

MAD RAT MAGAZINE

rock'n'roll ~ rockabilly ~ rhythm & blues ~ jump 'n' jive

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issue #17 January '07



Comprehensive Gig Guide
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January edition



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SPIKE SPOUTS



Oi Oi & Happy New Year!

Another year of great music to look forward to, a conscious decision to build on your

lifestyle choice, to make new friends, visit new places, see new bands and continue to support the rockin' scene and to be thankful for what you've got.

Currently on the scene we have some incredible talent, accumulatively as bands or as individual musicians that shine, we have band nights and record hops weekenders and festivals, events spilling over each other on every street corner Monday through Sunday you can find somewhere to go and something to do. AINT LIFE GRAND!

This month we have some fantastic events to look forward to, the 2i's gig at the 100 club, which looks set to put skiffle back on the rockin' map along with big names from the rhythm n blues scene see the advert, we have the Rockers Reunion at The Rivermead Reading. Dale Hawkins I cant wait! We have The Hillbilly Hop at the Rock n Bowl featuring The Tazmanian Devils from Germany and The Kansas City Cryers wild and rockin at Bloomsbury Bowling Lanes. Information for all these gigs can be found in the gig guide, personally I haven't got time to chase you for your gig listings and Linette is very busy as well, so for the

last time this year and I mean it if you want your gigs listed then send them to us via our website at www.madrat-mag.co.uk there are several ways to send it all of which mean filling out a web form, please fill it out in full with the address of the venue the band the dj a contact phone

number etc, you only need to fill out all the details once and then list your bands and dates and we will keep them on file. This way we can cut and paste and its less time consuming please DO NOT EMAIL US FLIERS FOR GIG LISTINGS.

We are very happy In the way that the mag is growing and has been received by you all but please remember the mag is a labour of love and we are human and we do make mistakes (rarely) (SORRY PETE) and we do still need your advertising and your features and your SUBSCRIPTION or DONATION the mag doesn't print itself or deliver itself. Thank you to everyone that distributes the mag every month and thank you to all of you who write in or email us in response to some of the editorial we are very grateful for all of your support, we could print a years worth of mags with all the great comments that you send re the mag and praise where praise is due and no I don't mean The Mad Rat Team, I mean YOU. Well done and long may you contribute! I sincerely hope that you have a wonderful 2007 filled with whatever makes you happy, tickles your fancy or floats your boat.

Happy New Year to you all

Rockin Regards

Spike

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RHYTHM RIOT!

Rhythm Riot No. 10

How shall I Compere thee? A view from backstage.

I remember a phone call back around March time, it was Rhythm Riot maestro Robin. Hello Ian he said, I have a job for you, are you free for the Riot in November. I assumed he meant for my band Juke Joint Jump but actually he was after my services to assist John Lewis and Scratch as a compere. Oo err I thought, are you sure, I enquired, I've not done anything like that before? Yes said Robin and went on with some old toffee about how he and his lovely wife Collette had noticed over the years they have known me, during my time with The Bus Stop Boys in particular, that I appeared comfortable with a microphone and had a good way with an audience.



Now that was all very complimentary and very kind of Robin to say, but what really clinched the deal was Robins request for me to host the first ever Rhythm Riot vintage pin up parade. I'm your man I said before he could finish

his sentence, as thoughts of classic British double entendres I could employ raced through my mind..... Ding Dong! Sadly as it turned out the Pin up competition did not come to fruition as there were not enough entrants but hey come on ladies there's always next year....you know you want to!

Any road up time flies and before I knew it the Riot was a mere week away and I thought about ways to approach the job in hand. As you can probably tell if you actually made it this far I have a tendency to ramble on a bit and I started to prepare vast introductions for the bands I was to introduce. Hang on a minute though I thought, the people won't want to listen to me droning on, they are there to see the bands. So I decided that less is more and cut my introductions down to be brief but fun which on reflection, was I think the right thing to do. Of course put me anywhere near a stage and it's hard to get me off, so it is tinged with some regret that I didn't loiter longer and crack a few more funnies etc.

The day of the Riot came and on arrival at Camber and after checking in and finding our room, a couple of cans from the fridge and a bacon sarny I headed off to get the low-down on the evening ahead. I met and chatted with Robin and Collette amongst the clothes

stalls where Collette was busy spending Robins hard earned before I headed backstage where I found Andy the stage manager and chatted for a while ref the plan for the night ahead.

It all seemed pretty organised back there and I agreed to turn up again 15 minutes before the first act. Though it all now seems a bit of a blur I was soon to find myself standing on stage, looking quite dapper if I do say so myself ready to start the proceedings for Rhythm Riot number 10. After thanking DJ Groovin Axel I introduced a great bunch of lads from Germany, Cherry Casino and the Gamblers. They played a terrific set which I was able to enjoy back out front with a small Irish coffee before I realised time was up and dashed back stage to applaud their last song and check if the audience wanted one more. No problem there, the crowd were very vocal in their appreciation and the Gamblers played a fine encore. It is a very tight schedule at the Riot so the bands are restricted to one encore which sometimes can be difficult to control.



The next band on were the UKs own Swing Commanders. Backstage I checked if they had anything they wished me to say in their introduction, checked timings with Andy and away we went again. The Commanders successfully entertained the crowd with their blend of western swing and rock 'n' roll and again after their set I had no worries as the applause rang out to bring them back for more. One thing I personally dislike is if a compere has to work too hard to get an encore for a band. I think if people want one they will shout if not it is probably best all round not to bother. This was to be a situation I hoped to avoid and so far so good.

Tojo from Scotland took over on the decks and span a fine selection of grooves whilst I believe I may have enjoyed one or two more libations with the chaps from Oceans Seven, Paul, his lovely lady Trish and James O out front. However I made sure I was sober enough to get backstage nice and early for the next act and main event of the Friday evening.

My next job was the big one I was very conscious that I had to say Little Willie Littlefield and not Willie Little Littlefield. OK it sounds daft but it could happen. My big moment ruined!

Little Willie Littlefield is a true gent. We chatted backstage for a while and I got the low down that Willie





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would play solo for a couple of songs before the band were to join him. Before long Mike Sanchez had arrived backstage and the two old friends discussed Mike hitting the stage for a couple of numbers with Willie. Again in a blink of an eye there I was on stage with a legend at the piano by my side. Luckily I didn't stumble over my words and managed to make a reasonable job of introducing the man from Texas. I was as always, the consummate professional! Phew!

One word sums up what we witnessed with Willies show, superb! I hope just to be alive at 75 let alone be able to produce a set of entertainment of such quality. Needless to say there was no worries that the audience would want more and it was a shame that Willie had to finish as I am sure he would have played all night. His entourage seemed worried backstage and rightly so that Willie should take it easy but Willie was having none of it and beer in hand went off to meet his public.

Busy times ensued back stage as the UK's own Mike



Sanchez and his band prepared to finish the night in style. Mike belted out his set in his own inimitable style. Pure class including of course a couple of tunes from the sublime Imelda May. Mike finished with Tallahassee

Lassie and though the noise of the audience pleading for more was terrific Mike decided to leave it on a high. So that was it. Compering day one over in a flash. I had a great time and though I still had some early evening duties to attend to on the Saturday I felt happy that all had gone well, I hadn't stumbled over my words and hoped Robin, Collette and Jerry may consider asking me back again next year.

Saturday arrived to the beat of an Irish jig as the Guinness skull ache boogie played on my brain. A couple of hangover removers and a bacon sarny soon provided the cure and I was ready to go again. Saturday afternoon was planned to be the time of the Pin up contest but as that was now not to be I settled down to watch the racing on TV. Sorry but I am from Newmarket. After that it was time for a browse amongst the record stalls and before I knew it it was time to hit the stage again.

