Gonzo Weekly #76

EXCLUSIVE: Rick Wakeman at the Royal Albert Hall

EXCLUSIVE: Keith Levene interview

EXCLUSIVE: PFM Interview

EXCLUSIVE: David Jackson and René van Commenée interview

EXCLUSIVE: The story of Xtol

THE CAPED CRUSADER
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,

This week has seen one of the most magickal days of the entire year; Bealtaine. It was my old friend Tony ‘Doc’ Shiels who first told me about the magickal days of the Celtic calendar and although I was brought up Church of England and I am still broadly a Christian to this day, living in the country means that you are more in tune with the natural rhythms of the earth and the world around you.

What’s this got to do with music, I hear you ask?

Really, that’s a bloody stupid question. It’s got everything to do with music. Ever since before the human race was the human race music has been an integral part of human culture and human magickal ritual, and although in my day job I am a scientist of sorts, I do believe in magick and I do believe that it is important to allow the natural magick of the world around us into our lives even though we live in a largely urbanised, largely indoor and largely secular existence.

To deny the more esoteric parts of the human experience is to deny an important part of what being a human being is all about. It is one of the more irritating things about our imperialistic and oddly unlikeable species that we also like to think – or at least claim – that there are no mysteries left; that we know everything about the omniverse. Well we don’t. Far from it.

We know more about the surface of the moon than the beds of the deepest parts of the oceans, and when it comes to life’s great mysteries, we don’t really know much more than did our ancestors five decades ago. To
I love living in the country, and although – in the same way that I don’t believe in the deity as being an old geezer with a handful of thunderbolts – I don’t believe in the Earth Mother has being a plump and fecund lady of a certain age.

But I do believe in the spirits of the earth, and I do believe that the earth should be venerated, and above all I believe that people should mark the changing of the seasons by showing reverence to the world around us, if only to distance ourselves from the iconoclastic scum who would do their best to destroy everything that we hold dear, and the very planet which gave us life, in a Gadarene pursuit of money.

This is why I am writing this editorial and furthermore this is why on the day after this issue of Gonzo weekly comes out I will have a garden full of druids drinking my wine and eating my wife’s delicious cake.

Bealtaine blessings to you all.
THE GONZO WEEKLY
all the gonzo news that’s fit to print
Issue Seventy-five    April 26th

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)
Bart Lancia,
(My favourite roving reporter)
Thom the World Poet,
(Bard in residence)
C.J. Stone,
(Columnist, commentator and all round good egg)
Kev Rowland,
(Kiwi Reviewer)
Lesley Madigan,
(Photographer par excellence)
Douglas Harr,
(Staff writer, columnist)
Jessica Taylor,
(PA and laughing at drunk pop stars)

Richard Freeman,
(Scary stuff)
Dave McMann,
(He ain’t nothing but a) Newshound-dog
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, Bideford, North Devon EX39 5QR

Telephone 01237 431413
Fax +44 (0)7006-074-925
You will have certainly noticed that it has all changed. In fact there is no certainly about it. But if you haven't noticed I would like to know what you have been smoking, and can I have a large packet of it please.

Yes. It has indeed all changed. Basically I have been wanting to upgrade the visuals of the magazine for some time, but now the technology to do what I have wanted to do for yonks has finally become within our budget (i.e. free) and we are going to give it a go.

If things don't work out we can still go back to the previous method of putting the magazine together, and we shall still be utilising those jolly nice fellows at MailChimp in order to send out the subscriber notifications.

In fact, now is an even better time than usual to subscribe because, not only is it FREE (yes, Oxford English Dictionary free, not yer usual publisher free which means that we sell all the mailing list emails that we garner to a company trying to flog Viagra and/or Double Glazing. No this is FREE as in Gratis. Not a Sausage. But I digress. Not only is it FREE but there will be some exclusive offers for folk who avail themselves of them, so make an old hippy a happy chappy and SUBSCRIBE TODAY.

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HIS GENERATION
The Who frontman Roger Daltrey has won a major music industry prize for his work with the Teenage Cancer Trust. The singer has organised the charity's annual concerts at the Royal Albert Hall, booking artists like Arctic Monkeys, Tinie Tempah and Paul Weller. Presenting the outstanding contribution prize at the Music Week awards, Weller praised Daltrey's "tireless, fantastic work" for a "very worthwhile charity." Ed Sheeran, Robert Plant and Sir Paul McCartney also paid tribute. "Hey!" Sir Paul said in a taped message. "I've been watching the progress for years now, and you're doing a fantastic job. "I know the kids appreciate it so much. So Mr Daltrey... Roger... Sir, well done."

HOW DOES IT FEEL?
Bob Dylan's original hand-written lyrics for his ground-breaking song Like a Rolling Stone are to be sold at auction in New York in June. Experts at Sotheby's have described the manuscript as "the most significant piece of rock material to appear at auction." Dylan wrote the song in pencil on four small sheets of hotel stationery in 1965. The manuscript features corrections, revisions and additions. Sotheby's say bids could reach £1m. Notes attached to the lyrics relate to the singer/songwriter's life at the time, with a reference to a club appearance by the American musician Joan Baez.

THE BEST HEADLINE OF THE YEAR SO FAR
A dental crown worn by Elvis Presley is touring Great Britain to raise awareness of mouth cancer. Nicknamed "The King's Crown", it was made by the star's former dentist Henry J Weiss, and will be accompanied around the country by Elvis impersonators. Canadian dentist Michael Zuk, who has donated the false tooth to the tour, bought it at auction for £6,500.

Dr Zuk also owns one of John Lennon's teeth, from which he has expressed an ambition to clone the former Beatle. There is something particularly ghoulish and Dr Phibes-like about the activities of Dr Zuk. Even his name has a Hammer Horror aura about it. But my legal advisors said that I should refrain from referring to him as the "Abominable Dr Zuk" so I won't READ ON

WILKO OPERATION
Doctors are "cautiously optimistic" about the condition of Wilko Johnson following his operation to have a pancreatic tumour removed. In an official statement, representatives confirmed that he had undergone a nine-hour operation earlier this week and that the medical team treating him were "happy" with his condition. Johnson had been forced to cancel all of his future live shows and public engagements to undergo the medical procedure. He was scheduled to make several festival appearances this summer, including Glastonbury, but "reluctantly" pulled his commitments to go into hospital. "The head of the medical team treating Wilko said that they were happy with his condition." It added: "Wilko will stay under very close observation for the next few days. Although cautiously optimistic the team have to stress that it is very early days yet. We await further developments eagerly. READ MORE
"At midnight, all the agents and superhuman crew go out and round up everyone who knows more than they do."

— Desolation Row by Bob Dylan

When those who are in power over us, do something spectacularly stupid, or when something highlights their idiocy and ineffectualness, it turns up in this section. Que Ipsos Custodes? Us? We just make stupid jokes about them.

- **A HEINOUS CRIME** A mum has hit out after a policeman was called to deal with her kids...who were building a den in the woods. Now a leading North politician has criticised the “demonisation” of young people in the modern era. City MP Chi Onwurah has warned children should not be made to feel like criminals for playing in the outdoors after the police were called to the well-behaved girls at Warkworth Woods, Great Park, Newcastle. The mum involved said that just days before the incident involving her child, a bunch of boys had been ordered to tear down a tree house built over the holiday period. The mother-of-two, a primary school teacher, said the police told her they were forced to act after dog walkers called them to report kids “dragging wood into the wood”. She said: “I just couldn’t believe they would send a police officer for that. It is incredible.” READ ON

- **THIS STORY IS SEVERAL YEARS OLD BUT STILL BEG GARS BELIEF** A schoolboy trying to save his youth club was hauled from class after his plan to protest outside David Cameron's constituency office was spotted - by anti-terror police. In an astonishing over-reaction, 12-year-old Nicky Wishart was warned he faced ARREST. “I couldn't believe it,” he said. “The policeman asked me lots of questions about why we were having a protest and who would be there. “I said it was simply because we didn't want our youth centre to close - it's a fantastic place to go and there isn't much else for us to do round here.” The full-scale security operation swung into effect days after Nicky made an innocent request on Facebook to "save our youth centre". The surprised boy was told police were now monitoring his Facebook posts - which are mainly gossip and banter from school about lessons and friends' haircuts. He was told he would be responsible for any "trouble" at the well-mannered picket on Friday night. READ ON

- **BADGERING THE GOVERNMENT** The second year of the badger cull in Somerset and Gloucestershire will not be monitored by The Independent Experts Panel, the Government has revealed. The news was criticised by Labour MP Maria Eagle who accused the Government of ignoring advice they didn’t like or didn’t want to hear. “Now ministers have confirmed that they will not allow further expert scrutiny of their disastrous policy when the cull resumes later this year. What do the Tories do if they don’t like the independent scientific advice they get? Stop asking for advice,” she says. Maria Eagle MP, Labour’s Shadow Environment Secretary, asked the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs at Parliamentary Questions: “Whether he plans to ask the Independent Expert Panel, which recently reported on the first year of the pilot badger culls in Somerset and Gloucestershire, to report on the second year of such culls.” The report read: “It is extremely likely that between 7.4 per cent and 22.8 per cent of badgers that were shot at were still alive after 5 min, and therefore at risk of experiencing marked pain. We are concerned at the potential for suffering that these figures imply.” READ ON
THE LAST WEEK AT GONZO DAILY

Sunday
Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday

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

Two types of people visit rhino in the wild
The strong and courageous take a camera
The weak and cowardly take a gun
What sort of person are you?

Celebrate wildlife on World Wildlife Day don't shoot it.
I am always amazed at the sheer gall of some people on Amazon and eBay who advertise items for sale at ridiculously inflated prices. What’s he on about, I hear you ask. Surely this is the sort of thing that Corinna bitches about in her eminently bitchy cabinet of curiosities.

It is, but in this case, I want to talk about here. Because on Amazon there is a company called The Readers’ Warehouse that is offering the new Galahad biography at the snap up cost of £70.20. What makes it even more peculiar is that the company themselves are based “on the edge of the New Forest” as are Galahad who have this self-published book – together with a nifty little video archive DVD – for sale at the much more reasonable £15.

If the vendors had been in Uruguay, or Uttar Pradesh, then possibly such avarice might have been pardoned, as I very much doubt whether Galahad merchandise is as freely available in those places as it is in the south of England. But from the bands’ close neighbours? That’s just silly.

Written by Andrew Wild, whose previous work includes ‘Play On’, the authorised biography of Twelfth Night, ‘One for the Record’ is a story of one band’s refusal to lie down and be ignored by an indifferent industry.

‘One for the Record’, the official, authorised biography of Galahad, charts the first quarter century of the Dorset-based band’s existence: the highs and the lows, the challenges and the achievements, the numerous line-up changes (Yes have nothing on Galahad!) including six keyboard players and eight bassists, the occasional madness on the road, the writing, recording, rehearsing and gigging.

Andrew Wild has extensively interviewed the current members of the band, as well as eleven past members and many friends, associates and supporters and provides a detailed book that will delight fans. It available direct from the band at www.galahadonline.com.

Fans of the band will be interested to hear that they did a radio show for Dorset-based Hope FM, and if you don’t happen to live in Dorset you will be pleased to know that you can watch the acoustic session here.
Reaching 75 is a milestone for any working musician but in the case of Ginger Baker it is truly worth celebrating.

