In this peculiarly hare-brained scarem outing, we say goodbye to our friend and colleague John Brodie Scott. Alan goes to see Young, Mad Icy goes in search of Keith Richards's lost footwear, Doug watches Jesus Christ Superstar, Jon gets all weird considering artificial life, there is more animal rescue with PAART, we visit Regency Romances, and the new Watchmen TV Show.

Now THAT's what I call eclectic!
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Dear friends,

At least once a year I end up having to write two editorials. This is usually, as in this case, because I have been overtaken by events.

This week and last week I have been without a secretary, because Olivia is starting a new job, and although she will still be doing a day a week working for me, she is working full time for the first couple of weeks as she goes through induction.

So, I thought I was being a diligent young fellow when – last week – I sat down and wrote my editorial for this issue. But, as you have probably guessed, I have been overtaken by events.

Nearly 22 years ago, I was deep in the Mexican desert with my partner in crime Graham Inglis. I can’t remember exactly what happened, but something went terribly wrong with the equipment of the film crew with whom we were making a documentary for UK Channel 4. We were in a steep valley full of cactuses, and we coined a silly phrase which has become part of our parlance ever since about things having gone Prickly Pear Shaped. And I guess that has been the way things have gone within my life ever since.

“It is with great sadness that we received the news of the passing of John Brodie Good, aged 61, who died peacefully last Tuesday evening, 29th October, following a heart attack. Details of funeral arrangements will follow in due course. Our thoughts are with his partner, Sarah, daughter Kate, and all John's family at this time.”
Like the Justified Ancients of Mu Mu, I have never had a master plan, or - to be more honest - whenever I have had a master plan it has usually gone spectacularly wrong.

And at the moment everything I do is against a background of family illness and the sort of general crapulence that is becoming all the more regular for us all as we negotiate the intricacies of the 21st-century.

I usually do as little as possible on Saturdays, and last Saturday was no exception. It had been a long hard week, Tuesday evening, 29th October, following a heart attack. Details of funeral arrangements will follow in due course.

Our thoughts are with his partner, Sarah, daughter Kate, and all John’s family at this time.”

I know very little about sport, and so, although I use the term “coming out of left field” quite often in order to describe events like John’s passing which happen totally without warning, I actually don’t know what the term refers to, although I suspect it is something to do with baseball.

Using colloquialisms when one doesn’t really know what they mean is always fraught. Years ago I found myself in the socially embarrassing position of having to explain to the wife of a retired vicar that when she used the term “monging out” she was actually saying that she intended to take enough drugs to reduce herself to the mental state of someone with Down’s Syndrome.

But I digress.

I have always referred to the community that has built up around this magazine as being a ‘family’, but the range of emotions which have been displayed since John’s passing truly confirm this, as if any confirmation were needed. I wrote to all the contributors on Sunday afternoon, and within minutes Thom Woodruff replied:

“We had a haiku poet Jan Benson leave

and so I actually spent most of Saturday asleep. I always have a lie in on Sundays, but usually work on Sunday afternoon, with my Sunday tasks predominantly consisting of going through three days of unopened emails. Last Sunday was no exception, but amidst the usual wallage of adverts for Viagra, and Filipino mail order brides, was a very sad email from Sarah, the partner of long time Gonzo Weekly contributor John Brodie Good.

He apparently had a massive and totally unexpected heart-attack, and died a few days later without having regained consciousness. John was also a major figure in ecotourism seen here in the UK, and the following announcement was posted on Rare Bird Alerts:

"It is with great sadness that we received the news of the passing of John Brodie Good, aged 61, who died peacefully last

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"It is with great sadness that we received the news of the passing of John Brodie Good, aged 61, who died peacefully last
yesterday. Here is a haiku that may work for John:

it is the leaving
shocks us to our very core
hole in our own hearts”

Although we had corresponded a lot over the past two or three years, John and I had never met in the flesh. It was a great pity, because we had a lot in common and I’m sure that we would’ve been great friends in person as well as online. And it is a great tragedy that this is now not ever going to happen.

Rest in Peace John, with much love from me and all the Gonzo Weekly team.

However, whilst I am in the middle of reading out the ‘Parish Notices’ there is better news as well.

During the week that faces me as I sit here in my favourite armchair trying to dictate into my iPad, and realising that the wonders of technology are – indeed – pretty marvellous, but are just a pale imitation of having Olivia as a secretary, Graham will be erecting privacy curtains around a third of what used to be my parent’s dining room, but what is now Corinna’s office, in order to give Mother somewhere she can sleep downstairs when she returns from respite at a care home in Abbotsham, near here.

“death holds up an all-seeing mirror, ‘the mirror of past actions’, to our eyes, in which the consequences of all our negative and positive actions are clearly seen and there is a weighing of our past actions in the light of their consequences, the balance of which will determine the kind of existence or mental state we are being driven to enter.”

Padmasambhava,
The Tibetan Book of the Dead
I will be negotiating with North Devon district Hospital to take receipt of a commode and a walker, and we will be doing all we can to make sure that when she arrives home she is happy and comfortable.

Corinna went into hospital last Thursday. She had day surgery, to put a stent in to relieve pressure on her flooded kidney.

This appears, at least from where I am sitting, to have been a successful procedure, and I get the impression that her symptoms have been partly alleviated. The next hurdle is her nuclear scan in ten days time.

When I suggested that one result of her being injected with radioactive particles would be that she would grow to an enormous size, and roam the streets of Bideford at night, fighting crime, she looked back at me with that withering glance that only wives can give.

I would like to thank all of you who have messaged or emailed or phoned me with messages of support. Your thoughts and prayers are appreciated far more than you will ever know.

Love and blessings to you all,
Hare bol
Jon
THE THREE COMMANDMENTS OF GONZO WEEKLY:

1. Art is as important as science and more important than money

2. There is life after (beyond and before) Pop Idol

3. Music can and sometimes does change the world

If you think those three ideas are stupid then you should probably give up reading this magazine now. Otherwise... enjoy
Dear friends,

Welcome to another issue of this increasingly peculiar little magazine. It has been going for very nearly seven years now, and I am glad to say that it still never ceases to amaze me. It also grows in a peculiarly organic manner. Many years ago I first read a book by Stephen Levy, called *Artificial Life*. Amongst other things, it described how under some circumstances artificially created objects or systems can grow in a way which peculiarly mirrors that of organic life. Whilst it has been overtaken by events, and if the recent claims by Google are to be believed, and they have managed to construct a true quantum computer (something which has not been confirmed at the time of writing) then it is just about
Amongst other things, it described how under some circumstances artificially created objects or systems can grow in a way which peculiarly mirrors that of organic life.

to be overtaken by more, it is still an extremely interesting read.

I have noticed over the years that magazines, and the organisations behind them also grow in a peculiarly organic fashion. Indeed, whenever I think about it, I am reminded of The Prime Radiant of the Second Foundation in Isaac Asimov’s seminal novels. The science behind the fictional concept of Psychohistory is something which I dwell upon probably more than I should. But it is truly interesting to see how all the human organisations with which I have been involved in the past 30 years also actually do seem to progress in this manner.

A properly functioning magazine, or to be more exact, a properly functioning human organisation that works to publish a magazine, is a bit like a coral reef. Each of
the subsets within the organisation carry out a clearly visible, though often not pre-
delineated function. In a previous life I worked within the National Health Service, and I was in a particularly privileged position, although I didn’t realise so at the time. For all sorts of reasons, some ideological, but mostly financial, the NHS was closing all the big red brick hospitals for the people who were then known as the Mentally Handicapped, and transferring them en masse into the community. The big buzzword of the time was ‘Care in the community’ but it was obvious that not only did the community not care, but that they were actively afraid of the strange looking, and even more strangely behaved people who were being foisted upon them by an all seeing and omnipotent government headed by an Iron Lady who having beaten the shit out of the Argentine military thought that she could get away with anything.

It was the only time in my experience that I have been able to see a relatively large organisation unravel and basically fall apart. It was like watching a great beast die. The organisation fell apart. It was like watching a great beast die. It fell apart surprisingly quickly, and people who had blameless records, and who had previously been pillars of the hospital establishment, and indeed pillars of the wider community as well, started to behave in an extraordinary and unpredictable manner. People started to drink on duty, and I was tangentially involved in one tragic incident in which a female patient died under
mysterious circumstances while various members of staff who should have known better were in their cups. My involvement was purely that I was the only qualified member of staff that the people involved had managed to call, and so - in the middle of the night - I drove at breakneck speed to the group home in one of the small towns near Exeter only to find two Nursing Assistants in hysterics and a middle aged woman with a blue face lying motionless like a bit part player in an Agatha Christie novel.

As a result of this, several people were suspended, several extramarital affairs were quickly curtailed, and at least one vulnerable gentleman who had – until then – a blameless and admirable reputation fell upon his sword and took early retirement. The memory of giving mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to a corpse was too much for me, and this was one of the pivotal signposts along the road to my first nervous breakdown.

I soon changed careers, and I am happy to say that in most of my subsequent life I have seen more systems come together than I have fall apart. And that is basically what I want to write about today. And the system which I’m talking about, is – of course – this magazine. Because although seeing the hospital environment that I was writing about earlier slowly fall apart was a bit like reading one of the books by Lyall Watson in which he described the slow death of a sperm whale that he was unable to help, other than by sitting next to it and talking to the great cetacean as its consciousness faded. The fact that this incident probably never happened, and has been widely counted as one of those things that Watson actually made up doesn’t really affect it as a massively
moving piece of writing.

But, I am happy to say, that the social mechanisms that I’m talking about in regards to this magazine are about as far away from the last hours of a fictional cetacean as is possible. In a recent episode of Gonzo Weekly (which is actually appearing fortnightly at the moment, but...
we are never going to let the truth get in the way of a good title) start to cover green issues, animal rescue, and the philosophy of ‘The Underground’ (and yes there still is a social, cultural and political underground, even though it is harder to define than it used to be, but that is a whole new editorial in itself, and furthermore it is one that I do not have the emotional energy to write about just now) and I am finding it quite an exciting ride to find out where we will find ourselves going next.

But, I hear you think, surely you (by which I mean me) are the editor. Surely it is the editor’s job to know exactly where his or her publication is headed. Please forgive me while I fall on the floor laughing.

The editor of the magazine, particularly this one, is nothing more than the ringmaster of a circus. He is the bloke with a big moustache and impressive hat who waves his arms in the air and gives every impression of knowing what he’s doing. However he is not responsible for the fact that the head lion has just bitten the lion tamer’s head off. And even if he was responsible, there would have been absolutely nothing he could’ve done either to prevent the tragedy or to re-affix the severed cranium. So he just flaunts his impressive moustache and waves his big hat in the air and tries to make everything look as if he had done it on purpose.

I like my job. Memo to self: go out and buy an even bigger hat.

Hare bol,

Jon the Ringmaster


IT’S A LEGAL MATTER BABY

A lot of the time the pictures that we include in this publication are unique to Gonzo Weekly, and used with the photographer’s permission. However, this magazine is free, and at least at the moment only available online, and so in our opinion we are covered by a recent decision by the European Courts of Justice.

Websites can link to freely available content without the permission of the copyright holder, the European Court of Justice says. The court’s decision came after a dispute in Sweden between journalists and a web company that had posted links on its site to online news articles.

A Swedish court had asked the EU court to consider whether this broke copyright law.

Some of the pictures in this magazine are hotlinked to other websites where they are freely available. It is our opinion that we are covered by this ruling. So there!

Of course if someone objects to our using their material we will be good fellows and take it down, unless (and this is a big unless) we feel that it is not in the public interest to comply.

But normally we shall not stand on ceremony. If you want to read more about this decision go to:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-26187730
THE GONZO WEEKLY
all the gonzo news that’s fit to print
ISSN 2516-1946

This is quite simply the best magazine you will ever find that is edited by a mad bloke (and his small orange cat), and produced from a tumbledown potato shed on the outskirts of a tiny village that nobody’s heard of in North Devon. The fact that it is published with Gonzo Multimedia - probably the grooviest record company in the known universe - is merely an added bonus.

NAMING THOSE RESPONSIBLE

This issue was put together by me and Captain Frunobulax the Magnificent, (who is, in case you didn’t know, an insane orange kitten on the verge of adulthood) ably assisted by:

Corinna Downes,
(Sub Editor, and my lovely wife)

Graham Inglis,
(Columnist, Staff writer, Hawkwind nut)

Douglas Harr,
(Features writer, columnist)

Bart Lancia,
(My favourite roving reporter)

Thom the World Poet,
(Bard in residence)

C.J. Stone,
(Columnist, commentator and all round good egg)

John Brodie-Good
(Staff writer)

Jeremy Smith
(Staff Writer)

Alan Dearling,
(Staff writer)

Richard Foreman
(Staff Writer)

Mr Biffo
(Columnist)

Kev Rowland
(columnist)

Richard Freeman,
(Scary stuff)

Dave McMann,
(Sorely missed)

Orrin Hare,
(Sybarite and literary bon viveur)

Mark Raines,
(Cartoonist)

Davey Curtis,
(tales from the north)

Jon Pertwee
(Pop Culture memorabilia)

Dean Phillips
(The House Wally)

Rob Ayling
(The Grande Fromage, of whom we are all in awe)

and Peter McAdam
(McDada in residence)

This is the nearest that you are ever going to get to a posh weekend colour supplement from the Gonzo Daily team. Each week we shall go through the best bits of the week before, and if there aren’t any we shall make some up, or simply make our excuses and leave (you can tell the editor once did contract work at the News of the World can’t ya?)

