

## **Beat about the Bush!** **- Shepherd's Bush is the rock and roll hotspot of the UK -**

At last one of the ongoing music arguments has been officially settled. Beatles fans in Liverpool and Oasis and Smiths fans in Manchester will be up in arms at the news, but the rock and roll capital of the UK is a small, unglamorous enclave in West London...Shepherds Bush!

Research was conducted by [www.guitarrockstar.co.uk](http://www.guitarrockstar.co.uk), which checked where over 500 of the UK's most successful rock artists and band members were born and raised to find the most rock and roll hotspot of the UK.

The list starts with 50s pioneers like Lonnie Donegan (Glasgow) and Hank Marvin of the Shadows (Newcastle) to present day acts such as the Arctic Monkeys (Sheffield) and indie favourites, Foals (Oxford).

Perhaps more famous as the gritty setting for the classic BBC sitcom Steptoe and Son, humble town of Shepherds Bush (population 11,000)\* has given us more rock stars per head than any other place in the UK - from 60s rockers, The Who, to the world's two greatest punk bands, Sex Pistols and The Clash.

### **Artists born in Shepherd Bush roll of honour include:**

Pete Townshend - The Who  
Roger Daltrey – The Who  
John Entwistle – The Who  
Glen Matlock - The Sex Pistols  
Paul Cook - The Sex Pistols  
Steve Jones- The Sex Pistols  
Mick Jones - The Clash  
Paul Simonon - The Clash  
John Weider - The Animals / Family

Alongside these, there are a number of rock and roll stars that have made Shepherd's Bush their second home. They include 90s UK grungers, Bush, led by Gavin Rossdale (Mr Gwen Stefani) who named the band after where he grew up and ex-Libertines and Babyshambles front man Pete Doherty. Although born in Basingstoke, Doherty moved to the area when he was 16 – where he learned to play guitar and picked up his love of the local football team, QPR.

### **Manchester IS the UK's most rock and roll city**

Comparing the top cities in the UK, London may have produced the most rock stars with 89 (including The Clash, The Kinks, Madness and, erm, Phil Collins), but calculated by proportion to population, the capital languishes way

down the table of key cities with Manchester far ahead as the UK's top rock city (see table at end).

Home to the likes of Oasis, The Smiths, Stone Roses and Joy Division – Manchester has produced one rock star to every 17,850 of the population, followed by Oxford (1/ 24,170) and Liverpool (1 / 29,073).

The most extreme rock and roll location in the UK is Thurso, on the northern most point of the Scottish coast, having produced Martin Carr of 90's indie-band The Boo Radleys.

The first ever rock and roll map of Britain, pinpointing the locations of all 500+ rock stars origins is available to view from the download section of [www.guitarrockstar.co.uk](http://www.guitarrockstar.co.uk), the website of the latest air guitar gadget craze.

The research was conducted to launch an online competition for kids and adults to send in video clips of their extreme air guitar antics in a search for the UK's Guitar RockStar Idol – wannabe headbangers can visit [www.guitarrockstar.co.uk](http://www.guitarrockstar.co.uk) to submit their entry to win a money-can't-buy day in the life of a rock star, or to vote for other people's clips.

According to Holly Lackey, TOMY Guitar RockStar Expert from [www.guitarrockstar.co.uk](http://www.guitarrockstar.co.uk), "Mancunians may have bragging rights over Liverpool, Glasgow and London as the most rock and roll city, but it's Shepherds Bush that really stands out on the map – there must be something in the local air – or air guitar – that makes it our UK capital of rock!"

- Ends -

## TOP UK ROCK STAR BIRTHPLACES

*Top area in the UK is Shepherd's Bush, with 9 rock stars, giving it 1/1,222 rock stars per head of the population.*

CITY	ROCK STARS	PER HEAD OF POPULATION	FAMOUS NAMES INCLUDE
Manchester	22	1/17,855	Noel and Liam Gallagher, Morrissey, Johnny Marr, Joy Division, Stone Roses, Mark E. Smith, Sean Ryder
Oxford	9	1/24,100	Johnny Greenwood, Colin Greenwood, Ed O'Brien (Radiohead), Supergrass, Foals, Tim Oxley-Smith (Keane)
Liverpool	15	1/29,073	The Beatles, Billy Fury
Coventry	10	1/30,347	The Specials (including Terry Hall), The Enemy
Glasgow	19	1/31,421	Lonnie Donegan, Donovan, Mark Knopfler, Bobby Gillespie (Primal Scream), Sharleen Spiteri
Bristol	13	1/31,576	Tricky, Robert Del Naja (Massive)

			Attack), Adrain Utley (Portishead)
Cardiff	8	1/38,167	Cerys Matthews, Shakin' Stevens, Andy Bell (Oasis)
Belfast	6	1/46,076	Van Morrison, Stiff Little Fingers, Candida Doyle (Pulp),
Birmingham	19	1/51,425	Ozzy Osbourne and Black Sabbath, Roger Taylor (Duran Duran), Jeff Lynne (ELO)
Newcastle	5	1/51,907	Hank Marvin and Bruce Welch (The Shadows), Chas Chandler and Eric Burdon (The Animals)
Sheffield	10	1/52,580	Joe Cocker, Jarvis Cocker and Steve Mackie (Pulp), Arctic Monkeys, Rick Savage and Joe Elliott (Def Leppard)
London	89	1/82,644	The Who, David Bowie, Marc Bolan, Ray Davies (The Kinks), Sex Pistols, Peter Green, Madness, The Clash, Elvis Costello, Dan Gillespie Sells (The Feeling), Phil Collins, Gary Numan, John Weider, Gavin Rossdale, Damon Albarn
Edinburgh	5	1/89,700	Frankie Poullain (The Darkness), Andrew Innes (Primal Scream), Shirley Manson (Garbage), Ian Anderson (Jethro Tull)
Leeds	7	1/102,200	Kaiser Chiefs, Mark Richardson (Feeder)

For further press information, product, photography or to request a demonstration by TOMY's own guitar hero, please contact Mark, Gloria or Martin on 0207 684 6969 or [tomy@cowpr.com](mailto:tomy@cowpr.com)

### Notes to editors

\* Source: ONS

### About Guitar RockStar

Stand aside Mr Hendrix! Guitar RockStar from TOMY is the must-have head banging new toy for Christmas. With just the headstock and top fret of an electronic guitar, anyone from 8-80 can live out rock legend fantasies with the gadget that takes air guitar to a new level of entertainment.

Grab the fret, choose your chord and strum the infra-red strings to play along to 8 preset rock classics or feel free to improvise your own riffs and solos. Perfect for playing in front of the mirror or plug into an amp for challenges with friends and family.

Guitar RockStar is suitable from 8 years plus and costs £14.99 GRP (Stadium not included). It is available to buy from [www.guitarrockstar.co.uk](http://www.guitarrockstar.co.uk), Toys R Us and all good toy retailers.

