

YEAR ZERO

The Exeter Punk Scene 1977 - 2000



YEAR ZERO - A PUNK ROCK SECRET HISTORY

History's been re-written and the truth is all a lie... 1976 is generally regarded as British punk rock's 'year zero'. Everyone knows about London and Manchester and how the kids in those two cities picked up on punk but what about elsewhere?

And what about after those kids became bored with punk, moved on, and insisted that punk was dead? 1977 saw the whole of the UK caught up in a punk rock explosion. The kids who became punks in Exeter though had found out about the new sounds and styles the year before, in fact, some had been following the pre 1976 New York scene just waiting for something similar to hit the UK and shatter the complacency of the times. The foundations for the Exeter punk scene to develop were already in place at a collectively run local club, The Catharsis, that had been open to new bands and ideas since 1975 and whose resident DJ Len Gammon had been searching out the few records coming out of The States and playing them to a generally bemused audience of local hippies and musicians. When punk finally broke in the UK, Exeter was ready for it. In 1976, a Catharsis regular, John Jaques, produced one of the countries very first punk fanzines 'I'm Stranded' (it was the fifth UK punk fanzine) complete with the worlds very first Buzzcocks interview and soon, a bunch of school kids turned up at The Catharsis asking for a gig. Exeter's very first punk band The Brakes were followed by Dirty Habit And The Munxs. When the bands played, people complained or walked out, soon to be replaced by a younger crowd asking to hear the latest punk sounds at a time when there were only five or six actual punk records to play for them. Within months, partly due to a conflict of interests between the punks and the old guard, The Catharsis had folded but soon, Exeter had its very own punk clubs with bands both local and national queuing up to play them. X Ray Spex, The Clash, The Damned, Cock Sparrer, The Ruts and just about every other name punk band passed through Exeter over the next couple of years, many playing at the cities very own punk mecca, Routes. From those early days, Exeter has never looked back. Bands, clubs and fanzines have all come and gone. Pop, mod revival, post punk, drugs, anarchism, oi!, animal rights protests, ban the bomb, squatting, deaths, indie, hardcore, superstars, grunge, emo ... It's been

nearly a quarter of a century and Exeter has seen every aspect of punk rock life. Today, punk might not sound the same or even be called the same, having enough different sub genres to confuse even the most avid music fan, but the punks themselves are still around. In Exeter, they run the best venues, organise the best events and play in some of the best bands. Sure, for many, it was all just a phase they were going through, something to give them a buzz when they were young. For others though, punk provided a platform to move on and look at life in a different way. Punk changed and continues to change peoples whole outlook on life and now as the century has ended and we find ourselves in a year zero of a different kind, this CD celebrates that fact.

To Exeter punk's past and present and to the kids everywhere that understand; here's to the next twenty five years!



HEADLESS CHICKENS featuring Thom Yorke at the Printers Pie (1990)

ABILITY ZERO (Late 80`s/early 90`s punk. Two tape releases as well as tracks on various compilations. Singer Jake also produced a `zine)

ABUSIVE YOUTH (Late 90`s political punk with tape releases)

ACTION HEROS (Late 90`s garage)

AFTERBURN (Early 80`s)

ANAL LACERATIONS (Late 80`s thrash/hardcore)

ANDY CHRIST AND HIS BIBLICAL MICE (Early 90`s punk. Tape release)

ANNALISE (Mid 90`s onwards. Punk with emo and mod leanings. Numerous CD and 7" releases including the 1999 full length Pigdog Records CD 'Our story goes like this'. European and UK tours with a visit to Malaysia, Australia and Japan to follow. Post Wordbug and Cameron)

"Punk is my 'reality' - an antidote to the media controlled misinformation which masquerades as 'real life' every time you switch on the t.v or open a newspaper. Punk grounds you like earth grounds an electric current, offering you an alternative to the unbearable social conditioning which is imposed on you from day one. The "fuck you" mentality of punk is intuitive; society smiles and says "fuck you" and punk reacts "no, fuck you!", where a Joe who's been got to submits to being fucked with a boss-knows-best reaction. This is why punks so much hate seeing other punks sell out - it represents society getting another victim of lies over truth, whilst reinforcing the miserable myth that we are free."

David Goodchild - Annalise (From 'Down Wind From The Bloodhounds' fanzine)

ANOTHER VOICE (Early 80`s mohican punks with anarcho leanings. Vocalist Sarah Chapple produced the cover art for The Waste EP 'Not Just Something To Be Sung' and later played bass in Leeds hardcore bands Generic and Bug Eyed while bassist Andy Coleman came from Rat Patrol and later joined Unsound)

ANIMAL GROTESQUE ('81 to early 90's political punk. Vocalist Ben Balin. Studio tape)

ANTHONY BLUNT AND THE MOLES (Early 80's with bassist Len Gammon)

APPLIANCE (Late 90's Krautrock. Signed to Mute Records with single and album releases)

ASSAULT ON PARADISE (Late 80's. Post Rat Patrol with Joe Rebel)

AVANT GARDENER (Late 70's. Originally based in the nearby Dartmoor town of Okehampton, Avant Gardener signed to Virgin Records after recording a demo at Exeter's ESR studios which highlighted a major Captain Beefheart/garage influence. Untitled EP on Virgin Records 1977 adds some Velvet Underground to the sound. Possible second Virgin 7" 'Gotta turn back'. Italian-only Virgin Records LP exists as well as another possible non UK LP release. Also track on Virgins 'Guillotines' sampler alongside X- Ray Spex & Penetration. The brainchild of vocalist Russell Murch, different line ups included members of The Only Ones of 'Another Girl Another Planet' fame and Exeter first punk band, The Brakes)