The early evening on the Saturday at the Riot can be a lonely place for the first band on but Little Lou and the Moonshiners had no such problems. Despite the ballroom being relatively empty at 6.20 by the time they were to start at 6.30 they had filled the front of stage area with a host of banner waving fans. Once again plenty of applause followed their set along with a presentation by some chap in full Sultan kit. Not

quite sure what it was all about but as I announced that time was up little Lou was drowned in a shower of roses and all ended well.

My last job for the weekend was to bring on the Craig Shaw Combo. The crowd from earlier seemed to have disappeared as fast as they had previously appeared and unfortunately for Craig and the guys the ballroom became a bit of an empty shell. It was therefore one of those occasions and the first time for the weekend that I was in a position to have to ask if the audience wanted more. It was that time that I had dreaded but to be true to myself and not to embarrass the band I decided that it would be best all round to leave it and to instead thank the guys for their set, thank everybody for putting up with me and to mention that John Lewis would be taking over and finally to bring that coolest of the cool cats DJ Turkey on to spin some wax.

As the records played the audience returned with a vengeance and John Lewis as compere had no worries as Big Jamboree, Hayden Thompson, Lloyd Price and last but by no means least Ray Collins' Hot Club all received riotous applause once again.

I was totally off duty on Sunday and free to enjoy the rest of the show. After I returned from the car run (Thanks for the ride Terry) I noticed Scratch had moved in to the digs next door to me. Just to be sociable I popped round with a couple of cans and later joined him whilst he took the reigns for the last night of the Riot. Again superb!

Well that was it. What a great time we had, all over far too quickly, a superb feast of music to be savoured. To top it all Robin and Collette had found me and James Ocean loitering with intent (to polish off another little Irish coffee) in the Queen Vic later on the Saturday night and asked me to keep my diary free for next year which was superb news for me. So if I don't see you before I will see you then.

Oh just one final thought.....I am sure that with a little encouragement and a few early entrants Robin might just be persuaded to have another try at the Vintage Pin Up parade. Go on ladies give it a go!

Ian Gillon Jnr.



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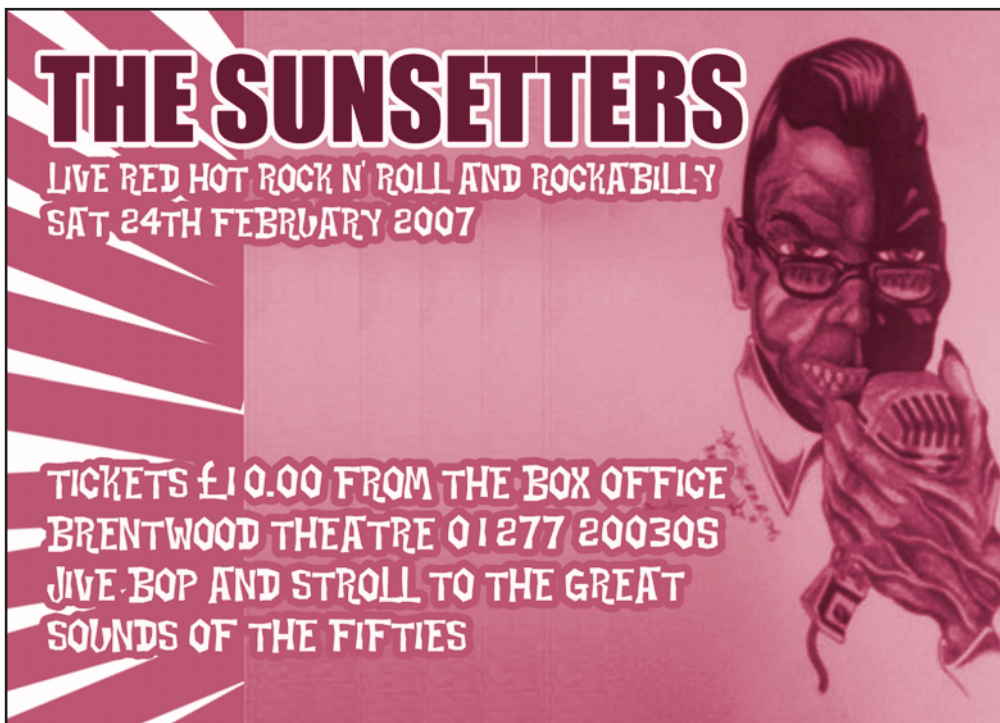
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RECORDINGS



Title: Jive Time

Band: The Slammers Maximum Jive Band

Label: Pollytone (tbc)



I received this pre release promo through the post recently and thought I'd give it a spin to hear what this incarnation of the Alabama Slammers was like. Having been a fan of the original "Slammers" I was keen to see if the band captured the energy that was a strong ingredient

of the former line-up.

The opener is a cover of the Professor Longhair tune "She Walks Right In" although the horn arrangement is different to the original it does swing along nicely at a good jiving tempo until the vocals kick in which, for me, brings the track to a halt. The lead singer's style is quite unique, the lyrics are almost spoken, which really doesn't suit the lively backing on this cut!

Tune two is the well covered "All of Me" done in Big Six style with slap bass throughout and some nice horn work on the solos.

Onto number three and a Louis Prima classic, "Just A Gigolo" which is covered in authentic style and a tune that suits the vocalists style. One for the modern jivers without a doubt.

"Good Morning Judge" is next on the player and whips along nicely with a good tight rhythm track.

Claire Hamlin on the keys and one of two original Slammers, starts off this instrumental offering, and not too dissimilar to her self penned tune on the Slammers Gimme Some More album. Quirky riffs from the horns make this a stray from the normal piano led instros. Nice left hand!

More Prima in the shape of "Five Months, Two Weeks, Two Days", again the Band cover this style well and you get what it says on the tin.

Neale Hobday, the other original Slammer, starts off their rendition of "Straighten Up and Fly Right".

Good tempo and good horn arrangements make this one of my favourites on the album.

Ray Charles' "What I'd Say" gets the "Maximum" treatment next with a good backing track although the vocals are a little flaky in places.

"Hook Line & Sinker" is in similar style to the other jivers, but a bit of a throw away track in my opinion.

Another classic is covered next and I'm sure Lloyd Price would be happy with this version of "Stagger Lee". Good horn work and some nice backing vocals.

Track 11 is the second instrumental on the CD, but without a track listing I'm unable to tell you what the song is called. However, a good mid-tempo horn led track, swamped with solos from all of the horn section. This is more like it!

Number 12 slips us back to "Chicken and The Hawk" and another jive classic but executed with little punch.

Neale gets slap happy on the recognisable cover of the Slammers original arrangement of "Boogie Woogie Country Girl" I think it's the piano that makes it so, especially the intro. Nice shuffle and bubbling horns.

The finale is provided another Prima tune. "Buona Sera" is given the once over here. This style definitely suits the Band and is executed well with a good baritone solo.

In summary the album is pleasant on the ear and one for jivers who like a compilation of dance floor favourites. The recording is crisp and not over produced. I look forward to the next release, where I hope the Band may be a little more daring when choosing the content.

I understand that Jive Time will be available through Pollytone Records sometime soon.

Check out Pollytone.com for details.



HBomb Ferguson - Remembered

Cincinnati, Nov. 27, 2006 - The man known as "H Bomb" because of the way his voice exploded on stage, died Sunday morning in a local hospice room. Robert Ferguson was 77 years old. Ferguson, thought by many as a blues legend, was one of the last survivors of an almost forgotten style of blues. He had been fighting Emphysema for years and was hospitalized for it a few times, but had always been able to recover.