This weekly magazine is free, and will remain so. It is published by Gonzo Multimedia in conjunction with CFZ Publications, or is it the other way round? We’re actually not that sure.
Contact us with bribes and free stuff:

Jonathan Downes,
Editor, Gonzo Daily (Music and More)
Editor, Gonzo Weekly magazine
The Centre for Fortean Zoology,
Myrtle Cottage,
Woolfardisworthy,
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No this is FREE as in Gratis. Not a Sausage. But I digress.
So make an old hippy a happy chappy and SUBSCRIBE TODAY
In this lavishly illustrated celebration of classic and progressive rock bands of the 1970s, author Doug Harr shares his vivid memories of the mind-altering rock spectacles he witnessed in his hometown of Los Angeles—the City of Angels—at the genesis of a new art form. Get a front-row seat at three-dozen spectacular concerts and the albums that spawned them. Revisit these legendary records and concerts along with reviews of the best video documents of the era, each band illuminated by a hand-picked collection of brilliant images—most never-before seen—by the era’s best rock photographers. This 396-page hardcover book features over 600 images. Foreword by Armando Gallo.

Available now!
Amazon.com and GonzoMultimedia.co.uk
www.diegospadeproductions.com  @diego_spade  facebook.com/diegospadeproductions

Rockin’ the City of Angels features the work of some of the rock era’s greatest photographers, including Richard E. Aaron, Jørgen Angel, Fin Costello, Ian Dickson, Armando Gallo, Stacey Katzis, Terry O’Neill, Neal Preston, Michael Putland, Jim Summara, Lisa Tanner, Brian Weiner, Neil Zlowzower and more!
So Sunday 19th July 2020 #RMFair2020 sees the return of the Grooverider Stage and without further ado here are the bands confirmed so far...

They need no introduction and return to The Fair as Grooverider Stage headliners, (and it will be their 50th anniversary too!) they are space rock legends and spacelord warriors on the edge of time Hawkwind! Joining the Hawks we have those psychedelic Icelanders The Vintage Caravan and we also bring you the new masked psychedelic desert rock of 'THE NEW DEATH CULT! From Canada we have blues psych rockers Crown Lands!

And our last announcement for the Grooverider today - They owned the Rising Stage last year as the people's choice and they will be playing the Grooverider in 2020. They are currently out supporting previous Ramblin' headliners The Cult, they are the UK’s very own rockers and rollers Piston! So go get your groove on here: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e /ramblin-man-fair-tickets-665
"Capitalism is the extraordinary belief that the nastiest of men for the nastiest of motives will somehow work for the benefit of all."

John Maynard Keynes
WHO GONZO? WHY GONZO? WHAT GONZO?

What? You don't know who Hunter Thompson is/was/might have been/will be? Without Hunter Thompson there would be no Gonzo Multimedia. It would have been completely different and that would have been an unforgivable pity. So here is:

- A potted history of his life and works
- Rob Ayling explains why he called his company ‘Gonzo’

C.J. Stone suggested that as well as explaining Gonzo to those who don't understand, we should do a weekly quote from the man himself…

“Some may never live, but the crazy never die.”

Hunter S. Thompson

latest book, “Solid State: The Story of ‘Abbey Road’ and the End of the Beatles,” which comes during the 50th anniversary of the album’s release. Throughout his presentation, Womack focused on the “Abbey Road” medley, the eight-song collection found on side B of the record. “The medley is essentially a selection of songs in a suite that concludes their career, so it has a very powerful place in their story,” Womack said. This medley, often referred to as “The Long One,” during recording, is the last time that all four members of the Beatles worked collectively on an album.

RIGHT ON RICK

https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/latestnews/2019/election

We couldn't get away without mentioning
The forthcoming UK General Election. The BBC Election 2019 programme will also feature the return of classic election theme tune, Rick Wakeman’s ‘Arthur’, in a newly remixed version.

FESTIVE RICK
https://www.rwcc.com/notice_christmasportraits.asp

Keyboard legend, Rick Wakeman, famous the world over for his hugely successful and high-profile rock career - most notably with leading bands Yes and The Strawbs and for his sought-after collaborations with top artists of the day such as David Bowie and Black Sabbath - is pleased to celebrate the festive season with a brand-new album, ‘Christmas Portraits’, released on 29th November by Sony Classical.

With all tracks personally chosen and arranged by Wakeman himself, this special holiday album celebrates Wakeman’s favourite time of the year as he performs familiar and favourite festive music, arranged for solo piano, all performed on his beloved Granary Steinway Model D grand piano.

A former student and Fellow of the Royal College of Music, Wakeman has covered much musical ground during his wide-ranging career and here with ‘Christmas Portraits’, he brings his classic Wakeman

This week my favourite roving reporter sent this interesting snippet of a message from those jolly nice chaps at MarillionL

As our ‘With Friends From The Orchestra’ tour is fast approaching, we thought we would take this opportunity to thank you all again for buying our ‘new’ album.

The response so far has been overwhelmingly positive and we’re all looking forward very much to playing these songs on the forthcoming tour.

Many of the concerts in the UK and Europe are close to selling out but we have recently released some of our ‘guest’ tickets that we had been holding and the Royal Albert Hall in London has also released some great seats that some of their members won’t use.

So check with your local venue and see if you can join us (if you’re not already) for what promises to be a rare and special occasion with our Friends.

twist to traditional Christmas favourites, arranging some evergreens into fresh new medleys.

Of this brand-new album, Rick Wakeman commented: “Christmas is my absolute favourite time of the year. I love every aspect of it, especially traditional Christmas music and songs which have wonderful simplistic melodies that are perfect for adaptation to produce variations on the piano. That is something I love to do and that is exactly what this album is”.

YES WE HAVE A EUROPEAN TOUR

YES, one of the most innovative of all prog-rock bands, and true legends of the genre, recently announced an 8 date UK tour for May and June of 2020. YES will take the tour to Europe for another 24 dates (see full list below). The Album Series 2020 Tour will feature their 1974 Relayer album in its entirety together with a selection of other classic YES favourites.

This tour follows their 2018 highly successful #YES50 Anniversary tour and again features the line-up of Steve Howe (guitars), Alan White (drums), Geoff Downes (keyboards), Billy Sherwood (bass guitar and backing vocals), Jon Davison (vocals) and Jay Schellen (additional drums and percussion).

The show will comprise two sets by the band with full production and a high definition video wall. The first will feature favourite classic tracks from YES extensive catalogue. The second will feature Relayer, the seventh studio album by YES, and one of the band’s most distinctive. Relayer marked a slight change in direction as Patrick Moraz replaced Rick Wakeman on keyboards bringing an edgier, avant-garde feel to the album. This was perfect for the opening track Gates Of Delirium, almost 22 minutes in length, with its battle scene featuring the keyboard of Moraz and Steve Howe’s guitar. The battle gives way to the beautiful closing ballad Soon, a prayer for peace and hope.
COLD WATER ON DEATHRAY
https://www.theregister.co.uk/2019/11/01/cuban_sonic_attacks/

Sonic attacks supposedly launched back in 2016 by dastardly Cubans on innocent US diplomats in Havana may well be psychosomatic rather than the result of technology aimed at the embassy. A paper by researchers from the US and New Zealand casts doubt on the definition of so-called "Havana Syndrome" as a new illness, proposing that it is simply a case of mass hysteria. Robert Bartholomew, a medical sociologist from Botany College, Auckland, and Robert Baloh, a neurologist from the University of California, make a strong case that the syndrome is not the result of mysterious sonic rays but a psychosomatic condition.

For quite a few years now, I’ve been writing in these pages that we are living in strange and peculiar – not to say, disturbing – times. I continually get reports of strange stories sent to me, and they seem to weirdly compliment some of the other things that appear as if by magick in these pages.

Enjoy.

WEIRD SHIT IS HAPPENING
They outline the long history of mass hysteria dating back to witch and demon fever in the Middle Ages to more modern fears engendered by wind farms, microwave ovens, or Wi-Fi signals. The researchers ask whether it is more likely that embassy staff were attacked by a previously unknown and still undiscovered weapon or that they fell ill due to a stress-induced condition. They said embassy staff were living in extremely stressful conditions, under surveillance and engaged in a new cold war.

TRUST ME, I'M A NOTORIOUS FUGITIVE

PSA for all the Area 51 stormers, chemtrail believers and climate change deniers: Edward Snowden has searched the depths of the US intelligence networks and can report the conspiracy theories are not true. As a former employee of the CIA and contractor for the National Security Agency, Snowden had access to some of the nation's most closely held secrets. And, like any curious mind with access to the CIA's version of Google might do, he went in search of answers to some of society's most pressing questions.

As it turns out, the US government is not aware of any intelligent, extraterrestrial life, he says. For the record, as far as I could tell, aliens have never contacted Earth, or at least they haven't contacted US intelligence," Snowden writes in his recent memoir, "Permanent Record." also, the moon landing did indeed occur. "In case you were wondering: Yes, man really did land on the moon. Climate change is real. Chemtrails are not a thing," he adds.
I THINK WE ARE GOING TO NEED A BIGGER BOAT

https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-7658517/Locals-fears-massive-shark-maybe-stalking-British-coast-half-dead-dolphin-washed-up.html?ito=facebook_share_article-home&fbclid=IwAR3CqdVujEofPLduaXRh_AHYAJ08ZNxsavzeAoG93AM26gM9OYN89ifp6-k

Residents near the site where half a dead dolphin washed up on a beach fear the discovery could mean a huge shark is lurking along the British coast. Gruesome pictures showed the bottom half of the dead dolphin completely missing and on the upper half there appeared to have bite marks from large teeth.

Fisherman in the area worry that as the animal appeared to have been bitten in half it could prove a massive predator is stalking the south coast. On-lookers said they believed the sickening state of the creature's remains on Harlyn Bay near Padstow, Cornwall, could have been the result of a attack by a shark. Images of the carcass also show its spine protruding from the rest of the body after it was washed up on the beach.
A man has had a 12cm-long flesh-eating tapeworm removed from his head which had been slowly eating his brain for the past 15 years. Wang Lei first started to feel numbness down his left side in 2007, and has continued to suffer with fail health ever since. He has seen multiple specialists and was once treated for a malignant brain tumour, as doctors tried to figure the cause of his issues. But the young man's condition continued to worsen and he started to suffer frequent seizures and blackouts, according to local media. In 2018, doctors discovered that a tapeworm was living in his brain and they advised the patient to undergo non-surgical treatment as the parasite was considered to be in a risky area to operate on.
Mary Holte, a daughter of the fearsome owner, who was locked up in a cell at the property for 16 years after she tried to run away with a servant. Aston Hall was named the UK’s most haunted heritage site in a list compiled by one of the country’s leading team of paranormal researchers.

A PORTAL TO THE SPIRITUAL WORLD?
https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/weird-news/family-home-stinks-rotten-flesh-20763536

Steph Harper’s two-bedroom house looks like a typical suburban home - but she believes there’s a portal to the spiritual world in the living room. The mum-of-four claims it has become a hotbed of paranormal activity, with unexplained bangs, strange smells and spooky visions now the norm. Steph, 39, who lives in Flint, North Wales with husband Colin, and children Harvey, 14, Thomas, nine, Paisley, seven, first noticed the strange goings on three months after she moved into the two-bed property in 2008. Recalling the first eerie incident, she explained: "It was just me and Harvey in the house at that time, and he was tucked up in bed.

"All of a sudden I heard all this violent banging coming from his room. I ran upstairs and found him fast asleep in his bed, but the weird thing was, the bed had been pulled about two foot away from the wall where it usually was."

"Now, looking back, I realise it was the beginning of the haunting."

Since then, Steph said she and her family have experienced so many supernatural encounters that it is "hard to recall them all." Not only will she hear crashes and bangs, but she also gets whiffs of peculiar scents – including on one disturbing occasion, rotten flesh – and regularly notices her belongings going missing mysteriously. She explained: "Colin had his work phone go missing..."
once - we blitzed the whole house looking for it - but it was a no show.

"Then, six months later, there was a T-shirt thrown on the floor and I lifted it up, and there was Colin's phone right by the bedroom door - somewhere we'd walked past loads in the time since it had gone missing. "Another time, I was in the kitchen and looked outside, and I saw soldiers who looked like they were from centuries ago marching by with metal helmets and swords pointing to the sky.

RADIOACTIVE TOY

An urban explorer visiting the Chernobyl site was stunned to find a bag while that had almost 200 times more radiation than a CT scan. Neil Ansell was clambering around the devastated nuclear zone near Pripyat, Ukraine, when he came across a few discarded items. Hovering a Geiger counter over the bag, its radiation reached a high of 2,728 millisieverts (mSv), almost 200 times stronger compared to an adult CT scan, which measures 15mSv. A single dose of radiation that measures 5,000mSv would cause half the people exposed to it to die within a month. The threshold for relocating people from Chernobyl was 350mSv.
MORE MASTERPIECES from RICK WAKEMAN

TWO SIDES OF YES
Double CD set. The very best of Yes, Wakeman style
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Recorded live in August 1993 in Buenos Aires
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Guest vocalists include John Parr, Tracey Ackerman, Ashley Holt, and Roy Wood
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GASTANK
Double DVD set. Rick's classic 1982 music and chat show
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CÔLE!
Soundtrack album featuring Tony Fernandez and Jackie McAuley
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The original recording, with two new tracks
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Double CD set. The expanded 2016 version
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LIVE AT THE WINTERLAND THEATRE 1975
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Double CD + DVD
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Featuring The English Chamber Choir
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CRIMES OF PASSION
A wicked and erotic soundtrack!
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BEYOND THE PLANETS
With Jeff Wayne and Kevin Peek
HKD210CD

Available from rickwakemansmusicemporium.com
and all other good music retailers
It is both sad and shameful that when night falls and the setts of southern England stir, their gentle folk will be needlessly slaughtered. That in spite of science and public will, the wrath of ignorance will further bloody and bleed our countryside of its riches of life. That brutalist thugs, liars and frauds will destroy our wildlife and dishonour our nation's reputation as conservationists and animal lovers. I feel sick, sad, disempowered, betrayed, angry and crushed by the corruption of all that I know as right.