To mark this 2014 event, Ginger Baker and his family, have joined forces with PledgeMusic to create and release a career spanning Anthology “A DRUMMER’S TALE” on CD and Vinyl, starting with the track “Wade in the Water” from the Graham Bond Organisation back in the early 60’s, to the 2005 Cream reunion live version of “Toad”. There will also be a very personal limited edition Family Album Picture Book. In addition we have put together a 75th Birthday celebration concert and...
exhibition at the Islington Academy London N1 on Saturday May 3rd 2014 - VIP tickets only available here on PledgeMusic.

By teaming up with PledgeMusic, the Baker family is able to offer, direct to the fans, a first listen and look at this collection of tracks, chosen by Ginger, from all the different stages of his long and extraordinary career.

In addition Ginger and Nettie have compiled a very personal Family Album Picture Book of art, artwork, photo’s and other images many of them never seen before.

As you can see from the list on the right, in addition to the album and the book Ginger is not only offering signed copies of “A DRUMMER’S TALE” and the Picture Book, but also signed copies of some of the classic Cream albums, signed copies of Ginger’s Autobiography “Hellraiser” and also signed copies of the award winning DVD documentary “Beware of Mr Baker”.

There will also be a very special “A Drummer’s tale” Gig in the heart of London to celebrate Mr Baker’s 75th year to which Pledgers can get special VIP tickets. These VIP tickets will include a copy of the CD, Picture Book and Autobiography as well as an invitation to a special pre-show picture exhibition.

And as if all that were not enough, there will be a very special opportunity for all you drummers, we will shortly be announcing drum clinics for fans who want to learn from the master.

This is how it works, you Pledge or promise to buy one of the items shown on the right and your order will go towards reaching the target shown at the top of the page, when this target reaches 100% we will have enough orders to press the button and manufacture and ship all the items.

Message from Ginger Baker

“Stand by your beds everyone! It’s been over thirty years since the RSO launched my last ‘The Best of Ginger Baker’ anthology album WITHOUT consulting me about the content! This time I’m in charge, with no label and with the help and support of PledgeMusic I am ready to release “A Drummer’s Tale” and the events that inspired these personally chosen tracks from my long career. There will also be a book full of very rare family owned photos and memorabilia. With PledgeMusic the plan is to give you, the fans, something very exclusive. I know you’ll enjoy it. Thanks for your support throughout the years & remember ‘don’t cheer, throw money’! ”

Ginger Baker

Message from Nettie Baker

It is with great pleasure that we can finally offer up this definitive collection of tracks chosen by Mr B and encompassing all the highlights of his long, iconic and illustrious career. With the help of Pledgemusic we are now able to offer all our fans the chance to participate in what is certain to be not only a landmark lifetime anthology of music, but with several exciting spin offs, such as a new book and much more to come, also a fitting accompaniment to Ginger Baker’s 75th Birthday this year.

I know this is something you’ve all been waiting for, so please let’s show our love for my very talented Dad by getting this campaign on the map!

Nettie Baker
originally intended to be the fourth Public Image album but for reasons that are not relevant to this issue of Gonzo Weekly there was a parting of the ways between Messrs Levene and Lydon and the rump PiL released an album culled from the sessions called This is What you Want, This is What you Get. Levene was so disappointed with this record that he released his own version (often described as a bootleg, but apparently with Richard Branson’s blessing) calling it Commercial Zone. This provoked legal complications, which after 30-odd years are so convoluted and so internecine that it is difficult to know what exactly happened. Anyway it doesn’t really matter.

For three decades Commercial Zone has hung round Levene’s neck like the corpse of an albatross (no pun intended) and Levene has been planning to finish it in the way he originally intended for decades. We had a long conversation about it that you can listen to here.

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH KEITH LEVENE

Keith wanted to talk about the latest developments in his ongoing quest to get his visionary project Commercial Zone finally released in a form with which he is happy.

For those not in the know, Commercial Zone was
CLEPSYDRA WAITING FOR THE RITES OF SPRING

This weekend the mighty Clepsydra are playing what is possibly their most important come back gig yet at the Rites of Spring Festival (RoSfest) in Glenside, PA. The band is really enjoying its come back and, as you can see from this picture, have just arrived in the New World.

We eagerly look forward to hearing all about the shown from Andy Thommen in the next few weeks.

Watch this space.
Iona was formed during the late eighties and released their self-titled debut album in 1990. The band covers a number of styles including Celtic, progressive rock, and even jazz and Christian elements. All the albums have received critical acclaim, as have Iona's live performances over the years. The mainstays of the band are Dave Bainbridge, Joanne Hogg and David Fitzgerald. Former Kajagoogoo bassist Nick Beggs was a one-time member although there have also been some high profile guests who have performed with the band on various albums over the years. These include King Crimson guitarist Robert Fripp and respected multi-instrumentalist Troy Donockley.

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
Our old friend Erik Norlander is out on the road again, this time with his virtuoso Galactic Collective band who released two deluxe CD/DVD packages through Gonzo a year or two back, and this seems like a jolly good time to tell you about another exciting new Erik Norlander album out through Gonzo.

Hommage Symphonique celebrates the artist's progressive rock and jazz-fusion influences. HOMMAGE SYMPHONIQUE is an album of progressive rock covers recorded by master keyboardist Erik Norlander along with the virtuoso band of Gregg Bissonette (d), Don Schiff (b) and Mark McCrite (g) with Kelly Keeling handling all of the vocal duties. Erik also employed a small ensemble of acoustic instruments featuring Jon Papenbrook (trumpets/flugelhorn), Eric Jorgensen (trombones), Mike Alvarez (cello) and David Schiff (woodwinds).

David is the brother of Don Schiff, and in addition to Don's NS/Stick work on the album, he also fills out the acoustic string ensemble with the new Bowed Guitar instrument. Erik's choice of covers reflects his own broad musical taste, performing songs originally recorded by ELP, ELO, Yes, Rick Wakeman, King Crimson, Procol Harum and Jethro Tull and Chuck Mangione.

The last artist may sound the most surprising, but Erik's stirring rendition of Mangione's "Children of Sanchez" brings this jazz-fusion classic more into Erik's world of symphonic progressive rock supported by his seasoned and highly versatile band.

HOMMAGE SYMPHONIQUE immediately followed the already acclaimed 2CD release, REVOLUTION ROAD, from Erik's band, Rocket Scientists.

The Rocket Scientists musicians appear throughout the HOMMAGE SYMPHONIQUE album continuing the artists' collaboration and bringing it to new heights.
This week they announced a series of gigs in the North.

**Slice Of Life Up North!**
Tickets for Leeds will go on sale this week. Glasgow will be the only SOL gig in Scotland this year.

Unfortunately Newcastle is cancelled. All tickets will be refunded at place of purchase; electronic tickets will be refunded automatically. Hopefully we’ll be able to come up another time. For now it’s Leeds and Glasgow.

I am very fond of Steve, who still adheres to the ethical code which he has followed since the days when he was the lead singer of anarchopunk’s Crass over thirty years ago.

I am very much looking forward to hearing the new material, because the bits that I have heard on YouTube seem to be very exciting indeed.

In the meantime you can look forward to the Gonzo release of the two DVDs which he put out last year on his own DIY Dimlo label. And to make it even groovier, it appears that I am scheduled to do the covers.

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**STATIONS OF THE STEVE**
Steve Ignorant’s exciting new project Slice of Life featuring our very own Carol Hodge (aka Miss Crystal Grenade) is out on the road again.
North Devon Firefly
Faery Fayre and Ball, Saturday 26th July 2014

This is a one day faery fayre and ball on 26th July 2014, any proceeds to go to The Small School in Hartland, North Devon
NO COVER BANDS!

Description
This is North Devon's first celebration of faery culture, art, crafts, and music for both children and adults, and any proceeds will go to The Small School in Hartland, North Devon, England.

The event will take place on Saturday 26th July 2014 at the Anchor Inn in Hartland, where there is plenty of B & B accommodation (but book early), and food will be on sale in the evening for the ball only. There is a camping and caravan site a few yards up the road, and local shops are just next to the pub, which also has a music licence.

There will be a faery fayre through the day, including stalls and children's entertainment, and a faery ball with a range of musical acts in the evening.

Non-food stallholders and musicians and other entertainers, please contact us at this email: malachitebabz2014@gmail.com

Musicians and other entertainers will be fed, but we cannot offer payment or travel expenses. Tickets are on sale for stallholders (including the faery ball) and for anyone else attending the ball. Entrance to the faery fayre alone is free.

BOOK YOUR ACCOMMODATION NOW AT THE ANCHOR INN OR LOCAL CAMPSITES TO PREVENT DISAPPOINTMENT!

- FREE ENTRY TO THE FAERY FAYRE
THROUGHOUT THE DAY

- STALL HOLDERS: £20.00 PER STALL INCLUDING ENTRY TO THE FAERY BALL IN THE EVENING.
- SHARED STALLS: £20 PER STALL PLUS £10 FOR EACH EXTRA ADULT, (SO £30 FOR 2 ADULTS SHARING A STALL, INC. BALL ENTRY FOR BOTH.)
- FAERY BALL ONLY: ADULTS £10.00 , CHILDREN UNDER 16 £5.00.

WE ARE NOW TAKING PAYMENT FOR ALL TICKETS BY PAYPAL : northdevonfirefly@gmail.com
OR BY PERSONAL CHEQUE, POSTAL ORDER, OR CASH to Nigel Hewlett--Beech

We already have a fabulous line-up of stalls, bands and entertainers for the faery fayre and ball, with more to be added soon:

At the fayre - Aya Designs, Last Chance Hotel, Greenhart and Kind, Jewellery by Danni, Sajja Crafts, Sew Fae, Phil Moseley Pyrography, Awen Alive and Tangled Tendrils who all have stalls; Matt Kitchener, Freddie Diablo and Angel du Cirque all from The Small School teaching circus skills; and Matt also doing fire performances for us.

At the ball - Taking the Piskies (folk), Sembalance (psychedelic etc rock), Pure Mischief (original dance music), and Mysterious Freakshow (steampunk).

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO BART

My favourite roving reporter has been out again this week on the track of interesting news snippets for us. He has surpassed himself with even more than usual. He starts off writing “Mate: this is something to keep an eye on”...

Whoever wins the legal battle between Pandora and the world’s biggest record labels over payments for songs released before February 15, 1972, could save tens of millions of dollars and fundamentally change how artists and labels generate revenue. READ ON.

He continues with a cryptic one-liner: “Old-time vinyl makes noise!!” Vinyl as a music format broke a number of records (no pun intended) the week of Record Store Day. The format accounted for more than half of all album sales at indie stores. 43 of the LPs among the Top 50 vinyl albums sold that week were Record Store Day releases or released for the first time that week. READ ON.

There is also great news for Beatles fans: The Beatles’ silver-screen debut A Hard Day’s Night will return to theaters this summer to mark the 50th anniversary of its premiere at London’s Pavilion Theatre. Janus Films has digitally restored the movie’s picture and hired Giles Martin – son of Beatles producer George – to remix and remaster its soundtrack for 5.1 sound systems at Abbey Road. READ ON.

And finally Bart sends us news of the 2015 Marillion weekends. As he writes he “Might have to be there in Montreal next year”. “It’s that time again! We are pleased to announce that the information for the Marillion Weekends 2015 can be found here: www.marillionweekend.com The Weekend in Holland will be held at CenterParcs Port Zelande on 20-22 March 2015. We are so excited about the plans for these shows. We are working on putting together a spectacular series of concerts on all 3 nights in our purpose built venue, with lavish production surpassing even last year’s shows. In a change to last year’s order, the Weekend in the UK will be held at The Civic Wolverhampton on 10-12 April 2015 and will be followed by the Weekend in Canada at L’Olympia Montreal on 24-26 April 2015. Please take time to read ALL the information on the website. It contains all the details about pricing and how to book.”
Makers of a high-tech police anti-riot vehicle are facing some tough questions after the £820m vehicle was badly damaged by eggs and tennis balls. Germany's Interior Ministry has ordered 78 of the WaWe 10 water cannon-equipped vehicles which Austrian manufacturer Rosenbauer boasts can handle the toughest situations.

