

SIREN



*A Monthly collection of Birmingham bands,
music and gossip brought to you with
love from Robannas*

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PARTY, PARTY, PARTY
Special Robanna's Christmas Bash Issue

The first line...

Welcome to **SIREN**, the first of Robannas Newsletters, what we hope to achieve with this magazine is to let you know what's going on in and around Birmingham through the local band music scene.

Each issue will feature the local talent that we hope will one day carry the flag for Brum. This is a non-profit making paper put together by people that genuinely want more help for musicians and bands and endeavour to perform this by compiling news, reviews, gig guide, interviews, useful info and important phone numbers to help guide musicians through the shark infested music industry. Any support and help will be offered as well as received in the compilation of this magazine.

So sit back and enjoy and we look forward to you reading this again and again. Remember if you want to be included in this paper all you have to do is tell us; send in the relevant info to Rob or Tracey, c/o Robannas and we'll do our best to include it in the next issue.

Though Robannas is such a busy rehearsal studio we are able to spread our resources and give something back. "Together everyone achieves more."

See you soon

Rob Hoffman

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And finally..

Front Cover : DANDYLION
Check out the review
of their demo



Who's in the house?

This is where bands rehearsing get the chance for 15 minutes. For I will be gate crashing rehearsals or accosting them at reception to find the ins and outs of local bands. I may sit in on a rehearsal and do a quick interview or simply make your next gig. so watch out!

First up is **ESTRANGE** a local four piece that claim to be a metal/rock band and site their influences as Metallica/Queen/Black Crowes etc. The band met and formed at school as a three piece consisting of Erol Ismail (rhythm/lead guitar), Alan Parker (drums) and Andrew Cassey (bass). Its wasn't until they began rehearsing at Robannas that they recruited Richard Warren (vocals, lead/rhythm guitar) to make up the final ingredients of **ESTRANGE**. They are hoping to record a demo early next year and are beginning to get into gigging, playing at Robannas on 19th November this year. At only 15 they have plenty of time to reach their goal of the big time. So buy your Wembley tickets here!

KID CANDY are a band to keep an eye out for in the future. Having only been together since June this year they already have a string of gigs to their credit and are currently being head hunted by management. The band site their influences as Stones/Smashing Pumpkins/Beatles/Pearl Jam/Garage bands and not surprisingly would categorise themselves as a soft rock group. What makes this five piece different to the majority of the bands currently gigging around the Midlands is that it consists of four girls. **KID CANDY** are Natalie Wards (vocals), Louise Hartley (lead guitar), Sarah Rowlingson (rhythm guitar, violin), Joel Alan (drums) and Myriam Cohen (bass). With a demo "Muttlay's

last stand" available and lots of future gigs lined up, the only way is up for sure.

BUGGERS have only been together for about 3 months and were formed from the remains of Godfish, when the fourth member went away to collage. They are now at the stage where they feel that rehearsals have taken them as far as possible and are subsequently beginning to gig around the Birmingham area. **BUGGERS** see themselves as a funky punk band with influences that include Operation Ivy/Seaweed/Bad Religion/Red Hot Chili Peppers and Parliament. Daman Rice from the band feels that Birmingham is a pretty good place for music so long as you are willing to look for it and it needs more places like Robannas where you don't have to pay to play. Catch **BUGGERS** at a venue near you soon.

Almost alive

SOMETHING ELSE

This special Christmas show at the Flapper & Firkin (with complimentary buffet) was great way to end their residency for this year. They play a blend of jazz and funk that creates a real vibe with the audience in the cramped downstairs bar. Each instrumental continues forever and the sax and trombone add a new dimension to already full tunes.

The crowd being in good spirits added to the late bar being swamped and all in all made a great Christmas celebration and a great way to dissolve the band.