Ferguson was well known and well respected in the blues world when he settled in Cincinnati in the late 1950's. Originally from South Carolina, he began playing piano at age six and was writing music shortly after.

He began creating his style of "honkytonk shag blues" as a teenager, and served in the Merchant Marines during World War II. After coming home, Ferguson almost immediately began traveling the country on the blues circuit.



He had a gold record at 23, and quickly earned a name not only for his music ability, but for the jokes he told in between songs. He was a frequent and popular emcee at the Apollo Theater.

After growing tired of traveling and living in bigger cities like New York, Ferguson made his home in

Cincinnati in 1957, the heyday of blues here. After a brief retirement, where he worked as a garbage man, Ferguson continued writing and playing music at local clubs.

The highlight of his long career may have been in 1992 at the Chicago Blues Festival. Ferguson was the only act not signed to a record label. The crowd reacted so strongly to his set, they would not let him leave the stage until he performed a few encores.

After that day, Ferguson signed to another record label and made another album. He traveled all over the world promoting it and in the years that followed, never stopped playing shows in Cincinnati.

Ferguson was known for his aggressive style of playing piano and for the colorful wigs he wore on stage, almost as much as he was known for his booming voice. But friends say his personality and wit, outshined all of it.

Courtesy of Rockabilly Hall of Fame.

Anita O'Day - October 18, 1919 - November 23, 2006

Anita O'Day, who died Thursday Nov 23rd at 87, was never just another big-band canary. That's not to say that she lacked the physical attributes to compete with the other Swing era vocalists — frilly eye candy occasionally taking the microphone to offer jaunty riffs on the latest pop tunes — who sat on stage with the Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman and Harry James ensembles.

There's a photo of O'Day on the cover of her autobiography, "High Times, Hard Times," in which she is perched, nylon-clad legs crossed, on top of a piano in a pose that could have been an inspiration for Michelle Pfeiffer's sexy lounge singer in "The Fabulous Baker Boys."

The elegance was always a veneer covering an inner toughness, the hard life lessons learned that made her a superb jazz singer, one of the best of her generation — or of any generation. At a time when most female vocalists tended to emphasize the sweet timbres of their voice, she chose to follow a path blazed by the one major jazz singer who emphasized message over medium — Billie Holiday.

Like Holiday, O'Day combined the soaring freedom of a jazz instrumentalist with the storytelling lyricism of a poet. She often said she was a "stylist," not a "singer," which was correct, but only in a minimal sense.

From the moment she broke through to a national audience via the briskly swinging encounter with trumpeter Roy Eldridge in the Gene Krupa Band's recording of "Let Me Off Uptown" to her splendid Verve recordings of the '50s, and her comebacks in the '70s and again in the '90s, she was instantly recognizable, an utter original. Yes, "stylist," but much more. Like Frank Sinatra, she balanced the rhythmic songs that were generally considered to be her forte with an approach to ballads that varied from seductive intimacy to sardonic irony.



When I wrote about her in 1990, she was as feisty as ever, personally — discussing another hard-luck encounter with the vagaries of the record business — and still singing with the killer phrasing that made every song an adventure.

Eight years later, I reviewed her again, this time after she had made an astonishing return to singing after a near-fatal encounter with pneumonia and blood poisoning. And again she was remarkable, as she was in her final performances before her death — to the very end, never just another big-band canary. Watch the birdie !

By kind permission of Anita's partner, Robbie Cavolina.

The DUKE's Rockabilly Raves

Rockabilly, Hillbilly, Western & Bop!

I am foremost a rockabilly guy. But I have loved country music since I first listened to my father's Johnny Cash and Marty Robbins records when I was a kid in South London the 1960's. And when the 'Hickory' record label released the 'Hillbilly Bop' L.P in the late 1970's, I was one of the many who purchased it. 'Country and Western', 'Western Swing', 'Hillbilly', 'Western and Bop', whatever you want to call it, you either love it or you hate it. I am the former. I still have the L.P. in question in my collection.

Back in 1978 I was an 18-year-old spotty Teddy boy and through a friend at work I found out about the 'Silk Cut Country Music' festivals that were held yearly at the Wembley Arena. I went there mainly to see Marty Robbins (cheers Dad) but also on the same bill that day were Hank Williams' original 'Drifting Cowboys'. I could not believe what I was hearing. Imagine a teenager (in the long haired 1970's) in full Teddy boy uniform, with the added bonus

of a cowboy hat (I still have photos somewhere) being moved by music that most of my work mates considered sad and laughable. However listening to the 'Drifting Cowboys' on that particular 'Silk Cut' festival is what sealed my love of real Country music (not the watered down over polished, over produced rubbish, that was coming out of Nashville in the 1970's, some of the 1980's...in fact even now!).

WHY I DIG THE WESTERN ACES

I first came across Phil Morgan when he was playing steel guitar for 'Lynette Morgan and her Blackwater Valley Boys' at the Rockabilly Rave in 2005. Unfortunately, that was to be his last gig with the band. There then followed a hiatus of 18 months, during which Phil spent quality time with his newborn son Max, and got together with various musicians on a non-gigging basis. Then, in February 2006, Gordon and Dave Dole contacted Phil, to see if he would consider a jam session to work out some tunes they had written. Phil had written some songs, and wanted to try them out, so a session was arranged and also featured Darren Matthews on drums. A few weeks later, 'The Western

Aces' were born. A few songs were recorded on tape (the tape in the corner of the garage session, as Phil calls it) among them were 'Same Old Cell', which can be heard on their MySpace page and 'Go Boy Go'. Pleased with what they had produced, they decided to play a few private parties to get a general opinion of what various people on the scene thought of their sound. Armed with positive thumbs up from the party audiences, Greaser Leo booked them to play their debut gig at the 'Hillbilly Hop', and I decided that I had to be there.

The heavens opened just as I emerged from Bethnal Green tube station and by the time I got to the gig I was drenched, but my spirits were high. I went and said "Hi" to Leo, the lap-top hillbilly. Leo plays his set from his computer, the sound is okay, and when you think about it, it's a pretty good idea. Considering the work he has had to do to get the club up and running it takes away the extra burden of lugging C.D.'s and records along when he has a hop planned. The club was starting to fill up by the time Little Carl hit the decks, and from the first record he had the dance floor jumping. There is a knack to being a D.J. and it is not just knowing which record to play. One day Carl will tell me how he does it.

The Western Aces took to the stage at 10pm after an excellent introduction from Leo. They kicked off the set with Carl Smith's 'Go Boy Go' with Gordon on lead vocals and instantly a smile appeared on my face. I was going to enjoy this night. The further the band went into the song the more relaxed they became. They went straight into the second song 'Same Ol' Cell' while the audience were still applauding. Written and sung by Gordon it has become a popular tune on their 'MySpace' page. There was a change of singer for the next tune. I believe it was the Faron Young song 'Alone With You', with bass man Dave taking over the vocal duties. He sang it well. The next song, 'Old 32', was written and sung by Phil. By now the band were well and truly relaxed and had a great rapport with the audience. I can see this band being around for quite some time. They perform together successfully, and judging from their on and off stage personas, they appear to enjoy performing. The music that they play is mainly hillbilly and western swing, with a touch of rockabilly as well. The



TALES FROM THE WOODS

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**Tickets: £22 in advance, £25 on the door (subscribers £20)
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mixed crowd of rockin' folk, students and the just plumb curious were enthusiastically applauding as the band went through a strong set of both covers and original tunes. My personal favourite tunes on the night were 'Mean, Mean Mama', 'Go Boy Go', and 'Same Ol' Cell'. For the encore they did 'I Was There When It Happened', the tune from the Johnny Cash bio-picture 'Walk The Line'.

