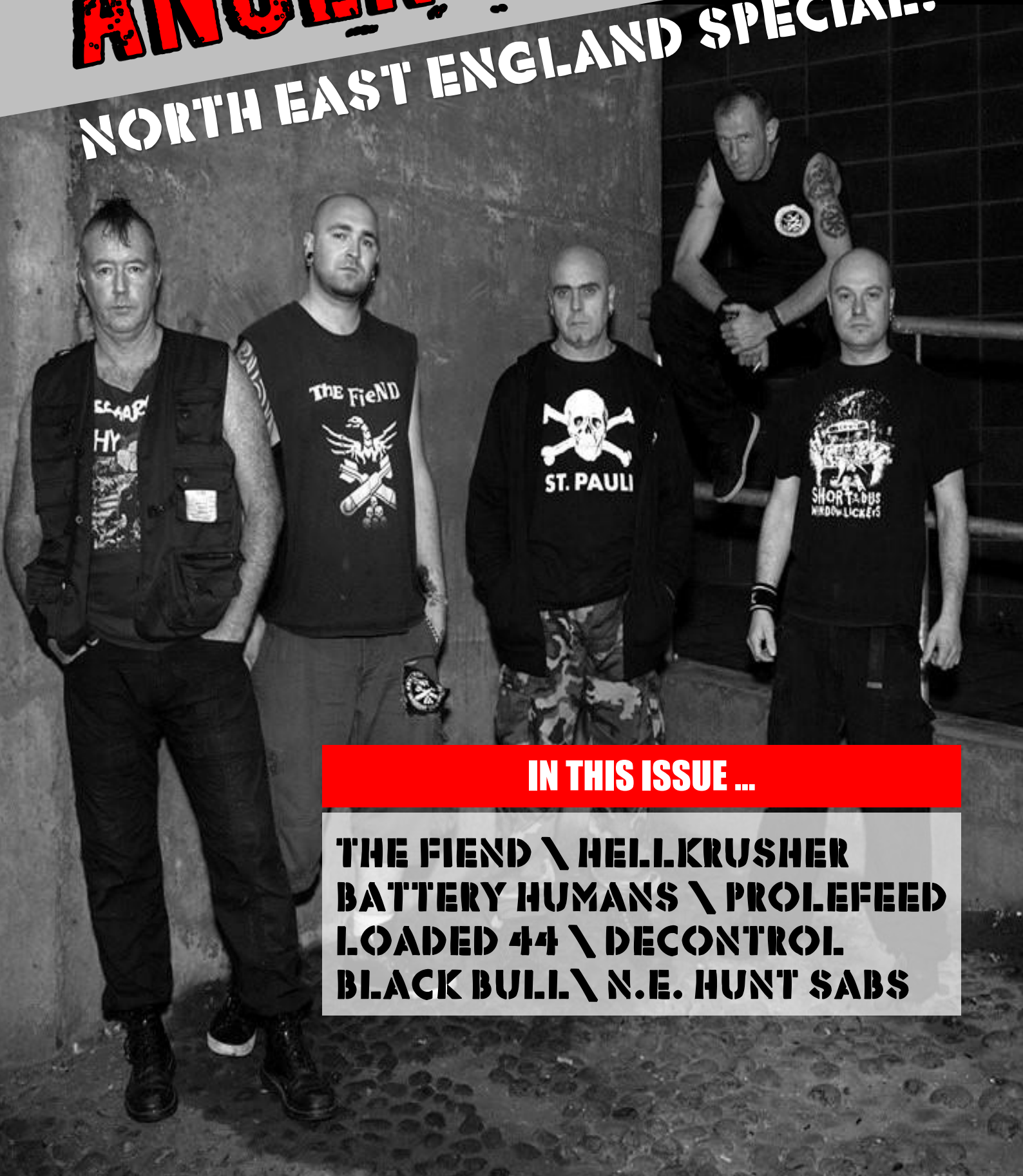
ISSUE 01

ANGER BURNING

NORTH EAST ENGLAND SPECIAL!



IN THIS ISSUE ...

THE FIEND \ HELLKRUSHER
BATTERY HUMANS \ PROLEFEED
LOADED 44 \ DECONTROL
BLACK BULL \ N.E. HUNT SABS

INSIDE I FEEL ANGER BURN...

AS A FRESH-FACED ATTENDEE AT 'THE STATION CLUB AT THE RIVERSIDE', NEWCASTLE, BACK IN THE LATE EIGHTIES, I WAS UNAWARE, AS A THRASH-METAL HEAD AT THE TIME, OF THE WHOLE PUNK SCENE, ESPECIALLY THE LOCAL SCENE.

DURING THE INTERMISSIONS BETWEEN THE MANY BANDS THAT PLAYED EACH SUNDAY EVENING, I WAS OFTEN ACCOSTED BY THE TOURING BAND MEMBERS OR LOCAL SCENE ENTHUSIASTS TO PURCHASE THE ODD RECORD OR FANZINE.

IT WAS THESE CRUDELY-COPIED-AND-ASSEMBLED PRODUCTS THAT SWITCHED ME ON TO WHAT WAS HAPPENING AROUND THE COUNTRY AND INDEED AROUND THE WORLD. I FIRST HEARD ABOUT L'A'RM THROUGH A ZINE I PROBABLY PAID ABOUT 20 PENCE FOR. I RATED THOSE MAGAZINES WAY OVER ANYTHING THAT KERRANG OR METAL HAMMER COULD MUSTER.

IT WAS THIS EFFORT TO DISSEMINATE NEWS AND INTERVIEWS THAT HAS MADE ME TAKE A LOOK AT THE FORMAT AGAIN. THIS TIME TO CREATE FOR THE DIGITAL WORLD AND MAYBE FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO PRINT OUT AND READ IN THE OLD-SCHOOL WAY.

SO - FOR ALL THOSE BANDS WHO TOOK THE TIME TO INTEREST ME IN THOSE SEVEN-INCH VINYL WONDERS AND FOR THE ZINE WRITERS WHO MADE EVERY EFFORT TO CREATE SOMETHING THAT WAS READABLE OVER AND OVER AGAIN, I TAKE THE TIME NOW TO THANK YOU FOR FANNING THE FIRE OF PUNK WITHIN ME. IN PARTICULAR, HAGL (HAVE A GOOD LAUGH) AND PUNK SHOCKER. TREV AND ANDY - YOU ARE LEGENDS!

FINALLY, A BIG THANK-YOU TO THE PEOPLE WHO TOOK THE TIME AND EFFORT TO RESPOND TO MY QUESTIONS. WITHOUT YOU, 'ANGER BURNING' WOULD BE PRETTY THIN INDEED!

THIS FANZINE IS EVEN CHEAPER THAN THOSE CLASSIC ONES I READ BACK THEN. IT'S FREE AND ALWAYS WILL BE! I'LL HEREBY GRANT PERMISSION TO ANYONE WANTING TO PRINT AND SELL THEM, AS LONG AS THE PROFITS GO TOWARDS HUNT SABS BENEFITS.

ENJOY!

PAUL, APRIL 2015.

WANT TO SAY WHAT YOU THINK OF THIS ZINE? GO TO OUR FACEBOOK PAGE OVER AT:

HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/ANGERBURNINGFANZINE

NOISE ANNOYS!

Say it ain't so! Yes, unfortunately it is. Just as they get their big break of a proposed Euro tour with Oi Polloi, Blyth noise merchants Battery Humans are no more. Fear not, for their guitarist, Nick, gives us hope for the future.

AB Tell us a bit about the band...

@N We were formed in April 2012. We have all been in bands separately /together for years. Just seemed the natural thing to do. We all love this type of music and thoroughly enjoy playing it. We've got 1 Ep, 2 tracks on a compilation 7inch vinyl and a Live CD out.

AB How would you describe your music to someone who'd never seen you guys play?

@N Ferocious, Brutal, Weird, Intense, Loud, Quiet, Fast, Slow, Relentless Hardcore Punk Rock!

AB You've taken your band name from an Amebix song (I assume) and they have been cited as an influence. To what degree, do you think?

@N Definitely an influence on me (Nick - Guitar). I loved everything they did. Got that brotherhood/tribal thing down to a "T". That's one of the things I loved about them, the Brother thing. Adda (Bass) loves them.

AB There's a touch of Rudimentary Peni in your style. What do you think of that genre of 'Death Punk' they created, with its introspective /reflective stance?

@N Yep, PENI a real influence on me and my writing. I'm not sure what Death Punk is, but what they create stirs something in me! Big influence on my life also (along with Antisect and Amebix) I relate to Peni in a big way: the writing and drawing thing I am obsessed with!

AB Which local bands do you see on a regular basis?

@N Very few really. Last local band I saw (without being on the bill) was "Souls Of Jack Ketch" at Head Of Steam a while back with Adda. Great band by the way.

AB You're pretty darned angry on stage. What fuels the anger? Is it something specific or the general situation in the world?

@N It's different for all 3 of us. The usual crap you hear about, Government, Banks, War etc and a lot of stuff personal to us. I tend to get pissed off at negativity and people's reluctance to experience and enjoy life. I get fucked off at the ignorance people display and the lack of compassion for each other. Religion plays a big part in my makeup: a big, big evil in my eyes.