"The singer Russell smelt so much; he was really revolting! He used to turn up and he hadn't shaved and he looked like he had slept in his clothes, he always smelt. Ever such a nice bloke but I used to be glad when he left the studio. One session, they bought a steel guitar player who really couldn't play and I said to Russell "I don't want to shatter your illusions or anything but this guy hasn't a clue what he's doing". He was so bad that I had to kick him out the studio in the end; physically drag him out by the scruff of his neck to get rid of him! They had come in to record two songs and they phoned me back later to say that Virgin Records had given them an advance to do their own thing and develop their sound, so they came back and recorded some more. Sometimes I'd be in the studio with them until three o'clock in the morning trying out ideas until we ended up with what they wanted. They weren't any better musically than any other band I worked with except, because of their appearance, and the fact they could just about play their instruments, I could see that they would make an r'n'b band like The Rolling Stones. I was doing my best to get them to change the rhythm of a song very slightly to put an r'n'b roll into it and I showed the guitar player how to play some r'n'b but he couldn't play it so it didn't turn out that way. I showed him a riff based on the chords he was playing but he couldn't move off the one chord. His little hands just couldn't do it. The bass player couldn't play either. He could only do down strokes and I was trying to show him how to do up and down strokes to get a crisper sound but he couldn't do it; he kept missing the strings! The thing that struck me was the rawness of the band in every sense of the word. Listening back to The Avant Gardener session now, it still sounds terrible to me. The band had reached a certain stage and they were just playing to the little musical ability they had. The whole band was a complete mess. They were always late and scruffy and just too bloody

EXETER UNIVERSITY GUILD OF STUDENTS PRESENTS...
ing to the little musical ability they had. The whole band was a complete mess. They were always late and scruffy and just too bloody idle to do anything. Russell couldn't sing to save his life but Virgin obviously saw something in them. Apparently, Virgin held auditions in some sort of mobile studio that was travelling through the country for about three hundred bands and Avant Gardener was one of those bands. All I can say is that most of those three hundred must have been absolute crap! Avant Gardener got an advance from that. If you were in a band back then and knew two and half chords and went up on stage shouting at everyone then you had a good chance of getting signed. `` *John Greenslade - ESR Records.*

BEADLE CLAW (Early 90's. Post Jackson Penis)

BEAKER (Late 90's punks)

JON BEAST (Early - mid 80's. One man local entertainment industry. Beast was a ranting poet and stand up comedian while also leading numerous side project bands. Produced both 'Teenage Kicks' and later 'Beast' fanzines, endless compilation tapes and managed both The Waste and Feral Tongue. Eventually moved with the latter to London, running a venue, The Timebox and road managing Carter The Unstoppable Sex Machine. Also recorded an unbroadcast pilot show for Channel Four Television)

BEAVER PATROL (Late 80's/early 90's. Formed while still school kids and taking their name from a notorious local gang of skaters. Snotty punk with track on Hometown Atrocities 7" EP 1989. Bassist Nigel Cotterill later promoted 'Maelstrom' thrash and grindcore shows, while various members briefly appeared as WEA and later as Blenderhead)

BLACK PANTHER (Late 70's. Pre The Press)

BLENDERHEAD (Early 90's. US influenced hardcore with metal touches. Responsible for promo blitz around Exeter which saw their stickers appeared all over the city's walls and buildings. Tape releases as well as a great line in band t-shirts which served drummer Paul Castle well with his own Hate The World fanzine, clothing line and skate shop. Guitarist John Tripe later joined Annalise. Post Beaver Patrol)

BLIND VENETIANS (Early 90's indie. Members moved on to Plasterscene and Wordbug. Tape release)

THE BRAKES (70's punk rock. Exeter's very first punk band were made up of Phil
UNIVERSITY, GREAT
HALL..... 8.00 AM.

THE BRAKES Phil Pentecost (aka Moriarty), Pete Damo, Kenny Brooks and Sid Slater. In late '76/early '77 the band played Exeter's first ever punk gig at The Catharsis club after approaching the clubs resident DJ Len Gammon. Later supported Siouxsie And The Banshees at an early gig in nearby Tiverton, the poster to which was immortalised in a recent South Bank exhibition of early punk memorabilia as well as an early Motorhead gig in Exeter in October '77£. Phil Pentecost died soon after the band split up from a tumour which developed as a direct result of being beaten up by travelling Wolves fans after an Exeter City football game. Live tapes exist. Members went on to Avant Gardener)

"I went for a drink with The Brakes to this small village on Dartmoor and believe me, punk rock had definitely not arrived on Dartmoor. We ended up in a really heavy situation that was like something out of Easy Rider. Things got scary in the pub with a bunch of locals and some rockers who took a real dislike to us punks, especially Phil. We got out and into our car and drove off and reached some traffic lights and the next minute a car load of these locals pulls up next to us and tries to drag Phil out of the window; they were going to beat him to a pulp. I managed to start the car up again with one hand and pull Phil back in with the other and get away. We drove through the lights, through all these country lanes being chased all the way by these locals at full speed back to Exeter. It was crazy. We tried to lose them but we couldn't. They were after our blood and I'm certain that they would have come near to killing us if they had caught us."

Len Gammon - DJ The Catharsis Club.

BREASTSTROKE (Late 90's. US indie rock influenced. Split 7" release with Crayon)

BRONTE BROTHERS (Late 70's/early 80's. Aka The M5's)

BUCKY (Late 90's r'n'r influenced punk)

CAMERAS (Late 70's)

CAMERON (Late 90's emo/hardcore. Built up a strong local following but split before recording planned 7". Tape release. Guitarist Brian moved on to Annalise)

CHEAPSKATE (Mid 90's hardcore. Pre Terminal Youth)

CHOPPY (Late 90's indie rock)

CIRCULAR FISH (Mid 90's pop/punk)

CLICHE (Late 70's)

CLINCH (Late 90's punk rock'n'roll. Self released 1998 7" 'Choices, Choices/Excuses, Excuses' as well as later studio tape)

COMPLEX (Late 70's)

CRAYON (Late 90's. Pavement styled. Split 7" release with Breaststroke)

DAMAGE (70's punk rock. Guitarist John Thorne later formed The Living Daylights)

