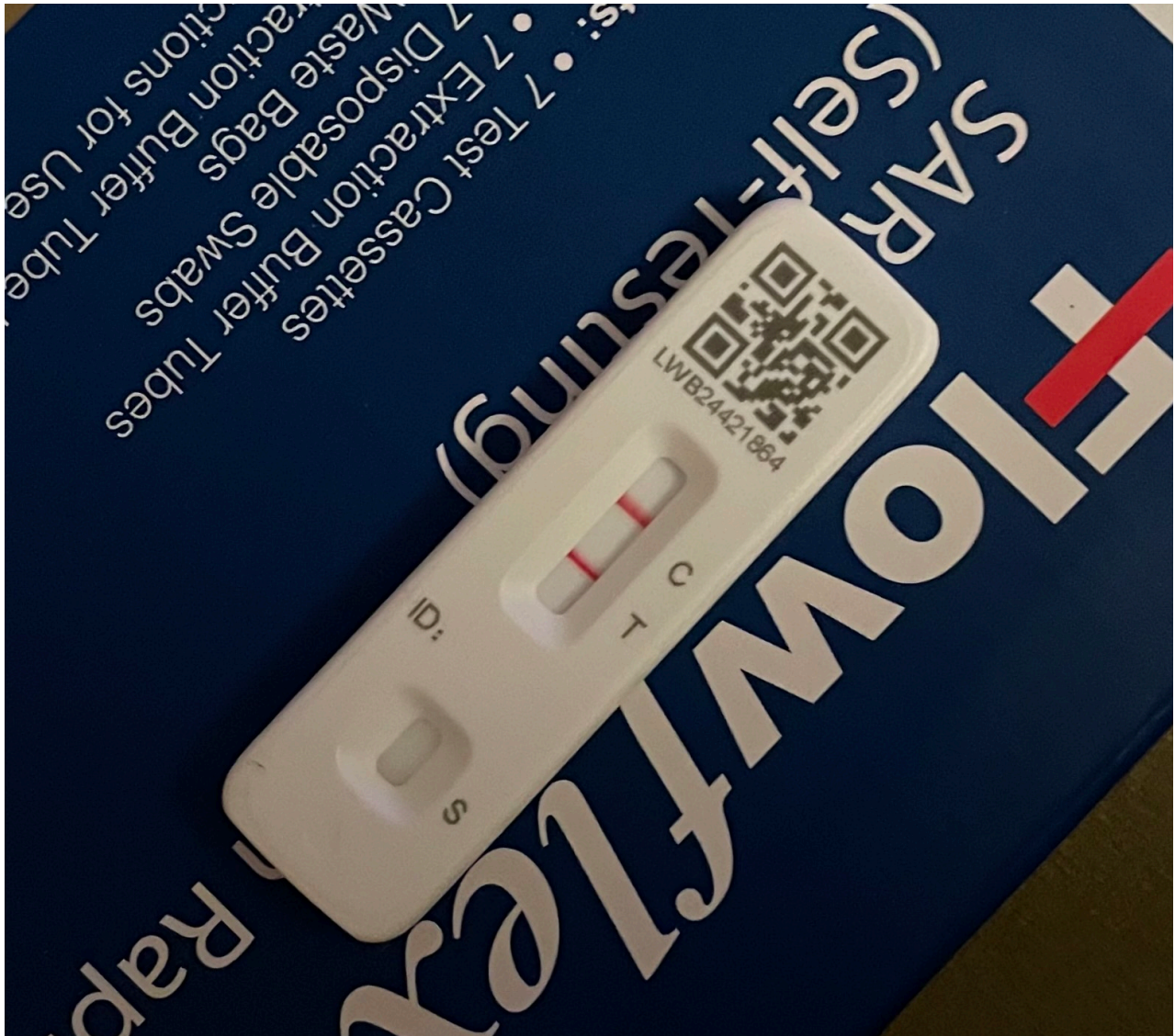


# SUSPECT DEVICE

## SIXTY SICK



# 2021 TOP TENS



## TONY SUSPECT

I was going to do a top ten shit things that have happened to me, but despite how tough 2021 has been, I don't really want to dwell on all that, so before the top tens, here's a couple of good things... **Friends**. I have great friends who will never really know how much they helped me this past year. **Abrazos**. I love being in this band, and in amongst lockdowns, distance and everything else we released a split 7" with the awesome Brain Anguish, recorded an album, played a gig and made some videos. Musical therapy is the best medicine. Right, on with the lists...

### TORSO - Home Wrecked 7"

Vegan, Straight Edge, Feminist, D-Beat. What's not to love? 'Home Wrecked' has another three blazing hardcore songs, including a Faith cover. I love Torso, each release is packed with a furious energy that I find irresistible.

### NEGATIVO - s/t LP

Kibou Records co-released beauty, this Barcelona band are new to me, but the urgent, driving melodic USHC influenced songs also rage, which was enough to make it an instant favourite.

### ANTHRAX - Serfs Out LP

Brand new album from Anthrax, 9 years after their last, and it has been well worth the wait. Brilliant, scathing, anarcho punk for the 21st Century. So happy to have been asked to do an issue of SD for initial copies of the vinyl version.

### 7SECONDS - The Crew LP

What needs to be said about this album? It's been a favourite for years, and the re-issue package was enough to make me break the bank. What helps is it also sounds incredible.

### JODIE FASTER - (In)Complete Discography 12"

Another re-issue, but I only had these songs digitally up until this lovely one-sided, screened 12" came out. Cemented Jodie Faster as one of my favourite bands of recent years.

### SICKNESS - The Fall Of Reason CD

Another brilliant release from Nick Carter. Dark and atmospheric with elements of Amebix and Killing Joke. I am in awe of what Nick does with Sickness This is a stunning release..

### NEIGHBORHOOD BRATS - Confines Of Life LP

Brilliant, fast, melodic, punk rock. When I first heard this I couldn't stop playing it. Who doesn't love an album with a song on it called 'All Nazi's Must Die'?

### SHUTDOWN - Emits A Real Bronx Cheer LP

Yet another re-issue, and another special one. I love this band and this album and the re-master sounds so good, it has brought new life to an old favourite. Two old friends released it too, which is another bonus.

### LAS RATAPUNKS - Fracaso, Año de la Rata 2020 7"

I had downloaded a digital copy of the 'Fracaso, Año de la Rata 2020' EP from bandcamp a while ago, but 2021 saw four of the songs make it onto vinyl, and the passionate punk songs sounded even better. They have an album just out that is just as great .

### MAU MAUS - The Enemy Within LP

A new Man Maus record in 2021? It could have been a disaster, but it's not, it's a triumph, and I have played this a lot this year. The new songs sound great, and the re-recordings of some old favourites bring new life to them.

Ten more that almost made it: **EMILY FLEA** - No Room For You 10" / **KISS ME, KILLER** - 2020 Vision 10" / **TOXIC WASTE** - Belfast LP (reissue) / **ZERO AGAIN** - Revert To Nothing 7" / **SPITBOY** - Body Of Work LP / **KARMA SUTRA** - Be Cruel With Your Past And All Who Seek To Keep You There (reissue) / **GENERACION SUICIDA** - Reflejos / **THE PARTISANS** - Anarchy In Alcatraz & No Future Demos 80-82 LP / **VARIOUS** - Hunt Sabs Benefits Vols 1 to 3 / **VARIOUS** - Free The MBR Beagles //

I have read a lot of books this year, here are ten that I have enjoyed (not all published in 2021 of course)...

**From The Garage To The Station And Beyond - Stories From The Gateshead Music Collective 1980-88**

**Defying Gravity** - Jordan Mooney with Cathi Unsworth

**Ever Fallen In Love: The Lost Buzzcocks Tapes** - Pete Shelley and Louie Shelley

**Rub Me Out** - The Shed

**Queercore: How To Punk A Revolution, An Oral History** - Liam Warfield, Walter Crasshole, Yony Leyser

**The Life & Rhymes Of** - Benjamin Zephaniah

**Diminished Responsibility** - Alvin Gibbs

**100 Acts Of Dissent** - Mark Thomas

**Violence Girl** - Alice Bag

**To Throw Away Unopened** - Viv Abertine

### Ten Live Bands I loved in 2021

(not all at the same gig, obviously)

HACK JOB

JODIE FASTER

RASH DECISION

PIZZA TRAMP

DIAZ BROTHERS

DINOSAUR SKULL

BUS STATION LOONIES

DEALING WITH DAMAGE

AUSTERITY



Hack Job - The 1865, Southampton - photo by Tony Suspect



## GAZ SUSPECT

Come and have a look and see what you could have won! On the 'Lochedown'

I'm typing this as I watch the PDC World Darts Championship to see who will be world champion in 2022!! I've always loved the darts! Anyone who plays Darts or remembers the early televised tournaments in the late 70's and early 80's will more than likely remember the beer swilling, sweaty scenes from the Lakeside as Bristow, Wilson, Taylor, Lowe & Co battled it out for the coveted crown of the world's best player. The TV Darts scene has come a long way since then as Sky has sanitised it as much as possible and the beer has been replaced with product placed bottled water. The standard of the darts has admittedly risen to great heights since those early days, even if the players themselves remain, in the majority of cases, of less than athletic build and to the casual observer – walking heart attacks! I guess, behind the scenes, a regular work out at the Gym is not a pre-requisite to being able to throw the perfect 9 darts.

So where does Punk meet darts? 'Snakebite Wright' currently one of the world's best players, who toes the Oche with his brightly coloured mohawk? Nah! I could be wrong, but I suspect he rarely practises with Blitz, the Angelic Upstarts or Better Than A Thousand blaring out and the image is just to sell himself beyond throwing darts! I've not got a problem with that if I'm honest, but the real question is!!!! Who does throw darts to those great bands?!!

Neil Cox of the Diaz Brothers? To busy listening to Westlife or watching 'The Voice' if the truth be known there! Oh! Come on.. You know it's me!! No gigs, Pubs shut, Darts Leagues abandoned mid-season! What was or is the alternative? No kids at home anymore, so I've got a room all to myself where the dart board is up and the records are out! For one reason or another I've not put Blitz or the Upstarts in my Festive Top Ten this year. The fact remains however that at the same time the late great Eric Bristow was World Darts Champion – Blitz blew me and my SD Co-writer Tony Suspect away with their 'Voice Of A Generation' LP. I revisited the Upstarts, because they we're one of the bands that first really lit the Punk fire for me and Mensi (RIP) has left a fantastic legacy. The opening chords of Little Towers still make me shiver to this day.

Better Than A Thousand are just a great band and the 'Just One' album gets the arm going for sure, even if they are miles different in style and the voice from another generation I guess!

In closing this few short paragraphs, I want to mention one other late great legend of the Oche, who whether he liked it or not, played darts to Blitz and the Upstarts with a beer in his hand. I raise my glass to Tony's Dad – Dave. Many a sociable evening spent at the former SDHQ of 'Brynton' listening to now classic Punk albums, drinking a couple of homebrews and throwing darts.. Cheers Dave.

In no particular order...

- 1, Pedagree Skum - Nightmares and Scream Escapes.
- 2, Hagar The Womb - Hagitate.
- 3, Dogshite - Mass Deception.
- 4, Kiss Me Killer - S/T 10"
- 5, Andy T - Clinging Onto Sanity.
- 6, Subhumans - Crisis Point.
- 7, Jodie Faster - Blame Yourself.
- 8, 7 Seconds - The Crew.
- 9, Abrazos/Brain Anguish - Split EP.
- 10, Culture Shock - Mandemic.