AB **What do you think of the scene in general at the moment? Could it be better?**

@N It's only really a few people who make the local scene. I can't really complain, cos I am not one for going to lots of gigs, and you can't expect others to do things and listen to what you preach, if you don't practise it. People like Ryan Price, Shev and Maz at The Black Bull and the hardcore (No pun intended!) few that regularly turn out and have carried the local scene. (The Prolefeed lot, The Fiend boys, Bob Noxious, Leasky and Melina, The Burnett Brothers etc) There are more, sorry!

AB **You're doing a lot of travelling around the country and now abroad. Do you see yourselves doing more gigs as time goes on? How much is too much?**

@N Well it's now old news that we have split up! We probably would have gone on to do a lot more gigs. The Oi Polloi Germany/Austria trip would have opened doors for us, I think. Also, we were being asked to do "bigger" gigs and festivals now. People were starting to ask us to play as opposed to us having to badger people for a gig!

AB **Have you ever had any issues with promoters or venues short-changing you in terms of money or time? Do you think that that bad behaviour like that could stifle the scene at all?**

@N There has been the odd occasion when bands have played well beyond their slot, and wouldn't come off stage. This ultimately affected the time left for the rest of the bands. Promoters are limited to what time gigs have to finish so if a band is "enjoying their 15 minutes of fame too much" then it's everyone after that who suffers. The punters also suffer if they have come to see a particular band and the band only plays 15 or 20 minutes or whatever. I don't think it will stifle the scene, I only think it will stop promoters booking a particular band if they don't play the game.

AB **You're pretty active on your Facebook page: trying to get us off our arses and doing something more**

positive instead. How's that working? Have you had much response?

@N I'm not sure how to take Facebook to be honest. I swore to myself that I wouldn't join but I did. A lot of it is piss (a lot of that piss is mine as well! Ha ha) I've done a few things off the back of it and joined a pro action group (only been away with them once but I fully intend to carry on "WHEN THE SEASON STARTS" if you know what I mean!) Everyone has their own lives to lead, their own responsibilities, etc, so I would guess they do what they feel comfortable with. Any little thing helps though, even if helps your own state of mind.

AB **What do you think of the online services such as Bandcamp, ReverbNation, Spotify and iTunes etc? Do you think they've lowered the barrier to getting published?**

@N It's a good thing in my eyes. Not sure about the publishing side of things, cos we've never had any offers ha ha. But it's obviously great for hearing bands and getting your stuff out there. There is something still nostalgic in reading about a band and ordering a tape or whatever and getting it through the post, but for ease then these sites are fine with me.

AB **On the subject of online services, what are your experiences of social media like Facebook and all that? Have they helped or hindered you?**

@N It helps a band definitely, but Farcebook has a lot of shite to sort through before you get to what you want or need. Like I said, I wasn't interested in it at first but I've seen how it can help. No need to phone someone or write a letter for a gig, or to buy a CD/Record/Tape/Download etc. It can hinder if you let it, I suppose, if you get bogged down in the rubbish and back biting and fighting and name calling.

AB **You like to support charities and benefits. Which ones have you done recently?**

@N The Helicopter service up near Crammond Island - we went up to Edinburgh to play a benefit for that. We did a couple of Hunt Sab benefits (Great people, Great cause) We played Morcambe to try and help Graham McRae and his recovery. Being in a band is about playing music and shouting your mouth off and pumping your Ego. The reality of life is about connecting with people and enjoying it (in my eyes anyway) I've said this at gigs and it may sound a bit childish but it's something that truly affects me - we don't live very long so try and make a difference. Get your head out of the sand, enjoy life, have a fuckin laugh while you're at it!

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

@N Shit! Loads. You for a start ha ha. For considering what we did worthy to be a part of this fanzine and being genuinely interested - thanks Paul. In no particular then, here we go. Ste Dux for being so enthusiastic about us and putting us up and feeding us. Oi Polloi for the very generous offer. Robbie and all The Fiend lads. Prolefeed lads. Gerrard Byrne for being an absolute gem of a bloke. Eck Ruffneck from Livingstone for backing us all the way, getting us gigs and always thinking of us. Shev and Maz for all the gigs and great craic and pots of tea. Ryan Price for getting us gigs. Graham McRae for being a true fuckin trooper and still wanting gigs to happen even though he is ill. Fraz Rob. The Burnett Boys and Dicky. Bob Noxious. Leasky and Melina. Pixie and Scalezy. Subvision. Burning Flag. Rich McGlashan the punk farmer. Chris Cap Scott. Hellkrusher. Gary Richardson has helped us the most. He gave us a secure place to practise just next to where we live. Let us use his van FOR FREE, and generally was behind us 100% because he is a true friend. He didn't get anything from us, he just wanted us to do well. Very rare you can find people like that these days. There are a million more people I could thank and I'm sorry for missing you out! I have the utmost respect for anyone that 1. Helped us. 2. Helps themselves. 3. Helps others.

AB Nick leaves with some final thoughts:

@N Well, we were a band for a while, but now we ain't. We had a blast and met some truly fuckin' great people. But there are bigger things to consider really - each other. Take some time to help your mates if they need it, even if they don't!

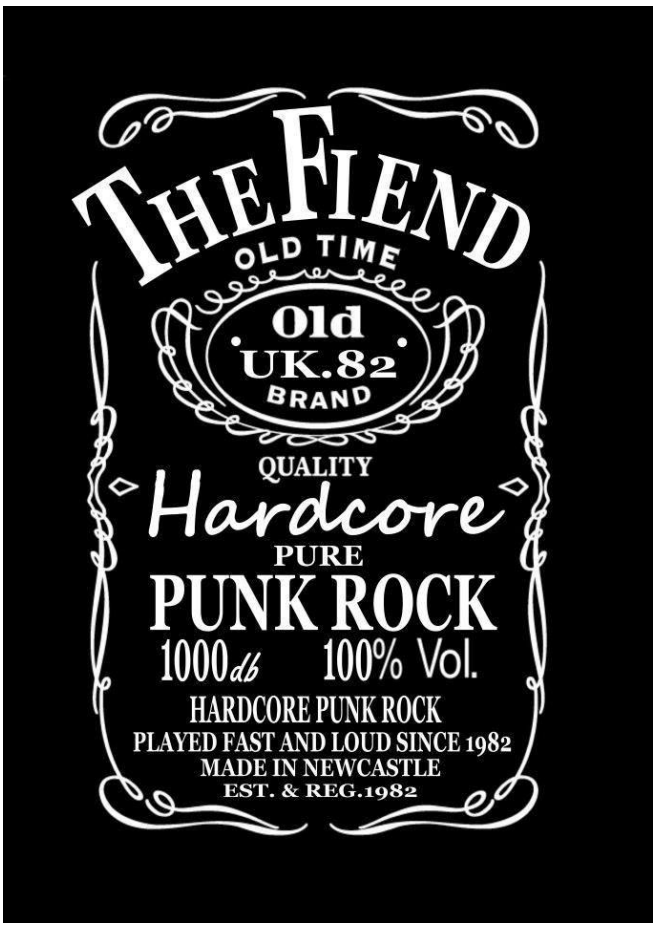
Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/batteryhumansuk

Bandcamp
http://batteryhumans.bandcamp.com

ReverbNation
http://www.reverbnation.com/BATTERYHUMANS

REMEMBER WHO WE ARE!

The Fiend have been around for what seems like forever. Part of the local scene and beyond since 1982, they are the stalwarts of hardcore punk. Guitarist and founding member Robby talks about the band, the road and the future...



AB Tell us a bit about the band...

@R We were formed in 1981/82. It was myself, my brother Rob, Kev and a drummer called Jakey. We were all from the Hebburn Lukes Lane estate. We've always done the same music. We've never really changed what we've done: from way back then, we were still a hardcore band. Compared to other bands around, we were always seemed to be outcasts in Newcastle. We had a good following, but we also had the people who didn't like us and they still don't like us [laughs].

AB How would you describe your music to someone who'd never seen you guys play?

@R It's proper hardcore isn't it? One fan likened us to a nail bomb in a crowded church [laughs]. That more or less sums it up, like.

AB Bri took over the vocal duties from Kev when you reformed. Why didn't Kev want to rejoin?

@R Kev was too busy and he hadn't fallen out with the band, but he had fallen out of love with the band. He didn't really want to do it. Plus, realistically, he couldn't have done it. A lot of people on tour mistake Bri for Kev, 'cause he looks more like Kev now than what Kev does! It's funny how we met Bri. We were looking for a singer and I saw an advert for a band called Revenance looking for a guitarist. So I e-mailed them, asking for the singer (Bri) to get in contact with me. He asks if I want to be the guitarist, but I said, "No, we're actually looking for a singer." Bri asked who the band was and I replied 'The Fiend'. He replied saying that he'd seen us before. I asked him if he wanted to do it, knowing what was expected from him and he said that he could do it. I met him at the Mecca

(South Shields), gave him a CD, let him hear it and then he went back home. I went to the next practice and told the lads that we had a new singer. They asked what he was like and I said "I don't know, I've never heard him." [laughs]. They said "What do you mean, you've never heard him?" I replied "He said he could do it and he seems confident enough." When he came down to rehearse he sounded exactly the same as Kev doing the early stuff. The rest is history now.