DANGEROUS GIRLS (Late 70's/early 80's arty punk with reggae influences. Moved to the Birmingham area and constantly toured the UK, making numerous return visits to Exeter along the way. Single and LP releases including debut 1979 Happy Face Records 7" 'Dangerous girls/I don't want to eat (with the family)'. Members went on to play with Everything But The Girl)

DANGEROUS GORDON AND THE DAMAGE (70's punk rock. Pre Damage)

DEAD AND BEVIED (1987 mohican punks)

DEAD MANS PANTS (Late 80's. University based)

DEAD MONKEYS (Mid 80's. Heavy Stooges/Iggy influence. Live shows consisted of the band playing with pigs heads resting on their amps)

DELICATE WAYS (Late 80's. One gig only full of Dickies and Misfits covers)

THE DESSIBELS (Late 70's. Exeter College punk rock)

DFX (Early 80's. Post Red Tape)

DIRTY HABIT AND THE MUNX (76/77. University based punk rock. Exeter's second punk band formed by members of the pre- punk performance collective The Apathy Society)

DRAGSTER (Late 90's. Pavement influenced)

THE DROP (Late 70's/early 80's punk rock. Studio tape)

DV8 (Mid 80's. Highly popular on the local mid 80's punk scene after numerous squat shows and Beast compilation tape appearances. Melodic punk that later moved into soft rock territory. Two tape releases. Pre Sacred Heart)

EARS TO THE GROUND (Early 80's. Post Living Daylights and Red Tape with John Thorne. Psychedelic styled. Track on comp LP)

ENTER OBLIVION (Mid 90`s. Pre Mindflyer)

THE EXPERTS (Early 80`s. College based power pop)

THE FANS (70`s. Highly rated Television styled punk/new wave. Post XS. Studio tape)

“The Fans were amazing. They ate magic mushrooms and wrote songs about flying saucers and parallel universes while we drank lager and played songs about bust ups with your girlfriend.”

John Thorne - The Living Daylights.

THE FARCE (Mid 80`s. Ramones influenced w/Rob Stevens ex Toxic Waste)

FAT SHITE (Early 90`s. Short lived post Jackson Penis project for vocalist Ian Beavis and friends. Refused to play debut show due to fears of offending Muslims as band were billed on posters incorrectly as Fat Sheite!)

FCG (Late 90`s pop/punk)

FERAL TONGUE (Mid 80`s post punk managed by John Beast. Post Tacit. Studio tape)

FIELD OF CROSSES (Mid 80`s melodic punk with folk influence Studio tape)

THE 15th DIAL (Early `80's. Post The Gift)

FILTER (Mid 90`s hardcore. Pre Terminal Youth)

FLEET STREET (Late 70`s)

FOOLS PARADISE (80`s. Post Rat Patrol)

FRANTIC SPIDERS (Early 90`s 'riot grrls'. 7" EP 'You`re Dead'. Later moved to London and signed an indie deal. Planned LP never saw the light of day. Guitarist Charlie Stone later joined Gay Dad)

FREAKS (Early 90`s. US indie influenced pre- grunge. Studio tape)

FRIENDS OF THE LEGLESS (Mid 80`s w/ Jon Beast)

GARBAGE GRINDERS (Mid 80`s. Squat punks with glam rock influences. Vocalist June Playner was involved with the Catharsis Club. Studio tape)

GERBIL SQUAD (Mid 80's w/ Jon Beast & Darren from The Waste)

GESTALT (Mid 80's. Post DV8 and Another Voice. Killing Joke influenced post punk)

THE GIFT (Early 80's. Pre C86 indie with 1981 Vengeance Records 7" 'It'll End In Tears', reissued on Off- Chute Records in 1984 as ' Nich Halliwell & The Gift')

"The Exeter scene was a real oddity. It was much more esoteric than other cities; a lot of the punk snobb'ishness of the time was missing. There was none of this 'anything recorded before 1976 is rubbish' sort of attitude. We listened to Tim Buckley, The Electric Prunes, Love, Beefheart, Leonard Cohen; all sorts of wonderful stuff which all came out in the music of the time." *Nick Halliwell - The Gift*

GO (Late 70's/early 80's. Originally 2 Tone/ska moving on to reggae and funk. Special People 7" on Force Records and flexi 7" on Sijen Records both 1982)

GOODALLS (Early 80's)

GOODSTAFF (90'S pop/punk. Bassist Ant used to play with Sirens guitarist Lisa Cole in an outfit called Southside.)

GRAF SPEE (Early 80's)

THE HANSONS (Early 80's)

THE HAWTHORNS (Late 80's indie. Studio tape)

HEADLESS CHICKENS (Late 80's. Track on Hometown Atrocities 7" EP 1989. Vocalist Shack and drummer Martin helped out on early Hometown Atrocities shows. Various members were also involved with the late 80's Fishtank disco which provided a rare opportunity to hear punk and alternative music in the city prior to the Hometown Atrocities shows. Guitarist Thom Yorke went on to form Radiohead after moving back from university to Oxford. Violinist John Mathias has sessioned on various Radiohead recordings while vocalist Shack had a track included on the soundtrack of the film 'The Matrix' with his most recent band Lunatic Calm.)

"Just before Thom left Exeter I bumped into him at one of the Friday night sessions that he used to DJ at the University Lemongrove. He had left Headless Chickens and they were continuing without him. I asked him if he had any plans for another band and he said that he was moving back to Oxford to start something. I asked him what he was going to try and do and he said he wanted to do a band that sounded like The Pixies. Soon afterwards I went away myself and weirdly enough I was in a little town in Thailand sat in a bar when a face I recognised walked past me.

It was Shack. He told me that Thom's new band had signed to EMI for a huge advance and I was really blown away. I was taking a year out to travel and I was getting letters saying Nirvana, who when I left were just another one of like a million American punk bands, were suddenly huge, and the Senseless Things who we used to put on all the time were signing to a major and then I hear that Thom's new band had been signed to EMI for hundreds of thousands of pounds. I rushed back to the friends that I was travelling with and told them the news and nobody could believe it, we were all wondering what the hell was going on back home and what we were missing out on."

