GONZO
weekly #82

EXCLUSIVE:
We discuss Wally Hope's legacy with the custodian of his ashes

EXCLUSIVE:
Yes on the Cruise to the Edge in words and pictures

EXCLUSIVE:
An exciting new album from the legendary Mick Abrahams

EXCLUSIVE:
Dead Fred opens his archives to Gonzo

RAINBOW WARRIOR
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
My Dear Friends,

I really am in a very strange place this week. In 1982, May of 1982 to be precise, I moved to North Devon from South Devon. I became a student nurse studying for what was then called being a Registered Nurse for the Mentally Subnormal at the Royal West County Hospitals at Langdon and Starcross.

The 22-year-old Jon Downes was living at nurses’ homes at these two hospitals doing his best to uphold his emotional image that all you needed was love by drinking too much, and getting emotionally involved with as many girls as he could. And he (I) did his best to fulfil that ambition to the best of his (my) ability.

Some time in the autumn of 2002 (in between studying for his qualification, and doing his best to shag his way through the young ladies of the hospital) he switched on his television set. There, on the screen, was something that he really didn’t expect; a young man of about his own age, with an exaggeratedly stupid, anti-establishment haircut. He was pointing accusingly at a policeman. He said:

“Pig! What’s your gig, pig?”

Barry Manilow?

Or the Black and White Minstrel Show?”

It was Rik Mayall. It was the People’s Poet. It was a TV show called The Young Ones. He was Rik the complete bastard.

The 22-year-old Jon Downes fell in love. And this is probably where the fact that the 22-year-old Jon Downes is as mad as a bagful of cheese comes into play. It was the first series of a BBC television series called The Young Ones, but the 22-year-old Jon Downes just saw it as a glorious window upon life. Art is supposed to be a window on life, but
I would like to pretend, as editor of these pages, that the encapsulation of what I do comes from Mick Farren, Jon Sinclair, or the pages of the late-'60s, early '70s or whatever, underground press. But it doesn’t. More of what I am, what I pretend to be, or what I have ever pretended to be, comes from bits and bobs to do with that particular 1980s BBC comedy series (The Young Ones) than it does anything else.

But, the People’s Poet is dead. But how can he be dead, if we still have his poetry?

Does this make sense to you? I don’t know, I don’t care.

The Young Ones was one of the few socio-cultural media events of the early 1980s which really affected, not just me, but everybody I knew. I would like to say that we had all been influenced by Jerry Rubin or people of that ilk, but we weren’t. Rik Mayall and his comrades, did something unforgivable. They didn’t manage to delineate where reality ended and entertainment began. This is why I, and many people like me, are far more upset today than we should be for the death of a comedian.

And if you want to know about the death of a comedian, just check out the first chapter of Watchmen.

But the death of Rik Mayall is not the only thing which has happened this week which has upset my equilibrium. The Weird Weekend, the event that I have been promoting for the last fourteen years is under threat.

I still have no idea what I am going to do about the Weird Weekend. In the week I posted that:

“There are more unfortunate developments re the Village Hall Committee and the Weird Weekend. They have put the price up again, and unless they back down it looks like I shall have to cancel. Everyone will get a shiny sparkling refund, and offered the option of a little present instead.”

After my posting, five different people contacted me offering to pay part or all of the extra money, and I am overwhelmed by their love and support.

The problem is not really the money, however, but a matter of principle. Through no fault of ours, the ladies who have done such an excellent job of the catering for the last six or seven years are not able to do it this year. I asked the organisation which runs The Small School in Hartland, an institution with whom I have much
sympathy, to do it.

The Community Centre are now charging us a surcharge of £150 because the Small School is not from the village. The fact that they are from a small town five miles away seems to be irrelevant.

I think that this is completely outrageous.

On top of this, it has been made clear to me that the views we hold and have expressed about bloodsports and the badger cull have not made me/us popular in certain quarters.

Against this background of bad vibes, I feel uneasy about holding an event that has always worked on happy co-operation and good vibes to produce a truly magickal experience. I am waiting to hear back from the Hall Committee before I make up my mind, but with the mixture of bad vibes and poor ticket sales and the number of WW regulars who will be unavoidably absent this year due to other commitments, I am tempted to cancel this year’s event, and start again in a new venue in 2015.

It makes me wonder what The People’s Poet would have done? Probably run about shouting that everyone involved was a “complete bastard” and that it was all a neo-fascist conspiracy, which I don’t think that it is.

He would then have composed a piece of freeform poetry which would have made McGonagal sound like Shelley.

But none of that really gives me any pointers as to what decision I am going to have to make. Should I cancel in order to showcase the greed and stupidity of the people involve?

Should I carry on regardless so as not to disappoint the people who have already bought tickets and booked their holidays in advance?

Truly, I still have no idea.

THE GONZO WEEKLY
all the gonzo news that’s fit to print
Issue Eighty-Two June 14th

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)

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,
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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.
• **SOME NEWS IS POTENTIALLY TOO GOOD FOR FACILE HEADLINES** Wilko Johnson is reportedly "making excellent progress" after undergoing an emergency pancreatic-cancer operation on 30 April. The musician, 66, who was told in January 2013 that he had less than a year to live, has now been released from hospital and is "recuperating" at home. The "incredibly positive" news comes from Johnson's former band, Dr Feelgood: "We're sure you will be as delighted as we are that after making excellent progress at Addenbrooke's over the last few weeks, Wilko is now convalescing back at his home," they wrote on Facebook. "Naturally after such an extensive procedure, Wilko is extremely tired, and it will take him some time to recuperate, so he asks that you respect his privacy." Read on...

• **ANTICHRIST SUPERSTAR** A US touring production of Jesus Christ Superstar starring former Sex Pistols frontman John Lydon has been cancelled 10 days before it was due to start. Lydon was to play King Herod in the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical, along with Destiny's Child singer Michelle Williams as Mary Magdalene. The 54-city tour had been scheduled to begin in New Orleans on 9 June and include stops in New York and Boston. Producers have yet to comment on the reason for the show's cancellation. A message posted on the production's website also offered no explanation, but said all tickets would be refunded. Read on...

• **REMEMBER THE IMPORTANT ROLE DENTISTS PLAYED IN THE LIFE OF THE KING** A dental crown worn by Elvis Presley went astray during a tour to raise awareness of mouth cancer, leaving members of a dental practice "all shook up." "The King's Crown" was due to arrive at Bracknell's Appledore Dental Clinic early on Thursday, but arrived more than five hours late after a labelling mix-up by FedEx, the practice claimed. It was located on its way to Dundee before being redirected. FedEx apologised for the inconvenience. Read on...

• **IT'S A MIRACLE** We've heard of Jesus' face appearing on everything from grilled cheese sandwiches to potato chips and breakfast tacos—but it seems Motorhead bassist and vocalist Lemmy is now turning up on people's breakfast plates as well! Not to be blasphemous (especially on a Sunday) but it does make a certain amount of sense — after all, Lemmy is considered to be a musical god by many rock and roll fans. And now we have a breakfast miracle as proof, with the music icon's likeness making an appearance on a pancake. Check out the embedded tweet below and let us know if you think this is indeed the 'Ace of Spades' singer about to be covered in butter and syrup. Given the spate of health scares that he has experienced over the last year, we can only hope that those are whole grain pancakes, both for Lemmy's sake and the sake of millions of Motorhead fans worldwide. Read on...
Trying to pick my favorite politician is like trying to decide which STD is just right for me.

"Capitalism is the extraordinary belief that the nastiest of men for the nastiest of motives will somehow work for the benefit of all."

John Maynard Keynes
“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.

WE DO NOT CLAIM THAT ANY OF THESE STORIES ARE TRUE—ONLY THAT THE PEOPLE WHO POSTED THEM CLAIM THAT THEY ARE TRUE...

- **HOMELESS DETERRENT** Metal spikes many believe have been installed to deter homeless people from sleeping in an alcove outside a block of flats in London have sparked outrage on Twitter, after pictures of the building went viral. Andrew Horton, 33, of Woking, Surrey, took a picture of the studs outside of the block of privately-owned flats on Southwark Bridge Road in the borough of Southwark as he walked to work on Wednesday. Mr Horton told The Telegraph he believed the studs have been put in place to prevent homeless people from sleeping there. “I can’t say for certain but it certainly looked like they were placed there to deter homeless people. It’s dreadful.” Read on...

- **KING BOY D vs NIGEL FARAGE** Ever since someone gave me a bootleg copy of The Justified Ancients of MuMu album ‘1987: What the Fuck is Going On’ at a record fair a few months after it was first released, I have been a huge fan of Bill Drummond. His current activities include a world tour in which he will spend the next eleven years on a tour spending three months in each of a number of cities. He is coming to the end of his tenure in the first of them – Birmingham. And this week I discovered that he recently defaced a UKIP poster which “offended him morally and aesthetically” and “also went against everything that I feel political discourse should be about”. Right on Bill. Read more
"If you don't want your tax dollars to help the poor, then stop saying you want a country based on Christian values, because you don't."

Jimmy Carter
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.
PRAYING FOR A POTHEAD PIXIE

Daevid Allen has been in hospital this week. We have done our best to keep up to date with events as they transpired, and have posted out bulletins on his progress to subscribers of this magazine as well as on the Gonzo Daily blog. The following statement appeared on Daevid Allen’s Facebook page on Monday:

"First thing on Tuesday morning in Australia daevid is having surgery to remove a Staph infected cancerous growth from his neck. The operation will also involve the removal of some nerves and moving a bit of muscle to replace some which will be lost from the site of the infection.

A cyst appeared on his neck sometime before the Gong Brazil dates in early March. Unfortunately the initial treatment of the cyst on his neck resulted in daevid contracting a Golden Staph (Staphylococcus aureus) infection which compromised and delayed further treatment on the cyst, which kept growing.

Then things got really difficult - daevid badly fractured his upper left arm falling on the concrete path to his house. It was wet and slippery and over he went - bendy has never been a useful term in describing daevid’s physical frame - and unfortunately so it proved.

The nature and position of the fracture meant that it could not put in a cast - only held as immobile as possible in a sling. This made many of his regular quite energetic health regimes, and even the cutting of food (all those salads and fruit he enjoys so much), impossible, and sleep (in a chair) as near as impossible.

Three weeks after breaking his arm and while trying to reduce the Staph infection to the point where it would be possible to operate on the cyst (and also possibly operate on the fracture as well, which wasn’t healing as it should) daevid got to such a low point that he had to spend a week in hospital. It was then that the cyst was diagnosed as cancerous.

Daevid’s physiological ‘perfect storm’ was complete and it was at this point that his participation in the Gong dates in June, which he was trying so hard to get well for, was just not going to happen.

After the operation daevid will spend a week in hospital before going home. He
Australia) and sending healing vibes to the old reprobate via Radio Gnome Invisible (step away from the modern ‘mediaeval’ technology, cut out the dodgy middlemen and go direct) you will be joining many of us doing the same.

