



Issue No. 137



Our leaders have no common sense. Waging wars ignoring consequence. Following traditions, spending trillions on nothing, and the worst part is, it's only the beginning.
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Ill Gotten Gains 10 Years on



Bands inside include:

TAPE IT SHUT BRIOCHE THERES ALWAYS TIME VIRUS HELL DEATH FURY ILL GOTTEN GAMES
PANIC BUTTON ALMOST ALIENS SKINHAWK GEEZAPUNX BLUE COLLAR ASPERATIONS ANT
TROUBLE SHOWZA CHUB SORE TEETH ELS ERRORETS BURNING COWS CATFLAP THE PILL
SARAHTONIN RAGE DC LAUNCH CONTROL RANDOM HAND EAGER TIGER WOMAN WEPT
PUSSYLIQUOR 3DB DOWN YESTERGHOSTS ANY MINUTE NO DEATH DRAPS THE HAVOKS HOT WAX
SPAZ THE STRAYERS ALL EARS AVOW BITCHIN HOUR SEARCH FOR AUTONOMY THE HUMAN
ERROR DYSTOPIAN DREAD MATRAK ATTACK EASTFIELD GUITAR GANGSTERS MY BLACK POISON
BADMOUTH THROWING DISTANCE DEAD MANS PISTOL SUGAR DARLING BIG TROUSERS HÖÖF ID ID
ID BANDITS PIZZATRAMP PICKLED DICK SHREADS ZERO AGAIN GRISTLE PERSONA NON DATA
HARD SKIN TWAT UNION FALSE HEADS TAMIW SPINNER FALL – and probably more!



*From me at gigs – get in touch for copy via post for £2.00p inc p&p
**Or we can trade...
Or you can subscribe, £10 will get you 6 ISSUE's posted to your door.

**Deadline for
ISSUE#138
Sun 29th Jun**

Plus these zines:

LIGHTS GO OUT#131 LIGHTS GO OUT#132 EATEN ALIVE#86 RAISIN HELL#31 BOSTON
ORIGINAL BAND INITIATIVE#9 BOSTON ORIGINAL BAND INITIATIVE#10 BOSTON
ORIGINAL BAND INITIATIVE#11 DE CONTROL# Spring '25 SUSPECT DEVICE#75 POSITIVE
CREED#53 BITCHIN#1



Editors Bit

Intro:

Normally, I would have drawn up a list of topics I would like to cover in my editorial, but not so this time. Things have been pretty crazy. This is partly down to my own poor planning and partly down to 'life' just being a spiteful bitch.

Firstly, the saga of my Mum continues. Following her stroke, she was moved from A&E to a specialist stroke unit at another hospital. Several ups and downs later, (various infections and some improvement in mind and eyesight), she is moved to a temporary care home to be assessed. This was a six week placement to determine whether she could return to her flat with some level of support, or if a care home would be the best option.

The process has been tricky, because (1) there have been further health issues, and, (2) she has been in two minds about the prospect. Re (1) we are a bit miffed - don't get me wrong, I love the NHS and my Mum is a former state registered nurse, but we can't help but feel that the level of basic care has not been good enough. How the hell can her state of mind be accessed if she is ill left, right and centre. I am gonna say that a shortage of funds and staff are in play here (with zero evidence beyond my Mums health.)

So, what with the visits, including staying in London for several days, plus me having to activate the, 'Lasting Power of Attorney' that was set up decades ago..... I have been a bit frazzled.

Obviously, sympathy to any Issue readers who have already had to go thru this stuff and I hope my reports are not too triggering. When you think about how likely this sort of experience is these days, we are woefully unprepared to deal with it when it happens.

The other, nicely timed kick in the teeth concerns my working from home stuff, which up until now has been a bit of a beacon of sanity, a time and place where I am on my own beaver away, whilst listening to the cool music I review for the zine. Anyway, in somebody's wisdom there is a new (Microsoft inspired, I believe) new logging in and authentication procedure - OMFG! What a major ball-ache! Fortunately, I had had the luck to get ahead of the game, by doing most of my hours before this disaster struck.

(Getting ahead of the game was one of the few benefits dealing with my Mum's sitch has had.)

I think it took nearly 3 weeks and umpteen calls and emails and faults logged, to finally be able to finish off Aprils work and the new standard operating procedure ain't pretty. I had to soil myself with QR codes, and Apps and texts and all sorts of digital voodoo just to work. Kinda makes me want to quit. (Or at least hope that they fire me!)

Just as these things have started to settle down, we see the start of exam season and my day-time work diary double, triple and may be even quadruple. Maybe I should think about retiring?

But it seems wrong to give up whilst I am still able to work. Going to all these gigs and buying all these CD's costs money - do I want to cut back on that too?

That's just crazy talk.

One of the consequences of my being run off my feet, regardless of the cause, is that I miscounted/mis-planned the pages for this Issue, and ended up on 17..... FFS. So, either I could pull any 18th page outta my ass, (and believe-you-me, you would NOT want that), or, the option I have gone for, which is to drop the back-page/gallery feature. I know it means that it may well not return, but I am already at least a week behind with all this and in danger of missing my printing slot, (which will add another 2-3 weeks on the thing). Apologies to anyone who misses it, it was my least worst option.

There were no (local) elections for me this year, which is probably just as well, as it looks like the rest of the UK has been trying it's hardest to depress as it is. Ok, I know the number of Reform Councillors is a tiny percentage, but it is still too many! Here I was, happily mocking the 'thick' yanks for voting Trump and his ilk and now the yolks on my face.

What with Trump and the ongoing Israeli-led genocide and the crazy war in Ukraine, it is hard to find much to be cheerful about. But I have found one small, silly something, which seems like a positive to me - after a 3 year absence, Newts have returned to my pond. (I told you it was silly), but I am pleased to see it, my urban wild space is looking great and as green as ever. I got some bee and butterfly friendly native wild-flowers popping up. (No thanks to those waste-of-space 'bee bombs'!) And last night I spotted, what I believe is a dragonfly larva - like a huge inset-looking thing charging around across the bottom of the shallow end. I have only seen Dragonfly's on two occasions, a black one and a bright blue one, so it would be cool if they did start to breed in my little old pond.

On yeah, I mustn't forget this little bit of drama. I came home from a gig last month to discover the item below had come thru my bathroom window:



I did think, "damn kids" rather than it being a malicious attempt to nobble me while I was on the bog, but given the damage and the fact it was an incident involving a, 'deadly weapon', I had to report it. The local constabulary sorted it out fairly quickly and no it was not kids, but a grown ass man who claimed it wasn't him! Said weapon was confiscated and I was given the option to prosecute, which I declined - what would be the point, I do believe it was an accident.

Never a dull moment, eh?

Neil.

Issue No. 78

(Appeared May 2015)



Issue No. 78



I so hope that this issue of **ISSUEPUNKZINE** emerges to a new non-Tory related government.....
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Selfie time with Ill Gotten Gains!



Issue costs just £1** from me***

*From me at times—

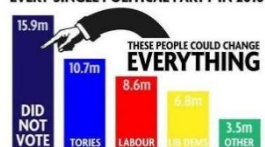
Apathy rules the UK ballot boxes, (again!)

Bands inside include:

WUNDERBLES PETROL, GIRLS' BANGNITS UK,
PARFO FORTY-NINE SIX, MURDER, REAL 27
LOUNGE KITTENS' NICKLES, LIL GOTTEN GAINS
BUTTY RICE & THE NITHERWOOD GHOOLS
BUTTERFLY, BURNING, BURNING, BURNING
SPOTLIGHT CANNIBAL, & THE MAGE SIND
SEXY JONNY WOOD UNIT MADD OF ACID THE
REVENGE, REVENGE, REVENGE, REVENGE
BURNING BURNING BURNING BURNING
UK SULTROD SUBVERSIVE FIRE ALTERCATION
JACK & THE PUPPISH THE LOGGMENTS
THE PUPPISH THE LOGGMENTS
INCIDENT ASSAULT ANGRY HIGH LIBERTY
SEXY JONNY & THE PARANOID VISIONS
THE PUPPISH THE LOGGMENTS
KATE WEATHERFAE FOXES FAUX MATILDA'S
SCORNFULS, CAST AWAY ROSEBERRIES
THE PUPPISH THE LOGGMENTS
WE EMPLOYED TO SERVICE ARTEFACTS
ASSEMBLED DE LA SUPERFICIE CADA CADA
MEMORIAL HALLAR THE BULLET KINGS ON

and probably leads to increased

NON-VOTERS OUTNUMBERED THE SUPPORTERS OF EVERY SINGLE POLITICAL PARTY IN 2010



May 2015

Issuercunkzine 78

page 1

The rather grim UK political news (bar-chart on cover) was sweetened somewhat by the inclusion of Basingstoke ska-punkers ILL GOTTEN GAINS.

News :



Newsflash! 2015 sucks! Blimey the suckage continues to this very day. I have already given a nod to the politics, but worse yet we also lost NICK MANN, former editor of the awesome, A SHORT FANZINE ABOUT ROCKING. A deep shock for the whole scene. We saw the launch of NICKLE9, who showed great promise, but sadly did not last

that long. In Basingstoke, ROCKBITCH took over the running of SANCTUARY, giving the towns its first dedicated live music venue.

