As well as a wide ranging conversation with Iona’s guitar ace which also touches on his work with The Strawbs and all sorts of other things, Doug waxes lyrical about ELO.
Jon reviews the latest book by Patrick Barkham and muses on Extreme Psychotherapy and The Beach Boys, & we repeat some Gonzo Web Radio stuff that fell through the cracks...
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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,

This week our lord and master David Cameron became the first Prime Minister in history to address mental health in a public speech. Alongside an almost £1 billion investment in mental health services across the UK, he also claimed that he wanted to foster a more “open” and “mature” approach to mental health.

Golly. Speaking as a card carrying nutjob, I am very impressed. NOT! I have every expectation that the "mature" approach will actually translate as another cut to services or benefits aiming to make those bloody people like me shake themselves down, pick themselves up, and play a straight bat (or some other cricketing metaphor that presently escapes me). But I digress. Or rather, I don’t because mental health is one of the more important aspects of this weekend’s editorial thingy.

Last weekend I carried on my practise of recent weeks and watched a film that I really should have seen a year or so before. This time it was Love and Mercy the Brian Wilson biopic. Now Brian Wilson’s career polarises people on all sorts of levels. And this movie continues this habit of polarisation, and this time the subject of the polarisation comes in the contentious form of Dr Eugene Landy.

Over to those jolly nice fellows at Wikipedia.

"Eugene Ellsworth “Gene” Landy (November 26, 1934 – March 22, 2006) was an American psychologist and psychotherapist best known for his unconventional 24-hour therapy as well as ethical violations concerning his treatment of Beach Boys co-founder Brian Wilson in the 1980s.

As a teenager, Landy aspired to show business, briefly serving as an early manager for George Benson. During the 1960s, he began studying
psychology, earning his doctorate at the University of Oklahoma. After moving to Los Angeles, he treated many celebrity clients, including musician Alice Cooper and actors Richard Harris, Rod Steiger, Maureen McCormick, and Gig Young. He also developed an unorthodox 24-hour therapy intended to stabilize his patients by micromanaging their lives with a team of counselors and doctors.

Hmmmmmm.

I originally read about Dr Landy in *Heroes and Villains* by Stephen Gaines, which - although pulling no punches - did describe the work that he had done with Landy in the mid 1970s. At the time that I first read it, I was working as an RMNH within the dying embers of that particular branch of the National Health Service, and although Landy’s therapies seemed rather extreme, they did seem to make some sort of sense, and fitted in to a certain extent with what I knew about mental illness therapeutic work.

In 1991 Wilson published an enjoyable autobiography called *Wouldn’t it be Nice* which I read and enjoyed. In it he went at some length to extol the virtues of Dr Landy and his therapy. Nick Kent observed that "the most disturbing aspect of the text was the way Brian’s story was suddenly hijacked in the middle and turned into an unsolicited testimonial to the miraculous healing powers and all-round good guy qualities of flat-out genius Eugene Landy."

David Felton of *Rolling Stone* wrote "the autobiography reads like some slick parody of the end of *Psycho*, with the psychiatrist telling the police: ‘Brian was never all Brian, but he was often only Landy. Now the Landy half has taken over. Probably for all time.’"

The book ended with Brian bemoaning the fact that the Machiavellian intrigues of the Beach Boys organisation were in the process of forcing him and Landy apart, and it is a fact that very soon after the book was published that their partnership was no more. But there is one big aspect to this story that
the anti-Landy brigade seem to have forgotten. As Landy's son Evan says:

"Brian was on deathwatch, he was so incapacitated he would light cigarettes and drop them off the edge of the bed and urinate and defecate. He was just reverting to being a baby. He was very heavy, he was absolutely at his peak of his addiction, of his weight gain, all of it. They brought my father in to save Brian. They were detoxing him there in that room. The hospital let him smoke and he would sit there light them, take a couple of drags and just drop them. I had to watch him overnight to make sure that he didn't light the room on fire."

This was in about 1983, and it is undeniable that by the end of the decade Brian had returned to the fray, first with a low key appearance at a Beach Boys Convention in London and then with his self-titled comeback album which was a critical and commercial success. A triumph even. And it is difficult not to lay at least some of this success at the door of Dr Landy.

Now comes (ok, if you want to nitpick it was either last year or the year before, but who is keeping score?) a Brian Wilson biopic that tells an entirely different story.

In the 1960s, young songwriter and recording savant Brian Wilson (Paul Dano) finds himself in the midst of extraordinary success after scoring numerous hit records with The Beach Boys. Following a panic attack, he resigns from concert touring and ventures into the studio intent on creating "the greatest album ever made", Pet Sounds. Meanwhile, his grip on reality slowly loosens as he attempts to cope with the overwhelming voices in his head. Later, in the 1980s, a middle-aged Wilson (John Cusack) is shown to be a broken, confused man under the pharmacological and legal thrall of his abusive therapist Dr. Eugene Landy (Paul Giamatti). After meeting Wilson, Cadillac saleswoman Melinda Ledbetter (Elizabeth Banks) is determined to save him from Landy's manipulation.

Melinda Ledbetter is now Mrs Brian Wilson.

Wikipedia tells how whilst working at a car dealership in 1986, Ledbetter met Brian Wilson while he was a patient under Eugene Landy's 24-hour therapy. Six months after meeting Wilson, she had reported Landy to the state's attorney general for ethical violations, but they informed her that nothing could be done without the cooperation of Wilson's family. Three years into their relationship, Landy ordered Wilson to sever ties with Ledbetter. After Landy was struck with a 1991 court order which barred him from contacting Wilson, Wilson and Ledbetter were married on February 6, 1995. Ledbetter went on to become Wilson's manager in the 1990s, a job which she says is "basically negotiating, and that's what I did every single day when I sold cars."

Well Melinda Wilson looks somewhat like Marianne Faithfull, which is always a plus as far as I am concerned, and I am sure that as a forty something year old mad person (and, remember, I have been that person) I would much rather have shared a bed with her than with Dr Landy, but I am equally as sure that the thirty something year old car saleswoman would not have been as eager to go to bed with the grotesquely overweight, self-immolating self-befouler that everyone admits that Brian was before Landy took him in hand (no homoerotic pun intended).

My problem is that neither Landy's version of the events nor Ledbetter's seems to be more cogent than the other. Truthfully? They both seem equally cogent. And as our beloved leader has found out, nobody is interested in mental health until there is money (or votes) involved. Now I may have mental health difficulties, but not only does nobody buy my records, but I am not a savant, I have never got to the stage of wallowing in my own feculence, and I am still a grossly overweight substance abuser, so Dr Landy obviously never came along to take ME in hand (still no homoerotic pun on words intended).

So which version of events is true? This sort of thing happens a lot when one discusses Brian Wilson. A few years ago two acquaintances of mine who did not know each other went to see Brian play at the Eden Project in Cornwall. One of them told me that it was the greatest concert he had ever seen in his life and that Brian had been completely magnificent. The other told me that Brian was completely pathetic and was obviously being manipulated by his musicians for a fast buck. Obviously both versions of events cannot be true.

Equally obviously both the Ledbetter and the Landy versions of events cannot be true. However, both Ledbetter and Landy appear to have been acting with Brian's interests at heart, whereas other players in the story such as Mike Love and Murry Wilson, seem to be/have been just vile human beings. Just remember this....

Once upon a time, says a new age version if the
story, there lived six blind men in a village. One day the villagers told them, "Hey, there is an elephant in the village today."

They had no idea what an elephant is. They decided, "Even though we would not be able to see it, let us go and feel it anyway." All of them went where the elephant was. Everyone of them touched the elephant. Hey, the elephant is a pillar," said the first man who touched his leg.

"Oh, no! it is like a rope," said the second man who touched the tail.

"Oh, no! it is like a thick branch of a tree," said the third man who touched the trunk of the elephant.

"It is like a big hand fan," said the fourth man who touched the ear of the elephant.

"It is like a huge wall," said the fifth man who touched the belly of the elephant.

"It is like a solid pipe," said the sixth man who touched the task of the elephant.

They began to argue about the elephant and everyone of them insisted that he was right. It looked like they were getting agitated. A wise man was passing by and he saw this. He stopped and asked them, "What is the matter?" They said, "We cannot agree to what the elephant is like." Each one of them told what he thought the elephant was like. The wise man calmly explained to them, "All of you are right. The reason every one of you is telling it differently because each one of you touched the different part of the elephant. So, actually the elephant has all those features what you all said."

"Oh!" everyone said. There was no more fight. They felt happy that they were all right. Or in the version that I was told many years ago, the elephant got pissed off with the blind men and trampled them all to death.

What does this all mean? Ask David Cameron,

Toodle pip

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

Richard Freeman,  
(Scary stuff)
Dave McMann, 
(He ain't nothing but a Newshound-dog)
Orrin Hare,  
(Sybarite and literary bon viveur)
Mark Raines,  
(Cartoonist)
Davey Curtis,  
(tales from the north)
Jon Pertwee,  
(Pop Culture memorabilia)
Dean Phillips,  
(The House Wally)
Rob Ayling,  
(The Grande Fromage, of whom we are all in awe)
and Peter McAdam  
(McDada in residence)

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

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

Jonathan Downes,  
Editor: Gonzo Daily (Music and More)
Editor: Gonzo Weekly magazine
The Centre for Fortean Zoology,  
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You will have certainly noticed that it has all changed. In fact there is no certainly about it. But if you haven’t noticed I would like to know what you have been smoking, and can I have a large packet of it please.

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

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

In fact, now is an even better time than usual to subscribe because, not only is it FREE (yes, Oxford English Dictionary free, not yer usual publisher free which means that we sell all the mailing list emails that we garner to a company trying to flog Viagra and/or Double Glazing. No this is FREE as in Gratis. Not a Sausage. But I digress. Not only is it FREE but there will be some exclusive offers for folk who avail themselves of them, so make an old hippy a happy chappy and SUBSCRIBE TODAY.
THE DAY THE MUSIC DIED: The case against American Pie singer Don McLean keeps growing. McLean was arrested back in January when police were called to his home in Camden, Maine to respond to what later became known as a case of domestic abuse against his wife, Patricia. Over time, more information came out with Patricia issuing a statement detailing alleged long-term abuse by McLean who she claimed had an explosive temper. She claimed that the night of the incident had left her bruised and that her eventual ability to make a 911 call had, most likely, saved her life.

While an order of protection was issued for Patricia, she later had it lifted and called off a divorce that she said the couple would get. Read on...

TYGA FEET: Tyga has offered to "personally walk" Sir Paul McCartney into one of his upcoming gigs. The 25-year-old rapper hosted an afterparty following Monday night's (15Feb16) Grammy Awards. However, he hit headlines for all the wrong reasons when Beatles legend Sir Paul McCartney was denied entry to the bash at Hollywood's Argyle nightclub.

