

ANGER BURNING

ISSUE 02



THIS ISSUE:

ANGELIC UPSTARTS

FIRSTBLOOD

SKINNY

HELLBASTARD

NORTH EAST CLASS WAR

THISCLOSE

LEFT FOR DEAD

DOGS-STRIKE

SKINNY

ANGER BURNING EDITORIAL

Well, this is the second issue of 'Anger Burning'!

When I set out to create the fanzine earlier in the year, I simply wanted to do what had been done many, many times before but to give my own spin on the format.

I have been overwhelmed by the positive responses from people - both fans and bands alike - who loved the zine.

The format could do with a little tweaking and this issue shows some of those modifications now. However, I feel that the overall result is pretty much there or thereabouts. It will evolve, I'm sure.

In particular, the bands whom I requested an interview of are more than willing to spend their precious time answering my obvious and not-so-obvious questions. I'm no 'Parkinson', but I do like my questions to not be too assuming. That is, to not be afraid to go over old ground where it was needed, as I'm sure that the audience to which AB is aimed at might not necessarily know everything about every band featured. Kudos to anyone who does!

The website - which will improve with time I am sure - will be the place for the 'here and now' type of content. I'm thinking album reviews and perhaps personal views of gigs. With that said, I offer an open invitation for all of you to become part of the Anger Burning collective. If you attend a gig or indeed download/buy an album or whatever and feel strongly enough to lay down a few words and rate your experience, do contact the zine on Facebook and send in your words. I'll make sure that they are given full recognition and a place on the website!

In this issue, I've still got some local (North East England) talent revealing their innermost thoughts, but have branched out further afield to the rest of the UK as well as abroad to offer insights into bands that you not necessarily be aware of. I hope to continue this approach in future issues. If you know of any bands that may be interested in giving an interview, get in touch via the Facebook page.

So - it looks like AB will become a twice-yearly event judging by the rate at which I'm producing. I think that's a fair enough rate, considering my other pursuits.

If you want more, then why not help out? I'm open to offers of assistance in any format! I've already had an offer from Scruff of Hellbastard fame, featured in this very issue! Any more takers to help out? Contact me on the Anger Burning Fanzine Facebook page:

facebook.com/AngerBurningFanzine

Love, Peace and Anarchy...

Paul.

HALFWAY FROM HELL!



Left For Dead split up back in 1989, but after a 25 year hiatus, they've reformed. Let's find out what they're up to and their future plans...

A B Tell us a bit about the band...

@LFD: We formed in 1982 in Felling (North East England). Roger joined in 1983, Adas replaced Steve Wild (Pirates of Punk) in 1984 and then Billy completed the line-up in 1985. We had 1 track on the 'Fight Back EP' on Endangered Music Records. 4 demos in the 1980's, compiled as 'Greatest Hits & Near Misses' album.

A B Do you see yourselves continuing where you left off originally or is this just a short reformation to recapture the old times before disbanding?

@LFD: At the moment we are only playing some of our old songs. But not the really old stuff which some of our fans have been expecting to hear. One day, perhaps. But we're not on a nostalgia trip. We want to continue. We already have several new songs written.

A B How many original members of the band are in the current line-up?

@LFD: Two original members: Bev & Shev. The current line-up is the same as the last line-up of Left For Dead: Bev, Shev, Adas, Billy & Roger which was together for several years.



A B How would you describe your musical style to someone who'd never heard you play before?

@LFD: That's a bit difficult. At the moment we are playing songs that cover around 8 years of our previous career and our musical style changed considerably in that time. It's a mix of hardcore punk, indie-rock & goth. We'll probably

continue in a similar vein – tuneful punk with a dark edge.

A B Originally, the band's members quoted numerous musical influences. How have they changed, if at all?

@LFD: Same old stuff – UK Subs, Ruts, Ramones, Therapy?, Sex Pistols, Killing Joke etc. Anything loud, fast and obnoxious.



A B Are there any plans to record again, now that you've had a chance to get back into the swing of things so to speak?

@LFD: Yes, are already making plans to go back in the studio. We want to redo some old songs together with some new material. Billy didn't play on some of our earlier recordings, so we play them differently now.



A B You played a few small venues, but are now looking forward to playing the larger venues again. What sort of sized venues suit you the best?

@LFD: We don't mind where we play as long as it looks full. Recently played Steph's in Consett: a great venue and a great crowd. We really enjoyed the gig.

A B Have there been any favourite bands you've played alongside in the past?

@LFD: GBH, English Dogs, Surf City Rockers.

A B Are there any bands you haven't supported yet but would like to and why?

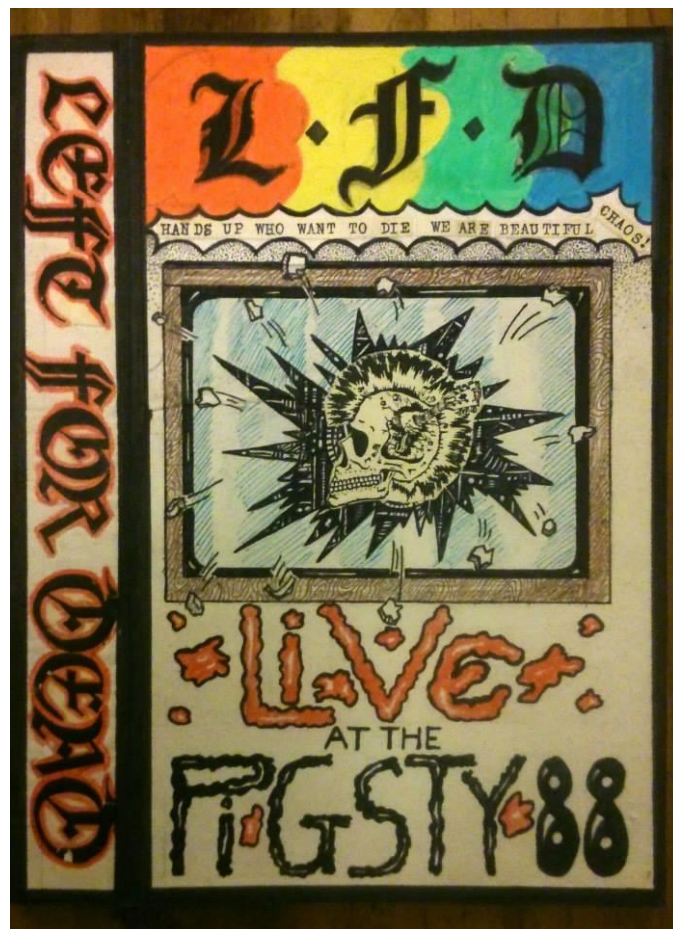
@LFD: Rammstein, so we can borrow some of their flamethrowers. The Pogues, so we can steal their booze.

A B Is there anyone out there that you'd like to take the time out to thank or anything else you'd like to say?

@LFD: A big thank you to all our 'old' fans who've made the effort to come & see us again after all these years. Also, thanks to the new fans who seem to be enjoying our old material. We really like Gibson guitars, Marshall Amps, Guinness and Haribos!

FACEBOOK:

www.facebook.com/LFDUK



Photos courtesy of Left For Dead.
Bottom photo credit: Will Binks Photography



ORDER FROM CHAOS!



Chaos 8 have been on the scene for 3 years with their unique sound. We catch up with lead singer Beki as to their current activities...

A For those who are not familiar with you, tell us about yourselves...

@B: Chaos 8 hail from the North East of England. They formed in the early part of 2012 by guitarist/ songwriter Paul Williams and singer/lyricist Beki Straughan on lead vocals, who were later joined by musical allies in the form of Stevie Foster on drums/percussion, bassist James Bowey and completing this juggernaut of a five piece is keyboard/synth player David Mooney.

They released their debut album "Burn" in June 2014 and plan to release their second album in early 2016.

Our sound can only be described as "incredibly powerful", with a rock solid rhythm section, strong vocals and razor sharp lyrics!

This has a definitive hard driven guitar sound that totally dominates Chaos 8, whilst the dark, swirling synths give you atmospheric textures that truly bring out brutal, beautiful and oppressive moods that encapsulate every single song. Go listen to their unique sounds...but listen to it loud...you'll be left wanting more! We are currently unsigned, with more gigs soon to be announced.

A You've appeared at punk gigs. Do you class yourselves as 'punk' if that's a pigeon-hole to be conformed to at all?