Gigs reviewed:

Portsmouth - Birds Nest = RADIOACTIVE BONES +
ILL GOTTEN GAINS + PUBLIC ORDER ACT + P.A.I.N.

Guildford - The Star = FLESH TRENCH + DARKO +
SPOTLIGHT CANNIBALS + STIFF BIZKIT.

Redhill - Hellfire Club = T & THE MUGS + SNIDE
+ SWEET JONNY + WONK UNIT.

Salisbury - Winchester Gate = RAIL 27 +
FOXPUNCH + STILL BUST.

Canterbury - Lady Luck = SNIDE + UK VOMIT + 16
GUNS + MAID OF ACE.

Hastings - Union Bar = FREE BEER + NO INTEREST.

Addlestone - Holly Tree = THE REVNANTS +
WONDERBEERS.

Bristol - Chelsea Inn = SUBVERSIVE FIVE + JENN
HART + PETROL GIRLS + JAKE & THE JELLYFISH.

Camden - Unicorn = SLUTDROP + UNDERCLASS UK +
ALTERCATION + LIGAMENTS + MAID OF ACE.



Basingstoke - Sanctuary = TAKE WARNING + ILL
GOTTEN GAINS + BANDITS UK + 2 SICK MONKEYS.

Birmingham - Actress & Bishops = COMPLETE
DISFUNCTION + INDECENT ASSAULT + ANGRY ITCH +
STEVE IGNORANT.

Wow - I am impressed by such a diverse collection of towns and venues visited and reviewed! I am trying to do this more these days.

Studio Reviews:

TAKE WARNING - "All That's Good." EP, THE HARRY
MACINTOSH PROJECT - "Such is a Vultures Love"
EP, LIBERTY - "Just Talking Reality" Album,
LOUNGE KITTENS - "Just the Tip" Albon, MATILADAS
SCOUNDRELS - "Bears in Disguise" Album, FOXES
FAUX - "Fox Trials" Album, GEISTFIGHT - self-
titles EP.

Zine's Reviewed:

ONE WAY TICKET TO CUBESVILLE#17, INTERNATIONAL
WOMENS DAY ZINE# March 2015, STICKY SOUNDS#9,
GADGIE#33.

Other Stuff:

OMG - I am cringing massively at my rampant crassness! I actually printed this live review:

"I had neither seen, nor heard of X(band name redacted to preserve their dignity), before and truth be told, I wish I were still able to say that now. How can a group of guys, who are obviously such good musicians come across as being so dull, dull, dull, dull, dull, dull, dull, dull, dull, dull, dull, dull, dull, dull, dull, dull, incredibly dull. Not a band I would have put on this bill. Or any other to be honest."

What an absolute plonker I was, (and probably still am!) For what it's worth, I never knowingly encountered the band again, nor any of their talented members. I wish I could say it was because I was new to zine-editing, but I'd been doing the re-launched ISSUE for nearly ten years!

Upcoming Gigs

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Fr1605: Portsmouth- Milton Arms = HONYO BUKURO + PARALLEL YELL + HONK HELL.
Fr1605: Southampton - Hobbit = DOGS OF MOSCOW + MODERN EVILS + LUCKY NUMBER 7.
Sa1705: Basingstoke - Wote St Club = DEBBIE & THE DEAD LEGS + NICVN LANNG.
Sa1705: Bristol - Moor Beer = MURO + FUK + PREY + SCAB.
Sa1705: Bristol - Gryphon = ELECTRIC CELL SHOCK + KAMIKAZE TEST PILOTS + DRESDEN WOLVES.
Sa1705: Bath - Royal Oak = PLANET STRANGE + THERES ALWAYS TIME + THE QUASARS.
Sa1705: Kingston - Fighting Cocks = HARKER + DOWNCAST + PARDON US + OUR LIVES IN CINEMA + EVERYONE LIES + CHARACTER ACTORS + HOMER JUNIOR.
Su1805: Basingstoke - White Hart = BITCHIN HOUR(unplugged) + SELF CARE DISASTER (acoustic) + MADELEINE ROSE + BILLY CLARK COMBO.
Su1805: Reading - Face Bar = MIKI BERENYI TRIO + GO GO CULT.
Mo1905: Southampton - Papillion = PANIC SHACK + THE PILL.
Th2205: Worthing - Factory Live = UK SUBS + GUITAR GANGSTERS + SPOCK ON THE BUS.
Th2205: Winchester - Railway Inn = FREYA BEER + THE DANDELION CHAIN + MY BLACK POISON + BITCHIN HOUR.
Fr2305: Guildford - Holroyd Arms = Tribute to SUSIE & THE BANSHEES and THE RAMONES.
Fr2305: Southampton - Hobbit = BURN THE SYSTEM + KANGIA + MY BLACK POISON + THE LURXX.
Mo2605: Southampton - Heartbreakers = LACROIS CLUB + LETS TALK + SODDS.
Th2905: Reading - Face Bar = SHONEN KNIFE + VODOO RADIO.
Fr3005: Alton - Lounge Bar = BRIOCHE + PINK DIAMOND REVIEW + SKUNKWORM + EAGLEBURNER.
Fr3005: Reading - Outlook = TAPE IT SHUT + LAUNCH NCONTROL + SKINHAWK + GARETH JAMES.
Sa3105: Guildford - Holroyd Arms = ANGER LAND + THE BOOTIKIS + THE DANDELION CHAIN + LIT LIKE VEGAS + MC16 + RADIOACTIVE RATS + SABOTAGE + SHOTGUN MARMALADE + THE LANDINGS + TORPEDOS.
Sa3105: Brighton - Prince Albert = THE ROTTEN FOXES + PUSSYLICQUOR + tbc.

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Fr0606: Alton - Lounge Bar = SLUNG + GUYM + BENCHY & THE GAZERS + GOBLYN.
Fr0606: Guildford - Holroyd = OMEGA TRIBE + RED ANGER + EMERGENCY BITTER.
Sa0706: Winchester - Railway Inn: THE SPECIALIZED.
Sa0706: Chippenham - The Conti = RODDY RADIATOR + SLAGERIJ + ANY MINUTE NO.
Sa0706: Wingham(Canterbury) - The Anchor = THE VARUKERS + RUM KICKS + SURGERY WITHOUT

RESEARCH + CRASH LANDINGS + THERES ALWAYS TIME + PCF.
Sa0706: Reading - Butler = PIZZATRAMP + ILL GOTTEN GAINS + MAKING FRIENDS + RITUAL ERROR.
Sa0706: Kingston - Fighting Cocks = CUSTODY + SPOILERS + MODERN SHAKES.
Sa0706: Bath - Royal Oak = SPLIT DOGS + HOT FLAB + YLS.
Su0806: Kingston - Fighting Cocks = THE VANE + BOOGERDY SMAK + I AM HER.
Fr1306: Reading - Sub89 = SYLOSIS.
Fr1306: Bristol - The Lion = MARTYRIALS + KREST THE BEST.
Sa2106: Swindon - Victoria = EVANESANCE Tribute.
Su2206: Reading - Butler = DESPONDENT + CLOSED CASKET + KULAN GATH + WORD TO THE WISE.
Fr2706: Alton - Lounge Bar = CESTRA + IIONA MAHIE + LUO + DAHLIA.
Fr2706: Bracknell - Acoustic Couch = The POLICE 3.0.
Fr2706: Swindon - The Castle = DAS GHOUL + OPERATION JULIE.
Sa2806: Winchester - Railway Inn = NIVANHER.
Sa2806: Basingstoke - White Hart = GEEZAPUNX + 2 more tbc.

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Sa0507: Winchester - Railway Inn = ULTRA:FOXX.
Sa0507: Basingstoke - White Hart = DAS GHOUL + MAISEYS RAINBOW DREAMS.
Sa0507: Southampton - Hobbit = BIFROST + DEAD MACHINES + THE SMUGGLERS + BITTER DIVIDE + THE BEN POORE PROJECT.
Su0607: Reading Face Bar = HILL BILLY MOON EXPLOSION + THE ZIP HEADS.
Sa1207: Reading - Butler = RADIOACTIVE LEMON + A FORMAL HORSE + ZENDEN GREENPUMP + Z MACHINE + PUSCHO YOGI + ACID CLAW + MR PINEAPPLE + EPILECTIC LIZARDS.

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POMPEY PUNK BULLETIN - April'25,
online/email for free from ??? email:
pompeypunkbulletin@outlook.com

The email this time reports that FATAL BLOW are coming to Portsmouth. I am not familiar with that band myself but I guess they local heroes. A link to a You Tube video is included whet your appetite.

THE PHOENIX - HIGH WYCOMBE - Update:

Just seen a FB post today reporting that this venue is sadly closing again, (as a live music venue). Gutted about this, as I have been to some great shows there and it has a cool live-music-friendly layout. We can only hope that like its namesake it re-emerges from the ashes.

(Re)interview with Ill Gotten Gains

ISSUE: My first time doing a second interview
– what do you think?