Martin Edmunds - Hometown Atrocities

HEADLINES (Late 70's Jam influenced university band with bassist Piers Warren)

HEADTIME (Late 80's indie. Signed to Cherry Red with two 12" releases. Also track on 'You're going home' 7" EP. Demo that bought them to the attention of Cherry Red was reviewed by Melody Maker as being the best demo they had ever heard)

HERO (70's anarchic hippy influenced rants)

THE IMPOSSIBLES (Late 70's/early 80's. Pre Impossible Dreamers)

IMPOSSIBLE DREAMERS (Early 80's University based. Ran Merciful Release records and released Sohep 7" as well as own 1980 7" 'Books' and split LP 'Ready In The Rhythm Section'. Further releases once the band left Exeter including a collaboration with Mark Perry ex ATV)

IN THE RED (Early 80's post punk with Len Gammon)

IGNORANT BLISS (Mid 90's MC4 influenced pop/punk)

ISOCUBE 36 (Late 80's pre- Beaver Patrol)

JACKSON PENIS (Late 80's punk with track on Hometown Atrocities 7" EP 1989 as well as tape release. Name censored by the local press to Jackson P while local do-gooders insisted on ripping gig posters bearing their name from advertising hoardings)

JAGGED EDGE (Late 70's)

THE JAGGED EDGES (Late 70's. Pre Undisputed Colours)

JAMDOWN (Early 90's with indie/dance influences. Studio tape)

JAI 7TH (Late 90's emo. Guitarist Mackinlay also produces 'Down wind from the bloodhounds' fanzine. Studio tape)

JESSICA TUESDAY (2000. Indie punk in the vein of Throwing Muses.)

JNR ARCANA (Late 80's. Post Sirens)

THE JUVENILES (Late 70's Vincent Thompson High School based punk rock with bassist Graham Flack)

KATIE AND THE GIANTS (Early 80's. Post Tight Shoes)

KEVIN SALINGER (Early 80's. Solo project of ex The Brakes member Kenny Brooks. Quirky new wave. Track 'Pop Pop Weather' on Influx 1 comp LP 1980)

KIKKA (Late 70's)

KILL CITY (Mid 80's. Post Friends Of The Legless)

KREMLIN KICKOUTS (Early 80's. Pre Delicate Ways)

KRYPT KICKERS. (Mid 80's squat band with r'n'r influences)

LAMB QUARTET (Late 90's alternative rock with punk influence)

LAW OF 7 (Late 90's emo side project for members of Annalise, Clinch and Cameron)

LE CADEAU (Early 80's. Post The Gift and Shackletons)

THE LEGION (Early 80's leather jacket punks)

LESBIAN DOPEHEADS ON MOPEDS (Late 80's. Pre Headless Chickens)

LESSONS IN HATE (Early 90's noise with self released 12" EP)

LILLET AND THE LOST CHORDS (70's punk rock)

THE LIVING DAYLIGHTS (Late 70's punk with mod leanings. 'Heart Stop' EP on ESR Records 1979 as well as numerous studio tapes)

"We were seventeen or eighteen; most of the punks were that age. Apart from a few exceptions who were cool enough to get away with it there were very few older people involved with punk. Punk was like if you weren't young then you weren't involved. The point about it was we were doing it for ourselves. It was organised by people our age, run by people our age and older people were looked upon with suspicion."

THE LOU REICHNER BAND (Late 70's/early 80's solo project for John Francis ex The Urge w/ Undisputed Colours minus vocalist John Jaques as backing band. Four song EP 'Vinyl Vinyl' on ESR Records 1980 highlights punk with a major Lou Reed/Velvet Underground influence. John Francis solo tape and poss 90's solo CD exists along with book of collected poems and lyrics)

"John didn't send any copies of the singles out to anyone to be reviewed, but he did send a copy to his psychiatrist!" *Nick Halliwell - The Lou Reichner Band*

M5's (Late 70's/early 80's new wave. Post The Scabs. Studio tape)

MAD AT THE SUN (Late 80's/early 90's. Exeter's first hardcore band. Tracks on 'Hometown Atrocities' and 'You're going home' 7" EP's as well as other compilation releases. Split prior to recording LP for indie Meantime Records)

"We weren't a punk band, we were a hardcore band. Despite being punks it was vital for us to make that distinction. Punk bands in the UK at the time were shit. They were the leftovers from the early eighties and the people who followed them were like the dregs; scabbing money or sniffing glue. That scene was creatively dead. Hardcore was new and dynamic and inspired us like nothing else. There were no bands playing the music we loved in the area so we started one. There was no one putting on shows that we wanted to see so we started Hometown Atrocities and did it ourselves. We wanted to be Minor Threat, Dag Nasty, Black Flag. We wanted Hometown Atrocities to be like Discord or SST records. We wanted to be as hardcore as those guys." *Martin Edmunds - Mad At The Sun.*

MAKE NO BONES (Early 90's political punk/hardcore)

MANSLAUGHTER (83 - 84. Pre DV8)

FIFTY ACRES & A MASSEY FERGUSON/ TWO HORSE CORNDRILL (Late 90's Art College Band. art punk meets C&W)

MAX VOLUME AND THE DECIBELS (70's punk rock)

M.E.B.M (Early 80's. Short lived. post Fans and Undisputed Colours. Modern Electronic Beat Music)

METRO YOUTH (Early 80's anarcho-punk with track on Crass Records compilation LP 'Bullshit Detector')



MINDFLAYER (Mid 90's thrash/grunge)

MISS AIRFIX DISCO DOLLS (Late 80's. Pre Headless Chickens)

MISSING CHEMICALS (Late 70's art rock. Post The Brakes and The Fans)

MOOSE (Early 90's punk. Post Jackson Penis)

MORTIFIED (Early 90's grind with britcore influence)

