

Dextro, the latest addition to the Border Community family, turned up literally right on our doorstep. Little did we realise when listening through Ewan Mackenzie's demo tracks that this young Scot was at the time living literally just up the road from the Border Community HQ, having decamped to London to study music.

Dividing his time between drumming in droning melodic sludge band Snowblood and his solo project Dextro, Ewan is one multi-talented individual, playing drums, guitar and synths and also a bit of a dab-hand at computer-based music production.

The Dextro story begins when a young Ewan Mackenzie migrates from rural Scotland to Glasgow to embrace the city's vibrant music scene - swapping CDs at gigs and staging makeshift jams and listening sessions in friend's flats. It is only a matter of time before he finds himself playing in a Joy Division covers band and running his own electronica nights at Glasgow's legendary 13th Note, and the Dextro concept is born.

The name given to both Ewan's solo live electronica project and the early gig nights he ran, the Dextro nights also featured visuals by artistically-inclined friends and a variety of guest bands and musicians. And in the audience one evening members of the band Snowblood, who wasted no time in recruiting Ewan on the drums. Several years and an album and European tour later, the band are still going from strength to strength.

Meanwhile, with his Dextro project Ewan has embraced a huge variety of styles, from the blissed out lushness of "Do You Need Help" on Border Community through the diverse Rough Trade favourite "The Animism EP" on his friend's label Jumblefunk. "Dextro has remained an experimental project reflecting whatever kind of music I would be interested in making, primarily with a minimal theme and electronic production," explains Ewan.

The melodic ambient sounds of Ulrich Schnauss remains a strong influence throughout, and the admiration is reciprocated by one Herr Schnauss. "It's not just well produced or good songs or imaginative sound design - it's all there together already," says Schnauss. "The way the electronic elements are drowned in huge reverbs provides a perfect backing for the beautiful acoustic guitar lines - you just can't get enough of it..."

"Much of today's music is over produced and perhaps less 'real' than it should be," is how Ewan describes his own production philosophy. "I am a firm believer in capturing a moment, realising that music can be special."

His studies in London now completed, Ewan has based himself back up in Glasgow, immersing himself in his music. Currently dedicating his time to his band Snowblood, who are hard at work on a new album, in the future Ewan is also hoping to fuse his live music background and production finesse with a move into recording bands.