@B: Yes we have appeared at Punk gigs but we are not Punk band nor a Metal band having fans across all genres. We class ourselves as a Heavy Alternative Rock Band with an electronic element using samples and dirty synth riffs layered into our sound.

A You also front Loaded 44 - does that cause a strain on what gigs Chaos 8 can perform at or are the two mutually-exclusive? Would there ever be a case of you doing a double stint on vocals perhaps if the two bands decided to perform at the same gig?

@B: No, it doesn't impact on Chaos 8 but we wouldn't do a double stint, as the two bands are totally different and we like to keep Loaded 44 and Chaos 8 separate.

A B What music influences the band?
Any particular genre or groups?
There's a hint of Killing Joke or
Nine Inch Nails perhaps...

@B: A big influence on song
writing musically comes from
electronic and alternative rock
genres but there is a big
influence from Killing Joke, NIN &
Gary Numan. Lyrically, influences
come from current/past world
events and also life experiences.

A B You recently supported New Model
Army. How was that? Judging by the
mixed reactions of fans towards
NMA, were you perceived as perhaps
a better band than the main act by
the fans?

@B: That was an amazing experience
to play with NWA on a big stage
with a fantastic sound that really
showcased Chaos 8's big sound.
Reaction from the fans was
brilliant. I wouldn't say we were
the better band but the fans liked
the diversity between the two
bands and it made for a great
evening.

A B There is a new album ('Cause And
Effect') on the horizon? I know
there are tracks played at gigs
that are not on the 'Burn' album...
Any expected due date for it?

@B: We are aiming for recording
and release to be early 2016.



A **B** Has there been any interest in the band from record labels? Local or independent perhaps?

@B: None at this stage, so we are concentrating on gigs and the new recordings while trying to be heard as widely as possible.

A **B** Are there any other future support slots with big-name bands in the pipeline that you're allowed to talk about?

@B: None at present, however, after the success of the NMA gig we are hoping to do many more!

A **B** Whereabouts have you played outside of the North East? Any particularly memorable venues?

@B: We have got offers further afield but we are trying to build a fan base in the North East first, 2016 will be when we start to extend our reach as we have many fans all over UK and abroad.

A **B** How are you finding the local scene at present?

@B: We are finding it very difficult for a band playing original music, as it is for many other original bands.

A **B** Do you feel that more can be done to support original musical acts?

@B: Much more. The scene seems to favour cover and tribute bands(nothing wrong with that) but many venue owners are only thinking about footfall & beer sales and bypassing the opportunity for people to hear original music.



A Has having an album only available as a download affected sales in any way? I know most bands think of digital as a secondary channel to that of vinyl/CD...

@B: The album has sold well digitally helping us get a wider reach overseas however we do sell physical copies at our gigs. It has been very interesting to see how far afield our music has travelled by being available digitally. Downloads can't replace vinyl or CDs but it can get a band heard in places that the band hasn't been to which is a bonus.

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

@B: We would like to thank our good friend Alec Byrn, Alec has helped and advised us over the last 2 years having wide experience of the music industry in the past.

Alec signed originally Killing Joke in the 1980's to EG Records where he was their label manager, he also organised The Ramones first UK tour and many more.

Thanks for asking us to do this, we hope to see your fanzine readers at our next gigs!

Group pictures courtesy of David Mooney

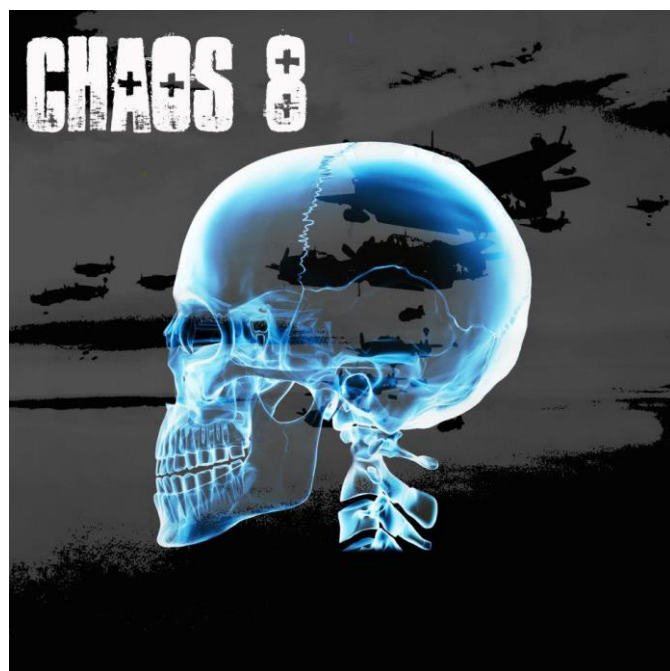
Images on right, courtesy of Chaos 8

FACEBOOK:

www.facebook.com/Chaos8uk

REVERBNATION:

www.reverbnation.com/chaos8



WARNING! GRAPHIC CONTENT!



Mark 'Skinny' Orton is an artist who, for many, needs no real introduction at all...

His work has been used by many a hardcore punk band in the 80s and 90s and continuing on to the present day in fact. Bands such as Doom, Extreme Noise Terror, Raw Noise, Filthkick and Genital Deformities are amongst the many who have sought after and commissioned timeless artwork creation from him.

My band in fact - Decontrol - also enlisted his services to re-imagine the classic 'Thunk!' demo art that we used back in the day. The result was nothing short of breath-taking! A man a few words and even fewer interviews, he kindly accepted my request to quiz him about his work. This is what he had to say...

A Did you study art at school or college/university? If not, was it just self-taught?

S: Yes, I studied art at school but I left earlier because I had serious problems with the teachers. I didn't like them and they didn't like me. All in all, it was best that I taught myself.

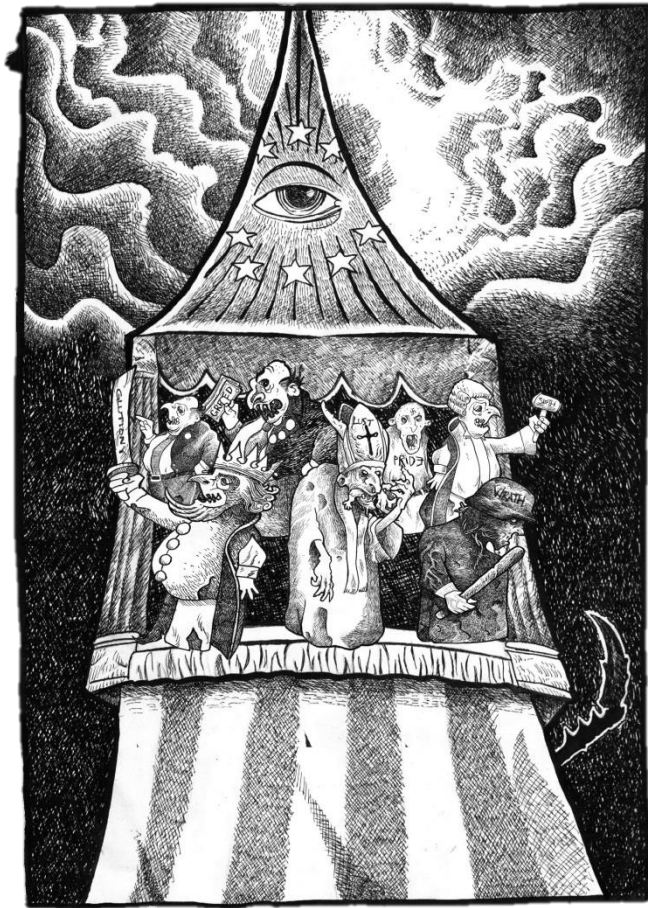
A What was your first piece of art that was used by a band?

S: Maybe BENEDICTION (Metal Band). I designed their logo and did a t-shirt for them.

A You're probably well-known for supplying covers of artwork for the likes of Extreme Noise Terror, Raw Noise, Genital Deformities, Filthkick and Doom in particular, but are there bands you've done artwork for that perhaps aren't so (in)famous?

S: REGRET (HC from Bristol), 51ST STATE (DIY punks from Somerset), SEWER TRENCH (Metal/HC from London), VITRIOLIC RESPONSE and many more.





A B There's a very dystopian flavour to your compositions - is that requested by those commissioning or is it something that comes from within?

@S: A bit of both.

A B Who have been your influences as an artist?