Diaz Brothers - The Lexington, London - photo by Tony Suspect



## PETE ZONKED! – BEST OF 2021

Jeeez, 2021, what a ride; emerged from lockdown, got vaccinated, summer was mostly a weather bummer, cycled a lot, went to some gigs, managed a few nights away from home, finally caught Covid, got over that... just as the new variant and all sorts of other shit started to go down. And now the year is rapidly closing in. It doesn't feel things have progressed that much. Back in a holding pattern. As ever, its contact with valued mates, staying active 'n creative, and a lot of pumping music, that have helped my sanity. Here's a buncha **new releases** that have kept me entertained in 2021, proof that there's still excellent sounds to be found out there if you're willing to look. Right, here we go...

### NEIGHBORHOOD BRATS - CONFINES OF LIFE LP (dirt cult)

Been following these Californian's releases for some years now, a solid set of platters, and this latest album (their 4<sup>th</sup>) is a cracker. Has the sprit of Cali bands like The Brat, Avengers, Red Scare, Legal Weapon... with some very clued-up 'n tuned-in 21<sup>st</sup> century politics wrapped up in the songs. Brilliant Record.

### STIFF RICHARDS – STATE OF MIND LP (Drunken Sailor)

I got this album early on in 2021 where it stayed glued to my stereo, destined to make the Year End list. Yeah... it's there. They're Aussie's belting out dynamite Garage Punk like an adrenalized Eddy Current with some New Bomb Turks spit 'n polish. Grizzled vocals, a shitload of punch and stick-in-your-ear songs. A highly satisfactory slab on vinyl. First pressing sold out, think Drunken Sailor gave it a second run. Search + Enjoy...

### AMYL AND THE SNIFFERS – COMFORT TO ME LP (ROUGH TRADE)

Punk Rock Law Enforcers don't like Amyl and the Sniffers, pushing a narrative that they're an over hyped fake band, only worthy of ridicule. I get the 'hyped' aspect but thankfully have an open mind, can make my own decisions. On this new album they've further soaked up a few decades worth of classic/stomping Oz Rock and given it a fresh kick in the nuts. 'Comfort To Me' is jammed with storming songs, heaps of cool riffage, plenty of attitude, and the gob with the microphone doing what she does best, sticking up for herself and flipping off the haters. All power to The Sniffers. Easily their strongest record yet. Top Job.

### KOHTI TUHOA - Väkiälyä EP (LVEUM)

New 5-track EP from one of the most consistent modern-day bands, and on one of our favourite labels, so what's not to like (even though there's a few dickheads that will find something trivial, haha) For me Kohti Tuhoa totally capture the timeless raw energy and sledgehammer fury of their Finnish forbearers, but with fresh dynamism, and a sound that's now very much their own. Side- A is a couple of slower paced fiery numbers, whilst the flipside delivers all-out rippers, three of 'em. Kerboom! Still not seen Kohti Tuhoa and that pains me.

### CHAIN WHIP – TWO STEPS TO HELL 12" (Drunken Sailor)

Oh Canaduh!.... here's the much-delayed follow-up to Chain Whip's smoking '14 Lashes' LP, and this 12" is no-less fast 'n furious... with the 6-tracks spat out and decimated in 10minutes flat. On parade are 5 slamming originals, then an amped reprise of Vancouver's own Subhumans 'Death Was Too Kind' to close out. That'll do nicely! Let's see if in a pandemic-recovering world they finally make it to Europe\*

(\*Review typed up prior to Omicron B.1.2.XU.666.... and Another Season in Hell)

### NEGATIVO – S/T LP (KIBOU)

This Barcelona 4-piece (inc. ex-members of the great E-150 + Fix Me) came recommended by Tony; it's straight down the line no-bullshit Hardcore that doesn't hang about... strong, crunching music that had me gripped from the get-go. There's Adolescents and Slapshot covers chucked in, just to ram the point home. An album that deserves to be heard by more people than probably will. Shame, but that's how it is in this trend fickle world. Vinyl copies available in UK from Kibou Records. Make the effort, you won't regret it.

### SONNY VINCENT – SNAKE PIT THERAPY LP (Svart)

Sonny is a real-deal guy; has been making music since the late Sixties, was in the thick of the original New York Punk scene with this band The Testors, and is still with us, Rockin' and Reelin'. This new album sees him return to solo action after dealing with some family trauma and is full of reflection, buoyed by a hanging melancholy, that's played out to 2+ minutes shots of riff sharpened sonic resolution. Go Sonny Go.

### CHAIN CULT – We ARE NOT ALONE 7" (LVEUM)

The last gigs I went to on foreign soil (and in fact the last time I left the country) was way back in December 2019, seeing Athens trio Chain Cult in Bordeaux and Toulouse. Was a fun time. A few weeks later the pandemic properly hit, and life came to a grinding halt... with Chain Cult's planned US Tour cancelled. This is their first new released music since then, a pair of dark urgent anthems celebrating defiance and resolve in isolated times. Love It.

### CIVIC – FUTURE FORECAST LP (flightless)

More quality music from Melbourne, this time care-of the ace Civic who rock like a toughened blend of Saints/ Birdman/ Visitors/ Celibate Rifles... I could easily imagine Chris Bailey, Rob Younger and Damian Lovelock singing some of these songs, not that Civic's own frontman doesn't do a sterling job with his pissed languid drawl. I'm still slumming on a digital copy of 'Future Forecast' whilst trying to track down a hard copy and raise the necessary cross-border finances this transaction will doubtless involve. Wait a minute, didn't UKPLC sign a marvellous Trade Deal with Australia?!! Banger of an album \*

(\* mate in Australia has just confirmed he's secured me a vinyl copy that'll be headed my way soon, woohoo)





#### **ALGARA – ABSORTOS EN EL TEDIO ETERNO LP (LVEUM)**

Had this a few weeks now, and it gets better with each spin. From Barcelona and pushing a forceful tune laden agit-Punk sound, they effortlessly sidestep into dawn-of-the-Eighties glacial electronic post-Punk, and whatever else takes their fancy. On the cover sleeve the band are pictured in their smart looking guerrilla fatigues, like a militant version of The Rip Offs, or something, and there's a 14-page manifesto (in Spanish) included. I can't understand much of it, but I'm guessing coloured vinyl, electric guitars, and bopping in your Docs will all feature heavily come La Revolución. Fine Work Comrades.

#### **MORBO - ¿A Quién Le Echamos La Culpa? LP (Cintas Pepe)**

I wasn't so much encouraged as instructed by Ralf to purchase this album; such was his belief I would dig it. Well, true to his word, it's very good, has pogo-tastic late-Seventies Punk qualities mixed with some primal Nuggets rawness; nothing smart or complicated just highly effective uplifting music that pulls you right in. They're from Peru, been round for years evidentially, and make totally unpretentious rousing music straight from the heart. Turn UP the stereo and ENJOY. Gracias Ralf + Paco ☺

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Man, reissues is a whole business itself these days, but I'm not knocking it. Is always a great chance to pick up official releases of stuff I've missed/snoozed on, and I did make an exception of buying a swanky anniversary pressing of an album I already own. Pure indulgence, but totally worth it (he kids himself...) So yeah, here's my pick of those **reissues**, some real classics...

#### **LEATHERFACE – MUSH LP (Call of the Void)**

Only had 'Mush' on CD, so figured I'd move fast for this newly remastered/white vinyl reissue. You know the drill; mighty infectious music, propelled by Dicky Hammond's sublime fretwork, working in perfect union with Frankie Stubbs caustic vocals and surreal/poetic lyrics. And a powerhouse rhythm section. It remains a pure joy, and one of the UK's greatest Punk records. Absolute Magic.

#### **NOG WATT – FEAR EP (Final Dooms Day)**

This solitary '85 release by The Netherlands Nog Watt is a hands-down Euroland Classic, and it finally got an official rerelease. With strong SoCal vibes, but tons of their own brooding menace and intensity, these are stunningly great songs. Killer Record. Every (hardcore) home should have one...

#### **TALES OF TERROR – S/T LP (Call of the Void)**

Like a zillion other early '80's records from the North 'Mercian golden age, T.O.T.'s album slipped thru my fingers, but seeing it getting an RSD repressing was just too tempting to turn down, again! These Sacto guys lived the Skate/Punk dream, rippin' 'n boozin' to the extreme and kicking out 'Flag, Germs, Dead Boys 'n Stooges styled hi-octane jams. I wouldn't say it's an essential album as-such, but I'm glad I finally snagged a copy.

#### **7 SECONDS – THE CREW (TRUST)**

Yeah, cost a packet, but is a wonderful package that only enhances what was already an album that's been part of my life for a long-long time. A Special Record... and you lucky-lucky people can read a bunch of (t)rusty old lags enthusing about 'The Crew' in the latest copy of Suspect Device. We aim to please!

I picked up a few other new releases too, so props to all DIY labels + distros who keep on stocking great old/new releases, it's getting tougher and tougher for them in this post-Brexit world with postage rates from overseas now a killer. There are people with their noses firmly in the trough who are no doubt cashing-in on the country's newfound 'independence' but I've not seen any evidence of benefits to the rest of us. I know my local Co-Op Supermarket was half empty this morning, with signs up everywhere apologising for the lack of produce, blaming it on 'Supply Issues'. New normals, new Realities.

Shout outs to Tony + Gaz, my Punks in Lockdown buddies, Simon Keeler, Paco LVEUM, Aston Boss Tuneage, Andy Turner, Eugene at Vive Le Rock, James Sherry, Ed Wenn, Grazza, Little Mark, Sned, and of course Dimitrios for putting together the Tadpole/Zonked! 'zine (and everyone who brought a copy)

GET VAXED, GET BOOSTED and TRY NOT LET THE VIRUS GRIND YOU DOWN, take care amigos /

**PETE.ZONKED@BTINTERNET.COM**





As lockdown lingered on in 2021 I realised I wouldn't make it to many gigs, and like many people getting back out amongst people, in a confined space, caused a certain level of trepidation and anxiety. So I just managed a handful of gigs, the last one being DiAZ BROTHERS + DEALING WITH DAMAGE in London, where I caught Covid. By the time I'd recovered physically and mentally... well Omicron was making its way on to the scene... and any year-end gig plans hit the skids. Anyways, here's a few highlights... take care/PETE ZONkED!



29th August : DiSChARGE at The Con Club, Lewes was my first gig of 2021, which is a pretty good way to ease yourself back in to live music, right??!! I first saw DiSChARGE a long-long time ago, was a very different beast, and these days I just appreciate them for what's happening in the moment, don't get hung up on the past. Their latest singer, plus the twin guitar attack, has definitely injected much firepower in to their performance. A bunch of late teen kids were going wild down the front, was their first DiSChARGE gig, and seeing them having such a great time was the highlight of my night... Lo Spirito Continua...

2nd September : a really nice evening in good company at The Albert, Brighton, catching up with friends I'd not seen for a good while. Locals STURDY WRISTS and ViADUCT opened, before DEALING WITH DAMAGE closed out the night. They are a band where I connect completely to the music and the message. It's a generational thing probably. I'm always happy to hear Ed Wenn's latest venture (which it occurs to me I've been doing for... decades, hah) and its always a pleasure catching-up with James Sherry. Sure, our lives have all steadily changed and evolved to a degree, but we're still here, and you can still see the genuine passion in what these guys do. All for the love of it. They really are a tight unit, and I'm looking forward already to their new album.