Gong devotees from all over the world sat, prayed, and waited. It was a long wait, because the next bulletin didn’t come in for some time. When it did, it was reasonably encouraging news. This was posted on Tuesday teatime:

Daevid has got through the Op OK and is now recovering in hospital. These next few days are critical, this is a very vulnerable healing time for the ailing alien, so keep sending him that love and positivitea. ☺️

The next news came in on Wednesday morning (by the way these are all UK times rather than local time in the Antipodes) and came as close to the horse’s mouth as one can get, David’s son Orlando:

Orlando Allen: Great News from Gong’s beloved Dingo Virgin/Bert Camembert otherwise known as Daevid Allen - The operation was a success and the Surgeons particularly commendable for taking extra special care with the nerves and tendons vital to daevids ability to continue performing.

Daevid sends a huge special thank-you to everyone who has been will then have a period of radiation therapy on his neck and will obviously need some solid recovery time to ensure the cancer has no reason to return.

All things considered daevid is in good spirits, although in a fair bit of discomfort. Naturally he is apprehensive about the general anesthetic and the operation as he has experienced neither before. He remains optimistic, yet realistic about the future and is looking forward to being restored to rude health - and let’s face it no-one does ‘rude’ health quite like hymn-self.

If you would like to help by tuning in at 9.00 p.m. GMT on Monday 9th (close to the starting time of the operation in
Gonzo Weekly are joining in the prayers and healing vibes being sent to Daevid on his sick bed. He is a very special person, and I feel privileged to have known him. In a very real sense none of this would have happened without him. It was visiting Daevid Allen in the spring of 1988 where I first met Rob Ayling, and our long friendship was kindled. Daevid Allen was also the inspiration for Rob to start Voiceprint Records. As I believe I have written elsewhere, the first LP I ever owned was by Gong, and so Daevid Allen has been of pivotal importance in my life, in the life of the Gonzo Grand Fromage and in the lives of countless Pothead Pixy acolytes across the face of the globe (and one suspects across the face of many other globes as well).

Get well soon, Daevid and we guarantee you that if you ever come to North Devon for whatever reason Corinna will make one of her best and most splendiferous cakes for you.

And the latest news came in on Friday evening, just as we were going to press:

News from the front...
daevid's wound gets better everyday - so all heads in the right direction. He had a skin graft from his leg to the site of where the tumor was removed. There is now an indentation there.

He is in good spirits helped no doubt by being on pretty full on medication - having lots of weird hallucinations apparently! All normal there then.

I think that will be the last time he postpones having a lump removed to gig. He is lucky to be alive. Yes Gong is special and all that, but let's not die for it - well unless you really want to.

Anyway he always said he fancied going while on stage - daevid 'Tommy Cooper' allen, then a Viking funeral. Perhaps an end of the pier gig and a waiting rowing boat piled high with kindling would do the trick.

It goes without saying that we at
ALMOST ACHIEVING NIRVANA

I very much enjoyed talking to Patrick Campbell-Lyons the other day. He has been an inspiration to me for the last 35 years, and so it is always good to hear that he is not only happy and healthy, but is still working the same idiosyncratic scene of psychedelia that he always has done.

His latest album, 13 Dalis, is an absolute joy, and I very much recommend that readers of this magazine check it out, because it is very much to my taste, and I suspect that it may well be to yours.

I don’t know how many of our readers live in Greece, or are planning to be in Greece for their holidays this summer, but this gig looks bloody fantastic doesn’t it?

If you are going to play this to your children, make sure that you hide your carving knives afterwards.

Keep on truckin’ man.

A DARKER DONOVAN

Paul Whitrow is an old friend of mine and has been a reader and supporter of this magazine since its inception. Actually he has been a reader and supporter of this magazine ever since I first tried to put this sort of thing together back in 1988, but that is another story.

Recently, as those of you who study these august pages will be aware, Paul has been working in conjunction with Australian performance artist and film maker Missy Jubilee, whose work asks uncomfortable questions about our own sexuality, and usually performs naked.

Paul has been recording various songs for the soundtracks of these films, but the latest, a cover version of Donovan’s ‘Hurdy Gurdy Man’ with Groundhog Ken Pustelnik on drums takes the proverbial biscuit.

If you are going to play this to your children, make sure that you hide your carving knives afterwards.

Paul, dear boy, in all the years I have known you, you never cease to amaze me, and I cannot wait to see what you are gonna do next.

the week that’s past
RIGHT SAID FRED

Dead Fred, keyboard player in Hawkwind, Inner City Unit, The Pompatours, Krankshaft, Bob Calvert, Barney Bubbles etc. has opened his tape archives for Gonzo to generate a series of new releases. Gonzo Grande Fromage - Rob Ayling - looked on gobsmacked as tape after tape of unreleased material (both, live and studio) was discovered as Fred went through his tape vault of unreleased jewels. Rob said afterwards, "I am just astonished by the sheer volume of unreleased material. Given the majority comes from the 80's I would have thought the likes of Cherry Red / Atomhenge, would have issued this material, but it transpired they are not aware of its existence. In fact no one really was / is". Fred would pull out a tape and say things like, "That's Bob's (Calvert's) handwriting. I haven't played this one since the day he gave it to me".

Or, "I remember that mix, it was far better than what went out" and so on. In the next few months, John Hughes is going work on pulling the gems out of the tapes, which are spread across many formats. From cassette to 15 ips 1/4" to Umatic to Betamax. Each format represents a challenge but the Gonzo audio restoration team are always up for a challenge.

In closing Rob summed things up as, "it's rare to find such an amazing archive that at least something has sneaked out on the bootleg market from, this collection is pristine not only that hardly anyone beyond the bands have heard it, it is as close as possible to source material and is totally unique in what is in there and it provides an invaluable window into what has been going on in the studio / live at a time when the record companies were been very conservative in what they issued".
The new songs are big with vocals and electronica. More free downloads have been added to our website as well. We still have 6 songs to finish for hopefully a 2015 release.

www.genrepeak.net

The pictures show Martin and Christopher Scott Cooper at Blue Seven Audio, May 2014.

Hopefully I will be having a full interview with Martin next week, and there will be more news to impart sometime in the next few issues.
GENRE PEAK

the week that's past
MICK'S GOT THE BLUES AGAIN

A little bird tells me that legendary guitarist Mick Abrahams, co-founder of Jethro Tull, and the main man of progressive blues rockers Blodwyn Pig has a smashing new album due for release. This includes contributions from such rock and roll luminaries as Bill Wyman, once of the Rolling Stones, (but if you didn’t know that then there really is no hope for you) Paul Jones (one of the great blues singers from the ‘60s) and Bernie Marsden, (one time guitarmeister with Whitesnake).

By anybody’s standards, this is an impressive collection of collaborators, and I very much look forward to talking to Mick about this project very soon.

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

It has to be said that the 1960s bluesmen who are still recording today do so with far more dignity than do some of their contemporaries who seem to want to pretend they are still in their early 20s when in fact they are 50 years older.

This is not surprising really, because there is a precedent for this; back in the ’60s these very musicians learned at the figurative feet of a generation of elderly men like Howling Wolf, Muddy Waters, and Sonny Boy Williamson who had carried the flame lit by such pioneers as Robert Johnson and Son House in the first part of the 20th Century, but had never achieved any level of commercial success until these new, young white boys came from the Thames delta and popularised the blues to an almost unbelievable extent. Now it is their turn to pass on the baton. But who, I wonder, will pick it up?
THE LATEST FROM JOHN ELLIS

John Ellis (born 1 June 1952) is an English guitarist and songwriter. He was a co-founder of the pub rock band Bazooka Joe in 1970 and a founding member of the punk rock band The Vibrators.

Ellis formed The Vibrators in 1974 while still at art school, studying illustration. The Vibrators released two albums with Ellis and toured extensively. Ellis left The Vibrators in 1978 to form the short-lived group Rapid Eye Movement, before embarking on a solo career in 1979, releasing a couple of singles, one of which, Babies in Jars (a live Rapid Eye Movement recording), reached #34 on the UK Indie Chart.

In 1980 he toured with Peter Gabriel on his Tour of China 1984, and he appears on the album Peter Gabriel 4. From 1982 on he recorded a number of albums with Peter Hammill, and toured with Hammill (off and on) from 1981 until 1989. From 1981 until 1984 he was a member of the K Group with Peter Hammill. Hammill was "K" (on vocals, piano and guitar), Nic Potter was "Mozart" (on bass guitar), Guy Evans was "Brain" (on drums), and Ellis was "Fury" (on backing vocals and guitar). The Peter Hammill album The Margin is a registration of live-concerts by the K group.

Between late 1990 and 2000 Ellis was a member of the punk rock band The Stranglers, starting with the album Stranglers In the Night. During that period he also created music for European Art exhibitions and several short films. Ellis left The Stranglers in 2000. He is an exponent of the E-bow guitar.

SLY GUITAR is an album of instrumental guitar music that he describes as a "car crash of electronics, improvisations and edgy composition centred on the electric guitar".

Here’s what reviewers say:

“Aficionados of modern guitar will love this album, so, if you love Nelson, Fripp, Summers and Frith, you had best be checking this out!”

“On ‘Sly Guitar’, however he returns to (and lays into) his main instrument with a sharp-clawed and swaggering stylishness. It’s the kind of performance that suggests he’s ripped the tail-fin off a 1950s Cadillac and carved a new guitar from it.”

He has a regular newsletter which describes his activities in a deft and stylish manner. I recommend that you check it out…

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 will go to The Small School in Hartland, North Devon.

NO COVER BANDS!

Description
This is North Devon's first celebration of faery culture, arts, 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).

It's going to be an incredible day and night - don't miss out - buy your tickets now!!!

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The Gospel According to BART

My favourite roving reporter has once again come up with a load of stuff of interest, starting off with an interesting article about the knock-on effect of Paul McCartney postponing his recent tour.

Paul McCartney's postponed Out There tour dates left thousands of disappointed fans and promoters scrambling to adjust their schedules. And while the long-term costs of his recent viral infection are likely to be minimal, show delays and cancellations can become rife with complications.


The next story he describes as “a real head-scratcher mate” and it concerns a recent claim by singer Lana Del Rey that she wishes she were dead.

Lana Del Rey wants to die so badly, she wishes she was already dead, or so she told British newspaper The Guardian. When the subjects of Kurt Cobain and Amy Winehouse came up during her interview, and the newspaper connected the two by their deaths, Del Rey – whose breakthrough album was titled Born to Die, she proclaimed her death wish. “I don't want to have to keep doing this, but I am,” she told the paper. And by “this,” she said she meant “everything.” “That's just how I feel,” she said. “If it wasn't that way, then I wouldn't say it. I would be scared if I knew [death] was coming, but. . .” The rest of the sentence did not make it into print.

http://www.rollingstone.com/music/news/lana-del-rey-i-wish-i-was-dead-already-20140612

And to continue this week’s theme of death and illness, he sends a story about Morrissey being forced to cancel the rest of his US tour due to illness. But who is lying and who is telling the truth?

It is all very complicated, and I cannot hope to précis it here, so you had better read the story Bart sent me and gawk with amazement.

Police are looking for a man who is alleged to have attacked an ice cream vendor with a fudge bar in an argument over correct change.

The ice cream truck driver told authorities in Rock Hill, South Carolina that the man accused her of not giving his daughter the right change after she bought the ice cream before brandishing the fudge bar aggressively.