However, Tyga insists he had no idea that Paul was trying to get into the party, saying: "I actually got paid to go and perform. I really didn't have no knowledge what was going on. I just showed up." Read on...

WHERE THE EAGLE FLIES: Eagles of Death Metal performed an emotional concert in Paris, France, on Tuesday night (16Feb16). The rock band took to the stage at the Olympia venue in the French capital just three months after their gig at the Bataclan was targeted by terrorists last year (15). Struggling to hold back his tears, frontman Jesse Hughes told the crowd, "Bonsoir (good evening), Paris, we're ready for this!" before launching into their first song I Only Want You.

Halfway through the track, the band stopped and Jesse led the audience in an 89 second silence, to mark the 89 people who were killed during the 13 November (15) attack. Security was understandably tight around the event, with police surrounding the venue and the streets to ensure no further attacks could take place.

The heavy police presence was comforting for many who attended the gig, including one of the attack's survivors, Florian Novac. "After the attacks... I felt apprehension even being at the movies," he told AFP. "Now (I've seen the security) I'm not afraid, I am confident." Read on...

NOBODY DOES IT BETTER: If you hated that Lady Gaga David Bowie tribute at the Grammy Awards then guess what? His son Duncan Jones agrees with you. Duncan posted to Twitter that the Gaga piece was "overexcited or irrational, typically as a result of infatuation or excessive enthusiasm; mentally confused." Damn it! What IS that word? The Grammy Awards were right to pay tribute to the late David Bowie. After all, he was the greatest music creative force of a generation. However, if you want to fuck something up just hand it to
Hollywood.

The Lady Gaga segment was a cheesy, Vegas-like presentation. Bowie admired originality. He hated imitation and he despised lack of creativity. ‘Suffragette City’ sounded like it was arranged for a Drag Show. Gaga’s tribute to Bowie was one of the most written-about topics in the lead-up to the 58th Grammy Awards. Instead of delivering Ziggy the global audience was presented with Victor/Victoria, a woman dressed up as a man pretending to be a woman. Read on...

VANITY FAIR: Prince has paid tribute to his protégé Denise Matthews aka Vanity who died yesterday at the age of 57.

Minutes into the start of his first Piano & A Microphone performance in Melbourne last night Prince dedicated a stripped back version of ‘Little Red Corvette’ to Vanity saying: “I just found out a little while ago that someone dear to us has passed away and I want to dedicate this song to her” Prince assembled Vanity 6 with Matthews in 1981 after deciding to mentor a girl group after watching ‘A Star Is Born’. Matthews died from kidney disease in Fremont, California. Read on...

STREET FIGHTING PLAN: Mick Jagger wanted to produce a Casino-style movie based on the music business, ending up with hot new TV series Vinyl. The show, starring Bobby Cannavale, Olivia Wilde and Ray Romano, debuted on American TV on Sunday (14Feb16), hitting British screens a day later. The much hyped Vinyl is the brain child of Rolling Stones legend Mick, director Martin Scorsese and writers Terence Winter and Rich Cohen.

“It was a movie idea,” Mick admitted to America’s Esquire magazine. “I went to Marty and said that I’d like to do something that covers the actual inside of the record business, using (his film) Casino as shorthand.” The end result has been a 10-part series, based on 70s New York music exec Richie Finestra (Bobby). The theme of sex, drugs and rock ‘n’ roll features heavily, but Mick insists the story isn’t based on his own hedonistic lifestyle. Read on...

LIKE ANOTHER ROLLING STONE: Bob Dylan is back in the studio recording a second album of standards to followup his Shadows in the Night. Billboard is reporting that they were told by engineer Al Schmitt that the singer is in Hollywood’s Studio B at Capitol Records putting down new tracks of old songs. No titles have been released so it isn’t known if he is once again concentrating on the Frank Sinatra songbook. Schmitt told Billboard “He sounds great. His mood in the studio is fabulous. We’re having a good time. We’re like two old shoes together now, we’re so comfortable with one another now.”

Dylan is producing the album. Read on...
"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
THE UNKINDEST CUT OF ALL

A Japanese play rehearsal took a tragic turn Monday, when an actor was stabbed in the stomach with a samurai sword. 33-year old Daigo Kashino was rushed to hospital where he later died. The actor was in a rehearsal session at a studio in Koto, Tokyo, when he was pierced in the abdomen "with a sword-like object" during an action scene, a police spokesperson told CNN. The other actors reportedly heard him groan and turned to discover him hunched over -- but no one saw exactly what happened.

Police are now investigating whether his death was an accident or a criminal act. This is the second incident in recent weeks that has resulted in the death of a performer. Earlier this month, Italian actor Raphael Schumacher was declared clinically dead after he was choked in a stage hanging scene that went wrong.

RIPPLES IN SPACE-TIME
http://www.mprnews.org/story/2016/02/11/npr-scientists-detect-gravitational-waves

Far from our galaxy, in the vast darkness of space, two massive black holes merged into a single, larger hole. And now researchers say they have detected rumbings from that cataclysmic collision as ripples in the very fabric of space-time itself. The discovery comes a century after Albert Einstein first predicted such ripples should exist. "It's a really big event," says Saul Teukolsky, a theoretical astrophysicist at Cornell University, "This is probably the most exciting episode of my professional career."

Einstein predicted the existence of such ripples, known officially as gravitational waves, in 1916, as part of his general theory of relativity. General relativity re-imagines the gravitational pull between heavy objects like the Earth and sun as a "warping" of space and time. When very heavy objects such as black holes are involved, the theory predicts that gravitational waves will emerge and ripple across the entire universe. That's the idea. But in practice, seeing such gravitational waves has been nearly impossible. To make detectable waves, massive objects must be moving quickly. Researchers predicted a collision between two black holes would do the trick. But nobody knew how often that might happen.

DEEP PURPLE - MADE IN RUSSIA
http://tinyurl.com/juv7soa

It can kill everything from your laptop to your TV. Russian hackers have created a USB stick that can instantly fry any machine it is plugged into. It sends 220 Volts through the signal lines of the USB interface, rendering anything it is plugging into useless. The Russian security researcher known as 'Dark Purple' who created the stick has even posted a video of it in action - killing his laptop in the process.

The USB drive works instantly in the demonstration, causing the laptop to grind to a halt - and, he says, blowing its circuitry in the process. The researchers claims that 'he will live' and a new motherboard is on the way. He thinks it is 'extremely unlikely' that the hard disk was damaged, and so it should still be possible to access the data stored on the drive.
"At midnight, all the agents and superhuman crew go out and round up everyone who knows more than they do."
— Desolation Row by Bob Dylan

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

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

GOVERNMENT GOING AHEAD WITH HUNTING VOTE

The Government will give MPs the chance to vote to scrap the ban on hunting, a minister has confirmed, after an attempt last year failed. Cabinet Office Minister, Matthew Hancock, renewed the Tory manifesto pledge that could see Labour’s Hunting Act repealed, saying the party was “committed” to it. Attempts to table a vote last year to lift the two-hound limit on hunting foxes for vermin control purposes was blocked due to opposition from the SNP and some Conservative MPs.

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2016/02/14/fox-hunting-ban-repeal-hancock-_n_9231084.html
I have to admit that I have always thought that Chris Packham was a bit of a dick. But on this issue at least I agree with him 100%

Right On Chris

IT IS TIME TO STAND UP AND BE COUNTED
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 CLEAVIER

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.
WHO GONZO? WHY GONZO? WHAT GONZO?

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

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

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

“The greatest mania of all is passion: and I am a natural slave to passion: the balance between my brain and my soul and my body is as wild and delicate as the skin of a Ming vase.”

Hunter S. Thompson

PROJECT/OBJECT KEEPS ZAPPA MUSIC ALIVE

Project/Object is the longest continually touring alumni-based Zappa tribute band in the world. For over twenty years they have toured with more Zappa alumni than anyone other than Zappa himself. Their legendary tours of the USA, Canada, and Europe have paved the way for a rich variety of other excellent, contemporary Zappa tributes.

Project/Object is the band that brought most of the currently touring Zappa band alumni out of retirement and onto the road. The list of Zappa alumni that have appeared with the band includes musicians from the first Mothers Of Invention album thru the last Zappa tour in 1988. Project/Object is back in action in April 2016 with a tour that reunites old friends Ike Willis & Don Preston. This tour will feature material that each of them recorded with Frank, as well as their personal favourites, plus Zappa classics from every era.
The Gospel According to BART

This week my favourite roving reporter forwards on a note from Marillion about the recording process for their forthcoming album...

"The writing and recording process for us is well documented but for those of you who are new or have indeed forgotten - here is an outline of how we work:

We start by jamming together in the studio. At this point we have a blank canvas (as it were) and anything goes. We try to be as free-thinking as we can and the music that we play can quickly turn from experimental noises into... well anything really. Anyone can start a jam and it can lead to someone else taking up the baton and running with it. All this music is recorded by Mike, who makes notes if-and-when he hears things that are interesting. We jam for a couple of hours each day and this new album will be a distillation of two years working this way (in between live dates and Conventions etc). It's a very, very long job!

A whole day may have one 2 hour jam session or 5 shorter jams with definite breaks and silent stops. Much of what we do is, of course, discarded. We have discovered over the years that the most fruitful time of day is the first 20 minutes. We have also discovered that many of the best ideas happen some weeks into the process. We tend to hit a groove after a while. (Back in the day when we recorded on 90 minute dat tapes, we used to find from tape no. 7 onwards we were consistently having good ideas.)


BURDON BOOGIES

The legendary bluesman Eric Burdon is on the road again with a new tour...

May 12 Wrestpoint Entertainment Centre  Hobart, Australia
May 13 Canberra Theatre Centre  Canberra, Australia
May 14 Anita's Theatre  Thirroul, Australia
May 17 Enmore Theatre  Sydney, Australia
May 18 Palais Theatre  St Kilda, Australia
May 20 Panthers Evan Theatre  Penrith, Australia
May 21 THE EVENTS CENTRE  Caloundra, Australia
May 27 Gordie Brown Showroom at the Golden Nugget  Las Vegas
Sep 02 Volkshaus Zürich  Switzerland
I always promised that this magazine would never endorse a political candidate. I am afraid that, as a person of integrity, that I have no option but to rescind that promise...

In New Hampshire, a man calling himself Vermin Supreme filed for the presidential primary. He said in his administration, every American will receive a pony. He also plans to defeat ISIS by going back in time.
Portobello Shuffle CDs still at special low price of £5.00 each, 1 x CD inc. p&p = UK £6.80; Mainland Europe £8.90; USA £9.95; Rest of the World, contact Rich Deakin for postage price.
arsydeedee@yahoo.co.uk
"If you don't want your tax dollars to help the poor, then stop saying you want a country based on Christian values, because you don't."