26th September : this gig was meant to be at Brighton's Latest Music Bar, but a last minute double booking with a Labour Party conference event saw the Punk slot get the boot. So, maximum credit to the promoters for rescheduling it in to the minuscule upstairs room at The Pipeline. Word went out that it was ticket holders only, no walk ups, and I headed down thinking it was either going to be a memorable night... or a total mess. Yeah, me of little faith... it turned out to be brilliant. The reignited EXIT-STANCE kicked it off, not crossed paths with them since earlier '80's and they were spot on, went down well. And then the assembled SUBHUMANS squeezed their gear on to the tiny stage, plugged it... and HIT IT... were just fantastic, was literally like having a favourite band playing an intimate set in your front room. They've been a staple soundtrack of mine for a lifetime, I've never seen them turn in anything less than 100% live. Remain an inspirational band. Ace Night.





## ALAN MARSHALL

This year me and Soozin decided to throw our whole life in the air, give up work for a bit, and relocate to Scotland. We spent June to November travelling the UK in a motorhome, living on campsites and with just about enough room to swing a pigmy shrew (we didn't try). Add that to the lockdown start to 2021 and there has been very little scope for live music and very little access to record players, (or records for that matter) which are all in storage.

I am greatly missing the wonderful folk of the south coast, and making a racket in bands as often as I have been lucky to over the last 20 years in Southampton, but I have also been given such a warm welcome to my newly adopted country. Gawd bless the punk rock family!

Here's some top 10s to reflect on our travels.

Top 10 places we have been;

Bourton on the Water – Cotswolds – A beautiful little village with nothing but endless posh tat shops and more pubs than you can shake a stick at.

Mam Tor – Buxton – A big old rock for climbing up. Bring crisps.

Hawes – Yorkshire Dales – Cobbles, sheep, locals with Compo from Last of the Summer Wine wellies, This place has the lot. One of the nicest places I have been for a walk ever.

The 1865 – Southampton – Hack Job, Acid Attack and Discharge gig – first gig out of lockdown and the last playing with Hack Job for a while (until Dreadfest in March!). Cracking night out with chums.

Tebay Services – Cumbria – This has become a regular haunt on the M6. Not to be missed as it sells Samuel Smiths imperial stout!

The Underground – Plymouth – Abrazos, Butt-plug Babies, CDS, Bus Station Loonies gig – A long trek from Alloa, but worth every minute. Another last gig with Abrazos for a while, but a belter of a night with good mates new and old.

Mull of Galloway – Dumfries and Galloway – stunning campsite, right on the beach, with strolls though the dunes aplenty, and no rain! In Scotland! In October!

Ray Harryhausen, Titan of Cinema exhibition – Edinburgh Museum of Modern Art – Chock full of all things foam rubber and terrifying. I was like a kid in a sweetshop gazing at Medusa, Krakens and lots of tiny Argonaut skeletons.

Bannermans Bar – Edinburgh – Brain Anguish, Andy T, Thought Control, The System, Alternative gig – What more could a new arrival to Scotland want! Every band killed it, and the whole In Nomine Patri 7" as a set starter! Don't get better than that.

Roslyn Chapel – Roslyn – No Dan Brown or Tom Hanks to be seen, but as a nerd with a passion for old churches this place is amazing. Enough weird carvings and arcane masonry to make you go ooh! On numerous occasions.

Top 10 records on constant repeat in the Motor Home;

Green Lung – Woodland rites – The sinister result of a satanic ritual to combine Black Sabbath and the Wicker Man.

The Wakes – No Irish Need Apply – Political, in your face, and perfect for pootling around the mountains to.

Emily Flea – No Room for You – Straight to the point gobbets of pure punk rock with a twist of Fuzzbox and The Gym Slips. Genius.

Seeing red / Under Attack – S/T – A full on Hardcore assault from both bands, sure to get you out of bed in the morning.

Bombardement – S/T – You want Discharge played the way they did it? No Japanese style ear slaughter, just punch in the gut tuneage!

Los Fastidios – Joy, Joy, Joy – sing along anti-fascist Streetpunk anthems. Made for motorway driving.

Dennis Bovell – Brain Damage – The master of British dub. Every track a cracker.

Dropdead – 2020 LP – This took a bit to grow on me, but is now a go to album when you just need to rant at the modern world.

Siouxie and the Banshees – Join Hands – A discordant, jagged masterpiece.

Jim Williams – A Field in England Soundtrack – Weird and trippy in the extreme. The perfect accompaniment for drinking cider in a field.

Earlier this year we lost a lovely pal who I was lucky enough to play in a few dodgy 80s bands with and to call a good friend. In later years he ribbed me for my love of terrible grindcore and I ribbed him for his love of funk and jazz, but here's a top ten of records which remind me of when we both lived in the thrash/grind sweet spot. Cheers Brandon!!

OLD – Old lady Drivers – The inevitable apex of ludicrous grindcore.

Spermbirds – Something to Prove – Brandon introduced me to these guys and we saw them together around the release of Common Thread. Pure class.

Sticky – Where's My Lunchpail – Geeky thrash from California that somehow spoke to a bunch of kids from the Home Counties. Bonkers.

Black Flag – Everything went Black – A ubiquitous but instant classic.

Hard Ons – Dickcheese – Fantastic LP with riffs aplenty. We covered a few tracks from this in the short-lived band W.A.N.K we were both in.

Ramones – Brain Drain – Perhaps not their best LP, but worth it for Pet Sematary and Don't Bust My Chops alone.

Lawnmower Deth – Ooh Crikey its... - Can you see the pattern forming yet? Comedy grind/thrash, yep!

D.R.I – Dirty Rotten EP – The fastest thing we had ever heard. Much emulated, never bettered.

Alice Donut – Donut comes Alive – Crazy psychedelic hardcore. Another band we saw live and loved. What's not to like about a trombone led cover of Sabbath's War Pigs, with Duncan from Snuff on drums?

The Stupids – Jesus meets the Stupids – Skateboards, junk food and general arseing about. Our 3 favourite things for most of the late 80s.

## CRISPIN MUMBLES

The Ten Bestest Things of 2021

**10) Having a lovely Home Secretary** – Ms Patel is obviously so warm and caring that she will do anything – including letting people drown in the freezing channel – to protect our flag/sausages/ Morris dancers...What was it again? Anyway, must have been a really good reason otherwise that would have been really cuntish.

**9) Plan B** – I think this is a really good idea. I have always thought that Benjamin Paul Ballance-Drew, was talented. Every Christmas needs a lot of wrapping and I think he'll be just the ticket!

**8) Brexit – Terrific success** – I mean okay, we don't have enough lorry drivers, NHS staff and the EU is being really mean about our fish but I was getting bored of going to Spain for my holidays anyway. I mean all that lovely weather, nice people and places was nice but they didn't do fish and chips everywhere and I only saw a few McDonalds in each city. Okay I haven't seen my daughter for over two years as she is Spanish but that's partly due to Covid-19.

**7) Covid-19** – People were always saying how great it was in the olden days...now we're finding out as we're taken back to the good old days like Spanish Flu, Typhoid, and the Plague. Really has brought out the best in people who are well informed on social media by people whose father used to be a gardener to someone who new a bloke down the pub who taught year 12 science 30 years ago! Now you can't get any more reliable than that!

**6) Wearing face masks** – this is triffick coz it's like the law but it isn't because nobody is going to make you wear them. I've just been to get the paper and hardly anyone in the shop had them on. Bit surprised that the Sun was being so horrid about Boris – everyone loves a party.

**5) Shortage of petrol** – This was really good because we're always being told that we should drink less anyway. I'm down to three pints of unleaded a day and – because I'm really worried about the planet, it's E10!

**4) The Planet** – Fantastic news because all the governments met up in Glasgow and sorted everything out. No more coal after 2458, now that should make Greta Thunberg really happy!

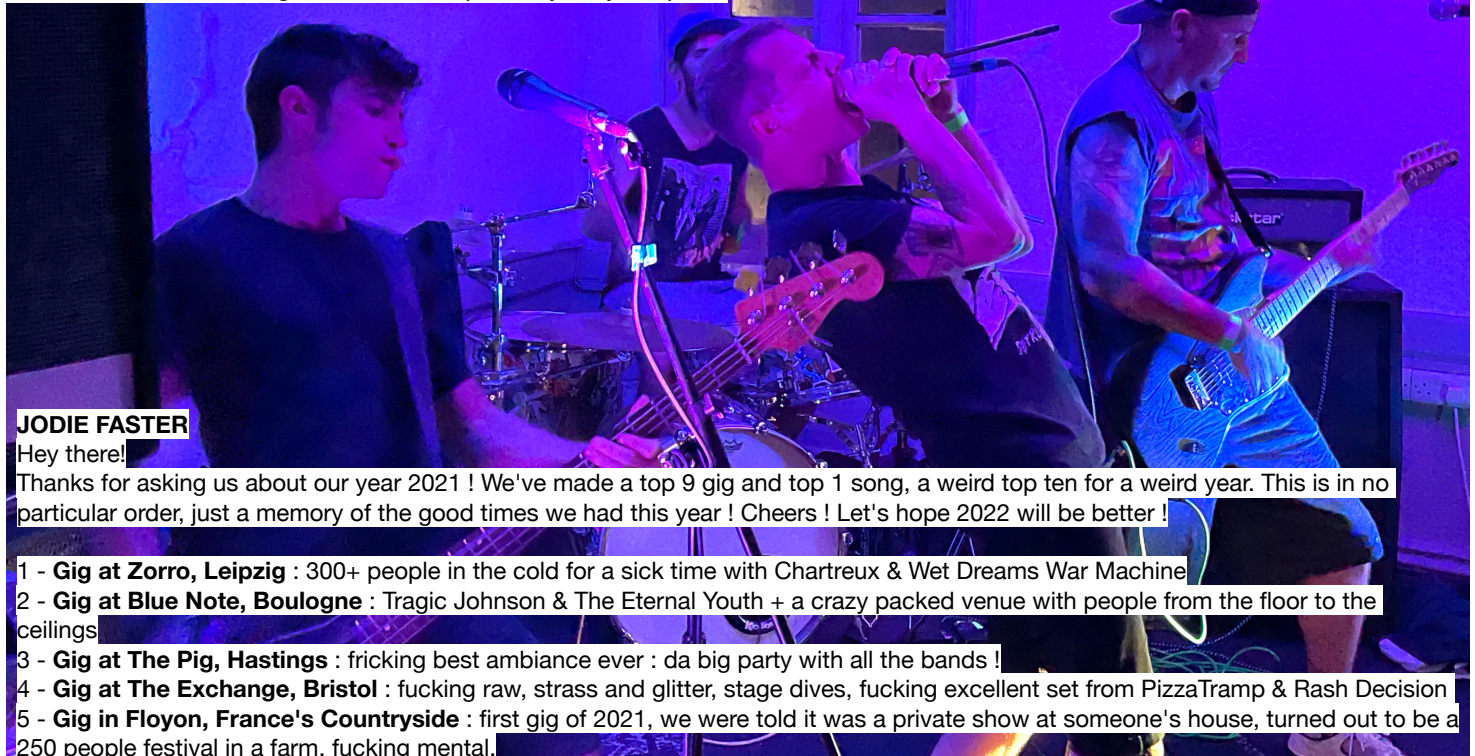
**3) Food banks** – These are fantastic because the Government is so busy doing, doing, doing something really important, they can't help poor people as well so luckily there are these things called food banks where you can get a couple of tins of Spaghetti Hoops absolutely free! Great.