Officers reported they saw a red mark on the driver’s arm after responding to the call on Wednesday.

The ice cream vendor described the man to police and told them he drove a white van.

The police report did not say whether the alleged attacker took the ice cream with him.

Police will be hoping they don’t fudge the evidence in this investigation.

http://metro.co.uk/2014/05/23/man-allegedly-attacked-ice-cream-vendor-with-fudge-bar-4738103/
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 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

STRANGE FRUIT 71

- Black Sweden: Smoke on the Water/Mamma Mia
- Siria: Ventihno do Norte
- Micah P. Hinson: Everybody’s Twistin’
- Judee Sill: The Donor
- Spirit: Prelude – Nothin’ to Hide/ Nature’s Way/ Animal Zoo/ Love Has Found a Way
- EyeSea: Stück 1
- Lou Reed and Metallica: Pumping Blood
- EyeSea: Stück 8
- Jah Wobble’s Invaders of the Heart: The Dunes
- David A. Jaycock: Decanting Sand
- Black Sweden: Ballroom Blitz/Dancing Queen
- DJ Shadow: Broken Levy Blues
- Frank and Nancy Sinatra: Life’s a Trippy Thing
- Twiggy: I Need Your Hand in Mine
- Twiggy: Over and Over
- EyeSea: Stück 8
- Dissection: Cold Winds
- The Orchestra of the Upper Atmosphere: He Died Before I Could Get My Revenge
- Little Annie: Everything and More
- Mandrake Paddle Steamer: Strange Walking Man
- Spirit: Space Child/When I Touch You/ Space Worm
- Barbara Cartland: Goodnight Sweetheart
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 latest of them and this week the titular submarine welcomes back Tim who apparently swam back through a porthole bringing the lovely Lyn Paul with him. This week there are discussions of a bovine nature, and some music from Bevis Frond’s daughter, as well as lots of other peculiar things. 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.
ARTISTS:

- DEMON DUDES REVENGE
  http://www.facebook.com/pages/Demon-Dudes-Revenge/137200813001194
- Resistor
  http://www.facebook.com/resistorband?ref=br_tf
- Steve Cochrane
  http://www.facebook.com/SteveCochraneMusic
- Seconds Before Landing
  http://www.facebook.com/SBLMusic
- Majestic
  http://www.facebook.com/pages/Majestic-Songs/182918543056
- Baraka
  http://www.facebook.com/BARAKAJAPAN
- ONY
  http://www.facebook.com/pages/Ony/128343966123
- HOX VOX
  http://www.facebook.com/HoxVox
- Dani W. Schmid
- Alessandro Bertoni
  http://www.facebook.com/alessandrobartonikeys

I first came across Friday Night Progressive totally by accident, but I soon found myself beguiled by the style and taste of presenter M Destiny who presents a weekly two-hour show showcasing all sorts of progressive music that you are unlikely to hear anywhere else. This is surely a man after my own heart. I also very much approve of the way that it is the hub of a whole community of artists, musicians, and collaborators.

I hope that you enjoy them as much as I do. Welcome aboard, chaps.

Hello, I am M Destiny host of Friday Night Progressive. You will find it to be an incredible independent internet broadcast show. But it’s more than that. We tend to boast that the musicians played on FNP are above the status quo.

This includes the multi-instrumentalist and the educated musician. We tend to shy away from computer generated creations and rely on talent using musical instruments and steer this talent for purposes of sheer inspirational indulgence. It is only in the FNP chat room where you will find the most talented musicians packed at one time into such an honored space.


Listen Here

Friday Night Progressive
DEMON DUDES REVENGE
Resistor
Sieve Cochrane
Seconds Before Landing
Majestic
Baraka
ONY
Hox Vox
Dani W. Schmid
Alessandro Bartoni
fridaynightprogressive.com
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 SIXTEEN: "As this episode was put together while I was out in the USA, it features more American sounds than usual (Grateful Dead, David Crosby, Zappa, Miles, Paul Butterfield Blues Band) alongside the usual Soft Machine, Gong, Caravan and Kevin Ayers. Also some Eno, Henry Cow, Supersister and Squarepusher, and, new from Canterbury, Syd Arthur, Arlet (playing Eno), Lapis Lazuli, Plume, and a pair of remixes from Koloto and Ekoda Map.”
The People's Poet is dead!!
But how can he be dead when we still have his poems???
Rik Mayall (1958-2014)

Richard Michael "Rik" Mayall was an English comedian, writer and actor. Mayall was best known for his comedy partnership with Adrian "Ade" Edmondson, for his energetic "post-punk" style of acting, and as a pioneer of alternative comedy in the early 1980s.

He appeared in numerous cult classic sitcoms, including The Young Ones, Blackadder, The New Statesman and Bottom, and in the comedy films Drop Dead Fred and Guest House Paradiso. Mayall was described at the time of his death as a "truly brilliant" comedian with a unique stage presence, whose "fireball creativity" and approach to sitcom had inspired a generation of comedy stars.

In the 2005 Channel 4 poll, Comedians' Comedian, Mayall was voted among the top 50 comedy performers of all time.

In 2008, Mayall was awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters (DLitt) from the University of Exeter.

In the 2010 poll, "Top 100 Stand-Up Comedians", Mayall was placed 91st.

In 2014, on his death, The Guardian described Mayall as an actor whose "onscreen performances were so full of life.

His characters weren't neatly drawn sketches: they were vast mad scribbles, jammed to the margins with noise and energy".

Commenting of his role in the sitcom Blackadder, it noted, "Upstaging an entire fleet of world-class comedians should have been impossible.

Mayall made it look effortless", and that he had replicated this success in his other best-known shows, by becoming the "face of the show" in The Young Ones and creating an "iconic" figure in The New Statesman character, Alan B'Stard.

THOSE WE HAVE LOST
REMEMBERING RIK MAYALL

ALTERNATIVE COMEDY SPAWNED MUCH IN THE 1980s-
cubs led to stage led to TV series led to
cartoons and puppet shows
One of the gifted writers of this seminal time
was Rik Mayall
His character of THE POET was a seed for a future
caricature
as part of THE YOUNG ONES
whose demographics matched four generations of
young Britons
This was the age of Thatcher /Spitting Image and
absurd violent surrealism
Falklands War and patriotic jingoism against squats
and Beanfield Battles @ Stonehenge

We watched all this long distance via
VHS and BBC repeats
Then BOTTOM,
and his sendup of a Tory Lord -
Voltaire would be proud!
It is 1984. The first Young Ones 1981.
Ben Elton holds the original pilot script
We hold Rik Mayall in esteem—for taking us to
truth via wit.

Never forget his parting comments-
"Well-surely you do not expect a COMEDIAN to
solve your problems?"
And we did.

Thom the World Poet

‘There were times when Rik and I were writing to-
gether when we almost died laughing. They were
some of the most carefree stupid days I ever had,
and I feel privileged to have shared them with him.
And now he’s died for real. Without me. Selfish
bastard.’

Adrian Edmondson

THOSE WE HAVE LOST
Alan Douglas
(1931 – 2014)

Douglas was an American record producer from Boston, who worked with Jimi Hendrix, Miles Davis, John McLaughlin, Lenny Bruce and The Last Poets. He ran his own record label, Douglas Records.

In 1962, Douglas took charge of United Artists Records Jazz division. One of his first projects was Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers’s Three Blind Mice albums, recorded live at the Renaissance Club in Hollywood. He also coaxed trumpeter Kenny Dorham into the studio for Matador; a soul-jazz classic shared with Jackie McLean and Bobby Timmons. Douglas’s qualities as a producer were already evident.

He would encourage musicians to express themselves and push the boundaries, like when he teamed Duke Ellington with Max Roach and Charles Mingus for Money Jungle, which George Wein has described as “one of the greatest piano trio recordings in jazz history.”

Douglas would produce other memorable releases during his short tenure with UA — including albums by Oliver Nelson, Ken McIntyre, King Pleasure, Herbie Mann, and Betty Carter. The Bill Evans and Jim Hall LP Undercurrent was the first of their collaborations. Highlights from these albums can be found on Douglas On Blue Note, issued in 2009.

Douglas’s production work on a few of Hendrix’s posthumous releases is controversial. This is primarily due to tracks on the Crash Landing and Midnight Lightning LP releases.

On these releases Douglas replaced the original drum and bass tracks and added guitar overdubs newly recorded by session musicians, and additional added female backing singers to one track, and so altered these tracks that he claimed co-composer credit on several.

On the much later Voodoo Soup compilation album Douglas is known to have wiped original drum tracks on two songs and replaced them with Bruce Gary. Second, on the 1993 CD releases of Hendrix’s three studio albums, the original album artwork and packaging were scrapped in favour of new renderings of the Jimi Hendrix Experience.

However, Douglas’s supporters credit him with maintaining, if not reviving, Hendrix’s musical legacy during the 1980s and 1990s and note that many younger fans appreciated the access to the then out-of-print material included on many of Douglas’ releases.[citation needed] But others point out that Douglas was responsible for the material having been previously out-of-print.

And radio stations may have refused to play the un-original tracks then, in order to deny Douglas the royalties from Hendrix airtime.

Scott, also known as "Little" Jimmy Scott, was an American jazz vocalist famous for his unusually high contralto voice, which was due to Kallmann's syndrome, a very rare genetic condition. The condition stunted his growth at four feet eleven inches until, at the age of 37, he grew another 8 inches to the height of five feet seven inches. The condition prevented him from reaching puberty, leaving him with a high, undeveloped voice.

Scott's career spanned sixty-five years. He performed with Charlie Parker, Sarah Vaughan, Lester Young, Lionel Hampton, Charles Mingus, Fats Navarro, Quincy Jones, Bud Powell, Ray Charles, Wynton Marsalis, and Peter Cincotti. He also performed with a host of musicians from other genres of music, such as David Byrne, Lou Reed, Flea, Michael Stipe, and Antony & The Johnsons.

Scott performed at President Dwight Eisenhower's (1953) and President Bill Clinton's (1993) inaugurations, where he sang the same song, "Why Was I Born?". Later, Scott appeared in live performances with Pink Martini, and continued to perform internationally at music festivals and at his own concerts until shortly before his death.

In 2007, Scott received the 2007 NEA Jazz Master Award. He also received the Kennedy Center's "Jazz In Our Time" Living Legend Award, and N.A.B.O.B.'s Pioneer Award in 2007. In September 2008 he did a "two-day video interview" at his Vegas home with the Smithsonian Institute for the National Archives. Scott and his wife Jeanie lived in Las Vegas, Nevada after 2007, having previously living in Euclid, Ohio, for 10 years.[citation needed]

Little Jimmy Scott's "If I Ever Lost You" can be heard in the opening credits of the HBO movie Lackawanna Blues. He was also mentioned on The Cosby Show, when Clair and Cliff Huxtable bet on the year in which "An Evening In Paradise" was recorded. On August 17, 2013, at Cleveland State University in his hometown, Cleveland, Ohio, he was inducted into inaugural 2013 of the R&B Music Hall of Fame.

James "Jim" Keays (1946 – 2014)

Keays was an Australian musician who fronted rock band The Masters Apprentices as singer-songwriter, guitarist and harmonica-player during 1965–1972, and subsequently had a solo career.

