EXCLUSIVE:
Roy Weard’s book Launch
EXCLUSIVE:
The local politician who started my career
EXCLUSIVE:
Doug on Simple Minds

KARNATAKA KULTURE
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THE THREE COMMANDMENTS OF GONZO WEEKLY:

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

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

3. Music can and sometimes does change the world.

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

Welcome to another issue of my peculiar music magazine. As I believe that I have mentioned before, I started it pretty much by accident, and it took on a life of its own that I don't think that either I, or any of the other people involved, ever expected. No-one gets paid for what they do on it apart from me. I get twenty five quid a week, which - being in a permanent state of impecuniosity (if that is a proper word, and I think that the fact that my iPad spellchecker didn't pick up on it as a mistake pretty much implies that it is) - does go towards keeping both ends of the wolf from meeting at the door. However, I do have one great perk. Being the editor of this magazine does help me to indulge in one of my favourite and longest running fetishes; my lust for rock music biographies.

I have been addicted to rock music biographies since the summer of 1974 when I first started reading the cut and paste rock biographies written by George Tremlett.

Tremlett wrote a whole series of pop biographies starting with *The David Bowie Story* and progressing through the great and the good of British pop music (*The John Lennon Story, The Rolling Stones Story, The Marc Bolan Story* and *The Who Story*) to the eminently forgettable with books on *Arrows* and *Silk*. Even the books he wrote on pop journeymen like Alvin Stardust and David Essex were entertaining in their own manner. Over the years I have owned most, if not all, of his books, and - when my enormous collection of books is once again under the same roof, and not crammed into a room occupied by my frail, but immensely loveable Mother-in-Law, I may be able to experience the OCD joy of seeing them all on the same shelf together once again.
We were somewhere around Barstow on the edge of the desert when the drugs began to take hold. I remember saying something like "I feel a bit lightheaded, maybe you should drive....."
However, although I have read so much of his written output over the years, and although it was certainly he who launched me onto the path of rock and roll bibliophilia that I have followed for all these years, it is mildly peculiar to find that I knew next to nothing about him. So I determined to find out, and - golly - was I surprised by what I discovered!

According to his own mini-biography, he was born in 1939, and after leaving King Edward VI School, Stratford-upon-Avon Tremlett worked for the Coventry ‘Evening Telegraph’ from 1957 as a TV columnist and pop music reviewer. In 1961 he became a freelance rock journalist and in the 1970s he wrote a series of superficial paperback pop books, including *The David Bowie Story*, the first biography about the musician.

He is a biographer of Dylan Thomas and his wife Caitlin. He interviewed Caitlin at her home in Catania for the book *Caitlin: Life with Dylan Thomas* (New York, 1987). He has argued that Thomas was "the first rock star."

In 1997 he published a book with James Nashold, *The Death of Dylan Thomas*, that claimed that Dylan Thomas’ death was not due to alcohol poisoning but rather a mistake by Thomas’ physician in prescribing cortisone, morphine and Benzedrine when Thomas was actually in a diabetic coma.
IT'S A LEGAL MATTER BABY

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

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

A Swedish court had asked the EU court to consider whether this broke copyright law. The court's decision came after a dispute in Sweden between journalists and a web company that had posted links on its site to online news articles.

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Tremlett runs the Corran Bookshop in Laugharne, "a shrine to the poet", after moving to the town in 1982. The shop also offers tourist information and was nominated for the Carmarthenshire Business Awards in 2005. But what is most unlikely about the career of this remarkable man is that he was a Conservative politician for many years, although in 1979 he did write a book called Living Cities which was highly critical of Conservative housing policy.

He was a Conservative member for Twickenham on the Greater London Council. He served as head of Housing Policy under Horace Cutler and was Deputy Leader at one time.

He opposed its abolition against the view of his own party, and was forced to resign from the GLC group owing to this disagreement. Tremlett wrote in the Morning Star that "During her first premiership, Mrs. Thatcher became obsessed with Ken Livingstone; she regarded him as a danger to the state. It was she who committed the Conservative Party to the abolition of the GLC by personally writing that commitment into the general election manifesto." His work as head of housing policy was profiled in the sixth episode of the first BBC series The Secret History of Our Streets (Arnold Circus).

This erudite, old school Tory politician, Dylan Thomas scholar and man of letters, is the last person that one would have imagined being responsible for the first major series of rock music biographies, which were surprisingly sympathetic to sexual deviancy, drug abuse and anti-establishment sentiments. But then again it didn't seem like he fitted in particularly well within the Conservative Party at the time either.

The truth is that George Tremlett was an even bigger influence upon me than Mick Farren, Daevid Allen, or Penny Rimbaud. It was this unlikely man who set me on the path that I have been following ever since - a self-styled rock and roll archaeologist, and if I ever get the chance I shall buy him a very large drink.

Weird old world innit?

Jon Downes
THE GONZO WEEKLY
all the gonzo news that’s fit to print

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 Lanciá,  
(My favourite roving reporter)

Thom the World Poet,  
(Bard in residence)

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

Kev Rowland,  
(Kiwi Reviewer)

Lesley Madigan,  
(Photographer par excellence)

Douglas Harr,  
(Staff writer, columnist)

Jessica Taylor,  
(PA and laughing at drunk pop stars)

Richard Freeman,  
(Scary stuff)

Dave McMann,  
(He ain’t nothing but a Newshound-dog)

Orrin Hare,  
(Sybarite and literary bon viveur)

Mark Raines,  
(Cartoonist)

Davey Curtis,  
(tales from the north)

Jon Pertwee  
(Pop Culture memorabilia)

Dean Phillips  
(The House Wally)

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

and Peter McAdam  
(McDada in residence)

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

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

Jonathan Downes,  
Editor: Gonzo Daily (Music and More)

Editor: Gonzo Weekly magazine

The Centre for Fortean Zoology,

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You will have certainly noticed that it has all changed. In fact, there is no certainty 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.

It is simple; my name is Jon and I'm the editor of the Gonzo Multimedia daily online bloggything, and wot what a long, strange trip it is gonna be...

I keep on thinking that I ought to have some sort of a mission statement in each issue, but it is more than a little difficult to do one.

Basically, (if you don't mind me sounding more like a wishy washy old hippy than my haircut in the photograph on the previous page would imply) I think that books and music are immensely important.

I look around and see that we are living in a world where the things that I think are important are valued less and less by society as a whole; a world where asinine gameshows and so-called reality TV (which is actually a complete oxymoron, but don't get me started) are of more importance to most people than anything of cultural or spiritual value.

I am also very disappointed by much of what the contemporary music press puts out, and I decided many years ago, that probably the only way I could read the things that I want to read, would be to publish them myself.

So this is what I have been doing for much of my life. I am also naive enough to think that music and art can change the world, and as the world is in desperate need of change, I am gonna do my best to help.

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DOING IT FOR THE KIDS  Once upon a moonbeam, when hair was long, trousers were purple and albums came in gatefold sleeves with madly grinning wizards on the front, an idealistic young teacher cut a lo-fi folk-rock record with a bunch of teenagers in the Utopian rural setting of Kilquhanity School in the Scottish borders. Recorded in 1974 under the collective name Courtyard Music Group, Just Our Way Of Saying Hello was then privately pressed in a run of 100 copies for band, family and friends. And they all lived happily ever after. The end.

Well, not quite. Fast forward a few decades, and one of the most obscure albums in Britfolk history is now an ultra-rare collector's item, with copies trading online for over £1000. And now the team behind the original recording have regrouped for the first time in 40 years, launching an online pledge campaign to fund a new limited-edition pressing of the album on deluxe vinyl, plus a one-off reunion show in August to mark the school’s 75th anniversary. Read on...

X RATED STRIPES A previously unreleased recording by The White Stripes will feature on a reissue of country singer Loretta Lynn's 2004 album 'Van Lear Rose', which was produced by Jack White. The White Stripes' cover of Lynn's song 'Rated X' was recorded in 2000, and was intended as the B-side of the duo's single 'Jolene'. However, it has never been given an official release until now. The release of the 'Jolene' single was scrapped, with 'Jolene' instead becoming the B-side of 'Hello Operator'. Read on...

YOU GOTTA MOVE The Rolling Stones have shared a previously unheard acoustic version of 'Wild Horses' ahead of the reissue of 'Sticky Fingers'. The much-loved ballad appears on the 1971 LP, which is being re-released at the end of May in deluxe and super-deluxe editions containing unreleased bonus tracks. The veteran band yesterday said they are ‘floating the idea’ of playing the record in full on their upcoming North American tour dates. It includes fan favourites 'Brown Sugar' and 'Dead Flowers' alongside rarely heard songs - 'You Gotta Move' hasn't been played live since 1976. Frontman Mick Jagger has expressed concern that the pacing of the album might not suit a stadium tour: He said: "It's a really great album, but it has a lot of slow songs. Normally in a show we'd just do one or two ballads. 'Sticky Fingers' has about five slow songs. I'm just worried that it might be problematic in stadiums. Maybe we'd play it and everyone would say 'great,' but maybe they'll get restless and start going to get drinks." Read on...

I ONLY HAVE THE VAGUEST IDEA WHO RIHANNA IS, BUT THIS MADE ME LAUGH Rihanna's band has "suffered the most" when it comes to her pranks. The 27-year-old singer has spoken about her love of practical jokes in honour of April Fool's Day, which was celebrated on April 1. The star loves nothing better than playing tricks on people, with those who perform with her usually becoming the victims. "I love playing pranks on people, I love it. Whoever - my band, they've suffered the most. Because on the road you get a little bored and you get into some mischief, especially on the last shows [because] we usually prank, we do different things," she told US talk show host Jimmy Kimmel. The star then chatted about one of her best pranks, which took place earlier this year. She is proud of what she got up to, even though her band probably thought she'd gone a step too far. "They either prank me or I prank them or both. This year we had to perform outside and it was freezing cold and I poured like the dirtiest mixture of like milk and pineapple juice, eggs, whatever I could think of - bubblegum on the bottom of your shoes, I lined the crotch of their pants with gum. I mean... I put raw fish in their suitcases," she laughed. 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 Ipos 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...

**BLESSED ART THOU AMONGST WOMEN:**

A Catholic priest has allegedly said that murdered journalist Jill Meagher should have been at home in bed the night she was raped and killed. Mrs Meagher, originally from the Republic of Ireland and living in Australia where she worked for ABC, went missing in September 2012 after drinks with workmates.

But last week, the priest is alleged to have held up a newspaper with attacker Adrian Bayley’s face on it saying that if she had been ‘more faith-filled’ she ‘would have been home in bed… not walking down Sydney Road at 3am’, according to 3AW.

Her husband, Tom, has branded the comments disgusting and stupid. He wrote on Facebook: ‘How a human being with such dangerous and misogynistic views can be allowed to pass those messages onto children is depressing. What a truly abhorrent message to teach a child.’ Read on...

**DON'T BOGART THAT BONFIRE**

An entire neighbourhood accidentally got high after police burned 3.3 tonnes of seized cannabis. Officers in West Jakarta, Indonesia, sparked the pile of drugs on Wednesday. The smoke spread to nearby homes where locals suffered dizziness and headaches, reports asiaone.com. Police wore masks but those without succumbed to the powerful marijuana fumes. Nearly two kilograms of crystal methamphetamine and more than 2,500 ecstasy pills were also destroyed – but not with fire. Read on...