AB What do you think of the local scene, compared to the rest of the UK and Europe?

@R I think the English scene is really bitty. There's starting to become a bit of a divide between the punk and skinhead scene again. There's a few sub-scenes in the punk scene: the hardcore scene, the original punk scene and the bits in between. The scenes are mixing less and less. At one time you'd get punks going to all the punk gigs. I think now, the early punks are only going to the 77 - 80 gigs, bands of that era. The young 'uns are coming into the hardcore scene, but only to the hardcore scene. It's really split. We can do gigs in Newcastle with different bands and get different crowds in. It's really weird. There's so much going on. These big events like Rebellion don't always help us, 'cause everybody can see everyone they want to see in one weekend. I think it hits people in the pocket, but it also hits them for going to see the rest of the bands the rest of the year. If they've seen a band [at the likes of Rebellion], then they don't need to see them on their doorstep for £10 or £15, whatever.

AB What would you say is your primary focus lyrically?

@R It's about sticking up for people who can't stick up for themselves, for most of the stuff, like. It is quite political. It's saying things that people are scared to say. We don't care if we say it. That's why we're so aggressive, because everything we say, we mean. We're not one of those bands who say that we can't sing about a certain subject. We sing about what we believe in and hopefully people think are dear to them and can associate with. The last album 'The Brutal Truth', lyrically, was OK. The latest album 'Greed, Power, Religion, War' is lot better lyrically - they're a lot more modern.

AB Who writes them?

@R It goes around the band. I do a lot of the music, taking the songs in,

then we'll work on them. I do quite a few lyrics, but Bri and Gaz do them - Gaz is a great lyric writer. We will kick it about, literally.

AB You've been through a lot of members over the years. Is that due to the punishing touring schedules or sheer length of sets you play?

@R We've always been active and always been busy. The stuff we do, you've really got to want to do it, 'cause if you don't, it shows. If you go on stage half-hearted, it sticks out a mile that you're not interested in the band. It does get quite serious. It's a big schedule, a hard schedule; people need to be prepared to do it. If they can't then they won't last five minutes, you know? If you're gonna get hammered every night when you're on tour, you're finished. It has happened and members have ended up leaving.

AB Several of the members are in other bands - how does that work out, given your busy schedules?

@R At the moment there's only Dan [in Souls of Jack Ketch] and myself [helping with Decontrol]. With Dan, no problems as we rehearse at the same place. We've got a big chart so when we rehearse, he cannot (with Souls of Jack Ketch). Obviously we've signed a new record contract, so it's become a bit more serious and we're now in the throes of releasing a new album, two albums, so he's become a bit more serious about it. We've got to produce because we're with a record company and you've got make sure you do. They're going to be pushing you and you've got to be ready. We're still enjoying it, but it just a bit more serious. You got to knuckle down because in X amount of months you've got to be ready to record a new album. Before, we used to be a bit more slap-dash: write a new song here and there. Now, we tend to write and not rehearse the old songs until we're ready to tour and then we start rehearsing a few weeks before.

AB From all of the gigs you've played, who would you say was the band you were most proud to have performed with?

@R I don't know about the others, but it's Icons of Filth for me. I love them: good lads and a cracking band. I'm in contact with Stig's son. He's in a band - Grand Collapse - good stuff.

AB Last year you were signed up by Candlelight Records. How did that come about?

@R We were on Vile Records and we were getting distributed through Cargo. We were getting a load of complaints by people. For example. When we played Derby, where the record company based, and no-one could get

the records or our stuff in the shops! So we got in contact with Cargo and the record company. No one was distributing our stuff and we want to go elsewhere. We had to sort out a distribution deal with Plastichead. Unknown to us, Plastichead was owned by Steven Beatty, who owned Endangered Records who we were the first band to be signed to - our original record company. When we left the record company for the new album to do it by ourselves, we recorded it ourselves, paid for by ourselves and distributed through Plastichead. Steven got straight onto us and says "Why don't you cut the middle man out? Sign the contract and I'll do the lot. I'll do everything for you. I'll pay you for to record, I'll release the albums; I'll distribute them; I'll do everything for you and save you all the hassle." That's alright by us!

AB Your latest album 'Greed Power Religion War' has been getting some good reviews. Has that put any pressure on you to deliver your next album sooner than you thought?

@R That one and 'The Brutal truth' are actually going to come out on our new record company, Candlelight. You get into a bit of groove, writing, so we're writing all the time. We've got five or six songs written for the new album. They've gone on the back-burner, because we're on tour in May. So now we're rehearsing the old stuff to make sure we're ready for that. We're quite prolific writers, actually. After that last album, we've got some really good ideas for the next album, which will follow-up pretty quickly I think. Once the two albums are out, the record company will be quite keen to get the new album out quickly.

AB You're off to tour Europe in May. How are preparations for that going?

@R We've got a new van. Bri's done a great job of sorting that out. We've just got a driver to sort. Usually it's me and Gaz doing all the driving. I used to drive every morning as Gaz was usually still pissed [laughs]. If we had to drive to the hotel after the gig, I had to do that as well. This time we're taking a driver over with us. We've sorted the tour out so that instead of taking bigger money, we're taking less money to do smaller journeys. We've taken anywhere we can to play next to each other, rather than travelling 800KM for to do a gig to get an extra £400, we'd rather travel 100KM.

AB On occasions, turnout has been somewhat lacking. What are your thoughts on the current local scene?

@R It's still shocking, like. What I can't understand: if you look at Facebook, the first thing is I don't think the venues advertise the gigs

enough. They put a poster in the venue. The problem is, if you don't get many people coming to the venue; it's only them come to see the gig and they rely on word of mouth. The old adage of people advertising gigs has gone out the window completely. We've been down Bradford, done the gig and never seen one poster advertising the gig! Even in the venue! The bigger promoters will get 2000 flyers and fly post everywhere, but for most venues it's enough to put a poster up in the venue itself and leave it. Turnouts have been abysmal.

But you get the same thing on Facebook and then there's complaints about a bad turn out. To get a turnout you need to get a decent band. Problem is, people won't spend their hard-earned cash any more to go and see bands that are sub-standard. It becomes a lot easier to say "I'll catch them next time". It becomes far too easy to do that. How many people have missed Icons of Filth the first time around? Not the ones who weren't old enough but the ones who were old enough and said "Nah, I can't be bothered, I'll give them a miss" and then miss them altogether. Then they split up and then they're gone!

AB In terms of longevity, you're up there with Angelic Upstarts. What's the secret of keeping a band together for such a long time?

@R If you play in the punk scene, there's always loads to do and write about, because there's always something going on. The main thing with the punk scene is you need to enjoy it. It's about enjoying it. You're not going to make a load of money. You need to get on with people. People are fantastic in the scene. If you don't enjoy it, you won't do it. If you're doing it for a living, then that's different altogether. If you're doing it for fun, for a hobby, you need to enjoy it. You'll get that buzz. It is hard work. It is like a full-time job for us at the moment. The touring and e-mailing people constantly. I must have sent at least 200 e-mails off in the last four weeks, trying to sort the rest of this tour out. The dates where we can and cannot go and all that. At the end of the day, you do it 'cause you want to do it.

AB What do you think of online services such as Bandcamp, Reverbnation, Spotify and iTunes etc? Do you think they've lowered the barrier to getting published?

@R The thing is with Spotify, we get about 0.01 pence per play. Now, if that had have been on Amazon, we'd probably be getting £1000 per month in sales.

The record industry's changed completely. It's done a full circle, where I think now bands release albums to promote a tour, whereas before they done a tour to promote an album. Most of the bands are making money off the tour not off the records, because it's so easy for someone else to get your records to download them and reproduce it. The worst thing that ever happened was the introduction of the CD. For the simple fact that when Sony or whoever brought it out, they conned everybody that it was the best format, but what they didn't bank on was that someone could reproduce it so quickly and so perfectly. Before, there was always a bit of prestige about having your own album out, because very, very few bands released their own album. So a band that had an album out was signed to a record company, so you presume they're going to be half-decent. So - people go to the shop and look at an album cover and buy it on the strength of the cover. People will say they didn't, but it did happen, like. Whereas now, you download it. So every band, no matter how good or how bad, have a CD out. It's so easy now to produce a good CD and not be a decent band. I've seen loads of bands who have great CDs but have absolutely shit. When the CD come out, it's ruined it. People can go on any computer and download it for free. The last album - 'The Brutal Truth' was on a site and had 20,000 downloads in the first month and we got nothing. So we know 20,000 people have got our album.