The Masters Apprentices had Top 20 hits on the Go-Set National Singles Charts with "Undecided", "Living in a Child's Dream", "5:10 Man", "Think about Tomorrow Today", "Turn Up Your Radio" and "Because I Love You". He also wrote for the teen newspaper, Go-Set, as its Adelaide correspondent in 1970 and its London correspondent in 1973. The band reformed periodically, including in 1987–1988 and again subsequently. Keays, as a member of The Masters Apprentices, was inducted into the ARIA Hall of Fame in 1998.

Those We Have Lost
Donald Davis (1938 – 2014)

Davis was a Grammy Award-winning record producer, songwriter and guitarist, who combined a career in music with one in banking.

Born in Detroit, he started playing music in the mid-1950s and after leaving Central High School formed his own jazz group, the Don Davis Trio, before becoming a session musician. He played guitar for many Detroit record labels, including Golden World and Ric-Tic, as well as on early Motown records such as the hits, "Money (That’s What I Want)” by Barrett Strong and Mary Wells’ "Bye Bye Baby".

He moved on to writing and producing records in Detroit and then joined Stax Records in Memphis, aiming to achieve a fusion of the Stax and Motown sounds. He achieved his first major success as a songwriter and producer in 1968 with Johnnie Taylor’s hit “Who’s Making Love”, which reached no.1 on the Billboard Hot R&B Singles chart and no.5 on the Billboard Hot 100. Davis also played guitar on the track, together with Steve Cropper. He worked with Taylor on many of his hits in the 1970s, including the 1971 R&B no.1 hit “Jody's Got Your Girl and Gone”, which Davis co-wrote. Later, in 1976, he also co-wrote and produced Taylor's "Disco Lady", which spent four weeks at no.1 on the Billboard Hot 100 and six weeks on the Billboard R&B chart in the US. It was the first single to be certified platinum by the RIAA.

Lee Hyla (1952-2014)

Northwestern University Professor Lee Hyla, an award-winning American composer, known for his ingenious skill and originality, passed away June 6 in Chicago. He was 61. Hyla, the Henry and Leigh Bienen School of Music’s Harry N. and Ruth F. Wyatt Chair in Music Theory and Composition, was fascinated by all types of musical styles and was a master at combining complex contemporary atonal idioms with elements of avant-garde jazz, rock and, at times, punk.

He had “unassailable credentials within both avant-garde and academic circles,” wrote Anthony Tommasini in a 2013 article in The New York Times. “The Bienen School of Music has lost a great composer and inspirational pedagogue,” Bienen School Dean Toni-Marie Montgomery, said.

The impressive list of commissions Professor Hyla received from artists such as the Kronos Quartet, Midori, and the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra are evidence of the high level of respect Lee commanded from the professional musical community.” In addition to the Kronos Quartet and the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Hyla composed for other ensembles, including the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and Speculum Musicae.
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
Les Contes du Singe Fou (roughly translated, Tales of the Mad Monkey) is a progressive rock album by Clearlight, released in 1976 on Isadora Records in France. Returning again to France, Clearlight turned to conceptual space rock with science fiction lyrics. (The lyrics do not have anything to do with a mad monkey, however.) Les Contes du Singe Fou is the only Clearlight album in which vocals and lyrics play a significant role. In reverse of the previous album, the title is in French, but all lyrics are in English. This is not apparent from the cover, which contains no song titles on the outside. English Lyrics with French translations are printed on the cover's gatefold. Musically, the album contains psychedelic, new age, and jazz fusion elements.

Artist: Rocket Scientists
Title: Supernatural Highways
Cat No. TTMD-1056
Label: Think Tank Media
Release Date: 2nd June 2014

After a 6-year hiatus, veteran prog rockers Erik Norlander (keyboards), Mark McCrite (guitars) and
Martin Horst takes up the story on the Prog Archives:

"AVIATOR was founded in 1978 by Jack Lancaster (saxophone, flute, lyricon, synthesizer) and Mick Rogers (guitar & lead vocals) with the co-pilots Clive Bunker (drums) and John G. Perry (bass & vocals). All four musicians already had an impressive background in different bands. Jack Lancaster had played with: BLODWYN PIG, the MICK ABRAHAMS BAND and the SOUL SEARCHERS, Mick Rogers with: MANFRED MANN'S EARTH BAND, Clive Bunker with: JETHRO TULL, BLODWYN PIG and STEVE HILLAGE, John G. Perry with: CARAVAN and QUANTUM JUMP. They played a mixture of straightforward Rock songs alternating with instrumental Jazz-Rock passages reminiscing COLOSSEUM and BLODWYN PIG, Jack Lancaster gave the band a typical sound with the lyricon and soprano saxophone. The weak point was Mick Rogers's vocals. In early 1979 AVIATOR released their first record named "Aviator" on Harvest/Electrola, coproduced by the band and Robin Lumley from BRAND-X. All tracks were cosigned by the band. The tracks are all different ranging from straightforward Rock to Jazz-Rock and Pop.

Clepsydra is a Swiss neo-progressive band that was formed in 1990 by Aluisio Maggini (vocals), Lele Hofmann (guitars), Philip Hubert (keyboards), Andy Thommen (bass) and Pietro Duca (drums).

In 1991 Clepsydra released their first album, Hologram, which was followed by the EP Fly Man.
in 1993. Clepsydra then signed to InsideOut, who released their second album More Grains of Sand in 1994. This CD included the song Moonshine on Heights, which by many is regarded as neo-prog classic. 1994 also saw them performing two songs on national Swiss TV, a rare occurrence for a progressive rock band at that time.

Says Andy, “We had no idea that there was a progressive rock scene. In fact we never heard the expression progressive rock until about three months after the release of Hologram in 1991.”

In 1998 Clepsydra released their third album Fears, the first album with Marco Cerulli on guitar. In the wake of the album release Clepsydra had a 10-day-long European tour and was booked for a concert in Canada on the strength of this production.

Artist: Ant-Bee
Title: Lunar Musik
Cat No.HST269CD
Label: Gonzo
Release Date: 9th June 2014

Lunar Musik is the third album by Ant-Bee, originally released in 1997 through Divine Records. In 1998 Aural Innovations magazine had this to say about the album: "Did you ever lie awake at night straining to imagine what kind of music would result from a collaboration that included Daevid Allen, Harvey Bainbridge, the original Mothers Of Invention, and the original Alice Cooper Group (minus Vince)? Well Ant Bee's "Lunar Musik" puts this question to rest once and for all".

These days there are many artists who work through the intensely 21st Century modus operandi of file swapping. But Ant-Bee, aka Billy James was doing it over a decade before it became de rigueur. Billy James, an author of rock biographies and a musician in his own right, reassembled great musicians from the psychedelic era in his own Ant-Bee project. Featuring contributions from The Mothers of Invention, the Alice Cooper Group, and members from Captain Beefheart's Magic Band, Ant-Bee has recorded several albums of material that bring together the styles of several branches of late-60s experimental rock music.

After graduating from Berklee College of Music, Ant-Bee began in 1987 in Los Angeles as a venue for James to showcase his musical affinity to the psychedelic and experimental music of the late 1960s. Signing to Voxx/Bomp! Records in 1988, Ant-Bee released Pure Electric Honey, which featured guest appearances by former members of The Mothers of Invention and Captain Beefheart. Sounding like a cross between the Smile-era of The Beach Boys, early Pink Floyd, and late-period Beatles, the record became well known in the underground scene in Europe.

Three years in the making, Lunar Muzik (1997), explored both the pop and experimental side of the psychedelic spectrum and was bolstered by strong production and appearances from Daevid Allen of Soft Machine and Gong and Harvey Bainbridge of Hawkwind and the original Alice Cooper Group.

Aural Innovations described the music: "Many of the songs are very pop-psych and will be instantly loved by 60's fans. The music has that dreamy quality and drugged out harmonies that characterized the songs of that era. There is also lots of the same innocent experimentation like tape manipulations and sound collages that 60's pop-psych explored. There are even covers of the Monkees' "Love Is Only Sleeping" and the Stones' "Child Of The Moon".

Among the Mothers' contributions are "Snorks & Wheezes", "Son Of Snorks & Wheezes", and "Silicone Hump". The liner notes describe "Snorks & Wheezes" as "my grand tribute to the Mothers Of Inventions" and indeed they are that. Snorks opens with classic Mothers do-wop harmonies as sung by the Chipmunks, and then goes into an interesting spacey synth journey. "Silicone Hump" hails back to the early era of quirky, orchestral, Zappa compositions.
described their music as ‘a sort of progressive blues with a bit of jazz.’ The blues influence came largely from guitarist Mick Abrahams. It was Abrahams who - on the first album - provided the only non-Anderson lead vocal in Jethro Tull's recorded history, and with the benefit of hindsight it is easy to see that both he and Anderson were jostling for position as the prime creative mover behind the band. Unsurprisingly, there was a massive falling out between the pair, and Abrahams left the group.

One of the main reasons that he had fallen out with Anderson was that he was a blues purist, and didn't want to follow some of the more esoteric paths that Anderson was to lead the band into. No, he just wanted to play the blues. Over the years he also recorded a number of solo albums, steeped in the delta blues DNA that had mystically been passed down to him by Robert Johnson. Dave 42 writes: “Mick Abrahams' return album, "All Said and Done" (1991), is as fine as anything he has ever done. This is an excellent blues album, with fourteen tracks comprised of seven tunes written by Mick (two of which were collaborations with Gordon 'Mississippi' Murphy), two new arrangements of traditional pieces, and five covers of older blues pieces.

It is a story as old as time itself. I'm sure that it predates rock'n'roll, but it is a paradigm which has appeared so many times within the canon of the sort of bands that I have spent the last four decades listening to, but it hardly bears repeating. Except, of course, that I must - because without the back story the extraordinary tale of Blodwyn Pig would just be another rags to... well, if not exactly riches, then slightly more expensive rags.

In the beginning there was Robert Johnson who sold his soul to the devil. The cornute one passed it on to some evangelical promoters in the Thames Valley. The Blodwyn Pig story begins back in the mid-1960s when a whole generation of relatively privileged white kids in the UK discovered the music of a previous generation of reasonably underprivileged black men living in the southern states of the USA.

Back in the halcyon days of 1967, a couple of members of a Blackpool-based blue-eyed soul band travelled down to the teeming metropolis where they teamed up with two members of a failing Luton-based blues band. They appropriated the name of the legendary 18th Century agriculturist (inventor of the rotary seed drill, no less) and the rest is history. Except, of course, that it is nothing of the kind. The band signed to the legendary Island Records, home of the cream of what was then known as ‘the underground’, and during the summer of 1968 recorded their first album Ian Anderson, the aforementioned gentleman of the rock and roll road,

Artist: Mick Abrahams
Title: All Said and Done
Cat No. HST178CD
Label: Gonzo
Release Date: 16th June 2014

Steve Hillage is one of the most idiosyncratic and instantly recognisable guitarists in the world. Born in London in 1951 he has worked in experimental domains since the late 1960s. Besides his solo recordings he has been a member of Gong, Khan and System 7.
When Daevid Allen, Gong's founder and mastermind, left in April 1975, Hillage took over leadership but found this position increasingly uncomfortable, and by the year's end had jumped ship to launch his solo career, his motivation to do so fuelled by the success of his solo album Fish Rising, recorded while still in Gong and featuring most of his bandmates. His next effort L album was recorded in the United States using musicians from Todd Rundgren's Utopia, and on its release Hillage formed a touring band which toured in late 1976. During the latter half of the 1970s, Hillage made a name for himself as a guitarist and prog-rock/ fusion composer and performer.