-Chris Packham
For those of you interested in such things several members of the Editorial Team put out a monthly web TV show covering cryptozoology, green issues and all sorts of other stuff that we basically make up as we go along...

IF YOU ARE NOT A PART OF THE SOLUTION YOU ARE A PART OF THE PROBLEM.

ELDRIDGE CLEAVER
Portobello Shuffle CDs still at special low price of £5.00 each. 1 x CD inc. p&p = UK £6.80; Mainland Europe £8.90; USA £9.95; Rest of the World, contact Rich Deakin for postage price. arsydeedee@yahoo.co.uk

I stand with the volunteers on the Greenpeace ship Esperanza to speak for the Arctic.

MICHAEL DES BARRES on LITTLE STEVEN'S UNDERGROUND GARAGE MAXIMUM ROCK AND ROLL mornings 8am - 11am ET CH21 SIRIUS SATELLITE RADIO (filling in for Andrew Loog Oldham)
"If you don't want your tax dollars to help the poor, then stop saying you want a country based on Christian values, because you don't."

Jimmy Carter
Each week Richard Freeman: world famous cryptozoologist, explorer, author, and one of the most peculiar people I know picks a suitably off story from the world’s press.
Gonzo Web Radio started off as a medium by which interviews and radio programmes about the various acts covered by Gonzo Multimedia could be broadcast to an eagerly attentive world.

But over the past few years, it has become more than that. We now host regular weekly shows by Neil Nixon, a lecturer in professional writing at North West Kent College who uses his weekly radio show, Strange Fruit, as a learning experience for his students on the Foundation Course. I’ve known Neil for years, and he approached me with the idea of syndicating his show.

I agreed, and then the floodgates opened. We have regular weekly shows from the mysterious M Destiny on the other side of the pond with Friday Night Progressive. We also have a regular visit to the world of the Canterbury Scene courtesy of our friend Matthew Watkins. There are several other shows in the wings, waiting to join us, so stay glued to your seats boys and girls, your life is never going to be the same again!
Bye Daddy! I'm leaving for my date tonight!

Hmph... You be careful, those boys only care about one thing.

Sex?

No...

Prog

ME TRYING TO FIND GIRLS IN A PROG CONCERT
Strange Fruit is a unique two-hour radio show exploring the world of underground, strange and generally neglected music. All shows are themed and all shows set out to give the most hardened of sound-hounds some new delight to sample.

The show is also unique in providing homework for undergraduate students on North West Kent College’s Foundation Degree in Professional Writing (who dig up many of the odd facts featured in the links between tracks).

Neil Nixon, the founder and presenter of the show has released a book about rare albums for Gonzo Multimedia.

The show is broadcast on Miskin Radio every Sunday from 10-00-midnight.
I first came across Friday Night Progressive totally by accident, but I soon found myself beguiled by the style and taste of presenter M Destiny who presents a weekly two-hour show showcasing all sorts of progressive music that you are unlikely to hear anywhere else. This is surely a man after my own heart. I also very much approve of the way that it is the hub of a whole community of artists, musicians, and collaborators. I hope that you enjoy them as much as I do. Welcome aboard, chaps.

Hello, I am M Destiny host of Friday Night Progressive. You will find it to be an incredible independent internet broadcast show. But it's more than that. We tend to boast that the musicians played on FNP are above the status quo. This includes the multi-instrumentalist and the educated musician. We tend to shy away from computer generated creations and rely on talent using musical instruments and steer this talent for purposes of sheer inspirational indulgence. It is only in the FNP chat room where you will find the most talented musicians packed at one time into such an honored space.

Both yer esteemed editor and yer Grande Fromage are interested in the great mysteries of the universe, and so it was truly only a matter of time before Fortean related content began to seep its way into the magazine and onto Gonzo Web Radio...

"Mack Maloney is the author of the best-selling "Wingman" science-fiction series, plus "UFOs in Wartime, What They Didn't Want You To Know," (Berkley Books). He's a member of SKY CLUB, Gonzo recording artists. He's been a radio host since 2010. He lives with his wife, Doreen, on an island off the coast of Massachusetts."

AND LOOK WHAT MACK HAS FOR YOU THIS WEEK

[YouTube link]

The Merrell Fankhauser Radio Show "Fapardokly & H.M.S Bounty"

Make sure to check out Merrell Fankhauser's You Tube Channel [link]

And his Website:

[Website link]

All Music is Written and Performed by Merrell Fankhauser and aired on You Tube with his Written Permission.... Fankhauser Music Publishing Company - ASCAP

[YouTube link]
AND LOOK WHAT MACK HAS FOR YOU THIS WEEK

THE CASE OF THE FLOATING ANCHOR
Mack, Juan-Juan & Switchblade Steve talk to Experiencer Barbara With about her encounters with a man who could make anchors float. Cindy Bailey Dove on the world’s most frightening drone. Switchblade Steve with a bizarre Men in Black episode. Plus, Ten Questions for Juan-Juan and Week 2 of the Big Mack Trivia contest. Special guest: Meaghan Reagan.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJ00-j0un6E
Gabriel Mary "Gay" Byrne (1934 – 2019)

Byrne, affectionately known as Uncle Gay, Gaybo or Uncle Gaybo was an Irish presenter and host of radio and television.

His most notable role was first host of The Late Late Show over a 37-year period spanning 1962 until 1999. The Late Late Show is the world's second longest-running chat show.

His time working in Britain with Granada Television saw him become the first person to introduce The Beatles on screen and Byrne was later the first to introduce Boyzone on screen in 1993.

From 1973 until 1998, Byrne presented The Gay Byrne Hour – later The Gay Byrne Show when it expanded to two hours – on RTÉ Radio 1 each weekday morning. After retiring from his long-running radio and television shows,

Byrne presented several other programmes, including Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?, The Meaning of Life and For One Night Only on RTÉ One and Sunday Serenade/Sunday with Gay Byrne on RTÉ lyric fm.
In 2006 he was elected Chairman of Ireland's Road Safety Authority. In his retirement he was described as the "Elder Lemon of Irish broadcasting".

He and two classmates bought a jazz record when Byrne was fourteen years old in January 1948, at a time when Radio Éireann refused to play it because of its "licentious" content.

When he was young, Byrne was inspired by the broadcaster Eamonn Andrews, who had a successful career on British television, and "wanted to be what he was". Andrews was friendly with Byrne's eldest brother. In 1958 he moved over to broadcasting when he became a presenter on Radio Éireann.

He also worked with Granada Television and the BBC in England. At Granada, Byrne became the first person to introduce the Beatles on television when they made their small-screen debut on local news programme *People and Places*.

Byrne began his broadcasting career on radio. Radio Éireann gave him a 15-minute slot on Monday nights which he used to play Jazz, his first broadcast for the station being in 1958.

Byrne died on 3rd November, aged 85. 

Leo Iorga
(1964 – 2019)

Iorga was a Romanian guitarist and singer, and frontman of the band Compact. Iorga died on 2nd November, after an eight year battle with cancer. He was 54 years old.
Kongshaug was a Norwegian sound engineer, jazz guitarist, and composer. He was born in Trondheim as a son of guitarist John Kongshaug. During his childhood and adolescence, he began to play the accordion (1950), guitar (1958) and bass (1964). Kongshaug got his examen artium in 1963, and trained in electronics at the Trondheim Technical School in 1967. Then he worked for Arne Bendiksen Studio (1967–1974) and Talent Studio (1974–79) in Oslo, and undertook some jobs in New York. In 1984, he founded his own recording studio, Rainbow Studio in Oslo and evolved into being one of the grand masters of Sound engineering. Altogether, he produced over 4,000 records, and was particularly known for some 700 recordings for ECM Records made from 1970 onwards.

Kongshaug played with Åse Kleveland winning the Norsk Melodi Grand Prix in 1966, and was third in the Eurovision Song Contest (1966). He has also played on dozens of recordings, including with Asmund Bjørken, Frode Thingnæs, Sven Nyhus, Arild Andersen and Frode Alnæs.

Paul Barrere (1948 – 2019)

Barrere was an American musician most prominent as a member of the band Little Feat, which he joined in 1972 some three years after the band was created by Lowell George.

Barrere recorded and performed with Taj Mahal, Jack Bruce, Chicken Legs, Blues Busters, Valerie Carter, Helen
Paul Barrere died on October 26th, at the age of 71.

James Joseph Paulsen
(1943 – 2019)

Paulsen, known professionally as Joe Sun, was an American country music singer-songwriter. Recording for the Ovation and Elektra Records labels, Sun charted fourteen singles on the Hot Country Songs charts. His highest was his 1978 debut single, the No. 14 "Old Flames Can't Hold a Candle to You."
"Dixie and Me", made its debut on Austria's Crazy Music. Its response prompted the 1994 CD release of *Some Old Memories* by the same record label.

An album and a video for *Some Old Memories* were released in 1994 by Crazy Music and was broadcast on SF1, a Swiss television station and 3SAT, a German/Austrian/Swiss television station. Joe Sun also acted as Tommy Fratter in the film *Marie* alongside Sissy Spaceck, Jeff Daniels and Morgan Freeman.

Sun died on October 25th, aged 76.

Joe Sun's debut and his first single on Ovation Records "Old Flames (Can't Hold A Candle To You)" was released in May 1978 and climbed steadily up the country charts, reaching the Top 20.

By the time his third album, *Livin' On Honky Tonk Time* was released, the record company Ovation closed down. Joe signed with Elektra, who purchased Ovation in 1981. At that time he recorded "I Ain't Honky Tonkin' No More". The album *Best of Joe Sun* was released by Elektra.

Sun's first solo album effort, the 1992

**Walter Franco**

*(1945 – 2019)*

Franco was a Brazilian singer and composer. In 1998 he contributed to the Rosa Passos album *Especial Tom Jobim*. His 1975 album *Revolver* was No.
50 on *Rolling Stone*'s list of the Top 100 Brazilian albums.

Franco died on October 24th, at the aged of 74.

"oddball" records, he wrote for several rock music magazines, including *Creem* and *Rolling Stone*. He was also reviews editor for *Country Music* magazine.


Tosches died on October 20th, three days before his 70th birthday.

**IF YOU LOVE HESIOD, SAPPHO, CHRISTOPHER MARLOWE, EZRA POUND, WILLIAM FAULKNER, CHARLES OLSON... THEN YOU LOVED NICK TOSCHES**

Anthony Bourdain included him live on his Travel Channel show. You can see him in the Hunter S Thompson film—"Buy The Ticket, Take The Ride" and with Louis Prima's 1999 "THE WILDEST". Largely known as a biographer—of Jerry Lee Lewis("HELLFIRE"), Sonny Liston, Hall and Oates, Dean Martin, Emmett Tiller and a few selected financiers (Michele Sindona) and racketeers (Arnold Rothstein)

Nicholas P. Tosches (1949 – 2019)

Nick Tosches was a highly acclaimed American journalist, novelist, biographer, and poet. His 1982 biography of Jerry Lee Lewis, *Hellfire*, was praised by *Rolling Stone* magazine as "the best rock and roll biography ever written."

He did not attend college but was published for the first time in *Fusion* magazine at 19 years old. A fan of early rock and roll and

**THOSE WE HAVE LOST**

45
Nick was a contributing editor for VANITY FAIR magazine, as well as ESQUIRE and OPEN CITY. He published novels CUT NUMBERS, TRINITIES, IN THE HAND OF DANTE, & ME & THE DEAD as well as JOHNNY'S FIRST CIGARETTE, and UNDER TIBERIUS. He also collaborated on NEVER TRUST A LOVING GOD with the French painter Thierry Aloso Gravier. And poetry - CHALDEA & I DIG GIRLS, but it was his literary outlaw journalism, with CREME & ROLLING STONE that established his snake hunter credentials. Ranging from COUNTRY, to UNSUNG HEROES OF ROCK n ROLL, to THE LAST OPIUM DEN and BLUE EYES & EXIT WOUNDS, Nick was our contemporary literary outlaw, friends with Hunter S Thompson and Anthony Bourdain. Writer ... FOR THE TAKING... AUTOHAGIOGRAPHY... gone.

Thom Woodruff

Timi Hansen (1958 – 2019)

Hansen was a Danish bass player. He played in the Danish heavy metal band Mercyful Fate from 1981 to 1985 and from 1992 to 1993, and its successor project King Diamond from 1985 to 1987. He played with his fingers rather than with a guitar pick.

