

anger BURNING

ISSUE 08



CONFRONT STAGE

MORTAL TERROR



CHAOS
CONTROL
PUBLICATION

£2

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anger BURNING EDITORIAL

NOT SO MUCH OF A GAP BETWEEN ISSUES THIS TIME, EH? BY THE TIME YOU ARE READING THIS, WE WILL HAVE PUT OUT THE FIRST 'NOISE ANNOYS' COMPILATION 7" AND THE FIRST 'BLASTS FROM THE PAST' CD. WITH THOSE TWO RELEASES DONE, IT WAS ONLY FITTING THAT A BAND FROM EACH RELEASE SHOULD BE INTERVIEWED HERE. SO, ENTER CONFRONT STAGE AND MORTAL TERROR INTO THE PAGES OF THIS, THE EIGHTH ISSUE.

WHEN I STARTED THIS ZINE, LITTLE DID I SUSPECT THAT IT WOULD SNOWBALL AND ULTIMATELY END UP BEING PART OF A RECORD LABEL AND DISTRO. IT WASN'T UNTIL THE SCOTLAND SPECIAL CAME OUT THAT I SAW POTENTIAL OF RELEASING RECORDINGS THAT HADN'T SEEN THE LIGHT OF DAY FOR DECADES. SO, 'BLASTS FROM THE PAST' WILL CONTINUE AND THERE ARE ALREADY 3 MORE PLANNED AT LEAST.

THIS ISSUE, ALTHOUGH NOT GIVEN A SUB-TITLE AS I WOULD HAVE DONE IN THE PAST, IS PRETTY MUCH AN ANARCHO-PUNK SPECIAL. WITH THE PLANNED FUTURE ISSUES, IT'S MORE THAN LIKELY PART 1 OF 2 ANARCHO ISSUES. THE NEXT ISSUE WILL TAKE A DIFFERENT OUTLOOK AND WILL BE THE LONG-AWAITED ALTERNATIVE ROCK ISSUE, WITH ANARCHO PART 2 FOLLOWING THAT. MORE ON THAT IF YOU KEEP CHECKING THE FACEBOOK PAGE OR WEBSITE IN EARLY 2020.

IT'S NOT THAT OFTEN THAT BANDS FEATURED GET ANOTHER INTERVIEW IN THESE PAGES, BUT PART OF THE PROPOSED WEBSITE 'UPGRADE' MIGHT WELL BE TO HAVE CATCH-UP ARTICLES AS WELL AS THE ALREADY-PRESENT SERIES OF OSTPUNK EPISODES – GO CHECK THEM OUT.

REVIEWS OF SUBMISSIONS IS GOING WELL AND ALTHOUGH THE PLAN TO HAVE EXTRA REVIEWERS DIDN'T EXACTLY WORK OUT ACCORDING TO PLAN, IT HASN'T GOT IN THE WAY OF RELEASED TEXT IN THE SLIGHTEST. WE GET REGULAR REQUESTS FOR REVIEWS NOW AND AM ALWAYS HAPPY TO WRITE A LINE OR TEN ABOUT A NEW RELEASE, SO AM ASKING HERE AND NOW THAT IF YOU ARE IN A BAND OR KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS THAT HAS A RELEASE COMING OUT OR INDEED ALREADY OUT AND WOULD LIKE AN OBJECTIVE TAKE ON WHAT IT'S LIKE, FEEL FREE TO HOP ONTO THE FACEBOOK PAGE AND INBOX ME. I'LL BE ONLY TOO HAPPY TO GIVE IT A SPIN OR A PLAY – PHYSICAL MEDIA IS GREAT TO HAVE BUT AM AWARE THAT IN THIS MODERN DAY ELECTRONIC PUBLICITY KITS ARE THE WAY TO GO TOO.

LOVE, PEACE & ANARCHY...

PAUL, NOVEMBER 30, 2019.