@S: There is so many that inspired and influence me, but here are few of them : SQUEAL (SKWEELA), PUSHEAD, GEOFF DARROW, MIKE MIGNOLA, SIMON BISELY, KEVIN O'NEIL, BRIAN BOLLAND, BERNI WRIGHTSON, DANIJEL ZEDELJ, JAMES JEAN, VANIA ZOURAVLIOV, PHILIPPE DRUILLET, MOBEIUS, ZDZISLAW BEKSINSKI, SANTIAGO CARUSA, I could go on and on...

A B Have you met any of them in real life and if so, did they live up to your expectations of how you imagined them to be?

@S: I met BRIAN BOLLAND (2000AD), when I was a wee kid, speak to SKWEELA (ICONS OF FILTH/POISON IDEAS) once in a while. STIV from VISIONS OF WAR - top bloke, same for MID (DEVIATED INSTINCT) and Sonia Lord (did the latest OI POLLOI's album cover) is cool too.

A B You've recently displayed your works at the 'Get Lucky' Art Show. How did that go? Were they well-received?

@S: Get Lucky Art Show was fantastic and definitely well received. Good to see DIY creativity.

A B What other work do you have in the pipeline? If you're allowed to say, that is...

@S: No work at this time of writing, been a quiet one this year. I'm planning to do my own personal work/exhibition.



A B Are there any particular subjects you like to draw?

@S: There's so much to draw, paint and scratch... as I am nearly 50 year old, my brain is pea sized due to excessive amount of booze, drugs and loud noise.

A B If your artwork is used for records or whatever, do you ever receive free copies?

@S: Yes.

A B Have you ever refused a commission due to principles?

@S: No not yet.

A B Do you ever see those bands that you have created artwork for at gigs?

@S: Yeah, most of them.

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

@S: Yeah, for all those that admired my creations... MUCHO GRACIAS.

A B Is there anything else that you want to say? Oh and big cheers for the exclusive artwork for this issue, Skinny!

@S: Check out my art at SKINNY GRAPHIX on FACEBOOK and cheers ANGER BURNING - keep up the good work.

FACEBOOK:

www.facebook.com/mark.s.orton

www.facebook.com/skinnygraphix



THIS NIGHTMARE CONTINUES!



Rodney Shades, vocalist of the Scottish D-Beat (or should that be G-Beat?) band Thisclose, gives us an insight into the 'Grave New Beat'...

A B Tell us a bit about yourselves...

@R: Thisclose formed in 2012 and played our first gigs in July of that year. Since that time we have performed throughout the UK and Ireland and most recently a 2 week tour of the United States with Active Minds. We have released 3 albums - S/T, One Foot In The Grave, Chapter III - and 3 full Eps - Burnin' Anger, Fear and Terror, The Price We Pay, in addition to various comp appearances, splits and collection CDs/cassettes.

A B So, did the band start out as a joke or was there a real effort to try and figure out what might have happened in 1986 had the musical direction of Discharge taken a different course?

@R: Thisclose was formed by Discharge fans with a desire to play Discharge-influenced hardcore. There was no set plan, just some riffs and a love of what had come before and a desire to take it in a grave new direction.

A B Your merchandising is very clever - the long sleeve t-shirt tribute to the ill-fated 1991 Massacre Divine tour, for example. There's a real attention to detail there... Who helps you come up with ideas and graphical work?

@R: We have had the good fortune to be able to collaborate with some fantastic artists with Thisclose. The cover art of S/T and One Foot In The Grave were created by Sean Fitzgerald and the art for our latest LP, Chapter III, was created by Nisi, two very talented Irish artists. All other aspects of our artwork and graphical presentation are created in-house by various members of the group.





@R: Although no members of Discharge were harmed in the making of 'Live in London', one Doom associate was utilised.

A You've recently been on tour with Active Minds in the USA - how did that go?

@R: Our July 2015 tour of the USA was a smash-hit success. In addition to excellent crowds, food and tourism experiences we were also afforded the opportunity to play not only with the original UK straight edge hardcore group Active Minds on eleven separate occasions but also with many of the leading hardcore acts coming out of the USA currently. We are thinking specifically here about groups such as Lotus Fucker and Gas Chamber, two bands that are well worth your attention and both have many releases available via their Bandcamp websites.

A Speaking of merch, does the video, which is on Betamax, actually have the concert footage on or was it simply a case of finding a load of discarded tapes and re-labelling them?

@R: We appreciate and understand that many of our fans do not have a Betamax video player and as such have made our first concert video 'Live in London' available for free on our YouTube channel www.youtube.com/thisclosetv

A Was the Betamax tape in fact a cryptic reference to the inspection copy of the (unreleased) Discharge gig that was allegedly stolen from one of the band in a record shop by a certain member of Doom or simply a nod to the 1986 era?



All photos courtesy of Thisclose

A B Are there plans for any further touring at all?

@R: In 2015 Thisclose completed more concert performances than we had altogether in the years 2012-14 and as such we are on a hiatus for the moment in order to give ourselves some time to recharge and reflect. We have had however, and are continuing to accept, offers to perform in countries all around the world and are actively investigating the practicalities of these opportunities.

A B So - you now have three albums out - the output seems to be relentless! Are there any plans for a compilation or box set? Can we look forward to hearing more new songs next year, perhaps?

@R: Your use of the word 'relentless' is very apt as it certainly feels as though the band has been working non-stop since 2012. As stated above our immediate future is about taking stock of where we are rather than rushing headlong into the wind, new Thisclose material will appear as and when it feels natural. You are correct that there were plans in place for a CD discography box set, but the label involved has folded and as all our recordings are now available on CD it seems unlikely in the current music buying climate that there would be any demand for them to be re-issued on CD anytime in the immediate future.

Our latest release is our split 7" with Active Minds, available from SPHC in the USA and should be arriving in European distros over the coming months. Our next release will be a compilation cassette 'The Punk Singles Collection' on Crysis Records and Media of Malaysia, which should be available early 2016.



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

@R: Thanks to all the DIEHARDS who keep the candle burning, in love believe!

FACEBOOK:

www.facebook.com/punksystemdestroy

BANDCAMP:

www.thisclose86.bandcamp.com

YOUTUBE:

www.youtube.com/thisclosetv

NEVER 'AD NOTHIN'!

A Mission of Mercy!

Recently, The Angelic Upstarts organised an aid trip to France to help out the refugees. Funded by kind donations and a benefit gig, the group distributed vital supplies to those in dire need.

Back from his travels, guitarist Neil Newton made a heartfelt report on Facebook on the situation over there. Here's that report in full... take it away, News...



Arrived back home from the refugee camps in the wee small hours, drained I went to bed with a whole mixture of emotions. I woke up to a smile from one of my children, I held him a little closer and a little longer. "There but for the grace of god go I" as the saying has it. Our little gang of six that went over were just ordinary people, carrying over donations from a great many other ordinary people.

Those with the least to give ALWAYS give the most, a lesson I learned very early on when doing a paper round as a kid. The posh estate gave virtually nowt in tips at Christmas time, whereas on the council estates I made a canny few bob. I digress, thanks to the generosity of so many ordinary people, they have helped make a difference to their fellow human beings who are living in such awful conditions. I really fear for them when winter arrives.

I'm happy to report that not one donated item went to waste, our van was completely emptied and we saw some smiles on people's faces which was remarkable as they have so very little to smile about. I found it hard at times, none more so than seeing children the same ages as my youngest bairns holding their hands out for clothes, shoes etc. Just to explode the myth about there only being just men of fighting age in the camps, I can tell you that is complete bullshit.

We saw plenty women, children and elderly, any newspaper or right wing fuckhead that tells you otherwise is a lying bastard) I grew angry too, especially when I saw the large presence of French security around the camp. These were not plain Gendarme, these were paramilitary style and had full body armour, riot gear the lot. They were all over the place and were clearly gearing up for some kind of aggressive action (only recently they had raided the camp and smashed up the flimsy shelters of the refugees).

I watched one of them strut into the camp clutching a canister of tear gas. Fucking tear gas when there are bairns around??!! I grew angrier still when I thought about how much the security operation must cost on a daily basis to pay the swaggering, menacing robocops, surely it would only cost a fraction of it to provide decent shelter and sanitation. I grew angrier still when I thought of the politicians sitting round expensive tables eating expensive meals, drinking expensive wines and talking about how to solve the refugee crisis. In my eyes it's fucking simple, stop being greedy cunts and start putting people before power and profit.