Many have asked about how Hansen acquired "Grabber" as a nickname. Timi apparently used to play a Gibson G3 Grabber. A music store clerk began to call him "Grabber" and the name stuck. Aware that the meaning might be misunderstood,
Sarah did me the honour of asking me to write something to be read out at John’s funeral. Here it is:

Hello everybody,

My name is Jon Downes, and although I am sorry that I am not able to come up to Bristol, I am very touched that Sarah has arranged for my words to be read out by someone else on this solemn and very sad occasion. I am the editor of an online music magazine called Gonzo Weekly, and on Sunday 3rd I received a very sad email telling me that long time Gonzo Weekly contributor John Brodie Good had died suddenly and unexpectedly. I have always referred to the community that has built up around this magazine as being a ‘family’, but the range of emotions which have been displayed since John’s passing truly confirm this, as if any confirmation were needed. I wrote to all the contributors on Sunday afternoon, and within minutes Thom Woodruff replied:

“We had a haiku poet Jan Benson leave yesterday. Here is a haiku that may work for John:

it is the leaving
shocks us to our very core
hole in our own hearts”

John contributed many articles for our magazine, and it became obvious that here was an erudite, literate man who had a similar range of societal beliefs as me and many of
several artists that were completely new to me: most notably the multi talented Cary Grace.

Much of the music that John wrote about was rooted in, or influenced by the San Francisco scene of the latter half of the 1960s. I particularly enjoyed his travelogues about his and Sarah's visits to the West Coast doing various musical and cultural things along the way.

John was one of those gifted souls who could make the accounts of their journeys come alive in a way that so many writers singularly fail to do. I also particularly enjoyed his accounts of recent gigs by the Steve Miller Band and Steely Dan; two artists of whom I am particularly fond, proving once again that John and I had many musical tastes in common.

Although we had corresponded a lot over the past two or three years, John and I had never met in the flesh. It was a great pity, because we had a lot in common and I'm sure that we would've been great friends in person as well as online. And it is a great tragedy that this is now not ever going to happen.

Rest in Peace John, with much love from me and all the Gonzo Weekly team.
DR FEELGOOD
+ GERRY JABLONSKI BAND

THURSDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 2019
STRAMASH
207 Cowgate, Edinburgh EH1 1JQ
Doors 7:30pm
also cut production. According to his own words, only 5000 copies would be pressed, but Rick feels that there were probably more. Recordings took place in the private studio Bajonor Studio on the Isle of Man during the months of February to July 1992.

Artist Rick Wakeman
Title The Wizard and the Forest of All Dreams
Cat No. MFGZ050CD
Label RRAW

The Wizard and the Forest of All Dreams is a studio album by Rick Wakeman and the English Chamber Choir. The album contains modern

Artist Rick Wakeman
Title Prayers
Cat No. MFGZ049CD
Label RRAW

Prayers is a Christian liturgical album released for the first time in 1993 and more of the rare of the Wakeman albums. A contemplative piece of work and as much a meditation as a musical piece. A lot of energy can be felt throughout this album and lead vocalist Chrissie Hammond has a strong presence, supported by Rick’s synthesizer and backing choir singers. Wakeman had previously written a religious album, The Gospels, and this is generally considered his follow-up. It appeared on Hope Records, a small label that
This solo album was first released in 2006, and Albert J Mora writes: "There is an imaginary scale of perfect music from pure artistic to pure commercial, where everything is genius. On the extreme left there is perfect pure art. Think Beethoven. In the middle there is a perfect balance between pure art and pure commercialism. Think The Beatles. On the extreme right there is perfect pure commercialism. Think Madonna.

Gerry Beckley's Horizontal Fall CD is on this Genius scale. It is just to the left of the Beatles. That is, it leans more toward being pure art than toward being commercial. It is creative. It is thoughtful. It is simple. It is light. It is dark. It is haunting. Above all, it is beautiful. If this CD were not in English, it would remain fascinating to English-speaking listeners. If it had no vocals, it would remain beautiful as a pure instrumental album. The lyrics by themselves are magnificent poems. For connoisseurs, the production quality of the CD is fantastic - no shortcuts. It will bring out the best in the finest sound systems or studio headphones.

As a result, this is a CD you can listen to seemingly endless times and derive something new every time. Buy it for someone who loves permanent, thoughtful things over fleeting, trivial things. Someone smart."

And you can't say better than that.

**Artist** The Waterson Family  
**Title** Live at Hull Truck  
**Cat No.** SCARGZ105DVD-CD  
**Label** Scarlet Records

The Waterson Family celebrates 50 years as Britain's 'First Family of Folk' with this homecoming concert at Hull Truck Theatre. Norma and Mike Waterson from the original quartet are joined on stage by Norma's husband Martin Carthy and their daughter Eliza as well as various other talented members of the family.

Tony D writes: "This DVD was recorded shortly before the sad death of Mike Waterson and is a very fitting tribute to him. My wife and I have followed the Watersons for many years and attended Liverpool Philharmonic Hall for a concert last year which took the same form as this one - the whole family on
Peel had welcomed to his show over the years, the session recordings of Mark E Smith and The Fall are allegedly the only ones he kept in his personal archive.


stage singing sublimely, mostly unaccompanied, a large selection of their repertoire. Not surprisingly, they received a standing ovation from an audience of like minded souls who, if anything like me, had the hairs on the back of their necks standing up for the whole concert with the magnificence of their harmonies."

Artist The Fall
Title The Idiot Joy Show
Cat No. COGGZ112CD
Label Cog Sinister

Mercurial performer, Mark E Smith, auditioned for a number of heavy metal bands but finding his musical tastes far more eclectic, formed The Fall in 1977. The Fall provided Mark with a far better base from which to utilise his talents and of course the other major plus was that it was his band. The line up of The Fall has constantly been in fluctuation around Mark, but the band has successfully weathered the storms of all these changes.

The Fall, were and indeed always have been seen as a cult band and thus they have survived the trends of the music business whilst others come and go. The late John Peel was a huge fan and one of the most high profile members of the band’s fan base. Of all the artists John
Relationships within Pink Floyd had been getting ever more strained as the 1970s dragged on, and by the time that the band convened to record the Roger Waters masterwork, The Wall, keyboard player Rick Wright had reached a head. For tax reasons, the band were recording in France, New York and Los Angeles, and for various reasons that are outside the remit of this article, soon became badly behind schedule. Rick Wright had recorded a solo album in France almost immediately before sessions for The Wall convened, and was also going through a bitter divorce, and so – unlike other members of the band – was not able to bring his children abroad with him.

As a result of all this, he was unable to see his children for quite a while, and the accumulative effect of this, his unhappiness within the band, his struggles with Waters, his artistic frustrations at playing music in which he had not had a hand in creating, and various other things, was that he fell into a deep depression.

Wright’s contributions to The Wall were later described as “minimal” and, according to drummer Nick Mason, Waters was “stunned and furious” with Wright’s intransigence and felt that Wright was not doing enough to help complete the album, started to lobby for his dismissal, and eventually presented the rest of the band with an impasse; either Wright leaves...
and named after a book of the same name by Alexander Frater in which the author writes about his life changing experiences following the monsoon across India. The band name also continues Jones interest in India which is where the Karnataka band name came from.

An article on The Progmeister website reads: "The idea behind the project was to do something progressive incorporating strong rhythmic elements, world music and Celtic influence. As well as Ian Jones playing bass, acoustic guitar and programming there are some talented folk on here who were totally unknown to me, though I am pleased to say that they aren’t now. Steve Evans plays some rather tasty keys and some great vocals. Lisa Fury who is definitely a singer I will be keeping an eye on and no stranger to Karnataka fans having loaned her singing talent to the bands The Gathering Light album, and Ian Simmons playing some sumptuous guitar licks. OK, let’s get the obvious comparisons over with and out of the way shall we? Lovers of Magenta, Karnataka, Mostly Autumn, Rob Reed etc and all subsidiaries thereof may well fall in love with Chasing The Monsoon. The bloodlines are there so to speak."

Newly divorced from his previous life and previous musical activities, Rick Wright was at somewhat of a loose end and was vaguely thinking about putting a new band together, when Raphael Ravenscroft, who is best known for the saxophone break on Gerry Rafferty’s “Baker Street” (and is the son of the bloke who wrote The Spear of Destiny (1972), whom I knew a little bit in passing) introduced him to a ‘New Romantic’ musician called Dave ‘Dee’ Harris. The two of them hit it off, and – after various misadventures – decided to team up as a duo, which they called Zee. The two unlikely bedfellows produced a strange synergy, and the resulting album, Identity, worked much better than anyone could have guessed, and as a fan of both the harder edge of New Romantic music and Pink Floyd, I lapped it up. However, it had remained horribly obscure, and is probably the least known record of anything that has come out from the Pink Floyd ‘family’.

And, for reasons which remain mysterious and don’t really matter anyway, the record was soon deleted and never received an official release on CD.

... until now.

**Artist**  Chasing the Monsoon  
**Title**  No Ordinary World  
**Cat No.**  CTMCD001  
**Label**  Immrama

Ian Jones is, of course, best known as the main driving force behind neo proggy band Karnataka. This album was started by Ian Jones or he would block the release of the album. Several days later, according to Wikipedia, “worried about their financial situation, and the failing interpersonal relationships within the band, Wright quit”.

Several days later, according to Wikipedia, "worried about their financial situation, and the failing interpersonal relationships within the band, Wright quit".
Now, I don't know whether this is a good idea, a bad idea, or just an idea, but - as I believe you know - this magazine is put out each week on a budget of £25, and is free. It will remain free, but I would like to be able to generate some income so I can pay our contributing writers. So, 'why not flog Gonzo Weekly T Shirts?' I thought. 'Why not', I answered...

http://www.zazzle.co.uk/gonzoweekly
Forthcoming releases from Rick Wakeman & Friends

Rick Wakeman & Brian May
live from STARMUS 2015

Starmus is a festival of music and astronomy on the beautiful island of Tenerife. It is the brainchild of Garik Israeli (The astrophysicist who led the team which found the first observational evidence that supernova explosions are responsible for the formation of stellar mass black holes). Rick Wakeman has made several appearances at this festival. The most notable was in 2015 where he was joined on stage by Dr Brian May, the iconic guitarist from Queen, where Rick Wakeman and English Rock Ensemble performed amongst other tracks from throughout Rick’s career a legendary version of Starship Trouper.

This DVD is a must for all fans of Classic Rock!

Available to pre-order from www.rickwakemansmusicemporium.com
Inside Our Bloody Pursuit of Prince Harry

The only thing that has evolved since Princess Diana’s death is the nature and severity of the antisocial aspects of gossip.

August 31, 1997, was a typically warm day in Los Angeles. I remember arriving home in the late afternoon, my ears still ringing from the high decibel British Invasion music that shuddered my Ford Explorer. I opened the door and heard my wife crying. Having been brought up on the streets of Limerick, Ireland, she’s made of stronger stuff. But not this afternoon, and not today. I asked her what was wrong, and joined her on the sofa where her attention was riveted to the national news.

“They killed her.”

I shifted my attention to the television and gasped. Princess Diana, whose
face greeted me every morning on china plates and cups in my wife’s china cabinet, was dead. She had a place of prominence in that hutch. Positioned in front of the Belleek china and Waterford crystal that was a testament to Ireland, my wife’s home – it was hard to look at her face now. We failed her. That porcelain smile framed in British filigree and finery was extinguished, like an animal whose life was taken for sport.

Pursued like a fox on a hunt, the Mercedes she was riding in hit a support stanchion in a Parisian underpass. A life snuffed out. Two children motherless. A bereaved ex-husband who himself was mired in controversy. The public then began the bitter buffet of gorging themselves on gossip, innuendo and the shameful pursuit of dirt.

Nearly a generation later, we are pursuing her son. The hunt is on once again, and we hear the click-whine of automatic cameras, the grunts of sweaty paparazzi as they jockey for the best position and the discordant choir of the press gaggle who shouts out questions designed to illicit an emotional response, and if they’re lucky — tears.

Some call it the TMZ-ation of journalism. Or tabloid journalism. Or as George Harrison called it, The Devil’s Radio. Whatever the label, it fills a dark void of ugliness that somehow makes our lives in comparison seem palatable. I don’t need to know about Johnny Depp’s divorce. I don’t care about what religion Tom Cruise subscribes to. I don’t need the specifics of a young woman’s relationship with her new family as she takes on the mantle of royalty.

Neither do you, even though science may claim that I’m wrong.

The brain is a wondrous organ that apparently releases gushes of dopamine when fed negative news of others. I remember that as a child, I’d start to giggle at hearing bad news. My
parents would be shocked, and my mother, bless her, would explain it away as gallows humor. My father just thought I was a sick puppy.

There have been those who say that gossip fulfills an evolutionary, cultural and developmental arc that benefits society. According to Tania Lombrozo, a Princeton psychology professor, gossip emerges in young people in the form of tattling. You remember those kids who grew up to be narcotics agents, snitches or entertainment reporters? They lived to drop dimes. We have not evolved. The only thing that has evolved are the nature and severity of the antisocial aspects of gossip. People die because of it. Children take their lives because of it. And now we are transfixed as a young couple deals with it.

I’ll never forget the image of Prince Harry walking the same route of his mother as she side-stepped hidden land mines in Angola in a time before the United Nations Mine Ban Treaty. There she was, unceremoniously elegant while advocating for the voiceless. She was brave, and who would have thought that what finally took her out was not an explosive or a sniper’s bullet, but the shrapnel of our obsession.

On that afternoon in 1997, her death crumbled my Irish wife who had bonded with a British princess over a bridge of empathy and tolerance — only to die on the curb in an altar of twisted German steel — a sacrifice to the God of Gossip, in a ritual that is being repeated today with her own son and his bride.

We are a shameful lot. No matter what the physiological reasons are, we must make a conscious effort to actively not care. Lives are at stake.