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Featuring on the Noise Annoys compilation 7" released recently, Artemy tell us all about the band.

AB Tell us a bit about the band...

@A: The band Confront Stage was formed in January 2013, in Ukraine. Prior to the creation of the Confront Stage, I had the first punk project called The Ahineya. It existed from 2005 to 2013. In 2012, there was the last concert of The Ahineya band took place in one of the punk festivals in the Khmelnytsky region in Ukraine. After that, I noticed that my song and

music began to sound meaner and tougher. At that moment I got the idea to create a new project with a new sound and a new approach. The first line-up featured former members of the band The Ahineya. Some songs from the first punk project were included in the setlist of the band Confront Stage. In the summer of 2013 two of our songs "Stop alcohol!" and "The Revolution song" are included on a Brazilian punk compilation, titled "Chaoz Day 3", which was released on a double CD. The compilation was released on Casa Punk Records from the well-known Brazilian band - Luta Armada.

In January 2014, we started working in the Studio on a new EP album. Initially, it was planned to make a full-length album, but due to the impending events at the time, it turned out to make a short album. And in early June, has already released the EP "Slave work". Then came the terrible fucking political events. The war began in the Donbass. Barricades in the streets, soldiers with weapons, burning houses and alarms befell my city and my country. And in June 2014, I moved to Russia to avoid war and even more so not to participate in this fucking political game.

In February 2016, I moved to live in the Northern capital of Russia, in the city of St. Petersburg. With this moment and continues history of Confront Stage, but already as in as a Russian hardcore-punk band. I put together a new line-up and we started playing new songs. After lengthy rehearsals, in December 2017, the band Confront Stage performed for the first time at the punk festival "Angry Punks Night" with the participation of other well-known Russian punk bands. In may 2018 we played on the same stage with great hardcore bands, and in March of the same year we participated in the anti-war festival in support of the action

against war and propaganda of militarism.

In July 2018, we sat down to work in the Studio "Azbuka Zvuka" on the recording of a new full-length album "Not Human", which was subsequently released on August 7, 2019. Songs from this album began to gain popularity, actively broadcast on foreign punk radio stations in Poland, Australia, USA, Russia, Germany, as well as included in the punk compilation of different countries, one of our song was included in the compilation "Noise Annoys #1" from the British label Chaos Control.

At the moment we will be preparing for a big concert with the presentation



of the new album, as well as start working on a new program with a new line-up.

AB Where does the name "Confront Stage" come from?

@A: The name for my band come somehow itself. I was just looking for words that would clearly reflect the essence of the mood of the song, worldview, life position, but of course, that this name was somehow original and make this title in English.

I think the title turned out great and unforgettable, LOL.

AB What is the punk scene like in Saint-Petersburg?

@A: In St. Petersburg, as in the capital of Russia punk rock is very developed. There are many excellent bands in the genre of hardcore punk and hardcore. Once I was also a member of a St. Petersburg punk-hardcore band "Burning Flag", as a lead guitarist and performed on the same stage with the Brazilian band ARD.

In fact, many punk concerts are held here, including concerts of foreign famous bands such as The Exploited, Total Chaos, Mob 47, GBH, The Casualties, SSEX and other.

As for the punk movement in St. Petersburg, it has different layers. There are those who adhere to some

clear anti-fascist positions, and there are those who do not consider themselves to any ideas. Lately, I've been watching the movement break up into small groups. On concerts local bands in the last time, comes a small number of people.

I think that because of the abundance of information in the musical space, people begin to get lost and they lose interest in something new. I know that in the Western punk scene everything is very different and people are very supportive of local bands. Russian punk bands are also perceived there with pleasure. Punk concerts are very often held in St. Petersburg. Foreign bands are always welcome here. Yeah, I don't know if there's much I can add to that discussion.

AB What do you see are the main issues in Russia at the present time?

@A: The main problems in Russia are a low standard of living and low wages, tax increases and terrible corruption, police lawlessness and banditry of the authorities, propaganda of militarism, imposing the Orthodox Church, which serves the state.