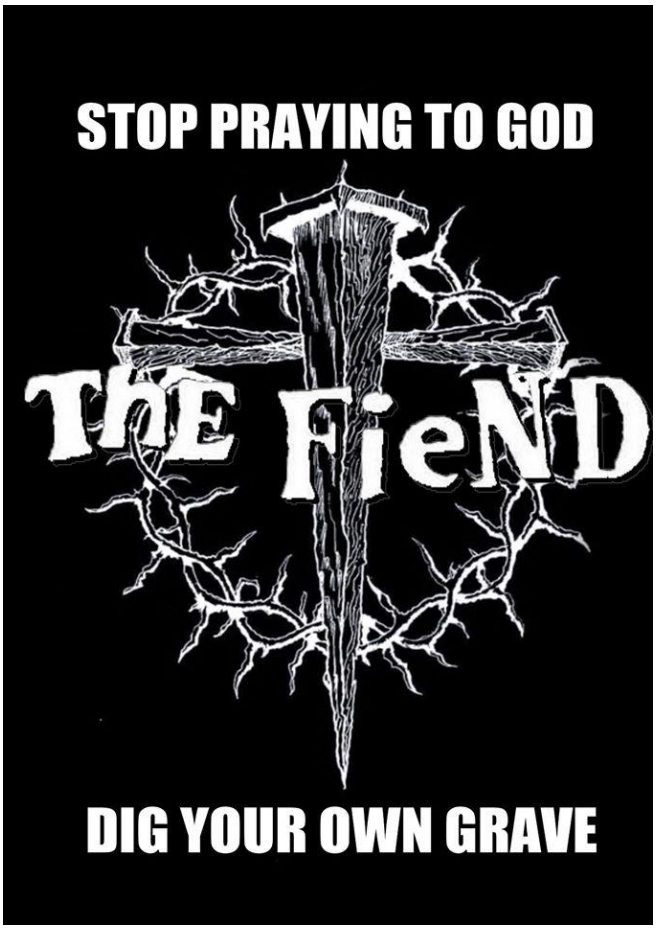
AB **I know I've done that - download an album, but when you find it online to buy, such as Discogs or wherever, I've ended buying the physical product as I liked what I heard, but couldn't get it at the time.**

@R Yeah, vinyl's coming back now as well. Vinyl is expensive though. CDs are really cheap. A band can go out and for a couple hundred quid go and record an album and distribute or release it for less than £1000 for 1000 CDs.

AB **On the subject of online services, what are your experiences of social media like Facebook and all that? Have they helped or hindered you?**

@R I used to like MySpace. MySpace was far better for bands than what Facebook is. On MySpace we have our tracks on there. We had 17,500 members who were regular listeners. We were getting 4500 plays per week, so everybody knew the songs. We were in contact with venues. The first tour we done was actually organised through MySpace. Facebook's got the same thing - people can contact you, request stuff or whatever - but I think with face

book you get 45 pictures a day of people taking pictures of their breakfast! [laughs]. A lot of the venues will just put a picture on Facebook. I've got just over 5000 friends on Facebook and I put a poster on there, I'm lucky if I hit 200 people. Of those 200, probably 150 live in America! We're talking about going to a gig, like!



AB anything else you'd like to say?

@R To anyone reading this zine - get out to the gigs you want to go to! Turn up! Even if you can't afford to spend £30 on drink, don't take £30. It's a night out - it's got to be better than sitting in the house. I'll go to gigs and if it £10 to get in and I've only got £11, I'll go with £11 and not have a drink. I'll go to see the band. The band are happy 'cause they'll get paid. Just turn up and make sure you support the scene, because it is getting smaller. There's not as many young people coming into the scene as there should be as they have other distractions. Make sure you support your local scene. Your local scene is where it's at. If you don't support your local scene, it dies out. Far too many bands now miss out Newcastle. Far too many bands don't even come here anymore because of that. I had a word with someone who said he wouldn't go to the Academy because the drinks were too expensive! Well, just don't buy the drink! He used to go to see the same bands at the City Hall and I said "how much were the drinks at the City Hall?" he said he didn't know and I replied, "Aye 'cause you were too young to buy any and you weren't bothered!" You went to see the band, you didn't buy a drink. The Academy lets 14 years olds in. It's the only place now that you can get the young kids into the scene for to see the band. If the kids don't go to the scene, they'll go elsewhere. They'll do something else. It's not about the venues, it's about the bands. If you like a band, go and pay the money to see the band. If you don't like the drink, don't drink it! Go to a cheaper pub nearby or something.

Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Fiend/127887277256798

MySpace

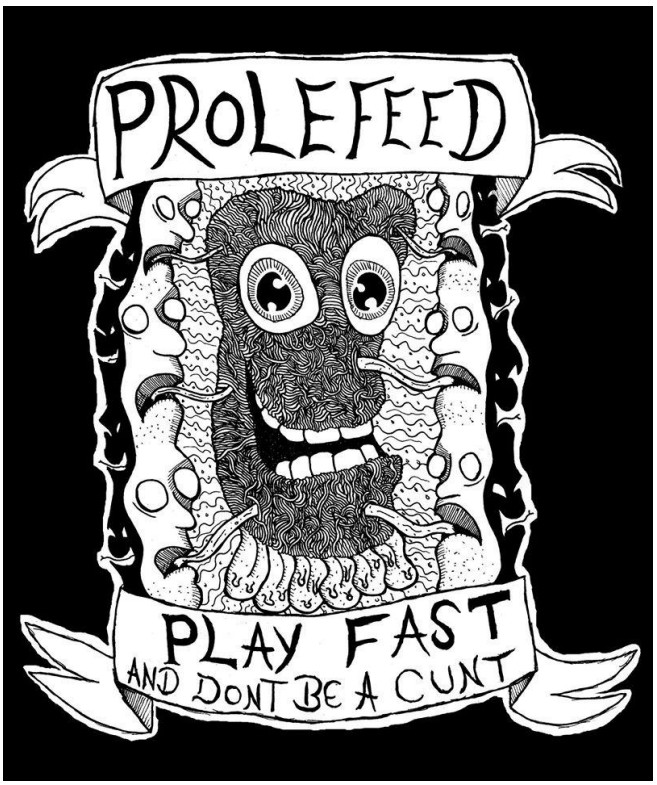
https://myspace.com/thefiendpunk

ReverbNation

http://www.reverbnation.com/thefiendpunk

CULT STATUS!

Prolific and profound, Prolefeed offer a barrage of short sharp bursts of angry hardcore that simply stuns the audience. We find out all about the process of bludgeoning the patrons with insights and knowledge...



AB Tell us a bit about the band...

@P We're all based in the North East living in Co Durham, Gateshead, Byker and Heaton. We formed in February 2012 from a discussion Dickie (vocals) and Rob (drums). The main concept for the band was to play fast short songs and most importantly a no cunts policy.

Ash (guitar) and Colin (guitar) were asked if they would like to be involved, both liked the idea and finally Dan was recruited on bass and we started practicing. We are all grafters, we put a lot of effort into the band, writing songs, practicing and gigging.

We have a strong work ethic, wanting to be on top of our game. All of us have known each other for in some cases over 20 years. We've all been involved in the punk/hardcore scene for a long time in various bands. Ash, Colin and Dickie were all in Sawn Off at some point together.

Rob has always been around and used to get lifts to the 1 in 12 back in the 90's when he was in his teens and in Orrin De Forrest. I could go on and list all the bands we've been in but its causing me a headache thinking of them all. So yeah, we've known each other a long time, Dan was relatively new to us when he started but he's not a cunt so is absolutely perfect not mentioning he is an extremely talented bass player. And a slightly less talented artist.

To date we have self-released a demo CD, a Bandcamp download only EP, a split 7" with our mates The Day Man Lost from Preston and have had a split tape with Indonesian band Heuristik released on an Indonesian label.

We are just about to send off a split LP to be pressed with our mates War All The Time. The LP is a multi-label release, hopefully back by June. But as with all things DIY things happen at their own pace.

AB How would you describe your music to someone who'd never seen you guys play?

@P We joked around when we started saying we played R-beat which has kind of stuck. That was in deference to the drum rolls and fills Rob throws into our songs. In reality we play crusty tinged hardcore, lots of drum fills with catchy bass runs, solid riffs and shouted vocals.

AB Your name is taken from Orwell's 1984. Is that a nod to how our society now has what Orwell predicted in his novel?

@P Colin named the band. It fits in with how we in the west get our entertainment/news/education. The art of conversation is dying out, social interaction is rare and the exchange of ideas with good honest face to face debate is sadly lacking from huge swathes of our society.

AB Your songs are quick, snappy and blend into each other to some degree when played live. Was that a planned strategy?

@P Yes most definitely. We want to play fast, not fuck about and we plan the set so that songs blend into each other either immediately or out of a wall of feedback. The perfect length for bands like us to play is 25 minutes or less.

Any more than that and its boring. Plus with set lengths like ours, more bands get to play on the bill. There's nothing worse than singers telling you what every song is about. If it's sung properly, you won't understand a fucking word anyway. This is one of our founding principles. Play fast and don't be a cunt.

AB There's a hint of Rudimentary Peni in your music. Were they an influence?

@P We're all definitely fans, but I wouldn't say we deliberately set out to emulate their sound. Although I can see where you get that from in a couple of songs and with Dan's artwork.

AB Dan's art has that eerie quality about it (and excellent btw). How much is used on Prolefeed's releases?

@P Dan does or has done up to now all our art work. He has a growing portfolio and reputation having drawn art for a number of labels and bands. Has a tendency to draw a lot of penises.

AB Who has been your favourite band that you've supported?