It is a disgrace that in this so called modern era, a child should have to go without shoes or a family without shelter. It is a disgrace that there are displace and homeless people, not only on the streets of the UK, but all over the globe. It is a disgrace when greedy wankers buy up life-prolonging drugs, then grossly inflate the price so they can add more millions to a pile of money they will never spend. How much is enough for fuck's sake? There are people suffering and all you hear is whining about spongers from those who criticise but do fuck all to help. We came back yesterday and as we went through border control, the vinegar sucking witch who checked our passports asked us where we had been. When we told her she asked if we had "given them any blankets".

We told her of course we had, they needed them to keep warm. The bitch's reply was "You do know they use them to throw over the barbed wire to escape don't you"? I spotted she had a copy of the Daily Star on her desk and just

knew she was a sheep who would believe all the crap that those type rags print but if that was her opinion she should've kept her ignorant fat hole shut and just got on with trying to be an impartial professional. We did not ask for nor want the sour-faced cunt's opinion.

Five hours later, they eventually let us get on our way, having kept us at border control and made us miss our pre booked train time.



All whilst trying to intimidate us by, to give just one example, having a police escort when went to the toilet for a piss. Welcome back to the UK eh? Fuck them though, next time we'll know what to expect and might just decide to waste a bit of their time. It's us and them.

In summary though, our little gang of Tom, Kevin, Colleen, Gordon, Ray and myself made a small difference to a huge problem and that was all down to the efforts of the people who took the time and effort to make donations. Thank you Jordan and Jason Carroll in Manchester for getting the ball rolling with the first lot of donations, Tom Chapman for organising a collection in Darlington, Paul and his wife in Leeds for their donations, Maz Shev Shevill, Neil Blackbird Sims for offering storage space, all those who turned up to support the benefit gig last month including Crashed Out and the Panic Report and everyone else who pitched in to help, donate or otherwise offered support and encouragement along the way. Last but not least, a very special mention to Lee-Ann De'Lune Wrightson and Keesa for being so selfless and grafting like Lords in the camp, you are the real, unsung heroes. Thank you so much, love yas!

Up the Punks! X

So – there you go: the gang done us proud! There are plans to revisit the camp sites later in the year or early in 2016, so please – if you have can donate money, tins of food or warm clothing to help out the refugees over the winter – do so by contacting either Neil or Mensi on Facebook.

Let us offer our support to those who have been and are indeed still in danger from regimes that do not care about human suffering.



Photos courtesy of Angelic Upstarts, John Bolloten & 'Norm'



NO WAR BUT THE CLASS WAR!

**RACISTS, YUPPIES,
COPPERS, HIPSTERS,
BAILIFFS; RICH KIDS,
GRASSES...
GET OUT NOW!
CLASS WAR IN THE
AREA!**

NORTH EAST
CLASS WAR



**Anarchist activists have
been a part of North East
England culture for years.
North East Class War are
one such organisation. We
speak to a member about
their work, their ideals and
their commitment to
eradicate the far right...**

A B When were you formed?

@NECW: Originally we were Tyneside Class War, who were the remnants of the old Tyneside Syndicalist group 1987-ish, although some comrades were selling Class War individually well before this time. Throughout the decades, activists have drifted off to other groups / projects etc, and again kinda reforming as North East Class War. We never really form, uniform or reform – we are always around and active in various struggles, sometimes as individuals, sometimes under the collective banner of Class War.

A B What is your current membership? Estimates will do!

@NECW: During the late eighties / early nineties, when Class War was a membership organisation, we had upwards of 30-40 activists throughout the region. These days, as Class War is no longer a “membership federation based on paper sales”, we are fluid in numbers. Whilst there is a hardcore group of us, we have many supporters and participators in various actions / events and a large network of people we can call upon if needed.

A B How often do you meet up or is it mainly a Facebook community?

@NECW: We meet every 2 weeks (in person) for business – more often for activities / socials etc.

A B In the light of the current political climate have you seen more people join up or participate in events?

@NECW: There has definitely been an increase in attention towards Class War both negative and positive. We take the positive and leave the negative.

With the relentless Class War being waged against us as a class more people will look to fight back and Class War has always been an organisation where quite a few people have gravitated towards.

A B Are you specifically anarchists or perhaps anarcho-communists such as the likes of Anarchist Federation?

@NECW: Some of us call ourselves anarchists, anarcho-communists, insurrectionists, anarcho-syndicalists, autonomous socialists and none of the above.

We are a non-dogmatic anarchist formation which is what has always set us apart from the majority of other anarchists and "left" groups.

Regardless of specific strand of anarchism we are all anarchists but more importantly we are all working-class first and foremost. Proletarian and proud!!!

A B What do you see are the major obstacles in our way in the North East at present to the awareness and adoption of anarchist ideals?

@NECW: Nationalism, racism, xenophobia, right-wing attitudes and a general sense of hopelessness, defeatism, apathy and indifference. We are trying to combat these head on because until we do then they will seriously inhibit the growth of anarchism

(And working-class politics in general) in the North-East.

A B Do you actively recruit, proselytising when you can or is it more of gravitation towards the group that you expect to happen or are more comfortable with?

@NECW: If we can recruit people then we will but we will bring people in whichever way they are comfortable with. We are not like lefties who will push people into joining up after 5 seconds of first talking to them.

DIFFERENT FACES, SAME SHIT.
NO GODS NO MASTERS NO SLAVES.



A B Sometimes people associate anarchism with the young and indeed with punks and punk culture. We know that whilst there is a degree of evidence for this, it is not necessarily 100% true. Is that the case? The Durham Miners Gala is a classic example of leftist and indeed anarchist thought-leaders coming together, not necessarily all fresh-faced youths at all.

@NECW: A lot of punks gravitate towards anarchism, It is at times a natural progression. Anarchism in the North East has existed a long time before punk and has a rich local history: from Kropotkin speaking at Westgate Hill in the late 1800s, to the radical anarchist squats in the late sixties / seventies and the hundreds of other known and less known events in-between.

Anarchist meetings have always been a mixed affair of ages – from teens to pensioners attending.

A B The far right movement seems to be increasing, particularly over in mainland Europe. Over here we see a lot of Britain First memes shared out on social media, sometimes without the sharer's knowledge of the political motives behind the seemingly innocent memes portraying animal welfare or support of army veterans. What can we do to enlighten those who share, apart from the obvious rebukes or threats of unfriending those who share such hatred-filled party memes?

@NECW: We can show through deed and hard political work on our estates and where people gather (Pubs, clubs, gigs etc.) that far-right ideas are not just wrong but harmful to the interests of our class as a whole. The best way is to provide a true and alternative line of argument which is what many are seeking. What we need to tackle as a matter of priority are the peddlers of far-right crap. Defeat the root of the problem and the rest will be a lot easier to tackle.



A B Have there been any occasions where the group's encounters with the far right have been reduced to violence due to their vicious nature?

@NECW: Yes, constantly. This is increasing as conditions in our communities get worse and fascist vultures seek to exploit that. The level of violence on the streets today has not been seen since at least the mid-90s. I would not let this put anyone off becoming involved because it is not as if everyone involved ends up facing such a threat. It stands to reason though that the more people involved the easier it is to defeat the far-right.

The National Front used to try and attack our paper sales at the Monument in the late eighties. Violence has to be met with violence at times, otherwise, like the bullies they are – if you let them defeat you once they will be back for more. In the case of fascists, sometimes the best form of defence is attack.

A B Are there particular causes that you promote or support? If so, which ones? How can the rest of us help?

@NECW: We take action on issues across the board. At the moment a significant amount of this is on anti-fascism and anti-gentrification. We do not throw all of our efforts into these two areas though. We campaign on all issues which are a threat to our class. This flexible approach allows people to get involved how they themselves they see fit.

People can get involved by contacting us and taking action.

Individually many of us are also involved in various aspects of propaganda, food banks, socialist clothing banks, strike support, prisoner support, community food growing, hunt sabbing, etc, etc.

At this present time we are busy building links with the ex-steel workers of Teesside in order to raise financial support and other aspects of solidarity, especially with Xmas approaching.

A B Do you have a bookshop or service that can help inform the public about anarchism or is there a website perhaps?

@NECW: There are many sources of information, including ourselves. Too many to list in fact. Get in touch with us and we will point you in the right direction but if we are talking bookshops then there is Freedom Press, Active Distribution, AK press etc. We are in the process of gathering together Class War merchandise and propaganda for our own "local" stall.

