

Boston Original
Bands Initiative

50
PENNY DREADFUL
JUDGE HALF

SINCE 2024



shreds.

A GREAT
NOTION

pot-hole

Allie Argent

Queen
of
Spades
Boston

BOBI Gig Number 2: Saturday April 27th 2024

BOBI#2: WHO HAVE WE GOT LINED UP FOR YOU TONIGHT?

SHREDS (Sheffield)

After a triumphant – not to mention riotous – Boston debut last year at The Carps, Steel City shredders **SHREDS** are heading back to play the first BOBI gig!



shreds.



Formed only recently in 2022, the Yorkshire thrashers have been blending 80s US

Hardcore with a positive skate Punk attack, these are the band who will have the crowd circle pitting, crowd surfing and singing along with fists in the air! ***You'll like these is you like: 7 Seconds, Gorilla Biscuits, wearing a bandana, pointing your finger and shouting Go!*** Their debut album is out on ***Engineer Records*** now and their earlier demo is up on Bandcamp for free!

<https://shredshc.bandcamp.com/>

POTHOLE (Lincoln)

From the bowels of Lincoln's Akedo Gaming Bar Punk Pit comes a fearsome trio of enthusiasts of extreme! **POTHOLE** have just the one setting: super fast, screaming noise! With cowbell. Lincolnshire's premier Power Violence outfit, these loons come up with insurgent and rampant songs that barely clock in at a minute and a half and are not for the faint hearted! ***You'll be in the pit and enjoying this horde if you are a fan of: Capitalist Casualties, Hellnation, Infest and songs that are played so fast they are over before they start!*** The **POTHOLE** fellas are also behind the Fenland Hardcore Collective in Lincoln releasing Hardcore Punk music and booking gigs in the city. A new split EP with Nottingham's Avoid (who make a similar racket) is out now for free/pay what you want download!

<https://flhcc.bandcamp.com/album/avoid-x-pothole-a46>



ALLIE ARGENT (Boston)

Sam Newson student **ALLIE ARGENT** plays a fine line in soulful indie/folks-y tunes. A self taught guitar player, Allie crafts



reflective, poignant and relatable tunes that offer comfort and support to

listeners who would lend their ears. Her first single is out now on streaming platforms and no doubt will be the first of many. Allie has recently been played and interviewed on BBC Introducing too! ***You'll be in to this if you are in to the likes of Beth Orton, Phoebe Bridgers, Bryony Williams and Lady Hawke.*** You can hear it for yourself via numerous platforms:

<https://soundcloud.com/user-511989684>

A GREAT NOTION (Peterborough)

Having released the fantastic "Unsociabilities ..." LP last year, P-Town four piece **A GREAT NOTION** are heading to Boston with their anthemic and catchier than a fishing net, mellifluous Punk tunes. Laid back, fun and incredibly melodic, **A GREAT NOTION** do a fine trade in tune



heavy, sing-a-long-a-Punk Rock that will have you grinning like a loon. ***You will not want to miss this treat if you are a fan of***

Hot Water Music, Gaslight Anthem and are attracted to a sound that some have called "easycore". Yipes! Although frontman Jordy, is often seen as an acoustic troubadour at gigs around Stamford and Peterborough, we are getting the glorious full band treat for this gig! Check out their latest LP plus more on their Bandcamp page:

<https://agreatnotion.bandcamp.com/>

LIZ
HEDGEHOG REALITY
... packing a bass and
fronting a Rock band!

Founder member of BOBI and one half of Fosdyke's pop sensations Hedgehog Reality, Liz on women in Rock music.

Peeking back into musical history, I couldn't fail to notice that bands were mostly made up of men. Particularly in the case of rock, indeed heavy music tended to give the impression that it was a masculine adrenaline-fuelled indulgent source of music where men appeared to dominate the atmosphere and a women's role was to decorate? Until that is, Suzy Quatro came onto the scene and proved that packing a bass and fronting a rock band was possible, in my opinion she set a precedent for all female musicians to follow thus paving the way for Joan Jett and the Runaways, The Pretenders, Debbie Harry to name but a few. That inheritance is in safe hands today. London based Wolf Alice, started out as a duo and have developed into a full-blown alternative Indie rock band fronted by Singer Ellie Rowsell, lead soprano vocalist and



guitarist. Keep an eye out for Brighton rockers Lime Garden, Annabel, Leila, Tippi and Chloe have been together since college, they call their psychedelic, surf rock infused disco sound Wonk Pop. Their Debut Album 'One More Thing' arrived Feb 2024. My personal favourite: Mary in the Junk Yard, what a great band name, started out on the gig circuit of Brixton Mill, their single 'Tuesday' is on the tip of everyone's tongue, released in October, give it a listen, you'll love it and while you've a mind take a peep at Sprints, Girl Scout, Picture Parlour the list goes on there really is a plethora of female new up and coming bands arriving on the music scene, rising stars of 2023 'The Last Dinner Party' are a must for 2024.

Nowadays you don't have to look far to find a gig where women are killing it in the music scene, so make it your mission to go see at least one in 2024. **Liz**

<https://hedgehogreality.uk>
<https://youtube.com/@hedgehogreality>

SIMON FOREHEAD

... have a banana!

Simon Forehead, mysterious founder member of BOBI and frontman of weirdo garage rockers TINY FOREHEAD on just what BOBI is all about and why we need original bands and folk coming to see 'em.