After this performance, Little Carl was back spinning the records, so I took the opportunity to go over and pick Phil's brain on certain matters. I had spoken to him before but only online. After saying "Hi" I jumped in with my first question, "Was 'Go Boy Go' at the end of the set a different arrangement to the one at the beginning?"

"Yeah" he replied, "it was the same, but a bit looser. Man, I was really nervous and I know my 'steel' fingers were tight on that first song, especially when it was a harmony between Gordon & myself. By the time we ended it, everything was loose (ha)!"

I was being a bit bold with the next question. "I liked the tune 'Tell Me Why We Can't Be In Love?' a lot. Did you write it for Lynette Morgan?"

"I can see how you came to that conclusion Duke. But it wasn't written for her. I wrote the song the day after we originally parted or separated. It was about my feelings towards someone I dearly loved and was married too. It is a desperate song that maybe lots of people can associate with. Hey, she is still one of the best people that I have met in my life and if it wasn't for her saying that she would love to sing in a band, I probably wouldn't be speaking to you now."

I went on; "You swapped steel for rhythm guitar on a few numbers. How many instruments do you play?"

"I'm not sure that I can play many. I'm learning every day. The steel is my thing but I also play rhythm and 'Tic Tac' (which will appear on our forthcoming album on 'El Toro'), I can puff a bit on a harmonica, and I know where to find the notes on a dog house. On the first recording by 'The Tennessee Rhythm Riders', I was playing drums."

On hearing that, my musical abilities seemed to sink further into the background. I said my "Catch you later" to Phil, who was surrounded by people like me, asking similar questions and went in search of another bottle of 'Newcastle Brown Ale'.

I had had another great night at the 'Hillbilly Hop' I had also discovered what an excellent D.J. 'Be Bop Kaz' is, I will definitely make sure to catch one of her record hops in the near future, and getting to share a cab back to my mum's house at the end of the gig with old friends and new made it one hell of a good night out.

I would like to thank Calamity Jane for last months Ruby Ann photos.

Duke

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and friends plus D.J.

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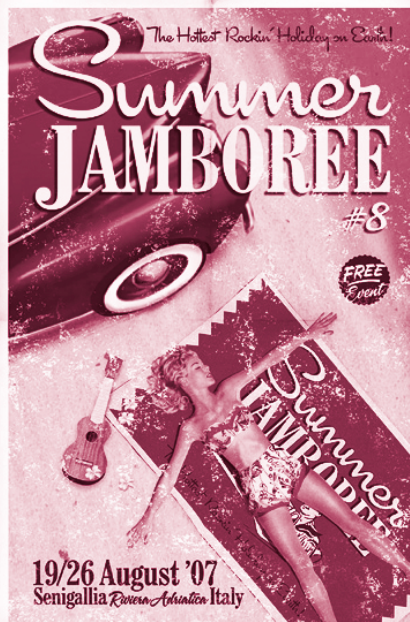
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JANIE'S JAUNTS

Happy Rockin and Prosperous New Year me dears, hope Santa gave you all what you wanted..lol.

Just a couple of quickie reviews this month so i will start with a trully awesome night at the Royal Concert hall in Nottingham on the 17th November to see the one and only Mr Jools Holland and his Rhythm and Blues Orchestra, I knoiw ! I knoiw name drop-per eh!!

Started at seven thirty with Jools' brother Christopher playing a twenty five minute routine of songs, which were then followed by the main man himself Mr Holland to thunderous welcoming applause from a packed to the rafters hall. It was a continuous non stop musical jamboree of boogie-woogie, blues, R&B and some Rock and Roll.

Ade and I sat second row in as i had had these seats booked since feb 2006...lol, we didn't want to miss a single note. It was magical and to see his fingers play every note to due to the large screen that hung from the back of the stage, it was an excellent idea so everyone got to see him play. He changed from piano to Harpsichord as easy as pie and it sounded

superb, the audience was loving every minute of it and his Orchestra had plenty of fine musicians too.

One funny bit was that several of his band members were late due to being stuck on the M1, who hasnt been stuck on the M1 at some point, any way Jools decided to have a bit of fun with them and asked us all to rehearse a few well chosen words when they did finally appear on stage. As the lights went down for a new number suddenly as though beamed in from another world there they were, Jools gave us all the subtle count in and we all chanted, "What Time Do You Call This then? Eh! Eh!"

We all just cracked up as thier red faces where a

picture, even they were laughing but also looking sheepish at Jools and just when you thought it couldn't get any better on came his guests for the night. Non other than Lulu and the fabulous Ruby Turner who for me stole the show, she was full of life and charisma and her voice was awesome. Would defo go to see Jools and his band again.

On 24th Nov saw Ade and I go to Hillside Club at Lenton to see Fatcat Trio who have changed thier name as they informed me to Mojo Kings.

With Lee (All Man)on Bass, Scotty (Animal)on drums and Paul(Rockin) on vocals and guitar yet despite a two and a half hour trip to get here, they did two good solid sets playing a great selection of varied and clear sounding songs.'Loving You Baby' 'Devil In Me' great version, 'Blue Days Black Nights' 'Fingered' and 'Brand New Cadillac' and Before you knew it it was midnight and as the last notes of the Bopping 'Hip Shake' finally stopped echoing in your ears it was time for us to go..

.....as always Keep On rockin

Janie xx



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Wildest Cats Weekender Pontins, Pakefield

The weekend at Pakefield was, as always, full of something for everyone-jiving, bopping, strolling, stalls, car shows, table dancing...

All the fun you can get in one evening at your local and not so local clubs, spread out in a weekend with a bit of Christmas sparkle.

Paradise, if you ask me, and I'm sure everyone else will say the same.

As always, Ritchie Gee and the other organisers provided for us an unforgettable experience of non-stop rock n roll, and the festive spirit of Christmas kicked the entire weekend off. Thanks a million to you all.

It all began on Saturday afternoon, in the already dancing Prince's Bar, in which the Hound Dog DJs started us off with their usual rockin' records shortly before the first band of the weekend, the Sundowners came on. Yet again, they set us in the rockin' mood with their hugely versatile style, and got us all

dancing on the floor, doing whatever we wanted. The session was followed by a candle-lit Christmas dinner, warmly welcoming us all with the lovely grub available. I certainly didn't hear any complaints about the

quality of the food all weekend!

The ballroom opened at 7pm on Saturday evening and just seeing the fantastic Christmas decorations on the ceiling was enough to make you want to get your camera out. And that was before all the stunts started! Everyone was getting into it-I didn't see one person who didn't get onto the dance floor at least once, whether dancing or trying to get closer to see the immensely talented bands on that evening. We certainly had a mix of bands-Porky's Hot Rockin' to start us off, the Bricats with the fantastic, unique Crystallairs from Germany, the brilliant Lennerockers from Germany and to finish the evening off, the fabulous Graham Fenton's Matchbox.

Matchbox got a lot of 'invited' guests up on stage with them-myself included, without the guitar this time-towards the end of their set, for at least two numbers. As I say, everyone just did what they wanted. It was all part of the fun! To top the evening off, the music in between the bands provided for us by all the DJs was the usual jive, bop and stroll

records, just as rock n roll should be. We were given a demonstration of jiving at its best by two extremely talented dancers-Mark and Genevieve, thanks a million. You certainly showed us all how it's done!