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

@NECW: You, for the space.

If you want to get involved send us a private message via our Facebook page. Cops, fascists and journalists – don't waste your time as we know exactly who you are!



FACEBOOK:

www.facebook.com/pages/North-East-Class-War

WEBSITE:

neanarchists.com

IN CRUST WE TRUST...



Grinders. Innovators. Phrase-coiners. Crust legends Hellbastard are back with a new album 'Feral' and their lead singer/guitarist Scruff gives us an exclusive interview...

AB For the few who don't know about the band, tell us all about yourselves...

@S: The original idea for Hellbastard came in late 1984. My brother (Big Toot) used to co-run a venue in Gateshead called "The Station", He was very adept at putting on bands there and it was in full swing with national & international bands appearing most weekends, and it was still at this point frowned upon by all and sundry (namely the crowds/groups of people we all used to hang out with, and of course the genre that

we all came from,... 'anarcho-punk rockers') to enjoy heavy/thrash/metal music.

We, on the other hand loved that... we came from the 'first wave' of punk Rock but wanted to emulate the intense battery of bands like Discharge, and the tightness of a lot of the metal bands we had grown accustomed to, but keep the anarcho-punk ideology,... The first incarnation of Hellbastard was known as "Sons of Vengeance", it was awful,.. a complete sham. Sons of Vengeance attempted to play live a few times and never recorded a single thing,... we'd have new members for each live appearance and they were more often than not found AT gigs about 10 minutes before we were due to 'perform'.

As you can imagine this was a noisy affair and, looking back. It was fun at the time, but by contrasts now - it just makes me cringe even thinking about it. By 1985 Hellbastard were rehearsing as a 3-piece and trying our damned hardest to be as heavy as possible, not as fast as possible, just heavy and rocking.

I was put in charge of vocals so therefore I made sure lyrics were conscientious and hard edged. None of that awful mediocre satanic stuff. Our first bass player Christopher "Simo" Simmons died some time ago in the 1990's,... bless him, he wasn't meant for this world - or maybe this world was not meant for him, either way he is still sorely missed by all that knew him. R.I.P Simo.

So, the first 'studio line up' of Hellbastard came to be. Iain "Scotty" Scott on Bass guitar and Phil Laidlaw on Drums and myself on Guitar and Vocals. Phil had already been in bands before and so had I, so we had some idea of getting creative. Phil had previously played drums (guitar?) in a band called "Public Nuisance" and I had been in a band called "Feeble Minded".

Let's see. We had no equipment, we borrowed everything practically all the time and we were by all accounts absolutely terrible musicians. But, what mattered was we had a vision and that vision culminated in a demo we recorded months later in 1986 called "Ripper Crust". The demo title has eluded most of the press we have received to date, so I will attempt to be a little more specific with the 'meaning' of said title - the whole 'ethos' or 'modus operandi' of the band from where I stood was always about environmentalism. Always.

The title "Ripper-Crust" is best summed up on the front sleeve of the 1993 vinyl debut re-release of that demo. It depicts a woman ripping the earth's crust off the surface of the world,... she's got dreadlocks and appears to be quite 'alternative' looking. This was meant to be a direct statement, humanity is fucking the earth up. Humanity is exploiting the earth to such an extent that we're killing ourselves. Hence the title, "Ripper Crust".

Admittedly the word 'Ripper' is included for its often depicted ferocious style of music. Quite often within our little world you'd hear comments of "Ooooh have you heard that demo? or that LP? or whatever, and "Yeah, I heard it, it RIPS", often the word would be

seen in print in a publication like the U.S made "Maximum Rock 'N Roll" magazine, so that pseudo 'Americanism' is garnered from that style of describing some new band or some new demo or some new music that we'd previously never heard.



This 'environmentalism' carries on to today,... the release after "Ripper Crust" was "Hate Militia" (1987), that depicted a huge army of disillusioned disaffected people rising up against the social injustices and dumbing down of freedom of movement and freedom of speech. The album "Heading for internal Darkness" (1987/1988) clearly depicts the same, with a beautiful nature/countryside scene on the front sleeve to boot. Self-explanatory was the next release "They Brought death" (1988).

This carried on to the release of "Natural Order" (1989/1990), and so on and so forth right up to the eventual 'split' of the band in 1991/2.

A B The band has seen its fair share of line-up changes in its time, How do you keep up with the changes?

@S: It's a fucking nightmare. Having to get a new drummer/guitarist/bassist up-to-scratch and gig-ready is a fucking nightmare. Not only does it set a band back. It stops most bands in their tracks. It is no fun. It's a time consuming nightmare, having to have a new person learn all those old beats and time changes. All those old songs and then the newer ones - I can only describe it as a nightmare.

Keeping 'up' with change is what a band does, if you don't then you don't move forward, you stagnate and become a sad parody of yourselves. Making music is about change, it's all about change. It has to be for it to remain interesting or 'fresh'. When it stops remaining colourful then it becomes boring. The most important thing about any band is their drummer - anyone with any knowledge of trying to keep a band going for any length of time knows this to be true. Without a good drummer you have a bad band, it's that simple. It's like putting diesel into a petrol engine and expecting it to perform really well, you're fucked.

A B Your commitment to Hellbastard is exemplary - what keeps you motivated?

@S: That is a very good question. I guess I'm in the unfortunate percentage bracket that labels me a "lifer". I'd love to be able to answer this, but you have me completely stumped on this one. Well done, Paul. Not many have done that before, in fact i think you are the first to ever do so. I'll buy you a pint or two for this. You have to keep me to that. I'm well impressed. I could argue that I'm a slave to the mighty riff, but that's a bit of a cop-out. I am also well aware that certain

people refer to me as "Lemmy", cheeky bastards.

A B Your new album 'Feral' has just been released, how long has it taken to produce it?

@S: When I decided to reform the band in late 2007/2008, I had already written some of the tracks for the 2008 album - "The need to kill." By all accounts it is an awfully rushed and very bad erratic album. I could argue that "The need to kill" (along with "Eco-War", "Sons of bitches" and the other releases in between) being the last album before 'Feral' (which makes a timeline of 6 whole years) has taken exactly that, six long years! It's insane, HB only existed back in the day for 6 years to begin with! I think 'Feral' would have seen the light of day sooner had it not been for the in-fighting of band members and attitudes that went against what I/we were personally trying to achieve. We recorded 'Feral' in July/August of 2014. It took from then to February 2015 to complete the mixing, of course if we all didn't have other day-to-day living concerns then the whole thing could have been completed much sooner.



A **B** You have guest musicians on 'Feral', how did that come about?

@S: I asked them if they would do it and they all said "yes".

A **B** Your passion for animal/human rights is well known. How active are you in defending them?

@S: If I asked you for your bank account details and PIN No. would you send them to me? These kinds of questions are best left unanswered due to the fear of any possible repercussions that may or may never happen in the future.

A **B** Are there any particular causes that are close to your heart?

@S: Sea Shepherd, Hunt Saboteurs Association, ALF, Animal Protection, RSPCA... the list is a long one that goes on and on and on. This sounds pretty cliché, but I'll remark on it again. If you look at nature and the 'natural world' outside of capitalism and the pathetic fear induced hypocrisy of a 'humanised' society, everything ticks along quite nicely. Everything seems to have a place, and a reason for 'being', now put humans into the equation. Hey Presto! Instant carnage.

Naturally I'm well aware of the aborigines and the native people of this earth, using everything and wasting nothing and respecting the earth - but to get that balance back we'd have to go back to that. What is our reason for existence? Can you tell me? I have not heard a decent answer from anyone... ever. Not a single piece of literary information can inform me of this; none that I have read anyways.

Don't mistake this for a Nihilist viewpoint, I'm not even a Nihilist, I just cannot see any point for humanity being here. All we really have to do is put food in that

hole, make sure it comes out properly on the other end, go to sleep, wake up and do it all again. Other than that, what the fuck? I guess I could tell you about a personal 'cause' I have, I'll never have a child. No sir. I don't want to add to the already over-saturated mess that we are already in. to me it's just pissing in the gene pool and I personally place animal life above human need. Period.



A **B** Having been generally accepted as coining the phrase "crust punk", how relevant is that term to Hellbastard now?