**BASTARDS!** A mother has successfully sued police for wrongful arrest after being handcuffed in front of her Down's Syndrome daughter over false claims she left her alone outside for 45 minutes.

Valerie Cadman-Khan was left 'humiliated' when officers led her away from her Middlesbrough home in front of her crying daughter Aimee. Cleveland Police accused the 56-year-old of negligent behaviour, claiming she left the child alone for 45 minutes in the garden. Read on...
"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.
Frank Zappa – Original
“Captain Beefheart vs. The Grunt People” Script

ABOVE IS an original script for Frank Zappa’s notorious unproduced film, “Captain Beefheart vs. The Grunt People.” Zappa originally conceived of this film in 1964; it’s title gave his longtime friend Don Vliet his pseudonym, Captain Beefheart.

In 1969 Zappa created this fully developed screenplay and attempted to get financing for the film. It was to star Beefheart, members of his Magic Band and a few Mothers of Invention, Rod Steiger, Howlin’ Wolf and the Jefferson Airplane’s Grace Slick. Zappa had a recording studio in Cucamonga, California. He visited an auction at a location known as the FK Rocket Studios in Hollywood. This was 1962. And for $50, he got a whole bunch of movie sets. Frank trucked it out of there and brought it back to Cucamonga and decided to make an independent film. Name of the movie was Captain Beefheart Vs. The Grunt People. In the back of the studio, close to the toilet, Zappa constructed a completely implausible, two-dimensional, cardboard rocket ship (below). He coloured all the sets by himself and wrote a script based on the people and facilities available at the time: Captain Beefheart vs. the Grunt People.

[Image -597x-3 to 603x841]
I have got a lot of goodies from my favourite roving reporter this week, but this one takes the biscuit.

No stranger to keeping secrets, the ever-incalculable David Bowie has revealed that he's been laboring for years in private on a musical-theater extension of Walter Tevis' 1963 novel *The Man Who Fell to Earth*, which will be produced later this year. The singer – whose latest single, "Sue (Or in a Season of Crime)," veered toward the theatrical – co-wrote the production *Lazarus* with Tony-winning playwright Enda Walsh (Once) and composed new songs for it.

*Lazarus* will focus on the novel's Thomas Newton, whom Bowie portrayed the 1976 film adaptation of the book. But *The New York Times* reports it will not be a rehash of the same story Bowie fans know. The production will instead feature some of the same characters.


The really peculiar thing here is that accepted wisdom says that Bowie only filmed 'The Man who Fell to Earth' in the first place because he couldn't get the rights to film Robert Heinlein's 'Stranger in a Strange Land'. And Heinlein's other most famous books feature a character called...Lazarus.

The other main news of the week is that Joni Mitchell was rushed to hospital in Los Angeles, apparently after having suffered a stroke. Bart has sent us this link which is giving regular updates:


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:

"Maybe it meant something. Maybe not, in the long run, but no explanation, no mix of words or music or memories can touch that sense of knowing that you were there and alive in that corner of time and the world. Whatever it meant."

Hunter S. Thompson
FRIDAY 10TH APRIL
GONG
FAMILY GATHERING
9pm - 1:30am

We celebrate the life of DAEVID ALLEN, with a unique line up of musicians from the extended family of GONG. Our intention is to beam Love and Positivity across planet earth, destination Australia, to reach Daevid.

Gong members DAVE STURT, IAN EAST, KAVUS TORABI perform as insPiral GONG

The Magick Twins
MARK ROBSON and GRAHAM CLARK, Daevid Allen's two musical siblings from the Magick Brothers

Psycho-active decor by Liquid Elf
The Little Green Planet / Liquid Drops

Solo DJ sets from STEVE HILLAGE and MIQUETTE GIRAUDY

All profits from this event go directly to Daevid Allen in Australia
Tickets: £17 Advance (inc B/F) from Access All Areas // £20 on door (Limited)

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BREAKING: President Obama just approved Shell’s lease, helping Shell get one step closer to drilling in the Alaskan Arctic this year.

This is outrageous!

Right now, Shell are desperately trying to avoid media attention as they put profits before the planet and prepare for potentially devastating Arctic drilling. So six volunteers are pursuing a Shell oil rig across the Pacific, on route to the Arctic drill site. They hope to shine a spotlight on Shell and show that the world is watching. But they will need our help.

SHARE, Join the Arctic movement and follow the journey of the six volunteers at http://grnpo.org/IgDhX — with Mathias Cruz and Alan Dawson.

Portobello Shuffle CDs still at special low price of £5.00 each, 1 x CD inc. p&p – UK £5.80; Mainland Europe £8.90; USA £9.95; Rest of the World, contact Rich Deakin for postage price. rjyd.eedde@yahoo.co.uk
Richard Freeman, world famous author, explorer and cryptozoologist sent this noisome article:

Gonzo Web Radio started off as a medium by which interviews and radio programmes about the various acts covered by Gonzo Multimedia could be broadcast to an eagerly attentive world.

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

I agreed, and then the floodgates opened. We have regular weekly shows from Tim and Jaki on their submarine, and from the mysterious M Destiny on the other side of the pond with Friday Night Progressive. We also have a regular visit to the world of the Canterbury Scene courtesy of our friend Matthew Watkins. There are several other shows in the wings, waiting to join us, so stay glued to your seats boys and girls, your life is never going to be the same again!
Strange Fruit is a unique two-hour radio show exploring the world of underground, strange and generally neglected music. All shows are themed and all shows set out to give the most hardened of sound-hounds some new delight to sample. The show is also unique in providing homework for undergraduate students on North West Kent College’s Foundation Degree in Professional Writing (who dig up many of the odd facts featured in the links between tracks). The show is broadcast on Miskin Radio every Sunday from 10.00-midnight. Every other week the show is now presented by Jeremy Smith and as the two promotional pictures that he sent consisted as one of him covered in mud and the other of him covered in guinea pigs he is obviously mad as a bagful of cheese, which means he will fit in here just fine! He writes: I've been a huge music fan ever since my parents bought me a transistor radio and I would listen to the sixties pirate music stations at nights under the covers. This love of live music has stayed with me to this day and I still love standing in a small club like the Borderline in London with some mates and watching a band with a pint in my hand. With the Strange Fruit radio show, I want to continue the trend of doing themed shows and playing the music I love.

Strange Fruit 114 - Under the Covers
A veritable miscellany of cover versions to keep you awake at night

Featured Album: Yo La Tengo is Murdering the Classics by Yo La Tengo

1 Dustin’s Bar Mitzvah: Total Eclipse of the Heart (Jim Steinman/Bonnie Tyler)
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 shear 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.

**ARTISTS:**

- Circuline
  [http://www.facebook.com/circulinemusic](http://www.facebook.com/circulinemusic)
- THEO
- Dave Kerzner
- Circle of Illusion
- Cheap Dinosaurs
- Moon Tooth
  [http://www.facebook.com/moontoothband](http://www.facebook.com/moontoothband)
- Dreadnaught
- SENDELICA
- UgoChill
- Bill Berends
  [http://www.facebook.com/Mastermindband — with Andrew Colyer, Nick Lee, Alex Guitarista Rado, Jim Alfredson, Michael Schetter, Dave Kerzner, Bill Berends, Dino Lionetti, Pedro Kaldini and Richard Habib.](http://www.facebook.com/Mastermindband — with Andrew Colyer, Nick Lee, Alex Guitarista Rado, Jim Alfredson, Michael Schetter, Dave Kerzner, Bill Berends, Dino Lionetti, Pedro Kaldini and Richard Habib.)
Cynthia Lennon (née Powell)  
(1939 – 2015)

She was the first wife of musician John Lennon, and mother of Julian Lennon. She grew up in the middle-class section of Hoylake, on the Wirral Peninsula in North West England. At the age of 12, she was accepted into the Junior Art School, and was later enrolled in the Liverpool College of Art. John Lennon also attended the college; a meeting with Lennon in a calligraphy class led to their relationship.

When John was performing in Hamburg with the Beatles, she rented his bedroom from his aunt and legal guardian, Mimi Smith. After Powell became pregnant, she and John were married on 23 August 1962 at the Mount Pleasant register office in Liverpool. In 1964, they lived at Kenwood in Weybridge, where she kept house and participated with her husband in a London-based social life. In 1968, John left her for Yoko Ono; the couple’s divorce was legally granted on 8 November 1968.

She married Italian hotelier Roberto Bassanini in 1970, divorcing him in 1973. In 1976, she married John Twist, an engineer from Lancashire, but divorced him in 1983. After her divorce from Twist, she changed her name back to “Lennon” by deed poll and met Jim Christie, her partner for 17 years. She published a book of memoirs, A Twist of Lennon, in 1978, and later was married to Noel Charles, a night club owner, from 2002 until his death in 2013. In 2005, she published a more intimate biography, John. Over the years she staged several auctions of memorabilia associated with her life with John Lennon. In 2006, she and her son Julian Lennon attended the Las Vegas premiere of the Cirque du Soleil production of Love whose theme is the music of the Beatles. Until her death in 2015, she lived in Majorca, Spain.

Preston James Ritter  
(1949 – 2015)

Ritter was an American drummer, drum teacher and author of drum methods.

He joined The Electric Prunes in 1966, and played on their debut studio album, The Electric Prunes, and two hit singles, before being replaced by Michael Weakley during recording of the band’s second album, Underground, in 1967. He was also involved with Linda Ronstadt, The Beach Boys, and Dobie Gray. He later worked as a DJ and as a police officer and private investigator before becoming a Christian missionary in Korea, where he taught theology. In later years he returned to Los Angeles, and taught and wrote books on drumming.

He died in 2015, after several years of dialysis for kidney problems, including two kidney transplants.
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
Since the mid-1980s, aspiring singer/songwriter John Shuttleworth has been posting audio cassettes of his "finest songs to date" to pop stars throughout the land, in the hope that someone would record his material. But all to no avail... until now! The BBC has given John a new radio series and asked him to invite pop stars to bring their music to his Sheffield home. So it is that Chas and Dave, Heaven 17, Toyah Wilcox and Leee John find themselves in John's lounge having tea with wife Mary, being flirted with by Mary's friend Joan Chitty, and hassled by John's agent Ken Worthington, as they try to perform not only one of their greatest hits but more importantly, one of John's! Naturally, John will return the favour by attempting a medley of his guest's finest work in the item "Under The Covers". In "Top Tips On The Telephone" Mr Shuttleworth calls up other stars for showbiz tips, and gets through to 70's pop diva Tina Charles, ace guitarist Gordon Giltrap, and the evergreen Anita Harris.

**John Shuttleworth**

**Title** Lounge Music  
**Cat No.** CHICKEN019CD  
**Label** Chicken

Hugh Hopper

**Title** Volume 6: Special Friends  
**Cat No.** HST248CD  
**Label** Gonzo

**THIS MONTH AT GONZO**
This is the sixth of a ten part series compiled by Michael King, a Canadian Hugh Hopper Scholar.

He writes: “My first encounter with the music of Hugh Colin Hopper backdates to the summer of 1976.

