

and the rest **etc.**



# Summer SURVIVAL

Awake from your slumbers, there's stuff to do!

**W**hen the calendar clicked over to May in the **etc.** lounge, the usual delirium at the prospect of more than a couple of hours of fairly shabby daylight was tempered by the ever present anxiety: what to do with the summer? And how to make the most of it? Only one thing for it – delegate! We asked the very excellent chaps in the band Mohair to give us a few pointers, and here's what they had to say...

## Festivals, festivals, festivals

Particularly Glastonbury [*although others are available – we're still licking our 'didn't get a ticket' wounds – etc.*]. It's got to be the priority for any fan of music and summer, the two seem to go together so perfectly. British summer time actually starts with the Glastonbury weekend: until that first cup of tea and 3 doughnuts for £1.50 go down, it's still officially spring.

## A decent soundtrack

Every summer of our lives can be summed up by the records we listened to. Certain albums will crop up time and time again. Crosby, Stills and Nash (1st album); *Moseley Shoals* – Ocean Colour Scene, *Pet Sounds* – The Beach Boys; *Abbey Road* – The Beatles [*not got it? Go get it. Now. etc.*]; *Songs in The Key of Life* – Stevie Wonder; *It's a Shame About Ray* – The Lemonheads. But then there's always the new summer record, too – last summer was The White Stripes' *Elephant* for us.

## A summer wardrobe

Important to get right. You've spent the winter whitening your slightly ropery English skin beneath suits and long sleeve Ben

Sherman shirts in the pub, and suddenly it's time for Bermuda shorts, baseball caps and vest tops. Think again; we don't want to see it. For us, our summer clothes are just our winter clothes with fewer layers of charity shop jumpers, and bigger holes in the knees of our jeans [*ah, fashion – etc.*].

## A healthy addiction to cold lager.

Again, the two seem to go hand in hand. Summer and cold pints of beer in pub gardens go together like fish and chips (or tea and doughnuts). [*Please note: obviously, etc. cannot and does not condone drinking underage, and it is something that we never, ever, did, preferring instead to cultivate a taste for healthy ginger ale until we came of age.*]

## Holidays

If Glastonbury wasn't enough, get a bunch of your mates together and go camping or get a house in the country and get drunk [*on life, of course – etc.*] and play records – some kind of swimming pool action would top it off. Alternatively you could impose yourself on a poor unsuspecting island somewhere off the coast of Greece and drink Stella.

## BBQ!

There's nothing like some burned bangers and a game of Frisbee to really set the summer rolling. We seem to have an amazing taste for burnt food in this country.

## Accept the inevitable

Sand in your crack: summer ain't summer without it. Stupid sunglasses: like it's suddenly OK, just because the sun is out, to look like a prat.

# Meet Mohair

**So why pick this lot to talk about summer?** Partly for a laugh, but also because they sound like someone distilled everything that's good about the months of May – September and spiked their drinks with it. Live, they're a ludicrous burst of hair and noise – complete with pogo-ing, hand clapping and the throwing of extravagant shapes – that it's impossible not to like. We also asked them to describe each other, for your further enlightenment:



**Pete Baker – Drums, Backing Vocals**  
'As solid a drummer as he is a geezer...good beard too.' *Alex*

**Tim Slade – Bass, Backing Vocals**  
'He likes his tea and cats.' *Tom*

**Alex Richards – Keyboards, Backing Vocals**  
'He can arrange the sh\*t out of a Mozart string quartet or a Kylie medley.' *Tim*

**Tom Billington – Vocals, Guitar**  
'A gazelle on steroids. He plays how he is, fast, frantic and filthy.' *Pete*

**There you go. Their single, 'End Of The Line', is out on July 18th. Worth a look, we reckon.**

## All day and all of the Night

### 10 THINGS TO MAKE SURE YOU DO THIS SUMMER:

**Lotion up.** Tans are fine, but looking like a red hot chilli pepper? Why spoil yourself, baby?

**Inhale.** Get outside the second it stops raining and run round and round until exhausted, just once, like you did when you were 8. It's good to get your priorities right...

**Pause.** Look at the sky or something: ain't life grand?

**Take ginseng** for groovy oriental energy without the taste of Red Bull (which, let's be honest, tastes like second hand bubblegum).

**Enjoy the European Championships.** You may not like football, but it's going to be everywhere – might as well dig the atmosphere.

**Wear pink.** Apparently, it's the in colour this summer. We're sure you'll look beautiful, boys.

**Toast marshmallows perfectly.** The trick is to wait 'til the fire's gone right down, and take your time about it so the outside's crispy but the inside's gooey. It's confectionary porn, really.

**Fall in love.** Agonise. Listen to music and wallow. Feel better. Repeat.

**Keep a journal,** documenting everything you get up to. Pics are great, but this way you get to cringe not only at your hair/clothes/disarray in years to come, but at what you *thought* about it all. Hehehe.

**Stretch.** Not muscles, but yourself – try to do a few random things you wouldn't normally do, just to see how it feels. **etc.** plans to cultivate a bonsai tree, just to see if we can make it through the summer without killing it.

### Rain stops play

If you're stuck indoors while the weather auditions for *The Day After Tomorrow*, catch up on some of these all time great summer movies:

**Withnail & I** – 'We've gone on holiday by mistake...' moans Richard E Grant, as the 60s collapse all around him and the booze runs out. Genius.

**Stand by Me** – River Phoenix and friends walk to see a dead body in the school holidays. Timeless rite-of-passage events duly unfold – this is your youth, friends.

**Grease** – Oh, come on, they don't let you print a summer magazine if you don't mention it once. If you haven't seen it, it's *miles* better than you think it is.

**Dazed and Confused** – School's out. Time to get wasted and pull. Hurrah!

**Singin' in the Rain** – Incredible dancing, bursting with imagination and colour, vintage Hollywood style – in a word, glorious. Enough to make anyone laugh at clouds...

**Jaws** – Worth it for the climactic 'Smile, you son of a bitch,' alone, never mind the preceding steely tension, pioneering camerawork, and general shark mayhem.

**Some Like it Hot** – It's got Marilyn Monroe in it. She's fit and she knows it. Enjoy!

**Dirty Dancing** – All these years on, and still the girls want to have the time of their lives with Patrick. Chaps: you know the words, too. You're fooling no-one.

**Ferris Bueller's Day Off** – The definitive homage to pulling a sickie – 'Life moves fast. If you don't stop and take a look around, you could miss it.' **etc.** hears you, brother.