@S: Good question. I guess it all depends on how you define the terminology. Personally for me the 1980's was a fucking awful time, and now it's even worse. So, it must be relevant, but only in certain ways. That whole 'crust-punk' thing became very fashionable around the world. The sad thing is there's a 'uniform' and a choice of bands to listen to make you 'acceptable' to the 'crust/punk' fraternity. What a load of complete and utter shit.

To me, 'crust punk' is about how you choose to live YOUR life,... and how that impacts on everything around you.... but to determine any 'relevance' I think you have

to disassociate the music form from the political ideologies that the whole genre represents. In terms of ideologies it is EXTREMELY relevant. There are individuals and communities out there in the world existing as best they can outside of 'the grid'. These people absolutely reject the homogenised, standardised, oligarchs of the 'western world'. They absolutely refuse the obsequious peanut crunching crowd and make their own paths.

That, to me is the true spirit of 'D.I.Y'. I am personally in awe of such people. I wish I had the bollocks to go and do it myself.



Q What is your process for writing new songs? Do they all stem from you or is there a collaboration process?

@S: It is true I do come up with a lot of the material, and have always done so. This changed on the new album 'Feral'. Our other guitarist Pete Salvage wrote a complete track (lyrics & music) called "Social hand grenade", and our bass player Laine composed an instrumental piece (what is for me the best track ON the album) "All our sorrows", and also included

some parts to a track called "...and the point of your being is?", Laine also wrote the music for "4-Paws" too. Rob Miller (Ex Amebix) wrote his own words for his guest appearance on a track called "Wychcraft" and Teddy Beetle (From the American cult band "Count Beetle") co-wrote the lyrics with me for the track "We are coven". Andy "A-Droid" Wiggins (Ex Amebix) composed the opening sequences of "In praise of Bast." and naturally Andy Sneap (Ex Sabbath/Hell) wrote his own lead guitar parts too.

My personal way of writing tracks begins with an old, old tape recorder. I have had it for years. I used to use it to record the band's soundcheck and live appearances at the Station gigs in Gateshead and on a few occasions at the Riverside Club in Newcastle Upon Tyne. I'll record the basis for a track on an old cassette and then rewind it back and play over the top of it. That's how I come up with harmonies and melodies. It also gives a good insight into whether or not the two guitar parts for the track will actually work.

I write stuff in my head and put it in little boxes, then re-arrange stuff to suit. All the little boxes are different colours. That's how I remember what is what. Laine our bass player has the technology to include drums and almost all instruments. That's because he's a clever bastard and understand his Apple Mac and uses the right programs for home recording etc, etc, I'd be lost doing that... I know where I am with a tape recorder and cassettes. I'll sit on a track for months at a time until I think it is ready for rehearsing and getting tight and 'ironed out'.



Since the release of 'Feral', this has only strengthened. Nothing but the best will do. If it is not killer then it gets binned, simple as that. As well as being a 'house nazi' I am also a 'music nazi' - like seeing a band for the first time, if I'm not captivated in the first few minutes I can't help but think "fuck this". That is how I personally see our song writing. It has to grab you and all the passion and emotion has to smack you in the face. If it doesn't do that then to me it gets pretty stale very quickly, especially with heavy/hard music. Come to think of it I'm also a 'garden nazi' (I like things just so,...) and I'm even also a 'fire nazi' (I like things just so around the fireplace, i.e. - regular cleaning and dusting and no ash left on the black slate underneath the fire - I have a special rag that I put oil on to oil the slate so that it looks very well kept. Sieg Heil! The Domestic Law!!

A B Do you miss not living in Gateshead/Newcastle Upon Tyne and how often do you visit 'home' now?

@S: I have never 'officially' lived in Newcastle Upon Tyne. I was born there however. I'm a Gateshead hooligan through & through. I believe that it's people that make the place, not places that make people.

There are a massive, MASSIVE amount of people that I miss seeing as much as I used to when I lived there. I really do miss them very, very much, but I have very, very sad memories of living in the North-East, and that is something I'd definitely rather forget.

Unfortunately I have more sad memories than happy ones. I know you never said or mentioned any form of patriotism to the North-East but this same question brings up something very similar to me - namely how I feel when someone asks me "Are you PROUD to be British?" I can't even begin to answer. The venom and the vehemence and the vitriol - it all wants to come out blasting from a screaming skull that would make no doubts as to the velocity and sincerity of my feelings. This has the same kind of feeling for me.

To call a place 'home' is something I have not really been embroiled in since 1976. Cliché as it sounds I usually call a place 'home' only in retrospect, and besides, there is no cat or dog in this place right now, and I firmly believe a home is not a home without a cat or dog in it.

A B You seem to go down very well with gigs in the USA. Any plans for more shows there? Any plans on touring or gigs in the UK in general?

@S: We are touring Europe next month and a return to the states with brothers from other mothers (WARWOUND) is on the cards for early 2016. We also have a few festivals next year and some one-off dates in/around the UK. Most probably these dates will end up being promoted on Facebook or something like that.

A B How do you approach the artwork for your albums?

@S: I come up with an idea and then absolutely harass a friend that has the technological skills and hardware to complete such a task. Then I pray more than 4 people buy the album so that we can give back some form of monetary exchange to the artist that spent hours days and months making the covers/sleeve/inlays etc.

A B How much of your free time does the band take up?

@S: We very, very rarely have any 'free' time, but we do make sure we rehearse at least long enough in advance before we perform live. Some bands don't even do that, to me / us that is just shooting yourself in the foot. We have little meetings from time to time and discuss plans for world domination, these plans never ever

come to fruition. But it is fun discussing who will own what country etc, etc when we finally rule the world, which we will.

A B Do you see Hellbastard being around in another 10 or 20 years' time?

@S: That's impossible to answer. The question is will there even BE an Earth in 20 years' time?

A B What messages if any, do you think the band has put out there to the public?

@S: Over the years, we have received messages/letters about how we have changed individuals' lives and made them better. That is a huge compliment.





We don't go out of our way to 'send messages' in our music as such, but when someone takes something from our lyrics and it benefits them then that is a great feeling.

There are hundreds of individual cases where someone has written to the band explaining certain things about our music and how it has helped them in certain ways.

Like I said, we don't go out of our way to do this, it just happens, and I'm personally glad it does. We are all glad this happens. It's one of the biggest compliments a band can get I think.

A B Have there been any particular amusing incidents in your long history of the band that that you'd like to share?

@S: Not really. If you would have replaced the word "amusing" with "horrific" then I could have rambled on and on and on and on...

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

@S: Apart from yourself for hosting & spending lots of time on the www.hellbastard.co.uk website the list is too many. Literally. They know who they are, and why.

All photos courtesy of Hellbastard

A B 'Feral' is out now and available via the band or all good music outlets.

FACEBOOK:

facebook.com/hellbastardofficial

WEBSITE:

hellbastard.co.uk

MYSPACE:

myspace.com/rippercrust

BANDCAMP:

hellbastard.bandcamp.com

REVERBNATION:

www.reverbnation.com/hellbastard

IF YOU WANT BLOOD...

FIRSTBLOOD



Firstblood hail from Jakarta, Indonesia. In a thriving scene, they stand out as the more prolific artists. Lead singer Aika spends a little time telling us about their exploits...

Aika, tell us a little bit about the band... When you formed, you musical output (Demos, Singles, Albums) so far.

@A: We are from Jakarta, Indonesia and we started the band a couple of years ago, originally in 2008.

With the first line-up: Aika on vocals, Rushmean on guitars, Iren on bass and Anaki play drums. We Wanted to play our music into D-Beat sounds. In 2009, Iren decided to quit from the band and Andrash came to join us to play guitar. Rushmean changed his equipment to play bass.

So Far We Releases:

War Victory And Honor Demo CD-R 2008. Aika (Vocals) / Rushmean (Guitars) / Iren (Bass) / Anaki (Drums)

Split With A Sistem Rijek?! CD-R (Brigade Records & Punk Holocaust Records, 2009). Aika (Vocals) / Andrash (Guitars) / Rushmean (Bass) / Anaki (Drums)

Appocalyptic Horror In The Sound Of War: 4 Way Tape. (Firstblood/ Diskelma/ Satellite/ Winds Of Genocide) Brigade Records & Doombringers Records, 2011

Aika (Vocals) / Ed Roberts Of State Of Urgency (Guitars) / Rushmean (Bass) / Anaki (Drums)

Split Tape With Disarm (Brazil) @ Sukma Records (Malaysia) - 2011. Aika (Vocals) / Andrash (Guitars) / Rushmean (Bass) / Anaki (Drums)

Punx Against Pollutions Compilation, 2012. Aika (Vocals) / Andrash (Guitars) / Rushmean (Bass) / Anaki (Drums)

Punk Not Dead: 2009-2011 - Noise 82 Records (Bandung) / Ravange Records (Jogja)

In Punk We Drunk Compilation (2014) Released Pang Alay. Aika (Vocals) / Andrash (Guitars) / Rushmean (Bass) / Roy Ferris (Drums)

A B Describe your music to someone who had never heard you before...