Jimmy Carter
Each week Richard Freeman: world famous cryptozoologist, explorer, author, and one of the most peculiar people I know picks a suitably off story from the world’s press. This week however Hennis the Chicken and Wally the Comedy Rhinoceros have taken the helm…

**IS THIS THE SCARIEST CHURCH IN THE WORLD? PROBABLY.**

http://tinyurl.com/jfweafc
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!
SPECIAL NOTICE

As regular readers may have noticed, last weekend the Gonzo website was down due to no fault of our own. However, this means that last week’s radio shows were not linked to or archived on the Gonzo Wed Radio pages, so we are repeating them this week, because they were jolly good and we are sure that you would like to listen to them again.

Wouldn’t you?
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.
Both yer esteemed editor and yer Gonzo Grande Fromage are interested in the great mysteries of the universe, and so it was truly only a matter of time before Fortean related content began to seep its way into the magazine and onto Gonzo Web Radio...

"Mack Maloney is the author of the bestselling "Wingman" science-fiction series, plus "UFOs in Wartime, What They Didn't Want You To Know," (Berkley Books).

He's a member of SKY CLUB, Gonzo recording artists. He's been a radio host since 2010. He lives with his wife, Doreen, on an island off the coast of Massachusetts."

AND LOOK WHAT MACK HAS FOR YOU THIS WEEK

**Maury Island, the Men in Black & the NSA**
Mack talks to correspondent Steve Ward about the bizarre Maury Island incident. Captain Knapsack explains how the NSA can break into your home computer easy-peasy. Rob Beckhusen on the chance of war with Russia in the next five years. Plus, Operation Distant Thunder with Commander Cobra features less well-known stories about the Men in Black.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJ00-j0un6E
MICK ABRAHAMS
50 years of music

9th MAY
LIVE AT THE BORDERLINE, LONDON
www.theborderlinelondon.com
Nelle Harper Lee
(1926 – 2016)

Lee was an American novelist widely known for her novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*, published in 1960. She was born and raised in Monroeville, Alabama, the youngest of four children, and developed an interest in English literature. She studied law for several years, and wrote for the university newspaper, but did not complete a degree.

*To Kill a Mockingbird* was immediately successful, winning the Pulitzer Prize, and has become a classic of modern American literature. The plot and characters are loosely based on her observations of her family and neighbours, as well as on an event that occurred near her hometown in 1936, when she was 10 years old. Like Lee, the tomboy Scout of the novel is the daughter of a respected small-town Alabama attorney. Scout's friend, Dill, was inspired by Lee's childhood friend and neighbour, Truman Capote; Lee, in turn, is the model for a character in Capote's first novel, *Other Voices, Other Rooms*. Although the plot of Lee's novel involves an unsuccessful legal defense similar to one undertaken by her attorney father, the 1931 landmark Scottsboro Boys interracial rape case may also have helped to shape Lee's social conscience.

The novel deals with the irrationality of adult attitudes towards race and class in the Deep South of the 1930s, as seen through the eyes of two children. The novel was inspired by the racist attitudes she observed as a child in her hometown of Monroeville, Alabama. Lee assisted close friend Truman Capote in his research for the book *In Cold Blood*.

In February 2015, Lee's lawyer released a statement confirming the publication of a second novel, *Go Set a Watchman*. Written in the mid 1950s, the book was controversially published in July 2015 as a sequel to *To Kill a Mockingbird*, though it has since been confirmed to be the first draft of the latter.

The publication of the novel (announced by her lawyer) raised concerns over why Lee, who for 55 years had maintained that she would never write another book, would suddenly choose to publish again. In February 2015, the State of Alabama, through its Human Resources Department, launched an investigation into whether Lee was competent enough to consent to the publishing of *Go Set a Watchman*. The investigation found that the claims of coercion and elder abuse were unfounded, and, according to Lee's lawyer, Lee is "happy as hell" with the publication.

Lee died in her sleep on the morning of February 19, 2016 at the age of 89.

**THOSE WE HAVE LOST**

28
Denise Katrina Matthews (1959 – 2016)

Matthews, formerly known as Vanity and sometimes credited as Denise Matthews-Smith or D.D. Winters, was a Canadian singer, songwriter, dancer, actress and model, born in Niagara Falls, Ontario, and who turned away from her acting and music career to concentrate on evangelism. Vanity’s career lasted from the 1980s until the early mid-1990s.

Vanity began entering local beauty pageants before moving to Toronto, where she modelled. In 1980, she met Prince at the American Music Awards. Prince renamed her Vanity because, he said, he saw his female reflection when he looked at her. After learning that Vanity could sing, Prince asked her to become the lead singer of the group Vanity 6. The group's biggest hit, "Nasty Girl", was produced by Prince. In late 1982, the group and The Time toured with Prince on his 1999 Tour until spring of 1983. Vanity 6 was known for their provocative performances during the tour. She also had a successful acting career, starring in films, and from the mid-1980s to the early 1990s, Vanity guest-starred on numerous TV shows. Besides Prince, Vanity was linked romantically to Adam Ant and Billy Idol. In 1987, she stated that she and Motley Crue bassist Nikki Sixx were engaged. She joked that she would become Vanity 6 (Sixx) again. They never married. In Sixx's 2007 autobiography, The Heroin Diaries: A Year in the Life of a Shattered Rock Star, he describes his 1987 drug use with Vanity, who was addicted to crack cocaine at the time. Due to the effects on her kidneys of years of drug use while a performer, she had to undergo peritoneal dialysis five times a day (each session was 20 minutes long). In 2010, Matthews released her autobiography, Blame It On Vanity. Matthews suffered from sclerosis mespronoiding peritonitis, a complex form of a kidney disease, and died in a Fremont, California hospital on February 15, 2016, at the age of 57.

THOSE WE HAVE LOST

Kris Leonard
River Reeves
Tomas Lowe
Jack Dakin
(? – 2016)

Viola Beach was an emerging British indie pop group, formed in Warrington, Cheshire, in 2013. The band's final lineup consisted of Kris Leonard...
(guitar and vocals), River Reeves (guitar), Tomas Lowe (bass), and Jack Dakin (drums). All four, along with their manager Craig Tarry, died in a car crash in Sodertalje, Sweden, on 13 February 2016. They made their debut at the Cavern Club in Liverpool. In September 2013, the band's song "Daisies" featured on The Indie Cassette Player's 2nd compilation album, with "Love My Love" featuring on the website's 3rd volume in October 2013. Their first single "Swings & Waterslides" was added to the BBC Radio 1 playlist in September 2015.

The band were promoted by BBC Introducing, which described their songs as “infectious anthems” with “hints of slacker pop”.

When asked about his musical influences, singer-guitarist Kris Leonard said, "I'm definitely not consciously influenced by anyone", but mentioned the Coral, the Zutons, the Beatles and Hooton Tennis Club as being among his favourite Liverpool bands. Leonard told Wonderland that much of the band's lyrical content was inspired by their "very grey and industrial" hometown, where there was "nothing to do other than drink cider and smoke rollies on a park and chase after girls".

On 13 February 2016, the four band members and their manager, Craig Tarry, were killed in an incident on the E4 motorway bridge at Sodertalje, southwest of Stockholm. Following news of the band members' deaths, it was announced that all proceeds from their latest single would be donated to the families of the band members and of their manager.

Lee Chester Ulmer (1928 –2016)

Ulmer was an American delta musician, known professionally as L. C. Ulmer. He was born in Jasper County, the youngest of 14 children. Ulmer had learned to play the guitar by the age of nine, taking delight in listening to records by Blind Lemon Jefferson, Blind Boy Fuller, Tampa Red, and Peetie Wheatstraw. His main influence for slide guitar techniques came from the work of Blind Roosevelt Graves, who Ulmer saw perform on the streets of Laurel, Mississippi. He was a regular performer for over half a century, playing at festivals and clubs throughout the United States and elsewhere, but particularly in the Deep South. Ulmer was also featured in the 2008 documentary film, M for Mississippi: A Road Trip through the Birthplace of the Blues. His earliest influences came from the music of Blind Roosevelt Graves. Throughout his life, Ulmer met or played with numerous notable musicians.

Ulmer was a multi-instrumentalist, and often performed in his younger days as a one-man band. In his latter days using just a guitar as his accompaniment, he performed locally on a regular basis, as well as at the Juke Joint Festival in Clarksdale, the Shed Blues Festival in Ocean Springs, the Blues Today Symposium in Oxford and, in 2007,
at the Roots and Blues Festival in Parma, Italy. In June the following year, Ulmer made his debut appearance at the Chicago Blues Festival.

Ulmer died on February 14, 2016, in his home in Ellisville, Mississippi, of natural causes, aged 87.

Margaret Forster (1938 – 2016)

Forster was an English novelist, biographer, memoirist, historian and literary critic. She is best known for her 1965 novel Georgy Girl, which was made into a successful film of the same name and inspired a hit song by The Seekers, as well as her 2003 novel Diary of an Ordinary Woman; her biographies of Daphne du Maurier and Elizabeth Barrett Browning; and her memoirs Hidden Lives and Precious Lives.

Forster was born in Carlisle, England. She won an Open Scholarship to read history at Somerville College, Oxford, graduating in 1960.

Her second novel, published in 1965, was a bestseller; Georgy Girl describes the choices open to a young working-class woman in London during the Swinging Sixties. It was adapted into a successful 1966 film starring Lynn Redgrave as Georgy, with Charlotte Rampling, Alan Bates and James Mason. Forster co-wrote the screenplay with Peter Nichols. The film features a song by The Seekers which was a contemporary hit, and later featured in the top fifty of Rolling Stone magazine's "500 Greatest Pop Songs of all time". The book was also adapted for a short-lived Broadway musical, Georgy, in 1970.

Forster had breast cancer in the 1970s and had two mastectomies. She was diagnosed with cancer again in 2007. By 2014 she had metastatic cancer, and she died from cancer of the back in February 2016.

Paul Christian Gordon (1963 - 2016)

Gordon was an American musician, composer, and producer, born in Newport, Rhode Island. A keyboardist and guitarist, he was a member of New Radicals and the keyboardist and guitarist for the B-52's from 2007. Gordon also worked with Goo Goo Dolls, Prince, Nettles, Lisa Marie Presley, Chaka Khan amongst others. He also composed music for both television and film soundtracks. On February 18, 2016, Gordon died in Nashville, Tennessee at age 53.