**2) Joe Biden** – Our American cousins were really worried that he was going to be some sort of nutter so they even held a peaceful sit-in at The Senate. Luckily it looks like he's just doing the same things as Donald who can relax now and play golf as they've solved all the problems in Afghanistan and with China and Russia.

**1) Boris Johnson** – The best PM we've had since uhm Theresa May! He works really hard to keep all the promises he made when he got elected. He did Brexit but there seem to be a few problems with the twenty new hospitals, re-allocating the £365m a week that it said on the side of that bus, the really fast train won't go to Leeds and loads of other stuff. People need to remember that he is a very busy man and has 7/8/9/208 mouths to feed/nappies to change! People need to remember that he was really funny on the zip-line and makes lots of jokes and uses Latin words and went to Cambridge United so he must be dead clever. Still at least plan B will help him at Christmas.

**Merry Christmas everybody love, Crispin Fumbles**

Jodie Faster - The Birdcage, Portsmouth - photo by Tony Suspect



### JODIE FASTER

Hey there!

Thanks for asking us about our year 2021 ! We've made a top 9 gig and top 1 song, a weird top ten for a weird year. This is in no particular order, just a memory of the good times we had this year ! Cheers ! Let's hope 2022 will be better !

1 - **Gig at Zorro, Leipzig** : 300+ people in the cold for a sick time with Chartreux & Wet Dreams War Machine

2 - **Gig at Blue Note, Boulogne** : Tragic Johnson & The Eternal Youth + a crazy packed venue with people from the floor to the ceilings

3 - **Gig at The Pig, Hastings** : fricking best ambiance ever : da big party with all the bands !

4 - **Gig at The Exchange, Bristol** : fucking raw, strass and glitter, stage dives, fucking excellent set from PizzaTramp & Rash Decision

5 - **Gig in Floyon, France's Countryside** : first gig of 2021, we were told it was a private show at someone's house, turned out to be a 250 people festival in a farm, fucking mental.

6 - **Gig at Canal 10, Hautrage** : a festival for snares with only mates (Gummo, Marto, False, Slavemaker), that was a very long night of awesomeness !

7 - **Gig at Smokehouse, Ipswich** : when a tour start with a performance from The Domestics in a sold out-room on a wednesday, with crazy polish guys bumpin' around, you know you gonna have a good time

8 - **Gig at Modra Vopice, Prag** : Trigger, Sheeva Yoga, Yacopsae, Six Score... Does it need further explanations ?

9 - **Gig at La Salle Gueule, Marseille** : first time we met with and played for our label Crapoulet. A long drive for a long fun with XInquisitionX, Joyblaster and Blondin

10 - **Gargantua - "La Mort avec toi"** : sorry for non french speakers, but this is by far the best song of 2021.



### GERALDINE LAWRENCE

Here's my top five gigs (the first two are joint first if that's allowed) followed by my top ten purchases/received music (in no particular order and not necessarily released in 2021!).

PATTI SMITH Royal Albert Hall - (emotional and a lovely day with Rich)

DIAZ BROTHERS / DEALING WITH DAMAGE / CHARLEMAGNES / DINOSAUR SKULL at The Lexington - (truly special evening and a fab day with Rich and Darron)

VOORHEES / KING OF PIGS, BOOM Leeds - (first gig since February 2020!)

SKINNY MILK / BITTERMAN, Hobbit - (good things happening in Southampton)

COOL JERKS, Hobbit

THE VAPORS 'Waiting for the Weekend' 4 x CD Boxset

MONO MEN 'Stop Draggin Me Down' LP

MUDHONEY 'Superfuzz Bigmuff' CD reissue

THE FALL-OUTS s/t LP

THE FALL-OUTS 'Sleep' CD

DINOSAUR JR 'Sweep Into Space' CD

SHUTDOWN 'Emits a Real Bronx Cheer' LP

LEATHERFACE 'Mush' LP (reissue)

DEALING WITH DAMAGE 'Ask More Questions' LP

DANGEROUS GIRLS 'Present' LP

### SID DURRUTI

My top ten for the year, in no particular order except for Grand Collapse in top spot

**Grand Collapse** - Empty Plinths

**Sickness** - The Fall Of Reason

**Zero Again** - Out Of The Crooked Timber Of Humanity / Revert To Nothing EPs

**Bob Vylan** - We Live Here

**Anthrax** - Serfs Out

**RANK** - Brave New Lows

**Coelacanth** - Life Cycle

**Fatal Blow** - Black Gold

**Abrazos / Brain Anguish** - We're Still Angry All The Time split EP

**Cave Ne Cadas** - Era Of Rapture

UP THE FUCKIN' PUNX!

### MIKE HEAD

1. Getting married & realising even more how lucky I am to have such loyal friends.
2. . Meeting John King one of my favourite authors and picking his mind in a fun afternoon/evening in a pub , also Lee Wilson ( infa riot ) was very friendly to me .
3. The Bar stool preachers Live gigs so much energy , positivity & tunes.
4. Ruts dc Live gigs & the ElectrAcoustic album , lovely guys , classic songs .
5. Lars Frederiksen 'To Victory ' 6 track ep was my favourite new music of year
6. Being able to go to the pub again and be social was huge for my state of mind.
7. Bromley fc doing so well this season and memorable trips to Chesterfield, Notts County & Stockport.
8. New Naked Raygun album ' over the overlords ' great comeback record.
9. Dan Ozzi book Sellout , it was worth it for me just for Jawbreaker chapter.
10. Banksy & Van Gogh exhibitions very different but had great time at both , was nice to do something different.

I have probably missed something but that is due to my age .  
Cheers Happy New year.

## STUART ARMSTRONG

As always when Tony asks me for my Top 10, I struggle. Mainly because there are always so many great punk records to mention throughout the year, but also because I've been introduced to bands I haven't heard of before and bought their records, so to me they are new music. However, this has been an even more difficult choice because 2021 has been a totally shit year for everyone yet punk bands have done their very best to keep going and get their records out to people like me.

There are many bands and records that didn't make my top 10, not because they weren't exceptionally good, but because I had to pick what I feel have been the absolute epitome of punk rock for me through 2021. Honourable mentions must go to Wonk Unit for 'Uncle Daddy', Travis Cut for their 7" single, and 'Sickness for The Fall Of Reason'. Plus, many others.

I've got a funny feeling that 2022 could be even better for Punk Releases even though they will have to go a long way to beat 2021.

**Horseflies - Pale Green Grave** (only one track but it's been on repeat so much this year, I do hope they get around to doing a full record release in 2022)

**Anthrax - Serfs Out** (I never thought that 'All For The Cause' could be bettered but bloody hell, this blew it outta the water, brilliant LP and as always, amazing packaging. GYO just never give up on putting phenomenal effort in to all their releases. Stunning release all round)

**Abrazos/Brain Anguish Split 7"** (Straight up, honest, DIY punk rock. Lyrically, spot on with everything both bands extol. I'm more of an Album person to be honest but when you get a single like this, you tend to question what you're missing. Looking forward to the Abrazos LP next year!!)

**Salom D - Happy Skies** (I was lucky enough to be able to send some questions to the band for an SD66 interview and like the CD, they didn't let me down. Brilliant album by a brilliant band. Tuneful, ear worm punk. Took me back in time to the late 70's but with a much more emphatic edge. Punk Rock is so good when it's done like this.)

**Stranglers - Dark Matters** (I was determined to buy this because I loved the Stranglers way back when and have loved them since. Musically, this is exceptionally good and an absolute fitting tribute to Dave Greenfield, RIP Dave, it was an amazing day when this arrived but it was also very sad knowing that this could be the last record the Stranglers will put out.)

**Naked Raygun - Over The Overlords** (I'd had the download of this for a while, listened to it a couple of times and was truly back in love with Naked Raygun. Then the news came through that the label had been let down by the pressing plant, through no fault of their own and it turned out there was going to be a bit of a wait, so I didn't listen to it again until the LP arrived the other day all the way from Chicago. The production and the sound is just immense, I bloody love this I do.)

**Face to Face - No Way Out But Through** (Same old same old. Nah, a tested and tried formula that works. Fabulous guitars, pounding drums, lyrics that smack you in the face. I've loved everything Face To Face have ever put out, they are one of my 'Go To' bands whenever I need something a bit tuneful yet angry and powerful and this did not disappoint.)

**Grand Collapse - Empty Plinths** (WOW!!!! Ferking Awesome!! Not much more I can say to be honest, except just that - Wow!!!!)

**Mistakes - Head Full of Damage** (I like this a lot. I have a lot of respect for the band. It's proper, good, tuneful, foot tapping, singalong punk rock. Great release and it was the first LP I've ever had that was hand delivered to me by a member of a band, which made the wait - fuck up with my order - even more bearable. Great people, great music, great LP.)

**Mark Murphy and The Meds - On The Brink** (I have a lot of respect for Mark Murphy, he's one of those blokes that seems to just get it right when it comes to the type of pop punk I like. This one is all him, no gimmicks - apart from the drum machine - but just Mark doing what he does best - belting out catchy, fast paced songs. Like a cross between the Beach Boys on speed and essences of Mark's other adventures, Crocodile God, No Marks, Hey Maxine. This is just perfect.)



### RICH LEVENE

top 10 gigs & releases combined (in no particular order)

PATTI SMITH - London Royal Albert Hall live

GOLDKANTE 7"

VOORHEES / KING OF PIGS - Leeds Boom Live

VONBRIGDI 'Hanagal' 2 x LP

'THE SUN SHINES HERE' 3 CD Boxset

COOL JERKS - Southampton Hobbit Live

DIAZ BROTHERS / DEALING WITH DAMAGE /

CHARLEMAGNES / DINOSAUR SKULL - London

Lexington live

THE UMBRELLAS CD

ANTHRAX 'Serf's Up' LP

THE VAPORS 'Waiting for the Weekend' 4 x CD Boxset

The Charlemagnes - The Lexington, London - photo Tony Suspect



Brain Anguish - Bannermans bar, Edinburgh - photo Alan Marshall

### ANGUS QUINN

Top ten TV shows I've watched in 2021

10. Invincible (Animated flawed superheroes)
09. The Boys (Flawed superheroes)
08. The Mandalorian (Spaghetti Western meets Star Wars)
07. Wild wild country (Crazy cult, crazier locals)
06. Castle Rock - Series 01 (The Stephen King multiverse)
05. Katla (Icelandic volcanic folk mystery)
04. Jordskott (Scandi-Noir meets folk horror)
03. Kingdom (I Korean period drama! I zombies)
02. Dark (German time travel mind melt)
01. Dark Shadows (1966 Gothic soap opera, 1,225 episodes)



# interview

## **DARREN BOURNE**

### **Algara “Absortos En El Tedio Eterno” LP (La Vida Es Un Mus)**

This is my most played LP in 2021 (well a new LP) and I love everything about it, the look, the sound & of course the tunes. It's like an LP full of lost KBD classics, and anyone into bands like Crass, or Rondos should check these guys out. Songs about poor working conditions, the constant evictions, youth unemployment, and a city consumed by tourism and other forms of gentrification (Barcelona, but can relate living in Brighton). The sound is great, like an old LP from the past, but with tunes sounding fresh & taking us into the future. Keeping the Political in Punk, and that's just what I needed in these crazy times.

