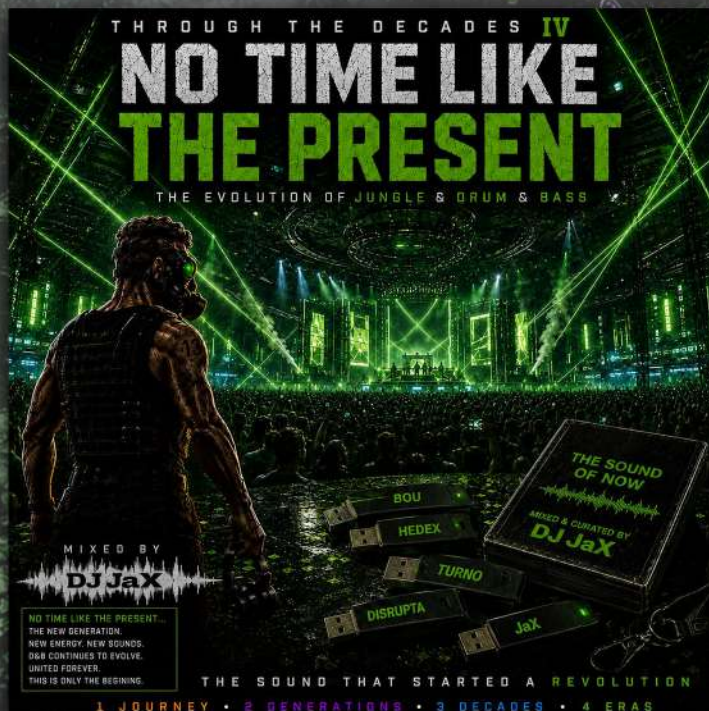
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WHAT'S ON...

Wide Awake | Drum & Bass + Jungle
Bread & Butter Collection
72 Rivington Street
London EC2A 3AY
Saturday 1 August 2026
6:00pm - 2:00am
Admission £9.07 - £11.27
18+

Cafe Mambo Ibiza London Rooftop Party
The Broadcaster
89 Wood Lane
London
W12 7FX
Saturday 1 August 2026
1:00pm - 9:00pm
Admission £16.75 - £33.25
18+

UCOJ: Heatwave Day Party
Brixton Jamm
261 Brixton Road
London SW9 6LH
Saturday 1 August 2026
3:00pm - 11:00pm
Admission £11.25 - £19.50
18+

Made In 90s Fest 5th Birthday
Addington Park
Gravel Hill
Croydon CR0 5BB
Saturday 8 August 2026
1:00pm - 10:00pm
Admission £41.18 - £216.45
21+

Symphonica #TheIbizaOrchestra
Canons Way, Bristol, BS1 5LL
Friday 21st August 2026
5:00pm - 10:30pm
Admission £22.50
14+



WHAT'S ON...

Pepsi MAX presents Creamfields Festival
Daresbury
Cheshire
WA4 4AG

Thursday 27 August - Sunday 30 August 2026
12:00pm - 11:45pm
Admission £180 - £430
18+

Teletech Festival 2026
Bowlers Exhibition Centre, Longbridge Road,
Trafford Park, Manchester, M17 1SN
1 August 2026
1:00pm - 5:00am
Admission £22.00 - £66.60
18+

No Art Open Air Liverpool 2026
Otterspool Promenade, Liverpool, Merseyside, L17
5AL
8 August 2026
12:00pm - 11:00pm
Admission £84.00 - £179.20
18+

RUDIM3NTAL - Hitchin Live at the Priory
Hitchin Priory, Tilehouse Street, Hitchin,
Hertfordshire, SG5 2DL
28 August 2026
2:00pm - 10:30pm
Admission £42.19 - £100.69
16+

Ministry of Sound Classical at Castle Howard
Castle Howard, York, North Yorkshire, YO60 7DA
15 August 2026
2:00pm - 10:30pm
Admission £40.50 - £66.37
18+



WHAT'S ON...

Borde Hill Summer Series featuring Becky Hill

Borde Hill Parkland

Borde Hill Lane

Haywards Heath

West Sussex RH16 1XP

Saturday 15 August 2026

4:00pm - 10:30pm

Admission - £111.94 - £134.44

16+

SKINNY LIVING - Solid Ground Festival

Tileyard North, Wakefield WF1 5FY

Saturday 15th August 2026

1:00pm - 11:00pm

Admission £22.75 - £38.75

14+

RNB LAND - Summer RnB & Slow Jams Day

Party (2000+ Ravers)

Nottingham

Saturday 19 August 2026

4:00pm - 10:00pm

Admission £16.77 - £33.27

18+

Lakefest 2026

Eastnor Castle Deer Park

Ledbury

Herefordshire HR8 1EN

Wednesday 5 August - Sunday 9 August 2026

Various Times

Admission £37.79 - £199.49

All Ages

Boomtown Fair 2026

Matterley Estate

Winchester

Hampshire SO21 1HW

Wednesday 12 August - Sunday 16 August 2026

Various Times

Admission £360 - £430

18+



WHAT'S ON...