@A: Street Punx, Hardcore and a few pop songs, such as Alicia Keys, Lily Allen...

A B Who Are Your Main Influences?

@A: Discharge, Avskum, Disgust (U.K), Cop On Fire.

A B Why did you decide to reform?

@A: We don't know what the best reason to answer this question. We busy with our activities before. Work, family and school and the other bands we played. I play with Heuristik with Roy Ferris, Andrash continues his college and the others with their activities. And now we decide to reform again because we miss this band to play and get some gigs. The first we reform, our friends, Ache from Alcoholocrust and Roy from Heuristik joins us and get some gigs with them. Not many reason why we reform this band. Having fun and get a communication with the others. Firstblood Distort 2015 : Aika Pariyanto (Voc) / Andrash (Guitar) / Kevin Noise (Bass) Member Satellite & Lock Off / Anaki (Drumz).

A B What is the current scene like in Jakarta?

@A: Jakarta is a big city, many Punks here and Hardcore kids. Jakarta has many communities in every block, every places with activities. Some old bands were reformed again and new bands with good music. Many bands from foreign countries doing tours here and local too.

A B How political are the bands in Indonesia? Are there fears of Government reprisals?

@A: I think many bands into political issue. Every day is political... Life, works, family and in Punk itself. But not many bands direct included in political groups. I think when we decide to include in Punks activity, there's an effect with the Government, like police. And that's a risk and we should face it. This is Punk...

A B Cassette tape seems to be the format used in Indonesia. Is that due to it being a cheap format to work with?

@A: Yes, tape is still famous and great physically than CDs here. It's so classic. We used to copy every our records at our friend's place, he runs small home-industry to copy on tape format with cheap costs between Rp.6.500,- through Rp.8.000,- Cost is less from 1 USD. It's so fucking cheap.

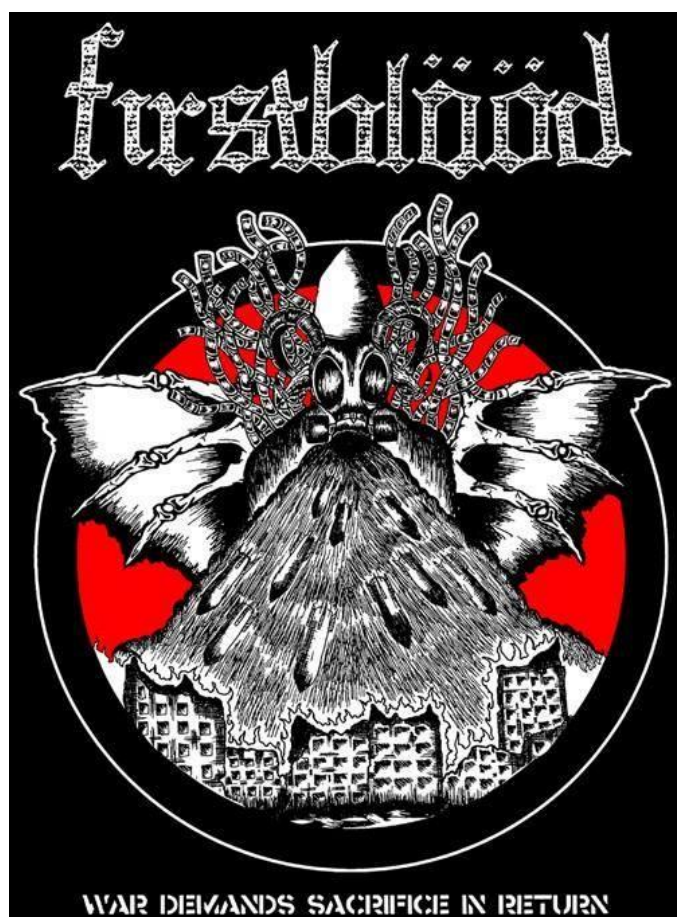


A B Are there any plans for an album or a new split EP?

@A: We hope in this October or November. Firstblood will put a split tape out with Decontrol from U.K. And it will be released by No Fukker Records from Tangerang.

A B How much touring are you doing at present? Is it only local or are you considering touring all of Indonesia?

@A: July 29, 2009 – August 02, 2009 we have Asian tour from Batam, Tanjung Pinang, Johor Bharu, Kuala Lumpur – Malaysia and Singapore. It's so hard to us if we doing some tours now. All of us are busy with our work. From 7:30 am into 5:30 pm, we always wasting our time and life at work. So, we should manage our time between doing tour and work and family too.



A B Is there much trouble between sub-cultures such as Metal or Skinhead/Oi?

@A: I think we don't have a problem with that. We have our activity, Metal have their activity their self and Skinhead/Oi! too. Sometimes when we get a change, we hang out with them at gigs.

A B Is there an active anarchist scene?

@A: I don't know much info about that. Maybe there is a small collective. A couple years ago, there's an Anarchist Collective, and they move to Jogjakarta and we don't hear about that anymore.

A B Are there many UK or USA bands who have toured in Indonesia? If so, who?

@A: I hope you know about them... There's 7 CROWNS, STATE OF URGENCY from UK, WAR ALL THE TIME and off course, DOOM. The first band tour in here is WOJCZECH from Germany on February 2003. MAGRUDERGRIND, KRUPSKAYA, ENDORPHINS LOST, TRAGEDY... And more the other bands from Japan, Italy, Sweden, Australia are all doing tours here.

I hope DECONTROL will doing tour to Asia...

@Paul: Decontrol would love to come and visit Indonesia. I think it would simply be a question of logistics and money. Never say never, though...

Maybe there could be an opportunity for a few bands from the North East England region to head out to Indonesia to do a small tour... you never know!

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

@A: Roy Ferris, a guy who always be patience and have many times to make a sleeve layout and he have many contributes with Firstblood, Mr. Aldo, Pang Alay and friends around us who always supported us from beginning.

Thank you so much for your interest in our band. Paul, you fucking rule, mate.

FACEBOOK:

facebook.com/pages/Firstblood-Jakarta/1665346967021720

WEBSITE:

firstbloodjakarta.bandcamp.com

E-MAIL:

Dbeat_Hororcore@Gmail.com



Look out for the new split tape with Decontrol on Fukker Records.

A limited supply of tapes will be made available outside of Indonesia.

Contact Anger Burning via Facebook for more information.



WHO LET THE DOGS OUT?



A unique attempt at a split project?

A Split albums. Split EPs. Split 7-inches. Generally, they all mean the same thing - one side per band or in the days of CD and now digital, the first X tracks are from one band and the remainder the other.

The only other 'split' release I can immediately think of that wasn't like that was back from the 80s when Motorhead and Girlschool done their 'Headgirl' collaboration. I'm sure there have been others, but hold that thought, because the new split from English Dogs and Keyside Strike takes that collaboration and pushes it into new territory.

I'll let Mr. Paul Stone from Keyside Strike explain a bit more...

Me 'n' Wakie have been mates a long, long time. We did a couple of gigs with WERNT and what not. we played a gig in Gateshead a couple of years back now I think and then did two nights on the bounce in the Midlands then back up in Gateshead. We were talkin' 'n' Wakie said about wanting to do a split. We'd nattered about it before, but hadn't really formed anything concrete. Apart from gettin' Wakie to do a guest spoken word version of our Stuff Yer Xmas track for a compilation on Rebel Sound records last year, which worked great despite the complicated way of gettin' it sorted [laughs]. Wakie on a mobile in a campsite in Devon, reciting lyrics about Xmas going wrong, in blazin sun shine! [laughs]

But in Gateshead, Wakie said he really wanted to get the split sorted and do it. He's my mate, and I love the Dogs and have since 1984, so the thing was a no-brainer for me.