While visiting a friend I was intentional played a record titled Volume Two from a British rock group about whom I knew little, The Soft Machine. The experience was staggering and prompted a radical reappraisal for the conventions I had been conditioned to accept as ‘Progressive’. Once smitten I undertook to follow and purchase a spate of seriously inventive record albums that Hugh Hopper released and appeared on, namely; Hoppertunity Box, Rogue Element, Soft Heap, Cruel But Fair and Two Rainbows Daily. Throughout these works I found Hugh’s textural bass guitar by turns anchored and animated the music with ample good taste. Here was a rarefied musician who avoided overplaying his instrument in favour of approaches reflecting his personal musical Zen”.

Technically, by processing his bass guitar with fuzz box, flanger, wha-wha, octave pedal effects, his use of tapes loops, and latterly computer programming, Hugh constructed multilayer soundscapes with great attention to detail. His creative template embraced aesthetics well beyond the orthodox roles assigned to the bass guitar and its practitioner.

As example, Hugh cleverly adapted the time altering effects of the repetitive tapes loops he was creating with two tape recorders in the early sixties - to his bass guitar - by playing such repeating patterns in real time.

Furthermore, minimalist mutations and modularity often characterize the rhythmic, harmonic, melodic foundations of Hugh’s musical compositions (many displaying melody lines of uncommon length). These aspects, alongside a brilliant capacity to freely improvise, (dynamically from a whisper to a roar) distinguish Hugh Hopper as a consummate musician of great standing, one who thrived in myriad musical settings”.

This ten part series is to compliment a heretofore large body of work (over sixty titles) by presenting previously unreleased concert and studio recordings, with the focus on Hugh’s compositions as performed by groups under his leadership.

Rocket Scientists

Title Refuel
Cat No.TTMD-1057
Label Think Tank Media

California prog rockers release their 7th studio masterwork. Looking forward!

The enduring trio of Erik Norlander (keyboards), Mark McCrite (guitars and vocals) and Don Schiff (Sticks and strings) are delighted to release their 7th studio album, Refuel.

The full-length album combines both vocal and instrumental songs with the band's signature songwriting, performance and production style in 12 unforgettable tracks. Refuel also features stellar performances by guest musicians Gregg Bissonette (drums), vocalists Lana Lane and Kelly Keeling along with others including the brass players from the band's previous release, Supernatural Highways, and Norlander's Hommage Symphonique album which also featured Schiff and McCrite.

Rocket Scientists released a 30-minute all-instrumental EP, Supernatural Highways, earlier this year to mark the 20th anniversary of their 1st album.

Refuel contains the balance of those 20-year anniversary recordings and is a more traditional album mixing vocal and instrumental tracks in the style that so identifies the group.

“Refuel is nothing less than a return to the big, fat sound that these guys have possessed; sounding like a real band, getting together to make real music, in a real studio” - Tommy Hash, Ytsejam
“In the famous Rocket Scientists style, this is quintessential and entertaining melodic progressive rock.” - Craig Hartranft, Dangerdog

**Tommy James**
**Title** Big City  
**Cat No.** 3040  
**Label** Aura

A fantasy trip through NYC with Tommy James and his band! A Night in Big City includes dialogue and sound effects, and features a new version of the hit song “I Think We’re Alone Now.”

Each track is the next stop along the way; listeners can follow along in the 12-page color booklet.

**Birmingham Sunday**
**Title** Prevalent Visionaries: The History of Birmingham Sunday  
**Cat No.** 9519-2  
**Label** Crossfire

Featuring 46 tracks, this band-authorized collection is the definitive word on the legendary Carson City, Nevada band Birmingham Sunday.

Formed in 1966, Birmingham Sunday signed to Bill Holmes’ All-American label and recorded their only album "A Message From Birmingham Sunday" in December 1968.

Paul Buff was the engineer for these Original Sound Recording Studios sessions. The album included the single "Prevalent Visionaries"/"Ego-centric Solitude," which was a Top 10 radio favorite on stations such as KCBN in Reno, Nevada.

Original copies of the All-American LP have recently sold for more than $1,200! Thanks to some recent tape discoveries, Birmingham Sunday's entire recorded output can now be yours!

The "Prevalent Visionaries" collection features:

- The entire All-American album "A Message From Birmingham Sunday" remastered in brilliant sound
- Unreleased alternate mixes of album tracks
- Single mixes of "Prevalent Visionaries" and "Ego-centric Solitude"
- "Studio 'A'" with The Buff Organization
- The Freedom Five's "It's Gotta Be Grant" from 1966 (featuring lead vocalist Joe LaChew)
- "Movin"' by the second Birmingham Sunday lineup

AND MOST IMPORTANT...
All 14 pre-album demos from 1968 – none of which have been heard before! Fascinating early versions of nearly all of their All-American album debut in this collection.
Inner City Unit
Title The Maximum Effect
Cat No.RRA102CD
Label RRA

Inner City Unit (ICU) is a British punk/space rock band fronted by ex-Hawkwind member Nik Turner on saxophone with Judge Trev Thoms or Steve Pond (guitar), Dead Fred (keyboards), Baz Magneto, Dave Anderson or Nazar Ali Khan (bass), and Mick Stupp or Dino Ferari on drums.

Thoms and Ferari were both key members of Steve Peregrin Took's band Steve Took's Horns. Following the Horns' breakup in mid 1978, Turner recruited Ferari to drum on his Sphynx project before adding Thoms the following year to his new band Inner City Unit. Took continued to work with his former band members by guesting with ICU at assorted gigs during 1979-1980, particularly at free concerts at Notting Hill Gate's Meanwhile Gardens. This original line-up produced 2 albums, Passout and The Maximum Effect. The legendary Julian Cope's website describes the album:

"Criminally overlooked, mainly due to the prefix "Nik Turner's" being foisted upon them, ICU defied any categorisation and were a totally wild live experience. Their recorded output is varied, to say the least, but this album stands as a classic. (The production's a bit good, but then the band did go twice over budget)...

Opener "Bones Of Elvis" finds the erstwhile Thunder Rider in proto-rap anthem territory, if such a thing can be imagined. "Virgin Love" is thrashy punk to the max. "Two Worlds" exists on a world of its own. "In The Mood" gives Nik a chance to ponce about in a comedy fashion. "Sid's Song" is at once sad, beautiful and rocking. "Metal" is an almighty discordant racket, and is brilliant.

What really shines through is the songwriting quality of "Judge" Trev Thoms and "Dead" Fred Reeves. More than any other ICU album, this one showcases a BAND rather than cashing in on members' pasts... this is not to denigrate Nik, far from it, but ICU as an equal opportunities employer clearly worked."

Mick Abrahams
Title One
Cat No.HST180CD
Label Gonzo

This collection of acoustic blues and country songs was a departure from the usual electric rock and blues vein for which Mick is renowned. Featuring the Jethro Tull legend, Ian Anderson, on flute, harmonica and mandolin, it shows a lighter side to Mick's work and is great listening value. One of the most popular collectors' albums

Tony Palmer
Title In Pursuit of Happiness
Cat No.TPVD190
Label Tony Palmer Films

With JOHN LENNON, SHIRLEY MacLAIN, CANDY DARLING (Andy Warhol Studio), GODFREY WINN, ROY STRONG, THE JAMES JOYCE LIQUID THEATER, AL GOLDSTEIN & JIM BUCKLEY (Editors of Screw Magazine), XAVIERA HOLLANDER ("The Happy Hooker"), LORD MONTAGU, JACK RYAN.....and various dinosaurs.
Since the release of their debut album in 2007, OneRepublic have emerged as one of the world’s most impressive, consistent, yet often underrated bands. Effortlessly blending finely-honed pop songcraft with a timeless sense of rock dynamics, the group have steadily attracted a significant and devoted international fanbase that grows with every new release.

This DVD features over two hours of in-depth interviews with OneRepublic from across their career, in which the band members discuss their musical journey in detail – their albums, their stage show, their sound and their influences – while frontman Ryan Tedder talks at length not only about his activities within the group, but also his work as a songwriter and producer for such diverse acts as U2, Beyoncé and One Direction.

The interviews capture a humble and good-humoured band of friends riding on the crest of a wave, aware that their best is still yet to come.

Since she first emerged in 2009, Ellie Goulding has fast established herself as one of the most alluring, ambitious and talented stars in contemporary music.
Having immediately attracted a strong following and several awards in her native Britain, Ellie's enchanting vocals, impressive song-writing and striking fusion of pop, folk and electronic styles soon saw her rise to international fame, and she has become a commercial and critical phenomenon.

This DVD features over an hour of filmed interviews with Ellie Goulding, from her early days as a developing and ambitious young musician to her present-day status as a global star. These show Ellie to be a down-to-earth yet charming artist with a real passion and dedication to her music and a sharp sense of humour, and in these revealing interviews she's fully prepared to discuss her work and her life with a refreshing honesty.

**FLORENCE AND THE MACHINE**
“Confessions”
**DOC7DVD**

When Florence and the Machine first emerged in 2009 they cut a totally singular figure on the modern musical landscape. Fusing pop, soul, rock and dance forms into a unique whole, the band first rose to prominence in their native Britain before steadily gaining international acclaim and winning over audiences worldwide. And at the band's core is Florence Welch, the flamboyant siren whose dynamic vocals, expressive song-writing and eccentric stage presence have made her a global icon.

The revealing interviews featured on this DVD, taken from across Florence’s career, capture a passionate and inspired artist with a biting sense of humor, and the singer discusses both her work and her life at length and in depth.

**BRANTLEY GILBERT**
“Straight Talkin’”
**DOC8DVD**

A young musician who in a relatively short career has reinvigorated country music whilst becoming a commercial phenomenon. Bringing rock and roll energy and an outlaw swagger into a very traditional musical world, Gilbert has converted mainstream audiences to the rugged appeal of country and quickly emerged as one of the most significant singer-songwriters in the genre.

And despite being renowned for his love of motorcycles and hunting, as well as his physique and his tattoos, the country boy from Jefferson, Georgia also has real small-town, Southern charm. This DVD contains over an hour of interviews with Brantley from across his career, in which he talks candidly about his music, his personal life and the near-fatal car accident that set his career in motion. The interviews reveal a humble, polite and funny artist who is both passionate and focused - a far more complex man than his bad-boy image suggests.
SENDELICA 2015
PART ONE TOUR
SAT 25TH APRIL THE DUKE, NEATH, WALES
FRI 1ST MAY COSMIC PUFFIN FESTIVAL, ENGLAND
FRI 6TH MAY DESSERT FOX FESTIVAL, PIACENZA, ITALY
SAT 9TH ALTROQUANDO, TREVISIO, ITALY
SUN 10TH MAY, ARCI CHAPEAU, SAVONA, ITALY
TUES 12TH TBA ITALY
WEDS 13TH MAY SIDRO, CESENA, SAVIGNANO SULRUBICONE, ITALY
FRI 15TH MAY, IMMERHIM, WÜRZBURG, GERMANY
SAT 16TH MAY, AUTO CONTROL COMMUNITY, AMSTERDAM, HOLLAND
SENDELICA.BANDCAMP.COM
In May 2010, Ian Harris, Gonzalo Carrera and Lisa Fury announced on their websites that due to personal reasons they would be leaving the band. It was announced in October 2010 that Ian Harris would be replaced by former Karnataka session drummer Louie Palmer, and in October 2010 multi-instrumentalist Colin Mold was revealed as having joined the band in a new role.