THOSE WE HAVE LOST
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
In April 1979 the first ICU converged at Turners Cadillac Ranch the guilty parties were: Nik Turner (HAWKWIND)- Vox & Sax, Dead Fred - Vox & Keys, Trev (JUDGE) Thoms - Vox & Guitar, Mo Vicarage - Synth Dino Ferrrari (HERE & NOW)- Drums. They played the 1979 Glastonbury Festival as SPHINX this show was filmed by the BBC. After playing Stonehenge and various other festivals Dino In September the band released its 1st single Solitary Ashtray on its own label and begins to rise on the club-dump circuit. December 1980 see's our heros turning down the major label + staying with their own label (Riddle records) to record their 1st Album - PASSOUT at low cost in 3 days. The 3rd and final release on Riddle was the single. PASSOUT is the first ICU album, it was self financed and reached number one in the indie album chart, back in the days when the indie album chart was taken from the sales from one shop "Rock On" in Camden Town, ..The distributor for this disk was ...Rock On, in Camden.
Artist Nucleus
Title Bracknell Sunshine
Cat No. HST267CD
Label Gonzo

Nucleus were a pioneering jazz-rock band from Britain who continued in different forms from 1969 to 1989. In their first year they won first prize at the Montreux Jazz Festival, released the album Elastic Rock, and performed both at the Newport Jazz Festival and the Village Gate jazz club. They were led by Ian Carr, who had been in the Rendell–Carr Quintet during the mid and late 1960s, and was a respected figure in British jazz for more than forty years. Their jazz-based music evolved from an early sound incorporating elements of progressive and psychedelic rock toward combination with a funkier sound in the mid and late 1970s.

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Artist Gregg Kofi Brown
Title Rock n Roll & UFOs Gregg Kofi Brown Anthology
Cat No. HST321CD
Label Gonzo

Gregg Kofi-Brown is, of course best known for his work with seminal African funk rock pioneers Osibisa. They were one of the first, if not THE first African band to achieve popular success in the West.

With conscience laden lyrics and funky afro-rhythms Gregg has created a multi-national musical platform with his guest artists that speaks to many peoples across the world.

Gregg Kofi Brown was executive producer of the 2003 Evening Standard cover-mount CD give away in memory of Damilola Taylor which featured the likes of Robbie Williams, Craig David, Gorillaz, Blue and Ms.Dynamite.

This record anthologises Gregg’s career for the first time and is a real treat to his many fans across the world.
## Third Ear Band

**Exorcism**

- **Artist**: Third Ear Band
- **Title**: Exorcism
- **Cat No.**: HST371CD
- **Label**: Gonzo

Third Ear Band were a British psychedelic folk band that evolved within the London alternative and free-music scene of the mid-1960s. Members came from The Giant Sun Trolley and The People Band to create an improvised music drawing on Eastern raga forms, European folk, experimental and medieval influences. They recorded their first session in 1968 for Ron Geesin which was released under the pseudonym of The National-Balkan Ensemble on one side of a Standard Music Library disc. Their first actual album, Alchemy, was released on the EMI Harvest label in 1969, (featuring John Peel playing jaw harp on one track), followed by Air, Earth, Fire, Water (aka Elements) in 1970.

They recorded two soundtracks, the first in 1970 for an animated film by Herbert Fuchs of Abelard and Heloise (which first saw release as part of Luca Ferrari's Necromancers of the Drifting West Sonic Book in 1997) and then in 1971 for Roman Polanski's film of Macbeth.

After various later incarnations and albums they finally disbanded in 1993 owing to leader and percussionist Glen Sweeney's ongoing health problems. "EXORCISMS", showcases recordings from the 1988-1989 period, when the musicians involved were Glen Sweeney, Mick Carter, Ursula Smith, Lyn Dobson and Allen Samuel.

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## Captain Beefheart

**Pearls Before Swine, Ice Cream For Crows**

- **Artist**: Captain Beefheart
- **Title**: Pearls Before Swine, Ice Cream For Crows
- **Cat No.**: GZO108CD
- **Label**: Gonzo

"Those who, over the last twenty years, have loved the music of Captain Beefheart cannot forget that he decided to abandon the music scene (it would seem definitively) to devote himself full-time to painting. Specialist rock critics, who were left the sad task of a retrospective tribute to his career, each time have boldly tried to establish correlations between yesterday’s music and today’s painting, acting in a way that is markedly 'reparative' and which, implicitly placing diachronic continuity to his basis, has no logical or cultural justification in the Californian artist’s experience."

Italian author Luca Ferrari has curated a fascinating collection of words and sounds dedicated to the man who is possibly the most enigmatic rock and roll artists of all time. Contains a 24page deluxe booklet.
The Selecter are a 2 Tone ska revival band from Coventry, England, formed in mid-1979. The Selecter featured a racially diverse line-up. Their lyrics featured themes connected to politics. Reinforcing the songs of Neol Davies were the voice and rude girl style of Pauline Black and the rhythms of Desmond Brown on the Hammond organ. The band's name is based on the term "selector", which is a Jamaican word for disc jockey. The band were one of the most successful ska bands of the 2 Tone era,-notchting up several top forty singles in the British charts.

The Selecter reformed in 1991 and vocalist Black continued to perform and release music under The Selecter name until 2006. Some confusion emerged over two competing lineups for the Selecter in 2011, between that featuring Davies and that featuring Black and Arthur ‘Gaps’ Hendrickson. In June 2011 Black applied for, and won, The Selecter trademark and the right to use the name herself. This record, recorded in 1995 at the Roskilde in Denmark showcases this glorious ska band at their enigmatic best.

Martin Birke's original compositions began getting nationally published in 1990. His history as a drummer, keyboardist, programmer, songwriter and vocalist is in a current variety of US & European releases. Starting as a drummer in the late 70s, Martin now specializes as an electronic percussionist, composer and performer. While with the Frank Mark Arts label in Germany during the mid- to late-90s, Martin was recording and touring in the bands Casualty Park, Sandbox Trio and studio project Birke/ Leykam/Panasenko.

This latest album once again showcases Martin’s extraordinary compositional and performing skills and also features guest performances by members of the seminal 80’s electro band Japan. Absolutely sublime.
Rick and Adam Wakeman - Lure of the Wild
Format: 1CD
Catalogue Number: MFGZ003CD
This 1994 album features two ex-members of Yes; Rick Wakeman and his son Adam. This album is entirely instrumental and includes some extraordinary departures like the jazz interpretation of the Rolling Stones’ ‘Paint it Black’, and an inspired nine minute track ‘Ceasarea’, with time and mood changes combined with strong melodies. This record has been compared to Rick’s first solo album ‘Six Wives of Henry VIII’ but it is very much its own project. It was recorded on the Isle of Man where Wakeman and his family live at the time. It is an unjustly underrated record, and I, for one am over the moon that it is available to buy once more.

Artist Mick Farren and Jack Lancaster
Title The Deathray Tapes
Cat No. HST399CD
Label Gonzo

Dave Thompson writes:

“Farren recorded Death Ray Tapes live in Santa Monica in June 1995. Backed by a band featuring ex-Lancaster’s Bomber frontman Jack Lancaster, MC5’s Wayne Kramer, and latter-day Deviant Andy Colquhoin, Death Ray is a poetry reading in subsonic overdrive, Farren's verse machine-gunning the listener with imagery which is part post-Flower Child disillusion, part urban L.A. psychosis, and part futurism on fire. Its nearest living relative would be a fire-breathing Patti Smith -- there's a similar sense of driven purpose, but more importantly, a similar sense of breaking rules without actually being aware that there were any rules to begin with.

There's also a spark in common with the early angry Dylan, but with one major difference. When he passed this way, it was still called "Desolation Row." Farren's here to see the supermarket they built on the site.

But in truth, it's really the Deviants revisited, older and crankier and taking full advantage of a modern world which makes that which bred their original fury seem benevolent (not to mention naïve, arcane, and horribly idealistic) by comparison. Back then, after all, it was only the Pigs you had to watch out for. Today, if you're paying sufficient attention, everyone's out to"
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DESIGNED BY MARTIN COOK, AFTER ALEX STEINWEISS
I have never been a fan of overly complicated lead guitar soloing, with the possible exception of Frank Zappa, and even then I have to be in the right mood to listen to things like Shut up and Play your Guitar. Even when I was a boy, and all my friends were idolising yer flashy guitar heroes, I much preferred the solid work of people like David Gilmour whose quiet professionalism perfectly fitted the songs his band were playing, and functioned truly as part of a vision of ensemble playing, even when he was playing something that no-one else in the known universe was able to do.

A couple of years ago I was introduced to the music of Dave Bainbridge. Perhaps best known for his work with the pioneering UK based Celtic folk/rock/ambient band Iona, which he co-founded in 1989 with David Fitzgerald, Dave's multi-faceted career as a musician, composer, arranger, improviser, producer and engineer has led him into many musical genres and work with numerous artists including; Troy Donockley, Jack Bruce, Buddy Guy, Gloria Gaynor, Mae McKenna, Moya Brennan, ‘Snake’ Davis, Paul Jones, Pete Brown, Phil Keaggy, Bryn Haworth, Graham Kendrick, Fenton Robinson, Lurrie Bell, Louisiana Red, The All Soul's Orchestra, The Emperor String Quartet, The St Edmundsbury Boys Choir, Sheila Walsh, Adrian Snell, Emiko Shiratori, Robert Fripp, Nick Beggs (Kajagoogoo / Steve Hackett Band), Martin Smith & Stuart Garrard (of Delirious) and many others.

Now, Dave is one of those musicians that I admire very much, technically brilliant he opts for a quiet professionalism rather than overt showing off, and his songwriting is elegant and often elegiac.

As a solo artist Dave Bainbridge is a relative newcomer, only taking the plunge when Iona had a sabbatical in the early noughties. This break was due to the band's vocalist taking time out to concentrate on her
family. In late 2003 Dave wrote and recorded his debut solo album ‘A Veil Of Gossamer’. The album was critically well received and this encouraged Dave to begin work on another album. Dave, using the very 21st century business of Crowdfunding, then released a remarkable new album – *Celestial Fire* – and he was kind enough to send me a copy. I listened to it late one night with what my ever useful amanuensis calls an expanded mind…..and bloody hell it’s good.

In the meantime Dave has formed a working partnership with Troy Donockley, also of Iona. The duo has made two albums and a live DVD recorded at Lincoln Cathedral. They also toured Japan in late 2004, performing a mixture of their own solo material alongside traditional and newer songs, plus selected items from Iona’s vast back catalogue.

He is one of those hard working chaps who always has something interesting to impart, so last week I gave him a ring to find out what he has been up to...

Listen Here

**Currently in Stock**

*AT CONZO (UK)*

*AT CONZO (USA)*
Electric Light Orchestra

Electric Light Orchestra (ELO) was an enduring British band that deftly combined orchestral instrumentation and infectious pop rock. Founder Jeff Lynne was principal writer and producer, leading the band through several incarnations, all influenced by The Beatles, Chuck Berry and other rock pioneers. From 1972 to 1986 ELO racked up more than a dozen top 20 songs on UK and US charts. Lynne continues recording and performing today under the new name Jeff Lynne's ELO. Their seventh release came in 1977 the multi-platinum double album Out of the Blue, continuing the band’s status as international pop sensations.