Then he says "I've got this idea, bear with me..." and goes off on how he'd like a proper split release, not 2 songs each 'n' covering each other's songs maybe. But all new and written for the split. I was already sold, then he said about the 7 Deadly Sins idea, a song per sin: bands record together, maybe share vocals 'n' stuff. Originally writing together, but that was a bit too adventurous, so we opted for what we did. Pick sins and write a song on the subject.

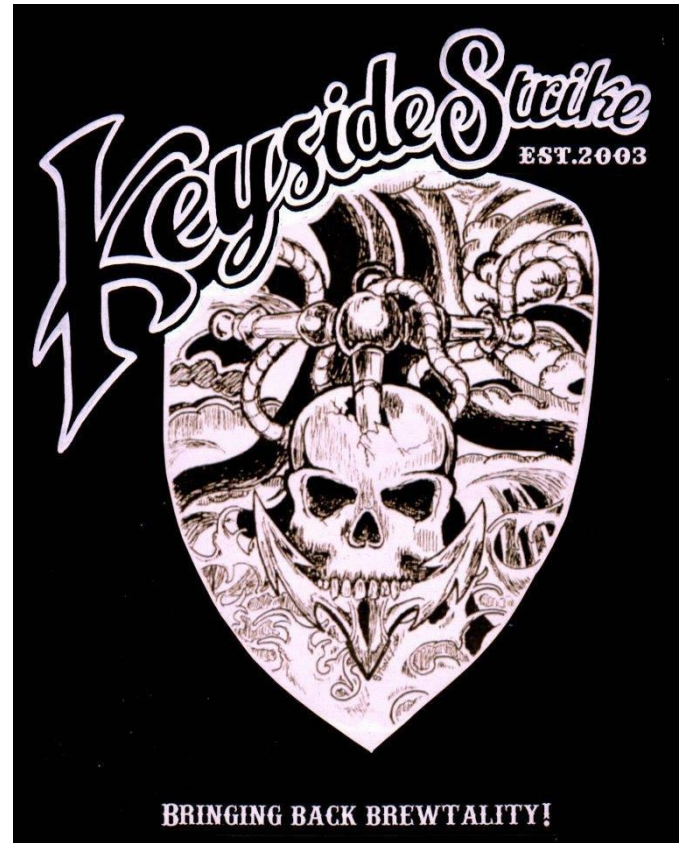
Now neither of us wanted the "Greed, it's very bad. You shouldn't be greedy" nonsense, so we tried to come up with original ideas on each topic and ways of discussing/describing them. Then the idea about staggering the songs, so it was one each in order not three of ours and four of theirs, like every split. 'Cause on vinyl, you get the band you like best and "the other side" all the time. Totally not what we were driving at with this. We wanted a proper split release, guest vocals, joint backing vocals 'n' that.

Lots of mad text and phone conversations on the lyrics between me 'n' him about how we were going then ensued from about late December right up to the last minute. (At one point the female vocal on Vanity was goin' to be me doing falsetto no less! I'm kinda glad Nick's mum's scratch vocal was so good on the Friday that they decided to have her do it properly instead.)

After lots of discussion it panned out that Easter was the best ime to get both bands to Nuneaton, us being up north, the Dogs in the Midlands and Wakie being way down in Cider Country!

It was every bit as mad and fun as you'd expect, and we think the split has come out brilliantly. I worked really hard to get the songs as good as I did, 'Lust' is one of my favourite Keyside tracks, but then 'Envy' is a blinder too, and 'Sloth' is really catchy so I dunno. Just havin' Carl from Zoo Studios' dad do the harmonica on 'Lust' absolutely made the thing for me. He totally got exactly what I had in my head, but I can't

play harmonica at all. It's something I'd wanted on a track of mine for years 'n' years, way back in Lowlife in fact when I'd had the idea.



I freely admit when they first played us their rough mixes of their tracks I knew we'd best get our 'A' game on, 'cause the stuff sounded great even unfinished! I'm not short of confidence in my songs, but they had so put much in the songs... I don't think we let the side down, though. It just works as a piece of work, a whole lump of punk/hardcore/psy-core/rock n roll insanity! Nothing like it before as far as I can tell!

It was a brilliant thing to do, a real challenge, but fun. I mean 'Sloth' is not a thing you'd have a fast complicated song about is it? So it needed to be slow, and and kinda lazy sounding. Just logically speaking. 'Lust' just

kinda happened, I heard something in a song by one of my favourite bands (Sick On The Bus) that had me thinking, "Why not write about lust from the third person, not the obvious I real fancy her/him, or they really want to jump my bones", and once I'd got that idea about a bloke havin' some snot gawpin' at his mrs ample bussom I was away. 'Envy' was lyrically sorted once I got the through the "your green eyes" idea and I kinda thought about the politicians wanting more 'n' more of the working man's cake.



We're really proud of it. All of us. The Rebel Sound guys are totally onboard with releasing it on 10", we just need to sort the package and then it's off to get pressed all being well, possibly a Euro vinyl release as well, maybe.

I designed the cover, using a cross pollination of the wolven skull I'd designed for them as a T-shirt for Rebellion last year (very popular it was too) and one of anchors. We have a few anchor/skull designs to go with the keyside imagery, and the idea was basically to sort of have the CD like it's a bible or an old leather book. I spent fuckin' hours 'n' hours labouring over

gettin it right 'n' running things by Wakie 'n' the lads at every step. Kept the whole thing as solid a concept artistically as possible.

A B So we've heard from the horse's mouth so to speak about the Dogs-Strike concept, but what do I think...? Here's my opinion...

Greed - Classical Dogs-sounding riffs introduce the first track. A fitting cousin to 'Max' that's for sure. A catchy chorus and pleasant usage of the first-person reference to being a cunt make this track the perfect opener for the split project.

Lust - there's simply not enough harmonica-playing in punk I think. This is redressed in 'Lust', which is an observation on the classic insecurity of a man when he's out with 'his woman'. Sounding like The Macc Lads that have been slapped about and given a dose of ironic political correctness. Set to be a classic. Keyside's opening track rages on with refrains of "Stop staring at my missus!" and the revelation that she is in fact harder than the protagonist!

Gluttony - A familiar advert theme heralds the second song from the Dogs. An attack on the super-morbidly obese? Perhaps, but it's aimed those who consciously increase their weight with no regards for themselves or anyone around them. Contentious, but deftly executed material.

Sloth - "Can't be arsed today" is what Mr. Stone sings and that's the sentiment paraded here. The song's tempo underpins the theme superbly. Slow hardcore which embodies the deadly sin perfectly.

Anger - Fast-paced and sure to be a great song to get people on their feet and front of stage when played live. Just shy of two minutes, but condensed anger goes a long way!

Envy - Keyside's final opus, signing off with an all-out thrash attack via their trademark relentless hardcore, attacking those who covet... in this case the government.

Vanity - Never since 'Frigging in the Rigging' has punk sounded so avant garde. Reminding me of Blur at the start, but quickly vanishing as the song gets into its swing. The dual-vocals of Wakie and Nick's mother giving way to a full ensemble of Dogs-Strike as the song morphs once again and then back one last time for the finale. Curiously addictive listening!



All in all, around 22 minutes of sheer fun. Well worth a punt even if you're not necessarily an English Dogs or Keyside Strike fan... you may be surprised and then compelled to entertain their respective back-catalogues!



The Dogs-Strike 7 Deadly Sins is available directly from the bands themselves - check out their Facebook pages to make an enquiry.

FACEBOOK:



www.facebook.com/Keyside-Strike-146906715382167



www.facebook.com/English-Dogs-Band-221500254550788/

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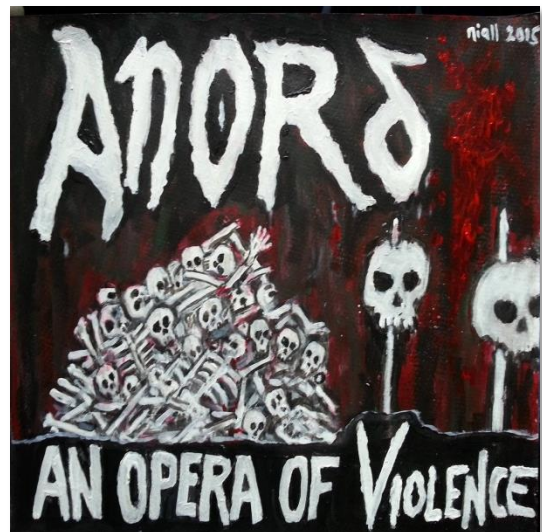


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