This album shows Hillage at the top of his game, playing a classic show at the Rainbow in 1977. It contains glorious, life affirming music, which is as gloriously spiritual and uplifting now as it was when it was recorded nearly 40 years ago.

**Artist:** Erik Norlander  
**Title:** Hommage Symphonique  
**Cat No.:** TTMD-1052  
**Label:** Think Tank Media  
**Release Date:** 30th June 2014

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.

Tony Palmer's 1973 Film About Hugh Hefner - The Founder and Editor of Playboy  
**Cat No.:** TPDVD165  
**Label:** Tony Palmer

"As distasteful as one might have expected."

"We had no money at all, and I mean literally no money. I doubt that any major magazine in our time has ever been started with as little initial investment. My own investment in Playboy was $600, all of it borrowed. The entire enterprise is now valued, in 1973, at something around $200 million."

"The real essence of Playboy was trying to put not just sex, but the whole notion of play and pleasure, back into the American concept of living. And that proved to be a little more revolutionary than I realised when I started." — Hugh Hefner
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.

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:

“If you're going to be crazy, you have to get paid for it or else you're going to be locked up.”

Hunter S. Thompson
countercultural group in London called The Dwarves, who were described as being a Notting Hill version of Ken Kesey’s Merry Pranksters or the Dutch Provo group who inspired the classic My White Bicycle.

Here it should be pointed out that despite claims to the contrary, Provo – a Dutch anarchist group active in the mid-60s – have, and had, no link whatsoever with the Irish Provos (Provisional IRA). It was just one of those peculiar lexilinks which turn up in life more often than one would like to believe.

Phil adopted the name Wally Hope and together with a band of like-minded anarchists, started the Stonehenge Free Festival. A year later he was
Thirty years after the Battle of the Beanfield, alternative culture in the United Kingdom is in a very different state that it was when the eyes of the world were focussed on a motley collection of travellers in semi-legal school buses.

Countercultural publishing with magazines, including this one, has taken advantage of the new technology provided by the internet and the mass communication provided by social media. But rising above it all is the legendary figure of Wally Hope.

One wonders what he would have thought of it all, and although one suspects that he would have found his elevation to the sainthood to be rather embarrassing, one suspects that if he were to walk into the room now and look dispassionately at the counterculture of 2014 that he might be mildly amused.

His cremated ashes were put into an ornate wooden box made by Rimbaud and emblazoned with the legend “Wally Hope, Victim of Ignorance”. These ashes have – in many ways – achieved the status of a holy relic and have been passed down a long line of custodians.

The Wally Hope story came to prominence culturally in 1982 when a major essay by Penny Rimbaud telling his take on the subject was included in a booklet included with their lavishly packaged 1982 album, Christ the Album.

This bitter, and often naïve, booklet has achieved the status of a hagiography in many people’s eyes and Wally Hope has become a legendary figure, almost a hippy saint.

imprisoned on jumped up charges, driven to the edge of psychosis with institutional medication and – a few months after his release – committed suicide or was murdered depending on who you believe.

The Wally Hope story came to prominence culturally in 1982 when a major essay by Penny Rimbaud telling his take on the subject was included in a booklet included with their lavishly packaged 1982 album, Christ the Album.

This bitter, and often naïve, booklet has achieved the status of a hagiography in many people’s eyes and Wally Hope has become a legendary figure, almost a hippy saint.

A SERIES OF SHOCK SLOGANS AND MINDLESS TOKEN TANTRUMS

Listen Here
Yes organized and headlined the recent concert and ocean voyage aptly named “Cruise to the Edge” this April 2014.

I’ve been a Yes fan and patron going back to teenage years past with my first show being 1977’s Going for the One tour at the fabulous Forum in Inglewood, California. I’ve also seen the band many times since original singer Jon Anderson’s departure some years ago, and I’ve seen them with scores of keyboard players besides Tony Kaye and Rick Wakeman. There’s been something to admire in every performance and always there have been moments of transcendent feeling, as Yes builds their compositions to heavenly crescendos of power and emotion. Here’s what was laudable about the concert:

Current vocalist Jon Davidson has never sounded better – he reached for some of their highest notes with a power and clarity of tone that I’ve not seen surpassed. There was joy, peace and some Yes gospel in his strong performance. His stage presence and confidence has improved measurably over the last several years.

Chris Squire (bass) still packs a punch with his bass and projects a deep happiness at plying his art after all these years.

His playing is unique and seldom duplicated elsewhere. His voice has magically held up all this time – a key ingredient of the Yes sound.

Guitarist Steve Howe must be responsible for the tendency they have now to reduce the pace of much of their work – while this may drain a bit of the frenetic energy out, he is able to play all of his licks with stunning accuracy. It renders his performance a master class for any budding guitarist or aficionado of fine fretwork.

Keyboard player Geoff Downes is always a pleasure to hear – while it would be awesome to include more tracks on which he originally played into the set, it was great to at least hear “Tempus Fugit” off 1980’s Drama.

Alan White had a somewhat off night.

I feel badly saying, can’t blame anyone for slowing up a bit – and possibly the laconic pace of some of the tracks inhibit a more energetic performance, but its something for them to work on. Alan’s has delivered some of the finest drum and percussion work of any progressive rock band in concert over

http://douglasharr.wordpress.com/
the last 40 years.

Two basic quibbles for the night – one has to be the selection of the set list itself, and the second – there were no guest appearances. On this cruise keyboardist Patrick Moraz who played on the Relayer album was in the lineup of performers, and played several solo shows during the week. Annie Haslam from Renaissance was guest at one of Patrick’s shows to sing the Yes song “Soon” from Relayer – one of the most beautiful songs Yes ever recorded. But no guest spot for Patrick with Yes. I did not expect them to take the time to learn and play the more challenging pieces from that album, but just inviting Patrick to come and do “Soon” would have made the show and the entire Cruise more special. Along with this, Yes continued to play two of the three same complete albums – a nice idea that’s now been a part of their long 2013-2014 tour – but something that should not have been repeated for a boatload of fans. In particular playing all of The Yes Album should have been off the list – that’s now been done on both of the last two extensive tours. Their catalog is so large, that dusting off and playing a larger swath of it’s path would be preferable. Doing “Roundabout” as the encore of almost every tour I’ve ever seen shows a lack of creativity. It leaves the planning feeling a bit “by the numbers.”

Having said all of that, Yes is in fact performing their early masterpieces, many of which should be played long after they and we are all gone, in the tradition of classical music. And, they have always steered away from medley’s – a scourge that long plagued another famous prog rock band from the era – so it’s nice to see and hear them play these spectacular tracks in their entirety. I am definitely of the camp that hopes Yes keep up their touring, hoping they vary the set list, but keep at it, as this band are one of the few key practitioners of the original form that still produces a powerful progressive rock concert experience. Waiting with high expectations for HEAVEN & EARTH, their new album, to drop.
1st June 1985. A date that signifies horror and disillusionment to anyone who knows of it. A date which reveals the poisonous worm at the heart of the British Establishment. The day that the dreams of a whole generation died.

Evil. What we have to face is the presence of evil and what we have to know is that evil is our master. It runs our lives. It lives in big houses and drives expensive cars. It makes our decisions for us. The law is its tool. the law wears jackboots. The law kicks in the faces of young mothers carrying babies. It destroys people's homes, destroys people's livelihoods. It destroys people's lives. It is the Enemy Within.

You see scenes of Fascist violence in faraway places and you say, "Yes, but that's somewhere else. It's not here. That sort of thing doesn't happen here. This is Britain."

But that sort of thing does happen here.

What I am about to describe is based on a TV film called Operation Solstice. It is a film which should be on the National Curriculum. Every child should be expected to see it, so that they know that evil exists. Evil is not an abstract principle. It has a name and it has an address.

For ten years the Stonehenge free festival had taken place, mostly peaceably. There's been that biker riot, back when Crass had appeared. There's been some trouble with heroin dealers. At one point, the old-style festival people had got together to drive the heroin dealers off the site. They were proving that the people's will was stronger than the strongest drug. And the festival was growing. Year by year, it was growing. It was becoming a beacon to the world. For one month every summer, the anarchist dream was being realised in this temporary autonomous zone. More and more people were taking to the road, buying large vehicles which they lovingly restored and fitted out, with pots and pans and working kitchens, with beds and settees and comfortable armchairs, which they would decorate with posters and ornamental knick-knacks, which they would paint in vibrant colours to represent to vibrancy of their own lives. This was life. For many people, this was the very act of being alive.

I spoke to someone at an anti-Criminal Justice Bill rally in 1994. His name was Bernard. He'd been on the road since the late seventies. I asked him what kept him on the road, what kept him travelling. "It's the thought of the thousands of friends I haven't yet met," he told me.

For four years, from 1981 to 1985, the numbers of people taking to the road had been doubling, year on year. And the Stonehenge free festival was the focal point for the whole movement. It was natural. It was right. Stonehenge was the symbol of freedom, built by early nomadic peoples to mark off the seasons, as an indication of their intelligence and their ingenuity. Now a new breed of nomad, recognising its importance, was coming back to claim it as its heritage, as its birthright. The festival was as vibrant and alive as the people who went to it. It was a cultural masterpiece: a functioning economy that ran on light and love and mutual respect. Painted faces and naked children. Late-night revels and early-morning cups of tea. Celebration. Hope. Dreams of a better future.

Nick Davies, journalist: "I wasn't aware of it at the time it took place, but I later became aware that really the whole of the Wiltshire Establishment had sat down to decide what to do about the convoy, and..."
this involved various landowners and the county council and the police and their solicitors. They didn’t want these people occupying the land around Stonehenge, but there wasn’t a law to enable them to keep the convoy out."

They decided on a piece of legal subterfuge. English Heritage and the National Trust took out civil injunctions to prevent the festival taking place. It was these civil injunctions that provided the cloak for all that was then to take place.

So on 1 June 1985 the convoy set out, as it had almost every year since the long-gone summer of 1974 when Wally Hope and the prankster Wallies had organised the first festival. Some of them were no doubt aware of the injunctions. But what’s an injunction, anyway? A piece of paper. They had right on their side. They had tradition.

They were proceeding down the A338 near Shipton Billinger, towards the A303 and Stonehenge. They were about eight miles away. They'd been staying in Savernake Forest, where many more potential festival-goers were still congregating. There were about 150 vehicles: buses, trucks, fire-engines, ambulances, London taxis, cars, in various states of repair. Most of them were brightly painted. 

Police radio log, 1 June 1985, 2.04 pm: Vehicles 7 through to 15 appear to be personnel carriers and the ones to concentrate on...."

"Personnel carriers"? This was the Peace Convoy. They were full of people going off to a festival.