### **Cuir “Album” LP (Offside/Rockstar)**

After the great Demo in 2020, can the LP follow it up in 2021? My answer is Yes! More killer Synth Punk, with tunes more catchy than this damn virus doing the rounds right now. It's a one man project, but let's hope it'll be a band in the future, as I'd love to have a dance to these tunes live (with a few beers)

### **Kohti Tuhoa “Väkivaltaa “ 7” EP (La Vida Es Un Mus)**

This lot blew me away at Static Shock Festival & so far I don't think they've released a bad record, more killer full throttle Hardcore Punk from Finland & this 7” is a ripper. The track Häpeä I have played over & over this year & just like the band, I'm not slowing down.

### **Slant “1집” LP (Iron Lung Records)**

From South Korea, and after a pretty good 7”, I think this is a big step up. Nonstop raging Hardcore, that I would love to see live, in a small venue. But right now I'll watch it on YouTube & hope in 2022 Santa brings them over for me. I think I've been a pretty good boy – honest.

### **Rank brave new lows EP (<https://rankhc.bandcamp.com/releases>)**

This came out on Bandcamp only, due to the madness of the pressing plants in 2021, so if you run a record label & want some solid Bristol Hardcore then look no further, you need to put this out. The final track “Feels Like The End” would be on every mix tape, if it was still the early 90's & I made mix tapes still. Get over to Bandcamp & give it a download.

### **Abstain the demo (<https://abstainxxx.bandcamp.com/releases>)**

Darren has gone back to the early 90's, and fallen in love with Chugga Chugga Hardcore again, if you like bands like Earth Crisis, Green Rage, Strife, etc. Then this will be for you. I'm going to start wearing XL shirts & baggy jeans again, and Mosh round my room like nothing else matters.

### **Morbo “¿A Quién Le Echamos La Culpa?” LP (Cintas Pepe Records)**

This lot have been around a while, and I used to have all the records, But now I'm no longer buying vinyl I'm happy to play the digital & enjoy the songs for what they are. In my opinion this is their best release & has some great stand out tunes (although none are duff). Complete with “Crap” punk artwork (meaning good, of course). Coming from Lima, Peru, this is just a good, solid punk record, with lots of tunes to get a pogo going.

### **Sial “Zaman Edan” 7” EP (La Vida Es Un Mus)**

I love Sial, and don't think they've released a bad record. Coming from Singapore, and raging live, when they came over a few years back, both at Static Shock Fest & the Cowley Club. This 7” has a more tribal feel to it, but 2 songs I can only imagine how good they'll be live. Let's hope they come back as this is another 7” I keep flipping over & playing again & again. And that's the perfect sign of a good punk 7”, when you're not sure what side you like best.

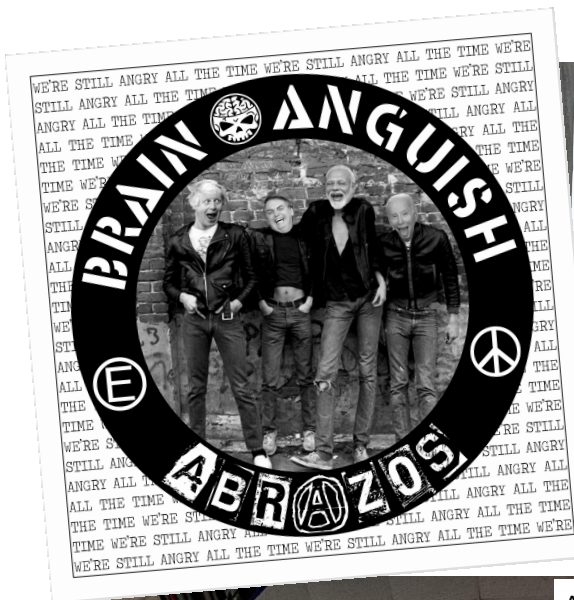
### **Golpe “La Colpa É Solo Tua” LP (Sorry State)**

There seem to be a lot of one man bands/projects doing the rounds right now (See Cuir). Not sure if that was a thing before Lockdowns, but I've noticed a bunch more than normal. If you like Discharge, then this may be your cuppa, or especially if you like the Destruct LP from 2021. Raging relentless Hardcore Punk the way we all know & love, this time out of Italy.

### **Illiterates “s/t” LP (Kill Enemy Records)**

No bullshit U.S Hardcore, done just the way I like it. 12 raging tracks, from start to finish, from the school of Poison Idea & other great legends, which paved the way. From Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania proving that in 2021 U.S Hardcore is still alive, kicking & putting out great slabs of vinyl, and showing no signs of slowing down.





Abrazos album recording - The Fishtank, Portsmouth - Photo Dave Sloan



Abrazos - Underground, Plymouth - photo Andrew Smith





## SEAN FORBES

### 1. Ex-Vöid LP (Prefect Records)

My album of 2021 and probably 2022 as it isn't out yet. 2021 was the year that vinyl pressing plants had a melt down and took nearly a year to manufacture something. I've had this album for 6 months on my computer and a test pressing for two months and I think i've broken both formats from over playing them. No idea why but this hit the sweet sweet spot and became my new favourite band that has taken the place of Talulah Gosh, Alvvays and Veronica Falls over the years. Ex-Void are two ex members of Joanna Gruesome and make fuzzy indie pop with bubblegum choruses. Makes me dance like a total bellend in my house.

### 2. Think On It

Think On It are the Cowes in the Isle of Wight's only punk band (or so they claim) and we were very lucky to see the singer and guitarist playing an open Mic session session at a pub in Cowes to three sheep, his partner and three salty sea sailors drinking ale like it was going out of fashion. He absolutely tortured and destroyed the Green Day song Time of My Life. It really wasn't anyone's Time of their life but it will live long in my mind.

### 3. Alvilda – Négatif 7" (Alien Snatch)

Does it really matter if a record is Black vinyl or coloured vinyl? Sadly even though i'm well old - 105-ish, it does still matter to me. I played this 7" a million times on Bandcamp but never got the 7" as I totally missed the limited version on clear vinyl with turquoise swirl and it annoyed me. Luckily Daniel at the label sorted me out and made my year. The 4 track EP is pure indie pop meets girl group meets power pop. It has so much energy and joy like Dolly Mixture or Juniper Moon.

### 4. Various - Riot City: Complete Singles Collection 4CD (Captain Oi!)

When will the CD revival happen? It has to, as no fucker can get any vinyl pressed. Captain Oi! / Cherry Red have been doing some quality Boxset reissues for a few years and this selection features every single and more released on Riot City. These singles shaped my childhood from The Expelled to Ultra Violent to Abrasive Wheels. Often copied, highly influential but never bettered.

### 5. Taqbir - Victory Belongs To Those Who Fight For A Right Cause 7" (La Vida Es Un Mus)

Moroccan hardcore that pisses on everything from a great height. It's reverb drenched, intense and an absolute rager.

### 6. Animals

I love animals but during the last few years and spending more time at home - i've got obsessed with watching the squirrels in my garden. I know everyone has squirrels but I have white squirrels. Check them out online. They are like the holy grail of the squirrel world - like God Save the Queen on A+M or the unreleased test pressing version of the Mob's No Doves Fly on Crass. They are my second favourite animal next to a baby Rhino. Nothing gets near to the baby rhino!!

### 7. Mensi

Rebellion 2019. Hard Skin make our yearly trip to play. We arrive and jump out the van. Someone comes over to me and says "Great to see You", "You are a legend", "looking forward to seeing the gig". I take it all in my stride as of course I'm a legend. He then asks "If we are going to play Teenage Warning"!! He thinks I'm Mensi - what a fucking cheek. RIP Mensi - a life well lived!!

### 8. Survivors – 45 Years of The Astronauts Book by Marcus Blakeston

Has there ever been a band that after 45 years playing are still bottom of nearly every bill and yet are absolutely outstanding. The Astronauts are that band. This book is a fantastically researched document of the life and times of the one only Mark Astronaut. Full to the brim with history, stories and archive. Essential and while you are at it - buy any Astronauts record you get hold of.

### 9. Henry Rollins - Stay Fanatic!!! Vol. 2: Jovial bloviations for the vinyl inspired Book

I saw Black Flag twice and wasn't impressed, I saw the Rollins band and was equally unimpressed, I've read a few of his books and they are comedy with their intensity. But his books on collecting vinyl are pure gold. I've got 1000's of records, maybe 20,000, maybe 30,000 and maybe more but his book pumped me so hard - I started looking for stupidly expensive records to buy. The problem I soon worked out - he can afford it and i'm still pay no more than 75p. Incredible books though.

### 10. Various - Heroes of the Night LP (Reminder)

Not enough I can get a music education but this album but this compilation has 12 female fronted pop and punk nuggets from the years 1979 to 1983. I didn't know 6 of the singles and on my wants list on discogs they went. It's a great lesson that you are never too old to learn.



### JAMES DOMESTIC

Righto, here's me top ten. I can't honestly say it's in any particular order. They're all great, and music's not a competition, right?

1. SCHIZOS – 'Come Back with a Warrant' 7"
2. ILLITERATES – 'Illiterates' LP
3. WET LEG 'Chaise Longue' single
4. NERVOUS SS/RAT CAGE split LP
5. SLEAFORD MODS feat. AMY TAYLOR 'Nudge It'
6. WILD BILLY CHILDISH & THE CTMF 'Bob Dylan's Got a Lot to Answer For' 7"
7. LOOSE NUKES 'Countdown to Extinction' LP (OK, this is their 2017 demo, but it's being released early next year on vinyl – by Kibou no less - and I've been listening to it loads!!!!)
8. BEAK> - 'Oh Know'/'Ah Yeh' 7"
9. ANZHLUNG 'I've Lost My Footing on the World' LP (OK, it came out in December 2020, you bloody nit-pickers!!!)
10. RESEARCH REACTOR CORPORATION 'The Collected Findings of the...' LP

### MICK FLETCHER

Top 10 of bands that I heard for the first time in 2021 who I hope might have lots of great releases to come. They might not be new bands but they were new to me

- 1) INGRATES - Leather Lover
- 2) SCHIZOS - Come Back With A Warrant
- 3) PACK RAT - Two Sides Of Your Heart
- 4) Das Kapitans - Cannibals
- 5) SOURSOB - Blow
- 6) KLOBBER - Easy Life
- 7) DEBT CULT - Casino
- 8) Krimi - Salacious
- 9) DOLLHOUSE - The First Day Of Spring
- 10) PINK SUITS - Anarchist Wisdom

### NICK CARTER

In no particular order.

1. **Icons Of Filth -Plight** (In my top 3 all time favourite "punk" bands. Brilliant record, well produced, powerful and vital. Superb packaging as well. And top notch blokes)
2. **Anthrax - Serfs Out** (a totally class record again from a class band and also with superb packaging. GYO records and Gary Budd go from strength to strength with each release)
3. **Toon takeover** (richest club in the world-in the championship ? I've loved the toon my whole life and it's about time we had something to celebrate)
4. **Discovering the band "The War On Drugs"** (right up my street they are. That's one of the things that really makes me happy-when you discover something that totally clicks with you and makes you happy. All good music does that)
5. **Bob Mortimers book-"Away"** (possibly the funniest man alive ? I love Vic and Bob but always thought Bob was funnier. His "Train Guy" is fkn mental, and the fishing program he did with Paul Whitehouse was very touching)
6. **Jordan Petersons book-"12 Rules For Life"** (released a couple of years back but I just discovered him this year. To me he talks a lot of sense, and the root of it seems to be to take control of your destiny and responsibility for your actions)
7. **Rudimentary Peni-The Great War** (Again, another great release from one of the other bands in my top 3 "punk" bands. I think Blinco is a fine artist too)
8. **Peter Howson's latest work/exhibition** (one of my favourite artists. The subject matter of his work is brutally portrayed)
9. The news that Tears For Fears and Midlake have recorded new albums and that Shearwater and Loma are nearly finished recording theirs.
10. Alan Partridge is on tour - nuff said.

