TIM HUGHES

reports sad news from a chart-topping Oxford band

ONE of Oxford's most successful rock bands is calling it a day after 17 years together.

Supergrass this week announced they were breaking up after a career spanning six hit albums.

The Wheatley band, consisting of frontman Gaz Coombes, his brother Rob, and friends Danny Goffey and Mick Quinn, attributed the split to "the 17-year itch".

The group will play four farewell shows in June, with gigs in Glasgow, Manchester, London's Brixton Academy and, finally, Paris on June 11.

In a joint statement, the group said: "Thanks to everyone who has supported us over the years. We still love each other but, cliche notwithstanding, musical differences have led to us moving on. Of course, we all wish each other well in the future "

The group formed in 1993. Their first single, *Caught By The Fuzz* was released in 1994 and propelled them to fame as one of the leadine bands of the mid-90s Britpop scene. Since then they have picked up NME, Q, Brit and Ivor Novello awards, and a Mercury Music Prize nomination.