Among the ordinary population of the people and it is the largest part of the territory of our country, live below the poverty line. The working class works



just for a penny, and it is difficult for young guys to even find a job. People do not have enough wages to pay utility bills, pay debts to banks and even buy normal food. I'm talking about ordinary, working class citizens.

Fucking TV screens regularly carry nonsense about the fact that the country is developing and improving, but everything is very different. For the powerful it is possible and enrichment and development, for the common class of people - it is poverty.

There is also propaganda that our enemy is the West and the United States, which is worse than ours. In particular, there is criticism in the direction of the neighbouring country-Ukraine. But only the zombified part of the population can and believes this shit, but the other part of the population really knows who is actually the enemy of the people.

In fact, there is no democracy in the country and there was none at all. The same totalitarianism, only in a different form, and the principles are

the same. Idiotic laws on prohibition of this or that action, an order and human rights come out daily. I think that the country is going to complete degradation and destruction. And this is the fault of the current government, as well as people who believe them. Police lawlessness and propaganda of militarism also plays an important role in the country.

There are a lot of people who Wake up and do mass protests, single pickets and stuff. The fucking police arrest innocent people who disagree with the Putin regime in a brazen and brutal way. In fact, there are a lot of political prisoners in the country, but only some people only know about, because it is necessary to involve the public as much as possible. Everyone should know their names. We can talk about this a lot, but the main problems remain: corruption, banditry, high prices, small salaries and lawlessness. Within the country it is very clearly felt.

AB Your new album has been released recently - how has that been received? Is it going well?

@A: Yes, on August 7 we released a new album called "Not Human", which was recorded at the Studio "Azbuka Zvuka".

Songs from this album have successfully spread on foreign radio broadcasts and compilations. Also, the album "Not Human" can be purchased digitally on well-known Internet resources such as: Itunes, Spotify, YouTube Music, Google Play, Bandcamp and others.

The album "Not Human" turned out to be quite conceptual and combines the theme of the problem not only as an individual, but also as a social society. Each song is a story about the negative actions of a person in our world, about the loss of human appearance in front of himself and the whole planet.

The songs touch upon the basic problems of humanity and the essence of modern man. The songs have themes about the environment, militarism, brutality towards animals, the attitude of politicians to the people, about the relation of man to money and power.

I think, that listeners on the sly probing our album, our songs and every in it finds for themselves favourite song.

The main songs from the album "Not Human", I noticed, were the song "Brainwash for war" and "Not Human".

For the song "Brainwash for war" I made the official video from the cut video. I think it turned out great, and I was able to convey the meaning of anti-war song.

At this stage we are developing cooperation with distro and labels that would be interested in publishing our album in their city and in their country. We want to spread our music to the audience from all over the world as much as possible, to convey the feelings of Russian hardcore punk as much as possible. I believe that any creativity should be heard and appreciated.

Now two labels from Poland and Chile have agreed to release our album in their country. We are still waiting for a response from other labels. We are always glad to friendship and cooperation, and also go on acceptable terms.

The main task is the listener and friendship of Peoples. By the way, after the release of our full-length

album, we released a joint album with the Chilean metal-punk band Bactery, which includes songs from the new albums of the two bands.

Now we are preparing a joint anti-war song with them, which will be played in different languages: Spanish, Russian and English. I think it will be very interesting and very experimental. There will be more news about this on our official pages on the Internet.

AB How extensive have you toured Russia?

@A: So far, the band Confront Stage has not toured Russia, and just played in the city of St. Petersburg. But, everything is still ahead and we have plans, of course, to make a tour not only in Russia, but also in other countries. All we need is some time, patience, documents and of course some fucking money. There is a time for everything.



AB Have you had a chance to play outside of Russia?

@A: No, we haven't played outside Russia yet, but it's still ahead of us.