But all did not go to plan when police chiefs in the central province of Thuringen, decided to stage a display for the public to show off their newest acquisition.

Police officers threw eggs, tennis balls and plastic bottles filled with water at the vehicle to simulate rioters armed with bricks, stones and petrol bombs. But the public display backfired when the 'harmless' ammunition left huge dents in the armoured glass of the 33 tonne vehicle.

http://web.orange.co.uk/article/quirkies/
Riot_proof_vehicle_damaged_by_eggs_and_balls
Strange Fruit, Miskin’s Radio’s home of alternative, off-the-wall and otherwise generally strange sounds is looking for a co-presenter. This is not a paid job, but would give the lucky individual the chance to present two hour shows of music generally ignored by radio, and broadcast them twice a month to be heard by Miskin Radio’s audience online and then archived on Gonzo Multimedia’s website, where their audience would devour them. Radio experience would be useful, but isn’t necessary. The ideal candidate would be able to come to our Dartford studios, be trained and begin work when ready. Alternatively, anyone capable of self-producing and Dropboxing shows will be considered. Fame and wealth are unlikely but the chance to indulge your most maverick musical tastes knows few limits in this job. In the first instance email Neil Nixon, nlnxn@aol.com to express an interest. Also check out our shows on Gonzo Multimedia’s web radio page and Miskin Radio’s own site – www.miskinradio.co.uk
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). Strange Fruit presenter Neil Nixon is currently working on a book about rare albums for Gonzo Multimedia.

The show is broadcast on Miskin Radio every Sunday from 10-00-midnight.

PLAYLIST FOR THIS EPISODE
30-03-14 – 68

- Flashing Blade: The Fight
- Dum Dum Girls: Lost Boys and Girls Club
- Horace Andy: Riding for a Fall
- The Legendary Stardust Cowboy: Paralysed
- Esquirita: Esquirita and the Voola
- David Bowie: Ziggy Stardust (acoustic demo)
- T. Rex: Planet Queen
- Strange Mix: Basil Kiritchen: Primitive London 3 (3-2-49)/ Ralph Myerz: A Special Morning (6-4-50)/ The Memory Band: When on Horseback (3-3-23)/ The Gentle People: World of Love (4-4-24)/ Hannah Peel: Today is not so Far Away (4-3-21)/ Basil Kiritchen: Primitive London 4 (4-3-07)/ Mahavisnu Orchestra: Dawn (2-5-09) Basil Kiritchen: The Freelance 2 (9-4-07) + spoken word from How to Say it Right
- Diagnosing Canine Heart Conditions
- The Legendary Stardust Cowboy: Kiss and Run
- The Legendary Stardust Cowboy: World’s Worst Titles
- Martin Archer: Picofarad
- Lord Rockingham’s XI: Hoots Mon
- Death Vessel: Ilsa Drown
- John Cale: Please
- Jonathan Richman: I Was Dancing in the Lesbian Bar
- Hasil Adkins: Up on Mars
- Paddy McAloon: I Trawl the Megahertz
- Legendary Stardust Cowboy: Riders on the Storm
- Hank Thompson: Rockin’ in the Congo
- Warren Smith: A Red Cadillac and a Black Moustache
- Dame Barbara Cartland: Goodnight Sweetheart

Listen Here
I also plan to include
guest one-hour
mixes from various
musicians from the current music scene in
Canterbury (Episode 2 features a mix from Neil
Sullivan from Lapis Lazuli).

And for those of you who wonder what Matthew
was referring to when he writes
about Canterbury Soundwaves we have brought
you all the back catalogue of that as well.
Those wacky guys at Gonzo, eh?

EPISODE FIFTEEN: A special episode of CSF: an in-
depth exploration of Robert Wyatt's 2003
Cuckooland, released to coincide with Canterbury
Christchurch University music department's 2014
Sounds New festival, this album being one of the
festival themes. As well as a number of tracks from
Cuckooland, works by Wyatt's various collaborators
on the album are featured, including Brian Eno,
David Gilmour, Phil Manzanera, Paul Weller, Gilad
Atzmon, Annie Whitehead, et al.)

The central hour of this extended episode consists
of a playlist provided by Robert himself (thanks
Katrina!), including some of his favourite records of
all time, including Coltrane, Stravinsky, Mingus,
Ellington, Nina Simone and Billie Holiday. We'll
get back on the lunar cycle in June

We at Gonzo Web Radio are very proud to bring
you Canterbury Sans Frontieres - a podcast
dedicated to the music of the 'Canterbury
Scene' and more. Creator Matthew Watkins
writes:

As with Canterbury Soundwaves, a new three-
hour episode will be released with each full
moon.I decided to wind down Canterbury
Soundwaves so that I didn't end up (i)
repeating myself, (ii) scraping the bottom of
the Canterbury barrel, or (iii) becoming
increasingly tangential. This new podcast
broadens the musical remit, so it'll be about
one-third 'Canterbury sound', together with
progressive/ psychedelic/ experimental music
from the Canterbury of today, the remainder
being a mix of music from various times and
places which I feel to be in a similar spirit of
creative adventurousness. I'll be doing a lot
less talking, and the programme will be less
expository - so no interviews, barely-
listenable bootlegs, etc.
Gonzo Web Radio is chuffed to bits to present the world premier of a remarkable new radio show put together by none other than the lovely Jaki Windmill and the irrepressible Tim Rundall. An anarchic mixture of music, politics, current affairs and all sorts of other things really wrapped in a surreal miasma of post-psychedelic credibility.

Sounds good? You bit sweet pondos it does.

Tim approached me some weeks ago. Apparently before he died Mick Farren told him about Gonzo Web Radio and some of the plans Rob and I had tentatively began to put together.

Would we like to broadcast some of the stuff he had recorded with Mick?

I’ve heard some silly questions in my time, but this takes the biscuit. Of course we would. Mick Farren was one of my greatest heroes, and the fact that he took an interest in this magazine and helped me steer it into the direction in which it is currently sailing, meant that dear Tim’s question was completely superfluous.

So I waited to see what would happen. Soon after that I got approached by Jaki. Apparently she has been co-hosting a radio show broadcast from a conceptual submarine together with Tim for some time.

Would we like a whole slew of brand new shows for Gonzo Web Radio? Of course we would. And this is the second of them featuring – amongst other things – a tribute to Dashiell Hedayat and an argument about sandwiches and whether or not Tim has a new hat. What’s not to like?

The revolution may not be televised, but it’s certainly coming over on the virtual airwaves. Listen to it live on Gonzo Web Radio.

Listen Here
Robert William "Bob" Hoskins, Jr. (26 October 1942 – 29 April 2014) was an English actor known for playing Cockneys and gangsters.


Hoskins was the recipient of the prestigious Prix d'interprétation masculine as well as winning the BAFTA Award for Best Actor in a Leading Role and Golden Globe Award for Best Actor – Motion Picture Drama for his role in Mona Lisa (he was also nominated for the Academy Award for Best Actor) and an International Emmy Award for best actor for his appearance on BBC One drama The Street in 2009.

Hoskins' father was a communist and brought up Hoskins to be an atheist. In 1967, aged 25, Hoskins spent a short period of time volunteering in kibbutz Zikim in Israel, and also herded camels in Syria. In an interview, when asked what he owed his parents, he said, "Confidence. My mum used to say to me, 'If somebody doesn't like you, fuck 'em, they've got bad taste.'" When asked which living person he most despised, Hoskins named Tony Blair and claimed that "he's done even more damage than Thatcher". He made light of his similarities with film actor Danny DeVito, who he joked would play him in a film about his life.

With his first wife Jane Livesey, Hoskins had two children, Alex (born 1969) and Sarah (born 1972). With his second wife Linda Banwell, he had two more children, Rosa (born c. 1984) and Jack (born c. 1986).

On 29 April 2014, Hoskins died from pneumonia. He is survived by his wife Linda and his four children.

Those we have Lost:
Bob Hoskins
(1942-2014)
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
Jean Philippe Rykiel
*Inner Spaces*
Cat No. FGBG4898

Label: Musea

Jean-Philippe RYKIEL may be the son of the famous fashion stylist Sonia RYKIEL, his fame in the music scenes owes all to his great talents.

Born blind, he started to show them with CRYSTAL MACHINE, battling with his synthesisers against Tim BLAKE.

Published on the Musea label in the year 2012, "Inner Spaces" gathers various tracks, recorded or re-recorded during all his career. Jean-Philippe says:

"I wanted to share these memories of a time long gone, made of happiness and careness.

These compositions were removed from my studios albums because of their variety of styles, and started to accumulate for years and years, until I realised they were all me!

Why shouldn't I introduce myself as I really am, multiple and open-minded? From spacey Progressive rock to funk music, African rhythms to French melodies, jazz to Tibetan mantras, I'm feeding myself up with all, and all inspires me..."

On the icing of the cake is "Close To You", the only sung-track here... By a certain Jon ANDERSON!

Recording with VANGELIS at that time, in the middle of the Eighties, the YES singer was kind enough to lend his voice.

Just unmistakable!
Joey Molland  
*Demos Old And New*  
Label: Gonzo  
Catalogue Number: HST185CD

Poor Badfinger; if ever there was a pop group “born under a bad sign” it was them. Things started off quite auspiciously. As The Iveys they signed to The Beatles’ Apple Records and had a hit single. However, they decided that their name, and their image were a little old fashioned and for reasons that remain obscure they also decided to change their guitarist. Exit Ron Griffiths and enter Joey Molland.

Badfinger was born. They had hit singles with the Paul McCartney penned Come and Get It (recorded just as Griffiths was leaving the band) and No Matter What, and perhaps their greatest moment was when Harry Nilsson had a massive worldwide hit with their song Without You in 1972. After that it was all downhill. And downhill very very fast.

The band were the last non-Beatles artists to release an album on Apple, and a move to Warner Brothers was not a success. There were grave management issues (which were so contentious that even now it is probably not safe to put in writing) and – probably as a result of these internal pressures – two members of the band (Pete Ham in 1975 and Tom Evans in 1983) committed suicide by hanging.

Joey Molland, who had written the vast majority of the group’s later output, remains an immensely underrated and very talented songwriter, whose career has been blighted by the appalling catalogue of disasters which had overtaken his band. This collection of demos from various parts of his long career only proves to confirm, (as if any confirmation were needed) what an extraordinary songwriter this man is.

David Jackson & René van Commenée.  
*Batteries Included*  
Cat No. ET201103  
Label: Equally Tuned

In 1992, when he was halfway through his forties, the legendary Van der Graaf Generator saxophonist David Jackson left teaching full time to practice, write, record and play gigs again. He created a one-man show of new and old historic pieces; some he had reworked in his studio and were never performed live before. At that time, Jackson had been seeing and keeping up with his young Dutch friend René van Commenée and knew of his percussive powers at the time.

“He had recently spent a whole night at our house in Wokingham in the room below our bedroom practicing for an immanent 24 hour Indian Tabla exam - which was a strange and exhilarating sound to wake up with!” (D. Jackson)

Van Commenée invited his legendary friend to perform at his birthday-party. Jackson took the invitation and insisted to perform, at least a part of the show, together.

Both musicians enjoyed performing together very much and Van Commenée proposed playing duo-shows together a year later.