Ahead of them, heavy lorries were disgorging tonnes of gravel across the road. The convoy was diverted down a narrow country lane (the B308, maybe?), then they found that this road was blocked too. They were trapped.

Suddenly a large number of police officers in riot gear, with truncheons and shields, rushed forward and started trying to arrest the drivers. They were hyped-up and violent. They started smashing windscreens with their truncheons.

Helen Reynolds, traveller: "What's gonna happen now? No! Just tell me what you want to me to do...."
OTHER BOOKS BY C.J.STONE

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/
My name is Jonathan and I am an addict. It’s been ummmmmmmmm about two and a half hours since my last book. I am an inveterate reader, and have adored, devoured and collected books since I was about seven years old. This column was intended as a place to review books sent me by kindly publishers, but although such people do exist, and whilst I continue to get review books on occasion, and include them here, this column has evolved into reviewing the books—old and new—that I devour each week.

In the mid-1980s I was still stuck basically in the previous decade. I liked Led Zeppelin, Queen, Yes, and Emerson, Lake and Palmer, not to mention the Beatles.

The only music from the late ‘70s/early ‘80s that impinged upon my world view was Crass, Echo and the Bunnymen, and The Teardrop Explodes. I had – like so many of my peers – bought records by Theatre of Hate and Killing Joke. But while I secretly thought that the Theatre of Hate had promise, I always thought that Killing Joke were an awful row.

The music which was being forced down my throat by the then ubiquitous music press was stuff on Postcard Records, which I never got (and don’t get today) and the Joboxers who I thought were quite fun, but were never going to replace anything of substance in my psychological playlist.

In the hit parade, Culture Club – after a promising beginning – were awful, Spandau Ballet and Duran Duran ditto, and whilst I liked Frankie Goes to Hollywood, they only actually had three songs, and only the first two were any good. Led Zeppelin had split, and I thought that Robert Plant’s solo stuff was horrible, and the other two left alive had disappeared.

Genesis, whilst showing some promise with the
first two post-Gabriel albums, had become an embarrassing MOR mishmash of clichés, and even post-punk favourites like Adam and the Ants had become dull and boring. What was left for me?

The NME raved about a band called the Cocteau Twins, but the 22-year-old Jon Downes looking for something to replace prog rock or punk in his psychosocial outlook, was singularly unimpressed.

Thirty odd years later, I will be the first to admit that this was my fault, not theirs.

Move on four or five years. I was the editor of a reasonably well thought of fanzine. Most record companies were aware that we only sold 150 copies each time and didn’t send us any of their products. One that did was 4AD.

They sent us records by the aforementioned Cocteau Twins, Wolfgang Press, and Dead Can Dance. But I was off on my own mental trip at the time; stuck in an unhappy marriage, a desperately unhappy career, and a 1970s-centric world outlook. I just didn’t get them at all.

Then came the Red House Painters. They were magnificent. But I was still interested in writing about Hawkwind, Yes, Gong, the Beatles, and anybody else who would underline my psychosocial idée fixe that all you needed was love. So I passed the rest of what 4AD did by.

Roll on thirty years.

I have recently been sent a book called Facing the Other Way which tells the story of 4AD Records. It is a remarkably idiosyncratic story based around the story of a man called Ivo Watts-Russell who, in the late 1970s, started a spin off of Beggars Banquet Records called 4AD.

It is only now that I realise that an awful lot of the music which I have liked over the past third of a century is either from, or inspired by, them. Recently, my dear wife bought a new telephone, and as a spin off from that, I got hold of an iPad for the first time.

This is the first book that I have ever reviewed
as follows: four dudes from Liverpool go to Germany, hone their craft, become bloody good musicians, come back to the UK, sell a load of records, visit the United States, sell even more records, decide to become artists rather than pop singers, make some great records, fall out with each other, and split up.

This book does nothing of the sort. The stories of the various artists, are almost irrelevant, certainly secondary, to the story of Ivo Watts-Russell, the dude in charge of 4AD. But the story of Ivo, doesn’t follow a conventional story arc concept. He starts a record label more by luck than by judgement, runs the record label more by luck than by judgement, and eventually decides – more by luck than judgement – that he’s not particularly interested in music any more. The story arc of this book, therefore, has neither a story or an arc. But it is still irresistible.

In one way, therefore, it is the dullest and most self-congratulatory rock and roll biography I have ever read, but in other ways it is the most gripping. 4AD is – truthfully – a story which is really un-writable. But, Martin Aston has done an absolutely magnificent job. Now, I just wish that he would try to write a biography of The Smiths.
HAWKWIND NEWS
(The Masters of the Universe do seem to have a steady stream of interesting stories featuring them, their various friends and relations, and alumni). Each week Graham Inglis keeps us up to date with the latest news from the Hawkverse.)

Over the years, Hawkwind have played some fund-raising benefit gigs for the environmental protest group Sea Shepherd, an offshoot from Greenpeace... and band members and fans are often seen wearing t-shirts promoting these particular eco-guardians.

As an extra strand of supporting activity, some fans have been designing and selling some Hawkwind-related t-shirts and hoodies, under the "Hawknerd" name banner.

So far, the promotions and sales have been limited to Facebook, rather than the Hawkwind website or forum, but it's reported the merchandise is selling well.

The "hawknerd" name isn't universally liked, but it was the name 'label' selected by vote and discussion process; and it's raising money for a cause that the band and many fans support.

The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society (SSCS) is a non-profit, marine conservation organization based in Friday Harbor on San Juan Island, Washington in the United States. Sea Shepherd uses direct action tactics to protect marine life. The organization was founded in 1977 under the name Earth Force Society by Paul Watson, a former member of Greenpeace, after a dispute with that organization over what Watson saw as its lack of more aggressive intervention. The group has a strong focus on public relations to spread its message via the media. In 2008, Animal Planet began filming the weekly series Whale Wars based on the group's encounters with the Japanese whaling fleet in the Southern Ocean, a development which brought the group much publicity.
Special Offer for fans who attended tonights show
Limited Edition Double CD & DVD £19.99 plus postage & packing
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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...........................................................................................................

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EVERY ONE IS A CRITIC THESE DAYS!

OH IT'S YOU

M. A. Raines
Until now I have never been able to find an artist who managed to make stylised art house blues so deftly or with such thorough conviction as did the Rolling Stones. The eagle eyed amongst you will have noticed that I qualified that sentence with ‘until now’.

That is because this week I heard Jack White’s new record, and Jesus is it good. I have always been a fan of Jack White since one of my mates played me The White Stripes album White Blood Cells about 12 years ago. His subsequent material has had its ups and downs, but has usually been pretty damned entertaining.

His first solo album, Blunderbuss, which came out in 2012 was a mere masterpiece, and put much of his previous work, even that with The White Stripes, into the shade. But in turn it has been eclipsed completely and utterly by this record, which is one of the best albums that has been released all year.

The lyrics are, apparently, inspired in part by short stories and plays written by White when he was about 19 years old. He found the writings in his attic and reworked them to new lyrics. The title track refers to a quarantine station for marine travellers and is – according to White – a song about the Bragadocio of many hip hop lyrics.

“The character who is singing this song is bragging about himself, but he is actually bragging about real things he has actually accomplished and real things that he actually does, not imaginary things, or things he would like to do.”

Other lyrics give one some sort of insight into White’s eccentric, and apparently rather tortured life. And boy can he play guitar.

Lazaretto
by Jack White

I have always been a big fan of the Rolling Stones; that is the ground-breaking and massively dangerous blues band that existed from 1962 until 1976 and which has resurfaced with occasionally flashes of brilliance since.

I have done my best to ignore the massively successful cabaret act which every few years stumbles into action playing louder and larger and more lavish gigs than ever before.

This, I’m afraid, has absolutely damn all to do with rock and roll as I understand it. But in their prime they were absolutely magnificent.

The thing that I liked about them most was when they became particularly stylised; on the critic’s favourite album Exile on Main Street, it was tracks like Black Angel, Shine a Light, and Sweet Virginia that shone out for me.
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...

There have been a few more Yes-related stories on the Gonzo Daily this week, but this is actually because I discovered a new source of stories rather than because there were any more of them.

I know this might sound stupid, but it never actually occurred to me to look for interviews with the band on You Tube and so a large chunk of this week’s Yes-related product comes from this source.

In fact most of it does.

The good news for Yes watchers is that despite the gloomy prognostications of last week there does not seem to be any sinister subtext around regarding Jon Davison’s recent illness. He has done a number of interviews since he was forced to cancel a show in Germany, and does appear to be shouldering the burden of being the frontman of Yes rather well.

- ‘I’m still fully realizing what that means’: Inside Jon Davison’s whirlwind ascension as Yes’ frontman
- YES interview - Jon Davison June 3rd 2014

It’s not just people like me who bring up historical memories; it is – apparently – 40 years since Rick Wakeman quit Yes for the first time in the aftermath of Tales of Topographic Oceans. This album is completely Marmite-like – you either love it or hate it. I am in the latter camp, Uncle Rick is in the former.

- 40 Years Ago: Rick Wakeman Quits Yes For The First Time Read More: 40 Years Ago: Rick Wakeman Quits Yes (The First Time)

The ever active (probably hyper-active) Billy Sherwood has yet another new project out via Cleopatra Records. He really is a remarkable fellow, and I do not know how he finds the time for it all.

- BILLY SHERWOOD’S NEW PROJECT

And the band itself has been quite busy. We have an interview with Messrs Howe, Downes and White and also – as a perfect compliment to Doug Harr’s article elsewhere in this issue – what appears to be an official video of Steve Howe’s and Jon Davison’s acoustic sets during the Cruise to the Edge.

- YES interview - Steve Howe - Geoff Downes - Alan White - 2014
- Steve Howe & Jon Davison of Yes - Cruise To The Edge 2013 acoustic set

And finally we have an interview with Jon Anderson. I was told some very interesting Gonzonews about Accrington’s finest son, and will be able to go public with it within the next few weeks. Watch this space.

- Jon Anderson Interview

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 Daedal 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!!"

HOPE IMPLIES DESPAIR

TRUST IMPLIES CONNECTION
Noh mind(i don't mind!)implies an emptiness
Not all circles are perfect.Think villages/geometry of crops
We so much wish to believe / hang juries upon decisions of faith,trust,hope
All three Fates thread blankets of comfort and despair
All three ends begin to make some strange uncertain sense
Choice as a limited app that works best when heart battery powered
Within our Body of evidence builds a case for prosecution
Defense Rests,Daffodils yellow flags,Canary bright in coal mine night.
Ancient walkways outside wards,Births and deaths all happen before
We are subject to their whim .Who knows who will be leaving?
Take baby steps out of and towards,You may not get there yet
The first step -is to be aware-of the first step-to be aware.STEP.....
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...

Somehow there are a lot of dolls again this week. Completely unintentional I can assure you, but that is how the dice rolled. And once again I have made no amendments to errors, although I have not been able to completely ignore them in some cases. So on with the show and may the following enrich your day.

Brian Wilson Signed Autographed Limited Ed. 1966 Doll Beach Boys Extremely Rare - £300

Again we have a limited edition here. I am not convinced about the likeness, but I am assuming that there may be a collector of Beach Boys bits and bobs out there who would cherish such a doll. Unlike some other dolls on offer though, this does not seem to sing or gyrate at you. Yes you may be disappointed, but it ain’t nothing to do with me.