ISSUE: A quick recap – IGG are a ska-punk band established in 2013, so you’ve been going for 12 years and you are still, (mostly), based in Basingstoke, Hampshire. Probably the biggest change since then is the loss of Kim on Bass. When did this come about and why did he leave?

Adam: He had a baby, moved to Bristol and wanted nothing more to do with us. Or his commitments changed and found continuing in the band too demanding with the distance and being a new father.

Ron: Kim left around June 2017 I think? He moved to Bristol and has settled into family life.

Si: He had a job opportunity in Bristol and wanted to focus on his family so didn’t have time to commit to the band. We wish him all the best.

Dave: Or... the gain of Dave on bass....

ISSUE: What sort of impact did Covid/Lockdown have on the band between 2020-2022?

Adam: We have always found as a band we gain some momentum and then lose it and have to get it going again, a bit like rowing a boat. When Kim left, when Si went to Australia. Lock down was much the same. The biggest hit was being due to play Boomtown in 2020 which was then cancelled. We still lament over that at many band practices.

Ron: A big impact, we were set to play boomtown but it all got cancelled which is a shame, please ask us back!

Si: We had an offer to play Boomtown that year and unfortunately the festival got cancelled and we missed out, like many other bands.

Dave: As mentioned by the others, we were booked to play boomtown which fell through after it was cancelled. I had to buy a ticket to the next one and everything

ISSUE: Did you do any live-streams or video-performances to keep the ‘live’ side going?

Adam: We talked about it but it was such a weird time and nobody knew how long it would go on for. In hindsight we should have done more or concentrated on writing but we hunkered down with family and waited for it all to blow over.

Ron: We have live videos and music videos on our YouTube channel, we recently teamed up with shadow promotions from reading and filmed a video for our song “Orlock”

Si: No we didn’t - none of us are good enough with technology to make that happen. I don’t think my neighbours would have been happy listening to a full size drum kit.

Dave: Again, as mentioned, we didn’t really have the opportunity or the capability to do any live-streaming, I think we were hoping it wouldn’t last too long.

ISSUE: Did it take you a while to get back into your groove again, (as a band), post-pandemic? Was there an active, “we must get our shit together” mentality or did you just gradually drift back into doing musical stuff?

Adam: Absolutely. I think the whole music industry took a knock and it was a while before gigs seemed to be happening regularly again. However, it did give us the opportunity to then work on new material and come back fresher and with a revitalisation we may not have had otherwise.

Ron: There’s was definitely a “let’s get back on the horse” moment. We decided to write and record a new EP so we had new music to return with.

Si: It took everyone in all bands a long time to get back into their groove I think. The biggest challenge was figuring out which venues were still open and willing to put gigs on. I don’t think we’ve ever particularly had our shit together and I don’t think we ever will. We’re quite good at collectively drifting around most places.

Dave: I think we started again as soon as we could but the opportunities were a bit scarce to start with.

ISSUE: Jumping forward to now, you have recently released a new EP, tell us about it? What tracks are on it, when were they written and what are they about?

Adam: 5 tracks, Mis-fire, Never learn, Let it Go, Meat or Feet (in band joke), and Tin. Probably better for Ron to discuss anything lyrically. We make the cake and Ron does the icing.

Ron: It’s called “odes to the troublemakers” with my lyrics I went a bit personal with songs about dealing with my dad’s death, and dealing with failed relationships, so it is a little bit of a grieving vibe. Other songs tackle the state of the world’s government & human obsession with social media & phones.

Si: It’s available on all streaming platforms Neil, with a full track listing, or you can buy it from us at a gig for a fiver. For what they’re about, you’ll have to ask Ron as he’s the mastermind behind the lyrics.

Dave: I may be biased but I think it’s wicked! Music was vaguely collaborative with us adding our own parts to ideas that Add and Spoonie brought to practice. Ron then did his thing with the lyrics once we had the music sorted.

ISSUE: One (newish) song not on the EP, was written in honour of Andrew Orlock, whose passing not long before the pandemic was a massive shock to friends and acquaintances alike, both in Basingstoke and beyond. How difficult was it to write the song, or did it just come together organically?

Adam: As with all the new material, the four of us tend to write the music and Ron will put vocals over the top due to him living so far away. Spoonie had written most of this one and it was sounding great. Ron added the vocals and suddenly we had this fantastic tribute to our friend. Ron said he didn’t want it to be sad or morbid so it really does feel like a tribute to his life rather than dwelling on his passing. That’s my feelings anyway.

Ron: The song isn’t on the EP but was released as a charity single, it came together organically I’d say, we generally write the music and I add the lyrics afterwards.

Si: I think it all came together fairly organically. We were all motivated to ensure the song reflected his larger than life personality rather than it being a commemorative sad song.

Dave: The others have covered this in their answers, it came together pretty easily and Ron got the lyrics and the overall feel of a celebration of him just right.

ISSUE: You have immortalized the importance of the song by producing a video on You Tube – tell us about it?

Adam: we decided we wanted to release the single as a fundraiser for suicide prevention. We thought it would have greater reach, and be more fun, if we made a video for it. It took a long time of arguing over ideas and who take responsibility for it and we were very lucky that Shadow promotions stepped up and did a lot of the filming and all of the editing for us. It is still available on Bandcamp if people are feeling that want to help a good cause. Or Youtube if they wanna see a bunch of idiots running around Basingstoke.

Ron: Our friends Zara and guy from shadow promotions offered to help us film and create the video, the idea was a

pub crawl around Basingstoke with more and more friends slowly being added, we chose the usual Basingstoke haunts and had to end in the cemetery in corpse paint in Andrews honour x.

Si: We've wanted to do a video for ages and this seemed like the perfect choice as a way to get everyone together and pay homage to our good friend. As usual we had no idea what we were doing but luckily had a lot of help from the amazing Guy and Zara at Shadow Promotions.

Dave: It was a lot of fun to make, we tried to feature all the usual haunts where people might have encountered Orlock in his natural habitat.

ISSUE: Ok, so those have been your recent releases, have you released anything since we last spoke, (in 2015, not a few weeks ago in the pub!) What have you released, when, and is anything still available?

Adam: A video, an EP, and a single, what else do you want from us Neil? Everything has taken a while to get out with the usual commitments of being boring f**cking adults. We seem to be in a good place right now and have gained momentum again after releasing the EP so we are looking to the future and working on new material so people shouldn't have to wait so long before we release new material. At least not another 10 years.

Ron: The Orlock single, our EP, music videos and physical releases of our old stuff on cassette and digipacks of the new EP, also some new t-shirts.

Si: No - We've always been more of a live party band and find it difficult to make the time to record new songs.

ISSUE: Also, have you played any killer shows, supported any 'big' names and/or been supported by any amazing local/DIY bands?

Adam: We have been lucky to play some great shows, pretending to be Operation Ivy for a set and a sell-out show supporting Random Hand have been highlights for me. We thank Shadow promotions who have been instrumental in pushing us, and the scene in general post-pandemic.

Ron: Recently we have supported RANDOM HAND and REDEEMON and the BOSSMAGS 10th anniversary all-day in Liverpool recently, which have been amazing shows, we are looking forward to some future shows with PIZZATRAMP and DAKKA SKANKS. And of course are excited to play with our RG brothers BANDITS who are back to gigging again ☺

Si: For me personally, the bands I've been most excited about playing with were RANDOM HAND who we supported a few months ago and KING PRAWN years ago. Looking forward to getting back on stage with BANDITS real soon.

Dave: Supporting FAINTEST IDEA and RANDOM HAND at a couple of shows in Reading have been highlights. I would have been at those shows as a punter if we hadn't been playing. Big up to Shadow promotions for having faith in us.

ISSUE: Are any IGG band members playing in any other bands or have any juicy (musical) side-projects?

Adam: I'll let them blow their own trumpets, I've been taking it easy.

Ron: I'm in a thrash/hardcore band called CHAIN OF SURVIVAL based in Liverpool who recently supported SICK OF IT ALL and MADBALL on their UK tours.

Si: None for me.

Dave: I'm playing in a band with Anny (ex Burning Idols) again but it's not Issue-friendly music!

ISSUE: What have you got lined up for the rest of 2025?

Adam: We have a few gigs booked and hoping to get another EP at least written and on the way to be recorded. Mainly trying to keep the momentum up and keep enjoying what we're doing.

Ron: More new music, more gigs and hopefully get onto some festival line ups.

Si: We've got a few cool shows coming up this year in Reading and further afield. Check our instagram for details. One I'm really looking forward to is Swinefest in York on the 4th-6th July.

Dave: More shows, more writing and more than likely more beer.

ISSUE: What merch do you have available and how can people get hold of it?

Adam: The new EP is available as a beautiful shiny CD and we have a couple of T-shirt designs available, 1 supporting the Orlock single and 1 marrying up with the EP. Obviously at gigs is the best place to buy them because of no post and packaging and you get to talk with our friendly faces but they are available from Bandcamp too.

Ron: We have t-shirts, CDs, cassettes and stickers etc available from our bandcamp and gigs!

Si: Merch is available on our Bandcamp, or come to our shows where you might be lucky enough to pick up a vintage bargain from our old Tshirt runs.