MOVE TO MOVE (Early 80's)

MUDLARK (Early 90's noise pop with track on 'You're going home' 7" EP. Responsible for the closure of late 80's venue The Printers Pie due to excessive volume of live show. Tape release)

MY SECRET MARRIAGE (Late 80's)

NERVES (Late 70's)

NEW RELIGION (Mid 80's rock *influenced)

NO COMMENT (Late 70's)

NO MERE NOSEBLEED (70's new wave)

NO PASARAN (Early 80's school kid punks)

NORMAN NEANDERTHAL AND THE NUGAPES (Late 70's punk rock)

OUTPATIENTS (Late 70's. Pre The Living Daylights)

OVERDOSE (Early 80's)

P.C.I (Late 70's. Local newspaper reports refused to elaborate on what exactly P.C.I stands for on the grounds that the name was 'too offensive')

PARADOX (Early 80's)

PLASTERSCENE (Mid 90's shoegazers)

THE PRESS (Late 70's Jam influenced three piece)

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE (Early 80's)

PSYCHOCANDY (Mid 90's grunge/rock with punk influence in their choice of Dead Kennedys covers. Signed management deal but split before achieving the label deal they were chasing)

OFF DAY (Mid 90's. Side project for Paul and Nigel from Useful Idiot)

THE OUTFIT (Early 80's punk tinged rock. 7" and comp tracks. Post Suspended Sentence)

OUT OF ORDER (Early 80's. Pre DV8)

PLANET (70's. Pre Dangerous Girls)

POP VANDALS (Late 90's rock with punk influence. 1999 Dangerous Records CD single 'Generation')

PROFIT (Early 90's thrash/hardcore. Pre Useful Idiot. Studio tape)

RAT PATROL (Early 80's Clash influenced punks. 1983 Sijenn Records 7" 'The Last Offensive' as well as oi! LP compilation appearance)

"A lot of Exeter bands at the time had no interest in playing out of Exeter but Rat Patrol wanted more and knew it could be done. It was hard. Everybody at the time was broke and back then, even with basic things like transport, it was a lot more difficult than it is now. There wasn't the same circuit. Getting a gig in Bristol was big and getting a gig in London was unheard of. Going further up North was like "where the fuck is that?"

Phil Hulme - Rat Patrol manager.

THE REBEL ELEMENT (Late 90's rock with Clash/MSP influence with Joe Rebel ex Rat Patrol as well as ex Suspended Sentence members. Studio tape)

RED TAPE (Early 80's mod influenced. Studio tape)

REEKO (Late 90's punk/hardcore with self released 1999 CD 'Mouthbandit')

RIB (Late 90's post-punk a la PII. Singer Jude now has a new band Mon Padre)

RIPCHORD RONNIE AND THE SOCIAL DEVIATORS (Late 70's punk rock)

RUBBER JOHNNY AND THE FAMILY PLANNERS (Early 80's punk)

THE RUSSIANS (1978. Pre The Living Daylights)

SACRED HEART (Mid 80's. Post DV8. Leaning towards melodic rock)

SUBSTAIN (Mid 80's oi)

Rat Rap

SANCTION (Mid 80's . Post Metro Youth anarcho punk with rock influence. Comp tracks released. Bassist Rich Cross also produced Catalyst fanzine)

THE SATELLITE KIDS (Late 70's. Side project for members of XS and The Brakes)

THE SCABS (Late 70's. University based punk rock with untitled 1979 7" EP. This now highly collectable EP was produced in two pressings of 1,000 copies each. The first with a blue cover and the second with a red cover and distributed nationally by both Virgin and Rough Trade Records. The band also toured the UK to promote it's release. Drummer Patrick Cunningham and bassist Steve Pardoe moved onto the M5's. Cunningham has remained involved in the local scene ever since, promoting early eighties shows by Vice Squad and Killing Joke while running local listings magazine Event South West and printing Exeter's 'alternative' newspaper The Flying Post. He also jointly started, and still runs, The Cavern Club. A full LP of The Scabs with additional tracks by the M5's is being compiled by Hometown Atrocities for a release on an Italian label, Rave Up Records, later in the year)

THE SCREENS (Late 70's punk/new wave)

SECRET AGENTS (Late 70's new wave)

SEMINAL X OFFENDERS (Early 80's school kid punk)

SEPTIC HORSELIVER (Late 80's punk jokers. Pre Jackson Penis)

SEPTIC PLASTERS (Late 70's. Pre The The)

7 UNITS (Late 70's. Post The Brakes)

THE SHACKLETONS (Early 80's indie. Guitarist Mark Brend ex The The later joined The Gift)

THE SHADOWLINE (Early 80's with Julian Halliwell, brother of The Gift's Nick)

SHOW YOUR TEETH (Late 90's- pre-Sirens)

SILENT SPECTRUM (Early 80's. Pre The Gift)

SILKSCREEN (Early 80's. Post P.C.I)

THE SIRENS (Mid 80's indie with 1987 Kutestuff Records flexi release 'The end my dear/I've got everything '. Attracted interest from major label Go Discs before split. Bassist Dave Goodchild moved to Mad At The Sun, vocalist Steve Fleming set up Canadian Record Label KYMF)

SNAFU (Mid 80's with Jon Beast)

SOHEP (Early 80's melodic post punk with 1981 Merciful Release Records 7" 'So Much Fun')

SOUNDHOUSE (Early 90's. US indie influenced. Pre Bristol stoner rockers The Heads. Studio tapes)

SPAR (Early 90's)

SPEW-X (70's punk rock)

THE START (Early 80's Jam influenced mods. Studio tape)

STEVE TOY AND THE TOYLETS (Late 70's new wave. Satirical set include 'Vultures Over The White Cliffs Of Dover')

STRANGE BALLERENAS (Late 70's. Post The Urge)

SUCK (Mid 90's grunge rock. ~Responsible for Exeter City Football Club anthem 'City is the Best, 'innum!')