• https://www.wbur.org/npr/479128912/the-origins-of-gossip
Years and years ago, in a universe far, far away — well, actually, about thirty-five years ago, in a hospital about fifty miles away from where I’m sitting, dictating this to the lovely Olivia — there was an overweight staff nurse with a bad attitude. He didn’t really want to be a nurse, and had dreams of being a music journalist. Elsewhere in the hospital, there was a young man called Icarus Ruoff, who worked with the hospital ancillary services. He was younger than the aforementioned staff nurse by five or six years, he had a Mohican haircut, a very pretty girlfriend, and — like the staff nurse — had a particularly bad attitude. Three and a half decades later, these
two social malcontents have been reunited in the pages of this magazine.

Let me introduce you to my old mate, Mad Iccy.

Keef and his Shoes

Back in 2007 I was talking to someone I used to know about my excitement to be working for a friend at the Isle of Wight Festival, not because I have any interest in festivals like I.O.W but because it meant I would get to finally see the Rolling Stones.

He told me a story of how back in the late 80’s he and his friend used to take their terriers rabbiting on Dartmoor not far from Princetown and how one day they came across a farmhouse in the middle of nowhere with its front door open, and they decided to investigate.

On entering there was a row of five or six guitar flight cases standing in a row in the kitchen so they promptly left realising there was obviously someone staying there. On their way home they stopped off at the local pub for a pint and chatted with some locals who told them that a famous rock star owned the farm and he used to use it as a getaway between touring.
A few months or so later my friend and his mate were out rabbiting again and when passing the farmhouse he noticed a pair of shoes had been left on top of the dustbin. On closer inspection he found out they were Italian leather, size 10 and he reckoned they had a good bit of life left in them so he took them home. He wore the shoes regularly for around a year and then one day, opened a magazine to find a photo of Keith Richards sat on the front of an American police car wearing the very same shoes that he was wearing........
So the Rock Star with the farmhouse in the middle of Dartmoor was a Rolling Stone!

Anyway to cut a long story short he gave me the shoes and I then spent far too long trying to figure out if it was true or not…. (Turns out it is)

Keith was in NYC in 1988 promoting his debut Solo Album – *Talk is Cheap*.

Here are some photos of NYC, Dartmoor and some Shoes that are in my Cupboard.
Jesus Christ in San Jose!

There was for a short time, Jesus Christ on stage in San Jose at the Center for the Performing Arts October 22-27, 2019. A Netherlander Production, the retelling of this amazing Andrew Lloyd Weber musical, certainly one of his best if not THE best, was expertly crafted, exceptionally acted, and emotionally overwhelming for this patron.

The cornerstone of the play is it’s historical and highly moving content. The familiar story of Jesus from the new testament of the Bible follows the prophet or Son of God from his days teaching of prophesizing to his days arguing with the government over the intent of his teachings – of his meetings, and public gatherings and of whether he maybe the Son of God or that maybe this was more of a “story” cooked up by his followers. In a beautiful exposition, Jesus is clearly not sure exactly who he is or is at least not yet convinced that the path he seems destined to travel is right or fair as he watches it unfold. Of course in the story Jesus is betrayed by one of his flock, his followers, Judas (played to vocal and actorial perfection by James Delisco Beeks (yes I did make up a word)), and eventually is convicted by a very conflicted ruler, and made to suffer public humiliation and die on that giant cross at center stage.

Now, from the age of toddler to age 18, this writer went to bible school and went to church and sometimes by the time I reached Jr. High and High School I went to it all – Wednesday night singing and messaging, Sunday youth church and ministry (as told by ex hippies [https://diegospadeproductions.com/]) and even winter and summer camp in the Santa Cruz and San Bernadino mountains – Big Bear
and Arrowhead lake. If anyone was going to understand and “get” this material it was going to be me. And I did accept Christ into my heart and I was baptized and I did feel the power of the love of God coursing through my veins, even if the other side of my Gemini self was smoking marijuana, taking Peyote/mushrooms and having a blast at over 30 rock concerts my (birth) father bought for me because he believed in the power of music and saw that this was my music. Hey, it was the 70s judging judge! JCS the musical fit into all that, and I listened to that record and the other one Godspell, repeatedly (day by day), along with the Beatles Rubber Soul, Sgt Peppers, and the lovely White Album. My church going years were drawing to a close at the close of Chapter 1 of my life as I left for College in San Luis Obispo where I learned the gospel of business and computers, and as I closed the door I was listening to Ambrosia, Led Zeppelin, Jethro Tull and

http://diegospadeproductions.com/
Genesis, my new Rock Gods and heroes, along with my greatest hero Muhammed Ali, and greatest fighting man-with-perfect-physique Bruce Lee. So, yeah, I grew up with some pretty fine idols once you add Jesus to that list. All left behind as the Punk, Goth and New Wave 80s dawned and Depeche Mode’s David Gahan because my new liege.

This telling of JCS was spectacular. They did something which honed the production into more of a musical and zero a play. Nearly all dialogue present in the original was excised. The telling was done through song – something for instance that made the Elton John bio Rocketman infinitely better than the prior year’s Queen movie Bohemian Rhapsody which had slightly missed the “rock biopic” mark by losing much of the emotion that was Freddie’s life and times. Rocketman because it is told through his music, makes Elton John real. Same thing with this production of JCS.

Because of all this and because of the actors who were brought to the production – Aaron LeVigne as Jesus, and James Belisco...
WORK LIGHT PRODUCTIONS
PRESENTS
REGENT’S PARK THEATRE LONDON PRODUCTION OF

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR
50TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR

LYRICS BY
TIM RICE

MUSIC BY
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER

STARRING
AARON LA VIGNE JAMES DELISCO BEEKS JENNA RUBAIJI
ALVIN CRAWFORD TOMMY SHERLOCK TYCE GREEN

ERIC A. LEWIS PAUL LOUIS LESSARD TOMMY MCDOWELL

DAVID ANDRÉ SARA ANDREAS WESLEY J. BARNES DEREK FERGUSON
BRIAN GOLUB BRITTANY ROSE HAMMOND GARFIELD HAMMONDS
KEIRSTEN NICOLE HODGENS SHEILA JONES REBECCA KRITZER
JACOB LACOPO CHARLES MCCALL DANNY McHUGH
PEPE NUFRIIO SARAH PARKER ERICK PATRICK
SANDYredd JASMINE SCHMENK CHELSEA WILLIAMS

Scenic, Hair and Costume Design
TOM SCUTT

Music Supervision
TOM DEERING

Lighting Design
LEE CURRAN

Co-Sound Design
KEITH CAGGIANO NICK LIDSTER

Associate Scenic Designers
DAVID ALLEN DAVID ARSENAULT

Associate Costume Designer
POPPY HALL

Associate Music Supervisor
SHAWN GOUGH

Associate Lighting Designer
RYAN O’GARA

Casting
WOJCIK/SEAY CASTING

Associate Director
GINA RATTAN

Associate Choreographer
ASHLEY ANDREWS

Booking and Marketing Direction
BOND THEATRICAL GROUP

General Management
WORK LIGHT PRODUCTIONS

Company Manager
ARTHUR J. M. CALLAHAN

Production Management
PORT CITY TECHNICAL

Production Stage Manager
ALAN D. KNIGHT

CHOREOGRAPHED BY
DREW MCONIE

Directed by
TIMOTHY SHEADER

http://diegospadeproductions.com/
Beeks as Judas and Jenna Rubaii as Mary and finally Alvin Crawford as Caiaphas with a hilarious turn by Paul Louis Lessard as Herod we were thrilled by excellence in theater. Dance Captain Rebecca Kritzer surely deserves a lion's share of credit for the wonderful movements of these actors and dancers – it was splendid truly splendid.

And for this patron it was also emotionally overwhelming, leading to many bouts of tears while this crew told the story so beautifully and so poignantly and because we did see Jesus shamed and maimed, and strung up on that cross, while the vocals and backdrop made clear the savage intensity of what one man suffered, Son of God or not, but he did truly suffer, and wonder finally had God forsaken him. Yeah, with the music and mise en scene it was truly madly deeply damn emotionally overwhelming.

I went to a new church down the street from my house in Santa Cruz two weekends after, and signed on to Brandon’s flock because he turned my head with the story of Jonah inside the whale, so dark and lonely, and also asking finally for God’s salvation. My new friend David Pack of Ambrosia cheered me on, despite my tears and all because he is a good and kind Christian man himself. I hadn’t been in church on purpose for over 38 years. Now I am, once a week, in the 5th row pew off to tight side, and yeah, sometimes emotionally overwhelmed by Brandon’s telling of this part of history while I listen and become more and more deeply happy while reminded of this power and learning it all over again.

P.s. one of our gentle writers at Gonzo, John Brodie Good, died last week, I don’t believe in hell but I do believe in an afterlife. In it, I know John is reading these words, smiling at how Doug managed to celebrate a musical, and also open his heart to the possibility that God does work miracles…. Requeros a todos John, and por favor say hi to John, Keith, and Greg for me....

http://diegospadeproductions.com/
BROADWAY SAN JOSE
N A NEDERLANDER PRESENTATION
SAN JOSE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
Oct 22 – 27, 2019

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR

http://diegospadeproductions.com/
CAST

AARON LaVIGNE
JAMES DELISCO BEEKS
JENNA RUBAII
AI VIN CRAWFORD
TOMMY SHERLOCK
TYCE GREEN

PAUL LOUIS LESSARD
ERIC A. LEWIS
TOMMY McDOWELL
DAVID ANDRÉ
SARA ANDREAS
WESLEY J. BARNES

DEREK FERGUSON
BRIAN GOLUB
BRITTANY ROSE HAMMOND
GARFIELD HAMMONDS
KEIRSTEN NICOLE HODGENS
SHEILA JONES

REBECCA KRITZER
JACOB LACOPO
CHARLES McCALL
DANNY McHUGH
PEPE NUFRIO
SARAH PAKER
What began as one dog on an airplane several years ago has evolved into a team of over 100 volunteers who fly or drive animals from danger to safety. Founded in 2009 by pilots and friends Brad Childs and Jonathan Plesset, the organization became a recognized 501c(3) entity in 2012. Since then our teams have conducted a wide range of missions including hoarding cases, saving animals from dog fighting rings and natural disasters, and helping overcrowded shelters. We now have the capability to respond to a huge variety of rescue needs both near and far. During the devastating hurricanes in 2017, PAART made its first international journey, heading to the storm-ravaged island of Tortola in the British Virgin Islands to rescue not only 42 animals, but two rescuers who had found themselves stranded on the island for weeks. Our reach stretches from Texas to Florida and all the way up the East Coast to Massachusetts. We have conducted rescue missions as far inland as the Mississippi River. While Pittsburgh is in our name, it actually makes up less than 10% of the area we cover.

Our rescue partners are many, ranging in size from large organizations like The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), and North Shore Animal League America, as well as small shelters in remote areas of West Virginia, Kentucky, Virginia and beyond. One of our newer partners is St. Hubert’s Animal Welfare Center in Madison, New Jersey. With an increasing population disparity in the northern states, St. Hubert’s serves as a hub for animals heading into New England where rescue dogs are scarce but people still want to have the fulfilling opportunity to rescue a beautiful, healthy animal who otherwise would have met a devastating fate.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CWG1AdEQ48k&feature=share
PAART Land Team Rescues 18 Dogs from 4 Overcrowded Shelters

The PAART Land Team rescued 18 dogs from 4 overcrowded animal shelters over the weekend.

Land Pilots Craig Edwards and Darlene Billick started the trip by heading to Kentucky. After they got a good night’s rest in a local hotel they were ready to start their life saving mission. They headed out to meet the fine folks at Morgan County West Virginia Animal Control, "Wags To Riches Rescue Inc." and Love of Paws **. Craig and Darlene loaded up 18 dogs amazing dogs who needed a second chance and headed back to Pittsburgh to meet a second team who would be taking some of these animals east.

After arriving at our office and unloading some of the animals a new team took over and departed. PAART Land Pilots Jim Moran and Candy Phillips took over and headed to Gettysburg, PA to meet Adams County SPCA *** and PA Boxer Rescue ****. After delivering their precious cargo they headed back to Pittsburgh. Two teams, 8 shelters, and loads of coordination all working in
tandem to help 18 dogs on their journey to a new life.

A big THANK YOU to Adams County SPCA, PA Boxer Rescue, Bridge To Home Animal Rescue ****** and Action For Animals Humane Society ******* for taking these animals and helping us bring them from danger to safety!

If you are interested in adopting any of these animals please read the post head over to the receiving shelters web pages for information on how to adopt.