ELO launched an extensive world tour in support of Out of the Blue, stopping south of Los Angeles at Anaheim Stadium on August 26, 1978. The show was a visual spectacle that included extensive use of laser lights and a huge disc-shaped spaceship as the stage’s canopy, resembling the UFO depicted on the cover of the album, a now legendary stage design. The same show came to London’s Wembley Arena, attended by the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester with proceeds going to the Invalid Children’s Aid Association. This concert was professionally filmed, produced and directed by Mike Mansfield and lasting just over an hour. The footage was originally screen on BBC television, and has been released on home video over the years. In 2015 it was again remastered and released as part of a generous Blu-ray set from Eagle Rock Entertainment as Out of the Blue – Live at Wembley.

After short clips of pre-show introductions showing the band and royalty, the lights go down and ELO is introduced by Tony Curtis as “the most outstanding rock group in the world today.” The stage’s UFO canopy rises to swelling orchestral sounds, revealing the group as they launch into “Standin’ in the Rain.” The film includes thirteen of the songs that were included in the show’s set list on that tour, including a number of the band’s most popular tracks. In addition to the opener, many songs from Out of the Blue are featured including “Night in the City,” “Turn to Stone,” “Sweet Talkin’ Woman,” “Mr. Blue Sky,” and the expansive album highlight “Wild West Hero.” Jeff Lynne and Kelly Groucutt stand together at center stage, Jeff in his trademark dark glasses and mostly stoic demeanor, Kelly in his tight silk suit. Their vocal harmonies are fantastic, as any listener of the band would attest, and the songs are presented live at a level of quality that rivals the original studio recordings.

As to the film itself, the imagery is clear and colorful. There are plenty of perspective shots capturing the overall stage and innovative use of laser light effects. Camera angles are varied, most often taken from fixed positions at stage left, right and center, but also frequently including shots from the stage, allowing for close-ups of founding drummer Bev Bevan, keyboard player Richard Tandy, and lead violinist Mik Kaminski.

http://diegospadeproductions.com/
Dueling cellists Hugh McDowell and Melvyn Gale also get their due, which is important, as these players form a string section that set the band apart from their contemporaries. The film editing by Barry Stevens is creative, employing an acceptable number of framing devices including colorful letter-boxes, image overlays, zooming shots and other features that keep the presentation interesting without being distracting. The audio is fabulous, achieving an excellent balance of crisp shimmering highs, and deep lows.

In addition to the main set, the Blu-ray release includes several performances that were filmed during the band’s 1970s career. The earliest from Brunel University captures an 18 minute four track performance from 1973, portraying the young band on a small stage playing to an enthusiastic crowd. A rather progressive version of “In The Hall of the Mountain King” is a highlight of this surprisingly well-recorded set. That instrumental is also included in the next segment, an October 1974 performance on the popular German TV show Rockpalast that includes a generous eight-song set over 38 minutes along with a short interview. As with most Rockpalast films, the performance is professionally shot under white lights, with exceptional audio quality, featuring particularly well-planned shots of keys, frets and skins in action. Next up is a beautifully filmed 1976 performance directed by Mike Mansfield called Fusion, which sports an even longer thirteen-song set at just over 49 minutes. This picture is particularly pleasant viewing as it most closely resembles a mid-sized concert experience, capturing the band under rich colorful concert lighting designed by Stephen Bickford from multiple, well positioned cameras. Arguably the best, most representative song in the set is the 1975 classic “Strange Magic.” Finally, the disc ends with a fun 39-minute promotional video featuring lip-synced performances of nearly every track from ELO’s 1979 album Discovery. It’s an entertaining example of the type of early rock videos that mixed live action, animation, graphics and staged performances, all of which ended up populating the MTV television channel in the 1980s.

The booklet for this Blu-ray comes with a replica of the concert program from the Out of the Blue tour, which contained great photos and background on the band members including, as was common at the time, bits about their favorite music, food, and the like. This release is a wealth of information and recorded footage from this seminal band that belongs in any fan’s collection. It replaces the earlier standard DVD also from Eagle Rock, which included the Wembley and Discovery features.
SPECIAL NOTICE

As mentioned earlier in this issue, last weekend the Gonzo website was down due to no fault of our own.

So we are repeating last week’s cover story as well. The name of the song is ‘Merry Go Round’ after all...
becoming a singer in a world where the peculiar songs that populated my head would actually be the sort of thing that people wanted to listen to, or reading Volume Two of my increasingly battered rock music encyclopaedia over and over again.

I was particularly fascinated by the work of Frank Zappa and the peculiar coterie of artists that were associated with him. Artists like Captain Beefheart, the GTOs and Wild Man Fischer. The latter was particularly fascinating to me.

Larry Wayne Fischer was born in Los Angeles, California, United States and attended Fairfax High School. Fischer was institutionalized at age 16 for attacking his mother with a knife. He was later diagnosed with two mental disorders, severe paranoid schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. Following his escape from the hospital (he said no one ever bothered to take him back there), Fischer wandered Los Angeles singing his songs a capella for 10¢US each to passers-by. Discovered on the street by
Frank Zappa, Fischer became an underground concert favourite. Zappa was responsible for Fischer's initial foray into the business of recorded music, an album called An Evening with Wild Man Fischer (1968), which contained 36 tracks, some of which contained minimal musical accompaniment by Frank and members of The Mothers of Invention, while most are simply accurate representations of Larry's street performances (sung and spoken).

Fischer's unhinged behaviour caused Zappa to drop him from Bizarre; during an altercation with Zappa's wife Gail, Fischer threw a glass jar which smashed dangerously close to the couple's baby daughter Moon Unit. "I thought from the first day I met him that somebody should make an album about Wild Man Fischer," Zappa said in 1970. "But when you're working with somebody like him, or people who are out there, the problems that arise after the album is completed sometimes become too much to bear."

I spent much of the next twenty years trying to get hold of this stuff, and finally got the GTOs album in the mid 1990s, but it wasn't until the Internet age that I finally managed to get hold of Fischer's massively unhinged debut album, even though it's signature song had been sampled on 'All you Need is Love' by The Justified Ancients of MuMu, which was (and is) one of my favourite records.

In the middle of the last decade I discovered a remarkable movie called Derailroaded. The following synopsis is from Wikipedia.

"The film chronicles the life of Wild Man Fischer, an outsider artist who went in and out of several mental institutions when he was a child. During the 1960s he was a street singer in L.A., which gave him a cameo appearance in Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In in 1968. The same year Frank Zappa gave him the opportunity to record his first album, An Evening with Wild Man Fischer. Fischer's eccentric personality provided some truly unique music, but his mental problems rapidly ended his career. Fischer suffers from paranoia and schizophrenia and thus became impossible to work with, despite the best efforts of other artists (Barnes & Barnes, Rosemary Clooney,...) to help him. So despite his cult reputation Fischer remained a
This album is now seen as a classic of Outsider Music, defined by Wikipedia as being: "the term used to describe songs and compositions by musicians who are not part of the commercial music industry who write music that ignores standard musical or lyrical conventions, either because they have no formal training or because they disagree with conventional rules. This type of music, which often lacks typical structure and may incorporate bizarre lyrics and/or melodies, has few outlets; performers or recordings are often promoted by word of mouth or through fan chat sites, usually among communities of music collectors and music connoisseurs. Outsider musicians usually have much "greater individual control over the final creative" product either because of a low budget or because of their "inability or unwillingness to cooperate" with modifications by a record label or producer."

So I telephoned Neil Nixon, author of a Gonzo book about peculiar records to talk about Outsider Music in general, Wild Man Fischer in particular, and along the way discovered that I, myself am an Outside Musician. Enjoy....

Fischer died a few years later.

Zappa's widow, Gail, declined to release An Evening with Wild Man Fischer on CD because overall it does not reflect well on her husband. But Gail, Fischer and manager Herb Cohen are now dead, and Gonzo has managed to get the rights to put the album out legally on CD for the first time.
You know the score as well as I do. I’m not even going to try to pretend that this is an original idea of mine; the BBC thought it up decades ago and it was Rob Ayling’s idea to apply it to the Gonzo Weekly. The concept is a simple one: one takes a celebrity and plonks them on an unamed desert island with a bible and the complete works of Shakespeare. Although any of our celebrities would be welcome to take a copy of the Bible and the complete works of Shakespeare with them, this being Gonzo, we can think of other, more appropriate accoutrements – what was it the good Doctor took with him on his most well known expedition? “We had two bags of grass, seventy-five pellets of mescaline, five sheets of high-powered blotter acid, a salt shaker half full of cocaine, and a whole galaxy of multi-colored uppers, downers, screamers, laughers and also a quart of tequila, a quart of rum, a case of Budweiser, a pint of raw ether and two dozen amyls.”

I wouldn’t necessarily go that far, but if we may again quote the good Doctor: ”I hate to advocate drugs, alcohol, violence, or insanity to anyone, but they’ve always worked for me.” I am not going to lay down the law as to what luxury, or indeed essential items, our castaways are going to be given. The only thing we are going to ask them is for ten records which they believe would be utterly essential for their wellbeing if Gonzo Multimedia really were going to plonk them on an island in the middle of the ocean, which I have to say that, after the week I’ve had, sounds like my idea of utter bliss.

Gavin Hughes is a massively talented musician and producer. He is also my son-in-law but that is by the by. Check him out on Soundcloud:

https://soundcloud.com/skynet2011/sets/original-music-48

before flipping the page over to find what he would take with him to a desert island...
Top Ten albums (as of right now and in no particular order):

Guns N Roses - Appetite For Destruction
Bruce Springsteen - Born To Run
Whitesnake - 1987
Carole King - Tapestry
Oasis - Definitely Maybe
Queensryche - Empire
Sarah McLachlan - Mirrorball
U2 - Rattle and Hum
Sugar - Copper Blue
Fleetwood Mac - Rumours
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RICK WAKEMAN plays
DAVID BOWIE’s LIFE ON MARS
In aid of Macmillan Cancer Support
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.
Weekly Acoustic Jam Session Hosted by Dogleg

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facebook - dogleg Musician/Band
Then we came to Hamburg. We were staying in the hotel with was part of the Congress Centrum Hamburg. Unfortunately the gig was in the Ernst Merck Halle on the other side of the park. Since the T-shirts and other merchandise were on the truck, we left the van parked at the hotel and walked to the gig. As the load in and set up progressed we sorted out the shirts and began to get the stall together. Late in the afternoon a couple of young ladies arrived. Both of them looked pretty good and drew a bit of attention from those members of the crew that were not actively working. I took a great liking to one of the girls. She was dressed in a leather jacket and looked quite lovely. One of the guys from the lighting crew was also drawn towards this girl and we went into that kind of male competition area. This developed into a bit of rivalry and eventually into a 'beer fight'. A 'beer fight' an extension of a game called 'the beer hunter'. You get six cans of beer, shake one up and then face away as someone shuffles the cans. Each person takes turns in holding a can to his head and cracking the tab. If it does not explode all over him he puts it down. When the shaken can shoots its contents over one of the players, that player has to drink all of the opened cans and play is resumed. This is usually a short messy game. In a beer fight you arm yourself with two cans of beer and try to soak your opponent in a similar way. During the course of this exchange my adversary was a bit premature in spraying his cans and did not get me at all. As he ducked under a table, to get more beer, I jumped up on the table and soaked him with both cans. This had me winning the fight - and the lady.