**The Great Fete
Hatfield Park
Hatfield House
Hatfield**

Hertfordshire AL9 5HX

Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th August 2026

12:00pm - 10:00pm

Admission £14.00 - £166.75

No Age Restrictions

**Jungle & DNB Rave Presents: Chimpo & Friends
Hidden**

17 Downtex Mill

Mary Street

Manchester M3 1DZ

Saturday 8 August 2026

10:00pm - 4:00am

Admission £6.00 - £11.25

18+

**Metalheadz: Goldie b2b Doc Scott
Joshua Brooks**

106 Princess Street

Manchester M1 6NG

Friday 21 August 2026

10:00pm - 4:00am

Admission £9.12

18+

Southbound Fest

Princes Park

Royal Parade

Eastbourne

East Sussex BN22 7AE

Saturday 22nd & Sunday 23rd August 2026

12:00pm - 10:00pm Saturday

12pm - 8pm Sunday

Admission £2.50 - £49.75

18+

Garage Nation Outdoor Festival 2026

Morden Park

London Road

Morden

Surrey SM4 5QU

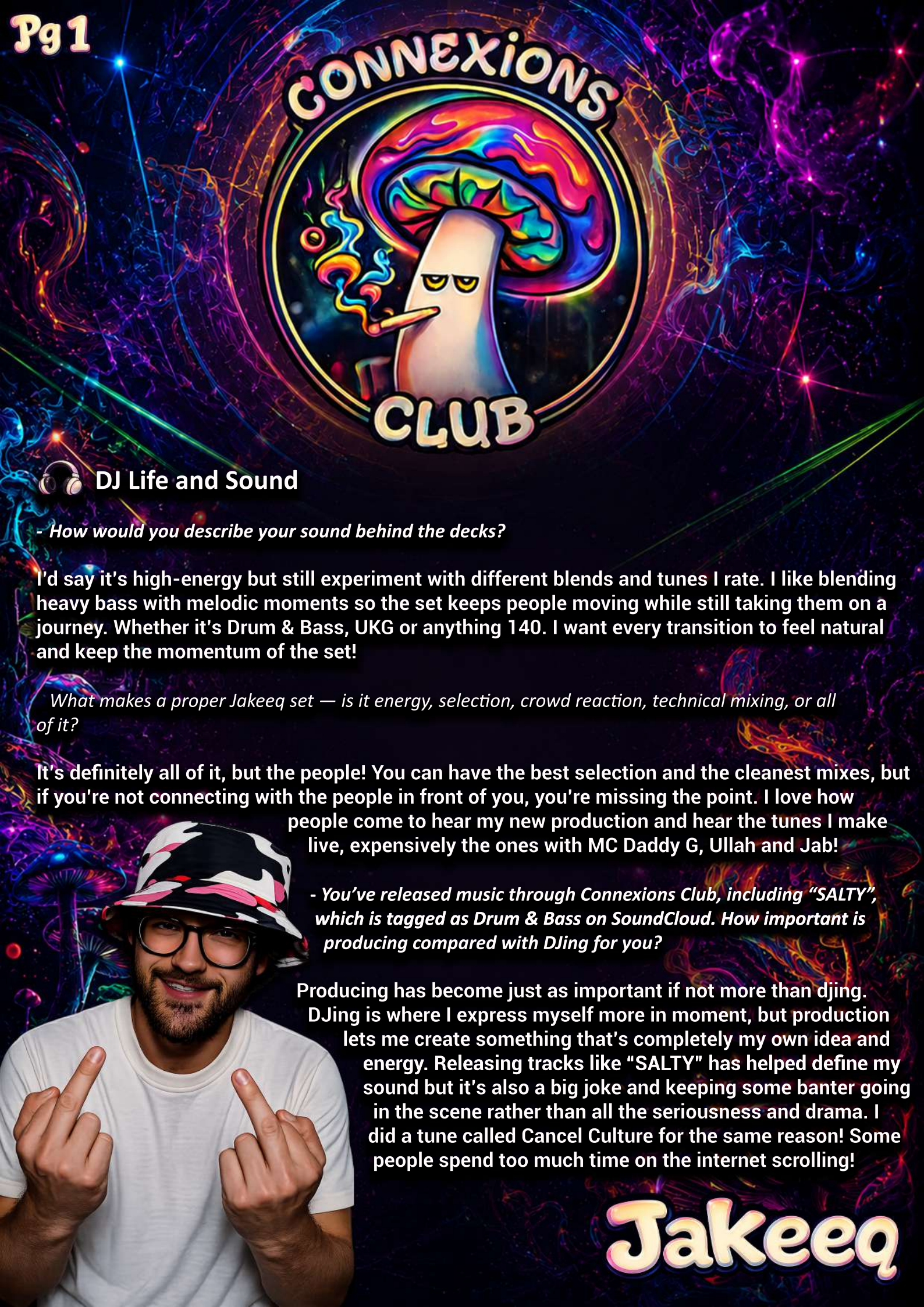
Saturday 8 August 2026

1:00pm - 10:00pm

Admission £9.95 - £59.95

18+





DJ Life and Sound

- How would you describe your sound behind the decks?

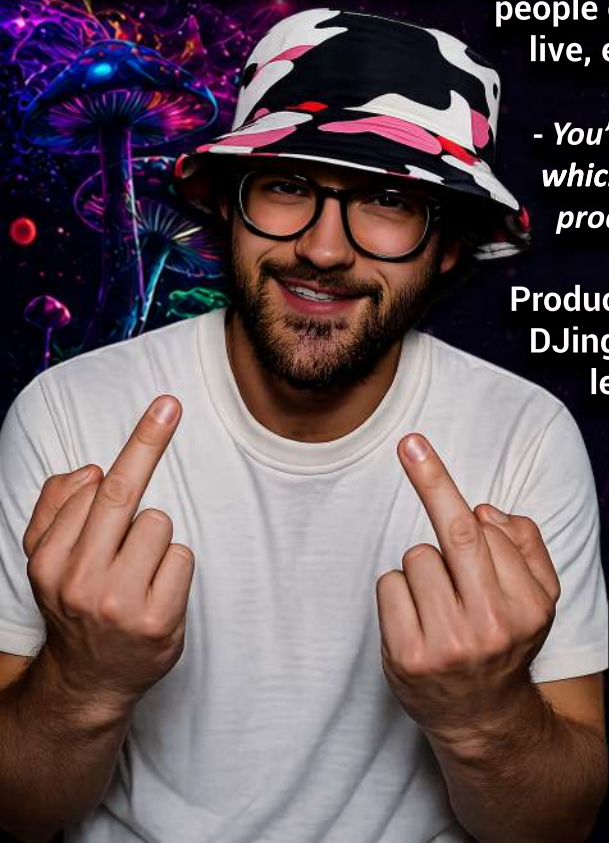
I'd say it's high-energy but still experiment with different blends and tunes I rate. I like blending heavy bass with melodic moments so the set keeps people moving while still taking them on a journey. Whether it's Drum & Bass, UKG or anything 140. I want every transition to feel natural and keep the momentum of the set!

What makes a proper Jakeeq set — is it energy, selection, crowd reaction, technical mixing, or all of it?

It's definitely all of it, but the people! You can have the best selection and the cleanest mixes, but if you're not connecting with the people in front of you, you're missing the point. I love how people come to hear my new production and hear the tunes I make live, expensively the ones with MC Daddy G, Ullah and Jab!

- You've released music through Connexions Club, including "SALTY", which is tagged as Drum & Bass on SoundCloud. How important is producing compared with DJing for you?

Producing has become just as important if not more than djing. DJing is where I express myself more in moment, but production lets me create something that's completely my own idea and energy. Releasing tracks like "SALTY" has helped define my sound but it's also a big joke and keeping some banter going in the scene rather than all the seriousness and drama. I did a tune called Cancel Culture for the same reason! Some people spend too much time on the internet scrolling!



Jakeeq

- When you're building a set, do you plan it carefully or do you read the room and go with the energy?