In February 2011, it was announced that Hayley Griffiths was the new lead vocalist for the band replacing Lisa Fury. Hayley was previously the lead vocalist with global phenomena Riverdance and Michael Flatley's Lord Of The Dance.

Despite undergoing a number of key line up changes, the band is still led by Ian Jones. The new line up features, vocalist Lisa Fury alongside guitarist Enrico Pinnas, keyboardist Gonzalo Carrera and drummer Ian Harris.

The band’s new lineup was completed in March 2011, when Cagri Tozluoglu was announced as

Karnataka are a Welsh progressive rock band that was formed in 1997 by bassist/guitarist Ian Jones, vocalist Rachel Jones and keyboardist Jonathan Edwards. The band very quickly built up a strong and staunch following. Over a period of twelve years Karnataka has released a number of well-received albums including Karnataka, The Storm, Delicate Flame Of Desire and more recently, The Gathering Light.
the band's new keyboard player. In Sept 2011 the new line-up announced an extensive 15 date tour of the UK would take place early in 2012, subsequently named the "New Light Tour". Due to the second departure of Palmer, the band were joined by session player Matt McDonough for the tour (and continued to tour with the band until 2014). Following the completion of the 2012 tour, Mold departed the band, and was not replaced.

The band filmed and recorded their show at The Met Theatre in Bury on the New Light Tour. The show was enhanced by lights and lasers, and filmed in high definition. The live DVD was released in late 2012. The band continued to tour this show into 2013.

The band revealed in August 2013 that they were working on a new album. It was revealed on 31 May 2014 that the band had hired drummer Jimmy Pallagrosi as an official replacement for Louie Palmer. The long awaited album was released on 7th March 2015, with the first copies being available at the concert in Derby and pre-orders shipped the next week. The album contains 8 tracks, including the title track, a 20 minute epic opus. Other tracks on the album include Forbidden Dreams, Poison Ivy and Home to Me, which were previewed on the Forbidden Dreams tour in 2012/13. The band went on a UK tour starting on 28th February, playing every track from the new album each night.

After hearing the new album last week, I was so impressed that I phoned up Ian Jones for a chat.

Listen Here

© Ron Milsom 2015
Sparkle in the Rain, released in February of 1984, went to #1 in the UK, even as it was a big turn in the road for Simple Minds. The release came on the heels of the more gentle New Gold Dream from the prior year, which had a production draped in layers of lush, romantic synth, and echoes of Roxy Music, Japan, and Duran Duran. In contrast, Sparkle In The Rain presented a muscular, aggressive version of the band, a demanding wall of sound produced by Steve Lillywhite, who had been at the helm for U2, Peter Gabriel, Siouxsie and the Banshees and others. It’s a classic album from the 1980’s that should be in every collector’s catalog.

The Album

The album begins with a count in for opening track “Up On The Catwalk” (1,2, 1-2-3-4) followed by the crack of drummer Mel Gaynor’s snare in time with Mick McNeil’s ringing piano chords on his new Yamaha Grand. It’s a fantastic way to start the album - a powerful song with lyrics about hypocrisy in Britain, constructed from a riff and a promise that “I will be there” instead of a chorus, delivered with urgency by lead singer Jim Kerr. Throughout the record, guitarist Charlie Burchill’s adds rhythms, serpentine licks and washes of color to each track, often begging the attentive listener to wonder how he is achieving the sound. Again on this album as with their back catalog, bassist Derek Forbes, one of the absolute best players in that era, drives many of the tracks with his propulsive, creative leads – demonstrated by just a cursory listen to the hit “Waterfront” or “Kick Inside of Me”, the latter including fierce vocals from Jim that sounds as if he is actually shaking off fearful ghosts:

And we steal the world and live to survive
Shake out the ghosts and turn around

http://diegospadeproductions.com/
In spite of me, shake up the ghosts inside of me

Now full time drummer Mel Gaynor smacks his snare with what seems like Herculean might — and when he runs the toms from top to bottom it’s like the roar of approaching thunder. This coupled with Derek’s monster bass leads, establish the bottom end of the sound, and part of said wall, through which it often seems the bits of piano, synth and guitar emerge, shine, then fade back into the mix. Jim’s vocals work in and around the music structured more often than not in a scat-like rather than verse-chorus-verse form, something that made this band unique among peers. All of these elements combine to create the brilliant things found herein.

The Box Set

Last week a newly re-mastered version of this landmark album was released in a box set format. It includes the original album re-mastered in stereo and various surround sound mixes by prog wizard

Steve Wilson, an audio recording of a live concert from the era, a few videos, and live performances from the BBC and various TV shows, a beautiful re-print of the concert program for the tour, and a complete background on the album, with track by track liner notes. This is all aimed at the collector, rather than casual fans, and it is we who will be impressed.

The CD’s

The first disc presents the original album re-mastered with all the clarity and shine one would hope. Bass and drums appear warm, midrange is full without sounding muddy, and the top end is all shimmering clarity. The audio herein is of the highest quality - critical for this album because in compressed formats the engineer’s wall of sound can be noisy and overwhelming. Disc two has the B-sides and rarities – mostly edits or extended mixes of the album tracks - it’s the least essential of the set. Things get more interesting on discs three and four, which present a live concert from early in the tour, recorded

http://diegospadeproductions.com/
at Barrowland Glasgow on February 28, 1984. It's an excellent document that captures the band on their home turf and in their prime. Called the “Tour du monde”, the tour to support Sparkle... included a seven-night residency at the Hammersmith Odeon. It was the last tour of that period booked primarily in the smaller theaters. I caught it at the Warfield Theater in San Francisco on a night that cemented their vaulted place in my heart. The recording herein is a potent reminder of the band’s live prowess at this time. After this tour, the next album Once Upon A Time took the band to stadiums where much of the subtlety found here was lost for a time.

Rounding out the fourth disc are three performances captured at a Radio One Session in London 1983, including an interesting, more rhythmic, sparing sound for “Waterfront” and “The Kick Inside of Me” indicating perhaps what the record might have sounded like if the band continued more in the vein of its prior release.

The DVD

The DVD presents the album in various 5.1 surround formats, along with a high-resolution stereo mix. These surround mixes are not always worthy, but in this case, they reveal details in the songs that reward the attentive listener. Uncharacteristically, bass and drums are presented strongly on the rear channels, allowing the guitar, keys and vocals more space in front. If you have a system for this, and ever find yourself spinning a CD and really listening to it, then these mixes are worth the price of the set.

Also included on the DVD are three videos, followed by television appearances of the same tracks – “Waterfront,” “Speed You Love To Me,” and “Up On The Catwalk.” The latter two live videos, though truncated by credits, are taken from a performance on the Oxford Road Show at the end of January 1984, just before the album was released. Of all the television and live concert appearances of the band at the time, this is one of the greatest – as the two tracks are played faithfully to studio versions, allowing us to be witness to just how their sound was achieved, certainly answering the question, “Just what is Charlie playing!”

Only carp about the DVD is that it should have included the film taken at Westfalenhalle, Dortmund on 24 June 1984. This is excellent footage of the band still available on Youtube that would have rounded out the box set: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FkanFaSJXIU&feature=youtu.be

Conclusion

Because Sparkle in the Rain sits in their catalog between the romantic New Gold Dream, and the subsequent more commercial smash Once Upon A Time, it might escape the attention it deserves. In fact, booklet liner notes suggest the album promised that greater things were to come from the band. There is an assertion that the album might be considered transitional – even Jim Kerr is quoted as saying the songs on the second half of the album needed more time to develop and that while the album showed their evolution, it was not a landmark, favoring instead the more song oriented follow-up Once Upon A Time, produced by American Jimmy Iovine. Of “Speed Your Love To Me” Jim opines that “with a less puzzling arrangement it could have been…a huge hit” for the band adding that he wished they had left “Street Hassle”, a Lou Reed cover, off the record. Perhaps these comments make the best argument for a re-evaluation of this work, and the box set treatment with engineering from Steve Wilson.

Instead for this observer the album’s true place is as their landmark creation, besting its follow-up, more directly commercial cousin as the pinnacle of their achievements in the 80’s. It is as one fan called it “at school rock with fantastic bombast.” Before deciding for yourself, check out this set in all of its grandeur.

http://diegospadeproductions.com/
This is the most important moment in history to do something for African elephants. Because it’s the worst time in history to be an elephant.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Asante sana (thank you very much),

David Banks
Director, Africa Region
The Nature Conservancy

p.s. Start helping elephants today at nature.org/elephants and follow us on Instagram, Facebook or Twitter to get action alerts.
Jump forward 40 years, Wood has become Weard and has written a book, *The Way To(o) Weard*, tells his life in the music world as performer, T-shirt seller, guitar roadie, sound engineer, tour & production manager, and back to performer. The book was launched on Saturday March 21st in the bar of The Roundhouse, the old function room now being unusable.

A foul up at the printers meant that there were no actual books on the night, but there were sets from various bands connected to Roy’s performing history and with an audience made up mainly of friends, everybody seemed to know everybody, the mood was more like a party than a gig.

First up, was Enemy of The Lion. Chris Mott (drums), Chris Cottage (bass), Alan “Cardinal Biggles” Essex (keyboards) Steve Bensusan &
the mood for what was coming next.

Next That Legendary Wooden Lion (Mark 1) took to the stage. Opening with Triangle, a song about Flight 19—a USAF squadron that was lost in the Bermuda Triangle, complete with Roy and The Cardinal resplendent in US Flying jackets & helmets.

Costume & theatrics were always a big part of the bands that Roy has been in, and tonight was no different. Roy made several costume changes, including a stripey blazer and boater for Ice

David Munday (guitars & vocals). All, with the exception of David, had been in That Legendary Wooden Lion (Mark 1) with Roy. Alan had also been synth player with Wooden Lion back in the mid 70s and Steve with Roy Weard and Last Post in the early 80s.

A set of covers including Gary Numan’s Cars, and Hawkwind’s Moonglum with some fine soloing from Steve and David got everybody in
Ice Cream Man – Roy Weard (with Roger Glynn & Steve Bensusan)

Alan “Cardinal Biggles” Essex & Linda Kelsey-Foster
One of the special things about doing this gig was the ability to pull together so many strands of my life. Playing with Steve Bensusan on guitar is always a pleasure but, for this night all the people who got up on the stage were close friends and pieces of the jigsaw of music that have run through it.

- The Cardinal Biggles, who played keyboards throughout was one of the founders of the original ‘Wooden Lion’. Although he was not in the very first incarnation he did join soon after and shared a band and a house for a long time.
- Tony Morley who played bass on ‘On The Blink’ and 12 string guitar and drums on ‘Blank Moments’ joined Wooden Lion in the early seventies and then became bassist for Dogwatch for most of its more successful years.
- Roger Glynn, who played guitar and Linda Kelsey-Foster who played keyboards were both mainstays of the period of Dogwatch when we played everywhere – or so it seemed at the time.
- Although Chris Cottage and Chris Mott only joined that history in 2007 they also have a special place in this because without them we would not have been able to form ‘That Legendary Wooden Lion’ at all.