SUSPENDED SENTENCE (Early 80's. Punk, rock and r'n'b sounds from vocalist 'Mad' Mike Young and friends. Studio tape)

T34's (Late 70's/early 80's. Suicide influenced. Post The Urge)

TACIT (Early 80's Killing Joke influenced post punk. Pre Feral Tongue)

TAXI (Mid 80's squat band)

THE THE (Late 70's. Unusual in that they were an openly Christian punk band)

THIRD PROGRAM (Late 70's. Post The Fans)

JOHN THORNE (Early 80's. The Living Daylights vocalist with solo studio tape)

"The whole anti-authority spirit of punk was something that struck a chord when you were under pressure to conform, make life choices and trawl through mountains of homework when there were gigs to go to and records to listen to. To add to this there was an unspoken wall of silence surrounding one teacher in my school who was a p£rfecting paeophile.

He was known to be abusing kids from the third and fourth forms and was clever enough not to get caught or exposed. Kids in my year had fallen into his clutches and were trying to forget about it. I was lucky enough, or ugly enough, to escape it. The point is that there was an incredible mistrust of the people that were supposedly teaching us. It was hard to believe that the so called masters were oblivious to what had been going on for years and when they made life difficult for us, or were snide about 'our' music they opened up a mile-wide generation gap." *John Thorne*

TIGHT SHOES (Late 70's. Rumoured deal with Virgin Records and a side project one off Stiff Records ska 7" from this otherwise anonymous band)

TOE JOBS (90's. Clash covers band)

TONGUE (Mid 80's post punk. Post Feral Tongue)

TORNA-K (90's/2000 hardcore metal band with two cd eps.)

TOXIC SHOCK SYNDROME (Mid 90's shockers with Ronnie ex Frantic Spiders. Version of Tears For Fears "Shout" included on compilation flexi disc)

TOXIC WASTE (Early 80's mohican punks with anarcho leanings. Pre The Waste)

TRAVIS BICKLE ALL STARS (Late 80's US indie influenced. Pre Soundhouse)

UNDER THE GUN (Early 80's Clash influenced punks. Self released 1985 7" 'Traitor/Dance Of The Samurai'. More releases after move to London. Still together with a multi-national line up. Original line up rumoured to feature an ex-member of Derby punk band Anti Pasti)

UNDISPUTED COLOURS (Late 70's garagepunk. Pre The Gift. Backed up John Francis on Lou Reichner Band EP minus vocalist John Jaques who produced the South Wests first punk fanzine 'I'm Stranded' as well as working on the later 'Worthless Words'. Recorded a full LP's worth of unreleased material)

"I was unloading gear before a show, and at the time I was wearing the skinniest cheap jeans full of holes, a 50p shirt covered in paint and a straight black tie. Everyone was skint so you just used to wear this cool, cheap punk look. This guy was stood next to me and he had a pair of bondage trousers on which was the first pair I'd ever seen, and he goes "hey watch it mate, these trousers cost me twenty quid!" and I just thought "oh no, hear we go; the systems moving in". *John Jaques - Undisputed Colours.*

UNSOUND (Late 80's. One gig before changing name to Mad At The Sun)

THE URGE (Late 70's minimalist art damage. Pre The T34's and Lou Reichner Band. Split before signing major label deal with Beggars Banquet subsidiary Axis Records. Briefly notorious in the local press for song 'Exeter Rapist', which resulted in one band member being questioned by police and the songs female writer explaining the lyrics via a newspapers front page bearing her bikini clad photograph)

USEFUL IDIOT (Early 90's hardcore to mid 90's emo. Numerous studio tapes and compilation appearances as well as two 7" EPs; 'Waste' and 'Presence' and split 7" 'Overworker'. Also recorded a highly regarded earlier full length LP 'Urge' which although paid for by a German label, Bodonski Records, remains unreleased. Toured Europe as well as playing support shows to Fugazi. Style moved from Bad Brains/Kingface styled hardcore to a lighter more melodic tunage. Drummer Nigel Coleman and guitarist Dave Bibby, along with original bassist Dan Schwalm played in both Useful Idiot and Wordbug before leaving the later to concentrate on Useful Idiot full time. Schwalm was replaced by Ralph Hamilton and with the addition of second guitarist Paul Symes, the bands sound changed again, adopting an innovative emo sound. After split, Hamilton joined the UKs premier emo band, Bob Tilton, while Symes joined London pop punks Speedurchin. Symes and Coleman are currently working together again in a new London based band, Black List)

VINCE VOLT AND THE POTENTIAL DIFFERENCE (Late 70's punk rock)

THE VISITORS (Mid 80's indie. Shared 1987 flexi release 'Goldmining' given way with various indie fanzines)

THE WASTE (Mid 80's. Post Toxic Waste. Militant anarchist punk with 1986 Mortarhate Records 7" EP 'Not Just Something to be Sung' as well as compilation and tape releases)

"I was under a lot of pressure from the police here. I used to get woken up at three in the morning with the police knocking at the door giving me grief. One night I was out in the pub and saw two plain clothes officers watching what I was up to. I couldn't move and had to get out of Exeter. Other punks were getting the same hassle and moved as well."

Darren Brown - The Waste

WEA (Early 90's hardcore. Post Beaver Patrol)

WESTWAY (Mid 80's. Post Rat Patrol)

WELL MENTAL (Mid 80's. Jon Beast and members of The Waste)

WHEAT CIRCLES (Early 90's. Pre Jamdown)

WORDBUG (Early to mid 90's. Punk and hardcore mixed with the innovative Television styled guitar from Alex Vann. 1991 LP 'Losing It All' and three later 7"s 'Locked In', 'Zero' and 'Die' as well as numerous UK and European tours. Pre Annalise)

XS (70's noise punk. Pre The Fans. Studio tape)

ZIMMERFRAME (Early 90's punk/hardcore. Pre Useful Idiot)



WORDBUG 1994

TRACK LISTING

AVANT GARDENER-Back Door (*Russell Murch*)

Previously unreleased. Recorded at ESR Studios 1977. Produced by John Greenslade. Published by Virgin Music. A later recording of this song appeared on Avant Gardeners untitled debut 7" EP, released on Virgin records 1977. Band line up on this recording: unknown. Band line up on the Virgin 7": Russell Murch-vocals/guitar/hammer and nails, Martin Sanders-lead guitar, Nigel Rae-bass, Mike Kelly -drums.