I'll hardly ever prepare a selection beforehand because I never stick to a fixed playlist. Every crowd is different, so once I'm behind the decks it's all about reacting to the energy and making decisions in the moment. I love playing my own productions out

- What is one track that always reminds you why you love doing this?

It's hard to pick just one because it changes over time, but there are always those timeless Drum & Bass records that instantly remind me why I fell in love with the scene. The tracks that make an entire room move together are the ones that never get old. I've made some really old songs that most of my mates still sing or rap to me when they're played! One of my favourites would be Ether 33 with bran.

- Who are some artists, DJs or MCs that have influenced you?

I've taken inspiration from a lot of different artists across the UK bass scene. People pushing Drum & Bass forward while keeping things musical have had a huge influence on me. Monty, L-side, Visages, Drytek, Calio, Tickz, Narsti3, Komatose, Captain. MC Daddy G has always influenced me to create and never stop along with Ullah, Jab, 3rose just to name a few

- What has been your proudest moment as a DJ so far?

Hearing a crowd react to something you've produced yourself is a completely different feeling, and it's a reminder that all the hours in the studio are worth it. Some songs are timeless and are remembered forever by people even if life does go on in different directions!

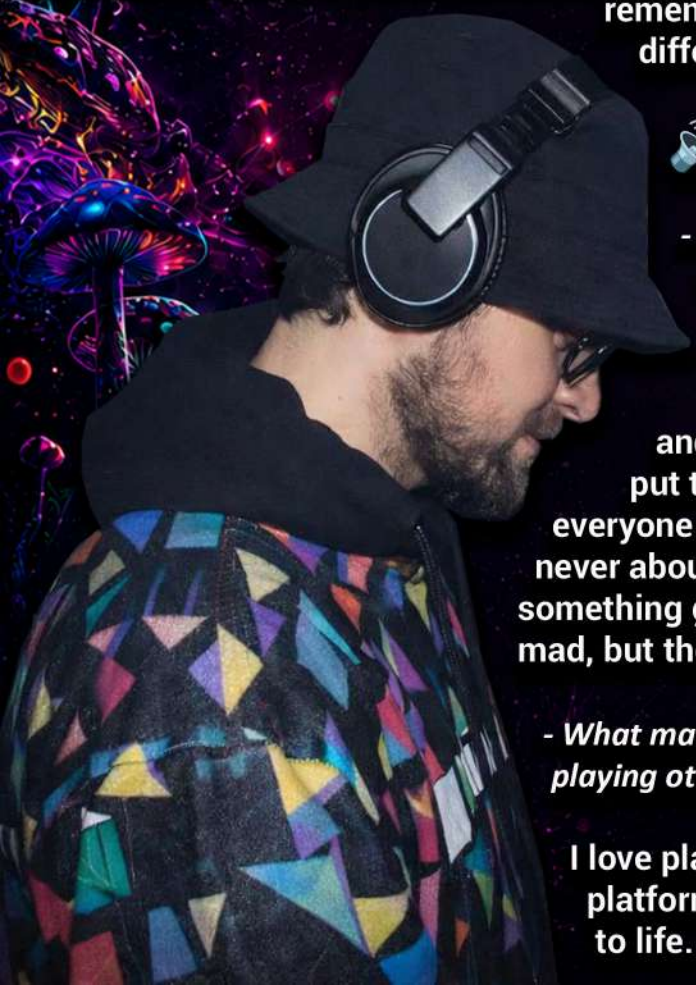
Connexions Club / Events

- Connexions Club has been described as growing from "a dancefloor dream to a full-blown movement." What was the original idea behind it?

It started from wanting to build the kind of night me and my mates actually wanted to be at. Somewhere that put the music first, brought good people together and gave everyone a place to enjoy themselves without all the egos. It was never about chasing numbers or hype, it was about creating something genuine. Watching it grow into what it is today has been mad, but the vision's stayed the same from day one.

- What made you want to create your own platform instead of just playing other people's events?

I love playing other people's events, but creating your own platform gives you the freedom to bring your own vision to life.



I wanted to create opportunities not just for myself, but for other DJs and MCs coming through as well. Connexions Club lets me take chances on people I believe in and build nights that represent what the underground scene is really about.

- Connexions Club seems to really support local DJs and MCs. Why is giving rising talent a platform important to you?

Because someone gave me that opportunity once. I know how difficult it can be when you're trying to get your foot in the door, especially with how much talent there is around Birmingham and the Midlands. There's so many people who deserve a chance, and if Connexions Club can help shine a light on even a few of them, then we're doing something right.

- What makes a Connexions Club night different from other events?

The atmosphere more than anything. Whether you're playing, raving or working behind the scenes, everyone's treated the same. There's no egos, it's all about the music and the people in the room. We put a lot of thought into every lineup so it flows properly, and we always want people to leave feeling like they've been part of something, not just another night out.

- You've been running events in Birmingham, including at SUKi10C. What makes that venue and city special for underground music?

Birmingham's always had a strong underground culture and loads of talented artists. People here genuinely back the scene, and you can feel that at the events. SUKi10C fits that perfectly, it has that raw vibe where the music does the talking. It's the kind of venue where people come for the experience, and that's exactly what Connexions Club is about.

Connexions Club has been involved in nights covering Drum & Bass, Jungle, 140, Garage and Grime. How do you balance different sounds while keeping the night feeling connected?

To me they're all connected anyway. They all come from similar roots and influence each other, so it's about booking the right artists and taking people on a journey throughout the night. As long as the energy's right and the music's authentic, it all works together naturally.

- Connexions Club celebrated its 6th birthday in December 2025. Looking back, what has changed the most since the early days?

Everything's grown. The production, the crowds, the lineups, it's all stepped up over the years. But what I'm most proud of is that the reason we do it hasn't changed. It's still about bringing people together through music and supporting the scene. Seeing artists we've booked early on go on to bigger things has been a massive highlight too.

- What has been the hardest part of running events that people outside the scene might not understand?

Most people only see the event itself. They don't see the months of planning, the stress, the financial risk or the problems you're dealing with behind the scenes. There's a lot that goes into making one night happen, and it can be tough. But when you see a packed room full of people enjoying themselves, it reminds you why you put the work in.





- *What do you look for when booking DJs and MCs?*

Obviously they've got to be talented, but attitude means just as much to me. I want people who genuinely love the music, respect everyone around them and bring good energy. You can teach people opportunities, but you can't teach passion. That's what stands out the most.

- *How important is community to Connexions Club?*

It's everything. Without the people supporting the nights, buying tickets and backing what we're trying to do, Connexions Club wouldn't exist. I've always wanted it to feel like more than just an event. It's somewhere people can discover new music, meet new people and feel like they're part of something bigger.

