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A weekly listing in the **CityLife RESTAURANT GUIDE**

**ALADDIN CHINESE**  
738 Marine Rd, Withington,  
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An enhanced listing on the **manchesteronline.co.uk** restaurant guide

This can include menu, photographs, email & weblink. Special offers can also be advertised.

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**Manchester Evening News**  
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# Frank is keeping it local

**W**OULD you like to go for lunch at a top hotel for your interview Frank? "I'd rather go for a picnic." What would you like me to bring? "I love Lucozade, flying saucers. Oh, and Twiglets." So I spent my evening shopping for food for a man with papier-mâché head not knowing if he was ever really going to eat it.

Laden with my goodies I met with the man who has appeared on more than 500 television shows, radio, concerts, comic strips, does cover versions of everything from Elvis to the Arctic Monkeys, supported Bros at Wembley, loves felt tip pens, has a mosaic of himself alongside Morrissey and Karl Marx outside Affleck's Palace and put Timperley on the map. Although don't tell Frank's mum he is in showbusiness - she doesn't know. This is why he will never do an interview for Woman's Realm.

Where's your sidekick, Little Frank? "Don't be stupid he's made out of cardboard, he can't speak back." Silly me, I wouldn't want to interview someone made out of paper, would I?

Remembering watching Frank on No 73 and Motor Mouth as a kid, I had to ask what made a man with a papier-mâché head from Timperley such a cult figure, and how did he end up in showbusiness? "I was watching Top of the Pops and thought 'that looks a doddle'. I went to my shed and wrote 17 songs, including Anarchy in Timperley, Born in Timperley and Last Tram to Timperley." Frank loves Timperley - it's where he's from.

A lot goes on in Frank's shed. He is working on a secret rocket base at the moment and has been making short animation films. He even wrote an episode of animated classic Pingu called Bedtime Shadows that won an award for best-shot animation over in the U.S.A (that part is true).

Chatting about Frank's old Radio Timperley show, on Piccadilly Radio,



**PICNIC TIME** Frank and Steph enjoy an al fresco meal in Cathedral Gardens outside Urbis, complete with Lucozade and snacks

## Table talk WITH STEPH ELMORE

he tells me how Chris Evans was his driver and the tea boy, and how during Chris's first radio show, Frank was teaching him how to be a DJ.

How the tides have turned, Frank admits. Chris is living the high life with his "10 houses sellotaped together" compared to Frank's shed.

Frank's other celebrity encounters include dancing the Birdy song for

the Queen, and many cups of tea with Mrs Merton, who he lived next door to (although she is in a different part of Timperley now, he would rather be tortured with a dripping wet lamp on his head than tell people where exactly, that is the sort of caring man that he is to his showbiz pals).

So, I ask, how do you make it in showbiz? "You've either got it or you've not, little Frank's not, he's made out of cardboard. You've got to stay focused. I've not had time to settle down, despite the rumours of me and Kylie. Anyway TV isn't all glamour, you've still got to shop for your mum."

Other than being banned from his

Timperley Big Shorts F.C. Sunday amateur league team for dangerous headers, Frank now plans on conquering America by releasing a single out there. "No one has properly made it there from Timperley. I'm going over on April 1 for some signings and photo shoots, doing an hour on Cable TV and I'm going to try and get on the Letterman show."

Frank, however, prefers working in Manchester and is looking forward to his new Manchester-based TV chat show which starts tonight at 10pm on Channel M, Frank's Proper Telly Show. And staying local means he can still shop for his mum.

## Bars & Pubs

# Whoop it up at the Wigwam, but stick to beer

**W**ITH six bars and innumerable alcoves, Tiger Tiger is the ideal joint for shaking off the office party, or having a celebratory night out with everyone you know. The individual bars are themed and span the globe - from the intimate, Moroccan-influenced 'Caz Bar' to the New York apartment style 'Loft' and in The Lodge they've got their own take on a wigwam.



Drinks sensibly stick closer to European shores - Amstel, Staropramen and Guinness on tap alongside mainstream spirits. Winewise, there's a better than usual pub selection, but some more interesting bottles could be squeezed in.

Most cocktails are long, although there is a shooters menu, too. I tried a Lynchburg Lemonade, which was an icy fusion of Jack Daniels with lemon juice and Cointreau. You could taste the whiskey, but it was overpowered by a fruit-related flavour. The drink was also pink, for reasons I couldn't explain, and had less alcohol content than you'd expect at the price.

Having said that, mediocre cocktails have clearly had little impact on the popularity of this venue. Back in 2000, this was the second ever Tiger Tiger to be unleashed (there are nine now), and every weekend since, the whole premises has vibrated with up-for-it punters.

They've got everything from Ministry of Sound club fandangos to a live local band night hosted by XFM, plus

a plethora of speed and even dodgier-sounding 'bed' dating events. Something, then, for everyone.

» **Tiger Tiger Bar & Nightclub, The**

**Printworks Withy Grove, Manchester (0161 3858080). Open Mon-Fri 12pm-2am, Sat 12pm-3am, Sun 12pm-12.30am**

Ruth Allan

## COCKTAIL OF THE WEEK

### Raspberry Mojito

Ingredients: 2 tsps brown sugar, four fresh limes (squeezed), six mint leaves, dash of Sirop de gomme (sugar syrup), one shot raspberry puree, one and a half shots Havana Club five-year-old rum, half a shot of crème de framboise, splash of soda.

Muddle the sugar, limes, mint, gomme and puree into a 12oz glass. Add crushed ice two thirds of the way up the glass, then pour in the remaining spirits. Top with crushed ice into cone shape, a splash of soda and garnish with a mint sprig and two straws.

John from Tiger Tiger says: "A raspberry Mojito is a sweet and flavoursome alternative to the original. The added fresh raspberry



puree and crème de framboise marry with the Havana to deliver a sharp but sweet sensation."