THE FANS-Help Me To Think (*The Fans*)

Previously unreleased. Recorded at Roche Studios June 1978. Produced by Martin Griffen. Band line up: John Tye-vocals, Clive Smart-guitar/vocals, Len Gammon-bass/vocals, Steve Richeby-drums.

THE SCABS-Amory Building (*James Young*)

Taken from The Scabs untitled 7" EP. Released on Clubland Records 1979. Recorded at Fair Deal Studios 18.01.79. Produced by The Scabs. Band line up: James Young-vocals, John Salmons-guitar/ organ, Patrick Cunningham-drums, Steve Pardoe-bass, with Simon Grant-saxophone.

THE LIVING DAYLIGHTS-Personality Changes (*John Thorne*)

Taken from the Living Daylights 7" EP 'Heart Stop'. Released on ESR Records 1979. Recorded at ESR Studios 17 & 18.08.79. Produced by John Greenslade. Band line up: John Thorne-vocals/guitar, Ian Neale-bass/vocals, Rob Ward-drums.

THE LOU REICHER BAND-I Sit And I Stare (*John Francis*)

Taken from the Lou Reichner Band 7" EP 'Fynyl Vinyl'. Released on ESR Records 1980. Recorded at ESR Studios 09.02.80. Produced by John Greenslade. Band line up: John Francis-vocals, Nick Halliwell -guitar/vocals, Daz Coles-bass/vocals, Terry Moore-drums/vocals.

SOHEP-So Much Fun (*Richard Asquith/Robert Kitson*)

Taken from the Sohep 7" 'So Much Fun/You Could Be So Nice Dear'. Released on Merciful Release Records 1981. Recorded at Streetlevel Studios; date unknown. Produced by Nigel Higgs, engineered by Grant Showbiz. Band line up: Robert Kitson-vocals, Piers Warren-bass, Nick Fuller-guitar, Ian Thompson-drums, Richard Asquith-guitar.

THE GIFT-It'll End In Tears (*Nick Halliwell*)

Taken from the Gift 7" 'Crashing Down/It'll End In Tears'. Released on Venus Records 1982. Reissued on Off-Chute Records 1984. Recorded at Spaceward Studios 1981. Produced by Mike Kemp and The Gift. Band line up: Nick Halliwell-vocals/guitar, Daz-bass, Dave Hodges-drums, Carl Walker-guitar/vocals.

METRO YOUTH-Brutalised (*Metro Youth*)

METRO YOUTH-Brutalised (*Metro Youth*)

Taken from the compilation LP 'Bullshit Detector Two'. Released on Crass Records 1982. Recording location and date unknown. Produced by Phil Sellins. Band line up: Nigel-vocals, Tim-guitar, Hef - Saxophone, Rich-bass/vocals, Andy-drums.

RAT PATROL-The Last Offensive (*Paul Alford/D.Swinford*)

Taken from the Rat Patrol 7" 'The Last Offensive/Rat Rap'. Released on Sijenn Records 1983. Recorded at Mobile Sound Productions May 1983. Produced by Len Gammon. Band line up: Paul Alford-vocals/guitar, Dave Swinford-drums, Gary Townsend-guitar, Andy Coleman-bass.

THE WASTE-Societys Rejects (*The Waste*)

Previously unreleased. Recorded at Trickey Sounds 25.07.86. Producer unknown. Band line up: Darren Brown-vocals, Pete Mogeridge-guitar, Jez-bass, Little Paul-drums.

MAD AT THE SUN -This Could Be... (*Martin Edmunds/Daryl Cooper*)

Taken from the compilation 7" EP 'Hometown Atrocities'. Released on Hometown Atrocities Records 1989. Recorded at Daylight Studios April 1989. Produced by Paul Bateman. Band line up: Martin Edmunds-vocals, David Goodchild-bass, Richard Hylton-drums, Chris Jones-guitar.

HEADLESS CHICKENS - I Don't Want To Go To Woodstock (*Headless Chickens*)

Taken from the compilation 7" EP 'Hometown Atrocities'. Released on Hometown Atrocities Records 1989. Recorded at Daylight Studios 1989. Produced by Paul Bateman. Band line up: Shack-vocals/bass, Thom-guitar/vocals, Martin- drums, John-violin, Laura-violin.

MUDLARK-Inadequate (*Mudlark*)

Taken from the compilation video 'Burn'. Released on Hometown Atrocities Records 1990. Recording location, date, producer: unknown. Remixed by Chris Clark 1999. Band line up: John-vocals, Chris- guitar, John-drums, Hank-bass.

WORDBUG - I Don't Doubt It (*Martin Edmunds/Alex Vann*)

Previously unreleased. Recorded at The Whitehouse March 1991. Produced by Martin Nicols. A later version of this song appeared on the Wordbug 7" EP 'Zero' released on Hometown Atrocities/Boss Tuneage Records 1993. Band line up: Dan Schwalm-bass, Nigel Coleman-drums, Martin Edmunds- vocals, Alex Vann-guitar.

USEFUL IDIOT- Final Analysis (*Useful Idiot/Dan Schwalm*)

Taken from the Useful Idiot 7" EP 'Waste'. Released on El Loco/Sacro Egoismo Records 1994. Recorded at The Whitehouse 1993. Produced by Martin Nicols. Band line up: Martha-vocals, Nigel Coleman-drums, Dave Bibby-guitar/vocals, Ralph Hamilton-bass.