- *What has been one night or moment that made you think, "This is exactly why we do this"?*

Our sixth birthday was definitely one of those moments. Looking around and seeing people who've been there since the very first event standing next to people coming for the first time was a proud moment. It showed how far Connexions Club has come, but also reminded me why we started it in the first place! To bring people together through music.

♥ **Epilepsy Diagnosis — Sensitive Section**

- *You've recently been diagnosed with epilepsy. Only share what you're comfortable with, but how has that been for you to process?*

It's been a bit of a rollercoaster to be honest. One minute everything's normal, then you're getting told you've got epilepsy. It definitely took a while to sink in. I've had my moments with it, but at the end of the day there's not much point letting it take over your life. It's something I've got to live with now, so it's about learning how to manage it and crack on.

When you first got the diagnosis, what went through your head?

My first thought was honestly, "How's this gonna affect everything?" DJing, running Connexions, work, just life in general. Your head goes to the worst-case scenario straight away. But once I'd had time to take it all in, I realized it's not the end of anything, I've just got to do things a bit differently now.

- *Has it changed the way you look at life, music or the future?*

Yeah, definitely. You stop taking things for granted. I've realized your health comes before anything else because without that, you can't do what you love. If anything, it's made me appreciate every booking, every event and everyone who supports what we're doing even more.

- *For someone in nightlife—late nights, loud environments, lights and pressure—has it made you think differently about how you look after yourself?*

Massively. Before I'd probably just keep saying yes to everything, run on hardly any sleep and just get on with it. Now I know I can't do that. I've got to make sure I'm resting properly, looking after myself and not burning the candle at both ends because it's just not worth it.

Have you had to make any changes around DJing, events or recovery after nights?

Nothing that's stopped me doing what I love, just being a lot smarter with it all. Making sure I recover properly, not overdoing it and listening to my body instead of trying to push through everything.

- A lot of people hear the word epilepsy but don't really understand how different it can be from person to person. What would you like people to understand better?

Just because someone says they've got epilepsy doesn't mean they're all the same. Everyone experiences it differently. Some people might never even know you've got it unless you tell them. I think people just need to understand it a bit more instead of jumping to conclusions.

- Has opening up about it been difficult, or has it helped you feel more supported?

I'm not really someone who talks about personal stuff a lot, so it wasn't easy. But once I did, the amount of messages and support I got was unreal. It makes you realise how many people have either been through it themselves or know someone who has.

What kind of support have you had around you since the diagnosis?

Honestly, I've been lucky. My family, my mates and everyone around Connexions have been quality. Just having people checking in on you and making sure you're alright means more than people probably realise.

- Do you think the music scene needs to be better educated around health, hidden conditions and looking after each other?

Yeah, 100%. We all love the music, but you've got to remember there's actual people behind it all. Whether it's epilepsy, mental health or anything else, looking after each other should just be normal.

- What should venues, promoters and crews be more aware of when it comes to people with epilepsy or other hidden conditions?

Just awareness really. You don't have to know everything, but understanding that not every condition is visible and knowing what to do if something happens can make a massive difference. It all helps people feel safer.

Has the diagnosis made you more determined, more cautious, or a bit of both?

Probably a bit of both. I'm definitely more careful than I used to be, but if anything it's made me even more determined. It's not something that's gonna stop me doing what I love.



- What would you say to someone newly diagnosed who is scared it might stop them doing what they love?

I'd just say don't panic. I know it's easier said than done because I was exactly the same. Listen to the doctors, look after yourself and give yourself time to adjust. It doesn't mean you've got to give up on anything. You can still do what you love, you've just got to be a bit smarter about it.

♥ *Deeper / Emotional Questions*

- You're known for building nights and bringing people together. Has music helped you through difficult moments personally?

100%. Music's always been my escape. No matter what's been going on in life, I can jump behind the decks or get lost in a set and forget about everything for a bit. It's helped me through some proper difficult times. I think that's why I'm so passionate about putting events on, because you never know what someone's going through. For a few hours they can switch off and just enjoy themselves, and that's a powerful thing.

Do you feel like the rave scene can be a family for people who need one?

Definitely. Some of the closest people in my life are people I've met through music. When you're all there for the same reason, you build proper friendships. I've seen complete strangers meet at Connexions nights and become mates for life. That's what it's all about really. It becomes more than just going out for a rave.

What does resilience mean to you now?

Just getting on with it, really. Everyone's got stuff going on behind the scenes that nobody knows about. Life's gonna throw things at you whether you like it or not, so you've just got to adapt, keep moving and not lose sight of why you started.

Have you learned anything about yourself recently that you didn't expect?

Probably that I'm stronger than I give myself credit for. When everything happened with my epilepsy, I realised you've got two choices, you either let it beat you or you learn how to live with it. I'm still learning every day, but it's shown me I can deal with a lot more than I thought.

When life throws something serious at you, what keeps you grounded?

My family, my mates and the music. They're the three things that keep me level. Connexions has become a massive part of that as well. When you've got good people around you, it makes getting through tough times a lot easier.

What role has Connexions Club played in your own identity and confidence?

It's changed me massively. When I started it, I just wanted to put on good nights. I never expected it to become such a big part of my life. It's given me confidence, introduced me to some unreal people and shown me what can happen when you genuinely back something you believe in.

- Do you feel more pressure when people look to you as an organiser, DJ and someone helping run a movement?

Yeah, definitely, but it's good pressure. People spend their hard-earned money to come to our events, so I never take that for granted. I always want people to leave thinking, "That was worth it." At the same time, I don't want to lose what made Connexions what it is. As long as we stay true to ourselves, I'm happy.

The Scene Today

What do you think Birmingham's underground scene is doing right at the moment?

I think everyone's starting to back each other a lot more. There's so much talent in Birmingham, whether it's DJs, MCs, producers or promoters, and people are finally starting to get recognised outside the city. It's always had a strong underground culture, and I think people are starting to realise that now.

What does the city still need more of?

More opportunities. There's so many unreal DJs and producers who just need someone to give them a chance. Everyone talks about supporting the next generation, but you've actually got to book them and give them those opportunities.

Are there enough opportunities for new DJs and MCs to break through?

It's definitely getting better, but there's still a long way to go. That's why we've always tried to mix established artists with people coming through. Everyone starts somewhere. If nobody gives you that first chance, it's hard to get anywhere.

What advice would you give to young DJs trying to get booked?

