

Life as I know it

Lewis Capaldi

Singer-songwriter Lewis, 22, lives at home with his parents in Whitburn, West Lothian, Scotland Words by Nick McGrath

Not a lot of people know this, but I'm very good at... drinking alcohol. My tippie of choice would be a Buckfast, which is fortified wine made in Devon by monks. I would thoroughly recommend it.

My best friend is... a roofer/DJ from Scotland called Connor Lachlan. He's one of my seven or eight best friends and he's also my go-to person for testing out my songs. All the songs that have done best he's said, "That's a banger, release it," so I trust his musical judgment.

The bravest thing I've ever done was... After a killer night out I shy away from every opportunity to DJ. I'm not a very brave man.

My nickname is... My dad calls me Luigi because he likes to hang on to his already very thin connection to his Italian roots.

My favourite TV show is... *Peaky Blinders* or *Big Mouth* on Netflix.

My perfect evening is... I'd go to the pub for a bit, I'd have a couple of pints, come home, order a takeaway, then have a big bag of crisps and just sit and watch YouTube videos.

I'd like to say sorry to... the playground lady when I was in primary school. I shook up a bottle of fizzy juice and gave it to her and she opened it and it exploded all over her and she was absolutely furious. To this day I still wake up in cold sweats thinking about how I covered her.

My first kiss was... a girl named Kristen at a party in Fauldhouse near where I'm from.

I was a bit of a late bloomer when it came to kissing ladies on the mouth and I remember all my friends were like, "You've gotta do it," and she was like, "Come on, I'll give you a kiss," and I was like, "No, no, no, I don't want to." I was so nervous. Everyone was watching and it was really awkward, and then I kissed her in front of everyone. There was no second kiss with her, though. It was a one-time deal.

The one thing I'd change about myself is... the collapsed arches on my feet. So I have to wear insoles, but they ruin shoes, so I can't wear the big trainers that I'd like to wear, because my feet just look really flat in them.

The best thing my parents taught me was... to be cynical of other people and their motives, which sounds a lot worse than it is. Question things rather than taking things at face value.

The last time I cried was... probably at a death in *Peaky Blinders*. I do enjoy a good cry every now and then. I'm very susceptible to a few tears on a Sunday night.

The first record I ever bought was... a red Bob Dylan compilation CD when I was 10 or 11, which just says *Dylan* on the front in some black writing. I bought it because I thought I was being cool. I didn't listen to it for another year but when I eventually did, I was a big fan.

My greatest weakness is... my knees. It's probably a knock on from my flat feet but my knees are very weak and get very sore,

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ALEXANDRA GAVILLET



particularly onstage, which can affect some of my choreography, especially the aerial stuff where I'm up on poles and thrusting my hips.

If I could pass any law I'd... ban people from wearing flip-flops in airports. Or open-toe sandals. I hate feet. I don't like looking at them. Go to Clarks and get a pair of sensible shoes.

I drive... my mum's teal Ford Fiesta. It's disgusting and I think she chose that colour deliberately to spite me, as I don't have my own car.

The shop I can't walk past is... KP Fresh Fish in Glasgow. I just love fish. I love being there, I love the smell of it and the food they serve is terrific. And it's also my dad's shop.

The most expensive thing I've ever splashed out on is... a pair of Ray-Bans when I got to number one with *Someone You Loved*. I've only worn them twice so far, but they've been an absolute delight.

In a film I'd play... Meatloaf. And he'd have to play me.

The worst job I've ever done... I lasted one day selling ice cream in a shopping centre. I had to entice children passing by but I kept thinking, "What could be weirder than a man in a hairnet saying to children, 'Do you want to try some ice cream?'" My heart wasn't in it and the boss let me go just one hour into my five-hour shift.

My perfect Sunday is... maybe go out for dinner – maybe to a Toby Carvery for a roast and a pint. Then I'd come home and play on my PlayStation.

My favourite place in Britain is... sunny Glasgow, just because I like it and I like the people there. And that's where I'm from.

My last holiday was... Magaluf last summer. It was terrible. I left after a day and a half.

I'm currently reading... nothing. The last book I read was *Horrid Henry* at school. I'm not a big reader. I don't have the attention span for it.

The best day of my life was... getting to number one with *Someone You Loved*. The last gig I played in a pub was only two and a half years ago, so to think it's all happened this quickly is pretty mental.

If I had half an hour left on Earth I'd... find a bridge somewhere in Copenhagen, stand on it, look out at the sea and the wind farms, and just take it all in. Or I'd just get drunk. ☺

Lewis's debut album *Divinely Uninspired To A Hellish Extent* is released on May 17 on Virgin.