FRANTIC SPIDERS-Wall Song (*Frantic Spiders*)

Taken from the Frantic Spiders 7" EP 'You're Dead'. Released on Wierdness Inc Records 1993. Recorded at The Whitehouse 7 & 8/4/93. Produced by Martin Nicols. Band line up: Caroline-drums, Charley-guitar, Kathy-vocals, Bomber-bass.

JAI 7th -Chain Down Well (*Jai 7th*)

Previously unreleased. Recorded at Liberties Dance Floor summer 1998. Produced by John and Dan. Remixed by Ed, Brian and Martin Nicols. Band line up: Mackinlay Knowles-guitar, Dan Hamilton-vocals/bass, Glen Wharton-drums.

ANNALISE-Signposts And Alleyways (*Annalise/Alex Vann*)

Taken from the Annalise CD 'Our Story Goes Like This'. Released by Pigdog Records 1999. Recorded at The Whitehouse January 1999. Produced by Martin Nicols. Band line up: Martyn Stroud-guitar, David Goodchild-bass, John Tripe-guitar, Ed-vocals, Adrian Stroud-drums.

REEKO-Gimme Dat Monkey Loving (*Reeko*)

Taken from the Reeko CD 'Mouthbandit'. Self released by the band 1999. Recorded at Buzzland studios 25-27 August 1999. Produced by John Burrows and Reeko. Band line up: Ted Reynolds-vocals/guitar, Dil-drums, Leon Welchman-guitar/vocals, Char Hykel-bass/vocals.

POP VANDALS-Vandalise (*Thomas, Rebel, Isaac*)

Taken from the Pop Vandals CD 'Generation'. Released by Dangerous Records 1999. Recorded at Sawmills Studios July 1999. Produced by Mark Thomas. Published by Sawmills Music. Band line up: Richie-guitar/piano/backing vocals, Jamie-vocals, Gavin-drums, Rob-bass.

THANKS:

This project would not have been the same without the help of the following: Len Gammon, Nick Halliwell, John Thorne, Aston Stephens, Pip and Sasha Houghton. Thanks also to: Ian Neale, Nick Waterhouse, Darren Brown, Steve Lambert, Joe Rebel, Phil Sellins, Patrick Cunningham, Dave Goodchild, Brian Read, Elaine Crowther, Dan Hamilton, Mackinlay Knowles, Shaun Accut, Brian Moore, John Jaques, Steve Connor, Mark Brend, Irv, Chris Jones, Pippa Wragg, Martin Nicols, Steve Mitchell, Mark Holland, Russell Gallon, Grant Showbiz, John Francis, Dennis Smith, Shakey 2000, Sharon Mitchell, John Greenslade, John Matthias, my friends in Annalise and all the band members that gave permission for their songs to be used. Also, thanks to the E.C.C. Millennium partnership for stumping up some cash to support this project!

Every effort was made to contact the bands included on this compilation to gain permission to use their songs, unfortunately, it was not possible to contact members of either Avant Gardener or Sohep although the Sohep song is included with the permission of Nick Waterhouse/Merciful Release Records. If anyone knows the whereabouts of members of either band, please contact Hometown Atrocities. When compiling this project, many discussions took place on what should and what shouldn't be included on this release and what exactly qualified as being 'punk'. The best explanation to what is included by the early Exeter bands came from Nick Halliwell of The Gift; basically, just about anything that involved kids picking up guitars and doing it. Later, as punk fractured into other genres it became easier to define what was and what wasn't punk at a particular time although by 1988, when there was no punk scene in Exeter to speak of, Nicks explanation rang true once again to be followed by exactly the same fracture into other genres that occurred on the early Exeter scene. The bands included on this release are here as they fitted into the Exeter punk scene of their time whether they actually were punk or not. Confused? That's the beauty of it. A full list of Exeter bands that are/were influenced by punk music or attitude (again, actual punk bands or otherwise) can be found on the A-Z list included with this CD and on the Hometown Atrocities website. This section was researched by interviews with a number of Exeter scenesters and trawling through different Exeter fanzines, namely: 'I'm Stranded', 'Worthless Words' and 'Spit In The Sky' for the 70's bands and 'Teenage Kicks', 'Obnoxious' and 'Beast' for the 80's bands. The late 80's Event South West publication 'South West Indies' written by Ben Ballin was also an invaluable source of information. Finally, not all of the bands included on this project actually came from Exeter. A few came from nearby towns and villages. Every band included though used Exeter as a base for their activities. If anyone has any information that they would like to add to this project, please contact Hometown Atrocities.

Articles, interviews, an updated A-Z, as well as many of the rare vinyl releases used on this compilation can be found on the Hometown Atrocities website:
www.welcome.to/hometownatrocities
email: HometownAtrocities@easypost.com

At the request of Radiohead's Thom Yorke, Hometown Atrocities have made a contribution for the use of the Headless Chickens track to Friends Of The Earth.

This compilation is dedicated to the late Nick Hampson, Dick Gerrish and Phil Pentecost.

This compilation including all written material copyright Hometown Atrocities 2000.

NO FUTURE

STRANDED

20p

ISSUE '2.



ALL THIS AND MUCH MORE IN
.....THE WEST COUNTRY'S FIRST PUNK ROCK.....

FANZINE



the
scabs



Amory
Building



Don't Just
Sit
There



Leave
Me
Alone



U.R.E



ep



THE IMPOSSIBLE
DREAMERS
BOOKS



Hometown Atrocities, P.O. Box 385, Exeter, EX2 5YP, UK.
Boss Tuneage UK, P.O. Box 19550, London, SW11 1FG, UK.
Boss Tuneage Japan, 75 Tenjincho, Shinjukuku, Tokyo, 162-0808, Japan.
Distribution: Cargo (UK & Europe)/Boss Tuneage (Japan)
www.welcome.to/hometownatrocities / www.bosst.freemove.co.uk

year zero



BOSS TUNEAGE

Sleeve design by Steven Conner & David Goodchild • Supported by E.C.C. Millennium Partnership
Front cover photo: The Brakes 1977