* https://www.facebook.com/Morgan-County-West-Virginia-Animal-Control-
187168861451925/?_tn_=K-R&eid=ARDju-u-s0-0CwnHgPFkF77tJ6Oh9a1NhktIArVpgOk7QdEi9pCMG7QTedB1U7dyeoYGsM2VfKNd&fref=mentions

** https://www.facebook.com/WagsToRichesRescueInc/?_tn_=K-R&eid=ARAYmthJY-iA0032JswX2qVHmWPx9_yfR2M0YigBY9ugDeFrlm5HAcAmkJmdMrgmS91ySA3MPTn2AsC&fref=mentions

*** https://www.facebook.com/MaggiesAnimals/?_tn_=K-R&eid=ARBkftXNAavXiMOxCWBfB6yKT31yhxqNhu0oZGGe3cNx41uJKkA59bFGuhLPOmSm2pClG3RvUxF90i&fref=mentions

**** https://www.facebook.com/Adams-County-SPCA-89134924370/?_tn_=K-R&eid=ARBJdzTF6pTpaKkRpx1Xf1dJd77GBEWFvJHchnjZRKsGSlVeR2mLY-J5NYTnmx_omSt1nJWZixT1_X&fref=mentions

***** https://www.facebook.com/PABoxerRescue/?_tn_=K-R&eid=ARAEfNk4bcWMb7666DNPfiaOttSJCgJqiyOd1E2nMZ26tkUhztfMkhJSW26o8MoDt9Kg18C01TBgnV&fref=mentions

****** https://www.facebook.com/BridgeToHomeAnimalRescue/?_tn_=K-R&eid=ARBYtp10887C1OeCL2G0M2_JXNL-tUtmpSxG1fPoz-NDzNPp4KPuXawK8XsxSMGiyOSFRCJbWT-10&fref=mentions

******* https://www.facebook.com/ActionForAnimalsHS/?_tn_=K-R&eid=ARAZf2YBOcW14skzvwrbSPF76_nXHnjZQNhpG8cQk_pStkhgSltOAPMcj1fDLh4awb4d2jX7H6z&fref=mentions
Focus 2019

Focus Photos and Words from Gonzo’s Alan Dearling

http://www.focusheband.com/

In readiness for their 50th Anniversary, here's a selection of my photos of Dutch band, Focus, performing at Berwick's Radio Rooms, including one of Thijs with the Music Gallery's Brian Martin, who organised the gig, and plenty of the band in full flow, and some of the punters…

This was a gig with great sound quality. Intimate. The audience was real up-close to guys in the band and they were treated to a professional, but also exciting show.

Thijs van Leer on keys, flute and (sort of) vocals, and Pierre van der Linden on drums, are
original members of Focus. But the younger guys, Menno Gootjes (guitar) and Udo Pannekeet (on six string bass) are great performers too.

And they’ve been ably demonstrating that they function solidly together as a really well-oiled, precision musical unit.

In picture order, Menno, Udo, Thijs and Pierre.
This was a set mostly comprised of old favourites...Remember, ‘Sylvia’, ‘Hocus Pocus’ (theme of the 2010 World Cup) and ‘House of the King’ – quality prog rock with a jazz and classical tinge...
The inclusion of ‘Hocus Pocus’ in the Nike 2010 advert, ‘Write the Future’ led to the track actually going back into the UK singles chart, albeit at number 57 (it had originally reached number 4, back in 1972). Here’s the World Cup 2010 version: https://youtu.be/lSggaxXUS8k

But, on this tour, Focus are also promoting their new album, Focus 11, featuring artwork from Roger Dean. So, it was not just an ‘oldies but goldies’ setlist! Thijs has written the following about the new album:

“It has Mazzel, Palindrome and Heaven
Plus a title track called Eleven
Both angelic and a beast
It’s Focus, to say the least!”
It’s sad for Focus fans that Jan Akkerman, the legendary guitar maestro, is no longer playing alongside Thijs, but the current Focus is definitely not a tribute band. Indeed, it is a privilege to see Thijs still hitting the keys, careening the flute, and yes, even his yodelling! Meanwhile, Pierre is the epitome of smooth and wild, and we did get some majestic drum solos too. The two younger players are great to watch and they bring a drive and slightly punky edge to the Focus sound.

I enjoyed chatting with Thijs. He’s a real gentleman. I have some quite long-term connections with Amsterdam. Indeed, I was water-cannoned off the Dam way back in 1969, I think, just for being a hippy! We reminisced a bit about the days when the Provos and the Kabouters were busy creating politically inspired theatre happenings, the legendary ‘white bicycles’ and squats in Thijs’ home city. And, shared some memories of Dutch rock and pop bands such as Cuby and the Blizzards, Blue Diamonds, Herman Brood and His Wild Romance and Normaal.

Here’s my little video of Focus in Berwick performing ‘Sylvia’:

https://vimeo.com/367550543

And, from the proverbial Vaults: Thijs wrote ‘Sylvia’, and he jointly wrote ‘Hocus Pocus’ with Jan.

Here’s the medley of ‘Sylvia/Hocus Pocus’ from TV’s, the Old Grey Whistle Test 1972 (apparently re-mastered):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nO9OFxPpSYs

And finally, a few more pics from the Radio Rooms:

https://www.facebook.com/theradiorooms/
Expect the Unexpected!

‘An excursion to a strangely familiar place that you have never previously dreamed of.’ (Alan Moore, writer Jerusalem, From Hell)

‘Utterly beguiling and often unsettling... a tour de force of storytelling.’ (David Caddy, editor ‘Tears in the Fence’)

‘Within five minutes of picking the book up I was immediately entranced.’ (Jonathan Downes, editor ‘Gonzo Weekly’ magazine)

Readers’ comments:

‘Stories like dreams half remembered, tapping into a seam (or seeming) of the unconscious mind.’

‘A sanctuary, a haven, a totally immersive other world...’

‘A book to tickle and amaze, to ruffle and amuse and sometimes to raise the hairs on the back of your neck.’

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A wicked and erotic soundtrack!

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With Jeff Wayne and Kevin Peck

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to when everyone else was sick of listening to what was normally being played on the tour bus. With the mission identified, the guys set out to handpick the perfect musicians to share and fulfil that same vision...and it took them a few years. But eventually, they found Sharlee D’Angelo (bass, Arch Enemy, Spiritual Beggars and many others), Richard Larsson (keyboards), Jonas Källsbäck (drums) and Sebastian Forslund (guitar, percussion). The guys are now back with their fourth album, their second for Nuclear Blast, titled ‘Sometimes The World Ain’t Enough’. Perhaps it isn’t surprising that they haven’t released more during the time they have been together, given that both Soilwork and Arch Enemy are very much in demand, but for anyone who has yet to come across NFO they will be amazed at just how good this is.

It is albums like this that makes one realise that all the other melodic hard rock albums that have been released recently may sound really good, but pale into comparison against something like...
aggressive mix of Thrash, Groove and Extreme Metal with a touch of Southern Rock, with influences ranging from Pantera to Nirvana to Eyehategod, and everything in between. They have only been together since 2016, but have already shared the stage with Death Angel, Soulfly, Nile, Rotting Christ, LA Guns, Kyng, Lord Dying and many more. This seven-track album comes in at a little more than 31 minutes long, and includes a cover of Danzig’s “How The Gods Kill”. The production and music is somewhat bleak in its approach, and songs such as “Morning Star” show that they have also been heavily influenced by Korn and Killing Joke, moving between low key and emotional music into something that is far more nihilistic and abrasive.

For the most part this is music that is designed to get a reaction, and that they move between very different styles is a credit to them, although there is also the feeling that although broad, there is little in terms of depth to what they are doing. There is a punk and hardcore attitude to this, low key and lo-fi, with a singer who appears happiest shouting his guts out, but without enough power and tonal control to make it interesting. Overall, it’s not a bad debut, and I am sure that they have an audience in their hometown of El Paso, but I can’t see this setting the world on fire.
Prime.

Other highlights that must be mentioned include Tír na nÓg, with “I Pick Up Birds At Funerals”. These guys have had a chequered career to say the least, but their first albums from the early Seventies are indispensable, and this progressive folk psych number shows that they have lost none of their immediacy and passion. White Sails need to be held up for covering Black Sabbath’s “Fluff”, the acoustic number from the mighty ‘Sabbath Bloody Sabbath’ and certainly not a number that many would think of to pick. I am also incredibly enamoured of Hills Have Riffs and “Down By The River”, as I’ve never heard anyone else capture the really early sound of Jethro Tull like this. Psychedelic bluesy whimsy, this is incredible. I was soon realising that each and every song was important in its own way, introducing me to songs I hadn’t come across before, or covers that were taking songs I knew into different areas, often by bands I didn’t know even existed.

While The Pretty Things are a known entity, I was actually more impressed by the likes of The Honey Pot and “Dr. Crippen’s Meeting Room” which is a psychedelic masterpiece. But, one that really made me smile is one of the songs that are on the single, namely “White Horses”. This was originally the theme music to a Sixties Yugoslav-German co-production about a teenage girl’s equine adventures, called ‘White Horses’, which was dubbed into English and screened on BBC One. In 2003 it was voted the greatest theme music of all time, but it never sounded quite like this.

Overall, this is an amazing album, one that has introduced me to so much great
programming). There are also some special guests, including Mauro Pagani, a founder member of PFM who appeared on their first albums before leaving in 1977.

I am guessing that Mauro provides violin, the instrument for which he is best known, but he is more important in having his name connected with this release as opposed to the music he provides on it, as that PFM link is going to get a great deal of people interested – and to be honest it was the reason I listened to this in the first place. But, I am glad that I did as here in an Italian progressive rock band that is using the sounds that one would expect from a band from that country playing this style of music, but also has been brought up to date so while many may expect this to be RPI, there are also elements of neo-prog, hard prog and crossover which make this an incredibly interesting and accessible album on the very first hearing. All lyrics are in Italian, so with harmonies, so I treat the vocals as part of the overall sound, and to my ears it all comes together very well indeed.

If this album had been released on one of the “usual” progressive labels then I am sure that we will have been hearing a great deal more about it, but as it is more “reviews” just seem to mention that it has been released and that it features Pagani. But, this is an accessible progressive rock album with a series of short and direct songs that allows the musicians just enough to room to display their skills without it ever becoming one long solo-fest after another. Two numbers manage to just break the seven minute barrier, but most are around the five-minute mark, and while the keyboards often use keyboard or mellotron sounds they are never filling...
the sound and there is always plenty of room for the guitar to be heard as well. There are musical layers upon layers, complex, often staccato and disjointed, all coming together in a strange mix where the drums are too far to the front. That is my only complaint on what is generally very strong production indeed, so that is an obvious choice as opposed to any failing. This really isn’t my style of music though, but for anyone who is intrigued by the idea of David Byrne being involved with Zappa (in particular) then I do urge you to seek this one out, even though it is not for me. It has been released by Melodic Revolution Records on vinyl as well as CD and digitally.

https://jolly-roger-records.bandcamp.com/album/arca-progjet-arca-progjet

BABAL
THE CIRCLE OF CONFUSION OF TONGUES
MELODIC REVOLUTION

This is the fourth album by UK art rock/psych/prog outfit Babal. The band is based around the core of singer Karen Langley and Rob Williams (guitars), with Jon Sharp (drums), Zoie Green (keyboards) and Ben Balsom (bass), and to be honest, I don’t like it very much at all. But, I can appreciate it, and that’s a difference. While I can’t see myself ever playing this for pleasure, I can totally understand why a great many will be fascinated by this weird amalgam of Frank Zappa, Bill Nelson and Talking Heads (plus lots more). I’ve never understood the fascination with David Byrne, but as soon as I started listening to this I was reminded immediately of him, and would have been surprised if I hadn’t come across him in relation to these guys, and wasn’t disappointed. There are musical layers upon layers, complex, often staccato and disjointed, all coming together in a strange mix where the drums are too far to the front. That is my only complaint on what is generally very strong production indeed, so that is an obvious choice as opposed to any failing. This really isn’t my style of music though, but for anyone who is intrigued by the idea of David Byrne being involved with Zappa (in particular) then I do urge you to seek this one out, even though it is not for me. It has been released by Melodic Revolution Records on vinyl as well as CD and digitally.

https://babal.bandcamp.com/album/the-circle-of-confusion-of-tongues

BLÅ LOTUS
TUBE ALLOYS
MELODIC REVOLUTION RECORDS

As soon as I started playing this I was taken back more than 20 years to two albums released on the long-lost Ad Perpetuum Memoria label by a band called Death Organ. Led by keyboardist Per Wiberg (Opeth, Spiritual Beggars), their music was a strange mix of death metal and prog, and notably contained no guitars. I wonder if these guys have
come across them, as yet again we have a band producing heavy music, with no guitars involved. Actually, their motto is, “No six-strings allowed,” and they create a soundscape equipped with just bass, drums and Hammond organ and a vast array of lengthy jam-based compositions interspersed with heavy stoner-like riffs.

The trio of Fredrik Andersson (Hammond and Farfisa Organ, Mellotron, synthesizer, electric piano, flute and vocals), Linus Karlsson (bass, Theremin, sound effects) and Wiktor Nydén (drums) have taken Atomic Rooster as a starting point and have then moved on from there. I was fortunate enough to see Vincent Crane, John Du Cann and Paul Hammond (all three now sadly deceased) some 35 years ago, and the power they were putting out onstage, without a bass, was quite incredible, and here Blå Lotus are doing the same without guitar. With a very heavy use of Hammond, their sound is strongly rooted in the early Seventies, and they move between extended instrumentals and vocals with ease. That this is a great album is never in doubt, and it is incredible to think that they came together in Autumn of 2016, and recorded this album in April the following year, as they sound as if they have been bouncing ideas off each other for years. Now if only Per Wiberg would reform Death Angel, and the two bands went out on the road together, that would be something well worth seeing. If you have ever enjoyed the sound of a Hammond Organ in the hands of someone who knows what they are doing, then this is essential.


Kev is a self-confessed music addict who has been toiling in the rock and roll vineyard for many years, and Gonzo are chuffed to bits to be publishing his remarkable series of books which disprove any suggestion that prog died with the advent of punk...
The Complete Gospels

The Gospels evolved because Rick Wakeman was asked to perform at an organ recital to raise money for the Camberley United Reform Church, which was in desperate need of a new organ. Rick pondered what to play and the more he thought about it and what the evening should mean, the more he felt that something very special was about to take place.