"In Utrecht I felt a strange Hammill/VdGG connection kicking in. Something strange and magical would be happening very soon. This was great chance to play gigs with René at last. He loved my new repertoire and we loved to improvise together,“ (D. Jackson)
Clearlight
Tribal Hybrid Concept
Cat No.HST212CD

Gonzo
Clearlight became the first French progressive rock band signed to a major British record label. Clearlight has/have continued to produce remarkable music ever since. But this album is particularly poignant.

Pascal Menetrey passed away accidentally in 2006. This album is dedicated to his memory. RIP, Pascal...

The music on this album is powerful, selected to illustrate the yang side of the first chakra, the one in charge of life and death energies; designed to energize the body and to celebrate life. Samples of Inuits, Papoos, Tuvas, Ethiopian and Kurdish singers as well as samples of various wild animals facing extinction collected one per one by Pascal Menetrey between 1992 and 1999 are musically shaped by Cyrille Verdeaux to boogie for the pleasure of the ears. The aim of Tribal Hybrid Music (THC) is to help in the stopping of all these trails of tears, these massacres of innocents all around the globe. The base chakra (Muladhara) is the root of the Kundalini, the coiled serpent representing untapped potential and sexual energy.

It also represents security and the need for basic needs (air, water, food) that all life requires for sustenance as well as fundamental human desire. The chants of various tribes facing extinction represent the death aspect of this chakra, since most of the beings heard on this album are probably already dead. As Pascal is already...

Pierre Moerlen's Gong
Pentanine
Cat No. FGBG4606.AR
Label: Musea

A famous drummer-percussionist from Strasbourg, France, Pierre MOERLEN had a prolific career filled with prestigious collaborations. He imposed his very particular percussive style, and created a reference in the style of Progressive jazz-rock. And this is in this musical style that Pierre MOERLEN'S GONG take us: proudly assuming his part of the great inheritance left by Daevid ALLEN and company, his interpretation is less focused on the psychedelic or space-rock. "Full Circle - Live 1988" is nevertheless and excellent witness of a German tour: a truly indispensable album!

As the Progressive rock world has been grieved to hear the disappearance of Pierre MOERLEN (GONG, Mike OLDFIELD, BRAND X...), the legendary French drummer comes back today with a new album! "Pentanine" was recorded in Moscow in 2002 and is eventually released three years later by the Musea label. On that occasion, the new embodiment of the mythical band Pierre MOERLEN'S GONG was composed of local skilful musicians on electric guitar, bass and keyboards... Thirteen instrumental pieces full of groove, power and sophistication are to be heard, some more hypnotic or peaceful moments being also present in a very melodic jazz-rock fusion style.

The splendour of Pierre MOERLEN's playing whatever instrument between drums, percussions, xylophone and vibraphone is very sensible. A posthumous account of a definitely exceptional musician!
Kevin Ayers and The Whole World

*Howling At The Moon*

Cat No. HST244CD

Label: Gonzo

Kevin Ayers (16 August 1944 – 18 February 2013) was an English singer-songwriter and a major influential force in the English psychedelic movement. Ayers was a founding member of the pioneering psychedelic band Soft Machine in the mid-1960s, and was closely associated with the Canterbury scene. He recorded a series of albums as a solo artist and over the years worked with Brian Eno, Syd Barrett, John Cale, Elton John, Robert Wyatt, Andy Summers, Mike Oldfield, Nico and Ollie Halsall, among others. His last album was *The Unfairground*, recorded in New York City, Tucson, and London in 2006.

Ayers died in his sleep on 18 February 2013 in Montolieu, France, aged 68. BBC DJ John Peel once celebratedly wrote that "Kevin Ayers' talent is so acute you could perform major eye surgery with it." It is hard not to agree with him. He was a major talent, who - sadly - never got the respect that he deserved, and even now I don't really know why...

This album was recorded live in Hyde Park back in 1970. Ayers' bandmate, the late and very much missed David Bedford remembered it: "There was a really nice gig in Hyde Park when Pink Floyd premiered Atom Heart Mother with orchestra and choir. The chap conducting that had just commissioned me to write a piece for his choir, so it was sort of my two worlds mixing up. It was a really hot day and really nice, it was a good piece Atom Heart Mother. After that came the first band album *Shooting At The Moon* and it was a typical mixture of things that happened at gigs; straight forward pleasant whimsical songs and crazy avant-garde plinky plonk stuff of the sort that I was doing in my concert music pieces".

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**Planet Earth Rock 'n' Roll Orchestra**

*Wally Heider Recording Studios*

Cat No. OSCCD1

Label: Respect

The Planet Earth Rock and Roll Orchestra (PERRO) was a loose conglomeration of Bay Area musicians who recorded together in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Best known as members of some of the greatest and most successful recording ensembles of the era, such as The Grateful Dead, Jefferson Airplane and Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young, what many people don’t realise that these musicians had been playing together for a decade or so before these home recordings were made.

Paul Kantner, Jerry Garcia, David Crosby and others had been friends for a long time. Way before they were famous they had played together in various folkclubs and coffee houses, as well as at private parties and in each others' homes. It is all too easy to perceive Superstars as having arrived into our communal consciousness fully fledged and with their repertoire fully formed. But, of course, the truth is nothing of the sort. These extremely rare recordings give a uniquely valuable look behind the scenes at the creative processes of some of the most important songwriters and musicians of their generation, and it shows how the creative bond between them survived all the vicissitudes of fame and fortune, and was just as important in the early 1970s as it was when they were first starting out. These recordings are so intimate and special that listening to them almost makes you feel like you are intruding on a series of private moments, and everyone involved should be congratulated for making such personal material available to the public at large. Well done to you all.
This is all very exciting and things are changing very rapidly. There is now a dedicated website at www.gonzoweekly.com. At the moment it is extremely skeletal, but it will be titivated and enhanced and augmented with other stuff over the next few months.

In my defence, I have never pretended to be any sort of web designer, and I have never worked out how to use Dreamweaver or any of those clever things, and I don't understand anything but basic raw htm. But it does the biz as Graham would say, and it contains links to all sixty-nine back issues. I will be guided by you, the readership as to what else should be on the magazine’s website. There will also be special things there which are only available to subscribers, which as the subscription costs now’t, is—I think—a reasonably good deal.

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Somewhere along the line I will call upon members of my ever expanding Robot Army of the Undead and get someone to transfer all the back issues from the Mailchimp format in which they were originally composed, to this swish new page turney flip book thingy. But it ain’t gonna happen any time soon because - believe it or not - the rigours of putting out a 70 page magazine every seven days with a team of volunteers, and a budget of twenty five quid, are quite considerable.

But it will happen….in the fullness of time.

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 wot don’t understand, we should do a weekly quote from the great man himself. So here goes:

“We cannot expect people to have respect for law and order until we teach respect to those we have entrusted to enforce those laws.”

Hunter S. Thompson
As regular readers of my inky fingered scribblings here and elsewhere will be aware I have a soft spot for Dutch performance artist René van Commenée who performs under the nom de guerre of ‘Mr Averell’.

He wrote to me the other day giving details of a record that is imminently being released by Gonzo.

In 1992, when he was halfway through his forties, the legendary Van der Graaf Generator saxophonist David Jackson left teaching full time to practice, write, record and play gigs again. He created a one-man show of new and old historic pieces; some he had reworked in his studio and were never performed live before. At that time, Jackson had been seeing and keeping up with his young Dutch friend René van Commenée and knew of his percussive powers at the time.

"He had recently spent a whole night at our house in Wokingham in the room below our bedroom practicing for an immanent 24 hour Indian Tabla exam - which was a strange and exhilarating sound to wake up with!" (D. Jackson)

Van Commenée invited his legendary friend to perform at his birthday-party. Jackson took the

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An audience with
René van Commenée & David Jackson

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invitation and insisted to perform, at least a part of the show, together.

Both musicians enjoyed performing together very much and Van Commenée proposed playing duo-shows together a year later.

"In Utrecht I felt a strange Hammill/VdGG connection kicking in. Something strange and magical would be happening very soon. This was great chance to play gigs with René at last. He loved my new repertoire and we loved to improvise together." (D. Jackson)

They were booked in a theatre at the center of "The Institute of Mental Health" in Utrecht, funny enough the title of an early Peter Hammill track (co-written with Judge Smith, a librettist and composer with whom both Jackson and Van Commenée worked together many times) on which Jackson played the saxes in the seventies.

At the shows Jackson came with his whole arsenal Saxes, flutes, the EMS soundbeam and electronics. Van Commenée had an incredible drum and percussion set up with drums and metals collected from all over the world and played in lotus seat, not using his feet!

"It was a bit distracting! How did he make it all happen and sound so good!?" (D. Jackson)

The gigs were lovely!
The crew and audience were just great. That magic atmosphere is captured along with a great live-recorded sound. 'Batteries Included' is actually 21. It has come of age and it is the perfect time to distribute it again.

"Jackson is an incredible musician; unpredictable, original, a master of the double horns, a great pleasure to work with both on stage and in the studio. The percussion set I used at that time was a beast to conquer but Jackson gave me wings!" (R. van Commenée)

David Jackson's sax and double-sax wizardry with a strong and original drums and cymbal accompaniment is finally available in record stores around the world and can be ordered directly from Gonzo Multimedia.

Would I like to interview him and David, he asked. Of course I would, I eagerly said, even though it meant getting out of bed at an unfeasibly early hour on a Sunday morning.

However, as I will be the first to admit, I am no good with time zones and invariably mess them up. Sadly I did so on this occasion as well, and on top of it all our telephone system had finally given up the ghost after months of instability.

So, half asleep, and squatting on the milking stool in the kitchen with a half grown kitten and a neurotic terrier jostling for position on my lap, I managed to have an immensely entertaining half hour conversation with them, which covered all sorts of arcane topics.
It says a lot, I think, about the calibre of the young people who spend some of their leisure hours working with the animals at the CFZ, that when confronted by something unquestionably strange they don’t bat an eyelid. The other afternoon I was unwell (something which happens with depressing frequency these days) and I had retired to bed. One of our volunteers, a twelve year old girl, was sitting in my study trying to count the relative numbers of Endler’s livebearers and knife livebearers in the tank on my desk, when a cacophony of canine contumely heralded the arrival of a visitor to my door.

She remarked to me afterwards that it was strange that she didn’t hear the gate open, and that Mark Raines, who was working in the garden didn’t notice these visitors arrive. They were two tall thin bearded men wearing long, black, hooded robes. They didn’t introduce themselves, just demanded to see me. When told that I was asleep, ill in bed, they gave her an envelope containing a key drive, and without speaking, walked along the path to the gate, and left.

When I woke up later, my volunteer had gone back to her family for tea, and I only heard the story second hand. I opened the envelope, put the key drive into the computer (which, with the benefit of hindsight was a remarkably stupid thing to do, because it could have contained any number of unimaginably horrid computer viruses) and was totally aghast at what I found.

It was a letter and a number of sound and video files. The letter was from someone called Mister Loxodonta, who identified himself as a member of a collective called Xtul. It started off conventionally enough, but then it turned out that Mister Loxodonta was (or at least claimed to be) a terminally ill, half-naked man with the head of an elephant who sometimes wrote in conventional prose, but had the offputting habit of launching into regular metred rhyming couplets, of the sort that my late mother called “tum te tum te tumty tum” and the even later Rudyard Kipling was wont to indulge in.