Andrea was her name and, when she came back to the show that night, we got to know each other better - mostly in the course of a lot of kissing and cuddling on a pile of T-shirts. I did not notice it at the time, but that whole episode was illuminated by the follow spot operator – the one I had defeated in the beer fight. This was to be the start of a long, and often very intense, relationship. I did not realise it at the time, but this woman was to be at the centre of several pivotal moments in my life. At the end of the gig
lead singer of the Danish band also had long fair hair and, since we were a few floors up, the girls below mistook me for him and started screaming. Bon and George gathered up all the toilet rolls they could find and began pelting the crowd.

After this we went on to Gothenburg in Sweden, and the tour got pulled with the rest of the Scandinavian gigs cancelled including Helsinki, which has the distinction, for me at least, of being the most cancelled destination. I have never yet managed to get to Helsinki. It appeared on tour itineraries from that tour right through my touring career and I never ever went there. I developed a theory. The town Helsinki does not exist. It is a mistake made by early map makers and they were too embarrassed to correct it. The word Helsinki is another word for ‘day off’ in some obscure Scandinavian dialect and that is how it gets translated when we get the final tour list. The only way to disprove this theory is for the Finland Tourist Board to invite me there for a free week’s holiday........hint, hint.

The premature cancellation of the tour meant we had to get on a ferry back to the UK. That night we decided we needed to smoke the rest of the dope that we had in order not to be bringing anything through customs. Bon and some of the band joined us and, when we ran out of cigarette papers, we resorted to smoking the stuff under glass. If you have never done this, the trick is to impale a lump of dope on a open pin or badge. You light the dope and place a glass over it. When the glass is full of smoke you lift the edge of the glass and draw in the smoke. This can be a bit harsh on the throat, but it works.

In the morning we met AC/DC and Bon could barely speak. We exchanged a few hoarse ‘G’Day’s and he told me they had a Radio 1 session the next day. I listened to the show when it went out, and he did not sound too bad so he must have recovered by then.
Now recognised as the leading online magazine of its type, Phenomena Magazine is a FREE magazine from Manchester's Association of Paranormal Investigation and Training (MAPIT).

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

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FREE!
Welcome back to My Dad’s LPs on Gonzo Weekly UK. I’m your host, A.J. Smitrovich. This week, we do the blues. And the boogie. And we have Bessie Smith and Janis Joplin back-to-back. What more could you want?

Joking aside, this show is all about the blues. Not just this episode but all of ‘em. The blues and country gave birth to rock ‘n’ roll and the elders get the treatment here. This week is no different. But it’s not just the standards…Marc Bolan and T. Rex come out to boogie, as does Elmore James, Jerry Lee Lewis and the King of the Blues, Mr. B.B. King.

We’ll play some new blues, too. Larry Garner brings us “Champagne and Reefer” (both of which are worth tuning in for) from his 2008 record Here Today, Gone Tomorrow. We’ll be diggin’ some live blues, since the blues always sounds better in-person. We go to Newport, Connecticut in the United States in 1960, Ontario, Canada in 1970 and London in 1971. We’re all over the map.

We air Saturdays and Sundays 4pm and Monday 12am Pacific Standard Time on the KONG Monster Rock Radio Network. Also on FM radio on 93.3 KRHV in Mammoth, CA Sunday nights at 11pm, PST.

We’ve also got MyDadsLPs.com. There you can listen to Streaming Episodes from past weeks, even view the record collection for yourself and make requests for the LP of the Month. So head on over and join the conversation on Facebook and @mydadslps as we…

Oh! And we’ve got a video in the works for our website and eventual YouTube channel…tune in to My Dad’s LPs to stay up to date!

Explore the Cosmos of Rock ‘n’ Roll…
As regular readers of these pages will probably know I have a strange, disparate, and diverse collection of friends, relatives, and associates, many of whom who are extraordinarily creative in one way or another. And as my plan was always to make this magazine the sort of magazine that I would want to read, many of them turn up in these pages with monotonous regularity. Meet Mr Biffo.

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

Going into shops is awful.

First, there's the queuing. Second, there's the social anxiety of having to talk to the people who work in the shop. Third, there's the indignity of having your debit card refused, due to last night's eBay splurge. Fourth, there's every chance you might catch a virus.

If only vending machines could give you anything you needed...

Well - apparently they can. As this gallery of the world's most extreme vending machines attests.

From The Trials of Arthur Revised Edition: In Memory of Pixi Morgan, a good friend, sailed off to the Summerlands 6th Feb 2016.

Steve Andrews had been living in this house for many years. It was a council house on an estate on the outskirts of Cardiff. He had brought his son up here. But he had also played host to a succession of waifs and strays from the neighbourhood. From near and afar lost people would try to find themselves here. Budding artists traced lines of inspiration from his door. Musicians learned their craft. Many people had passed through his door, had drunk his home-made wine, slept on his settee, on the run from their demons, or their parents, or the police, or themselves. Steve welcomed and gave succour to all.

The most important of these was Pixi.

He was 16 years old when he first came through that door, a mischievous imp, a scamp, a waif, a rogue, streetwise and sassy, short, wiry and elvin, older than his years. We won’t say exactly what he was running away from. Maybe he wasn’t running away from anything. Maybe he was running towards something.

Whatever it was, he moved in with Steve, and for several years he kept watch on Steve’s comfy sofa.

Steve was already a musician, and there were guitars about the house. Pixi picked one up and almost immediately he was playing it. He had a gift. He knew straight away how to wrestle the sounds from this awkward instrument: how to add drama and cadence to the song, how to put strength and meaning into the words, how to perform. His voice was rough but musical, delivered from some hidden recess in the caves of his being, from somewhere not quite of this world. He liked songs of pagan beauty. He sang about the running of the wild. Deep, earth-rich songs, full of incidence and echoes, giving a voice to the land.

So then he was a musician. He and Steve used to do gigs together. There were various bands. Occasionally they’d go into the studio and make a record. But Pixi was way too wild for Steve’s settled life. That settee was like a chrysalis for the grubby butterfly he was to become. He became a New Age Traveller, and moved out into a truck, doing the rounds of parties and festivals, wooing the girls with his songs, having a high old time of it.

He might turn up now and again, in some truck smeared in mud and grease, so full of tat there didn’t seem to be room to sleep, with some new girl in tow.
He learned new skills. He could fix vehicles. He could make benders. He learned how to live on the land. He became a fully fledged traveller. He could drink like a good’un: Special Brew usually, or anything he could get his hands on. Maybe there was even a dog on a string now and again. And that voice got wilder, and the songs got stronger, and the words got deeper, and everyone said he should be a rock star. But he wasn’t having any of that. He was a traveller. That’s where the songs came from. You couldn’t put it down on a record. It was a feeling evoked by the night, by the sparkling fire, dancing beneath the sky. That’s where the music came from: from the camp fire, from the woods at night, from the stars, from the rivers and the trees, from the wildlife, from the wind, from the distant mountains, from the earth and the sea, from the land and from the people on the land.

Steve never quite lost touch with him, but there might be years between one visit and the next.

Occasionally he’d hear stories. Pixi was at this festival or that festival. He was living in a truck. He was living in a bender. He was walking from Cornwall to Scotland with a convoy of people pushing handcarts. Odd rumours like that, but hardly any word from the man himself. He just kind of disappeared.

Which brings us back to the present moment, and to Steve, sitting down now in his living room, switching on the radio to hear a programme about King Arthur. And guess who’s voice he heard first? Straight away? It was Pixi – his old mate Pixi, the council estate kid turned New Age Traveller—reading from a proclamation written by Arthur, his voice resonant with conviction, powerful, declamatory, but unmistakably Pixi.

This was the year when the first news of the road protest movement began to emerge into the national consciousness.

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"Wry, acute, and sometimes hellishly entertaining essays in squalor and rebellion."

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*Independent on Sunday*
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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/
weird weekend 2016

18-21 August 2016
Three Days of Monsters, Ghosts and UFOs
The Small School, Hartland, North Devon

YOU'VE NEVER HAD IT SO WEIRD

www.weirdweekend.org
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..

Details of the forthcoming Hawkwind album's release in vinyl format have been published. "The Machine Stops" is based on E. M. Forster's sci-fi short story from 1909, and is not quite a double album, as it's spread over one standard album disk and one 45 rpm 12-inch EP.

Both are cast in heavy grade 180 gram vinyl, however. The album is scheduled for release April 15, 2016.

The track distribution is:

Side 1:

Side Two:
Synchronized Blue, Hexagone, Living on Earth.

Side Three:
Disc Two – 12-inch EP (45 rpm):
The Harmonic Hall, Yum Yum, A Solitary Man.

Side Four:
Tube, Lost in Science.

The CD version, released the same day, has the same tracks and running order.

And, as a precursor to this, the Dave Brock album 'Brockworld' is scheduled for release in a couple of weeks, on 4th March, the annual Hawkeaster event at Seaton's Gateway is on Sat 26 & Sun 27 March, and the Hawkwind spring tour is in April.

The London Islington gig on Friday 22nd April is rather an unusual one, as it's advertised as a fan's 'meet and greet' and signing session, and the newly-released album gets a spin as well, for those gig-goers who haven't yet bought it.
Spirits Burning

The music adaptation of Mack Maloney's sci-fi novel "Starhawk"

Over 70 minutes of music, over forty crew members
Includes bonus 8-page comic with artwork by Steve Lines

A sci-fi adventure ... resurrected by Don Falcone & Mack Maloney, 
with Hawkwind family members Dave Anderson, 
Alan Davey, Paul Hayles, Jerry Richards, Nik Turner, 
Twink, & Bridget Wishart, plus Daavid Allen (Gong), 
Robert Berry (3), Keith Christmas, John Ellis (The Vibrators), 
Kev Ellis (Space Cadets), Matt Malley (Counting Crows), 
Nigel Mazlyn Jones, Pete Pavli (High Tide), 
Ken Pustelnik (The Groundhogs), Billy Sherwood (Yes), 
Judge Smith (Van der Graaf), Steffe Sharpstrings, 
Cyrille Verdeaux (Clearlight), Steve York, 
& 24 more musicians ...