Everyone drowsily rose on Sunday morning, to be met in the dining room by the usual full English breakfast. No one ever wants to miss this part of the bash! After another look around the stalls and the car shows, the first band, the Kingcats, arrived onstage shortly after, waking us all from the hangovers of the night before, not to mention the rockin' tracks provided for us by the DJ shortly after the ballroom opened in the morning. (How this lot could entertain us so enthusiastically after a blast of a night like that, I'll never know.)

The Kingcats were followed swiftly by the Rat Pack and their usual guests, who yet again got us all into the mood for dancing and just plain rockin', and as ever were full of energy and blatin' rock n roll tunes to rock the afternoon away. All a little too quickly, if you ask me, as before we knew it, it was time to drive home again. Boo. Hiss.

I was also quizzed about my age and how I could possibly be into this sort of music. I simply replied that it's nothing whatsoever to do with age-rock n roll is the only music for me, because I love the way you can just do so much with it. It's the most unique style

of music you could ever know-rock n roll is the meaning of what it is to be a teenager, and at 17, I'm just enjoying it fifty years after teens first started to enjoy music made purely for them. Without it, there would be no young spirit, and we'll all be keeping that spark alive.

It sure shone in us all throughout the entire weekend, even without the Christmas soul putting everyone into that joyous, festive mood. I know this is a cliché, but rock n roll shall live for evermore, keeping audiences all over the world, whatever their age, as happy as it's kept me.

Elena Lynch

(Pictures courtesy of Janie (Cronall))



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New band members wanted

The Mad Rat Team are looking for female musicians interested in creating a rockin' rhythm and blues and rock 'n' roll band. The new band will consist of drums, stand-up bass, piano, guitar, two saxes and vocals. Candidates must have a love of 50's music and be able to perform in energetic style. The successful applicants will record an album at Essex's Shack Studio and be promoted by Mad Rat Agency with a view to playing live at clubs and festivals across the UK and Europe.. So, all you rockin' gals who fancy a bash, get in touch with the Rat at 01268 454494 for an initial chat.

JIVE JIVE JIVE WEEKEND WILL TAKE PLACE AS USUAL AT RIVERMEAD LEISURE COMPLEX ON MAY 25 26 27 2007

Bands already booked include firebirds the tone-masters for Saturday night may 26th and for Sunday may 27th the avengers big band spitfires king-cats and rockin the joint meanstreak plus cat and the hot tin trio plus all your usual jive djs mick the mic wildcat pete mr rusty and galaxy bob all enquiries 01883 714289 Or 01491 636046

17 years of Rock'n'Roll at The Pavilion.

On February 2nd 2007 the TTs celebrate 17 years of Rock'n'Roll at The Pavilion Pub, Battersea Park Road. The TTs started the Rock'n'Roll there in February 1990, and the music has continued every weekend since then under the mangement of Ray, and Mary Reynolds which must make it the longest established Rock'n'Roll Pub in the U.K.The gig starts at 8pm, and goes on untill 12. It is expected that many of the members of the vast list of bands who play at The Pavilion will attend,including past members of The TTs . Wild Wax Stu will be spinning the records.Regards,Terry Clemson

The Rockabilly Party Weekend! April 5-8, 2007

Viva Las Vegas 10 will take place at:The Gold Coast Hotel & Casino 4000 W. Flamingo RoadLas Vegas, NV 89103 Showrooms open until 7am Fri-

day - Sunday Ballrooms open until 4am Thursday - Sunday attractions include: Don Woody, Sleepy La Beef, Mac Curtis, Narvel Felts, Big Sandy, James Intveld 36 acts in all 15 dj's go to www.vivalasvegas.net

Sunsetters in Brentwood

Tickets for The Sunsetters at Brentwood theatre are selling quickly contact the box office for information. See advert in THIS mag.

Isle of Jive

Three Essex bands have been booked to perform at the Isle Of Jive weekend on the Isle Of Wight. Steve and Carol Ashdown had not seen the connection until they began to take bookings and customers connected the three. The Slammers Maximum Jive Band from Essex and Oo Bop Sh' Bam and Ocean Seven all have their roots firmly in Essex. Mad Rat says he couldn't have booked three better bands but warns there may be some dancing round their handbags! The cost of this weekend in early February is £159 per person including ferry and half board accommodation, Bargain! For booking forms and details on Allways Music promotions, telephone Steve or Carol Ashdown on 01763 241301 / 07808 340776 or email: steve_ashdown@hotmail.com View: www.strollinsteve.co.uk

Help wanted

I am a student at the University of East Anglia and I am researching for a project on Scopitone Jukeboxes from the 1960s. I was wondering if you've had the jukeboxes at the show in the past and if you will this coming year? Do you know who I could get in contact with that has a Scopitone, Cinebox, or Colorama jukebox? My project is due in March and I was hoping to get some footage of the jukebox running or an interview with someone who owns one or has a knowledge about them. Thank you, Carla Reiter carlareiter@gmail.com

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RAT'S GIG GUIDE

Gratuitously pinched from the web and from information sent by bands & promoters. Please check with venue before travelling

Mon 1 Jan 07 Bakers Arms Beechcroft Road, Upper Stratton, Swindon, Wilts SN2 6RE Slick Crusty & his Salty Racers Phantom 01793 832227



Wed 3 Jan 07 Ace Café Ace Corner, Old North Circular Road, Stonebridge, London NW10 record hop only (hot rod night) Little Carl's Record Hop 020 8961 1000

Wed 3 Jan 07 Whitwick S&S Club Whitwick, near Coalville, Leics record hop only Andy 07871 927405



Thu 4 Jan 07 Mad Hatters Swing Dance Club-TVH Trent Valley House WMC, New Street, Bedworth, Warks CV12 9DL record hop only (after 40's swing lesson) Woody 07968 988442



Fri 5 Jan 07 Bridgewater S&S Club Bath Road, Bridgewater, Somerset TA6 4PZ '59 Ford 01823 338319

Fri 5 Jan 07 C'mon Everybody Record Hop - SM St Marys Social Club, Melton Street, Crossbank, Batley, W.Yorks WF17 8PT record hop only Johnny Whiteshoes 0113 229 4196

Fri 5 Jan 07 Dale Tavern West Street, Worsborough Dale, Barnsley, Yorks S70 5PG tba Dave B 01226 205611

Fri 5 Jan 07 Grand Metropole Hotel Princess Parade, Blackpool, Lancs FY1 1RQ Good Rockin' Tonite see special events 01253 628321

Fri 5 Jan 07 Jolly Jivers Of Ilkley Hollygarth Social Club, Leeds Road, Ben Rhydding, Ilkley, W.Yorks LS29 8LY record hop only (rock'n'roll/jive/stroll) The Jolly Jivers 01943 601070

Fri 5 Jan 07 King Creole RnR Club Biggleswade WMC, Church Street, Biggleswade, Beds Rhythm Boys plus DJ 07748 306989

Fri 5 Jan 07 Queens Hotel (Theatre Bar), South Promenade, Blackpool, Lancs FY4 1AY Cadillacs Mike Rossi 01253 342015

Fri 5 Jan 07 Rockin' The Fens Hiam Sports & Social Club, Putney Hill Road, Prickwillow, Ely, Cambs Cat & the Hot Tin Trio Rockabilly Bob 01638 741402

Fri 5 Jan 07 Rock-Ola RnR Club The Paddocks, Long Road, Canvey Island, Essex Spitfires Dinger 01268

515696

Fri 5 Jan 07 The Pavilion 135 Battersea Park Road, Battersea, London SW8 4BX Phantoms 020 7622 4001

Fri 5 Jan 07 The Wishing Well The Avenue, Burnhope, Durham, County Durham DH7 0DB Boogie Children Now Dig This 01207 529247