My name is Mr Loxodonta
And when your mind begins to wander
Into places that you know
You really shouldn’t let it go
In the gaps between your dreams
Where you hear the idiots scream
That’s basically where I can be found
Playing games with light and sound

My name is Mr Loxodonta
I’ll find you when you don’t want to
Explore realms of world as myth
And pantheistic multiperson
Solipsism 101,
The games of chance have just begun
I’m dying but it doesn’t matter
My alter-ego just gets fatter

Apparently there are five or six of them, but only three are named:

- Mister Loxodonta
- Dora Discordia
- Panne

From the badly scrawled drawings, and fantastickal photoshop constructs that I have been sent, Dora Discordia is a statuesque blonde lady with a skull for a head, and Panne is a schoolgirl dressed as a goatman, or perhaps a goatman who has taken on some of the characteristics of a schoolgirl.

Then later that evening I got an email. It was from an old acquaintance (I won’t say ‘friend’ because although we have known each other for a third of a century so far, I don’t think either of us has ever liked the other very much. His name is Danny Miles/Danny Myles/Danny Myers (choose whichever name suits you and him best at the time). I first met him in 1981, and the circumstances of our meeting are chronicled in my 1999 book The Blackdown Mystery.

I first met Danny Miles at an obscure North Devon rock festival during the late summer of 1981. In those days I was an innocent and not very streetwise fellow in my early twenties, and I still believed that world peace could be achieved by the ingestion of various noxious substances whilst sitting in muddy fields listening to musical ensembles make whooshing noises on (what seem to me now) to be very primitive synthesisers.

I was, I believe, watching Hawkwind playing a spectacularly inept version of Master of the Universe, and like most of the rest of the audience, who were cold, muddy and uncomfortable, pretending that I was enjoying myself whilst in reality I was in dire need of both a lavatory and a nice cup of tea and totally unwilling to avail myself of the horribly rudimentary versions of either facility that had been laid on for our “comfort” by the euphemistically named “organisers” of the event. About a hundred yards to my right were the serried ranks of the local Hells Angel fraternity who were encamped en masse like an iron clad phalanx of doom. It was only twelve years after Altamont, and even in the bucolic wastelands of rural Devon, they felt that they had something to live up to. Unfortunately, for me at least, they had decided to set up camp immediately between the area where I had set up my tiny tent and parked my car and the main exit, and several of the nastiest and meanest looking of them were patrolling the area armed with pool cues and what I think were hollowed out pickaxe handles that had been filled with molten lead. I was therefore somewhat marooned, and feeling uncomfortable, isolated, alone and more than a little frightened.

Suddenly, in the middle of what appeared to me to be a sea of greasy black leather jackets, emerged a delicate, fey looking figure, wearing an extraordinary array of satins and silks in a variety of peacock colours. It looked for all the world as if one of the gaily coloured inhabitants of one of Arthur Rackham’s fairy paintings had suddenly been transported into the middle of a field of leather-clad Neanderthals. The figure tripped gaily towards me, and appeared to my addled brain to be floating like a surreal, and rainbow-hued butterfly above the sea of mud and motorbikes. As it got closer I could see that it was a youth, hardly old enough to shave with an angelic halo of light brown hair.
hair surrounding a face that was covered with intricate paintings of butterflies and lotus flowers. He came and sat next to me and my companions.

Much to my amazement everyone else who was with me seemed to take this apparition in their stride. “Lo Danny”, one of them grunted cheerfully, “ow are y’doing?”. Another friend asked him what the hell he had been doing wandering blithely through the middle of the taciturn, unfriendly and potentially dangerous crowd of bikers. “Ahhhhh they’re harmless.” he said, in an Irish accent that he seemed to be able to turn on and off at will, “and anyway they wouldn’t hurt me...I am legion, I am many”.

His name was Danny Miles, and for reasons known best to himself he had recently adopted the nom-de-guerre of ‘Legion the Cosmic Dancer’. I got to know him reasonably well over the next few years, and he would occasionally drift into my life, causing chaos for a few weeks and then disappear as simply as he had arrived. During the years when fashions were led by Culture Club and the New Romantics, Danny was in his element. He paraded his omnisexuality for all to see like some magnificent, (if slightly deranged) bird of paradise and flirted outrageously with boys and girls alike. As the decade of Thatcherism advanced and my life became more normal, and I drifted into my disastrous marriage and the twin pitfalls of a job and a mortgage I saw less of him, but he would still turn up once in a while, and we would sit up long into the night drinking wine, gazing at the stars and talking about nothing in particular as I dreamed dreams of my lost youth. Danny never seemed to either grow any older or to settle down.

My first wife disliked him intensely, and I don’t think my second wife has ever met him. He has turned up in my life on various occasions over the past thirty years, but I have only heard from him occasionally (and not seen him) since the turning of the millennium when he turned up at my house unexpectedly talking nonsense about succubae and clutching a gift basket of blueberry muffins for me; a gift which he then proceeded to eat entirely himself.

But like a bad penny, he has turned up again. According to his peculiar email, which he dubbed “A Communiqué from the Xtul Underground”, he (dubbing himself Xtul’s ‘Minister for Information’ was letting me in upon “The Summer of the Great Secret” and had decided that it was my “Holy Mission” to help propagate the “Message of the Neo-Godz in the Vineyardss of Madness”, which seems to mean helping him with a Facebook page for (what appears to be) a rather interesting little band operating in much the same territory as the late lamented KLF.

I have cautiously agreed for a number of reasons.

- Firstly, I like the music
- I like the challenge – this reminds me of one of the peculiar magickal art games like THE CASE that I played with Doc Shiels
- Danny knows where the bodies are buried (in my case at least) and it would be unwise for me to cross him
- My life has been getting a little dull recently, and if there is one thing I have learned over the years, it is that life with Danny is never dull

So onwards and upwards. Let us see what this summer will bring.

CHECK THEM OUT
Rick Wakeman’s revival of Journey to the Centre of the Earth live, playing the entire piece for the first time, is undoubtedly one of the cultural highlights of 2014. We had hoped that we would be at the Plymouth gig, but family stuff got in the way. However, the next best thing is this collection of superb photographs by Lee Wilkinson of the first concert at the Royal Albert Hall this week, which certainly captured the flavour of this unique event.
Hunter Ayling really is a chip off the old block, and as you can see from these photographs he has become an integral part of Rick Wakeman’s current tour. I confidently foresee the time in the not too distant future when the Obercheesenführer will retire with his lovely wife to an island in the Caribbean and I (who am never going to be able to afford to retire) will be working diligently for Hunter instead.

This is particularly good news because I know from personal experience that even more than his father, Hunter can be bribed with cake.

Welcome to the future Messrs. Ayling and Ayling.
Premiata Forneria Marconi (PFM) appeared live on the Cruise to the Edge concert voyage April 7-12. The shows reinforced why they have been one of the premier international progressive rock bands over the years, and their playing is undiminished by time. PFM’s music, while sometimes touching on dark themes, is overwhelmingly positive and joyful, particularly when the music incorporates snippets of traditional Italian folk within the progressive, jazz and pop music formats. Many fans consider their best work in live performance, of which there are many official recordings available. Unlike some contemporaries, they still play complete works in their original form to make up their set list – lots of early work, such as “La Carrozza di Hans” from their first Italian release Storia Di Un Minuto (1972), to “Romeo E Giulietta” off the beautiful new Pfm in Classic-Da Mozart a Celebration (2013). There is a high degree of precision in their live performances, but also room left for jamming and improvisation. These days drummer/vocalist Franz Di Cioccio has a backup percussionist leaving him several chances during the show to come out front with lead vocals and enthusiastically rally the crowd. It’s a rewarding experience to capture PFM playing live.

I caught up with the three primary members of the band, Franz Di Cioccio (drums, vocals), Franco Mussida (guitars, vocals), and Patrick Djivas (bass) for the following interview during the cruise:

D: Can you tell us a bit about how your popularity was built outside of Italy?

PFM: PFM is the best-known and most famous band of this kind in Italy. At the start, we came to the USA and UK and stayed there for 6, 8, 9 months at a time – you have to build up the following in country. We thought with a worldwide mentality – we did not think only in the Italian way. But we are Italian, we know the mother language – and there are a lot of things that anybody who goes into art must consider. We did the best with our potential – for example leaving home touring the USA for a long time in a lot of places – big towns but also places like Grand Rapid, Fort Wayne – you have to be out there and the people love it and know you are really an international musician.

Our big opportunity was when Pete Sinfield from King Crimson liked our music. He found in PFM– a new renaissance of a theatrical mentality and creativity. He wrote incredible lyrics for our music because our lyrics are not as good in Italian – the image you get from music and lyrics together in English is fantastic. “River of Life” for instance – the combination is fantastic. In Italian it’s not quite the same – it’s got to be the right music combined with the right lyrics.

D: Having said that, if I could pick one of your Italian language songs on albums Per Un Amico or L’isola di...
niente and translate a lyric to English – what would be a favorite?

**PFM**: In English words are very short and it’s fantastic for rock because it will get you moving. In Italian everything is more about drawing out the syllables (sings a bit of “Dove Quando”) and it’s more melodramatic. We didn’t translate that one – even Pete said you don’t need to translate this lyric because it’s perfect in Italian. The same is for “Il Banchetto.” English is more clipped and there is better possibility to carry the idea. When you want to communicate something from the heart use the vocal melody – you can use the round vowels to carry emotion. Another example is from our first album – our song “Generale” which has no Italian lyrics – they would be difficult in Italian – Pete made it easy – “shiny shoes he runs to catch the train…rockets launched if he is late again…” (sings and taps this out to the beat of “Mr. Nine Till Five”) and it makes the melody different – we made a melody to support the Pete Sinfield words that we didn’t have in the Italian version. By contrast, when opera is in Italian or German – you can’t do it in English.

**D**: Cook – the first live recording released by PFM, was recently re-released with the entire concert included and it’s a stunning document that displays the bands full range – was there a discussion at the time of putting out a 3 album set?

**PFM**: No we did not try to get it out – did not have the time. We were not even supposed to do a live album at that moment – we had access to a recording studio which was paid for but unused. We decided to use it and we were playing in New York – so we used the time to make the record and taped a few more shows. We decided to do one album – to make something very accessible to the people – to represent PFM with one album – and cost was a factor – double albums are expensive – three even more. Now you can do these box sets and legacy collections more easily. So we did the best in one, and made it more successful. I even decided to cut my drum solo!

**D**: Franz, back in those times, did you have drumming support – it’s entertaining when you come out front during shows today.

**PFM**: Not at that time – I stayed back on the drums with a mic. When we used to play as a 5 piece, everybody sang something because there was not really a singer with that one role in PFM – our voices mixed together. I did sing “Dove Quando” and “Just Look Away” up front because the drums only came in at the end.

**D**: Chocolate Kings was the first of several albums with Bernardo Lanzetti out front on vocals (from 1975–1977). It’s an album that gets talked about more than Jet Lag – yet I find Jet Lag is just brilliant – did it not do as well?