*The extremely rare Brian Wilson 1966 Limited Edition*
Edition, signed and numbered Doll:
Released in 2006 to commemorate the 40th
anniversary for Pet Sounds.
The doll replicates Brian Wilson from 1966.
Only 300 of these dolls were hand signed by Brian
Wilson.
This doll is hand numbered 297 of 300.”

See it here

Michael Jackson's pets collection of 9. Very rare!!! - £290

“This auction is for 9 Michael Jackson's pets plush toys including:
Bubbles the monkey
Spanky the dog
Jabba the giraffe
Suze the bunny
Jeanine the ostrich
Uncle Tookie the frog
Louie the llama
Muscles the snake
Cool bear

They all come with their original story cassette tapes but these are not stuck to the box.
These are extremely rare. Please buy quickly or feel free to make me an offer.”

I don’t know about you, but all of this sounds pretty sinister to me. ‘Spanky’ the dog? ‘Muscles’ the snake? Did he really have all of these in his menagerie? And did someone really decide that it was a good marketing ploy to make cuddly toy caricatures out of them? And what exactly are the stories on the cassette tapes about? I shudder to think.

You can see the full range here.

18” motion active sound Freddie Mercury figure - £260

“This is a rare opportunity to purchase a new unopened 18” Freddie Mercury figure with sound. This figure is based on the concert footage from the 1986 magic tour. Stunningly detailed this poseable Freddie action figure comes with a microphone and stand and 'plays' a medley of classic Queen hits: We Will Rock You, Radio GaGa, and We Are The Champions. Gifted with one of the most distinctive and powerful voices in all of rock music Freddie Mercury’s legacy lives on forever.”

His legacy will live on forever in the shape of a poseable doll eh? Whilst there is no denying that this figure is not a bad likeness, I would have thought his legacy would live on forever through his music on vinyl, CD, DVD, or even the odd old fashioned cassette here and there.

Check it out here

REBORN BABY BOY DOLL~IN MEMORY OF KURT COBAIN~NIRVANA 1967-1994~oNE oF a Kind - £250

“Welcome to my auction for my Gorgeous Baby Kurt~Lovingly reborn from an unpainted blank vinyl doll kit~
Baby Kurt is approx 20" long~
He has Beautiful Blue Glass eyes so the colour will not fade~
I have dressed him in clothes that I think he would have worn, he has a miniature lefty guitar~
He will come with all the clothes in the photos and another top not shown~you can buy grunge baby clothes on ebay or in shops so you can make him look any way you like~
Certificate signed by me and to state that he is one of a kind reborn by me~
Also you will receive a care sheet explaining how to look after him so he stays in great condition~

Please only bid if you are serious about owning Kurt as I have put so much time and love into making him that it is going to be very difficult for me to part with him~
Hope you enjoy the photos!”
If it's groovy...it's in!

"Mad, bad & dangerous"
(Available for the first time on DVD)
FRANK ZAPPA'S 200 MOTELS
TEDVD127

TONY PALMER'S FILM OF
FRANK ZAPPA

Mad, bad & dangerous" Los Angeles Times

THE STEVIE HILLAGE BAND
Live at The Gency Family Travesties

VAN DER GRAAF GENERATOR
Live at The Paradiso

KARSTEN HALLMA
The Gathering Light

PARADE
The Fabric

ANTHONY PHILLIPS
Pathways & Promenade

RICK WAREHAM
Past, Present and Future

SPIRITS BURNING
Crazy Fluid

HAWKWIND
San Francisco 1970

Exclusively Marketed & Distributed by Voiceprint, www.voiceprint.co.uk
then this doll is positively ghoulish. Making dolls takes skill, and this one is cute, and looks well made, but there is something rather morbid about it. Perhaps it is the description of it being a gorgeous reborn baby Kurt complete with tattoo that creeps me out. There definitely seems to be more of an obsession about its creation than just a look-a-like doll.

Read more of the description here

**MICHAEL JACKSON DIORAMA DOLL 4” TALL FROM THE SONG "BLACK or WHITE"** - £8.10

Both of these are bloody special if you ask me. Exquisite in fact. MJ was a spectacular choreographer/dancer and these two ‘dolls’ capture the two relevant moves perfectly. And they actually look like him too, which is more than an added bonus, as a lot of these celebrity dolls don’t look anything like the person they are supposed to be.

“**Michael Jackson Doll 4” tall FROM THE SONG "Black or White"”**

“**Michael Jackson Doll 4” tall FROM THE SONG "Smooth Criminal"”**

See here

**Elvis Presley: Blue Hawaii Mr Potato Head Figure - New & Official In Picture Box – £20.50**

Oh dear. An Elvis Mr Potato Head? Whatever next! Isn’t this scraping the bottom of that already-worn-thin-barrel somewhat? I don’t care if it is highly detailed either – Mr Potato Head is Mr Potato Head pure and simple. You can stick sequins upon him, sprinkle faerie dust over him and even stick indoor fireworks in his hands he is still Mr Potato Head. And yet, he isn’t is he? He is not a potato! This is an imposter! A usurper to the Mr Potato Head throne. A young pretender. Off with his head.

“**Collectors Edition Highly detailed Mr Potato Head**

· Containing the King of Rock N Roll standing over 5 inches tall with his trademark pompadour and red Hawaiian shirt

· Complete with ukulele plus yellow lei flower necklace!”

See here

**Rare 5” Beatles 4 pc Set Ringo John Paul George Bobblehead Wobblehead - £120**

These are absolutely nothing like John, Paul, George and Ringo. These are, quite simply, awful. And who wants to pay £120 for awful?

See here

**SHAMELESS SELF PROMOTION TIME**

Just in case you are interested, here is yer beloved Editor at iTunes

Check it out now...
ELVIS PRESLEY THE KING LIVES
PROFILE BISCUIT BARREL TIN COOKIE
JAR NEW IN BOX £44.95
“Elvis Lives - Cookie/Biscuit Tin
Keep your Biscuits fresh in this Elvis inspired Silhoutte Biscuit Tin.
Om Nom Nom
Printed picture on both sides.
Sizes: 12.5” inch Tall”

I am not 100% convinced that this would enhance your biscuit nibbling activities. The shape simply does not lend itself to the storage of such delicacies and I can also envision a few broken bits getting stuck in the bottom thus becoming coated with a layer of furry grey mould. And where is the access hatch? Do you enter through his head or his nape?

As is my wont, I have let my mind wander off into the realm of imagined scenarios. This afternoon it has taken me to an inner city A&E, not too late one Monday night.

A stout, slightly bald-headed, elderly gentleman is sitting in the waiting room with his hand stuck ‘casualties’ – to be Elvis Presley’s head. Every so often those sitting closest to him can hear the odd sound of what sounds like scratching on metal as he flexes his fingers in his never-ending quest free his hand from Elvis’s cranium.

Eventually his turn to be tended to arrives, and the nurse – being very professional – lets not one hint of amusement show across her face. She has seen all sorts of appendages stuck in all sorts of weird places, and this is just another one to add to the list. She asks him what happened.

“I wasn’t concentrating. I was watching the goggle box. You know it was Coronation Street tonight, then over on the other side it was The Good Life - re-run you know – the one with the goat. But I was just having my evening cup of tea and I thought to myself, you know Bert I think a nice Garibaldi would go down really well with this. I like Garibaldi biscuits, but not as much as Fig Newtons, but I can’t eat many of those these days because they play havoc with my insides. Elsie - that’s my wife - says that it was my fault for not looking what I was doing. But I stuck my hand in Elvis’ head and my hand has got stuck round that bit there – you know,
And I know there is one Garibaldi in there somewhere. Elsie said I should come down here and that you would be able to get my hand out. Can you get my Garibaldi out too? I will get my tin back won’t I? I got it from a car boot sale last year. It was only a quid. If it had been a penny more I would not have bought it.”

Anyway, you may be able to spend quite a bit more than a quid if you click here. (if someone has not nabbed it first of course)

JIffy Page (Led Zeppelin) - 7" Action Figure (NECA) 2006 [ZoSo] NEW - £29.90

Apart from coming with a choking hazard warning, there are no further details on this per se. But I guess anything to do with Jimmy Page needs no further details. It is actually quite cute, and is an action figure too which is very exciting.

See here


“Set of 5 Spice Girl Dolls 1998 - Spice Girls on Tour - never been out of boxes, boxes remain sealed and in near perfect condition. Any questions please ask.”

Yep, I have a question. How did this lot ever get famous anyway? And is one of them - Mel B I think - really sporting a pair of horns? Or is it just a bad hair day? These are chronic. And unfortunately I do know something of this lot’s ‘music’ because one of my daughters (and I shall not reveal which one as it may well embarrass her should it become common knowledge) was a fan. I am, also, no stranger to the sounds, thrills and spills of the movie either - unfortunately.

See them here


Okay, so tell me please, how does that last one go? “Oh Pencil case, Oh pencil case…”

“One Direction Singing Bear & Pencil Case – NEW”

Make up your mind… so now it’s a singing pencil case and not a song about a pencil case. It will make all the difference you know, between a sale and a no sale. I don’t like it, and I don’t like the bear much either; I have never been overly fond of Teddy bears. And, what is more, the pencil case looks like an aerosol can with a ribbon tied around it. And if St Audrey (aka St. Etheldreda) one time queen of Northumbria will forgive me for speaking her name in the same sentence as 1D, it is tawdry.

“Sings ‘What Makes You Beautiful’”

See here

SET OF OSEBOURNE FAMILY 2002 BOBBING HEAD PENS NEW SEALED – £12.99

“2002 set of the Osbourne family bobbing head pens Ozzy, Sharon, Jack and Kelly all on factory sealed cards”

Yes okay, so the facial expression on Ozzy’s bobbing head pen is supposed to be akin to the photo, but I am sad to say that it looks instead as if rigor mortis has set in, which is not the message the makers are trying to put across I am certain. Poor Ozzy. The others don’t fare very well either, but at least they don’t look like death.

Have a look

THE BEATLES OFFICIAL HANKY 1960s WITH LOVE FROM ME TO YOU. FAB! - £27.99

“Item condition – Like new” - now, you see this is what’s worrying me. If it is like new
does that mean it has been used?

"THE BEATLES OFFICIAL ORIGINA GENUINE HANDKERCHIEF - HANKY"

MEASURES APPROX 8 AND A HALF INCHES SQUARE "WITH LOVE - FROM ME TO YOU" NOT SURE OF THE MATERIAL COULD BE SILK"

See the rest here

SLIPKNOT NEW OFFICIAL HANDBAG - £23.99

"Official item"

A while back I featured a 1D messenger bag and was extolling the virtues – somewhat sarcastically I admit – of it having a plastic heart. This bag needs no plastic heart. It needs no gimmicks whatsoever for it already has what it needs – ATTITUDE. Plain and simple. And would you believe me if I told you that the same daughter who liked the Spice Girls went on to have this group of lovely chaps as her number one band for a while – my how tastes change eh? That is why there is hope yet for all those crying, screaming, screeching, wailing, and fainting fans of One Direction. Hail, maggots. (I should add here, perhaps, that if you are not familiar with the affectionate term “maggots” you should enter ‘Slipknot maggots’ into the search engine of your choice and all should be revealed.)