Sat 6 Jan 07 Begbrook RnR Club - S&B Stapleton & Begbrook Community Club, Frenchay Park Road, Bristol Be Bop Daddies Bo Duddley 0117 969 7326

Sat 6 Jan 07 Broughton Wings S&S Club Air Wings Social Club, Broughton, Chester, Cheshire Rock Back The Clock 01244 535737

Sat 6 Jan 07 Cardinal Wolsey The Green, Hampton Court Road, East Molesey, Surrey KT8 9BW Johnny & the Midnight Trio 020 8487 3651

Sat 6 Jan 07 Embankment Club Wellingborough Road, Wellingborough, Northants tba (Elvis night) Bill Guntrip 07785 501848

Sat 6 Jan 07 Grand Metropole Hotel Princess Parade, Blackpool, Lancs FY1 1RQ Jive Romeros see special events 01253 628321

Sat 6 Jan 07 Halifax RnR Club Siddal Ex-Servicemen's Club, Halifax, W.Yorks HX3 9JS Juke Box Jive (ticket only event) D. J. the DJ 01422 354876

Sat 6 Jan 07 Ocean's Seven Swamp Rock Club All Saints Arts Centre, 122 Oakleigh Road North, London N12 020 8810 7454

Sat 6 Jan 07 Bernie Woods and The Forest Fires The Juke Joint Shrublands Community Centre Hawthorn Road Gorleston On Sea Great Yarmouth Norfolk 01760 338894

Sat 6 Jan 07 The General Henry 31 Horsham Road, Littlehampton, W.Sussex BN17 6BZ House Rockers (Sal's birthday bash - all welcome) Stocking Tops 01903 716570

Sat 6 Jan 07 The Pavilion 135 Battersea Park Road, Battersea, London SW8 4BX Roadhouse Rockrs 020 7622 4001



Sun 7 Jan 07 BAWA Club Bristol Aerospace Welfare Assoc, 589 Southmead Road, Filton, Bristol Jive Aces

plus DJ 0117 976 8065

Sun 7 Jan 07 Grand Metropole Hotel Princess Parade, Blackpool, Lancs FY1 1RQ Colin Paul & the Persuaders see special events 01253 628321

Sun 7 Jan The Moonshiners The Woodgrange Southchurch Avenue Southend On Sea 01702 460133

Sun 7 Jan 07 Rocky Roade R&R Club Roade & Courteenhall Ex-Servicemens Club, 55 London Road, Roade, Northants NN7 2NL Flying Saucers plus DJ (from 5pm) 01604 862861

Sun 7 Jan 07 Southern Jivers RnR Club - CSC Chelmsford Social Club, 55 Springfield Road (behind Tesco), Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6JG record hop only (with jive tuition 2pm - 5pm) Dinger 07767 745770



Tue 9 Jan 07 Taunton RnR Club North Petherton RFC, Beggars Brook, North Petherton, Somerset record hop only (rock'n'roll/jive/bop/stroll) Tony Sullivan 01823 332180



Wed 10 Jan 07 Whitwick S&S Club Whitwick, near Coalville, Leics record hop only Andy 07871 927405



Thu 11 Jan 07 Mad Hatters Swing Dance Club-TVH Trent Valley House WMC, New Street, Bedworth, Warks CV12 9DL record hop only (after 40's swing lesson) Woody 07968 988442

Thu 11 Jan The Tazmanian Devils and The Kansas City Cryers Bloomsbury Lanes vintage bowling Ally.Under Tavistock hotel, Russel Square, Bedford way,London WC1H 9EU 07974 226 380

Thu 11 Jan 07 The Phoenix Hythe Street, Dartford, Kent DA1 1BQ Cat & the Hot Tin Trio 01322 220081



Fri 12 Jan 07 Athletic Club - Kettering Rockingham Road, Kettering, Northants Strollers Strollin Steve 01536 510779

Fri 12 Jan 07 Austin S&S Club 30 Tessall Lane, Longbridge, Bham B31 2SF Rock Back The Clock 0121 475 1641

Fri 12 Jan 07 C'mon Everybody Record Hop - AMW Askern Miners Welfare Club, Manor Way, Askern, Doncaster, S.Yorks DN6 0AJ Cadillacs Johnny Whiteshoes 0113 229 4196

Fri 12 Jan 07 Queens Hotel (Theatre Bar), South Promenade, Blackpool, Lancs FY4 1AY Jump & Jive Mike Rossi 01253 342015

Fri 12 Jan 07 The Pavilion 135 Battersea Park Road, Battersea, London SW8 4BX Lucky Strike 020 7622 4001



Saturday 13th January 07 Rockin' the Joint The Kingsway Arms, Kingsway, Luton, Beds LU4 8EH

Sat 13 Jan Good Rockin Tonight Guildford Hot Fiftys Fairlands Hall Fairlands Avenue Guildford 01483 856744

Sat 13 Jan 07 Ace Café Ace Corner, Old North Circular Road, Stonebridge, London NW10 record hop only (Elvis night) Flattop Brothers/Bill Guntrip 020 8961 1000

Sat 13 Jan 07 Broken Cross Club Fallibroome Road, Broken Cross, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 8TU Class Of 58 plus DJ 07887 754834

Sat 13 Jan 07 Chicken Shack Brogborough Club, Bedford Road, Brogborough, near Milton Keynes, Beds Jack Rabbit Slim Rollin Rock Record Hop 07960 991236

Sat 13 Jan 07 Hill Park Memorial WMC 78 Highlands Road, Fareham, Hants PO15 6JD Jive Street Wild Wolfie Smith 01329 280782

Sat 13 Jan 07 Lilycroft WMC 55 Toller Lane, Bradford, Yorks BD8 9DD Jive Aces Paul'n'Pete's Swing Jive Beat 01535 274764

Sat 13 Jan 07 Newtown Social Club Durham Road, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland record hop only (r&b/r'n'r/jive/swing) Rockin' Jukebox Record Hop 0191 410 2914

Sat 13 Jan 07 Northampton RnR Club - FC Far Cotton WMC, Main Road, Far Cotton, Northampton,, Northants NN4 8EN Skyrockers AJ The Rockin' DJ 01604 713851

Sat 13 Jan 07 Paris Rock Club - WAC Waterloo Action Centre, 14 Baylis Road, London SE1 7AA record hop only Mad French Wolf/Dave 07944 775556

Sat 13 Jan 07 Pit Stop RnR Club Coventry Colliery S & S Club, Bennett Road, North Kersley, Coventry, W.Midlands Colin Paul & the Persuaders plus DJ 024 7633 6533

Sat 13 Jan 07 Prince Of Wales - Strood 9 High St, Strood, Medway, Kent Cat & the Hot Tin Trio 01634 711797

Sat 13 Jan 07 Purley 1950s Rockabilly Club 82-84 Winttingham Way, Purley-on-Thames, Reading, Berks RG8 8BG record hop only (50s rockabilly/w.swing//r'n'r) 07854 621522

Sat 13 Jan 07 Ritz Ballroom 73 Bradford Road, Brighouse, W.Yorks Rock Back The Clock Bradford Dude

Sat 13 Jan 07 The Pavilion 135 Battersea Park Road, Battersea, London SW8 4BX tba 020 7622 4001

Sat 13 Jan 07 West Worthing WMC 117-119 Elm Grove, Worthing, W.Sussex BN11 5JP Alleycats 01903 246080

Sat 13 Jan Hicksville Bombers The B52 Club Diner Eastern Perimeter Road Rochford Essex 01268 457767 Spikes Birthday bash