ISSUE: Have any of the band experienced/enjoyed any live-changing developments? (Family, work, education and/or leisure)?

Adam: Really boring middle aged stuff like buying houses, and such. Spoonie had a baby but that's old news now.

Ron: I have started tattooing again, this time at keep the faith tattoos in Liverpool, also keeping busy with my sticker art project #kultovfrank.

Si: I'm delighted to announce a small furry addition to my family in the last few years... I've included a picture of Astrid for everyone's viewing delight.

ISSUE: Is the band ethos the same as it was in 2015?

Adam: I think so. Si might have started voting Tory, I'll have to ask him, but the rest of us are the same as we've ever been. Maybe slightly wrinklier and I need reading glasses now.

Ron: Yes definitely, have fun!

Si: Yeah pretty much - still heavily DIY and don't take ourselves too seriously.

ISSUE: Do the band members have any guilty pleasures they are prepared to admit to?

Adam: I have a red wine habit that hit a new high when the bin men refused to take our glass box?

Ron: No, not really my pleasures never leave me guilty ☺

Si: I don't really have guilty pleasures as I fully embrace everything I love. But I have jumped on the air fryer trend; I can't have hash browns any other way now.

ISSUE: Anything else to add? Any question(s) you wish I'd asked you?

Adam: you could have asked how we keep our youthful good looks but we wouldn't've have told you.

Ron: Check out our music, come to our gigs and let's have some fun!

Si: Just be yourself, don't let anyone tell you otherwise, And just look after each other we're all we've got.

ISSUE: Thanks for that, look forward to catching you live again soon!

Live Reviews

Swindon - Victoria - Sat 1st Mar:



While I am not a huge fan of tribute bands, or ADAM & THE ANTS per se, a family member is dead keen, so I was happy to tag along. The band in question was, ANT TROUBLE, who hail from Wales I believe. The venue was packed, indeed, it was one of the fullest I've ever seen, with a mixed crowd of young and old, male and female. The guys certainly looked and sounded the part. They hit the ground running, with tons of enthusiasm and energy. I recognised more of the songs than I expected and really enjoyed the performance. They played for over two hours and the crowd was well chuffed. I also quite enjoyed the experience myself.

Guildford - Holroyd Arms - Thu 6th Mar:



I was really looking forward to this show, not had a good, solid hardcore show in a while. The first band up were, SHOWZA, who I have not seen before. More Alt-rock than hardcore IMHO, but they acquitted themselves well and it's always good to get a lively band to open up the night. That said, bums on seats was a little thin on the ground - where is everyone?



Next up, CHUB, from Brighton, who I have seen and enjoyed before. They were every bit as good as I remembered them and belted out a fast, exciting set. The frontman did his best to engage in some positive audience engagement, but the head count was still pretty low. I could not understand how such a good gig (on paper) was so poorly attended. I mean, come on, a Thursday is practically the weekend, rather than midweek.



The evening was rounded off by SORE TEETH, a local(ish) band who I really love and who I haven't seen for a while. After flirting with additional members, they seem to be settling on the tried and trusted 3-piece once more. The guys are heavy and mostly up tempo with a fantastic collection of really catchy songs. I really enjoyed the evening and was glad that I made the effort.

Chippenham Old Road Tavern - Fri 7th Mar:

I can say without fear of contradiction that was my first ever time visiting this town. And what a fantastic little venue, perfect for a punky/DIY show. First up were ELS ERROORETS, a Spanish band, now based in Bristol.



They played fast, upbeat pop-punk, very catchy and not too heavy. And what a thoroughly friendly, positive bunch, felt comfortable and, 'at home' right from the start.



Next up, BURNING COWS, from Bristol, who I have seen and enjoyed before. Really fast, aggressive punk, full of attitude and rage. Loved it, especially as this thrashy-audio-assault was directed at the great and the good who definitely deserve it. Maybe I am just daft, or mad, but I could have sworn that they did a PIZZATRAMP cover - which I think is pretty damn cool.

Next up, from near-by Bath were old-school punks, THERE'S ALWAYS TIME. I have seen this band a fair few times now and have really enjoyed them every time. The sizable crowd were obviously of the same mind as the band delivery a most enjoyable set. A bit of social-politics and politics-politics in the lyrics and topics they covered. So yes, once again, job done very nicely.



The headline band for the night were CAT FLAP from Bristol who I'd not seen before and really had no idea what to expect. They kicked off and OMG they were really fast and really punky and I was loving the way the crowd just went crazy for them. I am definitely happy to get a really nice surprise like that. No CD's to be had, alas, but I shall certainly be looking out for these guys in the future.



Reading - Fire Fly - Wed 12th Mar:



after a 45 minute hold-up in traffic on the way there!

Interesting, a new Reading venue to me. Looks great, but there isn't really much of a stage area. First up was, SARAHTONIN, (great name) with an acoustic set to open up the evening. Not a bad crowd there and the sound-quality was really good, clear and at the right level. The whole vibe was good enough for me to calm down



performance to shine thru'. I meant to find out if a solo set was always intended, or if the band had been unable to make the show last minute and this was a laudable, "show must go on moment"? Kudos either way.

Next up, BLUE COLLAR ASPERATIONS, or at least a solo-acoustic performance by the front man. This was really interesting, as I had seen the full band a few weeks previously. He belted out a really good set and I think the whole set-up really allowed the



contemporary punk. The whole evening was going well - well enough, but some of my companions were unhappy about the £7 for a pint of cider!

Next up, PANIC BUTTON, from Wantage, who I have not seen to a while. First full band of the night and was worried about all the hard surfaces mucking up the sound, but in the event, it all sounded great and we were able to enjoy a



lively set of melodic, contemporary punk. The whole evening was going well - well enough, but some of my companions were unhappy about the £7 for a pint of cider!

would just like to get my hands on some studio material now!

Next up, SKINHAWK, who have come along in leaps and bounds since they crawled out of the crypt, last year. They put in another great performance, fast and fairly punchy. They had a good crowd to fans to support them and the back-and-forth banter with the crowd, all just adds to the entertainment value. Seen them live a few times now and enjoyed them every time. I



helped to round off the evening with a bit of a party vibe. All-in-all a great night, but stick to the BUTLER or PURPLE TURTLE I say!

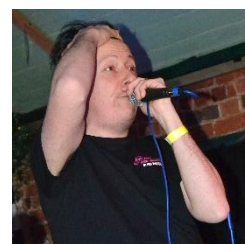
Last band of the night was ALMOST ALIENS, a really good, local pop-punk band. This is another combo I have seen and enjoyed a number of times before, better yet, I have some studio material by them too, in which they definitely prove their worth. They played some covers along with their own stuff, which

Reading - The Butler - Sat 15th Mar:

A few days later I found myself at the Butler, for this fantastic show. RAGE DC on first? Weird, they should be well up the bill! My first time seeing them this year and delighted to be catching their fast, exciting punk'n'roll again. We were treated to some newer songs as well as a neat selection of the classics. (Note: had a stand-in drummer.)



Another really cool band followed, LAUNCH CONTROL - a jolly good helping of pop/skate punk, played really fast, with a highly animated delivery. It's catchy as fuck and clearly going down well with the crowd, which is a good size even this early in the day. They don't appear to play with a bass-PLAYER and I couldn't hear a 'backing track' - I will have to ask them about that.



Basingstoke home-boys, ILL GOTTEN GAINS up next and yes, I know that I am biased, but it's not like they don't deserve all the plaudits they get given. They kick major butt and a live performance is always a pretty cathartic buzz. The power and the passion are blasted off the stage and into the crowd. There was a packed crowd by now and it deffo felt a little claustrophobic. Seen them a few times already this year and hope to see loads more times going forward.



Another super band next, slightly different in style, but no less exciting or impressive. It was Reading's own, TAPE IT SHUT. I do watch these guys a lot and I am very happy with that. I know the songs well and love the left-wing political content and the delivery is always spot on. Off course a ton of friends and fans in the crowd is always an inspiring sight.



Headline band were RANDOM HAND, who have I not seen since they did a livestream during lock down. Great to see such a prestigious ska band again. The press of people at the front got rather intense, so once I'd taken my pictures, I retreated to the back, where the sound was better actually, and the view still pretty good. Naturally the crowd went bonkers, which was completely understandable. A seriously fantastic end to what had been such a fantastic night.



Hastings - The Pig - Sat 22nd Mar:



Dogged by some bad luck and bad decisions on this one. Met up with Hastings family before and assured that bands never started before 8 at the venue. As we arrived part way thru the second band, that was clearly duff data! The pea-souper was also a little off-putting. Still, I did enjoy EAGER TIGER, who were local. They were ska-punk in style and quickly soothed my irritation at missing the first act. I would deffo check them out again.



Next up, WOMAN WEPT from London, another ace new band to me. Their delivery was pretty energetic and more Alt-rock/pop-punk in style. The crowd was beginning to increase by now and the smoke was dying back, so I was really able to get into them and went hunting for a CD after their set, but there was none to be had alas.