To do this, we need to make a visa and a number of other documents. I think that all this will come true. We wish it very much.

And we will welcome offers from other countries to perform on their stage. Each organizer can contact us on the official mail or write in a personal message on Facebook.

AB You use YouTube as a way to promote your music - how has that worked for you?

@A: I do not know. I just upload to YouTube our videos of concerts, rehearsals, songs, radio broadcasts. How does it work for us? I can't say for sure. Everyone can subscribe to our channel and get acquainted with our material.

Any promotion of our creativity we do on their own and do not give for it any payment. Everything is done on their own and DIY. It's simple. We are always glad to our listeners and subscribers of our channel.

AB Excluding Facebook, do you use any other form of social media at all?

@A: Yes, of course, we use other social media for the creativity of our band. Our pages are available in social networks: "Vkontakte", "Odnoklassniki", "Instagram" and others.

"Fucking TV screens regularly carry nonsense about the fact that the country is developing and improving, but everything is very different."

AB What can we expect from Confront Stage in the future?

@A: To be honest, I cannot say something about the future in advance, because everything in this life is chaotic and it is very difficult to predict something in advance.

Of course, we plan to do a lot: record the next album, concerts, create a merch and much more. Everything will be seen in the future.





A Is there anyone out there that you'd like to take the time out to thank?

@A: Yes, we want to thank Chaos Control label, including Trevor Brown and Paul Garbutt for the opportunity to participate on vinyl in the coolest compilation "Noise Annoys #1". We want to thank everyone who supports us, thank all our listeners. We want to thank Lisa Gomez from the American radio station "Whatever68", the American radio station "Punk Rock Demonstration", the Australian radio station "Radio Filler 91.1 FM", thank Adam and the Polish radio station "Radio Underground", thank you to all

our new and old friends and colleagues, thank you to our Chilean guys from the band Bactery and all the labels who agreed to support us. We want to send a Huge Hello to all the people of the planet Earth, all the anarchists, anti-fascists, punks and our relatives.

Bandcamp

<https://confrontstage.bandcamp.com>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/ConfrontStage>

YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0tW5hC_RW_jq2812ZSH-YQ

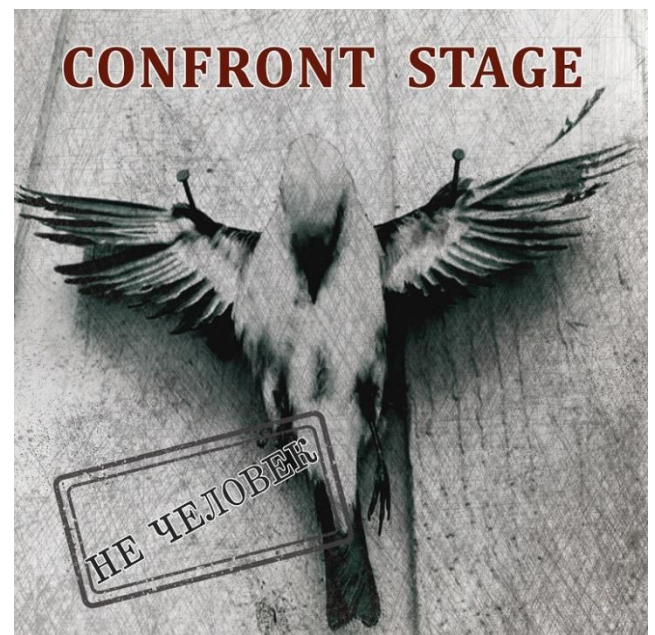
Instagram

[@confrontstage](https://www.instagram.com/confrontstage)

Others

<https://vk.com/confrontstage>

<https://www.realrocks.ru/confrontstage>





Mortal Terror feature on the quickly-sold first CD we done so Adda and Scalesy give us some answers to burning questions...

AB Tell us a bit about the band...