Cream Man, an old Dogwatch song for which guitar duties were taken over by Roger Glynn, bass by Tony Morley and keyboards by Linda Kelsey-Foster, looking wonderful in her posh biker gear, (all former Dogwatch members) to the delight of the many old fans who were present. There was also a Nosferatu cassock & bald wig for On The Blink, another old Dogwatch Song, where Roy leaves the stage & terrorises the audience.

The set closed with Insufficient Data, from the last post album Fallout.

Howls of appreciation brought them back to the stage for Blank Moments, a beautiful down tempo number which featured Tony Morley on 12 string acoustic, moving onto drums for the climax. The final number of the encore was Man In A Cage. A fast driving piece of granite which saw some furious guitar work from Roger Glynn.

Enemy Of The Lion took to the stage again to end the night with a further set of covers that included All Right Now (a tribute to Andy Fraser), Comfortably Numb and climaxing with a rousing rendition of Whole Lotta Rosie.

Book orders were taken, fine tunes were played and a great night was had by all & sundry.

Footnote to Book Launch Review

Enemy Of The Lion – Chris Mott & Chris Cottage, Steve Bensusan & David Munday, Alan “Cardinal Biggles” Essex
• Steve Wollington played an even bigger part than the musicians on stage. He has roadied, mixed, and shepherded the various bands I have been in, and he has toured with me with other acts when I was working as a sound engineer.

• Although he was not on stage, it was good to see Alan Haines, singer with Grope - the band that preceded Wooden Lion – there also. All of these are people I am proud to be able to call friends.

The other thing that made the day for me was that so many of the people who came to see us play in the Ruskin Arms and the Bridge House were in the audience. Sometimes a life in music is not about the gold discs, the hits, the celebrity parties and big tours – well mine hasn’t been that is for sure. It is the connections you make with people – the way you feel about the musicians you share a stage with or co-write with. It is also about the people that say you have touched their lives with your music.

To all of these people, those that were there, and to those who wanted to be but couldn’t make it, I would like to say a big thank you for being part of my life. ROY WEARD

On The Blink – Roy Weard
Long time Gonzo Weekly contributor Bart Lancia (aka my favourite roaming reporter) edits a sport newsletter called ‘Stepping Out’. In an issue just before Christmas he was kind enough to include a piece about the Jon Anderson/Matt Malley charity single that we released late last year.

Thank you Bart. That is very kind of you...
Legendary YES Singer/Songwriter Jon Anderson and Counting Crows Matt Malley To Release Charity Single “The Family Circle”

London, UK - GONZO Multimedia is proud to announce the release of a new charity single “The Family Circle” by legendary YES vocalist/songwriter Jon Anderson and former Counting Crows bassist Matt Malley. The money received from the single will go to the following charities: Flutie Foundation - www.flutiefoundation.org (Jon Anderson), Sahaja Yoga Meditation - www.sahajayoga.org (Matt Malley) and National Autistic Society - www.autism.org.uk (Rob Ayling, GONZO Multimedia president)

“'Family Circle' came together when Matt sent me the beautiful music earlier this year. I sang the song and lyric idea and sent it back to Matt, thanking him for the great energy. Eventually, Matt added some more sounds and the haunting guitar solo. We decided to have all sale proceeds go to our respective charities. It's a pleasure to release this around Thanksgiving time, reminding us of our connection with our families and how our children keep us together, bonding our love of life.” - Jon Anderson

“Not only am I a fan of Jon's voice but I'm a fan of his fearless spiritual outlook which appears in all of his music. A mutual friend said we should meet and got us in touch and after talking a little, Jon said, 'So send some music!' - so I had a cup of my best Darjeeling tea, went into my studio and came up with the instrumental arrangement that you hear on 'Family Circle'. I sent the file up to Jon and it came back with his marvelous voice, lyrics...everything that brought the song to becoming fully realized.” - Matt Malley

Jon Anderson is undoubtedly one of the most recognizable voices in progressive rock as the original lead vocalist and creative force behind YES. Anderson was the author and a major creative influence behind the ground-breaking album 'Fragile' as well as the series of epic, complex pieces such as “Awaken”, “Gates of Delirium” and especially “Close to the Edge” which were central to the band's success. Additionally, Anderson co-authored the group's biggest hits, including “I've Seen All Good People”, “Roundabout”, and “Owner of a Lonely Heart”. In addition, Jon Anderson had great success with a series of albums he did with Vangelis, and most recently released the critically-acclaimed solo album entitled “Survival and Other Stories” (GONZO Multimedia). In the fall of 2014 Jon Anderson teamed up with jazz violin legend Jean-Luc Ponty to form the AndersonPonty Band.

Matt Malley is an Oscar, Grammy and Golden Globe nominated songwriter who is best known for co-founding the multi-platinum selling rock band Counting Crows back in the early 90's. He appears as bassist on their biggest hit records and songs. In 2004 Matt retired from the band so he could work from his studio at home and be with his family. He is a student of the Indian Slide Guitar and a fan of Progressive Rock,
Celtic Folk, World and Indian Music.

Listen to a sample of the track here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hATdN-XMBSQ

To purchase Jon Anderson & Matt Malley’s “Family Circle”: https://itunes.apple.com/gb/album/family-circle-single/id911786898

Read GONZO Weekly’s 100th issue! http://www.flipsnack.com/9FE5CEE9E8C/gonzo-100.html

Jon Anderson’s official website: www.JonAnderson.com
Matt Malley’s official website: www.malleyablemusic.com
Jon Anderson, Matt Malley and Gonzo Multimedia each chose a recipient for their share of the profits from this single.

- Gonzo chose the National Autistic Society [www.autism.org.uk](http://www.autism.org.uk)

Go to iTunes and buy the record. It is not only a great tune, but will do an immeasurable amount of good.
AUTISM AFFECTS FAMILIES
The Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism was established in 1998 by former NFL quarterback Doug Flutie and his wife, Laurie, in honor of their son, Doug, Jr. who was diagnosed with autism at the age of three. Autism is a neurological disorder that impacts the normal development of the brain in the areas of social interaction and communication skills. Autism prevalence figures are growing and today it affects 1 in 68 children and 1 in 42 boys. It is the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the U.S and can cost a family $60,000 a year on average.

OUR MISSION
The goal of the Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism is to improve the quality of life for people and families affected by autism. We are dedicated to increasing the awareness of autism and the unique challenges of families who are faced with it everyday. Our commitment is to support these families by helping them find the resources they need and by funding advocacy programs as well as educational, therapeutic and recreational opportunities.

WE ARE IMPROVING LIVES
“When our son was diagnosed with autism, we didn’t know where to turn for help. After realizing how expensive it was to provide special equipment and therapy for Dougie, Laurie and I decided to create a Foundation that would help make a positive impact on families who were also affected by autism. At that time, the prevalence rate was about 1 in 1,000. Now, it’s around 1 in 88. This is an epidemic that has affected millions of families. Our goal is to help those living with it every day get the treatments and support they need.” - Doug Flutie Sr.

AND PROVIDING SUPPORT
The Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism serves a unique and important role in connecting people and families living with autism to the resources and supports they need throughout their challenging journey. In 2013, the Flutie Foundation awarded over $700,000 to support the autism community, touching the lives of approximately 5,000 people. Through our general grants program, we granted $451,000 to 36 outstanding non-profits across the US (and in Canada). In addition, the Flutie Foundation gifted $52,800 to autism support groups and to families for special projects, $72,000 in Connecticut family grants through a new program called Joey’s Fund, and $103,000 in technology grants to Northeast schools and programs through the growing Allison Keller iPad Program.

Flutie Foundation Programs:
- Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts (AFAM)
- The Laurie Flutie Computer Initiative
- AccesSportAmerica (An Adaptive Summer Water Sports Program)
- The Flutie Family Safe & Secure Project
- The Allison Keller iPad Program
- Joey’s Fund Family Grant Program

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

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Kindred Spirit magazine was founded in 1987 by Richard Beaumont and Patricia Yates. According to the magazine’s website, this was inspired by the ‘The Harmonic Convergence’ of that year in which thousands of spiritual seekers gathered at sacred sites throughout the world. So many different people, so many different spiritual paths, with a shared sense of respect for natural wisdom and a yearning for higher truth. Kindred Spirit was founded to offer a platform for the wide variety of groups, disciplines and spiritual organisations that were represented at these gatherings and which go under the general name of "Mind, Body, Spirit".

The first issue was published in November 1987, and since then it has gone on to feature a wide range of stories, from complementary healthcare to articles on angels and the latest explanation of the workings of Stonehenge.

The magazine appears bi-monthly and is considered to be the UK’s leading guide to Mind, Body and Spirit.

I was first commissioned to write for Kindred Spirit late in 2008, by the new editor at the time, Tania Ahsan. Previously I had written for Prediction magazine, for which I had run a column for nearly five years, from 2003 to 2008. It was Tania who had commissioned me for that too, but she had since left the magazine and gone freelance. Meanwhile, the market had changed, and Prediction had turned itself from a serious astrology magazine - with a lot of in-depth articles about a wide variety of arcane and interesting subjects - to a sort of teenie fashion mag with vague occult leanings: sort of Buffy the Vampire Slayer meets Jackie magazine, or "the latest swimwear fashions to wear while communing with dolphins."

I wasn’t very comfortable in there any more, and we parted company by mutual consent.

You can read a significant number of my Prediction articles on these pages. I will always be grateful to the magazine for keeping me working through those lean years, for keeping my pen sharpened, even if my wit occasionally failed to live up to its promise.
Meanwhile Tania had just become the new editor at Kindred Spirit, and she asked me to write a regular column for the magazine.

What I proposed was series of columns under the general title Tales of Ordinary Magic.

The title is a reference to a Charles Bukowski book called Tales of Ordinary Madness (also known as Erections, Ejaculations, Exhibitions, and General Tales of Ordinary Madness). The purpose was to reflect the spirituality of everyday life. It was meant as a light hearted antidote to the rest of the magazine. Or, as the editor put it “a humorous sign off as a back page column”. Unfortunately the readers didn’t quite see the point of the articles and it was discontinued after the third one. I actually wrote four, so that one is included in here too. They are, as follows:

Tales of Ordinary Magic 1

This one was the taster. It leads you into the theme, which was basically life through my window in Somerset Meadows. The story is about Mrs Rivers, who went to Stonehenge once in 1964 and who still remembers it to this day. How our human lives are enhanced by their intersection with the cosmic, or why a sunrise is not so mundane after all.

Tales of Ordinary Magic 2

About my nearly blind next door neighbour Daphne and her relationship with trees. About her dignity in life, and her prescience in death.

Tales of Ordinary Magic 3

This one is an old standby for me: about my good friend Steve Andrews, known on HubPages as The Bard of Ely. This was originally written as a story for the Big Issue, but developed for Kindred Spirit, it takes on the idea of Steve being an alien being on this planet (an oft repeated theme in both Steve’s and my work). It was the last Tales of Ordinary Magic story to be published in Kindred Spirit.
Housing Benefit Hill:
http://www.amazon.co.uk/Housing-Benefit-Hill-Other-Places/dp/190259343X

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

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

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

In this day and age of allegedly tax-dodging global companies like Amazon hoovering up many of the music sales, it's perhaps heart-warming to find that the April "Record Store Day" is still alive and well.