**PFM**: The music did get more difficult and this is the way PFM has always been – we play what we feel like playing in the moment. At that particular time we were living a lot in the states and had a lot of contact with jazz musicians and we had more jazz influence – some of us more than others and it went in that direction. We did not really think about “why or why not” – we did it because we liked that music at the time. Maybe people did not expect anything like that from PFM. It was more improvisational – its a different way – we used to improvise a lot. PFM always changes album by album – we didn’t want to stay the same for each one – for instance our latest, *Pfm in Classic-Da Mozart a Celebration*, is different from all the others. It’s not planned – not decisions we make but it just comes – its why we keep playing with the same interest because we always do different things. If you play the same thing all your life – whoever you are and how good you are – you get bored and you don’t get better. You are just doing the same thing all the time. For us its nice to have the influence of all kinds of music – for instance the 2006 record *Stati di immaginazione* – this is the record where you really understand the way PFM is – where we put a little bit from all the experiences from all the years – so every musician comes to the project with all of their background, and this is
what’s important to us.
(ed: Patrick mentions Stati from 2006 – for those not keeping up with PFM’s more recent releases, this one is highly recommended)

This is why we can do the Mozart work. It was very difficult to do the Mozart album – it’s easy to score or play with an orchestra doing what everybody else does – which is either playing the classical themes with your instruments, or else using the orchestra to back your music – we did not want to do that – everybody has done it. We wanted to do something totally different – we thought, what if Mozart had guitar, bass, and drum – what would he have added to his compositions – so we had to invent and make music to fit this inside of his music. And let the people get comfortable without shock – to have a different experience about a another period of music but still be contemporary – have it be contemporary now.

D: PFM has released a lot of CDs of live shows, so there is audio covering your entire career. There is a wonderful DVD of PFM live in Japan in 2003. Have you thought about releasing a video history of the band?

PFM: We played straight live, no lip-syncing, no overdubs – the music spoke for us. Most of our live performances sound better as there is more energy and adrenaline. We did Old Grey Whistle Test, Midnight Special, Don Kirshner in concert, the reason we got on the charts was because we played live. But we have no video tapes of that – they ask a lot of money for those. The DVD from Tokyo in 2003 took advantage of better technology. There is also video of the show in Siena Italy – released on audio as Piazza Del Campo Live in Siena (2008) – but it has not been released. Lucia Fabri was back on violin for that event and we played the solo together at the end of the show just as in 1974.

(ed: I’ve since located the video Franz mentions above – it’s all online now, and there is enough to give one an idea of what the band was like in the beginning, and middle of the ‘70s. The 2003 Live in Tokyo is the best footage available commercially at the time of this writing, and is an amazing document from the band)

D: In live performance it almost seems like you increased the tempo of many tracks and it could be at times simultaneously loose and tight like a train that could go off the tracks – was there almost a competitive spirit to play faster at the time?

PFM: No – the reason it sounds that way is because we were playing more than 300 concerts a year and we would play very fast, almost too fast – not competing, just natural – tight and fast. For example last night when we played “Four Holes in the Ground” the count in was [taps out a slower tempo] but in those days it was more like [plays out a rapid fire tempo].

(ed: listen to this track on Cook and you will see what Franz means!)

D: Will you tour more in support of Pfm in Classic-Da Mozart a Celebration?

PFM: We have done some shows – our manager is figuring out where else we can play. The challenge is you have to go to a place and hire the orchestra instead of trying to take them with you. Everyone who plays with an orchestra has to do this. But we could take PFM plus say 5 additional musicians – a chamber orchestra but not a full one. For instance, last night we played “Romeo E Giulietta” and it came out well.

(ed: the band’s rendition of “Romeo E Giulietta” was played wonderfully even without the full orchestra)

Here’s hoping for more chances to catch the amazing PFM live soon – with or without orchestra!

http://douglasharr.wordpress.com/
"Hey Scoob: did you just break into my house?"

"Whaaaat?"

"Little Jimmy told us. He says he saw you..."

"Hey listen. I don’t do that. You know me. I don’t break into people's houses."

"Jimmy says he saw you with Linda carrying all our stuff away. She's taken the wains toys. Left the video, but took the toys."

"Oh no! I helped her to carry it. I was just doin’ my gentlemanly bit, you know. She was strugglin’ with all this stuff, an’ I just helped her to carry it, that’s all."

There's a bunch of us out on the street by now, standing in the relentless West of Scotland rain, little Laura (Scoob's niece) paddling in the puddles, me watching her, two young women, Scoob, a couple of men just wandering by, Scoob's Mom leaning out of her flat window calling to Laura to get out of the puddles.

"Can you believe it," says Scoob to the men. "I was just helpin' a lassie with her stuff, an' now it turns out that she's broken into someone's house to steal it. There was a bit missin' from one of the toys. She even told me: 'if you see a little yellow bit, pick it up for us.' I can’t believe this."

"The usual fuckin’ madness," one of them says: "Toon-town craziness."

'Did you know that William Wallace prayed for inspiration in Renfrew, and that he got it?'

The Guardian Weekend February 8 1997

The thing is I'd watched the whole scene unfold earlier on from the window of Scoob's Mom's flat. I was just looking out at the rain and I'd seen this girl struggling with all these black plastic bags; and then later Scoob had come back in looking for fags saying he'd just met his friend Linda, she was a nice girl but a bit messed up, and he was helping her. And after that there was this gaggle of people around the telephone booth. I was just watching it all, you know, bog-eyed with a whiskey hangover, not putting any of the pieces together, seeing the relentless rain washing down over that grey scene out there, drinking in that sweet, damp Scottish air like it was water, and even then I was thinking, "this sums it up. This is Renfrew for you."

Well Scoob is panicking by now. He's caught in the working class equivalent of a philosophical dilemma. On the one hand he's likely to get beaten up for stealing all that stuff. On the other he's just as likely to get beaten up forgrassing on poor Linda. He's talking frantically, waving his arms about, explaining the situation. And that's when I first see it. Something's going on here. It's like he's sending out little filaments to bind these people together, web-like fibres of some psychic material woven out of his own good-intentions. Of course he didn't steal those toys. Everyone knows that. The knot of people unravels suddenly and Scoob and Laura and I walk away.

"And this is the sort of community street life the high-rise block is killin' off," says Scoob, quoting from The Young Ones.

Renfrew. It's this hotchpotch of tenement schemes, all grey, like a Lego-land toy-town put together by some grim child without any imagination. Glaswegians refer to it as "the Wild West" because of the drug wars that have claimed so many lives in the last year or two. Scoob himself has seen twenty two of his friends die, mainly to do with
drugs. But he also tells me it's the cradle of the Royal Stewarts, the historical capital of Scotland. There's a mystery here, a secret lodged between these dark, rain-smeared tenements. Did the Knights Templar land here after their ejection from France in 1307? Were they the secret source of the early Scottish Kings' great wealth and power? Is Renfrew the site of the Templar's New Jerusalem?

Interestingly, the Knights Templar were followers of John the Baptist; and it's Renfrew's own John the Baptist that we're on our way to see now, having dropped Laura off at the Nursery. John Plott: "A plot's a plan or a small piece of land, but I have the Big Picture." That's how he talks, in Capital Letters. John the Bastard, the maddest and yet the sanest man I know, a real warrior-type, as brave as the hills. He's mad because he has the sheer audacity to call himself a prophet. He's sane because he's almost single-handedly changing the face of Renfrew.

"Look at that," Scoob says, pointing to a huge chunk of plaster that's fallen from the wall near the door frame. I know what he means. We're in this grey concrete stairwell in a council scheme tenement block, in one of the poorest parts of Britain, and behind that door something is happening. It's hard to specify what, exactly. Superficially, it's the seat of Renfrew United, the organisation set up by John to tackle the drug problem. But there's something else too: something more difficult to define at first. John invites us into what he calls "the office". It's his bedroom.

There's a weight frame in the middle of the room, and a punch-bag dangling. Scoob soon has his shirt off, and he's laying into the punch bag with all these marshal art dodging manoeuvres. There's posters with quotes from Martin Luther King and Malcolm X on the wall, and a crucifix. A picture of John with Mohammed Ali, his hero. A prayer or two.
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/
Once again the latest edition to my collection of books on, about or appertaining to The Beatles comes under the spotlight in this week’s book review column. I will admit that I always thought that Pattie Harrison/Boyd/Clapton was utterly gorgeous and from reading this book it is obvious that she is not just a pretty face.

Some of the bits that I found most interesting were the accounts of her childhood in colonial Kenya which – in may ways – mirrored mine in Hong Kong a decade or so later and I can quite understand how a daughter of the Empire returning to the mother country found herself completely and utterly out of her depth and took to swinging London like a duck to water.

The book of course is not her own work, being co-written by veteran biographer Penny Junor who wrote an excellent biography of Prince Charles which I read about 16 years ago. One of the skills of a really good ghost writer is that they manage to stay outside of the events taking place on the page and allow the person they are working with to speak in a closer representation of their own true voice as could be reasonably expected. She did a particularly good job in this book.

A few weeks ago I reviewed Chris O’Dell’s book in which she was complimentary about the two Beatle wives she had been close friends with, wrote fondly about George Harrison and was insanely scathing about Eric Clapton.

I thought at the time that no-one could have been
so much of a prick as ‘Old Clapper’ was portrayed, but it seems I was wrong.

The descriptions given by Ms Boyd about her second ex-husband – surprisingly written with no rancour whatsoever, and certainly no bitterness – describe him as an utterly impossible human being: selfish, arrogant, childish and with very few redeeming features, although she still seems to be fond of him. Why I cannot, for a moment, imagine. And I thought I was a dick when I am drunk (a statement with which I am sure my wife would agree).

But my drunken idiocies – and I will admit that there have been a fair few over the years – pale into insignificance besides those of Clapton.

In the same way that his mastery of the guitar leaves me looking like a novice, in his drinking days (and I am quite prepared to admit the possibility that since he has been sober he may well have changed completely) he makes me look a complete novice at being a drunk.

The most poignant chapters, for me at least, are those dealing with the first few years at Friar Park where Pattie was trying to be the good wife and hostess whereas her first husband was alternating between trying to attain the status of a Godhead or spiritual avatar, and trying to fuck every woman who came along, including his best friend’s wife.

But for all of this one still likes and admires George Harrison, but above all one likes and admires Pattie Boyd who – partly through her own choices, and partly through being thrust into situations over which she had no control whatsoever – found herself in some singular and untenable situations from which she emerges with grace and humility.

It would be easy to nit-pick; some of the events that she remembers are clearly outside the chronology which most Beatles historians accept as canon, but this doesn’t detract from a charming, and essentially humble memoir.
"Guildford Wildlife Rocks" is an event taking place at Guildford Cathedral on the Bank Holiday Monday 5th May 2014, and Hawkwind are one of the bands that's playing.

The website says, "Wildlife Rocks is an event that celebrates the wonderful wildlife that surrounds us. It is a fantastic day to share wildlife experiences with celebrities and wildlife enthusiasts through music and talk."

"It is a day for the whole family, with a range of amazing stalls - both inside and outside with activities and different events throughout the day."

I have heard Hawkwind are due to play for an hour, at 3:20 pm. That sounds rather similar to Reading 1977, where it just felt weird, watching Hawkwind in the afternoon. It also struck me as bizarre, the idea of going to a Cathedral to buy a Hawkwind ticket!

It's been announced that The Troggs will play the opening set with, they say, "an extraordinary new member - Brian May" - and Dr May, formerly of Queen fame, is also a headliner at this event.

A tee-shirt design competition on Facebook has recently spawned the "Hawknerds" range of garments that are now on sale supporting one of the causes that Hawkwind also supports - Sea Shepherd.

They're an offshoot from Greenpeace, but they take a somewhat more resolute attitude towards their protesting - even to the extent of ramming foreign whaling trawlers in international waters.

Hoodies £25. T-shirts £15. Beanies £6. PM me for P&P, all profits to Sea Shepherd xx
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*Postage & Packing: UK - £2.50 Europe - £4.00 Rest of World - £6
Greetings space travellers!
This is your Hawkwind Earth Visitors Passport application form.

Please fill it in and return to Mission Control, at PO Box 617, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE15 7WA, together with two passport sized photographs, signed on the back and a 16cm x 11.5cm stamped-addressed envelope.