@P So many bands. I think LA band Bloody Phoenix is a highlight for me, we played with them in Preston in

2013. So fast and tight, I was grinning from ear to ear. All really nice guys but not able to take their chillies.

AB **You're actively supporting The North Tyne Hunt Sabs. Have you ever been out sabbing yourselves?**

@P By supporting, we played a couple of their benefits. Col and Ash have been out sabbing back in the day but not active today. All credit to those who do, protecting wildlife under difficult and threatening intimidation. Very brave people.

AB **What do you think of the scene in general at the moment? Could it be better?**

@P The scene is as good or as bad as it's ever been, I've been going to gigs, playing gigs for 25 years. People come and go, as do bands. People and bands come back after lengthy absences. As long as there are people getting off their backsides it's alive. It's been a big part of our lives for most of our lives. I love seeing people of all ages watching new and old bands. One thing that boils my piss, is some of the older crowd not prepared to give new younger bands a chance.

AB **You're pretty active on your Facebook page, trying to get us off our arses and doing something more positive instead. How's that working? Have you had much response?**

@P Really? Ha, well maybe. Sounds like the theme to why don't you! I suppose we all enjoy being in Prolefeed, we get so much out of it besides playing music. None of us are the sit at home types and the energy all 5 of us have for life is focused for 2 hours every Wednesday night in a room at First Avenue practice rooms in Heaton. If that's what you mean by being positive I suppose you're right.

AB **What do you think of the online services such as Bandcamp, Reverbnation, Spotify and iTunes etc? Do you think they've lowered the barrier to getting published?**

@P It's a way of getting your music out there to a bigger audience, but you still have to put the effort in. We're all slightly old fashioned, there's nothing like a slab of vinyl on the turntable. But you probably have to have the online presence to back you up. Personally, I get to hear a lot of new bands online first through music blogs such as Cut and Paste. I'm a fan of online services.

AB On the subject of online services, what are your experiences of social media like Facebook and all that? Have they helped or hindered you?

@P In Prolefeed we each have our opinions on social media some of us use it more than others. I think 15 years ago having something like this which you can promote gigs, stay in touch with like-minded people, hear about new music and ideas would have been amazing. It's been a part of people's lives now for a long time and it's not going away. We all use it, we all moan about it but couldn't do without it.

I doubt we would have had a split tape released in Indonesia without it. You wouldn't be getting the answers to this interview without it. We wouldn't hear about many gigs without it. Even those who say they hear about gigs from mates cos they don't do social media, you can bet their mates do.

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

@P Thanks to you Paul for asking us to contribute to your fanzine. I'm sure you'll get a great reception. We practice at First Avenue, in Heaton, who are awesome. The tightknit DIY scene is always worthy of thanks, people who come to see us play and make it worthwhile being in a band. People who aren't cunts always get the thumbs up.

Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/prolefeeduk

Bandcamp
http://prolefeed.bandcamp.com

THE WAR MACHINE MARCHES ON!

Hellkrusher. The very name betrays their origins. D-Beat masters, Ali & Scotty have painted a bleak picture of a possible life to be, should we not be strong, and the trauma of war for over 20 years now. Scotty gives us a look at what the lads are up to now...

AB Tell us a bit about the band...

@S Hellkrusher formed towards the end of 1989. Myself and Ali had both parted company with our previous bands Hellbastard and Energetic Krusher. Ali approached me with the idea of a new band and playing the sort of music we both longed to do: hardcore punk in the vein of Discharge/Varukers.

So, Hellkrusher was born. Local musicians were found in the shape of Davey Thorburn and Steve Wingrove and the line-up was complete. We had a second guitarist, Paul, though he only lasted a couple of gigs and was kicked out (literally). March '90 saw our live debut and was shortly followed by our first album Wasteland.

Two more albums were released: Buildings for the Rich and then Doomsday Hour. There have been countless line-up changes over the years - far too many to mention on here but the current and permanent line-up is Ali vocals, Curry drums, Rob bass, Scotty guitar. As well as the albums we have also released a string of EPs including Dying for Who, Fields of Blood, and split EPs with Preparation H, Disclose, Bulletridden and Deadly Reign. Our most recent release is the Recorded Works LP including the full studio recordings from 93/94.

AB How would you describe your music to someone who'd never seen you guys play?

@S Hellkrusher have their own sound: a unique sound all of our own. Basically it's punk if it's got to have a label, .but with metal tinges. Though I guess we get labelled as Crust or D-beat. Our sound/style is forever changing, due to line-up changes, but as long as it's fast and powerful we're not bothered. It's all punk to us at the end of the day.

AB **What would you say are your main influences?**

@S Musically, we're all influenced by different bands/music, but pretty much all into the same stuff. Bands that influenced myself and made me want to play in a band were Crass,, Discharge, Antisect, etc.

AB **What subjects do you tend to cover? Are there any specific subjects that are close to your hearts?**

@S We've covered many subjects over the years in our lyrics and we do try to vary them, but I'll be the first person to admit writing lyrics isn't our strongest of points. It's just a case of shouting out the point which is the way it should be. We've covered everything that affects us as individuals and in day-to-day life. Things that we feel strongly about, especially the injustices that are going on in the world today more than ever.

AB **You've been through a few personnel changes over the years, but the current line-up has been around for some time now. What do you attribute the stability to?**

@S Yeah, we've managed to keep the nucleus of this line up together for a good few years now thankfully. We're all mates at the end of the day though it took a bit of getting together when we started off again but when we started playing again it all fell into place. We've had some great musicians in Hellkrusher and some not so good, but they all played their part and for that we're thankful.

AB **You 'reformed' for Scumfest back in 2007. How did that come about? How did people react to seeing you back on the stage after a six-year absence?**

@S Basically the Scumfest Collective approached Scoot, our old guitarist, with the idea of playing a one-off gig

at the Scumfest Festival down London with Avskum. It was on Scoot's birthday as well, so after a little persuasion it was just too hard to turn down, so we decided to do it as a one-off after our six year hiatus.

After the first practice it all came flooding back and it sounded better than ever, like we'd never been away. Another rehearsal and we were ready. The gig itself was amazing and the crowd reaction we got was something else: possibly the best we'd ever had at a gig so we have some great memories from that day.

Seeing Avskum as well and a lot of old faces which gave us the inspiration to carry on as a band.

AB **What do you think about the local scene? It appears to be growing again with new bands springing up or reforming to play once again.**

@S Yeah, the local scene seems to be pretty healthy again after the stagnant years, when we were putting gigs on week after week and no one would turn up, so it's nice to see new and old faces being involved again. We're lucky enough to have a few decent venues and some good DIY promoters/people working hard at keeping things going in the North East, which is great to see, so long may it continue.

There's some great new bands coming out of the North East as well with the likes of Prolefeed, Battery Humans, Winds of Genocide and of course the reformed Decontrol.

AB **You were formed from Hellbastard and Energetic Krusher. How you get on with your ex-band mates now?**

@S On my part, there was no ill feeling when I left Hellbastard. I couldn't do it anymore so I moved on, but I have nothing but good memories of my time in the band and if it hadn't of been for Hellbastard then Hellkrusher would not have existed in the first place. I very rarely see my old band mates to be honest but when I do we get on fine.

AB **Was there ever a time when we might have been interviewing 'Energetic Bastard' instead of Hellkrusher?**

@S It has been suggested on numerous occasions why we didn't choose Energetic Bastard amongst other names, but no, it was always gonna be Hellkrusher and for the record was Ali's choice of name.

AB **You've supported some big-named bands in the past and continue to do so today. Who would you say are you most proud to have played a gig with?**

@S Yes, we've been very lucky to support some great bands over the years with the likes of Agnostic Front, Concrete Sox, Antisect, Discharge, Doom, GBH, etc but for me the 75 shared gigs we did with DIRT are for me personally my proudest. We ate, slept, laughed and argued through some great gigs and tours that we'll never forget.

AB **In terms of gigging, you're very much 'organic' at the moment, performing in the North East and London where you and Ali are based. Are there any other upcoming gigs for those not able to make either of those areas? Any sign of new Euro tours maybe?**

@S Hellkrusher is really hard work to manage now as we all have families and responsibilities not to mention the logistics of Ali living down London. Arranging gigs, getting to gigs, rehearsals it's not like the old days when we dropped everything and just did it. So consequently we can't do as many gigs or tour as much as we would like. When we got back together we said we'd do what we can when we can and if we can. As regards gigs and id rather have it that way than not at all. We get offered gigs and tours every week but we've turned down more than we've done to be honest. One reason being people expecting us to travel the length of the country and play for fuck all. We've been there and done that for years, but if someone isn't prepared to give us our expenses then we won't play and that's not about making money; that's not what were about. Traveling expenses plain and simple. We love doing gigs though and we know we should play more often but we don't wanna play Newcastle or

London every other week and start boring people. Yes, we have gigs in the pipeline for this year, but to avoid disappointment we like to advertise 'em when they're a dead cert to avoid disappointment so watch this space.

AB **There's talk of a new album coming out. How has the song-writing process been? Have there been any obstacles?**

@S Yes, we've been planning our next album for nearly two years now getting new material together since the last recording, which again, is hard work with Ali not being there for the most part which just makes things harder. Hopefully, this is the year though and we've located and booked a local studio so looking forward to it.

AB **When can we expect to see the new album released?**

@S No release date as yet probably next year we don't even have a label as yet, but one is interested so shouldn't be a problem getting released.