### ROB TURL

Here is my list of good noisy, raw, fast, no nonsense punk / hardcore records of 2021

7"

- Junta - Ded Tid
- B.E.T.O.E - Civilizacion
- Seein Red / Under Attack Split
- Torsö - Home Wrecked
- Ojo par Ojo Flexi
- Farmaco - Descolonizer
- Hyokkays - Antigobierno
- Disease / Better Reality Split
- Alambrada - Muerte Preventiva
- Sial - Zaman Edan
- Urin - Afekt
- Disable / Lockheed Split
- Suffocating Madness E.P
- Burning//World - What Brings Tomorrow
- Besthoven / DHK split
- Zodiak / Disease Split
- Kohti Tuhoa - Vakivaltaa

12"

- Turquoise - Hantise
- Nervous SS / Rat Cage - Skopje vs Sheffield
- Malaria - Sacred Fires
- Svaveldioxid - Forsta Dagenham Efter Sista Bomben
- Sistema En Decadencia - Nuestro Legadi
- Koma - Internment Failure
- Porvenir Oscuro - Asquerosa Humanidad
- Unidad Ideologica - Unidad Ideologica
- Systema - Ultimate Guerra
- Visions of War / Arrogant Split
- Jalang - Santau

### VAUGHAN ROBERTS

- Anthrax : Serfs Out : UK
- Svaveldioxid – Första Dagen Efter Sista Bomben : Sweden
- Carcass : Torn Arteries : UK
- Memoriam : To The End : UK
- Amyl & The Sniffers : Comfort To Me : Australia
- Part Chimp : Drool : UK
- The Fall : St Helen's Technical College 1981 : UK
- Negativo : Negativo : Spain
- ExtinctExist : Anthropocene : Australia
- Et On Tuera Tous Les Affreux : Mange Tes Morts : France



## **GRAHAM SLEIGHTHOLME**

### **Punk rock highlights of the year**

#### **Amyl & the Sniffers - Comfort to me (rough trade)**

This is the record I have probably played the most in 2021. It's fun. It's dumb. It's clever. It's got great tunes. It's sadly got the worst artwork of the year as well. They're developing and getting better with each release. Opener 'guided by angels' is superb and it's had me hooked instantly. The rest of the LP grew quickly with 'no more tears' and 'knifey' becoming firm faves. I've been called a hipster for liking them which is an added bonus really, as is the car air freshener that came with the album. I'll be playing this for years.

#### **Kohti tuhoa - Vakivaltaa ep (la vida)**

They've been at it years and still knock my socks off. Side A is a brooding song and took me aback a little. Side B just let's rip though. A perfect chaotic storm. Helenas vocals tear out from within. They certainly live up to the translation of their band name 'Towards Destruction'. Oh and that live set a few years ago in London still makes me grin. I want more.

#### **Jello Biafra and the Guantanamo School of Medicine - Tea Party Revenge Porn (alternative tentacles)**

Post DKs Biafra has quietly been releasing solid albums of new material whilst his old bandmates play karaoke with a revolving door of singers. This album is like a DKs album but for now. Guitars this time via Victims Family members and they create a superb set of tunes. There's a nod to MELVINS in places and some great swirling noise to back up Jello and his trademark sarcastic and hilarious lyrical assaults. Politics and society are his targets and off he goes with opener 'Satan's comb-over' (trump) and with songs like 'we created Putin' and 'Taliban USA' filling out a cracking 10 song album that sits alongside old DK material really well (yep I like it a lot) it's great to see Jello aging disgracefully.

#### **Bootlicker- s/t (static shock)**

In some ways it's meat and potatoes Hardcore punk. It reminds in places of Criminal Damage, who were great, but less on the BLITZ worship and more hardcore. We've heard many, many bands go for this style, but the trick of keeping it feeling fresh is hard. This lot do just that. Job done.

#### **Yleiset Syt - Umpikujamekanismi ep (human discharge)**

Finland again. Absolutely killer stripped down hardcore punk. Take early USHC like The Fix or that Poison idea 1st EP with big dollops of Finnish gods Rattus and mix together. Band members racing each other to the end of the short songs but with enough time to throw in a catchy riff and some pure anger... Flipped this repeatedly whilst even doing a pogo to the opener. Top marks

#### **Gauze - I didn't say it (xxx records)**

This probably passed under a lot of people's radars as it was / is only on CD and therefore the vinyl nerd community didn't completely froth at the mouth and meltdown over crazy limited versions and raise its profile. Dare I say this album is more "punk" than previous records but that's no bad thing. In some ways it feels like they've gone back to the beginning by slowing up a bit. Just a bit though as most of these 13 minutes blaze past. Gauze don't labour the point. They've been at this punk lark forever, and competely wipe the floor with most other bands. I will probably never get to see them and this is a cruel fate I must endure.

#### **Hologram - No longer human (iron lung)**

It's cheap and easy to say it but imagine R. Peni put through a blender with say Glue. Distorted madness with a creepy edge. Played it three times in a row on the decks. I really like this.

#### **Chain whip - Two step to hell (drunken sailor)**

2nd album from this Canadian mob. Hardcore punk. Straight up. Savage and unrepentant. Chain whip is Fucking great hardcore. Clean production really works in their favour. Often these days singers aren't front and centre but CW have a vocalist who is LOUD and clear. Backed up with solid tunes. You could see old school Kill Your Idols fans etc digging these as well. This is a class act.

#### **Morbo - ¿A Quien Le Echamos La Culpa? (Cintas pepe)**

Peru has arrived. We'll not really, Morbo have been going 20 fucking years. This is PUNK rock and it puts a massive smile on my face when I play it. It's got that 77 feel running through it but with a DIY production that sounds basic but totally suits. It also sounds like it from Peru. That might sound odd but they're not trying to do anything other than their own thing and singing in their native tongue gives it a distinctive feel. Not sure on the artwork but that's a minor distraction.

#### **Anti-machine - s/t ep (toxic state)**

Could everyone stop buying this so I can! 6 songs from this New York mob. A man drilling through his own head whilst smiling on the cover art is a great visual description of the contents.

#### **7 seconds - the crew (trust)**

Reissue of this masterpiece. It's been given a remix / master and comes in a gatefold with a mass of cool photos / flyers and a write up from various punk heads about how much of an impact this band has had. I played this endlessly for about 3 weeks.

#### **Stiff meds - exciting violence (tape)**

London band who play fast! Imagine if Arms Race had a different (better) singer and they turned it up a gear and dabbled with power violence. It's still rooted in hardcore but they're not afraid to admit their love of Afternoon Gents. Cracking.

**Marv Gadgie's TOP 10 OF 2021**  
In no particular order ...

**1 PHANE "Phane" LP**

I saw this UK82 horde supporting the mighty Discharge in Derby just before Christmas a few years back and they looked and sounded ace. Spikes and studs and more spikes and even more studs. Total GBH style thuggery and this LP captures them in all their cider swilling glory. Bonus points for artwork that looks like it's crawling out of a Fighting Fantasy book.

**2 X2000/DAUDYFLIN Split tape**

Daudyflin from Reykjavik are a ferociously fearsome prospect. Three Viking warrior women and the legend that is Thrashmaster keeping the beat, they make a searingly raw hellish noise. Their LP is pretty special and this split tape with Sweden's strangely monikered X2000 is like a migraine. Uncompromising brutality that is both terrifying and exciting at the same time.

**3 RUDIMENTARY PENI "Great War" LP**

Who'd a thought it eh? A new Peni LP! It was something of a relief to report, after hearing a promo copy a few weeks before everyone else, that it was great. Insidious sounds that drill themselves in to your mind like a nightmarish fever dream in a Victorian lunatic asylum. There's nobody quite like Peni and look out for their back catalogue being repressed soon.

**4 DRY CLEANING "New Long Leg" LP**

"I've got a band for you that you might like" a bloke at work said. We share a love of music and digging out odd and obscure stuff, though we don't share the same tastes so I was cautious. They're called Dry Cleaning. Caution turns to concern. Terrible name but you know what? I had a go on 'em and loved it. "6Music Post Punk" as I often refer to such things, Dry Cleaning managed to create a wonderfully drab and mundane celebration of well, erm, the drab and mundane nature of life in this godforsaken isle. Wonderfully miserable.

**5 DAVID BOWIE "Brilliant Live Adventures" Box Set**

Whoever it was at the record label that decided to sell a box set piece by piece, online, over a few months with ridiculously limited pressings of each of the six live LPs (some double, some triple) and the box itself separately 'n all should be sent to the naughty step to think about what they have done. Fortunately, I managed to get the lot and they are of course, amazing. Bowie in the 90s is a very under rated beast. Digging deep in to his back catalogue while knocking out under appreciated, but very fine albums, all six of these live records are fabulous, especially "No Trendy Recheuffe" from a 1995 show in Birmingham. Worth it just for "Strangers When We Meet".

**6 DOROTHY "I Confess/Softness" 7"**

I don't know where Paco finds these things but this reissue was a weirdo hit for me when it arrived in one of the La Vida Es Un Mus promo packages. A 70s, teen pop song sung by the sugar sweet "Dorothy" in a sort of Television Personalities at their most whimsical fashion belies the fact that Genesis P Orridge and the Throbbing Gristle lot were behind it all. The b-side is even more peculiar: a rampant sci-fi disco song that Buck Rogers and Princess Ardala would get down to. Madness.

**7 UNIDAD IDEALOGICA "Unidad Ideologica" LP**

Brutal savagery from Bogota. Sometimes you just want to get in from work and spin a record where everything is ramped up to extremes and smashes yer head in. This LP does just that. Marvellous.

**8 WHITE STAINS LP**

First Four Years Black Flag/Circle Jerks style obnoxious punk will always find favour in Gadgie Towers and White Stains tick all of those boxes. Grimy "Group Sex" and snot by the bucket load. Proper 'orrible. Yeah.

**9 HOME FRONT "Think of the Lie" MLP**

It's probably the fact that this LP arrived in the deepest, darkest depths of December and regularly soundtracked my drive to work through the chilly, mist enshrouded Fens as the sun rose in the morning, that I connected so much with it. From the frozen tundras of Canada, Home Front have created a sound that exists somewhere between post punk and new wave that could be likened to The Cure, New Order, a host of early 80s electro bands, a bit of Goth damage ... you get the picture. Like Sievehead if they lived in a cob web strewn castle atop a craggy mountain with bats flying about and what have you. Six icicles of melancholic melodies that I find utterly mesmerising. Album of the Year for me without a doubt.

**10 Blondie "Live in Havana" MLP**

I love Blondie me but you already knew that.