@S: Me & Duncan decided to start making some noise in about 1987. We asked Phil to play drums & got Phil Atkinson to play bass. Pug joined us as extra vocalist, & that's how it started.

AB Very little information about the band is available online, making the band somewhat of an enigma to those outside the 1980s/90s scene - why do you think that is?

@A: Prob just lazy sods, concentrating on the here and now.

AB Tell us about the line-up changes: how did things change for you and why they changed?

@A: It was a line-up change I came in for a short time but it was productive it all stayed the same for that final line up.

@S: Phil was shortly replaced on bass by Ritchie & Pug left. Musically we slowed down & became heavier. After we brought out our first split LP with Generic. Duncan called it a day & was replaced by Adda.

AB Did you tour extensively around the UK or was it primarily in the North East? and reasons?

@A: I'd get to play a few here and there most memorable was the crescents in Hulme gigs in squats.

@S: Apart from a short Scottish tour (Glasgow, Aberdeen & Dundee) & gigs in Haverford West, Huddersfield & Hulme we never really left the North East. The main reason was no vehicle & lack of cash probably.

AB What memories do you have of playing the Riverside Club in Newcastle?

@A: Only played there once in Spirit of Adventure, was great place never really replaced.

@S: It was great fun & sometimes mental! We used to get a good reaction.

AB **Has there ever been any interest in having your split albums re-released in vinyl format at all?**

@A: Not that I know of but this wee project is great.

@S: Not as far as I know.

AB **What bands did the members eventually go on to join/form?**

@A: Myself I had a bit of a gap from bands started again in 2005 with Blagg, solo project Electro Punx, collab the Slops and the bands Battery Humans and now current Sanction This.

@S: For me: Critical Mess, Maggot Colony, Incendiary Device, Sawn Off, Afterbirth, T-34 & the Happy Spastics.

AB **Would you ever consider a reunion, as it seems to be the way at present for old bands to get back out there (Anti-System, Civilised Society? etc)**

@A: It has kind of been passed around would certainly be interesting.

@S: Nah! It wouldn't be practical.

AB **Do you think if a reunion to gig is out of the question, then maybe a reformation for studio-only work might be possible?**

@A: I think we're all mostly quite busy with other projects and spread out here and there.

@S: I can't see it happening.

AB **How would you like to be remembered as a band?**

@A: Part of a great era in music: mad, mental, something different even in those times, we certainly left our mark.

@S: Leg-ends in our own lunchtime :)

AB **Anyone to thank and any last words?**

@A: I'm always grateful to anyone that takes time out to anything I'm part of creating, folks that go to gigs or buy a bit of merch or just give a kind word. Cheers to you, Paul and Trev.

It's great That Mortal Terror are being refreshed to folks' minds. Was a great time the 80's. I've never been quite sure how the band ended - it just fizzed out. Keep on rocking as long as the world is free!

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/MortalTerrorUK>



Anarcho legends Anti-System have been out and about showing people what they do best. Varik brings us up to speed with what's going on...

AB What prompted you to reform in 2014?

@V: For a few years before I had to tried to coerce Mark (Keane) original bassist on No Laughing Matter album to re-form. He held back because of his connection wit my brother Mick (original vocals on No Laughing Matter). They had joined Anti-System before me. I had my own local band Morbid Humour, Strangely fronted by

Nogsy (Anti-System original singer). We had all been at the same school. Nogsy & Mick in the yea above, Deano (founder) the drummer asked me to join when he sacked Dom. We recorded No Laughing Matter and at that time we were activists and took to direct action.

After the album was released around the same time Mark (bass) and Mick (vox) were charged with damages costing a Bradford abattoir 10s of thousands of pounds. Thus, leaving us redundant for a period. I carried on writing, Mick & Keany had a fucking hard time being veggies in prison circa 1982-3. I have every respect for the two of them not giving names etc and taking the whole weight between them. I think this was why Mark was reluctant to reform and with his very close emotions to my brother (rightly-so) I asked again in 2014 and he said he would, although not driven by hardcore anymore. I salute his work on "What Price Is Freedom".