Next up, PUSSYLIQUOR, from just down the coast and my first chance to see them this year. The new guitarist has been fully integrated now and they pumped out a fantastic set. Loving the classics and loving the new songs, including the very newest, hot of the press one, which was bloody amazing. As ever, there was plenty of banter with the crowd and I was surprised to learn that this was their first gig in Hastings.



There was another local band up next, 3DB DOWN, (who I think I have actually seen before.) So of course, I spent the first couple songs studying faces and racking my brains..... Could not nail down anything concrete so just got into listening and watching the band and jolly good they were to. Moderately heavy and fairly up tempo. But the smoke was back with a vengeance, giving me a real headache. The show seemed to be getting later and later and I was mindful of the fact I was gonna have to drive my brother home (plus one hour on my overall journey!) So missed the last band too, damn it.

Swindon - The Castle - Sat 29th Mar:



Headed out West for this interesting little show which kicked off with ONE WELL MONKEY, no, I mean YESTERGHOSTS, the new(ish) solo project by Pete(2SM). This time, playing guitar rather than bass. It was actually a bit like a stand-up session, with a comprehensive explanation of the songs. It was highly entertaining and worked really well.



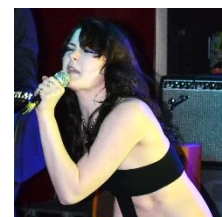
Next up ANY MINUTE MO, who it is always a pleasure to check out and I discovered that I had inadvertently contributed to the performance! With an unwell drummer, they were inspired by my report of FREUDIAN SESSIONS playing with a backing track and decided to do likewise. It may not have been the smoothest, most seamless performance, but it was very memorable and a lot of fun. Well done lads!

The last band of the night was DEATH TRAPS from Newport, who I have seen a few times before and always enjoyed. Once again, they put it a killer set. Fast, melodic, old school punk, or maybe, 'punk'n'roll' is more accurate. Can't fault them at all, tight as a drum, with fantastic backing vocals and a nice bit of banter with the crowd. A great show all round and even better, free entry!



Reading - Face Bar - Mon 31st Mar:

I thought, "Monday night eh? Should be a quiet one....." Wrong!! Bloody 'ell it was packed, so fair play to the promoter(s) for putting together such a successful show. First up were THE HAVOCKS, who I believe are from London. A wonderfully diverse grunge band with a range of fantastic songs. They also mentioned that recording was in progress/imminent, so there should be some recorded material up for grabs later this year.



Next up, THE PILL, from the Isle of Wight with a new drummer (from last time). I first encountered the duo just before lockdown and they have come along in leaps and bounds. Aswell as the singing and playing and song-writing and performing, they engage well with the crowd to really forge a bond. The style is part pop-punk, part riot grrl, part grunge and all Pill.



I have been jinxed trying to see the headline band, HOT WAX, (from Hastings), but finally the time and place and conditions were just right. I liked the complementary black hair/red clothes with red hair/black clothes of the front line, a small detail, but a cool one. They belted out an amazing set and the crowd were clearly well up for it. So, I was gutted I had to leave before the end, (poxy Reading parking situation!!)



Alton - Lounge Bar - Fri 4th Apr:



First up were SPAZ, who I believe are London based. They are a duo, with one chap singing/rapping and the other managing the backing track on a laptop, (it would have been better had he had a table or stand to put the laptop on, as he looked uncomfortable crouched on the stage. The backing track was electro in style and I think the lads pulled it off pretty well, though you can't beat the visuals of actual instruments being used.



Next up THE STRAYERS, from Southampton. Whilst I've not seen the band before, some of the members looked familiar, either from other band(s) or as fans at other shows. The band is a damn fine melodic metal band, moderately heavy and with a pleasing, lively tempo. As the set unfolded, the bulk

of the songs actually had a more 'grungy' vibe, no problem with that, especially as they were so good.



I have deffo seen, ALL EARS AVOW, (from Swindon) before, and as a fairly heavy hard-rock band, I was all set to enjoy their performance. I am delighted to report that they did not disappoint. Ok, I did not recognise/remember any of the songs, but I really enjoyed what they were blasting out - the riffs were really meaty and they were very well received by the crowd.



The headline band were BITCHIN HOUR, who were running this whole evening as a benefit for a woman's refuge - so there was a bit of an emotional element to it. They were joined on stage by a young lady, (BITCHIN

MINUTE?) who was really getting into them - and to be fair seemed to enjoy all the previous bands too. As well as some classics, we were treated to some fantastic new songs too. A great night which saw over £800 raised!

Bradford on Avon 3 Horseshoes Sat 5th Apr:



With all the M3-shenanigans going on, I opted to head West and avoid hold-ups. It was a good call, but SEARCH FOR AUTONOMY had already started when I arrived - damn! I don't recall them being a duo? Never mind, they still delivered a really great old school, punky set. Not too crowded, so I was able to blag a seat with a

good view.

Next up and all the way from Worcester were THE HUMAN ERROR, a young(ish) pop-punk band - I do love punk shows where there is a mix of sub-genres and generations. The band played really fast and were not too heavy. The stage area is not massive, but they still managed to be fairly animated, which helps to magnify the impact of their performance. They only downside is that I'm sure they mentioned CD's, but I couldn't find them after their set.

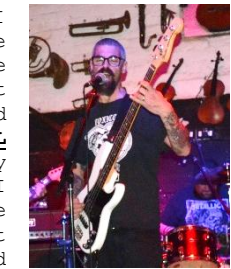


Last band of the night was VIRUS, a firm favourite of mine, who I will always make an effort to see live when I get the chance. They were on top form and the performance area was packed with people. I recognise so many of their songs and of course the politics are spot on for me. The hasty PA repair carried out before they started deffo made reception much better on the side of the stage I was stood.



Trowbridge - The Pump - Fri 11th Apr:

More M3 probs and the fact I played a small part in the creation of this show saw me heading out West again. What a fantastic venue - looks and feels great. First up HELL DEATH FURY, a seriously impressive ska-punk band, I have been lucky enough to see them before. They were fast and furious and were rewarded with some skanking/moshing by the crowd.



Next up, another local band, DYSTOPIAN DREAD, who I have been lucky enough to see a fair few times. They are a premier thrashy, hard, fast, kick-arse band. They got an instant reaction from the crowd and their whole performance was epic. They included a couple of new songs to the amazing collection they already have. Top performance all round.



Next up MATRAK ATAKK, over from France/Italy - a superb anarcho band, I have not seen/heard before, save for what you can check out on the web. Much gratitude to Rencek, (DYSTOPIAN DREAD) who helped put this whole show together. The whole performance was off the Richter scale - the crowd had been thoroughly primed by the first two bands, (and booze), it just needed Christina and the lads to light the fuse, then BLAM - hardcore-heaven, even managed an encore or two. Even got some CD's, top result.



Guildford - Holroyd Arms - Sat 12th Apr:



Bloody 'ell, GEEZAPUNK at Undercover again, amazing. So, this is less a 'review' and more like a report. We were on first and there was already a bit of a crowd and the stage area was bloody boiling. It actually went remarkably well - with me probably spotting more faux pas than the crowd, but I am gonna call this a 'win'.



With that out of the way, I was free to enjoy the next band in peace. EASTFIELD are a really amazing punk band, with a long and honourable history. They kick off and immediately dominate the room. They got the speed, they got some heaviness, they got the politics and they have a great

diversity across their songs. So cool to be on the same bill as them.



The last band of the night was, GUITAR GANGSTERS, who I'm sure I've seen before, (probably pre-lockdown). But as my memory is hazy, I kinda felt I was seeing with brand new eyes. They play really fast, tight, punk'n'roll, often with one song coming straight in after another. It was really impressive stuff and

I was not alone in feeling that, the crowd was really getting into the vibe and singing along a bit too. Great stuff from a varied line up.

Winchester - Railway Inn - Fri 18th Apr:



Good Friday means I was not looking to go far, not wanting to bump into bank-holiday traffic - fortunately, this show popped up. First up were, MY BLACK POISON, from Southampton. They are a fine pop-punk/alt-rock, who were on top form tonight, cracking out lively set and I recognised I number of the

songs. There was smoke (boo!), but not too much (hooray!)



Next up BADMOUTH, a local alt-rock band who immediately got the crowd responding, well, they are local, so that's understandable. They were fairly animated on stage, which served to amplify their performance. Not really punk, but that does not stop me really enjoying their stuff. Would like to get hold of some studio material now.

Another local(ish) band, THROWING DISTANCE, who upped the ante still further. Not sure how to label them, melodic hardcore perhaps(?) well, whatever, they were certainly transporting my back two decades to my early years of rejoining the live music scene. Mostly up tempo, moderately heavy and catchy as fuck. They engaged well with the crowd.

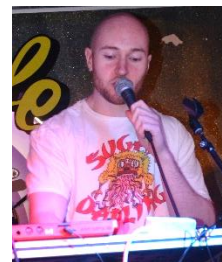


Last band of the night was DEAD MANS PISTOL, a really cool, local metal band. Seen them a number of times and truth be known, they are the main reason for me being here tonight. I do believe there has been a (slight) line-up change and thank goodness no dip in quality. The crowd had dropped a little, which was a pity, they definitely deserved a full house.