Sun 14 Jan 07 BAWA Club Bristol Aerospace Welfare Assoc, 589 Southmead Road, Filton, Bristol Rockin' The Joint Rockin' John 0117 976 8065

Sun 14 Jan Woodgrange Southchurch Avenue Southend 01702 460133

Wed 17 Jan 07 Whitwick S&S Club Whitwick, near Coalville, Leics record hop only Andy 07871 927405

Thu 18 Jan 07 East Ward Labour Club Otley Road, Bradford, W.Yorks BD3 0DG Alec & his Alec-cats Swinging Sue 01274 723239

Thu 18 Jan 07 Mad Hatters Swing Dance Club-TVH Trent Valley House WMC, New Street, Bedworth, Warks CV12 9DL record hop only (after 40's swing lesson) Woody 07968 988442

Fri 19 Jan 07 Ace Café Ace Corner, Old North Circular Road, Stonebridge, London NW10 record hop only (rockers & classic bike night) Big Beat Kris 020 8961 1000

Fri 19 Jan 07 Bolton Tonge Ward RnR Club Tonge Ward Labour Club, Ainsworth Lane, Tonge Moor, Bolton, Lancs BL2 2QL Ian Fenn & the Starcats Jivin' Jim 01204 410483

Fri 19 Jan 07 Dale Tavern West Street, Worsborough Dale, Barnsley, Yorks S70 5PG tba Dave B 01226 205611

Fri 19 Jan 07 Dance Jive Memorial Hall, Bodhyfrd (off Chester Street), Wrexham, N.Wales LL12 7TP record hop only two DJs 07812 369702

Fri 19 Jan 07 March Jive Club Windmill Rooms, White-moor Road, March, Cambs PE15 OAF Sundowners The Professor 01354 742309

Fri 19 Jan 07 Rock-Ola RnR Club The Paddocks, Long Road, Canvey Island, Essex Colin Paul & the Persuaders Cruising Record Hop 01268 515696

Fri 19 Jan 07 The Pavilion 135 Battersea Park Road, Battersea, London SW8 4BX Midnite Flyers 020 7622 4001

Sat 20 Jan 07 Cobham Village Hall Lushington Drive, Cobham, Surrey KT11 2LU B17s 01932 868905

Sat 20 Jan The Sundowners The Sporting Green 129 Hertford Road Enfield EN3 5JF 0208 804 7169

Sat 20 Jan 07 Easington Colliery Welfare Hall Seaside Lane, Easington Colliery, Easington, County Durham Aces (featuring Alan Kilvington) 01845 525293

Sat 20 Jan 07 Exning Road RnR Club Exning Road WMC, Newmarket, Suffolk Darrel Higham & the Enforcers Rockin Lee's Record Machine 01638 750724

Sat 20 Jan 07 Melksham RnR Club Assembly Hall, Market Place, Melksham, Wilts Good Rockin' Tonite Cockney Rebel 01225 706463

Sat 20 Jan 07 Pink Cadillac Club - Onley Onley WMC, 38 High Street, Onley, Bucks MK46 4BB Rudy la Crioux & the All Stars plus DJ 07940 368960

Sat 20 Jan 07 Rockin' At The Legion British Legion, 399 High Road, Tottenham, London N17 5QX Old No 7 Dixie Sounds 07759 874167

Sat 20 Jan 07 Tam O'Shanter Club Hertford Place, Earlsdon, Coventry, W.Midlands CV1 3JZ Porky's Hot Rockin' Woody 024 7633 6533

Sat 20 Jan 07 The Jukebox 147 Club, 2 Stepfield, Witham Industrial Estate, Witham, Essex CM8 3TH Paul Ansell's No 9 Little Carl's Record Hop 01245 260506

Sat 20 Jan 07 The Pavilion 135 Battersea Park Road, Battersea, London SW8 4BX Rat Pack 020 7622 4001

Sat 20 Jan Rockers Reunion River mead Leisure Complex Reading Dale Hawkins Lucas and the Dynamos Crazy Cavan And The Rhythm Rockers The Sunsetters and more.

Sat 20 Jan 07 Worcester RnR Club Christopher Whitehead School, Bromwich Road, Worcester, Worcs Fireballs Mr Rusty's Roadshow 01905 21313

Sun 21 Jan 07 BAWA Club Bristol Aerospace Welfare Assoc, 589 Southmead Road, Filton, Bristol Honey B & the Kings of Sting plus DJ 0117 976 8065

Sun 21 Jan 07 Plinston Live Plinston Hall, The Broadway, Letchworth, Herts Jive Romeros Strollin Steve 01763 241301

Sun 21st Jan Ocean's Seven The Woodgrange

Southchurch Avenue Southend On Sea 01702 460133

Sun 21 Jan 07 Southern Jivers RnR Club - CSC Chelmsford Social Club, 55 Springfield Road (behind Tesco), Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6JG record hop only (with jive tuition 2pm - 5pm) Dinger 07767 745770



Wed 24 Jan 07 Whitwick S&S Club Whitwick, near Coalville, Leics record hop only Andy 07871 927405



Thu 25 Jan 07 Mad Hatters Swing Dance Club-TVH Trent Valley House WMC, New Street, Bedworth, Warks CV12 9DL record hop only (after 40's swing lesson) Woody 07968 988442

Thu 25 Jan 07 Shipley RnR Club Shipley & District Social Club, Saltaire Road, Shipley, Bradford, W.Yorks record hop only Swinging Sue 01274 641800



Fri 26 Jan 07 Basingstoke RnR Club Westside Community Association, Paddock Road, South Ham, Basingstoke, Hants RG22 6QB TTs plus DJ 01256 462305

Fri 26 Jan 07 British Railway RnR Club Broad Green, Wellingborough, Northants Moonshiners Strollin Steve 07748 306989

Fri 26 Jan 07 High Royds RnR Club High Royds Social Club, Menston, Otley, W.Yorks LS29 6AQ Juke Box Jive Flashback Billy 07818 246823

Fri 26 Jan 07 Queens Hotel (Theatre Bar), South Promenade, Blackpool, Lancs FY4 1AY Ian Fenn & the Starcats Mike Rossi 01253 342015

Fri 26 Jan 07 Rolls Royce Club Moore Lane, Allenton, Derbys DE24 9HY Jive Aces plus DJ 0115 849 6008

Fri 26 Jan 07 St Anne's Castle Main Road, Great Leighs, Chelmsford, Essex CM3 1NE record hop only (rock'n'roll/rockabilly/jive) Maurice's Rocking Machine 01245 361253

Fri 26 Jan 07 The Pavilion 135 Battersea Park Road, Battersea, London SW8 4BX Flying Saucers 020 7622 4001



Sat 27 Jan 07 Ace Café Ace Corner, Old North Circular Road, Stonebridge, London NW10 record hop only Bill Guntrip 020 8961 1000

Sat 27 Jan 07 Crondall RnR Club The Village Hall, Crondall, near Farnham, Surrey GU10 5QG Southsiders Oh Boy Record Hop 07903 145018

Sat 27 Jan 07 Daddy Cool's - CH Cock Hotel, 2 Harbour Road, (A508), Kingsthorpe, Northants NN13 7EJ Sugar Creek Trio Pin Up Record Hop 01295 276848

Sat 27 Jan 07 It's Only Rock'n'Roll Sale Masonic Lodge, Sale, Cheshire M33 7EE Cadillacs Jivin' Jim Killey 0161 929 0413

Sat 27 Jan 07 Mountsorrel WMC Leicester Road, Mountsorrel, near Loughborough, Leics Rudy la Crioux & the All Stars (2pm) plus DJ 01530 244524