Thoughts of the New Testament kept creeping into his mind and he decided to write an instrumental piece to the settings of the four Gospels. He began working but after a couple of hours realised that there was no way he was going to get across the feelings he wished to portray without singing. The music seemed to cry out for an operatic tenor.

Amazingly enough, just a few weeks earlier, Rick had met the famous tenor Ramon Remedios at a charity concert in which they both performed and he plucked up courage to ask him if he would kindly agree to perform the New Gospels with him. The concert was a tremendous success and Ramon's feeling and understanding of the music moved many people to tears.

The complete Gospels is a limited edition box set containing all the known recordings of the project both audio and visual. Along with a reproduction A4 x 12 page concert program.

Special Limited Edition Boxset containing
Signed by Rick Wakeman and numbered certificates.
DVD containing over 2 hours of footage including an in depth interview with Rick about the project.
Double CD 1, The Original Gospels - with Robert Powell as the Narrator.
Double CD2, The New Gospels
DVD / CD of The Gospels performed live in California – never seen before.
Reproduction A4 x 12 page concert program.

The Rainbow Suite

This is a brand new orchestral piece written and performed by Rick Wakeman and the Orion Orchestra. This is a specially written piece of therapeutic music designed for people with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder to enjoy as well aficionados of good quality instrumental music.
This is Rick and Orchestra at their finest !!!

Available to pre-order from www.rickwakemansmusicemporium.com
This is the most important moment in history to do something for African elephants. Because it's the worst time in history to be an elephant.

In 1980 there were 1.2 million elephants in Africa. Now there are just 430,000 and 20,000 were killed last year alone to fuel soaring demand for ivory. About one every 20 minutes.

That's why The Nature Conservancy has teamed up with music industry icon Martin Guitar on #SaveElephants -- a movement to provide people with simple actions to help elephants that will add up to make a difference.

Martin Guitar has been a leader in elephant protection since the 1970s when the company made the decision to stop using ivory on its guitars and started to phase the material from its supply chain. As the founding sponsor of #SaveElephants, Martin has donated five custom elephant-themed guitars for raising funds.

#SaveElephants is part of a partnership between the Conservancy's programs in Africa and China to increase wildlife security, expand habitat, reduce demand, and reduce poverty and instability in places where elephants range -- the root cause of poaching.

Ultimately, this is bigger than elephants. Poaching spreads crime and instability, threatening lives and tourism-based income that's desperately needed by the people who live among elephants.

We have to do more. That's why we're thrilled to be working with Martin Guitar -- and with you. Together, we're powerful.

Asante sana (thank you very much),

David Banks
Director, Africa Region
The Nature Conservancy

p.s. Start helping elephants today at nature.org/elephants and follow us on Instagram, Facebook or Twitter to get action alerts.
The most annoying word for me currently is JUST.

- I parked my car in the disabled parking space for just a minute.
I just smoked the one joint before I drove my car.

It was just a couple of drinks before the accident officer.

I failed the exam but why can't they just give me an extra mark or two?

It was just the one bit of the test I copied so can I still get a pass?

I just took a pound or two from the petty cash so why make such a big deal?

These are just a few examples of what's gone wrong with our society. We appear to have lost our moral compass. None of us are perfect, least of all me. However I do know the difference between right and wrong which renders me as a sometimes immoral person trying very hard to be moral. All of the examples above depict the amorality of modern life. When our fellow citizens behave as if they don't know or care about the difference.

The fit person who parks in a disabled parking space simply doesn't care whether or not a genuinely handicapped driver needs that space. I must admit that I once made a citizen's arrest when a serial offender committed this offense in front of me and I followed him into the shop he'd walked into. I asked him whether he was disabled and he told me," I'm just picking up some shopping I'll only be a few minutes." I tried to explain the reason for disabled parking spaces but he was abusive so I arrested him. Of course it's not a major crime but when we lose sight of the little pieces and laws and rules we are on a slippery slope.

The same applies to the rules of law when applied to minor thefts. Yes, it's plainly less money involved when someone takes one pound from you rather than a million pounds but the crime is precisely the same.

When I worked as a university lecturer there were many instances of students trying to bend the rules, some beyond breaking point. This didn't stop with students as I witnessed when working as an External Examiner and various related capacities that some faculty members were massaging their student's results to enable them to appear as if their cohort had all passed various sections of their courses when the truth was that they'd not done so.

This lack of honesty and civility is also evident when you watch our politicians debate. When I was in a debating society at school we were taught two things of paramount importance. The first was that every so often we had to argue for the other side so we could learn the merits of the other side's point of view. Secondly we were instructed to attack the arguments of the other side not to attack the personalities on the other side.

Another element of our societal breakdown is the abuse and trolling on social media. It has become an acceptable norm for people hiding behind a social media curtain to hurl vitriol and violent threats, particularly at women. We should all be calling out these abusers when they're caught and their punishment should be severe.

It's time we re-established that there is a right way to behave and not to do so should be considered totally unacceptable. Only then will we begin to reclaim some of the elements of our country that we once enjoyed.
As regular readers of these pages will probably know I have a strange, disparate, and diverse collection of friends, relatives, and associates, many of whom who are extraordinarily creative in one way or another. And as my plan was always to make this magazine the sort of magazine that I would want to read, many of them turn up in these pages with monotonous regularity. Meet Mr Biffo.

From 1993 for a decade he was the editor of an anarchic video games magazine on Channel Four Teletext. It was called Digitiser and contained some of the most gloriously funny bits of off the wall dicking about that I have ever read. Biffo happens to be a friend of mine and as the re-launched Digitiser2000 is just as stupid and just as funny as ever, we shall be featuring a slice of Biffo every week from now on.

This very special visit to the Digi Lab sees Biffo, Gannon and Ashens attempting to make elephant’s toothpaste, and introduces an experimental new character to the show - Beanus!

Subscribe for regular videos, and support Digitiser on Patreon: https://www.patreon.com/digitiser2000

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Now recognised as the leading online magazine of its type, Phenomena Magazine is a FREE magazine from Manchester’s Association of Paranormal Investigation and Training. (MAPIT)

Recognised as the leading online magazine of its type, now distributed worldwide, 'Phenomena Magazine' is a FREE monthly publication. Phenomena looks into the whole realm of the Strange, Profound, Unknown and Unexplained, delving into subjects of the Paranormal, Ufological, Cryptozoological, Parapsychological, Earth Mysteries, Supernatural and Fortean Events. Guest writers along with reviews of books, movies and documentaries add to the content as does recent news from around the world. Phenomena Magazine can be downloaded from our site every month for FREE in PDF Format.

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FREE!
It’s that time of years again folks. The clocks have gone back, it’s dark by five in the evening, and there’s a smell of decomposition in the air.

Meanwhile the mushrooms are sprouting, the veil between the worlds has lifted and there are spirits roaming amongst us.

Last Thursday was Halloween.

That’s Samhain in the Celtic calendar. Friday is the Day of the Dead. It’s the time when we remember all those who have passed over into whatever lies beyond this life.

Whether you believe in spirits or not isn’t important. What we are remembering is our own mortality. By honouring the dead we are paying attention to the fact that we are alive, and that life is rare and precious.

One of the news stories this week was about the fact that there is fruit being left on the trees because Eastern Europeans aren’t picking the harvest due to Brexit uncertainty.

According to the Grocer magazine, there are 1,500 unfilled vacancies on British farms.

It’s not that many years ago that most seasonal farm work was done by British labour on a casual basis. I used to do it. Most of the people I knew did it. It’s good work, cash in hand, with lots of benefits. Up bright and early, in the fresh air, it connects you to
the land and to the season in a way no other job can.

Traditionally it was done by women for pin money. Or it was done by students, or people on the dole. You didn’t have to give your National Insurance number. It was piecework, meaning the faster you worked the more you earned, but you could go at whatever rate you chose.

You were paid on a daily basis. If it rained you didn’t get paid. I was a single parent at the time, on benefits, so the money came in useful.

They started busing Eastern Europeans in sometime in the early 2000s at around the same time the government started demanding that employers took a record of National Insurance numbers.

I wrote an article in the Big Issue about it at the time. I interviewed a local farmer. He said, “the Eastern Europeans are better pickers. They pick more fruit, they work longer hours and – I have to admit – sometimes we pay them a little less.” This was in 2003. There still were English workers doing it back then. Since then the Eastern Europeans have taken over and almost no one doing seasonal work is British any more.

This is because it’s no longer casual. You have to declare your income. If you are on benefits you will lose them and it may take months to reinstate them once the work is over.

This seems absurd to me. Why can’t people earn a little extra to top up their meagre income?

Corporations like Amazon and Google get away with billions in unpaid taxes.

As always it’s one law for the rich, and another for the rest of us.
Housing Benefit Hill:
http://www.amazon.co.uk/Housing-Benefit-Hill-Other-Places/dp/190259343X

The Trials of Arthur:
http://www.amazon.co.uk/Trials-Arthur-Revised-Ronald-Hutton/dp/0956416314/

Fierce Dancing:
http://www.amazon.co.uk/Fierce-Dancing-Underground-C-J-Stone/dp/0571176305/

The Last of the Hippies:
http://www.amazon.co.uk/Last-Hippies-C-J-Stone/dp/0571193137/
The Masters of the Universe do seem to have a steady stream of interesting stories featuring them, their various friends and relations, and alumni. Each issue Graham Inglis keeps us up to date with the latest news from the Hawkverse..

The new Hawkwind album 'All Aboard the Skylark' has charted at number 34 in the Official UK Charts - interestingly, the same debut position that 'Into the Woods' achieved in 2017.

It has garnered favourable reviews in the music press, too - a selection of which are:

This is no means a case of
Brock and co serving up space rock comfort food to the faithful. But at the same time the final, nine-minute The Fantasy Of Faldum would be welcomed onto any Hawkwind album of the last 40 years. - Classic Rock Magazine.

If Skylark doesn’t break new ground, who cares? At this point, it’s clear that Hawkwind don’t need to. The great news is that Brock’s musical vision is unimpaired, and the rest of the band work seamlessly to deliver it.

Skylark pretty much has it all. The album begins with Flesh Fondue, a
characteristically gruesome-funny tale of space aliens feasting on the flesh of those they colonise. Last remaining original member Dave Brock serves up a typical slice of tripped-out guitar and laconic vocals, while Richard Chadwick clatters out a drum groove. This is followed up with Nets Of Space, which takes the album ever further towards the territory the Hawks so memorably defined on albums such as In Search Of Space.

- Louder.

Meanwhile, Afterword similarly greets the album warmly, saying:

Hawkwind go on knowingly playing to their reputation, fans, and talents via "65 Million years ago", a piece about the asteroid that fell into the Gulf of Mexico and, via climate change, killed off the dinosaurs, a good Hawkwind topic, i'm sure you'll agree. Declamatory descriptive vocals,
wah-wah guitar, sweeping synths, an apocalyptic theme: THIS is what we want! The album ends with “The Fantasy of Faldum”. Hawkwind’s Moorcock connection means sword n’ sorcery is also part of their mix. This starts off quite strummy and mellow, but when a track is 9 minutes long, you know THAT won’t last. More acme guitar parts and synth that shifts into a spacey section then a big theme, gradually returning to the beginning movement. Pretty proggy for Hawkwind, but given their technique, is such it is better thought of as garage prog.

At over nine minutes, “The Fantasy of Faldum” is the album’s statement piece. Before you roll your eyes over the sword and sorcery imagery, the whooshing keyboards and the weird, bleeping and blooping, remember – Hawkwind invented that. The tune could have overbalanced and tipped into self-parody, but there’s enough forward motion to keep it interesting. It’s the perfect closer for a genuinely great record. - PopMatters.

Fifty years after they started, Hawkwind are still touring, and are still in search of space.

CHECK OUT HAWKWIND AT GONZO
Hawkwind Earth Visitors Passport - The "Hawkwind Passport"

The stated aim is that Hawkwind fans can have access to special Hawkwind events such as Hawkfest, to obtain limited DVDs and CDs of unreleased material and to attend private Hawkwind parties. So far, six Hawkfests (outdoor festivals), five Hawkeasters, and some other events such as Rock for Rescue have been on the gigs list.

The application form is available via Hawkwind.com and needs to be filled out and physically posted off to Mission Control with two passport sized photographs and a stamped addressed envelope.
The Song of PANNE
Being Mainly About Elephants
JONATHAN DOWNES
Martin Springett was born in Crayford, Kent, England, in 1947. He studied art (that is he learned to play the Guitar) for two semesters at the Brassey School of Art in Hastings, Sussex. He emigrated to the West Coast of Canada in 1965, but returned to the UK in 1973 to pursue music in various bands. He spent time in Germany, and toured through Europe.

While in London Martin started to illustrate and design record covers for Columbia records. Upon his return to Vancouver, Martin carried on with music and illustrated various books and magazines. In 1978 he moved to Toronto, maintaining activity in every area where illustration is required. He released his own album, "The Gardening Club", in 1983.

In 1984 Martin was commissioned to illustrate the cover of "The Summer Tree" by Guy Gavriel Kay. This and the subsequent volumes of The Fionavar Tapestry Trilogy were published around the world along with Martin's covers. Martin continued his work in fantasy illustration, illustrating many covers for fantasy novels, including "The Traveller In Black" by John Brunner. In 1990 he illustrated his first children's book, "Mei Ming and the Dragon's Daughter" written by Lydia Bailey. Martin has just finished illustrating his sixth children's book, called "The Follower" by Richard Thompson. He has been nominated for various awards, including the Governor Generals Award For Illustration. He has won the Aurora Award For Excellence in Fantasy Art, and two Silver Awards from the Art Directors Club of Toronto and Best Classical Record Cover of The Year Award (UK).