The idea is for Hawkwind fans to have access to special Hawkwind events such as Hawkfest, obtain limited edition DVDs and CDs of exclusive material and to attend private Hawkwind parties.

Pass. No. ...........................................(Leave blank)

Volunteer Crew Register

Name ........................................................................................................

Please give details of your occupation/profession for inclusion in crew register and possible duty roster (optional)
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Post Code ................................................................................................

E-Mail Address: (Please print clearly) .........................................................

Telephone Number: ................................................................................

Additional info: ........................................................................................
MAN WHAT A TOOL

LIFE IS A DRAGON

M. A. Raines
The Court Circular tells interested readers about the comings and goings of members of The Royal Family.

However, readers of this periodical seem interested in the comings and goings of Yes and of various alumni of this magnificent and long-standing band. Give the people what they want, I say...

Although there are quite a few Yes related stories around in the world’s media this week, there are considerably less than there have been in the last few issues, which is a bit of a pity. However, they are mostly of a uniformly impressive quality. For example I had no idea that Steve Howe once played on a song by Queen. Did I care? Well, yes actually, that is the sort of minutia of rock and roll archaeology that keeps me a happy little fellow.

I have always thought that the various members of Yes must take it in turns to field media questions and this week it seems to be the turn of the gnomic guitarist Steve Howe who really is not only an extraordinary musician but a remarkably entertaining raconteur.

- Decade of hits sum up the 70s for Yes
- ‘I was so proud’: The time Yes guitarist Steve Howe played on a Queen song
- Yes! We’re ready for the challenge: We chat to Steve Howe

But the vast majority of stories this week come from our cover star of this issue, Mr Richard Wakeman.

He is, as you are certain to know if you have read this issue so far, on tour at the moment with his revival of Journey to the Centre of the Earth, and he has various interesting things to say in interviews, and has been getting far more positive reviews than one would think would be printed in mainstream newspapers writing about progressive rock in these dull and degenerate times.

- Rick Wakeman Reveals Centre Of The Earth Special Edition Details
- Rick Wakeman review – swept up by sheer, ludicrous ambition
- Win a pair of tickets to Rick Wakeman’s Glasgow show and meet the man himself
- REVIEW: Rick Wakeman live at Plymouth Pavilions

I am probably getting a bit OCD about all of this, but I find the Yes soap opera of sound to be absolutely enthralling, and I for one can’t wait to see what happens next!
JOURNEY & RETURN TO THE CENTRE OF THE EARTH

Celebrating the 40th anniversary of the release of his landmark concept album, Rick Wakeman presents the repackaged, re-recorded, extended JOURNEY TO THE CENTRE OF THE EARTH.

Based on the novel by Jules Verne, which will also mark its 150th anniversary in 2014, the album is one of the rock era’s landmark achievements - a record that sold 15 million copies and rewrote the rules.

"This is the start of a new Journey," says Rick Wakeman, "the original score for the album had been lost for so many years, making any new performances impossible, but after it turned up without warning, we managed to restore it and add previously missing music that was not included in the original performances."

Return To The Centre Of The Earth was originally released in 1999 as a sequel to 'Journey'. The album has been out of print and unavailable for many years, 'Return' has now been re-issued and re-packaged to complement the newly extended and re-recorded edition of 'Journey To The Centre Of The Earth'.

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ALL TITLES CAN BE PRE-ORDERED FROM WWW.RICKWAKEMANSMUSICEMPORIUM.COM
The worldwide Freecycle Network is made up of many individual groups across the globe. It's a grassroots movement of people who are giving (and getting) stuff for free in their own towns. Freecycle groups match people who have things they want to get rid of with people who can use them. Our goal is to keep usable items out of landfills. By using what we already have on this earth, we reduce consumerism, manufacture fewer goods, and lessen the impact on the earth. Another benefit of using Freecycle is that it encourages us to get rid of junk that we no longer need and promote community involvement in the process.

http://uk.freecycle.org/
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!!"

UBI QUITUOUS "HAPPINESS"

Pharrell Williams and Bob Marley /selling HAPPY /Snappy Dance tunes/videos clipped/Top CHARTS/"It's a HIT! "People Everywhere Just Wanna B Free"
"Booty and Bling and Conspicuous Commodities Euros ,Dollars,Gold,Silver ,Platinum Private Jets and Country Clubs,Conspicuous Consumption Be Dazzled by the Hypno-Hype Selling Success!Trading the HIGH! So when you UP on the DOWNload C'mon Every Body! AWAY WE GLOW!"
In Victorian times every well-bred Gentleman had a 'Cabinet of Curiosities'; a collection of peculiar odds and sods, usually housed in a finely made cabinet with a glass door. These could include anything from Natural History specimens to historical artefacts.

There has always been something of the Victorian amateur naturalist about me, and I have a houseful of arcane objects; some completely worthless, others decidedly not, but all precious to me for the memories they hold.

But people send me lots of pictures of interesting, and, may I say, peculiar things. But once again this week it is over to my lovely wife...

I have an interesting little curio from curious.com to start off with this week.

Yes, I have been thumbing through that dusty old file again, but I do have to mention that it was only because there was a troublesome fly buzzing around the bowl of fruit situated on the nesting tables that stand next to the slightly shabby cabinet, and this file just happened to be the first thing that came to hand in my bid to send the annoying little scallywag on its way. The added fact that the box containing the files had been knocked over by the dog in her eagerness to greet the postman, thus sending the box crashing to the floor, causing its entire contents to sprawl out across the linoleum had quite a lot to do with it as well.

"... a study in the current issue of the Psychology of Music shows that music playing while we are shopping online can make a major difference in our purchase behaviors. The study used 120 students divided into 3 random groups. They were told they were testing a new website for a seaside resort and asked to select a type of accommodation. The only difference was the music that was playing: one group listened to jazz, another to African Djembe..."
top of the tin, however, then that may well cause some trepidation from any would-be male thief. Most of the males I have met do tend to get a bit iffy about such things.

http://www.amazon.com/Beatles-Introducing-Tampon-Condoms-Coins/dp/B00ITA094K

**Beatles memorabilia genuine fab vintage 1960s black/white & red apron – unused**

For £14.50 you can have this:
"Genuine vintage 1960's Beatles apron - never used! Featuring the Fab Four in full song complete with winkle pickers! Red, white & black print on 100% crisp cotton. Striped ties & frilled pocket, with black bias binding"

I am not convinced the characters on this pinny are singing, it looks more likely that they are running from some monster, and screaming whilst making their hasty escape.

d1e8a7137b6

**BEATLES Memorabilia Collector genuine 1960's English serving tin square tray**

And why not add this to your collection, while you are at it? After all, this could be quite a nice substitute for a rolling pin for whacking across your errant husband’s head, ladies. It would make rather a nice, satisfying ‘clang’ as well as metal hits bongo.
And if wearing the above item of domesticity, with its added bonus of being more red than white, it will hide any unfortunate blood spillage from ruining your attire. Perfect.

So open your purses ladies, hand over the princely amount of £17.50 and place the item conveniently on the telephone stand in the hall where you will have instant access. Maybe place a doily and a decorative vase upon it, in fact anything that can be removed deftly when needed. Or just leave it plain if you are willing to offer a polite warning of its presence and possible intended use. Entirely up to you.


Or even lash out another £60.00 and purchase these to place upon it:

The Beatles Saucers

“I have 3 of these they are whole but look slightly worn but no chips.”

(I was perched on the threshold of adding something witty about fish as well there, but I didn’t think this was the plaice for that kind of thing. And, in sarcasm terms - on a scale of one to ten - I assume the old trout in the office would score tops and carp on about it for ages).

I am tempted to send the seller a message to enquire as to what happened to the cups. I can just see the opening line of a possible response: “I used to have them on a shelf in our hall, just over the telephone stand. They used to sit between the lava lamp and my collection of little ceramic animals. Oh I had such a collection once, you know. Anyway, I was getting a bit upset one night because old Bert had not come home early from the pub, like he promised he would, it being our anniversary. Then when he rolled in at half-past midnight ……”

http://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/The-Beatles-Saucers-/321389729716?pt=UK_Collectables_Memorabilia_RL&hash=item4ad4527b4

So, genteel womenfolk, may I remind you that, for a shade under £100, you can have all three added to your armoury; all of them discreetly disguised as kitchen essentials but perfect for those monthly
ON THE BLUE ROAD

Fankhauser Cassidy Band

A double CD of classic blues from Merrell Fankhauser and Ed Cassidy

Available from www.gonzomultimedia.co.uk
occasions perhaps, when your alter-egos arise from within and your husband/boyfriend returns after daring to stay out one minute too long for your hormones to bear.

Well I’ll go to the foot of our stairs, just look at this desirable, delectable and downright saucy little number:

**OBAMA-BEATLES 2012 BUTTON - LTD EDITION** for US$8.99

An “**OBAMA-BEATLES 3” BUTTON LIMITED EDITION OF 6 (NUMBERED ON CURL OF BUTTON), ONE OF THE MOST APPEALING DESIGNS OF THE 2012 ELECTION.**

http://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/OBAMA-BEATLES-2012-BUTTON-LTD-EDITION-/271453946092?pt=LH_DefaultDomain_0&hash=item3f33ea80ec

With news elsewhere in this week’s issue about touring teeth, I just had to add these two little items as a bonus:

**ELVIS PRESLEY worn owned personal HAIR STRAND** tiny speck of his hair

Is this a weird form of code? Perhaps it really means something akin to, “Elvis running fish and chip shop in Dudley. His are the best battered sausages for miles. Try one of his famous succulent pickled eggs for free on Friday nights (only between 7 and 9).”

Okay we are assured that this tiny speck comes with “New glossy paper!” And we are informed of the
I am glad to see that they had the foresight to actually state ‘scalp hair’ though.

“Here is an approximately 6” x 8” (5 3/4” x 7 3/4“) white glossy paper ideal for framing (frame not included) that comes printed exactly as shown with a gold border-inset and a tiny speck of scalp hair from Elvis Presley that comes adhered to it. We have several strands of Elvis’ hair that came with back-up documentation and have cut the tiny hair speck from one of those hair strands. The hair strand speck on the glossy paper will be approximately 1/8” long and comes with a Certificate of Authenticity from us, The Zone!”

What can I say? All I can do is snort and grunt like a pig in clover and giggle like a demented schoolgirl at the sight of the little pink porcine rear end dressed in a rhinestone suit.


ELVIS MEMORABILIA £19.00

“‘PIG IDOL’ THE KING OF PIGS WALKING AND SINGING "HOUND DOG" BY ELVIS PRESLEY, THE BOX ISN’T IN THE BEST OF SHAPE BUT THE KING IS GREAT.WORKS WITH BATTERIES R14 X2.

A COLLECTORS ITEM, OR FOR ANY FAN OF THE KING OF ROCK N ROLL.”

http://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/ELVIS-MEMORABILIA-/181386864882?pt=UK_Music_Music_Memorabilia_LE&hash=itm2a3b768f2

“The Bird Droppings Facial That’s Big News”

This appeared in my inbox during the week via Google Alerts. As some of you may be aware, I write a daily bird blog within the CFZ and utilise the Google Alert system to flag up anything interesting. Amongst the authentic bird news I am also privy to stories of just about anybody who has the surname ‘Bird’, or anyone who has ‘given the bird’, Angry Birds, and Flappy Birds, as well as anything with the word ‘bird’ in the headlines.

Well okay I succumbed to the lure of my curiosity and checked it out. Well you could have knocked me down with a feather when it reported that none other than One Direction star:
Harry Styles is among those who swear by its effectiveness at keeping wrinkles (or in the case of 20-year-old Styles, spots) at bay.