AB How has the "At What Price Is Freedom?" 12" done?

@V: Hmmm, not too sure on the figures but all I know is that they have sold out! I don't know if there has been another re-press? I think it was taken well, especially after Anti-



System not releasing something for over 30 years, new members and an overall not knowing if it's true enough to form. Getting this together for me was drawn out and over-complicated. I'm still very proud of it though and was great to record with Mark after all that time.

AB Are there any plans for a new studio album maybe?

@V: Yeah, personally I would have had a couple of new studio albums done. I've been seriously productive writing riffs & songs. The trouble is getting people who really want to do this! Hopefully next year may 'bear fruit'. Hopefully this year with Andy, Yaga and Ady, we can get on with

recording soon. The last year has been great with these guys!

AB You recorded your recent live album at Rocking Horse Studios in Durham - how did that come about and what made you choose the venue?

@V: The Durham City live album was Andy's idea. We had rehearsed there on our way to Scotland when Yaga and Ady joined. Andy knows the guys there and set it up. We were just gonna listen to it, but because the band had to reform again, with Dean and Keany leaving, we thought "why not release it?" as the studio album looked a long way off! It's raw and truthful, non-perfect, shouty & my

amp was on the way out! Recording nearly didn't happen due to me having a blowout 14 miles from Durham. Couldn't get any worse luck that day. Oh, apart from a puncture on the way home! Just another day in this cursed band.

AB What about re-recording any more old tracks or is the live album drawing a line under them?

@V: I'm open to re-recording more old tunes, but shit, I'd rather get some new stuff out first. It took way too long to three new songs together with the other members. That's why we used "Don't Worry" and "Wot No Meat?" on the At What Price Is

Freedom? 12". Everything takes ages when people have commitments like work and partners. It's not like when we were all hungry and angry, although I still am, haha.

AB You've stated in previous interviews that the UK scene is not that good when it comes to the treatment of bands compared to Europe etc. How do you feel about that now?

@V: I personally love all gigs. I think it's great when you get food after travelling for hours. It helps all round. I've been fed at English festivals and gigs and abroad. I've done gigs abroad and ended up hungry. All I know is



you're likely to do better as an old codger band if there's an ever-glowing kettle, booze for those who do and a few vegan snacks never hurt no-one (or thing).

A**B** **The band has had a considerable line-up change in the past year or so. Can you tell us more about that?**

@V: On the line-up change, all I know is Dean left, Mark had had some personal hardships that I understand. I didn't want to cancel the gigs that the lovely Scottish crew had been so good to set up for us. Andy suggested Yaga and Ady - the rest as they say... not as purists may like but the band continues.

A**B** **Over the years, there has been a shift in public attitude towards vegetarianism/veganism - how do you think that can be improved upon? Do you see it as another gimmick by the companies to extract more money out of us or does it make a real difference and add choices that were otherwise unavailable back in the day?**

@V: Any step towards animal liberation is progressive? Hopfeully in my opinion, even the most steadfast meat heads should be aware of the shocking reality of fucking up the air we breathe, even the steadfast deniers are in a new era where

ignorance can't continue. What gets me is how the fuck humanity is tediously slow at change. Dumbed by reality TV, brands and all sorts of pointless consumerism, most people reading this may give a shit, but the population as a whole blindly continue to want more pointless destructive things and just keep living their lives regardless.

A**B** **What are your opinions about organised festivals such as Rebellion and the 'Calling' series? Do you feel that they reflect what is going on in the scene or just another money-making exercise?**

@V: the best fest I've played before this year was Common Ground. I enjoyed it and we saw some great bands. This year, we played Obscene Extreme, Ultra Chaos Punks Picnic in Poland. Great times, people and experience. I personally love DIY festivals. I loved the 'Olden Day festivals'. I stopped going when the travellers suffered Maggie's bully-boys back in the day. I stopped going as fences and tickets and inflated prices, so was good to be playing DIY fests again. After such a long time, I've played Rebellion twice with Anti-System reformed. It's a double-edged answer. I think anywhere a punk band can play, that's not racist, may give



bands a chance is a good thing - anything to keep the scene strong is my opinion as long as it's not overtaken by bands with agendas.