AB **Your first two records - 'Wasteland' and 'Buildings For The Rich' - are pretty much collector's items now. Are there plans to re-release them again for new fans?**

@S We get asked this all the time and I see our releases going for crazy money on eBay and the likes. Nothing we can do about it, as the releases are long out of press and hard to come by just don't get ripped off. We do have some stuff left and is a lot cheaper from us than eBay. We were in discussions about reissuing the LPs, but I don't know where we stand on that now.

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

@S Thanks to you for the interview and a big thanks to all the Newcastle/ne lot for supporting us through the years and making Hellkrusher all the more worthwhile. Also thanks to everyone who has bought our releases/shirts - it all helps with funding our releases and continuing as a band - appreciated.

Cheers! See you at the bar!

Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/pages/Hellkrusher/150956601634337

Website
http://www.hellkrusher.co.uk

BULLSHITTERS!

The Doll At The Black Bull has risen quickly to become THE place to play, as well as offering an endless range of entertainment. We speak to Maz & Shev to find out all about life behind the bar.

AB When did you take over The Black Bull?

@BB August/September 2011.

AB How did that come about? Was the pub going to close down or was it simply that the business was put on the market?

@BB It was strange… The [Star Spangled] Chestwigs were reforming and we were looking for somewhere to play. We called in and found it was up for rent - next thing we know, we had it!!!

AB The Broken Doll was of course an iconic establishment and a sad day when it was demolished. Has the clientele from The Doll migrated over to the Black Bull in total, or do you have a mix of old and new regulars?

@BB A handful yes, but loadsa people who come along to see bands ask about the doll - some old faces have popped out of the woodwork I can tell you.

AB It's very quickly become the obvious choice of venues to play. How do you go about organizing bands to play? Do they come to you, or are you actively seeking out acts to venture up here to ply their trade?

@BB Swings and roundabouts - we started from scratch obviously - scratching around trying to find out how to get in touch with bands, avoiding bell-end promoters especially, then as the bands came here, word spread we looked after them, ,etc. Then bands tended to ring us, which is brilliant.

AB From looking at the videos you post on your Facebook page, it's pretty obvious that you're all having a great time there. Is Shev actually a house act that performs on a regular basis?

@BB Shev's a proper show off! He loves to mess around and interact with the customers,. He also gets on well with everyone and makes the

bands feel at home. Maz greets them, makes them scran, etc. Good little team. Also, Skydog (Staffie) loves a scratch off the bands as well.

AB **Tell us more about the recent aerial incident - that looked mad!**

@BB The aerial?? A cocky scouse mate of ours insisted he will fix our TV aerial. He used to do roofing. We tried a couple of different ladder points then decided on putting the ladder at the other end of the roof to the aerial cos it was safer to click into place. Then basically his arse went; froze on the roof. Hence calling the fire brigade who dutifully drove straight past!!

Eventually, they sent a huge cherry picker type million pound truck and hoisted him down. Hope my rates pay for it....

AB **There's been the odd incursion by Chavs in recent times. Are these few and far between? Has there been any instances where the nut-jobs have been asked to leave (or similar expression)?**

@BB Chavs? The Devil's Arsholes... They know this isn't a chav pub. They call in now and again but don't stay long. We aren't nasty or anything like that but a healthy dose of discharge or Rudimentary Peni on the jukebox tends to flush them out!

AB **You're more than just a venue. There's a lot more on offer: beer, dinners, quizzes, stop-overs for bands. Is there anything else that you offer that is termed 'added value services' that you think ought to be publicised?**

@BB We aren't just a venue. It's a shame at times, cos Monday/Tuesday nights are pretty quiet really, punks only tend to appear when there's bands on. Don't forget we are open 7 days a week. The cracks always great (jokes not drugs!) and we make the effort for people to relax and enjoy the Bull. It's got that kinda feel to it. Sunday dinners are brill mind! It's the kind of place that's sometimes called "a hidden gem".

AB **Have there ever been interesting 'riders' dictated by bands?**

@BB Riders? Haha. Had some stormers but I can't really tell you who the bands are... One band had a guest list- this is nothing out of the ordinary mind, 1 or 2 people on the guest list per member of band. One band had 23 on the list!!! They still wanted the same ridiculous fee though!!

AB **There's been the odd occasion where The Three Tuns has double-booked evenings with a competing 'big' band, potentially reducing takings as people are forced to choose which even**

to go to. Does that happen as much now?

@BB Double booking doesn't really happen so much now - the Tuns and us aren't enemies at all!! Please get this straight - both pubs book punk bands although the Tuns book loadsa of other shite. The odd date is going to overlap. We have the Abrasive Wheels booked May 2nd. The Tuns had the Test Tubes booked for another date but Peter Test Tube has insisted they play May 2nd!! Not the pub's fault so the 2 gigs are going ahead. No hard feelings, it's Peter's doing. Speaking of Peter - warning to pubs etc: the Test Tubes take beers from anywhere they find some! Private flat fridges included, so beware - greedy fuckers!! They stayed upstairs and took everything out of our fridge/freezer even after we fed and watered them all night. Speaking of Peter!! I had their fee in my pocket after one of their gigs. Peter insisted I pay them before bed... Ho hum... I was having a slash in the netties, when he appeared next to me asking for the money - I duly handed it to him and he just stood there while I pissed and counted it.

AB **You've also taken over The Old Fox in Felling (a favourite haunt of mine in the past, due its close vicinity to work) - how's that working out?**

@BB The fox! Square peg, round hole!! Didnt work and nearly finished us, I'm afraid - it's my old local as well!! The people want shot with shite.

AB **Given your experiences so far at The Black Bull (and Old Fox), would you recommend taking over a pub now to anyone out there?**

@BB I would recommend taking a pub over yes, but the days are gone when you open the doors and people flock in - that worked at the Doll, Farmers, etc, but not now. It's a 20-hour day and you don't get paid, but it's brilliant when it goes well and the customers have a great night - very worthwhile then.

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

@BB The thanks list is endless - our regulars who come down weeknights and regale us with stories (bore us, I mean!!) haha. All the bands who have played here and took the time to chat to us and say what a great place we have built - that means the world.

All the best - Shev and Maz.

Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/Mazshevblackbull

https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Doll-at-the-Black-Bull/158418457664904

Website

http://www.theblackbullvenue.co.uk

SAVING THE WORLD TODAY!

Punk rockers Loaded 44 have been around for ages now. Guitarist Dave unloads a ton of facts about his hard-working, hard-rocking band.

AB Tell us a bit about the band.

@D We originally formed in Chester le Street, County Durham in 1996. I missed out on getting in a Newcastle band called The Hangups, which actually featured our present drummer Nelly. So I got together with my cousin Ian Maddison (merch guy for The Dickies for the last 20 years) and we decided to write some songs together as well as doing a few oddball covers. Neil Hurst was our first drummer and John Temperley was our original bass player. John was actually our 2nd bass player really, we did have a guy from Byker Grove in for a short while and have had Danny from The Wildhearts playing guitar in 2004.

Here's a list of stuff we've released not including compilations etc:

Tell me if u wanna! - 5 track demo tape - 1997

One way out - 3 track single CD - 1999

Wanna see u around - 5 track cd - 2000

Live in Hartlepool - 9 track live cd - 2001

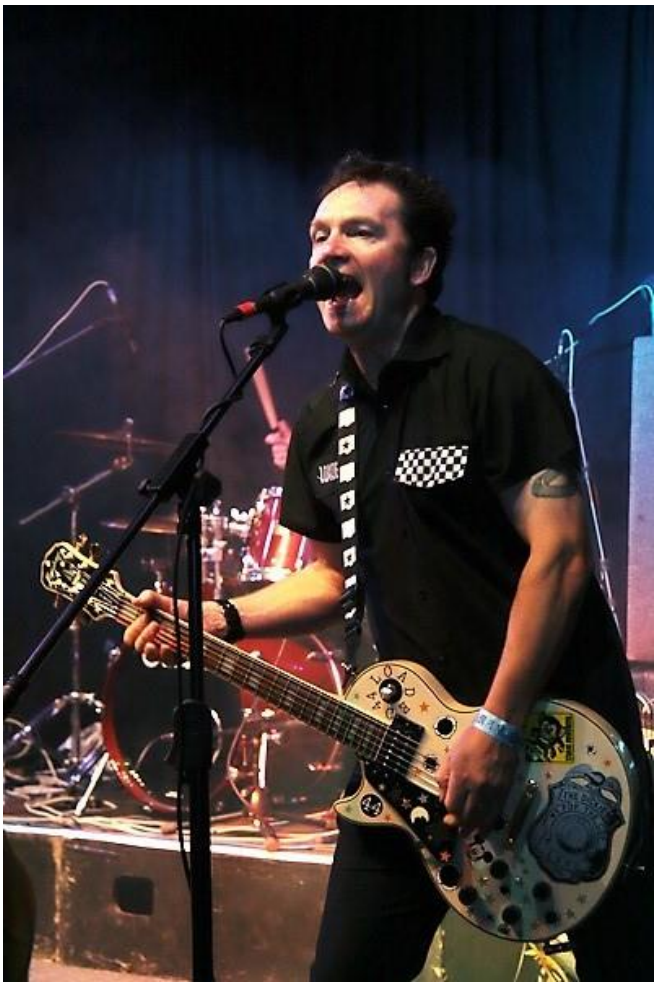
We saved the world - 7 track cd - 2007

Say Nothing - 8 track cd - 2008

Wasted on you - 14 track album - 2011 - STP Records

Breakdown - 3 track single cd - 2014

Come on - 11 track album - 2014 - STP Records



AB How would you describe your music to someone who'd never seen you guys play?