Reading - Purple Turtle - Mon 21st Apr:

This is one of the few Monday shows that was actually promoted, so, yes, cool, I'll have me some of that. First up SUGAR DARLING, who I have not seen for a while. They are a super cool, light-hearted, pop-punk band, from Guildford (I believe). They are seriously good musicians, but, play it for fun. I really hope they are gonna be playing more shows now, cos I need this sort of lift from time to time.



Next up new to me a duo from Portsmouth I think, BIG TROUSERS. Initially dogged by some technical issues, but they were quickly sorted out and down to business. Post-punk in style, if I was pushed, but again., the actual style was immaterial in the face of the quality of the playing and singing. Intrigued by the guitar sounding like keyboards, but happy to enjoy something a bit quirky and different.



Last of band of the night are HÖÖF, from Wantage I believe. Another band I have not seen for a while and glad to be catching up with again. They are a quality female-fronted Alt-rock band with some great songs, really well performed. I only just realised how packed the venue was and there was a fair bit of dancing going on too. When they finished, the call for an encore was too much to resist and they obliged.



Alton - Lounge Bar - Fri 25th Apr:



A bit of a 'me' weekend was this - why the hell do I keep putting myself thru these struggles? Anyway, first up and from Southampton were the noisy **ID ID ID**. Sporting two full drum kits and an ironing-board supported keys/synth, they mean business. And Paul(bass) terrorizes the crowd by taking to the pit and strutting wildly. I think they blagged a few more fans that night.



Next up, **GEEZAPUNX** looking to try and top that and to be fair, they were on pretty good form. Kudos to the kit and sound-team at the venue, who make it a joy to play there. There was a good supportive crowd present and it was just a pity that time constraints saw their set cut down to a mere 9 songs. Still, leave them wanting more I suppose.



Then the much anticipated return of **BANDITS**, it has been way too long and I suppose that I am just grateful that they are making a return. I got to say that they did not hold back, never has the 'RG' been so well-repped.

Setting aside some hand-cramp it was a truly religious experience, with all the classic hits delivered perfectly. A top performance and hopefully just the first of many more.



And then headlining, bloody 'ell, none other than the mighty **PIZZATRAMP** - who would have believed they'd have made their way to sleepy old Hampshire. I'm not sure that Jim Bob had even sobered up from Manchester Punk Fest, from the previous weekend, but here he was in the flesh telling us how much he hates the things he hates. It was a classic PT show, you know, a one hour set consisting of 50 minutes of soap-box and stand-up with two dozen songs packed into the remaining 10 minutes - just what I needed!

Basingstoke White Hart Sat 26th Apr:

Wel, I thought that I had put together a pretty good bill for the night, the question was, would punters actually come out? Fortunately, as I began setting up the PA etc, people (and the bands) did indeed start turning up, cool.



First up a newish horror punk band from Reading, **SKINHAWK** who have quickly proved themselves to be a force to be reckoned with. They earned top marks from me before they even started, as they had brought along a posse of supporters - so promoters take note, these guys are well worth booking! Their set was fantastic and I love the diverse selection of cool songs they have. Loved them and can't wait to get hold of some studio material.



Next up was Basingstoke's fave sibling act, **BRIOCHE**, who I have not seen for a while. Tonight, they were on very top form, playing their classics along with my two faves, "Fucked up World" and "Yeet it!" Better yet, they have some new stuff and the Green/Grey aliens one was a particularly good one - epic and metal, it was a fantastic addition to an already powerful set.



Top slot went to **PICKLED DICK** from Petersfield - another band who has recently returned to the scene after a decade long absence. They got set up pretty pronto, with minimum fuss and they were off. I think the crowd was a mix of fans from the past and noobs who have not seen them before - well they impressed the shit out of everyone. The banter was hilarious and the songs awesome, delivered perfectly. A top night with smiles all round. Thanks to all who made it the success it was.

Studio Reviews

ISSUE: Well, I've gone up to 2½ pages this time, but still gone on far too long and run out of space again, before I have managed to get thru both the CD pile and download in-box. Bollox..... again.

SHREADS - "Step Back." - CD Album on Engineer Records and Some Dude Records.

Usual Websites:

Damn sure I have both seen these guys (live) and checked out a studio release before and yet this is their debut album? Ah, looks like they have a couple of EP's, so I am not losing it. They are a fantastic hardcore band from Sheffield, who I think have emerged out of the ass-end of the pandemic. Really fast, fantastic riffs and, powerful, angry vocals make this an ideal soundtrack to my day. The track listing seems to be in two blocks, so I'm guessing this album might be available on vinyl too. There are 14 great tracks belted out in just under half an hour. No lyric sheet, so I can't be sure what all the songs are about, but the general vibe is socio-political. The energy is awesome this definitely a band to check out if you need something to relieve you of some of the tensions of this fucked up world.

ZERO AGAIN - "Ever Changing is the Art of Death." - CD Album on Engineer Records.

Usual websites:

I have encountered these guys before, so I braced myself for an awesome aural assault and I was not to be disappointed. Their strap line on FB is, "SOUTH WEST UK, PUNK - Powered by plants. Anti-fascist. DIY", so what more info could you need to inform you? What we have here is a superb hardcore punk album, high energy, highly motivation, full-on and arse-kicking all the way. Comes with a neat, clear lyric sheet, so you can fully immerse yourself in the songs and lap up the politics which aligns with your own. The 14 tracks in half an hour is a good solid 'live' set of music. Better yet, the band looks like they are fairly active, so there is a good chance they will turn up in a venue near me soon and I will be there like a shot.

ABERMALS - "Believe." - CD EP on Engineer Records. Usual websites:

I had heard the name before, but am not sure if I have encountered these guys before. Just looked and apparently they are from Mallorca! So, I guess a previous encounter is unlikely. This is a terrific pop-punk EP which has been my sound-track for the day. I have been working from home, doing me data entry and the news is just too damn depressing to listen to, so I think I made the right call. The EP includes 7 superb tracks clocking up over 20 minutes. The band sing in English and the lyrics are included on the cover. Mostly upbeat, but there are a couple of melancholic tracks and I really liked the, "Middle-aged and underpaid", (can't think why!) I also quite enjoyed the epic last track, "Saturn" which is a very unpunky 6 minutes long. It's got a really classic feel to it, but I note that it only came out in 2024. Worth checking out.

NECKHOLE - "Angry Day." - CD EP on Engineer Records. Usual websites:

First off a minor rant, (not about **NECKHOLE** or **ENGINEER RECORDS**!) I'd not heard of this band before, but have been very taken by this release. And as is my way, I thought I'd check them out on FB. No joy..... A few permutations, still no joy..... so Google search instead - first thing listed, fucking FB - WTF? Ok, this is a French band, from Paris I believe and this is a fantastic release. Fast and furious, but not too heavy. I found the guitar playing particularly satisfying, but really it's pretty solid all-round. Not sure if you'd call them heavy(ish) pop-punk, or melodic hardcore, but whatever it is I love it and the carrot of a possible trip to the UK was tantalizingly dangled in one of the posts I read. The EP comes with 8 super tracks clocking a satisfying 22 minutes worth of punky power.

POSITIVE REACTION - "Dreaming of Violence." - CD EP on Engineer Records. Usual websites:

Not seen, heard, or heard of these Welsh hardcore masters, but I certainly will be looking out for them after playing this CD more than a dozen times. I believe this was released in the summer of 2024, so it's pretty recent and I am loving it big time. Needless to say, I went straight to the 'Events' tab on their FB page, but alas only one live date there, in May, but for deepest, darkest Wales..... Pity, still I do have this rather impressive collection of four songs to blast away the Trumpian blues. The complete run-time is just minutes, but that is more than enough time for the guys to prove that they are a musical force to be reckoned. If you like classic, catchy as fuck hardcore, you can no better than giving these guys a spin.

MAGIC OF THE MARKETPLACE - "Jealous Moon." - CD EP on Engineer Records and Just Say No To Government Music. Usual websites:

Cool, another UK band and based in the Blackpool area. This is also a brand-new, hot-off-the-press release. I think this might be their second release, but don't quote me on that. What you have here is a really fast, melodic, contemporary punk band. Not seen or heard of them before, but I think that have been around since the pandemic and they certainly sound really tight and together. There is tons of energy in the 4 tracks, giving you ten minutes of material, more than enough to make a great impression and prove that they are probably a fantastic band to catch live.

BLUE COLLAR ASPIRATIONS - "Don't Listen to the Static." - CD Album on Straight Draw Records. Usual websites:

I have managed to catch these guys in a number of guises over the past couple of months, full band live, acoustic live set and now some studio material. I am guessing that this probably came out last year, and that it's the bands debut album. They are based in London and they are a (mostly) up-tempo, melodic, pop-punk/Alt-rock band. With the two guitars, you got a really full sound and the whole album is highly polished and well produced, I bet they get offered a shed-load of shows, as they neatly straddle the no-mans-land between the heavier and more melodic bands. The ten tracks come in at just over half an hour, so you have got a good 'live sets' worth of music to sink your teeth into.