However, in a strange twist, one online CD supplier has announced a Hawkwind release that is being held back until after "Record Store Day" has safely passed, on the grounds that genuine music fans often lose out to eBay sellers who have got in first and scooped up as many of the profitable "rarities" as they can get their hands on!

CD Services, based in Scotland but not currently mailing their items out via the Channel Islands like some suppliers do, are a mail order company and thus can't really take part in such a record shop day... but they have announced the upcoming sale of a strange Hawkwind item - a white vinyl version of an old Hawkwind single: "Back on the Streets" and in a picture sleeve, as was the original.

But of course the original didn't have a bar code on it, as it was released in 1976. Presumably, the replica will, however. At the time of original release, NME magazine said "This single sounds more like the stuff you hear coming from the stage of the Roxy than does The Stranglers - which just goes to prove once more how meaningless labelling anything punk-rock is."

I merrily bought the original in a real record shop - the Leff Bank record shop in Exeter! - long before I'd even heard of the internet or MP3s and all that lot.

Interestingly, CD Services are saying that they won't offer their special titles through their online store until "Record Store Day" has passed, so, in a way, they're kind of a secret offer. Well, at least for now.
Special Offer for fans who attended tonights show
Limited Edition Double CD & DVD £19.99 plus postage & packing
This offer is only available via this leaflet.

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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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Full Earth Address: ........................................................................................................
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Post Code ........................................................................................................................

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

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Additional info: ...............................................................................................................
THE WORLD OF GONZO ACCORDING TO

Mark Raines

FISHING FOR FOSSILS THE VIKING WAY

DON'T JUDGE

M.A. RUINES
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...

As always most of the stories this week are archive ones, although I am feeling rather pleased with myself about the range and quality of them this week. However, this week has seen the Feast of All Fools, known in France as Le Poisson d'Avril, and I was well chuffed to find a little April Fool’s Day joke about Yes...

- Prog-rock superstars annoyed by independence campaigners stealing the word 'Yes'

I am always impressed by obsessives, and this guy is certainly an obsessive with an exhaustive website giving details of every Yes gig that he has ever seen...

- Yes Concert Reviews: 8/8/02

And now it is drummer time, with video interviews with both of Yes’ superstar drummers. There are two more parts to come of our Bill Bruford interview, by the way, prog pickers...

- YES UNION Montreal Alan White Interview 1991
- BILL BRUFORD INTERVIEW PT.2 (exclusive)
- BILL BRUFORD INTERVIEW PT.1 (exclusive)

And finally two nice interviews with the one and only Jon Anderson who truly is a damn nice chap...

- Jon and Jane Anderson (Ritual, Nous Sommes Du Soleil)
- Howard Stern - 2006-08-16 - Jon Anderson Visits

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!
Rick Wakeman

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
As I have intimated recently, Martin Eve and I are at the heart of a new venture - Wyrd Music. This is an extension of what I have been doing with music and theatre over the past ten years and is intended as a sister project to the CFZ Publishing Group. Working on vaguely Fortean and Anarchist, and strictly anti-capitalist lines, in the same way as CFZ Press, Fortean Words and the others put out books strictly because we want to read them, and because we think they should be out there whether they make a profit or not, Wyrd Music aims to do the same for music. Although it doesn't officially launch until April Fool's Day, a Blog, a website, a Facebook page, and some free music will be up in the webiverse in the next few days and will always be plugged shamelessly on the CFZ and Gonzo blogs. Why? Because I can.

So mote it be.

Those nice people at Wyrd have been working hard on the promotion of Martin's (4th Eden) new EP, Organik Reflektion. The 6 track EP will be released on April 17th and will have some of the tracks previewed at the Reflektions event to be held at St Anne's Chapel in Barnstaple also on the 17th April from 7pm.
Reflektions
An evening of Acoustic Music in aid of The Small School, Hartland

St Anne’s Chapel, Barnstaple, 17th April 7:00pm
The worldwide Freecycle Network is made up of many individual groups across the globe. It's a grassroots movement of people who are giving (and getting) stuff for free in their own towns. Freecycle groups match people who have things they want to get rid of with people who can use them. Our goal is to keep usable items out of landfills. By using what we already have on this earth, we reduce consumerism, manufacture fewer goods, and lessen the impact on the earth. Another benefit of using Freecycle is that it encourages us to get rid of junk that we no longer need and promote community involvement in the process.

http://uk.freecycle.org/
Rob Ayling writes:

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

**BETWEEN US(AGREEMENTS)**

- eye borrow your eyes
  for these stolen moments

- you lend me attention
  to cover this broken span

- we provisionally agree
  in poetry as prosperity

- forego all others, choose-
  distraction is the way to lose

FOCUS now! Time is a burning wing
We need to land this thing together

Only one of us desires endings.
describe myself as a fan of such books, I have read more than my fair share over the years. This book is actually quite a good example of the genre, although it has much the same plot as did Peter Benchley's book forty years ago. This time around, instead of great white sharks, it features a kronosaur. What? I hear you ask. Didn't they go extinct 100.5 million years ago? Well, um, yes.

Incidentally, for those of you of a cryptozoological bent, the whole idea that the prehistoric shark *Carcharodon megalodon*, which was, of course a huge relative of today's great white shark, has survived to the present day instead of dying out 2.6mya was popularised by Benchley's book four decades ago. But I think that it is highly unlikely that this present volume will lead to a spate of scholarly articles suggesting that kronosaurs could have survived to the present day. The rationale given in *Kronos Rising* makes very little sense. According to the story, a pair of kronosaurs got trapped inside a volcanic crater by a tsunami caused by the meteorite impact that triggered the KT Extinction event. The fact that this occurred about 40 million years after the most recent known kronosaur fossil is conveniently ignored. These kronosaurs, and a bevy of other prehistoric marine life lived for the next 65 million years in this enclosed crater until they were freed by seismic activity (I think, I can't actually remember that bit) to do the aforementioned rending and slaying amongst the world of men. Ignoring the fact that the whole backstory of the book is somewhere between massively unlikely and nonsense, most of the book is actually a sensitively written and enjoyable read, even though it is as derivative as hell.

These kronosaurs, and a bevy of other prehistoric marine life, lived for the next 65 million years in this enclosed crater until they were freed by seismic activity (I think, I can't actually remember that bit) to do the aforementioned rending and slaying amongst the world of men. Ignoring the fact that the whole backstory of the book is somewhere between massively unlikely and nonsense, most of the book is actually a sensitively written and enjoyable read, even though it is as derivative as hell.

The two main protagonists are very much 21st Century analogues of Benchley's characters, pressing all the right PC buttons. A sensitive recovering alcoholic smalltown sheriff and a staggeringly beautiful Japanese/Norwegian cetologist with a past as a green protestor as part of an organisation which sounds very much like Sea Shepherd. There are several satisfyingly nasty villains as well; a corrupt God bothering Senator, his oafish son, and a psychopathic big game hunter desperado who just happens to be the Japanese bint's...
estranged husband. It is all eminently entertaining.

The story rolls on quite predictably - the monster's predations have political and social ramifications far beyond what one might originally have expected, and eventually even the goody goody cetologist comes to terms with the fact that the nasty prehistoric survivors should be exterminated.

I am not going to go through all of the plot twists because I don't want to spoil the book for any of you who decide to read it, and I do recommend it as an entertaining read. However, I now want to fast forward to the end of the book where, with two big cliches the author lets the side down massively. The whole book would, in fact, be considerably better if it were not for the final chapter. First of all, the author resorts to the literary device used by Dan Brown at the end of one of his books, when after having spent twenty odd chapters fighting the forces of evil the two protagonists then suddenly decide to have sex with each other, with no preamble, and with no real literary preparation except for the fact that the two protagonists are of opposite genders, and it was fairly obvious that with an eye for the possible film adaptation, Brown decided there needed to be a spot of rumpo in the book. Here the same thing happens, and totally out of the blue the two main protagonists start shagging like monkeys, for no particular reason.

And the final few pages are so predictable that I will not dignify them with a description.

However, as long as you are prepared to suspend belief for a few hours, and ignore the last chapter and a bit, this is a surprisingly entertaining book, and far better written than most of its genre.
I am fundamentally a coward. On a rainy Tuesday morning in early October there were all sorts of things that I would have preferred to do than be negotiating the twisty tumy back lanes to Bradworthy. Summer had come early this year and even by the end of our annual Weird Weekend on the third weekend of August, the leaves were turning brown and beginning to fall. The season of mists and mellow fruitfulness came in with a bang, and by October the winter was very noticeably around the corner. Diabetes, or to be more specific diabetic neuropathy, has played merry havoc on large chunks of my central nervous system, and for several years now I have not been able to feel much beneath my knees.

This makes driving particularly problematical, and I have pretty well stopped driving on long journeys. But I manage to potter around the lanes on occasion, although I never venture further than the supermarket on this side of Bideford. On longer journeys either Graham or Corinna drive me, but on this occasion I had my own reasons not to want company on my journey. The lanes were each decorated by a covering of slimy half decomposed leaves, and the skeletal fingers of the naked bushes on the badly trimmed hedges were silhouetted unpleasantly against the stormy grey sky. I love this part of North Devon, and there are times of the year when I truly believe that it is one of the most beautiful places that I have seen during my travels across the world, but in a grey, wet and inclement October, I will be the first to admit that it can be disturbing and quite unpleasant.

It has been over thirty years since the Rev Cymbeline Potts shot himself in the woods behind the tumbledown cottage that he shared with his sister Britannia and Lysistrata, the peculiar taciturn

HTTP://WWW.XTUL.CO.UK
teenage girl who seemed to have taken up residence with them. What exactly her position was I never did manage to fathom out; whether she was a maidservant, a ward, or something else that I hadn't thought of, I never did know, and as both women became more withdrawn and feral in the years following Cymbeline's death, it was a question that I had eventually decided that I would rather not ask, and to which I probably didn't want to know the answer.

In the intervening thirty years I very much doubt whether the cottage had ever been repaired or painted, and it looked to the casual observer that it had not been cleaned during those years either. The cottage garden which had been a charming area like a Victorian picture postcard or one of Arthur Rackham's engravings of Kensington Gardens, was now an unschooled wilderness, but one which had somehow retained a wild elegance all of its own. But like the rest of the North Devon countryside, it was hard at its best at this time of year.

I parked my battered little Astra outside the cottage gate, which - not at all to my surprise - was hanging half off its hinges - got out, and leaning heavily on my stick - limped up to the front door. I knocked on the door, and absolutely nothing happened. A minute or so later, I knocked again, and then, a few minutes later, again. On the fifth or sixth occasion, I heard a muffled shout from inside, followed a few moments later by shuffling footsteps.

The door creaked open, and Lysistrata stood slouched on the doormat. "What do you want?" she hissed at me malevolently. I thought to myself that if she was indeed the Potts family's domestic servant, and had been for the past three decades, I truly didn't think that their programme of in-service training had been overly effective. I muttered something politely to her, and - a little to my surprise, as I was expecting more difficulties in the matter - she led me into the small parlour where Britannia was sitting, tatting in a rocking chair, and looking vacantly in my direction.