@D We often get compared to a cross between Blondie & The Ramones, which I think is fair.

AB You've played all over the North East and the likes of Rebellion and

further afield. Which crowd appreciates you more? Home or Away?

@D All of our crowds have been really great where ever we have played, highlights must be Rebellion, North East Calling 2014 & Dublin is always great too.

AB You seem to play a lot of festivals: how are they compared to the more intimate but perhaps more Loaded 44-oriented gigs?

@D Festivals are brilliant as u get to play in front of crowds that may not have seen u before and also in front of larger audiences. It is getting harder to play towns around England and be guaranteed an audience to play to. There are many promoters out there that want to earn big money without putting much effort into actually promoting gigs and paying a fair wage to the bands.

AB You've supported The Dickies when they've played in Newcastle on several occasions. Do you have any funny stories relating to Leonard or Stan?

@D To be honest Leonard & Stan have pretty much kept themselves to themselves when we have played with them, but I do have a story that Stan had told my cousin when he was working for them.

I believe The Dickies were attending an awards ceremony in LA one year and Billy Joe of Green Day walked past their table and Leonard shouts to him "excuse me, can I have coke with ice," obviously mistaking Billy Joe for a waiter. Stan then says "Leonard that is Billy Joe" and Leonard then said "Does that mean I don't get my coke?"

AB You seem to be a good fit when you've supported The Dickies and musically there is nod towards the more tuneful side that they have. Even though you've been compared to the Blondie and The Ramones, were the Dickies ever an influence on you?

@D I have liked the Dickies for years but haven't tried to emulate any of their material, however I come from a rock background and I think this could be why our styles are similar.

AB What are your thoughts on the current punk music scene? Has it got better or worse in recent years?

@D It is actually really hard at the moment to keep a band on the road. People only have a limited amount of cash and therefore can't attend every gig, every night. Therefore, we do appreciate it when people turn out when they do and we try to put on the same show if we are playing to 20 people or 500 people.

AB How often are you interviewed?

@D It seems like nobody locally is interviewed much if at all… We aren't really interviewed that often. We've done a few fanzines and a few radio station interviews.

AB There aren't that many local bands on a record label. How are things with STP?

@D STP Records have helped us since 2011 bring out our last 2 albums and had part in us getting on at Rebellion as well as giving us a few other gigs. The scene could do with more guys like Stu Taylor in it, he's not just about profit and has a good thing going. Saying that future releases will probably be self-funded.

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

@D I don't want to name anybody in particular as I would forget someone. I would just like to thank everyone that has had a part in what we do, including friends and family, other bands we've shared a stage with, promoters, photographers, staff at the venues and most of all everyone that comes to see us and buys the merch. It does mean a lot and hopefully you can keep us on the road till our 20th anniversary - October 2016.

[all photos courtesy Dave Brown]

Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/loaded44

ReverbNation
http://www.reverbnation.com/loaded44

Website
http://loaded44.weebly.com

CARRY ON SABBING!

The North East Hunt Sabs talk to us about their never-ending work...

AB How long have you been going as an association?

@NEHS We as a group have been going since 2014 albeit then a small group of 3 or 4 sabs and monitors, but due to a lot of personal differences and problems, the previous group separated and a new group was born North East Hunt Saboteurs. Since then we have grown as a formidable no nonsense group with more than 15 field sabs and growing all the time.

AB What is the state of the current hunting scene? To some people, the fox hunting ban was the end of hunting as far as they could see. That obviously was not the case.

@NEHS Well as you have guessed the hunts in the North east continue to hunt wildlife illegally claiming to trail hunt which is a false scented trail for the hound pack to follow, but still attract the presence of terrier men on quad bikes, with dogs and spades. You don't need these people on a hunt if you're trail hunting within the law. Since the Tyneside Hunt Saboteurs disbanded in the 90's these hunts have gone unchecked and unsabbed for years until now and since our group made a stand at the Haydon Hunt at Housesteads Roman fort and The Braes of Derwent meet in Lanchester on boxing day earlier this season the local hunts are in uproar at our presence in the North East, Cumbria and North Yorkshire.

AB Have you seen increased hunting activity?

@NEHS we have seen an increase of hunt activity, most hunts ride out on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and if that's not enough join up with other hunts for joint meets across the north.

AB During that time, are there any persistent offenders? Feel free to name and shame!

@NEHS Yes there are persistant offenders, The Braes of Derwent Hunt, The South Durham Hunt, The Cleveland Hunt, The Haydon Hunt, The Tynedale, The Percy, The Zetland, The Hurworth, The Stinnington,.. The list goes on.. We had a tip off that the Braes had killed 4 foxes in the Consett area early in the season and the South Durham had used 2 bagged foxes just

for the purpose of a photo shoot for Horse and Hound magazine. All done for pure pleasure and blood lust, no other reason.

AB **What is a typical day in the life of a hunt sab when out in the field?**

@NEHS A typical day for a Hunt Sab out in the field can be successful, tiring or frustrating. We go out early on a morning and try and find an agreed hunt or if we have a tip off we will hit that hunt.

If not we can use other means to track them down, however sometimes you can be driving about all day and not find them, but these occasions are rare.

We always run into something. We try and get to the meet initially and show a presence, that way the hunt are automatically on their guard and need to be careful by law not to illegal hunt as we film them from the outset.

Other sabs can be sent to an area where we assume the riders will take the hounds so to throw them off any trail of a fox. Various methods are used for this to deter the hounds off a scent…, From voice calls, horn calls, whip cracks and citronella spray to the newer 'Gizmo' a loud hailer with SD card attached with 'hounds in cry' mp3 on it.. That can distract any hound pack and is highly successful in getting the pack over towards sabs so that we can run them away from any wildlife chase.

AB **You have regular benefit gigs at The Black Bull. How are they received? Are they well-supported?**

@NEHS When we are not Hunt Sabbing we need to raise money for various things for the group and can be a very expensive do, i.e. binoculars, cameras, fuel, vehicle repairs, batteries, walkie talkies, maps etc, etc. We hold regular gigs at the Black Bull in Gateshead which have been wonderfully attended and supported.

There are some great people out there in the scene, even if not out in the field sabbing are helping out other ways and they are very much appreciated.

AB **Is there anything that can be done to raise awareness of the cause for hunt-sabbing?**

@NEHS Yes a lot can be done to raise awareness about sabbing. Social media is the most obvious, leafletting, word of mouth fundraising events, etc, the list goes on.

AB **In your opinion, do 'normal' people (ha!) think that hunt-sabbing is stereotypically a punk activity and are perhaps put off from joining because of that?**

@NEHS I think back in the 80s it was mainly seen as a punk activity, but times have changed since then and there's people from all walks of life come out in the field

Now, however in our group we do have a few members with old 'punk credentials' lol as we also have lots of others with different interests but all striving for the same goal, and we certainly don't feel that people are put off now because of our diverse member list.

AB **Have there been any serious incidents involving those from local hunts and yourselves? What were the consequences?**

@NEHS So far as a group we have had 'some' serious incidents the season before last as we were just a few people, i.e. we got confronted by gamekeepers and terrier men from the Cleveland Hunt on the Cleveland Way, and they certainly tried to kill us by throwing huge rocks at us from on top of a hill, this resulted in one sab having a leg injury but not serious, and more recently last season just gone.

Because of the now large number of sabs the South Durham Hunt thought it was big and clever to charge at sabs near Spennymoor using their horses as weapons, resulting in one sab with an injury to his foot, but again nothing serious. We still however do get the usual verbals and threats.

AB **In terms of personnel, do you feel that you need more people to join with you or do you have enough feet on the ground to disrupt the hunts?**

@NEHS We are always looking for new sabs, you can never really have too many as its more the merrier and safety of the group in numbers. With lots of sabs you can split the groups up to head out to different parts of the countryside to find and stop the hunt.

AB **What areas do you sabotage? Is it mainly fox-hunting or are there other activities that require your intervention?**

@NEHS Our group covers the North East, Cumbria and North Yorkshire, we do have other activities we indulge in to save 'other' wildlife when out of season, if we hear of any wildlife abuses we will act upon it whether it's a fox or not.

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

@NEHS I'd like to thank the following: yourself for taking the time out to interview us and get the word out there on hunting and sabbing, I'd also like to thank Shev and Maz and all at the Black Bull for hosting our events,

All the bands that have played and continue to play for us, Northern Animal Welfare Cooperative, Farplace Animal Rescue, Cumbria and Lancaster Hunt Sabs, and last but not least Durham Police for doing nothing to stop illegal hunting but doing everything to harass hunt saboteurs.

Facebook

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WORKING CLASS HEROES!