GRISTLE - "Maximum Power." - CD EP on Ill

Omen Records. Usual websites:

Gratitude to **GADGIE** for sending me this release, hot off the press from this Nottingham based band. [Aside: I have had a rather frustrating few days] - this comes as a much needed breath of fresh air. It is wonderfully up-tempo and satisfyingly heavy. The 5 tracks tot up only 9 minutes, but oh my god, what an amazing 9 minutes. This kick-ass hardcore falls in the **DOMESTICS** neck of the woods, the vocals are delivered with full rage and full power and whilst I have not yet worked out all the lyrics of all the songs, I can hear enough to know that their politics align with mine. I just hope this is being shared with some other UK zines too.

MATRAK ATTACKK / PERSONA NON DATA -

"Herstory Untold / Suffer." - Split CD

Album on Romantic Songs Records. Usual websites:

I think this is in essence an EP by each band combined to provide a full album. (I guess that if there was a vinyl option, each band had a side.) The first five tracks are from **MATRAK ATTACKK** and having had the pleasure of seeing them live now has given me a greater appreciation of the band. The delivery is super fast and full of righteous anger, with a shit-ton of power and energy. I like the fact that some of the tracks are in English and others in Christina's native, Italian, that and the variation in vocal delivery makes for a perfect combination of flavours. The album comes with a fantastic lyric booklet, split between the two bands. **PERSONA NON DATA** are a seriously awesome punk band from the Netherlands. Not encountered them before, but I guessed they were going to be a bit special. They provide 7 fantastic tracks of hard and fast, politically driven punk. They sing in English and compliment **MA** perfectly. Yes, I have liked their FB page and I will be tracking down any other stuff they have released.

MATRAK ATTACKK - "What the Fuck is Under the Spotlight?" - Self-released CDR Album.

Usual websites:

Damn it! I should have reviewed this first, as it (originally) came out in 2021. This album also includes the "Herstory Untold" EP, which appeared on the split with **PERSONA NON DATA**, in 2023. Never mind, happy to check out the five tracks again, along with 11 brand new in my ears. As a CDR, it is a 'no frills' release, basically just giving you the music, but that is enough, if you welcome a total battering from some seriously fast, heavy music. I believe the singing is mostly in Italian, which I have no problems with, since it enhances the 'feel' of the songs and 'feeling' is what punk is all about. Just noticed that some of the song titles are in English, so I guess there is a mix. I am fairly confident that the band politics are aligned to my own and I am loving the raw energy and passionate power the band have. I really hope they return to the UK soon.

HARD SKIN - "Hard Nuts and Hard Cunts." - CD Album on JT Classics. Usual websites:

Looked all over for a record company, but found nowt, maybe they have released it themselves? (I belatedly found the JT Classics, dunno if it's for real?) Ok, whilst I have obviously heard of HARD SKIN, I have never felt inclined to check them out. Then I was offered a ticket

to a local show a few months back and what the heck, it can't hurt - can it? Loved them and promptly purchased a couple of CD's, this being their first, I believe. It kinda goes without saying, that this was never going to be much of a high-brow release, it is a loud, fast, rollocking sing-along, shout your head off to catchy silly songs. And it fulfils that role perfectly. The 15 songs come in at just over half an hour - so this is exactly what you need to just release your pent-up frustrations. Loving it and I would deffo go to see the band again - pure escapism of the most enjoyable kind.

HARD SKIN - "Same Meat Different Gravy." -

CD Album on JT Classics. Usual websites:

There seems to be about ten years between the first and second albums, not sure why, maybe there were personnel changes, or they were just too busy gigging? (They seem to have a different drummer). Anyway, whilst this may indeed be the 'same meat, with different gravy' - I actually think it's better than the debut. It feels a bit heavier and, pun intended, more 'meaty', like the guys have honed their skills in the live arena, both the writing and the delivery. I dunno, maybe the development is more subtle, it's the same fast, catchy, copper-hating sing-along 'Oi'. Great stuff and I would definitely check them out again, as like me, it's some old dudes growing old disgracefully.

TWAT UNION - "Don't Look it in the Eye." -

Download EP - on Alcopop! Records. Usual Websites:

Many thanks to Jamie (**WALL OF SOUND PR**) for sending me this gem, you never know what you are gonna get out of the blue and this is fantastic. A London-based feminist-punk band is pretty much a sure fire hit with me. This is particularly entertaining and carrying a serious message too. The songs are fast and really catchy and with the cool use of some brass, you get an **X-RAY-SPEX/HAZEL O'CONNOR/BREAKING GLASS** vibe too and that link all the way back to the early 80's is great. I get the feeling that their live shows are pretty incredible affairs and I will certainly keep my eyes peeled on that front. Not sure what platforms the EP will be on, usual selection I guess. You will get 5 kick-ass tracks clocking up 15 minutes of powerful punk.

FALSE HEADS - "Cracked." - Download EP & various on No Fret Records. Usual websites:

Again, thanks to Jamie (**WALL OF SOUND PR**), for sending this my way. Not heard of the band before, even though they have been around for about ten years. They come from London, (which might explain my ignorance) and have a number of previous releases, which have had the involvement of some industry, 'names'. I am just going by the four tracks of this EP and I am very impressed by the band, they have enough speed and heaviness to keep me listening. I have also noted that they have a **JAMES CLEAVER QUINTETE** vibe about them, which I really like - this points to live shows being fairly lively affairs which a lot of enthusiastic movement and support from the crowd. They might be now at the stage where they are playing bigger and more pro shows than I am comfortable going to.

TAMIW - "Farewell Party." - Download Album on Niwer Records. Usual websites:

My thanks to Jamie Ostea, Wall of Sound PR, for sharing this with me. It has been a real nightmare to review! No, not for any problem with the music, I liked it on first listen, it's just that every time I have sat down to listen properly and review, I have been disturbed again and again - the aggro was just relentless. So, the upshot is that I have probably played the thing about two dozen times before finally, this last session - I have been left in peace. **TAMIW** are a Japanese band and the style is probably not one you would immediately associate with me. Not mega heavy, though some of the tracks are pleasingly so. Overall, it is moody and very atmospheric. A bit industrial, a bit electro and I might even throw in an "experimental" too. Well, whatever they are doing, it is really cool and maybe I have deliberately sabotaged my attempts to review, just so I could play it some more. The vocals seem to be a mix of English and Japanese. I guess you'd call them 'Alt rock' and that descriptor covers a pretty broad range of music. Well worth checking out, believe me.

SPINNER FALL - "Previous." / "By Numbers." Self-released CD 'double'. Usual Websites:

Good grief, I picked this up ages ago, last year in fact, but you know how it is - you get swamped with stuff and suddenly it's 6 months later. Not sure what to call this, it's not really an EP, but there are two tracks, so it's not really a 'single'. I suppose it's an old-style single, which had at least 2 tracks. The band are from Wantage and this came out some time ago, 2013. They are a great contemporary melodic punk band, with a moderate tempo and moderate level of heaviness. I dunno if they played either of these songs when I saw them live, but I am certainly remembering a great performance,

SPINNER FALL - "Monument." - Self-released CD EP. Usual websites:

This EP came out in 2017, and the band have gotten even better, feels a bit faster and may be a tad heavier. Having more tracks to check out definitely helps by giving you more material you can get stuck into. (I am racking my brains now, trying to remember if they had any other CD's with their merch - like may be an album? Feels like enough time has passed since this came out.) Anyway, I can look into that later, for now I am enjoying having this on 'repeat play' whilst I work from home this afternoon. It cracks along at a fair old pace, which I think helps to bump up my productivity. I will have to put in a "staff suggestion" saying that providing staff with music from kick-ass bands like this is great for business. Ok, just had a quick look at their social media and it looks like there is an earlier EP, plus a 2017 live album. I have msg the band to see if there is anything more recent. Tempted to get the live album in the meantime anyway.

ISSUE: Ok, I have run out of space now and I am so behind getting this thing together. I have had to drop the back page gallery because of having an odd page-count and no time (or inspiration), to fill another page. Still, it won't hurt to have a more norma-sized, 16 A4 page jobbie.

Zines Seen

ISSUE: I have tried to not say so much, but, have gabbled on again. Apologies for anything I have not had room for this time.

LIGHTS GO OUT #131, 20 A5 pages for £1 from Paul Taylor: mrt@secondinline.co.uk

Mr T is pumping these out faster than I can keep up with them! Looks like we've got another 'std' issue, with Mr T referencing his zine addiction in the editorial. Well, there are worse things to be obsessed with. Bands featured this time include; **ALICE KAT**, **HEATHER NOVA**, **ANTI-SYSTEM**, **THOUSAND YARD STARE**, **EMF**, **JESUS JONES**, **THE CRANBERRIES** and more. You got the columns, which include movie reviews (fairly new horror, I'm guessing), **GADGIE**, (of course - he obviously still has the negatives!) Oh, just found more bands, **LAURA JANE GRACE**, **THE TRAUMA TROPES** and **PET NEEDS**, live review. Plus, a load of studio reviews, quite a diverse selection.