Austerity - The Hobbit, Southampton - photo Tony Suspect



Rash Decision - The Birdcage, Portsmouth - photo Tony Suspect



## NEIL DUNCAN

Anyway, here are some top ten's in no particular order:

- (1) Boris has to be the top worst PM ever at the worst possible time, (except perhaps during a major war!)
- (2) Sir Keith Chancer - the worst possible leader of the opposition at the worst possible time!
- (3) The successful prosecution of Mark Hankinson for hunting offences was one of my fave events of the year - very small beer in the scheme of things, but a very encouraging victory all the same.
- (4) Top gig - tricky as we only had five months worth, but I still packed in a fair few great shows, but probably have to go with, the Festing in Portsmouth, Thursday 23rd September. It featured, ROUGH GUTTS, PIZZATRAMP, RASH DECISION and JODIE FASTER. (Also notable cos the petrol shortage kicked in the next day!)
- (5) Top new(ish) international band, will have to be AMYL & THE SNIFFERS, who I have really taken to this year - in particular, the video and song "Hertz" are catchy as fuck. The vibrant energy is just so contagious.
- (6) That said, I will still cite MAID OF ACE's, "Nostalgia" video as probably my favourite - probably because all the lockdown and pandemic craziness has me feeling a little melancholic and yearning for those simpler times, (which never really existed).
- (7) I hope I don't cause any red-faces at SD HQ, but I am gonna name SUSPECT DEVICE#65 as my fave zine of the year - yes, I know that strictly speaking in came out in 2020, but I didn't read and review in until this year. What a superb, packed, bumper issue that was, loads of interesting stuff and the quality of the pictures were excellent.
- (8) And going back to January, has reminded me of the biggest, 'WTF' moment, that I'd nearly forgotten about, namely the 6th Jan, insurrection in Washing DC. We all know America is a little weird, but even I could not have predicted and incident as deadly and destructive as what happened. I feel it will inform events and attitudes for decades to come.
- (9) Top (local) new comer band, goes to ACID CLAW, from Newbury, Barkshire, who played a great debut show and have produced some amazing songs and videos. They were only just above BITCHIN HOUR, another new band who are a great deal of fun to watch.
- (10) This might seem a little weak next to the experiences of people who have travelled the world, but a top holiday moment occurred in a year in which there was no family holiday. But I popped down to Pagham, West Sussex anyway for a day trip, to check out the nature reserve where the shifting seas have cut thru the shingle to reconnect with a lagoon that had been land-bound for decades. Whilst I did see, (the expected) dramatically altered coastline, I did not expect to see a Grey Seal swimming around the lagoon, which was a pretty impressive sight.

## Anthrax

### SEAN HENSFORD

Top 10 from an old git...

- 1 Anthrax Serfs out
- 2 Ferocious Dog the hope
- 3 Turnstile Glow On
- 4 We are the Union Ordinary Life
- 5 Amyl and the Sniffers Comfort
- 6 Quicksand Distant Populations
- 7 Astronauts When your not so high
- 8 Emily Flea no room
- 9 Icons of filth Plight
- 10 Andy T Clinging

Serfs Out

### WAYNE ELLIOTT

Top 10... in no particular order.

1. **Civic 'Future Forecasts'**... great album in The Saints/ Radio Birdman tradition.
2. **Jackson Reid Briggs and the Heaters 'Waiting In A Corner'** at least UK release from one of best and most prolific Australian bands of recent years.
3. **Idles 'Crawler'** album #4 and no let up in quality.
4. **IDestroy 'Petting Zoo'** my favourite song of the year as the Bristol band take aim at the sexism unfortunately rife in some parts of the live scene.
5. **Dry Cleaning 'New Long Leg'**.. took me a while to warm to this but the great post punk guitar work and spoken vocal delivery meant it finished the year as one of my most played albums.
6. **Anthrax 'Serf's Out'**.. brilliant package and the best album yet from one of the most consistent bands around.
7. **Amyl and the Sniffers 'Comfort To Me'** 2nd album is chock full of catchy songs as they continue to go from strength to strength.
8. **The Specials 'Protest Songs'** they may have dialed down the Ska but they have upped the poilitics in a way most bands of their vintage would never attempt. Still one of the most important bands this country has ever produced.
9. **Ship Thieves 'Irruption'** great to see Chris Wollard back in action after his health issues of the last few years.
10. **Naked Raygun 'Over the Overloads'** after a 31 year wait fantastic to have a new NR album.



## **PETER FINCH**

### **1) Straw Man Army: "Age of Exile"**

Straw Man Army "Age of Exile" was actually released in the U.S. at the arse end of 2020. Unfortunately not enough copies were pressed to meet the demand generated by all the chatter about this record. The few copies that reached these shores were hoovered up quicker than a line of coke in an Eastenders dressing room. Those despondent at missing out were blessed with an autumn '21 European repress hence my inclusion in this list. This really is an astonishing record. It's foundations are unmistakably built from the rubble of best before 1984 anarcho punk but leaning more towards the wyrd oddity of The Apostles than the angry protest of Crass and Conflict. From the comforting reassurance of an anarcho punk vibe SMA weave a tapestry of melody and harmony that succeeds in entrancing this particular listener with each successive spin.

### **2) Nervouss / Rat Cage: "Skopje vs Sheffield"**

Next up we get that rarest of phenomenon, a split record where neither band comes out on top. The wide reaching influence of a certain band from Stoke-On-Trent is even more of a phenomenon. What you have here are two bands heavily influenced by the Scandinavian response to the mighty Discharge. The music of Discharge has found it's way to virtually every remote part of the globe and inspired kids to channel that vibe by forming their own bands. Despite this undoubtedly global influence, Discharge can still be found playing at the dark and dingy shithole club in the nearest shithole town. Essentially, there is nothing new here. However, the confident, assured and fluent delivery of a template that many of us have come to love, make this one a contemporary classic.

### **3) Dinosaur Jr.: "Sweep It Into Space"**

J., Lou and Murph return with the latest offering from the long reformed original lineup. Everyone know and loves/hates Dinosaur Jr so lengthy ramblings are unnecessary. If you happen to appreciate the band there is much to love on this record. Particularly noteworthy is the inclusion of not one but two songs by Lou. Each of which is beautifully sublime. Great to see Dinosaur Jr, alongside the likes of Bob Mould and Kenny Chambers, continuing to release records that are as essential as their early offerings.

### **4) Neighborhood Brats: "Confines of Life"**

A band that make great songwriting seem an effortless process. As fluent in the art, codes and conventions of punk as predecessors like The Cute Lepers and revelling equally in the fun of it all.

### **5) ZULU: "My People...Hold On / Our Day Will Come"**

A worthy vinyl release that compiles a couple of recordings previously released exclusively on cassette. An angry and articulate statement regarding the ongoing struggle for young black Americans. Samples of speeches and spoken word performances are juxtaposed with venomous blasts of powerviolence. It works far better than it may sound and resonates beyond the actual point of listening. Black Power Violence!

### **6) Civic: "Future Forecast"**

I was only very recently made aware of this one by a lifelong friend who had seen it mentioned by a reliable source on an end of year list. I will paraphrase his initial excitement but his words were along the lines of: You have to hear this! They are from Australia, they sound quite similar to The Saints with a hint of Radio Birdman too! If an urgent statement like that doesn't excite you too, you may be reading the wrong publication. I can confirm that my friends summation was accurate. If you love The Saints, you will find much to love here too.

### **7) Dealing With Damage: "Ask More Questions"**

It was the enthusiasm of the friend mentioned above that got me stoked about this record also. A band that will be very familiar to SD readers. I'm confident that it will feature on many contributors lists. We all know that it's a band made up of veteran scenesters. The maturity and fluency of the songwriting and the confident and assured delivery make for a truly vital and essential album.

### **8) Celebration Summer: "Against The Gun"**

To continue a recurring theme, it was the same friend mentioned above, that sent an enthusiastic message and link to the above record. Not long after we formed a coalition to import a couple of copies of the vinyl release as shipping was the same for two copies thus saving us a few quid. What you get is a band well versed in the dynamics of the "DC" sound and channeling that vibe to great effect.

### **9) Quarantine: "Agony"**

A band that arrived fully armed with anger. Quarantine articulate a raging, heavy and metallic variant of hardcore that will make fans of Negative Approach pay attention.

### **10) Rudimentary Peni: "Great War"**

A continuation of the great work that is Nick Blinko's Rudimentary Peni. Anything that RP release is, at the very least, mandatory listening. There has been some criticism regarding the simplicity of the songs contained herein. Personally I found the linearity, albeit churningly dissonant, a rewarding listening experience from a direct and unblinkered Blinko.

## BRIAN CURRAN

2021 has been a strange year for me, as it has for most people. However, I'm not one of these people who often says things like "2021 can fucking do one, here's to 2022". This will no doubt be repeated at the end of 2022 too. Shit happens and if we're still here to tell the tale then it's been a life challenge and something we can learn from, or not depending on the circumstances.

I don't really buy into the whole new year thing. In reality it's just another day in our life cycle and we sadly lose people, and sometimes ourselves along the way, which is often painful, but inevitable.

So for what it's worth, these bands dug a worm into my ear over the last year and although not inclusive were up there with my regular plays. Löckheed, Homomilitia, Sial, Warpaint, Abrazos, Andy T and Bratakus also featured very highly.

### 01) Jalang – Santau LP

From the ashes of Australian thrashers Lai comes Jalang. If you know Lai, you'll know what to expect. Excellent straight forward hardcore with equally excellent vocals. This gets your fist pumping in the air everytime. Recommend soundtrack for curry making!

### 02) Hidden Mother – Bandcamp Demos

Hidden Mother is one half of Bratakus but sounds nothing like the riot grrl duo. This is totally original and excellent stuff. Breagha's vocals are truly brilliant on these recordings and give the songs so much emotion and depth. Don't take my word for it go listen for yourself! This is the type of stuff that could easily appeal to a wider audience and not just punky alternative types. There is also an excellent cover of the Distillers Sing Song Death Song. I can't wait to hear more from Hidden Mother! Bratakus' other half Onnagh, has also been doing some pretty amazing solo stuff, but not for download anywhere as yet as far as I am aware.

### 03) Sickness – The Fall of Reason CD

More of the same classic stuff from the mind of Nick Carter. I luckily received this through the mail. DIY to the max in everything (recording, package). Musically it carries on from the previous release with a blend of Sanction This mixed with Killing Joke (IMO anyway). Lyrics are mostly personal and touch on mental health issues which I can totally relate to. A world without Nick Carter making music is a sad and bleak one indeed.

### 04) Anthrax – Serfs Out

Brand new release from the veteran anarcho punks. This hasn't lost any of the anger or bite from their previous releases. Most importantly though, it sounds like Anthrax! Whilst some bands from the golden era, such as Antisect and Icons of Filth have changed/developed their sound (to much controversy I may add) from their previous releases, Anthrax is instantly recognisable (possibly because of Gary's distinct vocals) and even though it keeps in the same vein of their old stuff it's still current and relevant. An excellent release.

### 05) Burning Flag – Matador

Heavier than trying to push a ton of concrete across a builder's yard. This is as you would expect from this Yorkshire outfit. Tuned down heaviness and top notch production. Man Down is a stand out song for me and Holly's vocals are great.

### 06) Slant – 1

I came across these whilst being lost in a YouTube rabbit hole. Totally excellent hardcore from these Seoul punks. It has everything you want, basic stripped back hardcore with in your face vocals. Fucking raging, can't recommend this enough!

### 07) Torso – Everything

Who knows if they put anything out in 2021 and who the fuck cares? These are turning out to be my new favourite band. Every EP they've put out and every live gig I've seen on t'internet is totally ripping. Can't get enough of these and long may they continue to create sweet noise.