I hobbled over to the least rickety looking chair, and manoeuvred myself into a sitting position. Just for a few moments a thousand years of breeding came to the surface, and this senile old lady with the wild staring eyes, became a grande dame. "Bring Master Jonathan a cup of tea, girl", and Lysistrata - who must have been watching a couple of episodes of Downton Abbey - curtseyed clumsily and went about her business. I was fifty last birthday, and I truly don't think that anyone has ever called me 'Master Jonathan' since I was about fourteen. But as I had slowly come to realise, over the past few times that I had seen Britannia, the last few decades might never have happened as far as she was concerned. I was probably preserved in amber as the gangly teenaged boy who had dared to befriend her and her brother against the wishes of his parents, and the prejudices of the populous. Just for a moment I felt a prickle of tears in my eyes, as I realised that she was the only person left in the world who still thought of me as a child.

Lysistrata came in with a cracked, and very dirty mug containing the nastiest cup of tea that I have ever drunk. Then she disappeared into the bowels of the house leaving Britannia and me staring at each other in an uneasy silence.

I hadn't actually thought this through. I knew what I was going to do to a certain extent at least. But I hadn't thought any further than this. How was I going to ask anything, especially something as complex as I needed to ask, to an old woman who gave the impression at least that she didn't know her own name much of the time. In truth, I didn't even know what it was that I wanted to ask her. I mean, I did, but how would I put it all into words that made sense to me, let alone to a senile old biddy who had lived in her own world for decades.

So we sat there in silence, as I desperately tried to marshal my thoughts and work out what the hell I was going to do next. Under normal social circumstances one would have made small talk, but we didn't do anything. Occasionally I muttered the half-hearted beginnings of a conversational gambit, but it always petered out after a few words as Britannia Potts stared at me implacably.

Then the last thing that I expected happened. Britannia sat upright, drew herself up to her full five foot nothing, and spoke with the authority and majesty of the social position that she once held at her command. One could surely believe at this moment that her ancestors had been barons who led armies into war and subdued entire colonial nations with a raised eyebrow and a stern look.

"So you want to find the little goat child? I do assure you it is perfectly safe..."

This totally threw me and I blabbered for a few seconds before marshalling my thoughts to reply...
ambitiously for a north-west passage, instead of
circumnavigating all the capes and headlands I
had doubled in my outward voyage, I came
suddenly upon such knotty problems of alleys,
such enigmatic entries, and such sphinx's
riddles of streets without thoroughfares, as must,
I conceive, baffle the audacity of porters, and
confound the intellects of hackney-coachmen."

...and although I have opened the doors of
perception on many occasions (admittedly, far
less often as I got older) I have never gained any
great spiritual insights through having done so,
and although I last dipped my toe in the
psychedelic ocean over thirty years ago, I
remember the chemical dreams came on slowly
and gradually replaced, or augmented reality.
Likewise, on the few occasions that I have
suffered full blown psychotic attacks, the
hallucination sort of flickers in and out of reality,
before attaching itself in an insidious way to what
is already there.

But on this occasion one reality was immediate
ly replaced by another, almost completely different
one. The only thing that was the same was that
the three of us were standing, all six of our hands
on Britannia's trident, and chanting. But
everything else was completely different. We
seem to be outdoors. The sky was blood
red, the ground beneath our feet as black as
obsidian and as smooth as glass, and.....um. We
were all naked.

This was not the first time I have performed a
magickal ritual, or working or whatever you want
call it. It was not even the first time I had done
so skyclad. But it was the first time I had been
put into the position of doing so without my
knowledge. There didn't seem anything that I
could do about it, so I kept on chanting, as did
my three companions.

The chants became louder as more and more
voices joined in. Although I couldn't see them I
could feel more and more naked bodies joining
the throng holding onto the trident. The chanting
grew louder and more frenetic. I could hear
drums, and wild music, and my body filled with
an unearthly euphoria, something between
immense sexual excitement and wanting to throw
up.

I started to scream, as did everyone else. And the
crimson sky above us parted and an immense
sheet of violet lightning crashed through the
miasma and came down towards the head of the
trident. Everything went black, and I passed out.

"Thank you for telling me that, but I would be
happier if I could see Panne for myself. Some
very disturbing things have been happening
lately, and I not only wish to make certain that
she is safe, but I want some answers..."
North Devon Firefly Faery Fayre & Ball 2015
Saturday 18th July
12 noon till 1am
Clovelly Parish Hall
Wrinkleberry Lane
Clovelly, Devon EX395SU
www.spanglefish.com/northdevonfirelyfaeryfayreandball2015
Tel: 01237441999
Adult £10.00  Child under 16 £5.00
FOOD ALL DAY & LATE BAR
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...

What is it about Easter eggs that make them so tantalisingly tasty on one's tastebuds?

I posed this question to someone the other day who told me that her husband eats one every day for about a week at this time of year, and leaves a mountain of the innards to be finished off by everyone else. We came to the conclusion that perhaps it is the texture of the chocolate shell that makes them so irresistible. I have absolutely no idea to be honest, but the above does make a reasonable explanation. Anyway, Happy Easter cabinet cruisers!
A nicely presented little collection for a gatherer of such things. I sound like I am advertising a charming cottage for sale! Snap out of it Corinna, you are being too nice.

Gracie fields vintage collectable memorabilia broach (aaaargh brooch not broach—you are not broaching anything. But then again it could be said that you are broaching the subject of a sale) - £10.00

"Collectable vintage music memorabilia gracie fields shoe pin broach with signature gracie fields"

Why have I included this? Because it is different and because I can. If I could afford it, it is just the sort of thing I would buy from an antique shop.

ELVIS LIGHTED & MUSICAL TABLETOP CHRISTMAS TREE HOLIDAY DECOR NEW - $199.99

"Elvis's mega-hit Christmas albums continue to brighten fans of all ages every year during the holiday season. It's a known fact that the King of Rock 'n' Roll truly loved Christmas. Now, you can bring that spirit home for your own holiday with this spectacular musical Elvis Christmas tree featuring a fully decorated and illuminated mini-holiday tree and a sculpted Elvis. Recalling Elvis's legendary glitter and glitter, this holiday tree is decked out in dazzling, seasonal rock 'n' roll style. Surrounded by festive holiday gifts in honor of beloved Elvis hits, including a teddy bear, blue suede shoes and a hound dog with a heart tag that reads "Love Me Tender," the tree base showcases classic art of the King by acclaimed artists Bruce Emmett and Nate Giorgio. The mini tree features shimmering branches and glittering Elvis-inspired ornaments and is beautifully illuminated by 15 multi-colored LED lights. For the perfect finishing touch, Elvis's signature TCB lightning bolt symbol"
lights up as the tree topper. And there's more, this musical Elvis collectible plays the hit melody "Blue Christmas" at the turn of a key. Strong demand is expected from Elvis collectors, so don't delay, order now!

"I would probably upset a lot of Elvis followers out there, including Mr Ed, if I actually wrote what I really thought about this... So I think I shall just move on swiftly before I start an essay on tat..."

Talking of which:

Justin bieber christmas stocking - $699.99 or $1,500 Buy it now

"The joy of Christmas doesn't have to wait! Today is a great opportunity for anyone to own this amazing and joyous Justin Bieber Christmas stocking along with a loving Christmas ball ornament with Justin's bright and happy face forever inscribed on it!"

SHAMELESS SELF PROMOTION TIME

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

Check it out now...
The joy of Christmas can jolly well wait if this is what could be waiting for me underneath the tree. Move back a month to November and we may be talking, with the sound of crackling wood and the delicious scent of woodsmoke on the air as we burn our unwanted flammable objects.

Make someone’s day with this great gift!

I think you’ll find it should be written exactly as Clint Eastwood spoke it so eloquently: “Go on, punk, make my day” Or am I being a little harsh?

And I have just noticed the price tag - what the……?

And talking about bonfires:

Madonna Russian Nesting Dolls rare deleted official boy toy collectable - £500.00

“Madonna Nesting Dolls. These are extremely rare. Officially licensed by Madonna’s Boy Toy label. These were purchased from Madonna.com in 2004 and have been stored away ever since. There were only 5,000 made so an extremely rare Madonna collectable item. Comes with certificate of authenticity. Reasonable offers considered.”

How about a quid? Is that a reasonable enough offer?

Kiss: Star Child Figure Hanging Ornament [Ideal For Christmas Tree] - With Tag - £12.49

“Kiss: Star Child Figure Hanging Ornament. Highly detailed hand crafted hanging decoration. Measuring 4” in height and ideal for the Christmas tree! Officially licensed merchandise. Height: 100mm”

Why on earth? Why on earth would anyone want this hanging on their Christmas tree. He looks like he wants to go for a wee for a start. Hey….. did that bonfire go out yet?

I think you’ll find it should be written exactly as Clint Eastwood spoke it so eloquently: “Go on, punk, make my day” Or am I being a little harsh?

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Why on earth? Why on earth would anyone want this hanging on their Christmas tree. He looks like he wants to go for a wee for a start. Hey….. did that bonfire go out yet?
ELVIS PRESLEY FIGURINE - HEIRLOOM ORNAMENT COLLECTION - LIGHTS UP - MUSIC - £6.99

“MAGNIFICENT "ELVIS PRESLEY" FIGURINE FROM THE HEIRLOOM ORNAMENT COLLECTION, brand new in box this figurine stands approx 5” high and when you pull out the tag and press the button on the back of the figurine Elvis will light up and sing “VIVA LAS VEGAS”

Original price £25.00 Why not grab a bargain?

Yeah go down your local supermarket and get three chocolate bunnies for two; that’s a pretty good bargain if you ask me. You may even find one of them looks more like Elvis than this does.

GROUP OF: FRANK SINATRA, DEAN MARTIN, SAMMY DAVIS JR. LIFE SIZE WAX MANNEQUINS - $85,000

“This is a magnificent unique group collection of Rat Pack, Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr. life size wax mannequins. The three figurines are made of fiber glass. Each hand has laid hair, each person has glass eyes with plastic teeth It shows Sammy Davis Jr. at the piano playing, Frank Sinatra singing and Dean Martin drinking as usual. This unique collection originally used to belong to a Wax Museum in Europe”

Interesting. Slightly scary, but interesting. You could stick them in your living room as a talking point, or place them strategically around to fill the room up at a party even. Or at a dinner party you could have Sammy Davis Jr. sitting between two ladies when there aren’t enough men at the table.

Endless possibilities to be had. Let your imagination run wild.

Ronan Keating signed over sized drivers - £50.00

“I pucked this adorable fella up when Ronan Keating was playing golf and got it signed by him. He is just adorable new/still tagged.”

I pucked, to puck, puckling? Do they mean puked? Is Ronan Keating just adorable and new/still tagged? What is an over sized driver?
Bob Dylan: Shadows in the Night (Columbia)

Shadows in the Night is the thirty-sixth studio album by Bob Dylan, released by Columbia Records on February 3, 2015. The album consists of covers of traditional pop standards made famous by Frank Sinatra, chosen by Dylan himself.

Well that's what Wikipedia has to say, but although I have not enjoyed Dylan's previous records of cover versions, this record sounded intriguing enough for me to want to investigate further. Indeed I have always thought that albums of cover versions by people who are leading songwriters in their own right, are usually best to be avoided, with the possible exceptions of David Bowie's Pinups and John Lennon's Rock and Roll. And let's face it, these are hardly the brightest jewels in the diadems of their individual creators.

So why should Shadows in the Night be any different? Because it most certainly is.