LIGHTS GO OUT #132, 20 A5 pages for £1 from Paul Taylor: mrt@secondinline.co.uk

Oh, hello, we got a special one here, with the contents falling under the banner, "Albums 1993 - 1995". That was in my musically 'fallow' decade, so I am not expecting too much recognition, but I may yet surprise myself. Ok, never even heard of **THE JULIANA HATFIELD THREE**, so not a strong start for me! I have heard of **BLUR** and **CARTER USM**, but know little of their stuff. Likewise, **DINOSAUR JNR** and **U2**. (Don't have me on your pub-quiz team if one of the categories is, "music of the 90's!" I fare a little better as we move into 1994, I have albums by both **LUSH** and **LADWAGON**, the other artists mentioned are a blur(nice joke). 1995 includes the big three, **BLUR**, **CARTER USM** and **OASIS**. So, if that era is your bag, you might want to hit Mr T up for a copy.

EATEN ALIVE #86, 32 A4 pages for £1.50, from Derrick Moore, 152 Heathend Road, Coton, derrick.moore@btopenworld.com

I always look forward to getting this zine as it is always packed with stuff - and the "Wombles" colour front-cover has got me intrigued. Early on is a page of 'Punks who gone too soon', which has become a regular sobering feature. Bands included this time are; **YEAR ZERO**, **SCREAMING DEAD**, **W@RM**, **GRAFFITI CLUB**, **GESTALT**, **ANY MINUE NO**, **GLASS CANNONS**, **APOCALYPSE BABYS**, **SUBURBAN TOYS**, **DRONGOS FOR EUROPE**, **DECAY87**, **COVID 21**, **FATAL DOSE**, **SUBHUMANS**, **GENE LOVES JEZEBEL** and many more. Loads of live reviews, which is kinda where it's all at. There are some great articles on 'Two Tone' and '1976 - the start of it all' - as well as a whole load of other bits and pieces, cuttings etc. And of course, the standard studio and zine reviews.

RAISING HELL#31, 36 A5 pages for £1.00, from raisinghellzine@yahoo.com:

Always pleased to see this classic old school punk zine, which is proper cut'n'paste and packed with stuff. I was immediately intrigued by the "Mohican Skull" competition, never had one myself but I am curious about its origins. (And isn't it a 'Hurron cut'? In the film, for what it's worth the Mohican's just had long hair.) Anyway, bands featured include; **RIFLE**, **ARTEMY VOLYNSKY**, **SOUTH LONDON SCUM**, **THE RESTARTS**, **SANCTUS IUDA** and loads more. As well as the usual zines reviews and studio reviews there are some interesting articles. These include book reviews, **SOUTH LONDON PUNK COLLECTIVE**, Italian Hardcore, Internet radio, some artwork and of course an editorial. Well worthwhile checking out.

BOSTON ORIGINAL BAND INITIATIVE #9 - November'24, 8 A5 pages for (I am fairly sure this is free?), from Marv Gadgie, Email: nowthengadgie@hotmail.co.uk

Got a shed load of these this time, with this issue featuring, **SUBURBANN TOYS**, **AINJIEL**, **ALICE KAT**, **MELAINIE S JANE**, **HEDGEHOG REALITY**, who are all local(ish) artists. Good to see mention of a website for the zine, which reminds me that I haven't touched mine for yonks. There is an interesting column by GADGIE and things are rounded off with a preview of what's coming next.

BOSTON ORIGINAL BAND INITIATIVE #10 - January'25, 8 A5 pages for (I am fairly sure this is free?), from Marv Gadgie, Email: nowthengadgie@hotmail.co.uk

Love these little bite-sized publications from the **GADGIE** neck of the woods. This one includes; **AUBREY EELS & THE BARON**, **HOUND**, **CHERRY HOLT**, **CRASH INDUCTION**, **TINY FOREHEAD** and probably more. I also enjoyed the piece on, "Covers v Originals", a topic most people have a view on. It was actually even more interesting than I expected, addressing the issue of covers bands often getting paid way more than purveyors of original music. Well worth a read.

BOSTON ORIGINAL BAND INITIATIVE #11 - February'25, 8 A5 pages for (I am fairly sure this is free?), from Marv Gadgie, Email: nowthengadgie@hotmail.co.uk

Blimey, **GADGIE** has been hanging out with **Mr T(LGO)**, too much - churning these out at a phenomenal rate. Bands featured include; **FYZZ WALLIS BAND**, **THE TAIL LIGHTS**, **DOG EXPLOSION**, **ONLY SOME DAYS**, **OF MEN & FOXES** and more. There is also an interview with BOBI photographer, **GRAHAM CAMPLING**, who has a few tales to tell. There is also a column by the **GADG** man himself. Everything is rounded off by a (local) up and coming gig-guide on the back page.

DE CONTROL #? Spring 2025, 16 A4 pages for FREE from Gary Crowe, 53 Oxford Street, Watford, Herts, WD18 0ED:

[Opening note: whilst this zine is free, do send Gary an SAE if you are requesting a copy by post - it's only polite.] Not seen this one for a while and I am really pleased to see that it is still going. Comes with a distinctive colour front and back cover. It is also another proper old school cut'n'paste effort - which I just don't the patience for anymore. Bands featured; **CONTROL**, **CITY RIOTS**, **UNRIVALLED**, **CRIMINAL DAMAGE**, **16 GUNS**, **THE GONADS**, **JIMMY PURSEY**, **TEAR UP**, **COCKNEY REJECTS**, **KNOCK OFF**, **THE DAMNED**, **DENIZENS**, **NEW LIP**, **THE DRONES**, **DAMAGE UK**, **DESPERATE MEASURES**, **DEMOLITION AMBITION**, **ZERO AGAIN** and loads more, too many to list. The zine mostly features live reviews, which the most important bits, in my world view. There are other bits and bobs too, making for a very entertaining and informative read - especially if you are in the London area.

SUSPECT DEVICE #75, 40 A4 pages for £5 from Tony, 2 Pine Close, Ashurst, Hampshire, SO40 7BU. Email: suspectdevice@hotmail.com:

I may be imagining this, but I do feel that SD is coming out more frequently? If true, this is an entirely good thing, cos (a) It's a damn fine zine, and, (b) I think it means that the scene is more vibrant and active - there is more great

stuff to write about and share. This point is proved by an extensive list of bands featured; **BARBER DEAD**, **JAILCELL RECIPES**, **INSTIGATORS**, **HIGH VOLTAGE**, **NEGATIVE PATH**, **JUDY & THE JERKS** and saving the best till last, **THE SLM** - love them guys and I did not know that Dean was in **SOMBULANCE**! There are a couple of big pieces on the merits of cassette tapes in punk, though I still have nightmares involving pencils and tiny screw-drivers to take apart one of the malfunctioning little bastards. There are also a bunch of studio and zine reviews. And let's not forget the top-quality photographs, including some from way back. A must-have zine. (PS: Was intrigued by mention of **JOYCE MCKINNEY**, which rung a vague bell in the darkest recesses of my brain, I had to google the name - the picture was familiar, but the back-story? I just drew a blank!)

POSITIVE CREED #53 20 A4 pages for £2, from Rob Stone, 63 King Edward Street, Exeter, Devon, EX4 4NY. email positivecreed@gmail.com

Another semi regular zine, which is always packed with interesting stuff. The editorial includes a nostalgic look at past News Years Eves, which were a bit livelier than those Rob experiences now. (I always used to try and track down a New Years Eve gig to go to, but don't bother anymore.) Bands included; **HARBOUR REBELS**, **18 FEVERS**, **TANGLED LINES**, with others featured in live reviews; **THE SKIDS**, **SPEAR OF DESTINY**, **CALL OF THE VOID** and **PETER & THE TEST TUBE BABIES**. The **STEVE KANSAS RANT**, is always pretty entertaining, touching on politics, **REBELION** (Festival), Green issues and **NEIL YOUNG(?)** The bad jokes are especially groan-worthy this time. This is all topped off with a massive 3 pages of zine and book reviews - including some new to me, that I am going to have to chase up.

BITCHIN #1, 16 A5 colour pages for ? from Toria?:

Sorry about the lack of contact details, I did look thru, but the thing is peppered with QR codes and maybe one of them tells you how to get in contact, get hold of it. I got this courtesy of **GADGIE**, so I assume it has come from his neck of the woods. The front-page strap line is, "Committed to supporting independent female creatives", which I am very happy to help with. As a first issue, it is of course finding its feet - until you get something out there and get some feedback, it's all a bit, "suck it and see". **TORIA GARBUTT** is the featured artist and is a poet. There are samples of her work, in book form and a couple of albums too. It's funny, but it never occurred to me that a poet could/should release albums, but of course it makes perfect sense. There is mention of a book, "Psychomachia" by **KIRSTY ALLISON** and a recommended playlist. I think over all it suffers from being a more old-fashioned, (I prefer to say 'classic') medium, which is trying to push/pull the reader onto the web. An old crusty like me wants the paper copy in my hand, to read and enjoy, not having yet more screen time.

ISSUE: I do have more zine's, but it won't hurt to hold them over until next time, I am already into May and this is still not done. And I am already stressing over things too much as it is.