LIVE MUSIC **at the** **SHIP ASHORE** **Moor Street - Birmingham**

Sat 7th Jan

Baby Manell
The Force
Reignman

Sat 14th Jan

Little Red Schoolhouse
Some Men
The Scene

Sat 21st Jan

Miss Treated
Stone Free
Raindance

Sat 6th Feb

Jesterhead
Coppertounge
Kisch

Interviews

I caught up with Dr FLUID for a brief chat before their all too short set at Robannas. Once getting past the usual banter (like the fact that one band member is a Bulgarian aristocrat, allegedly!) we get down to some serious chat.

They have been together as a five piece for about a year and produce a kind of funky acid jazz that's cool as funk. So how would you describe what you play? Guitarist and main spokesperson for the band replies that they "play music that is fundamentally bad and nasty, with a wide range of influences varying from Gun, Jimi Hendrix, John Coltrane, Miles Davis, Nina Simone, Bay City Rollers to Bucks Fizz."

The band have a strong visual image that is equally as diverse as the influences that they state. Ranging from 60's groovester (drummer) to 90's crusty (bass). Image is an important part of their overall charisma as the guitarist continues by explaining "the thing that we've got over any other band at the moment is that we're really cool and we know it... and everyone else knows it when they see us. It may sound vain but this is fundamentally true." The band certainly do sound as good as they look and their confidence is justified, it sounds like they do bigger and better things. Gigging regularly in the Midlands, catch them if you think you're cool enough!

THE DEMON SEEDS

THE DEMON SEEDS are for want of a better name an indie rock band that draw on a diverse range of influences which include The Smiths/Green Day/Blur/Nirvana and the Only Ones. This band have been in their current line up for four months, having become a four piece with the addition of guitarist James While. So where did the name

Robannas (0121) 333 3201

of the band originate? Steve Cummings (guitar, vocals) enlightens us... "its a 1970's horror movie about a computer that wants to have half human, half computer babies and so traps a woman in a house and rapes her repeatedly." "And Steve wants to point out that one of his greatest influences is Barry Norman" informs James.

The rest of THE DEMON SEEDS are Mark Finney (vocals, bass) and Scott Bilton (drums) and the four of them are beginning to gig around the Birmingham and Stoke areas. They produce music that is as diverse as their inspirations ranging from the grunge generated "Neutrino" to the acoustic charm of "Twisted." With plenty more gigs lines up and demo "The day Mr Jones passed away" available, theres no reason for you not to investigate this band in the very near future.

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Who's in the house too?



APHASIA

They would like you to know that Anna (vocal, bass) and Dorian (hiding his face) had a threesome with Bruce Dickinson (Dorian's first sexual experience apparently) see them at the Jug of Ale 17th December (???)

BLISSED
These groovey bunch of lads from the University of Central England (in Birmingham) play the Jug of Ale in January



CONFETTI

See them at the Robbanas Christmas Bash. They've also managed to get a regular spot at the Tennis Courts Pub, Great Barr, starting Wed 28th January then every other Wednesday.

MEDICINE MAN

They say they are a fusion of Folk Blues and Rock. They've got no gigs lined up at the moment. Oh and Mr guitarist on the left, you look very nice (he didn't want to have his photo taken)



SUB A QWA

"Punk Nouveaux" they allege. Playing Edwards 20th December, Hibernian 27th January, Lichfield Art Centre 30th January

WILDERNESS

They've been together for 3 and a half years with the singer being the only original member still remaining. Here they are warming up for their support gig with The Damned at the Northwick, Worcester. "Deadliest band in Brum!" (what?)



Demos by Tigger the Tiger

Go into a studio and spend lots of money recording your best songs then send it to us (with a photo of course!) and let Tigger the Tiger rip your masterpiece to shreds!

DANDYLION

A piss take of Blur they describe "Time Bomb" the last song on this 3 track demo, but why take the piss when you can do just as good if not better. They tell me this demo was recorded on a 4 track, well I'm impressed with the quality, I've heard much much worse coming from "proper" studios. "Hole" sounding almost Beatles like with that most important sense of humour and "Shirly" the kind of song that sticks on your brain and you start singing it in the bath. There is no reason why DANDYLION shouldn't be making music for the masses in the near future because they have what it takes. DANDYLION are definitely worth more than just a look, so find them out!

