

REDD

13th December 2019 marks the anniversary of the highly politically charged band Redskins playing our New Cavendish Street site. The original concert took place in 1985, only a week after New Order played the same venue, and were the subject of a ghost gig last year. As we noted then, 1985 was a curious and eclectic musical decade. For Redskins though 1985 would have been seen as the year of the SDP/ Lib Alliance, the Battle of the Beanfield, race riots in Handsworth and Brixton and, particularly poignantly, the end of the Miners' strike. A very memorable edition of Channel 4's the tube, hosted by pre boogie-woogie Jools Holland and the late Paula Yates in

slick, The Redskins were your band' and lead singer Chris Dean once claimed that his ambition was to have his band 'sing like the Supremes and walk like the clash' (from NWNM reissue sleeve notes). Their first single Lev Bronstein (Trotsky's real name) was released in 1982, followed by Lean on Me ('a love song to workers' solidarity' said the NME) before the band signed for Decca/London Records. The band are perhaps best known for the classic Neither Washington Nor Moscow album that was not released until the following year, and which contained, amongst other fan favourites, the raft of singles they released for Decca/London.

Chris Dean was not keen on broader pop and politics allegiances. Discussing Red Wedge, the Labour Party affiliated movement, he noted that 'if the Labour Party are organising a tour, the one thing you can be sure about is that it'll sell out'. He in fact talked about setting up a Redder Wedge. Certainly they would have not been interested in the Live Aid event that took place earlier that summer. Redskins played lots of benefit gigs though, including a 12 date anti-apartheid tour of which their PCL show was one. Support for the show was the Boothill Foot Tappers. The recording we are using was released as Redskins Live 1985. HOWEVER, Redskins' facebook fan site has a



- Lean on Me (second single on CNT, 1982)* 6.15
- Reds strike the blues* 4.34
- Hold on!* 3.18
- Unionise (b side of Lean on Me) 4.53
- Kick over the statues! (single, Decca/London 1985)* 2.27
- Ninety nine and a half won't do (reissue NWNM) 4.20
- Take no heroes!* 5.33
- Let's make it work! (this version released on Bring It Down RSD 2019 release)* 4.03
- Keep on keepin' on (single 1984 London)* 4.45
- It can be done! (final single 1986)* 4.51
- Turnin' loose* 3.24
- Plateful of hateful (12" b side of It can be done!) 5.34
- Bring it down! (single London 1985)* 6.35
- Don't talk to me about whether (live favourite) 3.34
- The Power is yours (single 1986)* 2.57

MIN

November 1984 featured Redskins being joined live on stage by a striking Durham miner who made a speech which was either the subject of censorship or a faulty microphone depending on who's view you took.

Redskins were formed in 1982 out of ashes of No Swastikas. The band had eclectic musical inspirations, as Jason Toon noted 'If you found Crass too tuneless, if Billy Bragg was too quiet, if the Style Council was too

PCLSU present
A Concert For Anti-Apartheid
THE REDSKINS
 + **THE BOOTHILL FOOT-TAPPERS**
 Friday 13th December 1985
 Poly of Central London,
 115 New Cavendish Street, London W1
 (nearest tube – Goodge St)
 Doors open 7.30pm
 Tickets £3.50 in advance/£4 door.
 Available from PCLSU,
 104–108 Bolsover St, London W1
 Tel: (01) 636 6271

different setlist noted but we have been unable to source this or verify which is correct. We have gone with the Live 195 recording for this ghost gig as this was easier to get copy of. That said, the encores noted on the fan site would have been well worth listening to, with Jerry Dammers, Billy Bragg and Alexi Sayle all contributing to performances including Back in the USSR.

- 1. The Power is yours
- 2. Kick over the Statues
- 3. Hold On
- 4. Turning Loose
- 5. 99 half won't do
- 6. Take no heroes
- 7. It can be done
- 8. Keep on Keeping on
- 9. Bring it down
- 10. Lean on me
- 11. Let's make it work
- ENCORE
- 12. Kick over the statues (with Jerry Dammers)
- 13. Tracks of my tears (with Jerry Dammers)
- 14. People get ready (with Jerry Dammers)
- 15. Back in the USSR (with Jerry Dammers, Billy Bragg and Alexei Sale).

FANSITE SETLIST
 If anyone has any information or photos regarding this gig please get in touch!



GHOST GIGS



Nick Mason and Roger Waters, rehearsing pre-Pink Floyd in Little Titchfield Street. Photo courtesy of Clive Metcalfe

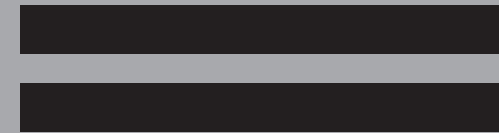
This project, by Matt Morrison and Guy Osborn, is part of our broader Disrupting the Everyday initiative, again pays homage to the spirit of the Soho Poly and its practice of challenging notions of time and space. In this instance it taps into the rich live music legacy of the University of Westminster and its predecessor institutions. Recordings of concerts that took place at the University have been sourced, and using these found sounds we hope to transport visitors back to the time these took place, where possible using the space they originally took place in, using various locations around the University.

The University of Westminster has always been an important space for popular music. At the Little Titchfield Street site, now home to Westminster Law School, key events in the history of popular music have unfolded, including Hendrix's first performance in the UK and early rehearsals for Nick Mason and Roger Waters' Sigma 6, later to morph into Pink Floyd.

In the 1960s and into the 1970s Little Titchfield Street was an important venue, close to iconic

spaces such as The Speakeasy and the UFO Club and on the fringes of Sixties Soho. Coterminously the site became host to the important theatrical space of The Soho Poly, a ghost theatre rediscovered by Matt Morrison as part of his PhD research and recently reinvigorated by Matt Morrison and Guy Osborn, via the Being Human Lost and Found festival. Key artists of the period appeared at The Polytechnic, including Fleetwood Mac, Cream, Bowie and others. PolyFolk, sometimes using what is now the Soho Basement, or polycellar, put on a series of events involving artists such as Shelagh McDonald, Georgie Fame, Magna Carta and Ralph McTell. Later the focus for live music shifted to sites at New Cavendish Street and Bolsover Street, all of these spaces are now used for other purposes, but somehow something of their former past lingers in these ghost venues.

This project recreates these gigs and offers a fresh opportunity for visitors to disrupt their day. Previous Ghost Gigs include New Order on 6/12/2018, and future events are planned.



A GHOST GIG: PLAYBACK OF



ANTI-APARTHEID BENEFIT GIG

DIS003