See and make your purchase here

Iggy Pop: Godfather Of Punk Action Figure With Mic & Base - New In Blister Pack - £17.50

I am not sure whether this is grotesque or... erm... sorry, but I can’t find it within myself to offer an antonym of grotesque here so I shall just go for ‘well-designed’. I am sure you can understand my predicament when perusing a large image of this item.

“Highly detailed Model. Includes microphone and display base accessories.” See more here

Hoodies £25. T-shirts £15, Beanies £6. PM me for P&P, all profits to Sea Shepherd xx

Write to Samdance Kirwan at sam.kirwan@ntlworld.com
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.
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<td>7 - 7.15</td>
<td>Intro</td>
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<td>7.15 - 7.45</td>
<td><strong>Nigel Mortimer:</strong> Opening Portals</td>
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<td>8.15 - 8.45</td>
<td><strong>Ronan Coghlan:</strong> Bogus Bibles</td>
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<td>8.45 - 9.30</td>
<td><strong>Lee Walker:</strong> Urban Legends of Liverpool</td>
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<td><strong>Lee Walker:</strong> Book Signing</td>
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<td>9.30 - 10.00</td>
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<td><strong>Lars Thomas:</strong> Tales from the CFZ Laboratory</td>
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<td><strong>Silas Hawkins:</strong> A bedtime story</td>
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<td>10.45 - 11.00</td>
<td>Raffle</td>
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<td>12.00 - 12.30</td>
<td><strong>Jon and Richard:</strong> intro to Cryptozoology</td>
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<td><strong>Nick Wadham:</strong> Alien Abductions</td>
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<td><strong>Mad Hatter’s Tea Party</strong></td>
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<td>5.00 - 6.00</td>
<td><strong>MAX BLAKE:</strong> Genetics for Cryptozoologists</td>
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<td>6.00 - 6.30</td>
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<td><strong>Judge Smith:</strong> The Judex Trilogy</td>
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<td><strong>Book Launch</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Judge Smith:</strong> The Judex Trilogy</td>
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<td>7.45 - 8.00</td>
<td>CFZ Awards</td>
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<td>8.00 - 8.30</td>
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<td>7.45 - 8.00</td>
<td>CFZ Awards</td>
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<td>8.30 - 9.30</td>
<td><strong>John Higgs:</strong> Chaos, Magick, and the band who burned a million quid</td>
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<td>9.30 - 10.00</td>
<td><strong>Richard Freeman:</strong> Tasmania 2013 Expedition Report</td>
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<td><strong>Silas Hawkins:</strong> A bedtime story from Richard Freeman’s Hyakumonogatan</td>
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<td>Raffle</td>
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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>12.00 - 1.00</td>
<td><strong>Matt Salusbury:</strong> Baron Walter Rotschild’s Deinotherium caper</td>
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<td>1.30 - 2.00</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>2.00 - 3.00</td>
<td><strong>C.J. Stone:</strong> a MODERN King Arthur</td>
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<td>3.00 - 3.30</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>3.30 - 4.30</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<td>4.30 - 5.00</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.00 - 5.15</td>
<td><strong>Results of nature walk</strong> (Lars/Jon)</td>
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<td>5.15 - 6.00</td>
<td><strong>Ronan Coghlan:</strong> The Amphibians from Outer Space</td>
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<td>6.00 - 6.15</td>
<td><strong>Jon Downes:</strong> Keynote Speech</td>
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<td>6.30</td>
<td>Raffle</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td><strong>Speaker’s Dinner</strong> at the Community Centre</td>
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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.
The spirit of what made YES the massively successful band they became is visible here for all to see and hear on these 2 DVDs, featuring rare TV performances from 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.
SHEPHERDS OF CASSINI

Shepherds Of Cassini
(INDIE)

The more I discover about the local NZ music scene, the more impressed I am by the quality and diversity of what is available down here. Shepherds Of Cassini are another case in point. Hailing from Auckland they were formed in 2012 by Omar Al-Hashimi on drums (from Pilgrim’s Pyre), Vitesh Bava on bass (from Pilgrim’s Pyre), Felix Lun on electric violin (from An Emerald City) and Brendan Zwaan on guitar and vocals (from Flood). Imagine if you will Ozric Tentacles using violin instead of wind, and bringing in stoner elements as they experiment with sound, then you may come close. Of course you need to add to that list the tribal rhythms and especially the middle eastern influences and then you may get somewhere close.

The first time I played this not only did I not understand what I was really listening to, I actually didn’t like it at all. The songs often were over-long (“Eyelid” is eighteen minutes), I couldn’t work out why I was playing it (apart from being asked to) and it just didn’t work. But, I determined that the fault was probably with me as opposed to the music, especially as I kept hearing good things about them in the scene, so I persevered, and it was only on the third time through that it started to make sense. From there on in every play has just cemented my view that this is an incredible piece of work in so many ways. For the most part this is pure instrumental, and sounds as if the guys were playing this live in the studio, working with each other and bouncing ideas. Instead of being too long, the songs were now too short, and the simple almost naïve complexity really brought me in. I’m not overly sure of the drums sound, as to my hearing the snare is too high in the mix, but that really is just being picky. This is never going to be an immediate album, but is definitely worth persevering with, and can be streamed from Bandcamp before purchase so...
if you want to try something that is definitely more than a little different then this may well be for you. shepherdsofcassini.bandcamp.com

I will always have a soft spot for Iced Earth, as about 20 years ago their label sent me a metal letter opener that I still have – easily the nicest promo item I have ever seen, and also useful as a deadly weapon if I ever have the need. Also, over the years they have had some great releases so I always look forward to each new album with real interest. Of course, the major issue is that this hasn’t been a ‘real’ band for a large number of years as it is always Jon Schaffer and others, but that isn’t normally an issue as Jon has such clear direction that the band make-up is never an issue. Here he has kept the same singer as the last album, Stu Block, and it is he who turns out to be one of the highlights of this album as often it is his strong and powerful vocals that carry the song. Jon is, and always will be I am sure, an incredible guitarist, but on this album there just isn’t enough in terms of real song quality for it to be something to which I will often be returning. In fact, sometimes it is quite pedestrian and that is certainly not something that I would ever expect from Jon.

Lots of crunching riffs and plenty of solos, but not enough real action for this to be a contender and in many ways is quite a step back from the last album ‘Dystopia’. I just can’t get excited over this album, and find it hard even to summon up the enthusiasm for a lengthy review. Often not better than average, and sometimes worse, let’s hope that the next one shows a return to form.

Lover Under Cover hail from Gothenburg, Sweden and this is the follow-up to their 2012 debut, ‘Set The Night On Fire’ which I have to confess and say that I haven’t heard. Formed by Mikael Carlsson (bass, guitars, keyboards, vocals), the rest of the band comprise vocalist and keyboard player Mikael Erlandsson (Last Autumn’s Dream), Martin Kronlund (Gypsy Rose, Phenomena) on guitars and drummer Perra Johnsson. The more I played this the more I felt that I was listening to the bastard child of The Quireboys and Poison, more smooth and polished than the former and with a more ballysy and slightly more bluesy edge than the latter. In fact, the longer it stayed on the player the more I became convinced that easily the worse thing about these guys is their name! Whoever thought that Lover Under Cover was a great name for a band should be taken out and shot…

There is a cover song on the album, and interestingly it isn’t mentioned within the press release, and it took me a little while to place who performed the original. Lover Under Cover call it “Toy Soldier”, but it originally had a ‘s’ on the end when it was sung by Martika back in 1989, and was then sampled by Eminem in 2005 as “Like Toy Soldiers”. Whatever it is called, this is a strong version and doesn’t sound out of place on the album. Great musicianship, aligned with powerful hooks and great vocals, this is a melodic hard rock album that is a delight from the beginning to the very end, and is well worth seeking out. www.escape-music.com
Founded in 2009 in Modena, Italy, Folk Metal Jacket is a folk metal band whose members are:

- Riccardo "Zanna" Zanasi (Voce solista) -- (Voice)
- Federico "WaxWolf" Di Cera (Chitarra solista) -- (Guitar)
- Alessandro "Jeff" Maculan (Chitarra ritmica) -- (Guitar)
- Mattia "Barbi" Barbieri (Banjo) -- (Banjo)
- Gabriele "SSSSarti" Sarti (Tastiera) -- (Keyboards)
- Nicolò "RoboCuogh" Cuoghi (Batteria) -- (Drums)
- Franco Giavatto (Basso) -- (Bass)

From their website:

“...The band was born in 2009 from an idea of the guitarist and singer Riccardo Zanasi (Zanna) who, walking outside a musical shop with Mattia Barbieri, saw a banjo in an instrument shop window and convinced his friend to start playing the fateful instrument which his classmate Nicolò Cuoghi has luckily got in his garage, in addition to his brother's drums. In the project were involved their classmates Alberto Malferrari, who plays the bass since 2007 and Nicholas Vaccari, who had bought his first guitar since a month. Then the group recruited Gabriele Sarti (keyboards) in order to have a more versatile sound.”
And so boys and girls we come to the end of yet another issue. It is, once again, silly o’clock on Saturday morning, but that is at least part my fault. I had intended to do a large chunk of the magazine yesterday evening but in the wake of all the unpleasantness regarding the Weird Weekend, I had an appointment with a bottle of bourbon which went on longer than I had intended and I spent the night asleep in my favourite armchair. And so the bulk of the work was done this evening.

I don’t usually quote Shakespeare in these pages, but in this issue I shall make an exception.

It has not all been doom and gloom in the potato shed this week. Today was mother’s 85th birthday. She is a remarkable woman and has overcome all sorts of unpleasant things in the past few years. It is my pleasure and privilege to have her living with us, and I would like to say publicly that I love her very much indeed. Men are not supposed to love their mother-in-laws, but - as in many things - I am the exception towards the rule. She is a lovely, sweet lady and I very much hope that we shall be celebrating her birthday for many years to come.

I am very proud of this magazine. It is a publication that I have been wanting to produce for well over thirty years, and I am very pleased that not only have I finally managed to do it, but that each week so many people read it and apparently enjoy it. I believe that there is a very real place for publications such as this which cover art, music, politics, and all the other things we cover, and I intend to carry on doing it for as long as I can. I know that my political stance, particularly as regards animal rights, and the iniquities of blood sports and factory farming, may have made me friends amongst the alternative community, but increasingly finds me at odds with certain sections of the population, especially those who – like us – live in rural areas. However, I can do nothing about this. I have to do as Polonius said to Laertes in Hamlet Act 1: “This above all: to thine own self be true, and it must follow as the night the day, thou canst not then be false to any man”.

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BEEFHEART AT HIS BEST
Live on stage

ADMIT ONE $5.50

STALLS

Somewhere Over Detroit
11 Dec 1980
From Harpos Concert Theatre, Detroit
11 Dec 1980
On Stage 20:30

CAPTAIN BEEFHEART
& The Magic Band

GONZO MULTIMEDIA
www.gonzomultimedia.co.uk