JESTERHEAD

"Does this mean I've got a big gob" say Becky at the beginning of "Alice," well I'm sorry Becky but no you haven't. They describe themselves as influenced by 80's Indie bands, I can see the Tracy Tracy or Voice of the Beehive influence but they were the 80's, this is the 90's! I saw JESTERHEAD earlier this year and remember thinking that Becky reminded me of the girl who sand with the Style Council and who went on to have a very dodgy solo career, but this is definitely social club pop and I suppose there is a market for it out there somewhere. So Becky I don't think your gob is ever going to be big.

DOVER SOUL - Saving the world

This 3 track demo is funky enough with vocals reminding me of recent Tony Hadley, I would describe it as soft middle of the road and very safe. So whats the point? There are 101 bands doing this kind of stuff and although its not hard on the ears, I wouldn't want to listen to it twice.

CUSTOM BUILT - She can rockit

Gosh! what a surprise! I wasn't expecting this little dotty rock'n'roller. This 3 song demo shows Jimmy Detroit, Flesh Fantasy and Johnny Thunderstorms (oh yes, what names) in definite 50's mood. I don't know enough about this band (there was no information with the tape) but I bet they're great live.

ELIZABETH JANE

With great vocals and some good guitar riffs, this 3 track demo is definitely highlighted by "Pepper the ground" or was it "Asit were" or was it "Maximillian" - oh what the fuck they're all good. Being produced at the Workshop can only add to their sound quality. This demo was passed my way but unfortunately its almost 2 years old, it would be good to hear more recent material.

RUPTURED FREAKS

Yeah what a name, what a demo cover and now I've listened to it, what a demo! I programming, keyboards and drum machines are your thing then you'll love this. The first track "aged" automatically made me say "Ahh Alien Sex Fiend" but this soon develops into things much more mature bands are made of. "Backwards" the final track on this superior 4 song demo is by far my favourite with a certain rawness which makes me play it again and again. Definitely one to keep and not to bin.

