

ACROSS

- 6 infant.
Deletion. INFANT(ry). del_ind=ignoring. ry=railway. def=Young (adj.)
May bring collection of demos *The Infant Hercules* to mind
- 8 real beer.
Substitution. ALBE(rto) replaces LAY ('song') at the centre of RE(lay)ER. linkword=in.
def=Drink. With a sideways reference to the Yes album, *Relayer*
- 11 shingle.
ENGLISH* def=The Stones
- 12 Goa.
First letters. G(regory) + O(skar) + A(ndy). linkwords = are in. def=a state (of India)
- 13 ELEVE.
Last letter deletion. ELEVE(n). del_ind=missing the last. def=French schoolkid. With a sideways reference to *Last Eleven*, a newer BBT song with Alberto Bravin on vocals.
- 14 ins.
dd & hidden. (tra)INS(tations). def=one's seen on keyboard
- 15 darts.
STRAD< STRAD='top violin'. def=Band, that of the 1970s and 1980s
- 16 The Permanent Way.
'The permanent way' is a Victorian expression which means the finished track (and bed) of a railway. It is also a track from BBT's 2013 album *English Electric: Part Two*.
- 20 rogue.
OG (own goal, 'mistake') in RUE ('regret'). In the BBT song *Judas Unrepentant*, art forger Tom Keating was branded a charming old lovable *rogue*
- 21 mor.
Hidden (four times). With a '?' advising solvers to doubt the surface reading.
- 22 cable.
Charade. C(arly) + ABLE ('accomplished'). def=link across the *Atlantic*. With a reference to the BBT song *Atlantic Cable* and their keyboardist from 2020-23, Carly Bryant.
- 24 Ian.
Two wordplays: < with C&C, and hidden centre. NI(ck)< around ('embraces') A. The centre ('essence') of (p)IAN(o). Refers to ex-BBT keyboardist IAN (Cooper)
- 25 railman.
Cryptic. Deceptively emulates the start of 17d's clue
- 26 electric.
Refs the second word in the album title *English Electric Part 2*. def=exciting!
- 27 colour.
Simple cryptic. Each of blue, silver and red are colours. linkword=is. def=Highlight. refs the BBT track *Blue Silver Red*

DOWN

- 1 Winchester Diver.
WINCHESTER + D(r)IVE with (walke)R moving to the bottom. Refs the song *Winchester Diver*, the story of William Walker who repeatedly dived beneath Winchester cathedral to shore up its foundations. abutment word=beyond. def=According to BBT (song).
- 2 inside.
Cryptic. If you are IN SIDE then presumably you've been picked for the team. def=*This* out. New record label for BBT is InsideOut.
- 3 re-keys.
Charade. RE ('on') + KEYS ('Islands', eg Florida Keys). def=Plays notes again. Misdirection in the surface aims to refer to *Islands* by prog legends King Crimson
- 4 hedgerow.
C&C. HOW has, inside it ('to include') EDGER ('a garden tool'). def= BBT song
- 5 Friars Aylesbury.
{ARIEL BRASSY FURY}* anag_ind=composed. def=great UK music club. BBT played here, incl. 2 Sep 2022. *Ariel* is a track from the BBT album *Grand Tour*
- 7 fosse.
Deletion. (mal)FOSSE. MAL(e) ('Man, mostly'). del_ind=edited from. def=the way between Exeter and Lincoln once, (The) Fosse (Way). Refs the 2002 BBT song *Malfosse* (from the album *Bard*)
- 9 Longdon.
C&C. G(ensis) inside LONDON ('that's capital'). C&C_ind=entertaining. def= Singer David. David Longdon was singer for BBT from 2009-2021. A deceptive ref to him auditioning for Genesis after Phil Collins' departure.
- 10 ageism.
*IMAGES. def=A form of prejudice against the mature. With misdirection in the surface claiming to be about the band *Altered Images*
- 17 engineer.
Ken Brake was a sound engineer on *English Electric: Part One*
- 18 element.
td. def1=Iron is one. def2=ingredient. def3=... such as Fire, Air, Earth or Water
- 19 Nordic.
Charade. NORD (North, French) + (n)IC(e). Band members Rikard and Oskar both being from the Nordic region
- 21 Martin.
dd. linkword='s ('is'). def1=Martin (Read) of BBT. def2=bird
- 22 common.
def1= *Common (Ground)*, the BBT album and song. def2=a tract of parish land?
- 23 banjo.
Charade. BAN ('Outlaw') + JO (one from the book *Little Women*). def=instrument that played intro to *Uncle Jack*. David Longdon played BANJO here

C&C==Container & Contents clue_type (aka 'sandwich' clues)