### 08) Lankum – Everything

Like Torso (not musically), I doubt they put anything out in 2021, but this is when I really discovered them, and they've been supplying the soundtrack to my dinner prep for at least 6 months. Totally haunting, heavy traditional folk from Dublin, but if folk isn't your thing, you'll be delighted to hear that the vocalist Lyncher, from Belfast's The Dagda is in Lankum. Punk points or what. Lankum really pull you in to their music and take you on a journey. The line "The day that they found him swinging" at the start of the song The Young People has to be the most powerful lyric I've heard in a long time. Moving and distressing at the same time. It's truly captivating stuff and just incredibly beautiful.

### 09) Grand Collapse – Empty Plinths

Musically, this continues on from the also excellent Along The Dew. Excellent technical metal influenced hardcore with incredible vocals. Angry and desperate. These just get better with every release and that's all you need to know. I also managed to see em when they played in Glasgow this year (1 of 3 gigs I managed to get to). Excellent in all accounts.

### 10) Mark Ayling – Black Dog

I've got quite a few of Mark's releases (ok, I have them all). Acoustic punk isn't everyone's thing, but that's because most of the so called acoustic punks want to be Bruce Springsteen and it's really up for debate if they've ever listened to Discharge before! However, Mark in my irrelevant opinion is one of the best out there. This album has additional instruments on it, so it's not just your typical run of the mill acoustic release. The songs are well structured, and the lyrics are deep and meaningful. Mark Ayling always immediately reminds me of the Mob, and he would fit perfectly on the Grow Your Own Records roster.



## STEVE MIDWINTER

### PERSONAL PUNK 2021: ANOTHER YEAR, ANOTHER TOP TEN

inept Tories, lockdowns and an ever-thriving punk underground

2021: another mind-bogglingly distorted black hole. The shit continued to hit the fan in one way or another and still human beings strove to survive and create. Inspired by lockdowns, viruses and inept playground Tory toffs, the DIY punk underground continued to produce great art. The music sent in to Personal Punk made up but a single grain of sand in the egg-timer of DIY music forged in the foundry of punk. Distilling it down to an arbitrary top ten seems frivolous but whaddya gonna do? To simplify the process, I kept single-song streams/downloads off the list.

10. March saw ACTIVE MINDS release their Two Sides Of The Same Coin EP (Loony Tunes Records). The dynamic Scarborough duo have been producing thought-provoking work for 26 years and this is no different. Much like the anarcho releases of yore, steadfastly DIY sounds mix with stimulating art and words, including a striking trick with the sleeve I'd not seen before.

9. THOSE FUCKING SNOWFLAKES kicked off the year with their on-point, zeitgeist-skewering 10" Everything Is Absolutely Fkkkkkkd (Louder Than War Records). Perfectly summing up the madness of post-Brexit Britain in a clutch of cathartic, agit-post-punk observations, this bunch of pranksters did Blackpool proud and no doubt found a suitable outlet for their frustrated genius.

8. PI\$SER's 2020 10" Crushed Down To Paste made last year's top ten. The remix project Carved Up For Yucks (Kibou/TNS/SickWorld/Cimex/No Time/Toxic Wotsit), has to be in this one by dint of its improvement on the original. Including songs from the earlier Wretched Life EP, James Domestic funneled an already eccentric d-beat/sax-fest along some fresh musical arteries. Torn apart and rebuilt as a new sonic experience, isolated instruments, spacey dub, new spoken word and all manner of technical trickery is utilised to expand on the madness. Kibou Records also released exemplary records by HAZARD PROFILE and TOKYO LUNGS and if James hadn't have undertaken the PI\$SER remix, one of those would have made the list.

7. That eccentric Welsh chap who plys his Tory-bashing, folk-punk trade under the moniker NO MURDER NO MOUSTACHE was back in July with The Odds Are Stacked Against EP (Smash Mouse Records). Seven working class folk anthems for the proles with bang up to date lockdown lyrics and a brilliant slice of melodrama in Since The War Started. The boy Owen is going from strength to strength.

6. INCISIONS' highly anticipated sophomore effort dropped in March. Gritty Northern hardcore, incorporating noise-rock and ragged nihilism, Bliss (TNS Records) managed to fill a tight 20 minutes with tunes, rage, desperation and breathless anger at the state of the nation.

5. FIDDLEHEAD didn't need praise from Personal Punk, as they had accolades falling out of their ears for May's Between The Richness (Run For Cover Records). A thoughtful, mature post-hardcore album brimming with emotion, spine-tingling chords and poetic lyrics. An existential reckoning with life's cycles of grief and the footsteps we may choose to leave behind. Stunning.

4. GRAND COLLAPSE have always employed metal in their music and August's Empty Plinths album (TNS Records) went all in, without selling out their DIY hardcore soul. Continuing to utilise metal in the same way PROPAGANDHI do, the millennial metalcore of EVERY TIME I DIE, 80's SLAYER thrash and a touch of BLACK SABBATH have been added to startling effect. With eye-popping sleeve art, statue-toppling lyrics and relentless brutality, these Welsh giants produced an anarcho-punk album for the metalcore crowd.

3. October saw San Diegans DOC HAMMER self-release their Final Form EP. Triumphant party-metalcore à la EVERY TIME I DIE rubbed shoulders with hard rock tease and ROCKET FROM THE CRYPT swagger for chest-swelling results. Great fun.

2. Italy's ACTIONMEN took me by surprise in September with their Supa Baba! 7" EP (Mudcake Records). Mathy, melodic hardcore elevated by strangely sonorous vocals. You can stop looking for that band who sound like SNUFF, HI-STANDARD and COBRA SKULLS with SIMON & GARFUNKEL on vocals, 'cos you just found them. ACTION MEN!

1. It had to be this. It's October and Manchester's THE BATTERY FARM release the unimpeachable Dirty Den's March Of Suffering 10" (Blindside Records), a total shock in the best possible sense. Their self-description as 'gutter punks' and that band name, had me expecting either eighties anarcho or d-beat throwback. The folly of preconception, right there. With the band barely two years old at the time of release, the concept, attention to detail and complexity of Dirty Den's... is astonishing. From the clenched-teeth anger of When The Whip Goes Crack to the dark dreaming of We're At The Top, via some hauntingly atmospheric interludes, what we have is a beautifully realised piece of work. Topped off by inspired art design and kitchen-sink promo, this is a must-have.

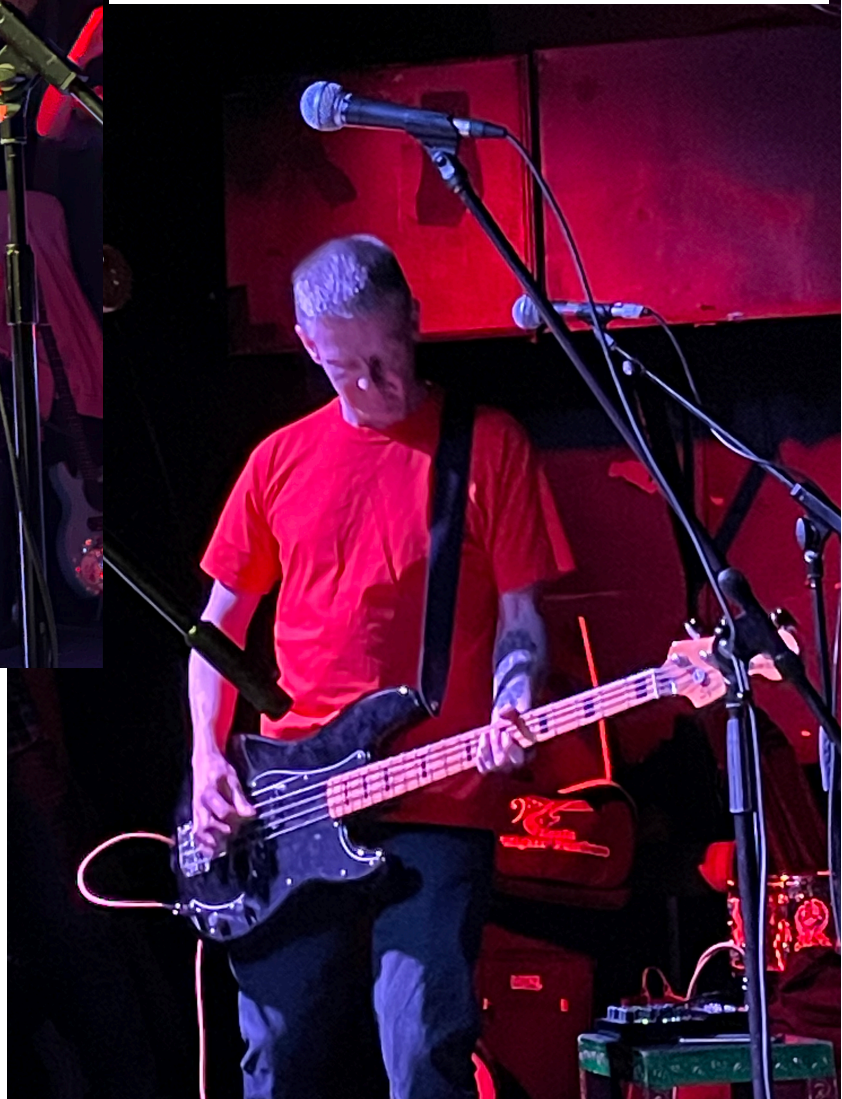


## MICHAEL & CIL

2021 top ten

Kiss Me, Killer - 2020 Vision and live in Brixton  
 Sickness - The Fall of Reason  
 Anthrax - Serfs Out  
 Diaz Brothers - debut album and live in London  
 Contract killer - fat cat EP  
 Carol Hodge - crippling space between  
 Foxc\*nt - live  
 Shooting Daggers - Manic Pixie Dreamgirl single  
 RDF - live in London  
 Swaraj Chronos - debut gig, London

Dinosaur Skull - The Lexington, London - photos by Tony Suspect



Dinosaur Skull were the first band on at the final gig of 2021 for me. Mike Doe drove Pete Zonked and me up to the Lexington in London, we met Gaz Suspect there, and all had a great night watching great bands, and seeing old friends. We then had a tour of London on the way home. Three days later I started to feel ill, very ill. Like Pete and Mike I'd got Covid, which wiped me out for 12 days, and took a few weeks for all the after effects to subside. Good job it was such a good gig, and I really hope Dinosaur Skull release something in 2022 as they were ace. Gaz travelled back with us, and was the only one not to get Covid that night.

**Tony Suspect**



But after the gig... (L to R) Tony, Mike, Gaz and Pete - photo a Zonked! Selfie.





valuation

The experiment, carried out under strict safety precautions,

LIFE

COMING UP

FOR

AIR

start taking this medicine

Error:

Warning:

A rope dangling from a satellite to a loading point on Earth

people crushed by technology

normal chemical reaction.

tighten the tension

good hygiene

You should discuss your treatment

My oftentimes bloodstained fingers thank you for removing those insidious projections that have wreaked havoc on my digits.

people feel tied down

It is important that you adjust

SUDDENLY, YOUR MIND IS QUIET, AND YOUR RAGE COLLAPSES! THE WATER IS VERY COLD!

flexible timescales

Swallow the capsules with dirty water

FEELIN' THIRSTY?

she didn't comply

I don't think

think

the lightest impact

everyday life

as long as I can understand

I just wanted to show people things aren't right.

Nervous system problems

problem

a normal

tracked by their boss.

zonked

Possible side effects

walk Together

please do not contact me

No more sick days, baby.

into the future