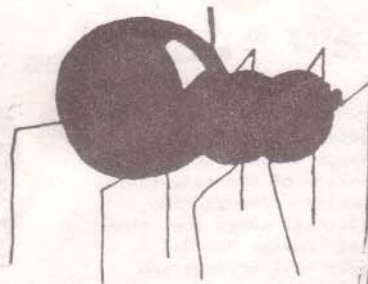


PARTY DAY



Interviewing Party Day isn't the easiest thing in the world....to be more precise, trying to understand three broad Barnsley accents over a few beers is difficult but then the music speaks for the band....pure power and strength with no holds barred but still maintaining melody. The music of Party Day is intense whilst the quality of musicianship is high....Michael Baher does miracles with his drumkit whilst Carl squeezes every note out of his bass and voice and Martin Steele dominates his guitar.

In Barnsley, Party Day are one of a million bands as there's not a great deal to do do; as Michael points out, "You either form a band or breed whippets." While Martin adds "Or ferrets or race pigeons"....which explains the large number of bands up north but aren't there problems developing away from the big shitty London Town - the centre of the capitalist music business?

Martin: "No it's just the same to develop anywhere. It doesn't matter where you are. So long as your music is alright."

As Carl points out they're the hippest band in their own town as they're the only band and are probably second hippest in Barnsley.

The very name Party Day to your humble writer conjures up cynicism but Carl tells it differently.

"It's not cynical at all. We just did a song called Party Day....this thing about names! Why should there be anything in a name?" Though he adds with a smile, "the song was cynical." Martin sees it conjuring up an image of a Bananarama type band which establishes the sense of humour within Party Day which extends to the songs.

Michael: "None of them have got proper titles and the titles have nothing to do with the songs, like "Rabbit Party" is nothing to do with the song.

Carl: "All these people have these ideas about the songs like one fanzine thought it was from a wartime song Run Rabbit Run! It's a real laugh!"

The songs are about anything the band feel like writing about....for example their latest single "The Spider" (out on Party Day Records) is about their manager, Steve, who will only know that after reading this interview whilst the story of their debut single "Row The Boat Ashore" (Party Day Records) is more complicated and explained by Martin:-

"I was gardening for this 70 year old bloke who came out of his house and walked across to me and I thought 'he's going to fucking moan and complain.' He came up to me and was a bit upset and started talking to me. His wife had just snuffed it and he just told me his life story in

about fifteen minutes....it was really good!" Phew! Tell us some more!

Carl: "There's "Washing Line" and that's about putting things on washing lines."

Martin: "Commitment" is about an interview I read with Jaz Coleman in Chicken Wardance and he was on about how committed he was to everything and I thought 'what a pillock'.... who is committed to anything?"

The writing duties are shared by Martin and Carl who sometimes even split the song in two resulting in some confusion as confirmed by Carl: "Even I can't understand them."

The love for power in their music is evident.

Carl: "I hate namby pamby music! I couldn't play bass without crashing it." The band pay the price in broken strings and drum skins whilst Martin has the desire to smash his guitar in two and stamp it into the ground. Obviously the frustrations of bad p.a.s etc. results in the band giving a 100% power performance which drives the music along to give value for money.

Having released two singles and been on several compilations - "Giraffe In Flames" and a Belgian import "For Your Ears Only"....the band are happy to build things up slowly by concentrating on gigging - even as far afield as Holland and Belgium if things work out which you've got to agree is better than breeding whippets or ferrets!



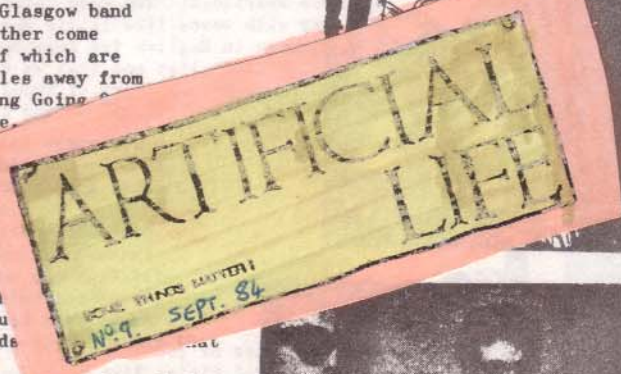
The Pastels

The Pastels are a four piece Glasgow band who play quirky pop tunes that either come across as wimpy or the majority of which are harder edged and not a million miles away from Buzzcocks territory, eg. "Something Going On" (Creation) the bands' third single.

Singer/songwriter Stephen [unclear] the band as a punk band which [unclear] The Swell Maps, Buzzcocks etc. floating around with black masc

The Pastels have been on a [unclear] labels such as Wham, Rough Trade [unclear] Creation which they like due to the [unclear] and enthusiasm of Alan the man bel [unclear] Stephen doesn't think the band cou [unclear] major due to the pressures on bands [unclear] they don't want to do.

The contents of Pastel songs are best described by Stephen:



IN OUR STATE, MURDERERS DIE IN THE ELECTRIC CHAIR. BOBBY WICK FIGHTS

