

# Hello, my name is Mavis Davis\*

Luise Vormittag, 2016

*Hello.  
My name is Mavis Davis.  
And I'm here to tell YOU about The Oasis Social Club.  
That's right.  
The Oasis Social Club.  
So, what's that all about then?*

What is that all about? Who is this Mavis Davis? An apparition? Hallucination? Imaginary friend? When I speak to [Rebecca Davies](#) on the phone she explains: 'People teach me the accent. They own me. Mavis Davis is a landlady, a

barlady, that strong woman councils are secretly afraid of.' I smile. She sounds alright, that Mavis lady.

Before [The Oasis Social Club](#) comes to town Davies and her team set up a committee with local residents (including council workers!) to conjure up the next Club President, the next Mavis Davis. Whom does this place need? What kind of character has the power to pull this community together? Once Mavis (or Donna, or Denise, or Barb) exists, the club follows: a giant illustration, a platform for performance, entertainment and debate. The façade is a semi-transparent

*'Heads up, smiles wide and knees up! The Oasis Social Club is OURS!'*  
Watch the video [HERE](#).



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drawing: You see what's inside. By entering you become part of the illustration, part of the show.

Mavis and her Social Club are a framework for desire. They temporarily re-assemble dispersed individuals and fractured communities. Spectacles are concocted, manifestos proclaimed. Mavis is the catalyst for alternative realities lying dormant. [The Oasis Social Club](#) is the wake up call.

Following her success in Stoke-on-Trent Davies is currently working with the local authority to open up a permanent community centre. In Preston council workers were embedded in the process all the way through. 'It is important

to work with everybody, especially policy makers, and get them involved from the start.' Davies tells me on the phone.

I can see her clearly now, this Mavis Davis. She exists in every town, in every neighbourhood. She is not an apparition. You just need a spark to set her off. Rebecca Davies is that spark.

*The Oasis Social Club is a project by Rebecca Davies, co-commissioned by Appetite and They Eat Culture. It is supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England. The project is produced by Sam Trotman.*

[cargocollective.com/rebeccadavies/](http://cargocollective.com/rebeccadavies/)  
[Mavis Davis on Vimeo](#) [HERE](#)

*Above left: Rebecca Davies as Barb Foreshaw in Stoke-on-Trent, 2015, photograph by Felicity Crawshaw*

*Above: Oasis Social Club in Stoke-on-Trent, 2015*

*Below: Oasis Social Club in Preston, 2015*