AB How do you feel about Brexit and the impact it will have on touring bands?

@V: Brexshit? Ady and Yaga are moving to Poland. The plan is to be able to go spend time over there, getting new material together. They will be coming back to Scarborough as Ady's mum & family are here. We're quite lucky as work well together and want similar things. Recording/touring wise, we're working on using rough

recordings to write new material, although Ady and myself are Luddites in this field.

Brexit, I feel, is a step backwards from my point of view. I'm no specialist on history or economics. I don't know our European Friends are more accepted and trade with other nations etc. as got to be easier with no borders. Unfortunately, politics and borders are a blight on humanity - it all stinks!

AB Most recently, the Atherstone Hunt have stated that they will no longer operate this year and into 2020. How do you feel about that? Do you think it's true or perhaps

some sort of decoy sent out to hunt sabs/monitors?

@V: I'm hoping more people are saying No to their villages, pets and such being abused by self-righteous hunt types, outdated toff attitudes are wearing thin with more people realising the barbaric pointless needless hunt and wouldn't believe it.

AB In support of the Hunt Monitors, you recently (well sort of recently) auctioned off a vinyl Test Press - how much did that make?

@V: I really have no idea how much the copy raised for the hunt sabs benefit, but I do know every bit of support is needed. The monitors continually need support and money



"My advice for carrying on the message to new ears is to carry on what they're doing because believe me, a hole appears in your soul if forced to stop."

to keep people in the field, doing their best for our wildlife and countryside. The monitors are the 'salt of the earth' to me. Brave, beautiful and make all the difference - only total love and respect.

AB Are there any other benefit gigs you feel you'd want to support in the current climate?

@V: Personally, I think I can say that the chance of Anti-System being involved in the active direct action, sabbing, monitoring will in whatever form be supported by us and help given. I personally have arthritis and just doing gigs is hard work, so can't run etc so the band is a way for me to not get frustrated. I can, where possible, help with transport as I own the band van. Spreading the message is the main way. through our songs and early actions. We hope we have helped in our own little way.

AB What are your thoughts on Extinction Rebellion?

@V: Veganism is the priority way to help stop climate disaster. Yes, more people are taking it as a way of life. Those that don't need to hurry the fuck up! I'm sure even the most selfish know this but only regards their number 1 priority "Themselves".

AB Is there any advice you'd want to impart on those bands who are

currently active in the support of animal rights?

@V: Yes, my advice for carrying on the message to new ears is to carry on what they're doing because believe me, a hole appears in your soul if forced to stop, as in my scenario, it's always relevant and slowly we work until every experimentation centre are confined to history books.

AB Is there anyone out there that you'd like to take the time out to thank?

@V: Yes, I would like to thank everybody who cares about the band and have taken part and helped it carry on. All past members, Gary Kavanagh - initial spiritual and mental help when I was homeless. All folks home & abroad who have given us a chance to play in some of the best squats, fed us and helped all round. To the folk who take time to talk and share stories, info etc. All out in the fields, monitors, sabs. Protest and general non-conformists and special thank you to Rory. A general hats-off to punks and rebels!

Bandcamp

<https://anti-systemofficial.bandcamp.com>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/vazezarse>

another way is possible!



The Anarchist Communist Group

AB When did you form, what were the circumstances surrounding the formation and how many of you (approx) are there?