1. Our Crash
2. I Have Two Names
3. JigSawMen Flies A JigSawShip
4. Love Forever
5. My Life of Voices
6. Let's All Go Cloud Puffing
7. Stellar Kingdom
8. Spaceships At The Starting Line
9. We Love You
10. Tripping With The Royal Family
11. Xara's Paan
12. For Those Who Are Searching
13. Rolling Out
14. Angel Full Of Pity
15. Right On The Mark
16. This Time, This Space
17. So Strong Is Desire

Hawkwind

The Machine Stops
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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www.hawkwind.com
Any enquiries hawkwindpassports@hawkwind.com
The first book of *Xtul* stories comes out in book form next week, and will be available via all good retailers, through Fortean Fiction. But the story is far from over, and having taken a few weeks off to restore my battered savoir faire I am recommencing…

Are you sitting comfortably? Good. I shall begin.

XV

"You don't remember me when I was a little girl...before I became Lysistrata?" She paused.

I shook my head.

"My name was Hazel Wingford, and I was in the same year at school as your brother, and we used to go on the same school bus".

There was an embarrassed silence, mostly on my part, because I truly had no memory of her. In my defence, she was talking about events over four decades in the past, but it is always embarrassing to admit that one
Over their social life one would wish to draw a curtain, for they regarded not the holy rites prescribed by the Church, nor the authority of bishops, archdeacons, or civil laws. They had all things in common, and multiplied into a large family without marriage. Their conduct, habits, manners, and language, made them a terror and a nuisance to their immediate neighbours. Their misdeeds were the cause of their making frequent appearances before the magistrates in the local police courts. The surrounding farmers, after a time forbore to summon them as their ricks, stacks, barns, and homesteads were fired. By whom? None could tell, though pretty shrewd guesses were levelled at the Cheritons.

No less a personage as Rev Sabine Baring-Gould confirmed that they were still about at the turn of the century, but after falling foul of the authorities in Exeter one too many times they migrated north during the years of the First World War, and took over a derelict farm in the wild country between Holsworthy and Bradworthy when the two brothers who owned it failed to return from Flanders. There they stayed for another half century until they met their match in the early 1960s when they encountered another burgeoning tribe that was beginning to make its mark on rural England; the Department of Health and Social Security.

Her surname, however, rang a lot of bells for me, none of them pleasant.

"Are you any relation to Stevie Wingford?" I asked, and she nodded. "He was my brother. Except, as you know, he wasn't my brother."

Before I continue, I think that a brief history lesson is in order. Before the M5 was built in the early 1970s, and even before the North Devon Link Road was built ten years later, North Devon was far more isolated than it is today, and there were still remote rural areas which were disturbingly primitive.

These days 'disturbingly primitive' means that one hasn't got fibreoptic broadband, but forty years or more ago it was a very different state of affairs. R. D. Blackmore's Doones, and the Cannibals of Clovelly may have been mere fiction, but well within living memory there were wild people in North Devon; unruly tribes of uneducated brigands who lived by poaching and other petty crimes. One of these tribes was called the Cheritons, although it is unsure whether this was actually their family name or just a reference to one of the villages (Cheriton Bishop) from whence they came. They lived north of Crediton in the late 19th century, and were described by the Devonshire Association as:

"Over their social life one would wish to draw a curtain, for they regarded not the holy rites prescribed by the Church, nor the authority of bishops, archdeacons, or civil laws. They had all things in common, and multiplied into a large family without marriage. Their conduct, habits, manners, and language, made them a terror and a nuisance to their immediate neighbours. Their misdeeds were the cause of their making frequent appearances before the magistrates in the local police courts. The surrounding farmers, after a time forbore to summon them as their ricks, stacks, barns, and homesteads were fired. By whom? None could tell, though pretty shrewd guesses were levelled at the Cheritons."
and decided that he should be given a suitable name for the son of two devout Methodist shopkeepers, and had him christened Stephen. Nobody ever called him anything but Stevie, and he grew quite quickly into the nastiest little boy in the village. Something that everyone but his doting parents knew only too well.

"Yes, I remember Stevie," I said to Lysistrata. "But I don't remember him having a sister."

I certainly remember him. From the moment that I first arrived at Bideford Grammar School in 1971 to the day that I left in 1976 he did his best to make my life a misery, and usually succeeded. He bullied me unmercifully, and left scars on my psyche which have never healed, and which I seriously doubt ever will.

"He didn't have a sister," she said, still bathed in the peculiar red silver moonlight of the blood moon, looking me straight in the eye. "But no sooner had my parents adopted the little shit than my mother became pregnant, and I was born, and from the moment that he first saw me, he hated me and tried to get rid of me until he basically succeeded."

And then I remembered who she was, and that I had known her several years before she turned up as the taciturn, but ever so slightly sexy, maidservant to the Rev Cymbaline Potts and his sister Britannia.
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 Daevd 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!!"

VOTE FOR WHO YOU ARE
ELDER RESPECT/not ELDER ABUSE..
Check your demographics! We are ageing!
Issues of health and income attrition become central
Politicians with Government pensions want to privitise Social Security
They wish to diminish funds that belong to those who have worked all their lives
divert them to war and other questionable enterprises. You know this!(as a bad idea!
More bad ideas arise when talking health care costs/which rise as we decline
Health is a community investment/in those who create and continue in community
Presidential politics finally mention a single payer tax system-as in other developed economies
Common sense says to support the health of elders. It is a good idea.
It is time for elder respect/not elder abuse. Time to vote for your own lives...
pages as I rant happily about their extraordinary prosecraft, and there have been others. But today I wish to introduce you to another of my favourite contemporary writers - Patrick Barkham.

I first came across Barkham a few years ago when he wrote a book about his personal quest to see all the native British butterfly species in a single year. I have never made any secret of my fondness for the genre of lepidoptera memoirs written by people like L Hugh Newman and P B M Allan, but these are roundly things of the first half of the 20th century. Patrick Barkham brought the genre up to date with mentions of things such as irritating girlfriends, email and text messages, as well as the increasing levels of bureaucracy which surrounds the pursuit of the natural sciences as we progress further into the 21st century. But he did so whilst never losing touch of the sheer childlike wonder which is what drew people like him and me to the study of such things in the first place.

A couple of years back, when I was still producing my monthly webTV show, which I have every intention of resuming at some point before the universe and I are very much older, I interviewed Barkham about the book and about the then concurrent spate of strange British butterfly sightings. A year or so later he published a book about badgers, and then - last year, I believe - came his third book. This time about the British coastline.

I have been deep in a love affair with the British coastline for half a century this year, ever since my family spent a month in Guernsey in 1966, and I discovered the awesome range of flora and fauna to be found in rockpools. So when I saw that Barkham had written a book on the subject of Britain's coasts (and no, I do not need to be reminded that The Channel Islands are zoologically and geographically damn all to do with the British Isles) I put it on my Christmas list, and my darling wife stepped up to the mark.

A brief anabasis here whilst I reproduce the blurb provided by the publisher.

"Told through a series of walks b the sea, nature columnist and author Patrick Barkham "Guardian columnist and acclaimed nature writer" explores Britain's beaches, coasts and cliffs in his latest book Coastlines: The Story of Our Shore. From smuggler's coves to Brownsea Island, witness the profound story of our island nation and how we are shaped by our
Now, I must have been stoned when I first read about the book, because somehow I had got it into my head that this was going to be something like a grownup's version of the Ladybird book of the seashore that I had when I was on the beaches of Guernsey half a century ago. But in fact it was something far more complex and many layered, and whilst I missed out on my planned Boxing Day of sitting drunkenly drooling over a dozen different pictures of different species of spidercrab, this book is so much more.

It is nothing short of a chronicle of all sorts of multifaceted aspects of the shores of these sceptre'd isles, covering economics, history, geography, politics, sociology, art history and folklore as well as the natural history that I had been expecting. Any book that covers the political backlash against Thatcher, the social politics of the post-'Troubles' Northern Ireland, the history of French and Dutch incursions into the England of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and even the more obscure knock on effects of the belief that a UFO crashed into Rendlesham Forest in 1980 truly has to be admired.

But you know the weirdest thing about this book? Probably ninety percent of this was stuff that I had not read before. But there was so much more that I would have put into it had I been the author. Hartland Point, Barmouth Bay and Westward Ho!, for example, as well as Saunton Sands, Dawlish Warren, Maenporth Beach and that bit just to the west of Teignmouth whose name I cannot remember, could all have equally well have fitted seamlessly into the narrative of this book. As could Canvey Island, the beach near South Shields where Blaster Jack built his home, and all sorts of places that I have come across during my multifarious travels.

None of this is a criticism of this book. Far from it. It is testament that Barkham took on an impossibly complex task and got away with it. It is just that these peculiar islands where I have lived since I was eleven, and where Barkham has lived since I was far younger than that, are such an impossibly complex place that nobody could possibly hope to recount all of the stories that are thrown up by them in one, or even a dozen, books of this size.

We are an island race, and these islands have enough stories to fill a library. Indeed they already have, many times over. But as a primer, this book is without equal.

However, if I may revisit the emotion behind the front cover of an issue of a Fanzine called 'Sniffing Glue' back in the day, this is a book to show you the way. Now go and find your own stories.

See you on the beach.

PS I would ALSO still like that book with a dozen different pictures of spidercrabs if anyone comes across something of the sort.....
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...

You have now reached the page of quality items that are to be added and displayed in our cabinet this week. I bet you have given a gigantic sigh of welcome relief at turning the page and finding this before your eyes; I know it is a major contribution to the magazine and, my being an empath, I feel your pleasure. It pleases me, as it pleases you. I am complete.

Let us start, shall we, with a story of good old win some, lose some.

Guitar bought for £30 at Devon tip turns out to be classic Gibson Les Paul worth £1,600
By North Devon Journal | Posted: February 13, 2016

A LUCKY scavenger bought what appeared to be a scruffy old electric guitar at Tiverton's rubbish tip, only to discover it was a sought-after classic.

The man, who did not want to be named, purchased the 1969 Gibson Les Paul from Ashley Recycling
Centre for just £30, but sold it on eBay for an incredible £1,600.

The resale area at Ashley Recycling Centre, where the guitar was found

"I love looking through the items for sale there," he told the Gazette.

"You never know what might turn up."

The Les Paul, which was first created by its namesake in 1952, is renowned by rock music fans and was played by artists including Jimmy Page of Led Zeppelin, Pete Townshend of the Who and Slash of Guns & Roses.