Martin still pursues the Musical Muse, recently producing a new CD, "Blue Evening" with his band "FREEFALL", an independent, instrumental album called "Rough Magic"; a collection of explorations on the guitar, and a collection of tunes inspired by the writings of Guy Gavriel Kay called "Bright Weaving".

www.martinspringett.com/

https://spacewreckrecords.bandcamp.com
Rob Ayling writes:

"Thom the World poet is an old mate of mine from way back in my history. Even pre-dating Voiceprint, when I was running "Otter Songs" and Tom’s poetry tapes and guest appearances with Daevid Allen, Gilli Smyth Mother Gong are well known and highly regarded. It just felt right to include a daily poem from Thom on our Gonzo blog and when I approached him to do so, he replied with in seconds!!! Thom is a great talent and just wants to spread poetry, light and positive energy across the globe. If we at Gonzo can help him do that - why not? why not indeed!!"

URGENT: Call to Action to Protect Our Springs!

WE DID POETRY IN JACOBS WELL
by full moon light, with musicians present
It was wondrous and magical, unique and revelatory
and photographs record this dream journey
And waters rise from the earth, to kiss rocks
that enfold them as they unfold in Cypress Creek
become Blue Hole, and water supply for Wimberley
To be spring-fed is a Gaia gift. These waters rise
and we are tempted to dive in. And we do-
but unique as these waters are - they are also threatened-
by over-use and cyclic drought / by pipelines and golf courses
and all who would take but not replenish. Water is a gift -
but it is priceless. Replenish the Guardians of your Hill Country Waters... !
enormous numbers of books that can either be borrowed or downloaded, and, since discovering it, I have been like a pig in a brand new luxuriant mud-bath.

And, gentle reader, if you will forgive me once again saying that — “as regular readers of my blah blah blah will be aware” — regular readers of this stuff will be aware that in recent months, life has not exactly been stress free here in the Downes family, and so, as a result, I have been cheerfully working my way through large amounts of relatively light-hearted reading material which I am downloading/borrowing from the Internet Archive.

I am not going to use the oft-mentioned line about regular readers for a fourth time, but in a recent issue of this magazine, in the ongoing serial about my childhood in Hong Kong - which I will eventually be publishing in book form – I described how, at the age of eleven, I went to hospital for a series of serious operations on my legs, and furthermore I went on to describe how my mother amused the convalescing eleven year old me by reading stories, and how, amongst the stories that she read me, were some of the light-hearted Georgian and Regency stories by Georgette Heyer.

I have had a tendency to return to these comforting stories of my childhood — literary pabulum, if you like — in times of stress, and so, with my life being immeasurably complicated at the moment, it will probably not surprise anyone to find that, instead of anything massively intellectually stimulating, I have...
been working my way through whatever books of Georgette Heyer I can find for free on www.archive.org, and jolly good fun I find that they are. And, surprisingly, I’m enjoying them more as an old git of sixty than I did as a young whippersnapper.

But, I still have an enquiring mind. And, I have become mildly intrigued with the woman who wrote these books. And, so, when I found that the only biography of Ms. Heyer - or at least the only one I could find for free – had been written by Joan Aiken’s elder sister, I felt more than inclined to read it.

I know that I am being unfair in not comparing like with like, and comparing a work of analytic non-fiction by Jane Aiken Hodge with novels – both adult and young adult – by her younger sister. I suppose at some point I should really try to find out whether Joan Aiken wrote any fiction in order to apply the true scientific method to my investigations into the Aiken family writings, but it is not something that worries me over much.

At least within this volume, Jane Aiken Hodge has nowhere approaching the deftness in wordsmithery displayed by her younger sister. She writes well enough, and tells the story in a perfectly serviceable manner, but she lacks the gift that her younger sister has for engaging wordplay that immediately draws the reader in to an irresistible world that she has created.

However, the more that I read about Georgette Heyer, the more impressed I was. As one of my major income streams is from writing about artists, whether they are musicians, authors, painters, or whatever, I found the story of this remarkable lady quite intriguing. For, when she published her second book, These Old Shades, concurrently with the great general strike in 1926, and sold 190,000 copies, with absolutely no newspaper coverage, reviews or advertising, she then decided that she was never going to do any publicity, ever again. She never gave any interviews, or
made public appearances, and once wrote to a friend that: “As for being photographed at Work or in my Old World Garden, that is the type of publicity that I find nauseating and quite unnecessary. My private life concerns no-one but myself and my family.”

Indeed, it wasn’t until after her death in 1974 that her married name (Georgette Rougier) was revealed to the public at large. Over the years, she had been cajoled into having occasional publicity shots done, but in each of these photographs she looks stiff, awkward, and often glowered at the camera with barely concealed malevolence. To compare these formal photographs with the family snapshots which can be found within this book is an extraordinary experience; they almost look as if they are of two totally different women. Georgette Rougier, wife and mother of one very eminent son, looks like a much nicer woman than the acclaimed author who has given me, and my mother before me, so much pleasure. Although my mother was only three when Ms. Heyer published *These Old Shades*, she started reading these books somewhere in her teens, and continued so to do for the rest of her life until her death in 2002. I, as I have said, picked up the mantle aged eleven, in 1971, and I am still reading them now aged sixty, as a bad tempered old curmudgeon, and loving grandfather.

I think one of the things that makes Georgette Heyer’s books work so well, nearly a century after some of them were written, and over two hundred years since they were set, is the fact that the historical accuracy is never short of meticulous. Indeed, when I have been reading academic books about the same era, something which I have done for various reasons - mostly professional - over the years, I have been amazed to find how well they mesh in with the fictional world of Regency England that I have become so familiar with from Heyer’s writings. I know that that is a bit ‘Backsy’vore’ (as they say in Devonshire) and I really should be comparing the fictional world of these delightful novels with the ‘real’ world that I have read about in biographies of eminent naturalists of the time, but – for me – it will always be the other way around. I first inhabited this delightful universe back in 1971, and have been back there often enough in the intervening years that it is more familiar to me than even parts of what we like to call the ‘real’ world of 2019. I could go on about Robert Anton Wilson, Timothy Leary and ‘reality tunnels’ ‘til the cows come home, but it somehow seems indecent to mention Georgette Heyer and Psilocybin in the same passages of writings.

This book gives us a valuable glimpse into the mind-set of this remarkable authoress. And, now I have had the chance to examine my thoughts on the matter, I think that the main reason why I found Jane Aiken Hodge’s prose to be a little lacklustre is that, compared to the immortal writings of Georgette Heyer, how could it be anything else?
Stray into the woods and forests and you will enter into another world; a world of creatures that live by their own rules, protect their own kind with fierceness, and view all strangers who venture under the protective boughs with deep suspicion. Tread the forest floor with care, for this is also the home of the hairy man - the wildman of the woods. Is he a man? Is he a beast? Is he something in between? Whatever he is, he is spoken about by humans in hushed voices. They are scared of him and they tell tales of him to their children to scare them from entering the hushed darkness of the tree kingdoms. They call him many names; the woodwose, the wudawasa, the wodwos amongst them. The bane of a high-born daughter takes her unintentionally through such a forest on her last journey as a single woman to wed the man of her father's choice. Imposters from another land tramp through such a forest on a mission of their own, killing everything that comes across their path. The lives of some of the creatures that dwell in this place become unavoidably entwined with both these trespassers. The lives of some will change. Some will cease completely.
"Ev’rywhere I hear the sound of marching charging feet, boy"

http://www.zazzle.co.uk/streetfightingshirts

Auld Man's Baccie

Resonating with the Blues
There are nine Henrys, purported to be the world’s first cloned cartoon character. They live in a strange lo-fi domestic surrealist world peopled by talking rock buns and elephants on wobbly stilts. They mooch around in their minimalist universe suffering from an existential crisis with some genetically modified humour thrown in. I think Peter McAdam is one of the funniest people around, and I cannot recommend his book The Nine Henrys highly enough. Check it out at Amazon. Each issue we shall be running a series of Henrybits that are not found in his book about the nine cloned cartoon characters who inhabit a surreal world nearly as insane as mine...
This book is an erudite catalogue of some of the most peculiar records ever made. The authors have lined up, described and put into context 500 "albums" in the expectation that those of you who can't help yourselves when it comes to finding and collecting music will benefit from these efforts in two ways.

- Firstly, you'll know you are not alone.
- Secondly, we hope that some of the work leads you to new discoveries, and makes your life slightly better as a result.

Each issue we are featuring one of these remarkable and peculiar records in a crass attempt to flog you the book.

Vincent Gallo: When (Warp, 2001)
What? Moody and mellow full-length solo debut from actor, director and alternative polymath.

Gallo remains much better known for acting, writing and directing movies than for a music career that has seen membership of several bands, helming soundtracks to movies and involvement in a range of other projects. When and Warp records are a perfect fit. The label that launched The Aphex Twin appears a fitting home for music that is inescapably alternative, influenced by dance and still very much in its own world. Half of When's ten tracks are instrumental within which we find instruments in stark isolation, stop-start beginnings and a slow, brooding, moodiness to offset the simplicity. Nothing here is hard to access, most of what’s on offer is hard to grasp. The five vocal cuts sound like Gallo cut them with the levels very high and his lips almost brushing the mic. He sings gently, thoughtfully and with a conversational tone to the point that in songs like “Honey Bunny” some lines fall away, almost, into conversation. Solo instrumental breaks offer up the simplest melodies with the shifting but very sparing layers of keyboard and guitar underneath bringing in some counterpoint, though Gallo is frequently happy to let the message be carried when every instrument but one stops, the songs simply fade etc.

There are nods to the most introspective ends of indie and alternative rock and enough sense of the ambient production sounds that made Warp one of the hottest labels for dance music with cross over potential. When blends all of these elements behind the strong sense of Gallo’s personality and Gallo’s thoughts, producing a vulnerable, intimate, apparently simple, but haunting collection that sounds – sometimes – like home demos tidied up, but still works its charm in an effortless way.
Gregg Kofi Brown has transcended many genres of music...

Rock ‘n’ Roll and UFOs is an anthology of music from Gregg Kofi Brown’s career and contains previous unreleased songs, remixes and demos, with many guest musicians and artists such as Sting guitarist Dominic Miller, Bomb da Bass, Osibisa, the cast of the Who’s Tommy, The Chimes’ Pauline Henry, the Who’s former keyboard guru John Rabbit Bundrick and Seal guitarist Gus Isidore.

The CD is a companion to Gregg Kofi Brown’s autobiography of the same name which covers his early career in Los Angeles and London. From his first pro tour with Joe Cocker and Eric Burdon to close encounters of a third kind in a California desert and his adventures touring the world with African rock pioneers Osibisa. His journey includes starring in hit west end productions in London, recording and touring with infamous rock bands like Hanoi Rocks and the Members.

His first tour in Gambia and Senegal West Africa supporting African superstar Youssou N’Dour is well documented, as is his work in the African and West Indian music scene in the UK.

The last few years has seen Kofi perform with Damon Albarn’s African Express and collaborate live with Amadou & Mariam featuring Beth Orton.

CD and book available soon from Gonzo Multimedia

www.gonzomultimedia.co.uk
Mark has a podcast: The Holsworthy Mark Show podbean. He says that it is a show "in which I talk about news myself, and do interviews. I sent it up as I found video a bit hard. I just hope people like and support and if anyone wants to be part of it or if come along for the ride they are welcome".

PS shows can be downloaded

http://maraines88.podbean.com/
I will be writing more about this at some length, maybe even in my editorial for the next issue, but much to my great surprise, the new TV series *Watchmen*, set 34 years after the events in the original Moore/Gibbons comic series, but in the same universe with many of the same characters, is excellent.

I liked the movie, but was always secretly dissatisfied by the lack of emotional resonance. But the new series, despite being set in Oklahoma with a whole bunch of new characters, is tremendous. Even Corinna, who disliked the movie and has never read the book, is impressed. After the mess that the TV folk made of *Preacher*, I was not looking forward to *Watchmen*, and had already started composing a negative and arsy review before I even switched it on, but I am very glad to say that I was completely wrong.

British readers can see it on NowTV.

Thank you to all of you who have sent prayers and best wishes for Mother and Corinna. I truly appreciate it.

Hare bol
Jon
Twice the Music... For a Great Price!

Gonzo are offering limited edition twin CD sets from our vaults. Each includes two full CDs at a bargain price, so why not treat yourself to a musical treat (or two) today?

Legendary Gigs Vol 1+2
From the Vaults Vol 1+2
The Classic Albums
Heroes of Psychedelic Rock Vol 1+2
The Classic Albums
Jazz Master's Vol 1-4
The Classic Albums Vol 1
Legendary gigs Vol 1
Jazz Master's Vol 1
Live and Studio
Legendary gigs Vol 1
The Classic Albums
The Classic Albums Vol 1
The Early Years Vol 1
American Folk Revival Legends Vol 1

Arthur Brown
Captain Beefheart
Gregg Kofi Brown
Man
Michael Bruce
Sun Ra
Albert Lee
The Selecter
Art Pepper
Atomic Rooster
Billy Cobham
Hookfoot
Al Atkins
The Beach Boys
Pete Seeger

We'll be adding more twin titles over the coming months, check the sites below for details

Gonzo

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Weekly magazine: www.gonzoweekly.com