@ACG: In February 2018, anarchist communist militants met in Leicester and founded a new organisation, the Anarchist Communist Group (ACG). Most, but not all of us, had been members of the Anarchist Federation (AF). The decision to leave was difficult as many of us had been in the Federation for a considerable time. Some of us had started to become disillusioned about the direction the Federation was taking, which we felt was too orientated towards the existing anarchist scene. But the aftermath of the incident at the 2017 Anarchist Bookfair and the subsequent attack on the Bookfair organisers by people within the AF meant that we were unable to stay in such a hostile environment. In February 2018 there were around a

dozen militants and now we are a little under 50.

AB What actions have you supported as a group?

@ACG: We have been active in the struggle against the imposition of Universal Benefit; the struggle against gentrification in East London; against fracking in the South East; in solidarity with Iranian workers persecuted for organising; opposing Tommy Robinson on the streets and numerous other struggles. We have also supported the climate strike, local housing issues, and helped organise the Bradford anarchist Bookfair. We keep busy.

AB How do you see the current state of UK influencing the far right to organise and what can we do to stop that?

@ACG: The right has been made confident by the weakness of the working class and the drift to the right of the Tory Party and its external faction – UKIP and the Brexit Party. This has given confidence to street movements such as the so-called Football Lads Alliance and groups like Britain First. Obviously, we need to defend ourselves against these groups and to physically mobilise against them. But we are also critical of any anti-fascism that is not explicitly anti-



capitalist and, indeed, fighting for a libertarian communist perspective. Fascism is something which emerges when capitalism is in trouble and whether it comes to power is more to do with whether the established capitalist parties can control the situation or think a 'fascist' solution is required. So, we need to be against both sides of the coin – 'democracy' and fascism and for something – social revolution. It means building a revolutionary alternative, and we are part of that.

AB How can someone joining the ACG - what's the procedure?

@ACG: Most people either email us or come along to a public meeting in the first instance. We make it clear that we are a specific political group with membership. People are obviously expected to agree with the Aims and Principles We require prospective members to be committed to involving themselves in the activity of the Group, locally and beyond. If someone applies to join, we meet

them and discuss membership and what it involves and if there's a mutual agreement they join as a provisional member.

We are not interested in recruiting for the sake of growth. We accept that we are likely to remain a relatively small organisation whilst the wider working class is not fighting for its own interests on a wider scale than

now. We aren't interested in recruiting people based on a vague sympathy for anarchism or communism or whatever. We want people to know what they are joining and why! To do anything else is building on a less than firm foundation.



AB Have there been any major successes that you've had you'd care to share?

@ACG: We think establishing a group that has been able to regularly issue a bulletin, Jackdaw, a theoretical journal, Virus, and a pamphlet series within less than two years has been a success. We are producing a series of ongoing Podcasts. We have established groups in London, Leicester, Exeter, West Yorkshire, Surrey, Central Scotland and elsewhere. We have been involved in campaigns that have seen some small victories and we are becoming more deeply engaged with others. It's early days!

AB What words of advice do you have for those out there in the front line?

@ACG: We think people should be open with their politics, wherever they can be. We are anarchist communists, social revolutionaries. But it isn't through words alone that we will make progress, but rather through our consistent activity and through our openness and honesty with people. We should be listening to people. What is actually happening in our neighbourhoods, in our workplaces, in the places where we meet people who aren't presently politically committed? We need to be

Anger Vurninable to listen to people who might have all kinds of political opinions, some of which we might seriously disagree with. And we must challenge these opinions without just attacking people for holding them! If we don't think people can change, that people who hold racist, sexist, transphobic ideas can ever change then we should admit that revolutionary social change is impossible. We don't think it is impossible, because we think that people can and do change.

AB What words of advice do you have for those out there in the front line?

@ACG: Take a read of our publications, consider where you disagree and where you agree and if you have questions, feel free to ask! If you feel our politics and our approach reflect yours, consider joining.

Useful Links

<https://www.facebook.com/wyacg>

<https://www.facebook.com/Glasgow-Anarchist-Communist-Group-212568946340758>

<https://www.anarchistcommunism.org>



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