KIWI FEEDBACK

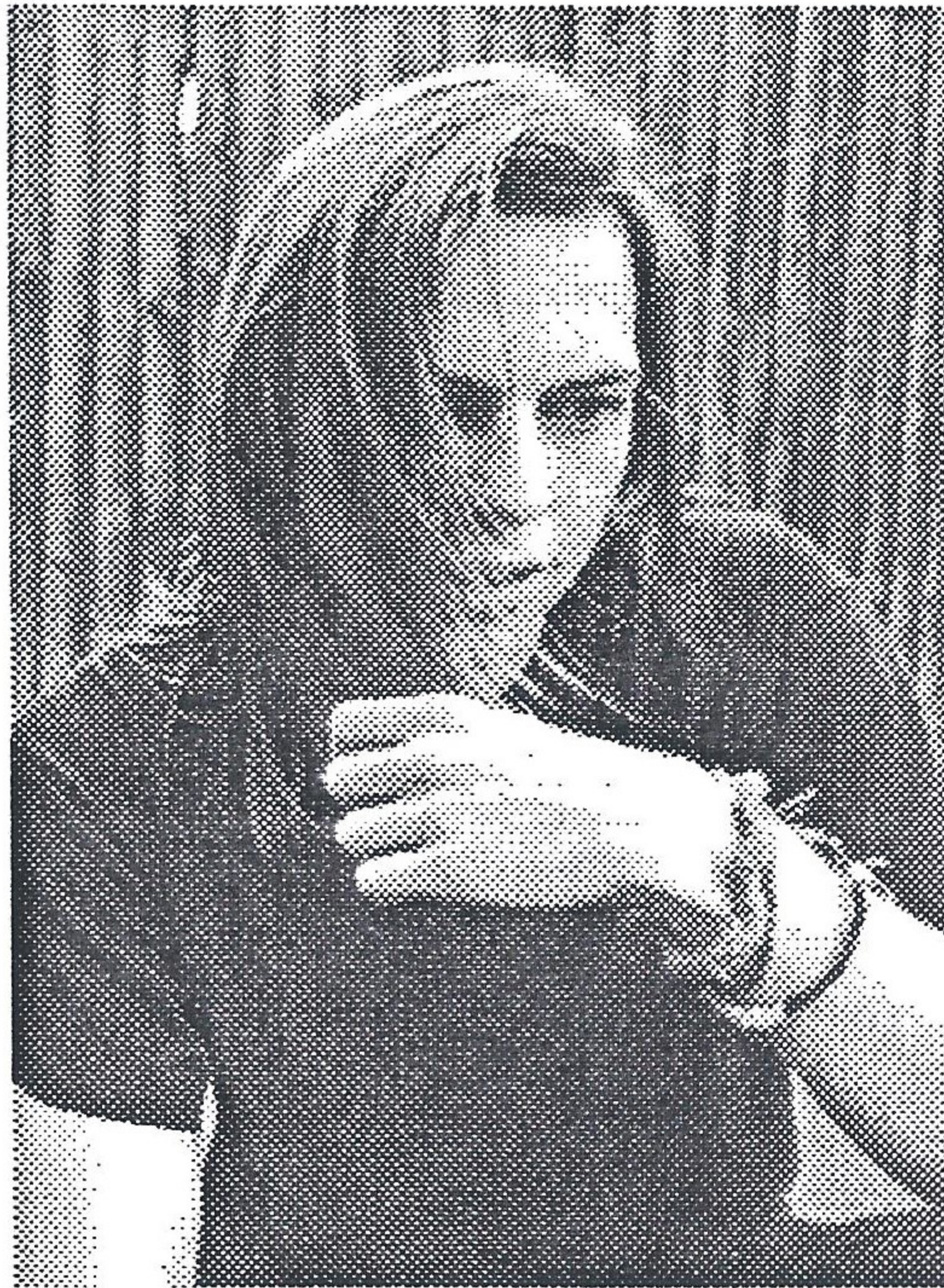
Hungry for something new? Having that certain craving for attention? Then try a piece of the deliciously bitter sweet Kiwi Feedback. For this band offer all the ingredients for a tastebud sensation. Tracey tasted Kiwi Feedback up at JB's, Dudley.

The most important asset of any band is their songs, and they have a stacked larder (over thirty five apparently) from which we were tempted with a taster of half a dozen.

The highlight being "Major Flannel," a stomping little ditty that puts the

Stourbridge sound behind a heartfelt vocal. And when frontman Matt cries "Never knew what I wanted to be, Just expected to get for free," you know he too has experienced the harsh realities of life.

They end on a surprisingly sombre



note with the ten minute epic "Pedal" which courageously deals with the issue of child abuse and comes with the all important false endings and feedback.

Matt's fine features, Indie boy cool and the weirdest knee jerking dancing

ever combine with their music for a sure fire route to stardom. Go on indulge yourself, the Kiwi's can be seen at JB's on the 29th December or on the 19th January at Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall.

Gig Guide

Please send details of your upcoming gig (including date, venue, time, contact number, photo? You know the type of thing) to SIREN c/o Tracey c/o Robannas, before the 14th of the month.