Born in summer 1991 and died one year later, Decontrol lived a short but interesting life. Now, some 23 years later, they are about to return to the local North East scene. We speak to the band, asking them about what exactly happened and what is in store for the future.

AB Tell us a bit about yourself

@P We formed originally in 1991. Back then it was brothers Nick and Lee (Smyf) Smith on guitar and bass respectively, John (Flossy) Knowles on drums and (Little) Chris Spencer and me (Paul Garbutt) on vox. We were from all over the North East back then - South Shields, Newcastle, Chester-Le-Street and Heworth. I was the last to join the band, being offered a slot for second vocalist by Chris one night down in a pub called Trocadero's rock night on a Sunday. The band wanted to have that ENT type of thing going - double vox attack and taking-turns delivering the lines. My audition went well and we started working on songs soon after.

The original incarnation of the band lasted about a year before 'musical differences' caused the split. After a long hiatus, I decided to get back into singing. Originally it was going to be a Dickies cover/tribute band - The Paranoid Bananas - haha, but when that didn't take off, I decided to see if anyone was out there who wanted to help start up Decontrol again. I quickly convinced Neil Hurst, who had been a fan of the band originally when he was in Mutant (and later played with Little Chris in Incendiary Device). I then advertised on Netty's 'Northeast Underground' Facebook page for a bassist and guitarists and was contacted within the hour by Robby Robertson from The Fiend, who offered guitar services as well as Sean Harrison (ex-Debauchery from Newcastle) and Nick Wood (ex-SORB from Kent).

AB Were none of the other original members interested in re-joining?

@P No. Nick (Smith) is out of the country now. Smyf wasn't interested in playing in punk bands. Chris is busy in other bands - very dark and gloomy electro-noise, thrashy stuff (Church Burner and The Dead End Street Band) and no-one knows just what happened to Flossy! I hope he's alright wherever he is now... he was a canny lad!

AB How would you describe your music to someone who'd never seen you guys play?

@H Hardcore punk!

@N Honest Northern Hardcore!

@P Back in the day we were 'anarcho-punk' (whatever that means to you), with a penchant for doing the odd Discharge cover (as well as others by Agnostic Front and Conflict). Now, with our new line-up, it's harder to say. There's a good dash of D-Beat in there, as well as that angry Anarcho vocal style. By the end of our first outing, we were leaning towards Antisect in style. I think now, with our new line-up, we're heading over to a crustier style, if the new songs we're producing are anything to go by. Definitely still angry though… way too much vitriol!

AB **What would you say are your main influences?**

@H Discharge, Anti-Cimex, D-beat!

@P Originally, it was Conflict, ENT and Discharge. Nowadays it's pretty much the same for me. Perhaps not so much ENT. I now like to deliver lyrics that people can actually comprehend.

@N All music: Adam Ant, Mott the Hoople, Peter Hammill, MDC, SNFU.

AB **Did you support any named bands at all? Are there any you would like support when you start gigging again?**

@P Originally, we supported Disaster, Hiatus, Genital Deformities, Mushroom Attack and Active Minds. We never got a chance to support Hellkrusher, as they had to pull out of gig that was planned. I'd like to support them, given half a chance, as I've known Ali and Scotty for way too many years now! We plan to open for The Fiend soon. For me, the crowning glory would be probably Conflict or perhaps Doom or Discharge. Maybe WKSJ? too.

AB **As you've only recently reformed, is there enough material for a set? Does that give you cause for concern?**

@P It was a concern at the start, I'll admit. Back in the day, we had a few covers to pad out the set length. They're gone now and with the speeding up of the old songs, we're now adding new songs to the set list to make up for the lack of set length. I think we can easily fill 20 minutes now… which may well be enough for some people, haha.

@N Getting there. 20 minutes but you won't be able to pause for breath. I'd like to think we're aiming for 45 minutes where you're absolutely fucked when we're finished.

@H No cause for concern. Just enough songs at the minute for a set.

AB **What do you think of the online services such as Bandcamp, ReverbNation, Spotify and iTunes etc? Do you think they've lowered the barrier to getting published?**

@H Quite possibly.

@P Definitely, yes! Bandcamp has taken away the control that record labels once had. I think it's turned the DIY scene into being totally self-sufficient, with only a decent recording studio standing in the way of a good production and even that could be overcome with the cost of computer technology now.

@N As long as people are listening to music it doesn't matter how they choose to do it. Kids may start with something but progress like we all did.

AB **On the subject of online services, what are your experiences of social media like Facebook and all that? Have they helped or hindered you?**

@P If it wasn't for Netty's 'Northeast Underground' Facebook group, the new Decontrol might never have been! So I have to say it has helped! I think that in some cases having shitloads of 'likes' on Facebook doesn't necessarily give you any gravitas or indeed an active audience. I think that can only be guaranteed by getting out there and gigging, maybe releasing tracks by whatever means necessary, too.

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

@H Hellkrusher & The Fiend. May they keep gigging and creating blissful noise for many years to come!

@P Robby Fiend for his help in getting the band started and helping us work out just what to do to get those old songs sorted out, Alan 'Netty' Burnett for his great Facebook group 'North East Underground', which helped me find the new members. Smyf, Nick, Chris and Flossy - the old crew - cheers. And to everyone else - too innumerable to mention here, sorry - thank you for your support and we hope to blast your lugs in a town near you soon!

@N The other chaps in the band, great set of lads and we're enthusiastic. Loving it.

Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/decontrol-neuk

Bandcamp
http://decontrol-neuk.bandcamp.com

Blog
http://totaldecontrol.blogspot.co.uk

YouTube
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLoYXtMmW7a3lNMnQVlPyEBvqg-44QPGJ

REMEMBERING GAZ...

Gary Turnbull, Gary Baldy, Gaz. Many people around the region knew him under one name or another. Part of the North East scene for many, many years, Gaz died in January 2015. Here are just a few memories of him from some of those who have appeared in our first issue:

HURSTY: "Had known Gary for many years. Last spoke to him at the Discharge gig at The Three Tuns Nov last year. He said to me that night how much he was looking forward to hearing the new reformed Decontrol. A top bloke who will never be forgotten."

PAUL: "I remember being introduced to Gary as "This is Gary Baldy. He's called that because his name is Gary and he's bald." Made me laugh. He was a top bloke and always gave you the names of some bands that you should try and listen to. Last time I saw him I gave him a few Thisclose stickers I had got from the band and he was over the moon and grinned his thanks. That was the last time I saw him alive. RIP, Gaz."

FROM THE GUT: "We didn't know Gary personally, but remember his face from gigs at the Black Bull. Obviously a well-respected member and a big loss for the local punk community, RIP, mate."

NICK (BATTERY HUMANS): "I remember Gary from gigs years ago, but I didn't know him to talk to until very recently. I can't really say much about him if I'm honest. What I can say however, is that when I did speak to him he was genuinely warm, receptive and interested in what I had to say. I know a lot of people that did know him well and he is missed. When people like that are in your life then it makes you feel secure, and a part of something special, a family if you like. We need to think about each other, not just as friends who you see at gigs, but as part of our lives.

There is too much hatred now, and ignorance and we need to not be a part of that. I would say he affected many people."

MAZ/SHEV: "To be honest we only got to know him fairly recently. I'd seen him at gigs loads over the years but just say hi to. Since getting the Bull we got to know Gary really well - he'd pop in odd nights for a pint or 2 and was always here for the bands. We also would pop over Newcastle on Sunday nights on the piss with him, Linz, Baz, Sue, etc, etc. Superb bloke -

not a bad bone in his body. We saw him last at the Tuns of all places the night before he died. RIP, mate."

ROBBY: "Gary was a great lad, wasn't he? For me, he was a massive part of the scene. I never saw him complain about nowt. He never complained about anybody, bands, nothing. He'd turn up at the gigs every time. Every gig I was at, he was there too. He's a massive, massive miss. He was knowledgeable and never had a bad word to say about anybody. He'd go see a band and if he couldn't say anything good about them, he'd say nowt. I was absolutely devastated."

CHRIS: "When I saw his face on FB, I recognised him but didn't know him personally. It's always sad to hear another of the punk rock family has gone! RIP Gary"

LEE: "It's always sad when the scene loses decent folk. Sorry to hear it."

SCOTTY: "Apart from a familiar face at gigs and in the North East scene Gary was a personal friend from way back in the mid-eighties. My wife and I spent a lot of time with him and his then girlfriend in later years going to gigs and socialising in general so it was a big shock for me personally as well as everyone who knew him. A really nice man who supported the local DIY scene through thick and thin and was a pleasure to be around him. He's a big, big loss and will always be remembered."

DICKIE (PROLEFEED): "He was a familiar face for as long as I've been going to gigs. I remember going to see Aus Rotten in Nottingham Old Angel in about 94/95?? Walking in to the venue and seeing Gary and Julia there, brought a smile to my face, not expecting to see anyone I knew. He used to pop up all over the place, travelling to see bands all over the country. Then there was the time Julia made him take his cap off and wear nicer clothes for a wedding Ash and I was at: he was almost unrecognisable. In fact, Prolefeed have a new song called 'Baldi', written about him, it sounds a bit like an Anti-Cimex song so quite fitting."

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17-5 LEIPZIG-MANFRED
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22-5
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