Ha! And there was you thinking I was not going to mention them this week.

“A source told the Daily Star newspaper: "Harry's been having a bird poo facial everyday in the run-up to the tour. He doesn't want to be as spotty as he's been in the past. He's really struggled with his skin over the years.""

Well, you’ve got to feel sorry for him. After all, who is going to want to kiss his baby-soft cheeks now knowing what’s been rubbed vigorously into every pore?

http://hauteliving.com/2014/04/the-facial-thats-big-news/478331/
http://www.contactmusic.com/story/harry-styles-has-bird-poo-facials-to-clear-acne_4167461

And just for allowing yourself to be lulled into a false sense of security by my pretending that I was giving my pet hate of the moment a miss this week, here are two more 1D-related snippets of information:

“The band have created a fragrance which takes grapefruit and jasmine, and mixes them up with new such as green apple and violet for energy and vibrancy.”

Oo-er. Go on Harry, splash it all over.

excluded from this wonderful new venture from our lads. There is also a manly version just for you.

Above is an advert with the little ones looking sweet and cuddly whilst to the right is them looking moody.

Phwoar eh?

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...
For three days, once a year the little North Devon village of Woolsery becomes the weirdest place in the land.
### Thursday
- **7** Drinks at Myrtle Cottage

### Friday
- **7 - 7.15** Intro
- **7.15 - 7.45** **Nigel Mortimer**: Opening Portals
- **7.45 - 8.15** Break
- **8.15 - 8.45** **Ronan Coghlan**: Bogus Bibles
- **8.45 - 9.30** **Lee Walker**: Urban Legends of Liverpool
- **Lee Walker**: Book Signing
- **9.30 - 10.00** Break
- **10.00 - 11.00** **Lars Thomas**: Tales from the CFZ Laboratory
- **Silas Hawkins**: A bedtime story
- **10.45 - 11.00** Raffle

### Saturday
- **12.00 - 12.30** **Jon and Richard**: intro to Cryptozoology
- **12.30 - 1.15** **Nick Wadham**: Alien Abductions
- **1.15 - 1.45** Break
- **1.45 - 2.45** **Tony Whitehead (RSPB)**: C.O.P birds
- **2.45 - 3.15** Break
- **3.15 - 3.30** Kids Nature walk with Lars and Nick
- **3.30 - 4.30** **Carl Marshall**: Out of Place animals at Stratford Butterfly Park
- **4.30 - 5.00** Break
- **5.00 - 6.00** **MAX BLAKE**: Genetics for Cryptozoologists
- **6.00 - 6.30** Break
- **6.30 - 7.30** **Judge Smith**: The Judex Trilogy
- **Book Launch** **Judge Smith**: The Judex Trilogy
- **7.45 - 8.00** CFZ Awards
- **8.00 - 8.30** Break
- **8.45 - 8.00** CFZ Awards
- **8.30 - 9.30** **John Higgs**: Chaos, Magick, and the band who burned a million quid
- **9.30 - 10.00** **Richard Freeman**: Tasmania 2013 Expedition Report
- **Silas Hawkins**: A bedtime story from Richard Freeman's Hyakumonogatan
- **Raffle**

### Sunday
- **12.00 - 1.00** **MATT SALUSBURY**: Baron Walter Rotschild’s Deinothereum caper
- **1.30 - 2.00** Break
- **2.00 - 3.00** **C.J. Stone**: a MODERN King Arthur
- **3.00 - 3.30** Break
- **3.30 - 4.30** TBA
- **4.30 - 5.00** Break
- **5.00 - 5.15** Results of nature walk (Lars/Jon)
- **5.15 - 6.00** **Ronan Coghlan**: The Amphibians from Outer Space
- **6.00 - 6.15** **Jon Downes**: Keynote Speech
- **6.30** Raffle
- **Speaker’s Dinner** at the Community Centre
The Weird Weekend is the largest yearly gathering of mystery animal investigators in the English-speaking world. Now in its fifteenth year, the convention attracts speakers and visitors from all over the world and showcases the findings of investigators into strange phenomena.

Cryptozoologists, parapsychologists, ufologists, and folklorists are descending on Woolfardisworthy Community Centre to share their findings and insights. Unlike other events, the Weird Weekend will also include workshops giving tips to budding paranormal investigators, and even a programme of special events for children. The Weird Weekend is the only Fortean conference in the world that is truly a family event, although those veterans of previous events should be reassured that it is still as anarchically silly as ever!

The event is raising money for the Centre for Fortean Zoology, the world’s only full time, professional cryptozoological organisation. The profit from food and beverages goes to a selection of village charities, mostly working with children.
CLASSIC LOST BROADCAST RELEASES FROM

YES

ROCK OF THE 70's

THE LOST BROADCASTS

Featuring archive performances that have rarely been seen since their original German TV transmissions along with previously unbroadcasted takes and different versions of performances that were transmitted.

INCREDBLE STRING BAND

CAPTAIN BEEFHEART & HIS MAGIC BAND

FRANK ZAPPA

CURVED AIR

ATOMIC ROOSTER

RICHIE HAVENS

THE BYRDS

THIRD EAR BAND

JOHN MAYALL

ERIC BURDON AND WAR

IRON BUTTERFLY

STEPHEN STILLS & MANASSAS

NEW RIDERS OF THE PURPLE SMOKE

SPOOKY TOOTH

LIVE 365 WHY NOT TUNE INTO GONZO WEB RADIO

ALL AVAILABLE FROM
www.gonzomultimedia.co.uk
in the Eighties, but when the label they had signed to folded two weeks before they were due to record their full-length debut, singer Dave Halliday committed suicide. The band stopped, and no-one ever expected to hear any more from them, but their name had been kept in the public domain, most notably by guitarist/producer Andy Sneap. In 2011 he and David Bower (vocals) joined original members Kev Bower (guitar and keys), Tony Speakman (bass) and Tim Bowler (drums) to record the debut album at last. There was a very positive response to the outcome (and it reached #46 in the German charts) but no-one was sure if it was just a one-off or if there would ever be more material. Well, the guys have been touring a great deal and the feeling is that Hell were once again a band, as opposed to a project, so back into the studio they went. The new album is comprised of 50% old material, and 50% new, but it isn’t possible to state which is which as it is a complete piece of work. Andy has built a reputation over the years as a producer, and along with Colin Richardson is one of the ones that I personally rate most highly in this field, so I knew what the sound was going to be punchy and powerful, but what about the music?

Hell were a band that passed me by first time around, so I am hearing all this material for the first time, and really the only thing to do with an album like this is just put it on repeat and keep playing it, as it is simply awesome. Imagine a slightly more commercial version of Iron Maiden combined with some of the heavier elements of Uriah Heep and you may just get close to what
these guys are like, but of course don’t forget the vocals of Davis Bower who has been paying a lot of attention to classic Raven as well. The first time I played this I burst out laughing during the song “The Age of Nefarious” as there is a direct musical steal from the classic 5th Dimension “Age of Aquarius” in the chorus, just the one line but I wonder how many of people younger than me will get it? In many ways it sums up the album for me as there is the impression of five guys out there not only paying respect to what they did before but creating something that is brand new and incredibly powerful while having fun doing so.

There have been some incredible metal albums released during 2013, but this is one of the finest.

In Process is a groove metal band founded in 2006, based in Helsinki, Finland. After some time of keeping a low profile, the band went through some lineup changes and was reactivated in the beginning of 2012. At the end of that year they sent into to record this five track EP. I think that it is safe to say that these guys have listened to a lot of classic Sepultura and have decided that they want to produce more of the same, and it is some of the drum patterns that are starting to set this band aside from the rest of the pack. But, overall this is an EP that shows promise as opposed to being the complete package, and it will be interesting to see what comes out with the debut album (which they are currently working on). There are some interesting elements and ideas (“Flatline” is very different to the rest of the album, far more experimental, dark and interesting) but they need to expand on these some more or run the risk of being overlooked as there are so many metal bands around. www.inverse.fi

This is the second EP from Finnish act Indoctrine who only got together in 2012. It is melodic death, with some Black Metal influences, and it is obvious that the Gothenburg scene has had quite an impact on them. But while these six songs show that they know what they are doing and what they want to achieve, for some reason this doesn’t really hit the mark with me.

I think the issue is that while they put themselves forward as a melodic death outfit there is actually a lot of BM in what they are doing and while that isn’t usually a problem, here it doesn’t really gel and works against the main thrust as opposed to complementing it. Much of that is down to the vocals which don’t really work with the music as they are just too harsh and brutal – nothing wrong with that I hear you say, but there is something here that isn’t quite right. Not bad at all, with lots going for it, but there isn’t anything here to get overly excited about.
Månegarm

From Norrtälje in Sweden Månegarm were founded in 1995. The band's name comes from Mánagarmr (moon hound) a wolf in Norse mythology and their music is listed under the genres of Viking metal, folk metal and black metal.

Members are currently:

Erik Grawsiö - vocals, bass
Markus Andé - guitar
Jonas Almkvist - guitar
Jacob Hallegren – drums

And as one of these videos features their one-time violinist:
Jan Liljekvist - violin (2004-2012)

“Sweden’s Månegarm are one of the most long lasting Viking metal bands yet. Unlike many bands of the genre, Månegarm utilize real violins and flutes instead of keyboard affects.”

Have a watch, have a listen:

Sigrblot
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVNmnp0aXZ8

Sons of War
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cfOBpMpYAx&feature=youtu.be

https://www.facebook.com/Manegarmsweden/info
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M%C3%A5negarm
http://www.manegarmsweden.com/

http://www.metal-archives.com/reviews/M%C3%A5negarm/Vargstenen/149846/
It has been a strange and rather stressful week, but an interesting one, and I make no real apologies for sharing the events of my peculiar life with readers here and elsewhere. I always liked John Lennon’s concept of making your life into your art and for me doing this works partly on that sort of level and partly as a sort of therapy. The best thing to come out of preparing this edition of the Gonzo Weekly is that, for the first time, my lovely wife Corinna has done probably just as much design work as me, and it is an immensely liberating feeling to be able to spread the load somewhat.

I love the new media; the way that stories can be written and published within hours if not minutes, and the way - for example – even today Keith Levene’s interview and an extra-special episode of Canterbury Sans Frontières landed in my editorial lap and I was able to include them in this issue in a way that just simply would not have been possible if I had been stuck with constraints of the media models with which I grew up and cut my editorial teeth.

I love my wife very much (which is probably a good thing because I am dictating this to her whilst putting the final bits in place for the artwork for the Gonzo Web Radio section) but I think that I feel most comradely towards her when, at 1.45 am, when most God-fearing citizens are tucked up in their old feather and flip, we are working on an anarchic rock and roll magazine and giggling at the silliness in the latest episode of Jaki and Tim’s ridiculous Sub Reality Sandwich. Although both of us have worked in the so-called real world neither of us are particularly suited to it, and it is at times like this that I thank our lucky stars for having been able to carve out a niche in which we can remain happy, healthy and reasonably solvent.

Thank you for your continued support and for the fact that you mostly seem to like what we do. It means a lot to us. So, on behalf of my editorial team, my pet dogs, cats and lobster, and even the newt eggs which arrived in the post this morning, my wife and I would like to say goodnight and God Bless from the potato shed.
BEEFHEART AT HIS BEST
Live on stage

Admit One $5.50

Someplace Over Detroit
From Harpos Concert Theatre, Detroit
11 Dec 1980

Captain Beefheart & the Magic Band

Eric Drew Feldman * Robert Williams * Richard Snyder * Jeff Taplin/White * Jeff Morris Tepper

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