Stop worrying about chasing bookings and focus on becoming a better DJ. Get to events, support your local scene, network naturally and actually be part of the community. People notice the ones who are always grafting and supporting. Don't expect everything overnight because it doesn't work like that.... Unless you blow up on tiktok hahaha which seems to happen more and more. That's just luck more than skill

What makes someone stand out to you—talent, attitude, graft or crowd connection?

Honestly, all of it. Talent gets your attention, but attitude keeps people wanting to work with you. I'd rather book someone who's humble, works hard and brings good energy than someone who's got a massive ego. People remember how you treat them.

What does "supporting the scene" actually mean to you?

It means actually showing up. Buy a ticket. Share the event. Stay for the whole lineup instead of just your mate's set. Support local artists, not just the big names. Everyone says they support the scene, but don't even share an event!



- *How do you deal with the politics that can sometimes come with events and lineups?*

I just stay in my own lane to be honest n keep myself to myself.. There's always gonna be politics in any industry, but I don't let it distract me. I'd rather put that energy into making Connexions better than worrying about what everyone else is doing. Some people are gna be scum forever <3

- *Where do you see Birmingham's D&B and bass music scene going over the next few years?*

I honestly think it's only going one way, and that's up. There's too much talent here for it not to. Hopefully more artists from Birmingham start getting recognised on a bigger level because there's plenty of people who deserve it.

Future Plans

- *What is next for Jakeeq as an artist?*

Just keep building. More gigs, more collaborations and hopefully more music as well. I'm always trying to improve and push myself. I don't ever want to stand still.

- *What is next for Connexions Club?*

Just keep growing without losing what made it special in the first place. Bigger events, bigger collaborations and more opportunities for local artists. Up up n up, expanding the connexions club. There's a Connexions Club x Zimma Audio x Oddworld Events night on 11 July at SUKi10C.

- *What can people expect?*

Chaos... in the best way. Its been a mess. (laughs) Nah, honestly, people can expect exactly what all three brands are known for....proper underground music, big energy and a sick atmosphere. We're crossing football and the music scene, so when you put that together it's always gonna be a special night. We're going to show the England game during the rave!

- *Are there any releases, mixes, events or collaborations coming up that people should watch for?*

There's definitely a few things in the works. I can't say too much just yet because I don't want to ruin the surprise, but there's some exciting collaborations coming and Connexions has got plenty planned for the rest of the year. Just keep your eyes peeled.

- *What would be the dream Connexions Club event if there were no limits?*

Probably a full weekend festival. Multiple stages covering everything from Jungle and D&B to Garage, 140 and Grime. Big names alongside artists who are only just coming through. That's always been what Connexions is about—bringing everyone together, regardless of where they are in their journey

- *In five years, where would you love to see the brand?*

I'd love people to hear the name Connexions Club and instantly know what it stands for. A brand that's respected, still putting on quality events, still giving opportunities to people coming through and still bringing people together. If we've managed to keep doing that while growing across the UK, I'd be over the moon.

⚡ Quick-Fire Questions

- *First rave you ever went to?* A UKG night at the old rainbow
- *First tune that blew your head off?* A bit of HEDEX and Skywalker at amusement 13
- *Favourite Birmingham venue?* Suki10c and Club PST
- *Favourite set you've ever played?* I got to play on the rampage tour in amusement 13 in 2018
- *One artist you'd love to go B2B with?* Me and axis for old times sake
- *One tune you wish you made?* I've made so many bootlegs of tunes and not bought them out, then when someone else brings out there version, it pops off and I wish I bought mine out then. But most of the Peep and XXX tunes before they get copyrighted
- *Best advice anyone has given you?* Don't give up and don't give a fuck!
- *Worst thing that can happen mid-set?* Load the tune to the wrong deck or stick goes into emergency loop!!!!
- *Biggest lesson from running events?* Its really hard to make money if you're a small brand!! Do it for fun
- *One word to describe Connexions Club?* Mushrooms

🔊 Closing Questions

- What do you want people to feel when they come to a Connexions Club night?

I just want people to forget about everything else for a few hours. Whether you've had a rough week, you're stressed with work or you've just come to hear good music, I want everyone to feel welcome. I want people to leave thinking, "That was a proper night." Good music, good people and good vibes. That's all it's ever been about.

What do you want your story to show people who are dealing with something difficult behind the scenes?

That everyone's fighting a battle you probably know nothing about. It's easy to look at social media and think everything's perfect, but that's never the full picture. If there's one thing I've learned, it's that setbacks don't have to stop you. Whatever life throws at you, you've just got to keep moving forward and not lose sight of what you love -ya get meeeee.

If someone is reading who has just been diagnosed with epilepsy or another life-changing condition, what would you say to them?

I'd just say don't let it define who you are. I know when you first hear the news it feels like your whole world's been turned upside down because that's exactly how I felt. But with the right support, the right advice and a bit of time, things do get easier. It might change how you do certain things, but it doesn't mean you've got to stop doing what you love. Keep your head up, don't be afraid to ask for help and take each day as it comes.

What legacy do you want to build — as Jakeeq, as Jake Connexions, and through Connexions Club?

More than anything, I just want to be remembered as someone who genuinely cared about the scene....



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ROOM 1 – HARD DANCE

ROOM 2 – DRUM & BASS

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TOP 10 DNB

TOP TEN DNB TRACKS JAN 2016

1. Calyx – Lemme Take It
2. Ground – Honest
3. Level & Warren – Secret Lies
4. Nekus Sound – Weird
5. Simula – Blurred
6. Objectiv – Lost Control
7. DLR – Push Through
8. Disrupta – Hold On
9. Break – So Right
10. Culture Shock – Feel Again

TOP TEN DNB TRACKS JAN 2016 SO FAR

1. Pendulum & Armin van Buuren feat. Rob Swire
2. – Sound of You (Pendulum Remix)
3. Simula – Blurred
4. DLR – Push Through
5. Break – So Right
6. Calyx – Lemme Take It
7. Disrupta – Hold On
8. Objectiv – Lost Control
9. Ground – Honest
10. Nekus Sound – Weird
11. Level & Warren – Secret Lies

TOP 10 DNB TRACKS TO LOOK OUT FOR IN AUG

1. Andy C – Who Like The What
2. Bad Company UK & Latte – Planet Dust (Latte Remix)
3. Bladerunner – Murda You
4. Break – So Right
5. Calyx – Lemme Take It
6. Cause4Concern – Relentless (Chook Remix)
7. Culture Shock – Feel Again
8. Document One – Hnew On Me
9. DRS & Zar – Pay Your Way
10. Drumsound & Bassline Smith – Pure Fire