DECEMBER 18TH

DR LOVE POLE'S
CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE,
Rock Tavern, Brierley Hill.
THE GARAGE BAND, Rosie
O'Brien's Pump House, Solihull
BRA JOE, Strathallan Hotel,
Hagley Road, Birmingham
(lunchtime)

DECEMBER 19TH

THE LIBERTY CAGE, (Ex
Men they couldn't hang)
Hibernian, Pershore Road,
8.30pm £5/£4.50 Conc.
MAGNUM CHRISTMAS
BASH, Wulfrun Hall
Wolverhampton
DIE TOTEN HOSEN, Jug of
ale, Moseley
DANGEROUS SISTERS, Adam
and Eve, Bradford Street,
Birmingham, Free entry

DECEMBER 20TH

WEIRDS WAR, SUB A QWA,
HORNBLOWER, BOX EM
DOMIES, Edwards Xmas Party
FREE SPIRIT,
FLOWERHOUSE, Hibernian,
Pershore Road, £2, 8.30pm
WILKO JOHNSON, Wulfrun
Hall, Wolverhampton, £6.50

DECEMBER 21ST

TANK TOP, BED SWERVER,
SUPA BAZOOKA, Hibernian,
Pershore Road
BLACK STREET,
Wolverhampton Civic Hall,
£13.50

TREVOR BURTON &
FRIENDS, The Adam and Eve,
Bradford St, Birmingham, Free
entry

ZZ TOP, N.E.C., 7.30pm,
£17.50, £19.50

DECEMBER 22ND

BELIEVE, REVERBERATION,
Hibernian, Pershore Road
LED ASHTRAY, Christmas
Party with Friends, The Adam
and Eve, Bradford Street,
Birmingham, Free entry

2 COOL 2 MENTION, roots,
Wolverhampton Civic Hall,
£10.50

CUSTOM BUILT (late bar),
Railway Lounge, O'Neills,
8.30pm

THE SCRATCH BAND Selly
Park Tavern

DECEMBER 23RD

FAKING THE FUNK, Liberty's,
Hagley Road

KINGS OF SPAIN, Adam and
Eve, £3

ONE EYED JACK, Railway
Lounge, O'Neills, 8.30pm

DELTA, Jug of Ale

EXIT TO EXIT, Baldwins, Hall
Green

DECEMBER 24TH

SORDID DETAILS, D:RUNK,
DILLINGERS, Hibernian
TREVOR BURTON, Adam and
Eve, £2

DECEMBER 25TH

SANTA CLAUS, The Chimney,
Early Morning (ed ?)

DECEMBER 27TH

ORANGE ALERT, PUSH THE
PLANET, JB's Dudley

DECEMBER 28TH

SOLACE, THE DEMON
SEEDS, The Bucket Club
DIRTY DEEDS, (AC/DC
Tribute), Railway Lounge,
O'Neills, 8.30pm

DECEMBER 29TH

IAN THE GOAT SINGS
BLACK SABBATH, O'Neills
THE REVEREND BROWN,
The Tavern In The Town,
Tamworth
KIWI FEEDBACK, UTOPIA,
JB's Dudley

COMING UP...

SUZANNA WOLF BAND,
Hibernian, Jan 7th

ORANGE DELUXE, Hibernian,
Jan 17th HEATHER NOVA, The
Clarendon, Wolves, Jan 20th

SLIPSTREAM, Hibernian, Jan
24th

SUB A QWA, Hibernian, Jan
27th

As you can see we need loads
more entries so get gigging Pop
Kids!!!!

Classifieds

Welcome to the SIREN classified section where you can find that new member for your band or sell your instruments and whatever else basically. So drop you details into the box in Robannas reception.

Caffeine require Bassist with dedication and ability (19-23), infl: Beatles, Ozrics, Soundgarden, Jamiroquai, Nirvana, Weller, Pearl Jam, Parliament Bowie, Floyd etc. and an open mind. Phone Si 0902 372 093 or Steve 0902 441 037.

Wanted Bass Guitarist for rock and roll band, infl: The Rolling Stones, The Faces, John Lee Hooker, B B King, Primal Scream, Stevie Ray Raughen. Phone Marc 021 351 3369 after 6.

Drummer seeks band for gigging, recording and doing everything else to try and make it professional, infl: Level 42, Beatles, Queen, Genesis, Police, Squeeze and many more, have got own equipment and transport. Phone 021 475 3781 ask for Darren.

Guitarist looking to join band in Birmingham area for rockish set up. Phone Neil 0564 771 938.