Sat 27 Jan 07 Newtown Social Club Durham Road, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland record hop only (r&b/r'n'r/jive/swing) Rockin' Jukebox Record Hop 0191 410 2914

Sat 27 Jan 07 Nifty Fifties RnR Club - LLC Lowton Labour Club, 214 Newton Road, Lowton, Cheshire Slim Slip & the Sliders plus DJ 01942 724166

Sat 27 Jan 07 Quorn Jump Jive & Swing Village Hall, Leicester Road, Quorn, Nr Loughborough, Leics Jive Aces Steve/GI Jive 01455 843292

Sat 27 Jan 07 RBL - Leighton Buzzard Thrift Road, Heath & Reach, Leighton Buzzard, Beds Ghostriders Tartan Ted 01525 237923

Sat 27 Jan 07 Shoreham RnR Shoreham Centre, Pond Road, Shoreham-by-Sea, Sussex Jive Street plus DJ 01903 243392

Sat 27 Jan 07 Southern Jivers RnR Club - CSC Chelmsford Social Club, 55 Springfield Road (behind Tesco), Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6JG Slammers Maximum Jive Band Dinger 07767 745770

Sat 27 Jan 07 The Pavilion 135 Battersea Park Road, Battersea, London SW8 4BX Flames (Billy Fury tribute night) 020 7622 4001

Sat 27 Jan 07 Virginia Creepers Club The Water Rats Theatre, 328 Grays Inn Road, Kings Cross, London WC1A1 & the Black Cats (USA) plus DJ 07956 295842



Sun 28 Jan 07 BAWA Club Bristol Aerospace Welfare Assoc, 589 Southmead Road, Filton, Bristol Rudy la Crioux & the All Stars Rockin' John 0117 976 8065

Sun 28 Jan 07 Erith RnR Club Erith WMC, 1 Valley Road, Erith, Kent DA8 1BT Cat & the Hot Tin Trio Cruisin's Record Hop 07973 170056

Sun 28 Jan Woodgrange Southchurch Avenue Southend 01702 460133



Wed 31 Jan 07 Whitwick S&S Club Whitwick, near Coalville, Leics record hop only Andy 07871 927405

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Keepin' Rockin' Rollin'



The Spirit of Crondall lives on

This is written in memory of Gordon Gillingham 1st promoter of Crondall rock 'n' roll club in Crondall village hall, Mick Hobbs - 2nd promoter & Mick Withers - 3rd promoter.

Crondall rock 'n' roll club has been in existence in the same village hall for the last 30 years, run by various promoters during this time.

We celebrated the occasion with The Hicksville Bombers & Sandy Ford with his Flying Saucers providing us all with performances of their greatest talents.

Sandy arrived first & waited patiently for me to finish unloading my car, before asking me to move it so he could park his van there. 'what!??'

Answer :- 'That may have been your parking space for the last 2 years, but I've been parking there for the last 30 years'

Well, who can argue with that? That's the whole reason we hired Sandy Ford!

30 years of non-stop rockin' in the same venue was the purpose of our special night. And all the hard work leading up to it certainly paid off.

We had pics of all the past promoters of the club, on display along with pics of some of the older bands that have ever performed there, such as Whirlwind, Crazy Cavan & the Rhythm Rockers, Crepes & Drapes, Flying Saucers & more. Pics of some of the d.j.'s that have played there, such as Stompin Steve, Son in law of Gordon Gillingham (1st organiser / promoter of Crondall rock 'n' roll club in the village hall),



Shani Gillingham, Daughter of Gordon in pic.above with Womble, one of the late Mick Hobbs helpers, Fifties flash, Be Bop Bella (possibly the first female rockin' d.j) who d.j'd almost wherever Crepes & Drapes played, as she was married to one of the members. And of course - Wildcat Pete who d.j'd there for many years. Pics of past Crondall punters (which I have been collecting for about a year) were displayed.

The precious memories caught on these pics were a great attraction through the night & the

mood there became quite emotional for some people.

We had tracked down a few faces from Crondall's past & invited them along, incl Jill & John Barber, landlady / lord of Castle pub that was. And Sunglasses Sam, who promoted the club with the late Mick Withers in early 80's. We had never met some of them until that night. Most of the past promoters, or representatives turned up, reuniting with people that they hadn't seen in years. It was so very nice & memorable for all, and so overwhelming.

Oh Boy! Record Hop kicked the night off in good ol' Crondall style, and the place was heaving by 8.15pm. We had such a tremendous response, it was truly, unbelievably a hugely successful night for the spirit of Crondall rock 'n' roll club.

It's 8.45pm & Hicksville Bombers are on stage playing as lively as ever. Dave, the front man is one of the most amazing guitarists I have ever heard, he really makes his guitar talk!, he's so talented & writes/sings a lot of his own material. He obviously enjoys his work too, as he's always smiling on & off stage. Hicksville Bombers were given their 1st gig down South at Crondall about 10 years ago, which was a great break for them, for getting more gigs down this way. Although now, Dave has had a change of bass player & drummer since then. His drummer is now Andy - ex drummer of Cottie & the Alley Cats. And Gentleman Paul on bass.

We move on now to Wildcat Pete, our special guest d.j for the night, who feels as though he's right back at home again! Then into the raffle, the cash prize draw and the feeling of need to thank all for coming along to the special occasion, especially the old Crondall crowd & Gordon Gillinghams family.

It was such an amazing atmosphere that night. Personally, I feel extremely happy that people were reuniting with each other & reminiscing over old times.

Tony Gillingham, son of Gordon, pic above on R.

with bro. Barry had brought along a 3 minute cine film complete with projector & screen of old rockin' times taken in the Church rooms, (a very small venue 30 secs away from the village hall) before r 'n' r took place in the village hall. A few faces were recognised by the old Crondall crowd as Tony's son Ryan rolled the film all through the night.

Wildcat Pete finishes his set & shoots straight down to Camber Sands for the Rhythm Riot. He said, if he had been asked to d.j at any other venue that night other than Crondall, he wouldn't have bothered at all. That is how important Crondall is to him & most people that go there. It has an unexplainable spirit!

Sandy Ford is now on stage with his Flying Saucers....bah! the drummers name escapes me, but Yvonne, Sandy's wife is playing bass guitar. Sandy never seems to look any older.

He doesn't look as though he has been gigging for over 30 years, that's for sure, and sings just as good now, if not better, as he did all those years ago.

Well, rock 'n' roll keeps you young they say, and I'll go along with that!

The night was wrapped up with Oh Boy! Record Hop playing the most appropriate song ever for the occasion....Of course...Danny & the Juniors' - 'Rock 'n' Roll is Here to Stay'.

When most people had left we had, with the old Crondall crowd, a more peaceful & private gathering whilst watching the cine film I mentioned earlier, which was an emotional moment for all concerned & such a touching finish to the momentous occasion.

May Crondall rock 'n' roll club live on & prosper for another 30 years.

Without your support, no clubs will survive, so keep on supporting your local & not so local rockin' joints. Long live rock 'n' roll !

Janie - Crondall r 'n' r club organiser



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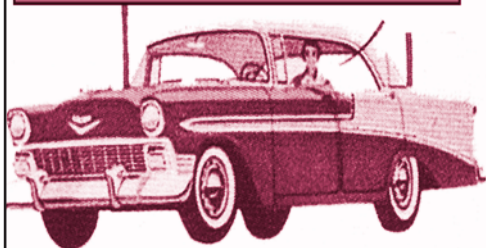
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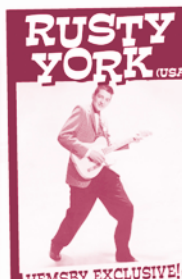
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