TOP 10 DUBSTEP & GRIME

TOP 10 DUBSTEP & GRIME TUNE 2026

1. Dodge & Fuski, Boogie T – STEPPIN
2. P Money, Taiki Nulight, Diligent Fingers, Casey Club – Take Out Your Team
3. Zero (UK) – Gotta Be Tuff
4. Riko Dan & SKALAH – Thriller In Manila
5. Saka – styx!
6. D Double E, Flava D & SKALAH – Different
7. Truth & ONHELL – What?
8. Killa P & Sir Spyro – Start & Stop
9. Hypho – Mirrors Of Smoke
10. Scrufizzer & Borne – Original Style

TOP 10 DUBSTEP & GRIME TRACKS FOR JULY 2026 SO FAR

1. Zero (UK) – Stop Scheming
2. Anais, Stylo G & Lady Leshurr – Strong Like Lion
3. WiNK & Borne – Drown
4. Paige Eliza & Casey Club – Virtual Girl
5. Caspa – Run That
6. Riko Dan & Zero (UK) – Dubplate Fly
7. Quantum Rhythm – Basura & Bwompster
8. HURTBX – TARGET
9. 42CLO – Heebie Jeebies
10. Latte & Hukae – Dread

TOP 10 DUBSTEP & GRIME TRACKS TO LOOK OUT FOR IN AUG

1. Caspa – Heavyweight
2. P Money – Straight Shelling
3. Ternion Sound – Pressure Point
4. Manga Saint Hilare – Back Again
5. Distinct Motive – Submerged
6. Frisco – London Sound
7. Hypho – Deep Water
8. D Double E – Energy Flow
9. ENIGMA Dubz – Night Shift
10. Sir Spyro – Reload

TOP 10 GARAGE & BASSLINE

TOP 10 GARAGE & BASSLINE TUNES 2026

1. Wiley, Local & Lucas Alexander – 8 For 8
2. Bullet Tooth – All I Do
3. Jump N' Shout – Gorgon City Remix
4. Kepler (UK) – Searching
5. Boss Priestster – Dreams
6. Basement Jaxx – Back The Funk
7. Smokey Bubblin' B – OG007
8. AnAmStyle – Smooth Operator (Down Like)
9. Becking – Back The Funk
10. Lu.Re – All Night

TOP 10 GARAGE & BASSLINE TRACKS FOR JULY 2026 SO FAR

1. Burnski & Kepler (UK) – Feel It
2. Flava D – Sunset
3. Gandalf – Skanking Crew
4. Joey Mar – No Pressure
5. Bowlesy – Jubilee
6. D&G (UK) – Flower Bringing
7. Hurlee – Say Anything
8. Silva Bumpa & MC DT – Doin' It
9. NOTION & X CLUB. – U KNOW
10. Basement Jaxx – Jump N' Shout

TOP 10 GARAGE & BASSLINE TRACKS TO LOOK OUT FOR IN AUG

1. Burnski – Attenuation
2. D&G (UK) – Flower Bringing
3. Bullet Tooth – Like You Wanna
4. Silva Bumpa – Got Me Moving
5. NOTION – Want It All
6. Joey Mar – Back Again
7. Bowlesy – Ruffneck Sound
8. Flava D – Sunset
9. Gandalf – Reloaded
10. Kepler (UK) – Take Me Higher

TOP 10 HOUSE & DANCE

TOP 10 HOUSE & DANCE TRACKS JUNE 2026

1. CASSIMM – Valerie
2. Jayda G – All Day (Dennis Quin Extended Remix)
3. Dennis Quin – In My Arms
4. Kyle Starkey & Entasia – 234
5. Martin Ikin – Count On Me
6. Mark Eteson feat. Pearl – Afrhrs
7. Low Steppa – Holte
8. Mannymore & Concepta – Breathe It In
9. Solardo – Take Me Higher
10. Tepr – Alders

TOP 10 HOUSE & DANCE TRACKS JULY 2026 SO FAR

1. Cloonee & Prospa – Free Your Mind
2. Kyle Starkey & Entasia – 234
3. Trace (UZ) – Good Time
4. Dale Hart – Dancing At Midnight
5. Max Styler – Need You Tonight
6. Harry Romero – Keep Moving
7. ESSEL – Look Back
8. James Poole – Take Me Higher
9. Gorgon City – Everybody
10. Jess Bays – Don't Leave Me

TOP 10 HOUSE & DANCE TRACKS TO LOOK OUT FOR IN AUG

1. CASSIMM – Want My Love
2. Kyle Starkey – Electric Dreams
3. Martin Ikin – Get Down
4. Jayda G – Into The Night
5. Low Steppa – Hold Tight
6. Mark Eteson feat. Pearl – Afrhrs
7. Solardo – The Underground
8. Mannymore & Concepta – Higher
9. Biscits – House Of Rhythm
10. James Hype – Lose Control

TOP 10 TRANCE & TECHNO

TOP 10 TRANCE & TECHNO TRACKS JUNE 2026

1. Chris Liebing – Higher Things (FJAAK Remix)
2. Ben Gold – Fall With Me
3. Slam – DRUMTRAX Vol. 3
4. Xijaro & Pitch – Out Of The Blue
5. Red Rooms – Axiom
6. Ciaran McAuley – Love Loud
7. Maharti – Tukje Doen
8. Richard Durand – Destination
9. Mark Broom – M-Tallic
10. Bryan Kearney – Adrenaline

TOP 10 TRANCE/TECHNO TRACKS FOR JULY 2026 SO FAR

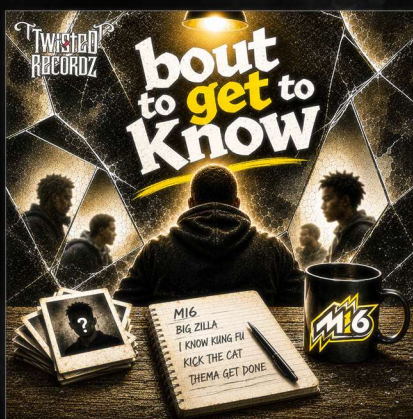
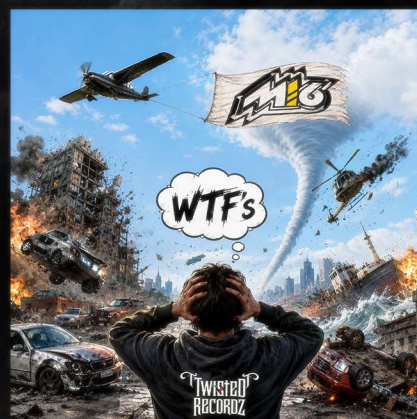
1. K.O. – K.O.
2. Above & Beyond feat. Justine Suissa – When I Look In Your Eyes
3. No Mercy – No Mercy
4. Above & Beyond – Feel The Vibe
5. Your Mind On Acid – Your Mind On Acid
6. Alex M.O.R.P.H. & Paul Denton – Teleporter
7. Underground – Underground
8. Alessandra Roncone – Echoes Of Light
9. Better – Better
10. Airbase – Medusa (Darren Porter Extended Remix)