I wonder whether the person who chucked it out is rueing the day.

Autograph book 7" x 5", inc Beatles, Louis Armstrong, many others. - £5,000

"Autograph book, vintage 1930s, 7" x 5"

These were collected by me personally when I worked at London Airport in 1963. I escorted the Beatles and Brian Epstein through the Controls on their return from the first United States tour (when the screaming girls were on the top of the Queen's Building overlooking the aircraft stand).

Also in the book are Louis Armstrong, Humphrey Littleton, David Niven, Kenneth Williams, Douglas Bader, Yehudi Menuhin, Jack Hawkins, all collected by me about the same time.

Also in the book are Louis Armstrong, Humphrey Littleton, David Niven, Kenneth Williams, Douglas Bader, Yehudi Menuhin, Jack Hawkins, all collected by me about the same time.

Many earlier autographs in the book were collected by my father in the late 1930s, including Billy Cotton, Henry Hall, Stanley Black, Ray Ellington, Harry Roy, Lou Praeger, Jay Wilbur and other band musicians of that period."

Puts mine to shame; I only have school friends and a few relatives in mine.

SHAMELESS SELF PROMOTION TIME

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

Check it out now...
Pink Floyd's B62 tape machine from their Britannia Row studio - £1,650

Letter of provenance provided. The letter does not state which recordings it was used on, only that it was the original studio two track machine. We also have photos of the original studio where you can see the machine. Working perfectly. Serviced by Audio Related.

Welcome to the machine. See what I did there? That is the kind of thing that makes this column so readable, exciting and popular.

ROLLING STONES DOLLS [RUSSIAN] IN IMMACULATE CONDITION - £13.00

Tallest doll is approx. 5 inches, the smallest [with the Stones “tongue” logo on it] about 1 inch tall - see final pic.

Not sure which ‘Stone’ the one above is supposed to be, but I guess it’s Mick.

liam gallagher personally owned pretty green parka rare - £300

“For sale is a mega rare, personally owned Liam Gallagher’s parka which was not collected from the dry cleaning service and was never requested to be sent back to a forwarding address, every three months the hotel were my brother works donate all there un claimed or abandoned clothing to charity but my brother convinced his manager that he would buy it for me then donate money to charity. It also has a Union Jack scalf tucked neatly in the pocket it’s not a pretty green I don’t think as has no label on it , it has not been used since was dry cleaned for Liam by his aid

A letter of authenticity will be sent also, signed by my brother and his manager.
Having a baby reluctant to sell

First off, I have to say that I am relieved to hear that the person who is having the baby is reluctant to sell it. That practice is beyond abominable.

Secondly, I did get confused with the contradiction: “owned pretty green parka” and then a bit further down “it's not a pretty green”, notwithstanding the fact that it appears to be white in the photograph. Then, on reading further, I realised that ‘pretty green’ is a fashion label, and I smacked myself round the face as penance for my stupidity.

Shameless advertising perhaps, but it is rather a cool company heading, don’t you think?

Great for those Greek-themed plate-smashing parties in celebration of it being the last one. Just sayin’

Toodle-poo
We need to raise as much money as possible for The Small School in Hartland, which is not state funded like a Free School or Academy, and relies on parental contributions and donations. Money is needed from proceeds from the faery fayre and ball for Creative Education and essential spending on such things as a new boiler, so we are hoping to cover all expenses so that even more proceeds are directed towards the school than from the last two years' events.

Many people are expending vast amounts of time, money and creative energy to enable this third annual faery fayre and ball to be even more amazing, and raise even more money for the school. All of the many entertainers are unpaid, although we are feeding them, and some are travelling very large distances (eg from Yorkshire) to make the day wonderful for everyone and support the school. If none of the money raised is sucked into expenses, then we should be able to double proceeds for the school.

£150 is needed for the soundman, and £50 towards food and drinks for sale at the event to increase proceeds for the school, the remainder coming from sponsors who have promised to donate bread, cheese, tea, salads etc for sale at the faery fayre and ball.

A few days after the event, we will publicly announce all proceeds from ticket sales, food sales and profits from The Small School table at the event for Creative Education and General Funds at the school.

https://crowdfunding.justgiving.com/northdevonfirefly
Stray into the woods and forests and you will enter into another world; a world of creatures that live by their own rules, protect their own kind with fierceness, and view all strangers who venture under the protective boughs with deep suspicion. Tread the forest floor with care, for this is also the home of the hairy man - the wildman of the woods. Is he a man? Is he a beast? Is he something in between? Whatever he is, he is spoken about by humans in hushed voices. They are scared of him and they tell tales of him to their children to scare them from entering the hushed darkness of the tree kingdoms. They call him many names; the woodwose, the wudawasa, the wodwos amongst them. The bane of a high-born daughter takes her unintentionally through such a forest on her last journey as a single woman to wed the man of her father's choice. Imposters from another land tramp through such a forest on a mission of their own, killing everything that comes across their path. The lives of some of the creatures that dwell in this place become unavoidably entwined with both these trespassers. The lives of some will change. Some will cease completely.
“Ev’rywhere I hear the sound of marching charging feet, boy”

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

Auld Man's Baccie
Resonating with the Blues
There are nine Henrys, purported to be the world’s first cloned cartoon character. They live in a strange lo-fi domestic surrealist world peopled by talking rock buns and elephants on wobbly stilts. They mooch around in their minimalist universe suffering from an existential crisis with some genetically modified humour thrown in. I think Peter McAdam is one of the funniest people around, and I cannot recommend his book The Nine Henrys highly enough. Check it out at Amazon. Each issue we shall be running a series of Henrybits that are not found in his book about the nine cloned cartoon characters who inhabit a surreal world nearly as insane as mine...
This book, which was released by Gonzo last 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.

Barry Booth:
Diversions
(Pye, 1968)
What? Whimsical English charming chamber-pop.

Virtually forgotten for decades, this little-heralded collection of brass based pop backings and singularly out-of-step lyrics finally earned a low-key rediscovery in the 21st century. Booth’s name was never high-profile but his pedigree includes significant arranging, musical direction and song-writing for a few of the great and good, including Roy Orbison. He was also involved in the British television industry during the 1960s and this brought him into the orbit of - record producer/ writer of Neighbours theme tune etc. - Tony Hatch. It also gave him a nodding acquaintance with Terry Jones and Michael Palin, emerging comedy talents of the time who would eventually become part of the Monty Python troupe.

All of the above matters because the collision of these unlikely talents is the best way for the uninitiated to begin to appreciate the strange delights offered by Diversions. Basically, Booth’s talents involved arranging and concocting soundscapes, his appreciation of the dynamics of brass instruments being a particular strength. A selection of tunes were already well on the way but he needed lyrics. Enter Jones and Palin, comedy wordsmiths, ambitious graduates and grateful for any job on offer. Crucially, the pair – who cooperated to produce some of the best Python gags – worked alone. Jones’ juvenilia-style scribblings offer up half a dozen stories with a sense of lonely-longing and the solitary pain of the terminally decent young man, always thwarted in love. By contrast, Palin’s eight lyrics narrate a series of stories, often peopled with solitary, eccentric and very English characters. The opening “He’s Very Good with his Hands” explores the skills of DIY enthusiasm and model-making, “Vera Lamonte” has an elegiac “Eleanor Rigby” quality as it tells the story of an “ordinary lady” with a dream of trampoline glory. Hatch’s clear production owes little to the burgeoning psychedelic scene of its era, other than an attention to detail with the sound of all the instruments. The glue that holds the whole project together is Booth’s presence, his limited but expressive and well-controlled voice is very English, terminally old-school and restrained throughout. It’s also characterful to the point of suggesting those described in the songs, and the lovelorn quality of those Jones’ lyrics, are all part of the singer’s life. The same bizarre character inventions would go on to inform Monty Python but, in this context, Diversions teases out very few laughs, but does pathos by the bucketload.
Gregg Kofi Brown has transcended many genres of music...

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

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

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

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

CD and book available soon from Gonzo Multimedia

www.gonzomultimedia.co.uk
Furor Gallico

Founded in 2007, Furor Gallico is a Celtic metal and folkmetal band that had originated in Milan, Italy. The band has songs in both English and Italian, and the band members take alternate roles in who writes the lyrics and composes the music in either language.

(Furor Gallico is the description that the ancient Romans had given to the state of blood lust that the Celtic Warriors, who were ready to attack in battle to defend their people and their land, had possessed.)

Current Members:

Davide: Growl, Scream and Clean Vocals
Gabriel: Guitar and Backing Vocals
Marco: Bass
Mirko: Drum
Becky: Celtic Harp

Metal Archives
Facebook
Website
Wikipedia

You Tube

Banshee
Song Of The Earth
Wild Jig Of Beltaine
Nemain's Breath
And so we come to the end of another week. I have spent much of this week working with legendary film director Tony Palmer on a new edition of his biography of famed violinist Yehudi Menuhin, which has been a gruelling if interesting process.

One of the things that I discovered is that last year one of Menuhin’s sons, Gerard, wrote a book of Holocaust Denial, which truly must be unprecedented as the Menuhin family are - of course - Jewish. I am very curious to read the book, but I don’t want to give twenty five quid to a bunch of right wing nutters (as his publishers very much appear to me to be) nor do I want my credit card details to appear in their database.

This also precludes me from asking them for a review copy, because although I write about all sorts of weird and wonderful things in these pages, I don’t think that a book on Holocaust Denial can really be one of them.

For the record, I am not one of those people who subscribes to the idea that the extermination of the Jews and others in Nazi occupied Europe didn’t happen. My Grandfather was half Jewish and also had Roma blood, so when you combine that with my mental and physical disabilities, I would certainly have been a goner under the Nuremberg Laws. But I do find myself intrigued to find out how the scion of a well known Jewish family can buck the cultural trend of his people so completely.

I only mention this as an example of how, when carrying out my ongoing work with Gonzo Multimedia, all sorts of oddball stuff comes into my intellectual gunsights, and being of a remarkably scatty disposition, I end up following all sorts of strange tangents in my search for enlightenment.

This weekend my old friend and colleague Richard Freeman is coming up to collect some CFZ equipment he will be taking on his latest expedition to Tasmania in search of the Tasmanian wolf. I suspect that red wine will be drunk and a splendid time shall be had by all.

See you next week.

Toodle Pip...
BEEFHEART AT HIS BEST
Live on stage

Admit One $5.50

Somewhere Over Detroit
11 Dec 1980
From Harpos Concert Theatre, Detroit
11 Dec 1980
On Stage 20.30

Captain Beefheart & The Magic Band
Eric Drew Feldman * Robert Williams * Richard Snyder * Jeff Tapi / White * Jeff Morris Tepper

LIVE

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