For fifteen years since the Love and Theft album, Dylan has been exploring 20th Century American roots music, taking elements of blues, country, swing and jazz, and moulding them into a sonic identity which is undoubtedly and unquestionably his own. And with this latest record he has taken this process to the logical next level; he has taken well known and well loved songs, and - to use the parlance of contemporary TV talent shows - not just made them his own, but completely owned them. Even such standards as Autumn Leaves are Dylanised to such an extent that, although one knows intellectually that the English version was written by none other than the great Johnny Mercer, that emotionally it feels as if he had written them himself.

But here is the really weird thing.

For years, Dylan has been engaged on what has become known as 'The Never Ending Tour', because, although it is a tour it is, um, never ending. And for the past twenty years he has often performed the most idiosyncratic versions of his own best loved tunes, to the extent that they are nigh on unrecognisable, and make his peculiar performance at Live Aid back in 1985, seem like some sort of career high! But if my description of what he has done to these standards, which were originally made famous by Frank Sinatra, who was undoubtedly the voice of the generation a couple of generations preceding the one that Dylan was voice of. Somehow, although, as I have said, he makes these songs his own, he does so without messing with the tunes, the lyrics or the structural or cultural integrity of the songs, and that is no mean feat.

The old bugger has done it again!
STARFISH64: Refugees

I have to admit that I have never heard of them, but someone I know vaguely sent me a link to their album on Facebook, and I have to admit that I am now completely hooked. First some background information culled from their Facebook page:

"Art-pop and prog outfit "starfish64" was established in 2006 by recording artist Dieter Hoffmann. It has since been accompanied by various musicians from all over Europe and has seen the release of at least three acclaimed albums and two EP's. In January 2015 "starfish64" finally released "Refugees", a concept-album that took 5 years to be completed". So where on earth do I start? This is probably the most impressive record from someone whom I had not previously heard of, that I have heard all year. But it presses all the right buttons. The big question that everyone is going to ask is what do they sound like? This is clever, beautifully crafted, and occasionally elegiac progressive pop music, which is vaguely reminiscent of The Strawbs circa Grave New World, with occasional touches of Jethro Tull, and bits and bobs of Steve Harley and Cockney Rebel on the album in which Duncan Mackay was firmly in the control seat. But then again it doesn't sound like any of them.

Whereas all the instrumentation is expertly and tastefully played, I think it is the vocals that are most impressive, particularly as English is not the singer's first language. He sings and writes fluently, and furthermore he has an interesting and beguiling voice which drags you into the stories that he tells.

I have only the vaguest idea of what this concept album is all about, but I shall be buying a copy as soon as I finish this review, and I look forward to investigating it in more detail. This lot are definitely a band to watch.

http://starfish64.bandcamp.com/album/refugees-
Weird Weekend 2015

Three Days of monsters, ghosts, UFOs and things that go BUMP in the night

For the second year running. Hartland...

You’ve never had it so weird

The Small School, Hartland, North Devon

August 14 - 16 2015

TEL: +44 (0) 1237 431413

www.cfz.org.uk
**YOU'VE NEVER HAD IT SO WEIRD**

*The Weird Weekend* is the largest yearly gathering of mystery animal investigators in the English-speaking world. Now in its fourteenth year, the convention attracts speakers and visitors from all over the world and showcases the findings of investigators into strange phenomena.

For the second time, Cryptozoologists, parapsychologists, ufologists, and folklorists will be descending on The Small School in Hartland, 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 The Small School.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>7 - 7.15</td>
<td>Intro</td>
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<td>Nick Wadham: TBA</td>
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<td>Break</td>
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<td>8.30 - 9.30</td>
<td>Lee Walker</td>
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<td>9.30 - 10.00</td>
<td>Lars Thomas: Microcryptzoology</td>
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<td>Silas Hawkins: A bedtime story</td>
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<td>Raffle</td>
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<td>SATURDAY</td>
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<td>12.00 - 12.30</td>
<td>Jon and Richard: Intro to Cryptozoology</td>
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<td>12.30 - 1.15</td>
<td>Kara Wadham: Vampires</td>
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<td>1.15 - 2.15</td>
<td>Glen Vaudrey: The Mystery Animals of the North of Scotland</td>
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<td>2.16 - 2.45</td>
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<td>7.00 - 7.30</td>
<td>Judge Smith: The Judex Trilogy</td>
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<td>7.30 - 8.00</td>
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<td>9.45 - 10.45</td>
<td>Richard Freeman: Tasmania 2013 Expedition Report</td>
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<td>Silas Hawkins: A bedtime story from Richard Freeman’s <em>Hyakumonogatari</em></td>
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<td>SUNDAY</td>
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<td>12.00 - 1.00</td>
<td>Nigel Watson: UFOs of the First World War</td>
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<td>1.00 - 1.30</td>
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<td>Break</td>
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<td>2.00 - 3.00</td>
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<td>Break</td>
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<td>3.30 - 4.30</td>
<td>Shoshannah McCarthy: TBA</td>
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<td>4.30 - 5.00</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>5.00 - 5.15</td>
<td>Results of nature walk (Lars/Nick/Jon)</td>
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<td>5.15 - 6.00</td>
<td>Ronan Coghlan: TBA</td>
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<td>6.00 - 6.15</td>
<td>Jon Downes: Keynote Speech</td>
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<td>6.25</td>
<td>Raffle</td>
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<td>7.00</td>
<td>Speaker’s Dinner at the Small School</td>
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<td>PLUS:</td>
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<td>Art Exhibition from Glen Vaudey</td>
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<td>A Haunted Teddy Bear’s Nest</td>
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<td>The Spider Baby</td>
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<td>FOR KIDS:</td>
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<td>Make your own weird creature out of clay</td>
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<td>Colouring/drawing</td>
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<td>Photograph competition</td>
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<td>Fill a matchbox with 100 things challenge</td>
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<td>The world famous cake eating contest</td>
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<td>Nature walk with Lars Thomas and Nick Wadham</td>
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<td>Animal handling with Bugfest</td>
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<td></td>
<td>STALLS</td>
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<td>APRA Books</td>
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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...
CLASSIC LOST BROADCAST RELEASES FROM GONZO

The sparks 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 transmission along with previously unbroadcasted takes and different versions of performances that were transmitted.
This book, which was released by Gonzo earlier this year is an erudite catalogue of some of the most peculiar records ever made. The authors have lined up, described and put into context 500 “albums” in the expectation that those of you who can’t help yourselves when it comes to finding and collecting music will benefit from these efforts in two ways.

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

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

A A Allen:
Crying Demons
(Miracle Revival Recordings 19??)
What? Out demons out!

Asa Alonso Allen (1911-1970) was a religious pioneer who played a leading role in the vanguard of evangelical preachers embracing the media. One of the first notable television evangelists, he also enjoyed a prolific recording career and had the sense to vary the content of his releases. This long player features Allen in full flow, literally casting out demons. His melodious, slightly rough-edged, invocations gradually beat incarnate demons to a standstill. The preacher is a showman with an inventive and articulate turn to match every development in the action. He anchors his work with biblical readings but retorts to the demonic interjections with the skill of a top comedian taking on a determined heckler.

An online appreciation of Allen notes: “Brother Allen’s style was bold and outgoing. He sometimes wore lavender suits with white patent leather boots. His television commercials declared, “See! Hear! Actual miracles happening before your very eyes! Cancer, tumours, goiters disappear. Crutches, braces, wheelchairs, stretchers discarded. Crossed eyes straightened. Caught by the camera as they actually occur in the healing line before thousands of witnesses.”

Demons, then, were all in day’s work, and an album’s worth of material. Side one sees Allen cast out a particularly truculent spirit. The early exchanges have a parent/naughty child vibe:

“Go back to Hell from whence you came!”
“No I like it here.”

But, as the possessed woman moans and suffers Allen ramps up the rhetoric with some sterling one-liners: “Thou stubborn devil of lust, I rebuke your foul voice.” The moans and suffering get louder, someone in the congregation announces the departure of the demon and our previously possessed subject is able to talk to us after 18 minutes of Allen’s close attention.

The second side is a rousing sermon with interviews and a range of demonic intonations. All Hell doesn’t break loose, but we do get a slight glimpse into how such an event might sound. Years ahead of Christian television channels and private jet preachers, Allen is clearly hinting at the world of celebrant superstars on this release and even leads the singing at the end of the second side. Allen’s current followers still agree on the man’s influence and lingering potency, though complete agreement on when this album was released (most likely late fifties), is harder to reach.
Book Launch Party

to celebrate the launch of a new book
‘The Way To(o) Weard’ by Roy Weard

featuring the music of
The Deux Johns Orchestra
and
That Legendary Wooden Lion

Sunday 5th April 8pm
The Brunswick,
1-3 Holland Road, Hove BN3 1JF
£3 (refundable against book purchase)
www.thebrunswick.net

http://www.woodenlion.com/twttw.php
Battlesoul

Founded in 2007, Battlesoul, are from Canada. The band was formed by Mike Grund and Nich Ireland, with the idea of creating a unique brand of folk metal, coupled with melodies provided by real Celtic instruments. Later, their sound was filled out by Jon Doyle, Nich's brother Thomas, and old friend Bill Elliot.

The band are listed as being in the Folk/Melodic Death/Power Metal genre, with lyrical themes including Celtic, History, and War.

Current members are:

Jon Doyle- Vocals,
Thomas Ireland- Guitars,
Andrew Murray- Guitars,
Bill Elliot- Bass,
Nich Ireland- Drums

Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/battlesoulfanpage/timeline

Metal Archives
http://www.metal-archives.com/bands/Battlesoul/3540271038

You Tube

Those Who Sought The Dawn
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sRN8qAwog0E&list=PLeyxGaS1YWDaQMwLUL02-UXwXjzS-Zo2V&index=3

Warriors in Carrion Kingdoms
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CxYvMsJuXr0&list=PLeyxGaS1YWDaQMwLUL02-UXwXjzS-Zo2V&index=4
Well, here we are at the end of yet another week, and it is rather gratifying, after Lord alone knows how many weeks (and I am not interested enough to go back and count them) not to be bellyaching about my blasted cold.

Finally it is properly clearing up, or at least I believe that it is, and I can get on with trying to fix the enormous backlog of stuff which has accumulated over the past few weeks when I have only had the energy to do the absolute minimum of stuff.

But it is the springtime now, and things should be speeding up as we approach the more clement months of the year, although as it has been as grey as it could have possibly been today, and been raining intermittently, and the most exciting piece of groundsmanship that Graham has done today is to pour readymix concrete down the rat holes in the corner of the aviary, summer still seems a long way away.

I am also still as weak as a kitten, and fall asleep even more readily than usual, but things are beginning to get better. Or at least it looks like it from where I am sitting.

There is a new series of The X Files in the offing, and a new Brian Wilson album, to look forward to, and Mother and I are watching our way through the Larry Sanders Show boxset that I have wanted for ages, and which I finally picked up for twenty five quid on eBay the other day. Luckily she doesn’t understand most of the raicier bits, or if she does she ain’t telling.

So although things could be better here at Casa Downes, they could be a heck of a sight worse, and indeed have been on a number of occasions.

Now, I am going to finish writing this now before something goes wrong and spoils my reasonably buoyant mood.

Om Shanti.
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