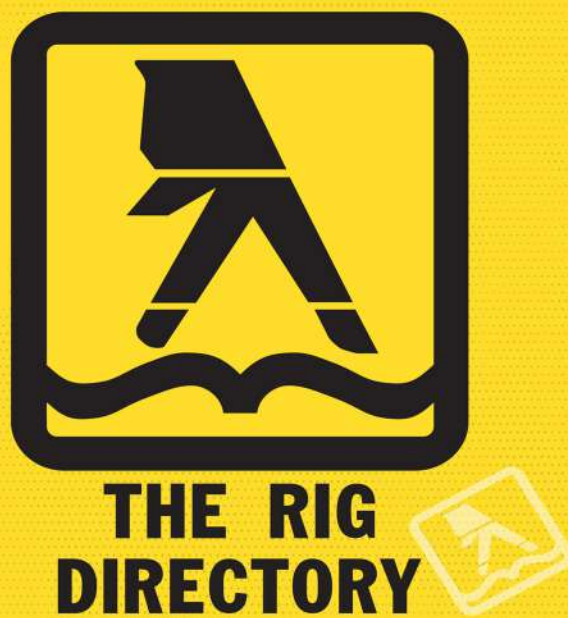
TOP 10 TRANCE/TECHNO TRACKS TO LOOK OUT FOR IN AUG

1. Adam Beyer & Chris Avantgarde – Desolate Lands
2. Darren Tate – A Child Of The Times
3. Charlotte de Witte – No Division
4. Push – Activate Vortex
5. Space 92 – Orbit Shift (Extended Remix)
6. Lange & Betsie Larkin – All Around Me (Ferry Tayle Extended Remix)
7. HI-LO – Frequency Shift
8. Omnia – As We Become One
9. Lilly Palmer – Acid Rain
10. Mainterm – Adore The Laser

NEW RELEASES

TWISTED RECORDS x M16





Our History

Founded in 2022, The Rig Directory was built on a simple but powerful idea: bring sound systems from across the country together in one central platform. A place where promoters, venues, and organisers can easily find the right rig for their event — while actively supporting sound system culture and the charities that matter to it.

Since launch, we've worked with some of the biggest and most respected rigs in the industry, creating a space that represents the scene properly and professionally.

The Concept

Every sound system listed on The Rig Directory is given its own dedicated page, fully editable by an admin at any time. Each page can showcase photos, social media links, contact details, price lists (if desired), and any key information that helps highlight the system, its services, and its identity. Each rig also chooses a charity they want to support. We link this directly on their page, allowing visitors to see who the sound system supports and donate straight to the chosen charity — no middlemen, no hidden cuts. To be listed on the directory, we simply ask for a one-off minimum £5 donation to the sound system's chosen charity. After that, any further donations are completely optional. Once set up, the page is theirs to share, promote, and use as a professional reference point. At a glance, people can view a rig's setup, services, and contact details — making booking easier and more transparent for everyone involved.

The Goal

Our goal is to give sound systems the visibility they deserve, present them at their best, and raise funds for meaningful causes at the same time. We know times are tough, which is why we've kept the minimum donation low — a fiver felt fair and accessible. Of course, anyone is welcome to donate more, but the focus is on inclusion, support, and strengthening the scene as a whole.

“One directory - One culture - Real support”

To be listed on the directory, we simply ask for a one-off minimum £5 donation to the sound system's chosen charity. After that, any further donations are completely optional. Once set up, the page is theirs to share, promote, and use as a professional reference point.

<http://therigdirectory.com>

Twisted Steel

PIERCING THE ORDINARY



OPENING AUGUST 2026



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TWISTED STEEL

WHEN THE HASHTAGS STOP...

Why men's mental health doesn't end when July does

"Awareness lasts a month. Looking after each other should last a lifetime."



EVERY JULY, WE TALK...

For a few weeks, men's mental health moves into the spotlight. Social feeds fill with reminders to speak up. Charities launch campaigns. Friends check in. Those moments matter.

Then August arrives. The posts slow down, but anxiety, depression, loneliness and pressure do not. Mental health does not follow a calendar, and neither should our support.

75%

of suicides registered in England and Wales in 2023 were male.

17.6

male suicide deaths per 100,000 people in 2024.

3x

The male suicide rate was roughly three times the female rate.

WHAT JULY REMINDED US

It challenged the stale idea that men should simply 'man up' and carry everything alone. Every honest conversation chips away at stigma. Every person who reaches out shows that strength is not silence. The real test is whether we keep that same energy once the campaign graphics vanish from our feeds.

Statistics: Office for National Statistics, Suicides in England and Wales, 2023 and 2024 registrations.

BEYOND THE BLUE RIBBON

Real change starts long after the campaigns end.



The blue ribbon is a powerful symbol.
It opens doors, starts conversations and saves lives.
But awareness is just the beginning.
Support systems, open conversations and genuine care
are what carry men through the rest of the year.

"Awareness lasts a month. Looking after each other should last a lifetime."

THE CONVERSATION CONTINUES

It's easy to post. It's harder to listen.
The truth is, most men are still fighting battles no one sees.
We need to keep showing up for the texts that never get sent,
the friends who go quiet, and the brothers who smile through the pain.

Let's not just talk in July. Let's check in every day.



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100,000 people in 2024.



3x

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roughly three times the
female rate.

MOVING FORWARD

Mental health support should be accessible, normalised and stigma-free.
Communities, workplaces, families and friends all play a part.
If we keep showing up for each other, we can build a culture where
men feel safe to speak up, any day of the year.

Check in. Speak up. Show up.

Statistics: Office for National Statistics, Suicides in England and Wales, 2023 and 2024 registrations.

CLASSIFIEDS



SEE ALL OUR LATEST STREETWEAR IN OUR ONLINE STORE

We're all about our Streetwear and music and we are part of the Indulgence With A Twist brand.

Our Shop sells all sorts of merchandise, from MP3s, T-Shirts, Hoodies down to all sorts of clubbing paraphernalia.

Our Clothing range, Twisted Apparel releases new ranges all the time, along with regular collaborations, limited additions and one offs.

Twisted Apparel shop was created with cavers in mind, we stock t-shirts, hoodies, jackets and clubbing accessories for DJs, MCs, Producers and Ravers alike.