Female Guitarist required for well established punk/grunge band "all female," infl. Nirvana, Hole, Faith No More, L7, REM, gigs lined up, must have sense of humour and dedicated attitude. Contact Roxanne 021 773 0688.

Guitarist seeking session/band work, infl: Marley, Santana, G.Moore, Third World etc. Phone John 021 773 1021.

Fusion Guitarist looking to form Jazz/Rock band, infl: Friedman, Halen, Holdsworth, McLaughlin, Moore, Reid, Malmsteen, Vai. Contact John 021 550 8135.

Vocalist required to join B'ham based band, infl: Dexys, Redskins, Weller/Style Council, complete set of songs ready plus future gig bookings. Anyone interested call Paul 021 449 7657 (no time wasters).

Firestorm Vocalist required for heavy powerful band, infl: Pantera, Soundgarden, etc., gigs waiting. Contact Darren 021 770 5324.

Eve's Attic - vocalist required. Ability and presence essential. Phone Steve 021 784 3159 or Ian 021 608 0393

Experienced vocalist/frontperson required for commercial pub, dub band. work waiting. Phone Richard 021 326 8196

Wanted. Urgent. Gospel, soul, funk style vocalist (preferably female) wanted by professional jazz, funk outfit for gigs and recording. No jokes (professionals only.) Phone 766 6308 (Kelly) or 449 3613 (Martyn.)

Keyboard player wanted to form

backing for singers specialising in period soul music. Bookings waiting for right person. Contact Henry on 021 451 1556.

Rock vocalist required (Plant, Cornell) by name guitarist with major label contacts (0384) 823819. Lead guitarist seeks other musicians to form metal band. Into Slayer, Maiden, Metallica, etc., No grunge/rap rock. Andy 021 602 8065.

Semi Pro college guitarist seeks to join working band. Most styles considered. Own gear and transport. Ian 733 8085.

Guitarist wanted - 3 piece band (with own studio) require 4th member. Must be dedicated. Aged 18-24. Infl. Beatles, Stones, Kinks, Jam, Who, Pink Floyd Oasis, Blur, Jellyfish, Ride, David Bowie, Stone Roses. Call Steve 021 628 3385.

Splashdown - looking for a new drummer Lemonheads, Buffalo Tom, Ride. Phone Simon 472 1530.

Flutist and violinist wanted by known guitar band. Dedication, time, talent, volume and beer essential. Infl. Pumpkins, Green day, Smash, Hendrix, Roxy, blah yeah man cool! Call Ade 021 440 6088, Ricky 021 428 3004.

Competition

So your probably in a band eh? So your probably into drinking excessive amounts of whiskey then? So you're probably skint as well? yes so read on and find out how a large bottle of widow maker could be yours...

Answer the following easy questions on a postcard and drop it off at Robannas. The winner will be entirely up to Rob.

1. What is a siren?
2. What is Robannas canine called?
3. How long has Robannas been open?
4. What band said in this issue "We're really cool and we know it"?
5. What is the name of Suede's recently acquired guitarist?
6. What was last years Christmas number 1?
7. What was Pop will eat itself's original name?
8. Where were the mice on the mouse organ from?
9. What is Captain Kirk's middle name?
10. What local band had hits with "Mirror in the bathroom" and "Hand's off, she's mine"?

and finally...

Well thats it for issue one of SIREN. I know you all loved it. Hopefully it will be bigger and better next time, having had just two weeks to get organised for this one. Anyone (and I mean anyone!) who wants to contribute, see their band included (bribery always welcomed) or simply make suggestion then contact me or Rob via Robannas. Hope you all have a great Christmas and I'll see you in the New Year.

Tracey Hiccup

Editors : Tracey, Ade.

Contributors : Tracey, Ricky, Tigger the Tiger, Rob.

Layout, Design & Photography : Ade.

(Apologies for any misspelt names etc but you should see Tracey's hand writing!)

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