Our collaboration projects with various brands are always coming out with new products, so keep your eyes peeled!

"For clothes as loud as you are"

"Music unites us all"

[www.https://twistedapparel.store](https://twistedapparel.store)

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SCAN ME



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THIS IS TWISTED.

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OR CALL : 07840 932967



To advertise here
will cost you £1 per issue for a
standard size or £2 for a large
advert. All money from this
will be donated to the charity - MIND



THE RIG
DIRECTORY

THE RIG DIRECTORY — WHERE SOUND SYSTEMS STAND TOGETHER

BORN IN 2022 FROM A SIMPLE IDEA:

PUT EVERY SOUND SYSTEM IN ONE PLACE — EASY TO FIND, EASY TO BOOK, AND BUILT TO SUPPORT SOUND SYSTEM CULTURE AND CHARITY.

EACH RIG GETS ITS OWN CUSTOM PAGE WITH PHOTOS, SOCIALS, PRICES, CONTACT DETAILS AND MORE.
EVERY RIG CHOOSES A CHARITY THEY CARE ABOUT — AND ALL IT TAKES TO JOIN IS A ONE-OFF £5 DONATION STRAIGHT TO THAT CHARITY.

PROMOTE YOUR RIG.
SUPPORT YOUR SCENE.
GIVE BACK WHILE DOING IT.

ONE DIRECTORY. EVERY RIG. REAL IMPACT.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GET INVOLVED SEND AN EMAIL TO
RIGDIRECT@INDULGENCEWITHATWIST.COM
WWW.HTTPS://THERIGDIRECTORY.COM

WITH  IN MIND

REMEMBERANCE PAGE FOR THOSE WE HAVE LOST

"This is what mental health looks like when it's ignored.
Remember them. Speak up. Check in. Please stay."



Steven 'DJ Hurtz' Spencer - 24.08.1984 - 29.11.2025 💙🕊️ AGE: 41
EDITION 1



Thomas Smith - 20.04.1987 - 30.12.2020 💙🕊️ AGE: 33
EDITION 1



Chris Wright - 22.03.1983- 24.10.2022 💙🕊️ AGE:39
EDITION 1



Aaron-Louis Kingsley Enderby - 24.11.1992 - 01.04.2022 💙🕊️ AGE: 29
EDITION 1



Robert Williams - 29.06.1984 - 10.02.2020 💙🕊️ AGE: 35
EDITION 1



James Clinton - 18.12.1986 - 23.06.2025 💙🕊️ AGE: 38
EDITION 1



Connor James Dean O'toole - 1995 - 2021💙🕊️ AGE: 26
EDITION 1



Richard 'Blowa' Blower - 22.08.1989 - 03.09.2014 💙🕊️ AGE: 25
EDITION 1

We want to honour your loved ones while raising awareness for mental health — to have someone special listed,
please contact us at info@indulgencewithatwist.com 💙



999

Helpline Numbers

Helplines and crisis contacts

If you are at all concerned about your health or the health of a friend or family member, you may find useful information from one of the sources below.

Hub of Hope

Hub of Hope is the UK's largest mental health support directory. Whether you want to find a service to help you feel better or you want to support someone who is struggling, we can help. Use the address to search the directory <https://hubofhope.co.uk>

Samaritans

Available 24 hours a day to provide confidential emotional support for people who are experiencing feelings of distress, despair or suicidal thoughts.

www.samaritans.org

116 123 (free to call from within the UK and Ireland), 24 hours a day

Email: jo@samaritans.org

Mind

Mind offers advice, support and information to people experiencing a mental health difficulty and their family and friends. Mind also has a network of local associations in England and Wales to which people can turn for help and assistance.

Lines are open Monday to Friday 9am to 6pm (except bank holidays).

www.mind.org.uk

InfoLine: 0300 123 3393 to call, or text 86463

Email info@mind.org.uk

Rethink Mental Illness

Rethink Mental Illness works to help everyone affected by severe mental illness, such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, recover a better quality of life. It provides effective services and support and campaigns for change through greater awareness and understanding.

www.rethink.org

National Advice Service: 0300 5000 927 (Open 9:30am to 4pm, Monday to Friday)

Email advice@rethink.org

(Rethink was formerly called the National Schizophrenia Fellowship)

PAPYRUS UK

PAPYRUS is the national charity dedicated to the prevention of young suicide. They support young people under 35 who are experiencing thoughts of suicide, as well as people concerned about someone else.

Their HopelineUK service is open 9am – midnight every day of the year (including weekends and bank holidays).

www.papyrus-uk.org

Helpline: 0800 068 4141

Text: 07860039967

Email: pat@papyrus-uk.org



999

Helpline Numbers

Helplines and crisis contacts

If you are at all concerned about your health or the health of a friend or family member, you may find useful information from one of the sources below.

YoungMinds

www.youngminds.org.uk

Parents helpline: 0808 802 5544 (Mon-Fri from 9.30am to 4pm, excluding bank holidays)

Campaign Against Living Miserably (CALM)

A helpline for people in the UK who are down or have hit a wall for any reason, who need to talk or find information and support.

Open 5pm to midnight, every day of the year.

www.thecalmzone.net

Helpline: 0800 58 58 58

Webchat: www.thecalmzone.net/help/webchat/

Sane

SANE services provide practical help, emotional support and specialist information to individuals affected by mental health problems, their family, friends and carers.

SANeline is open between 4pm and 10pm, 365 days a year.

Support Forum: www.sane.org.uk

SANeline: 0300 304 7000

Textcare: https://www.sane.org.uk/what_we_do/support/textcare/

NHS mental health services

Find information, advice and local services on the NHS website. You can also get advice from the NHS 111 phone service.

Shout

Get help

To start a conversation, text the word 'Shout' to 85258. Shout is a free, confidential and 24/7 text messaging service for anyone in the UK who needs support. If you are struggling to cope and need to talk, our trained Shout Volunteers are here for you.

If your life is at imminent risk, please call 999 for immediate help.

Other sources of mental health help and information

List of mental health helplines from the Helplines Partnership

Mental Health Foundation provides useful information on a range of mental health difficulties, as well as resources to support your wellbeing. Mentally Healthy Schools has a wide range of information for schools and teachers to support young people's mental health. Mental Health and Money Advice provides practical advice and support for people experiencing issues with mental health and money. Me and My Mind has some useful information for young people who may be having unusual experiences, such as paranoia or hearing voices.



Created in association with

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and
THE DRUM & BASS BIBLE

**AMMY'S
PHOTOS**



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