Just another chance to tell all y'all about the Boston Original Bands Initiative (BOBI) and why we did it. Belt in, this is going to be gnarly! Some of us BOBI organisers are in bands, some are promoters. We grieve the death of the small venues across Britian, which are the lifeblood of up and coming bands. Literally any band you like, with the exception of "industry plants", will have cut their teeth in an indie venue. Probably on a Tuesday night, playing only to the other bands and the barman. We're in a perfect storm in the UK regarding original music. Here's why: **The loneliness of the internet.** Pretty much all we do to promote music, as ether promoters or in our bands, is done via the internet - although Terry and Liz from Hedgehog Reality did leafletting for BOBI and it brought some key people in! It's a soul-destroying job putting out content and interactions over the internet and seeing one like from the same person (although God bless that person!) It's lonely and people don't do well being lonely. The hope of BOBI is that people congregate every last Saturday of the month of at the Queen of Spades, Boston, whether its high summer or dark winter. All ages, genders, from goths to skinheads, metal heads to pop fans. In a welcoming place. We need a regular scene. Indifference

happens because the music industry is saturated with music, and not all of it is that good. About 100,000 songs get released daily - so by the end of week it's at 700,000. I guess music venues get spammed and also the algorithm probably edits most of our approaches away. Anyway, BOBI was an attempt to give opportunity for local bands to play and interact with humans and do what musicians do best - put out their art that they have spent years perfecting - to the test with real listeners. I personally really believe in encouragement. It can be the difference between crashing and burning or soaring, keeping or losing hope, knowing you're loved or not. Until I die, I'm going to be doing it. Without it, bands literally wither and die. The amount of bands I've read about jacking it all in, and maybe some of them could have been helped with BOBI.

Streaming and the cynicism of stats

On one hand you have music streaming (Spotify etc), which is an unforgivably selfish deal between record companies and big business to play people's art, but pay them miniscule amounts. It is quite literally a rip off. The epitome of what big companies do with need - ensure there is no other option, then hike up profits to oblivion. Its true, bands don't have to use streaming services, but given its how nearly everyone under 30 listens to and consumes music - and that's before you factor in radio stations and media companies only seeking streaming links - that's like saying you don't have to heat your house in the winter and you can sit warming your hands over your fresh excrement. Linked to this, but spanning into other issues around up and coming bands, is the cynical business model of

streaming and follower stats. It seems to me that many bands get high streaming numbers by buying six iPhones from CEX, and having them play their tunes on rotating playlists from the laundry room - playlists they don't listen to, care about, and are merely a means to getting noticed somehow. Same with followers - and then the whole image thing trickles down into blagging how well attended gigs were, and this boring vacuous veneer snowballs. If you ever look on YouTube for advice about how to get your band noticed there's very little on gig craft and human contact. You get some "media savvy" who addresses you as "guuuuuys" and talks about monumentally boring strategies that could actually apply to dildo retail rather than music - and the strategies are so monumentally boring. And these people are pitched as experts followed by the entire population of the solar system, but they probably still live in their parent's carriage house, with food and the lonely dark. Have a banana.

Industry plants and Gatekeeping

Whilst there is some conspiracy style hysteria on this issue, it is true to say that some bands rise from obscurity to supporting the Rolling Stones overnight. Said bands are usually good looking, young, and very rich. Very few from the working class. Look, every band trying to "make it" is a crab in the crab barrel. It's a bleak time for UK music so BOBI will never criticise how bands strive to get a foot up and will always help. But with a few anomalies, it seems that to get on



the first rung of airplay, bands as a general rule need to follow the above proforma, and be neutral in regards to lyrical topics. Obviously, there are exceptions to this, but we at BOBI think

this is a worrying trend. Music should sometimes be "dangerous"- think Sex Pistols, think Killing Joke, think early Elvis Presley. I think a growing trend in this country is this beige, technocratic, controlled and anaesthetised atmosphere pumped into the workplace and every living room in the UK by empty suits telling us life is good and if we can get our beach bodies to the next coffee shop in our new electric car, we've made it. It comes with this simpering lukewarm soundtrack. Well, that can get

in the bin. We mean it, maaaaaan. And don't even get me started on "rags to riches, I've been there" false stories by certain popstars. Ed Sheeran, you never lived in a skip.

Final words.

Some of this is a bit emotional. Kind of contradicting myself a little, I would say that the most important thing with all this is "keep your love on". I'm committed to speaking my mind on what I want, when I want, if I want, but I also concede I'm often wrong and all the problems above ultimately involve humans with their own problems and sad stories and brokenness and humans are sacred and beautiful. Hope BOBI works - but I'm having fun whether it does or not. Up the punks! **Simon**

Forehead

MARV GADGIE

... quite good!

BOBI's Punk Consultant and Fenpunk Fanzine writer Marv Gadgie on shouting silly things and acting up in the pit.

Going to a gig is great innit? I love it me. The gigs I prefer to go to are the ones like we have here at the Queen of Spades with the BOBI gang. The separation of "bands" and "fans" you get at bigger venues just doesn't happen at small "DIY" gigs or "unsigned band" gigs like ours. We aren't fans of the band in this world. No, we are friends of the bands. With this in mind, the "all in it together" atmosphere can create an environment where much tomfoolery can be enjoyed that you won't get at a bigger "rock" club or arena or whatever and it is so much more fun.

Let's have a geg at some of the daft things that can happen at such gigs then ... firstly, the between band heckling. Boston has a long and proud tradition of Punk Rock gigs down the years. The legendary Indian Queen shows were infamous round the UK for it. The "underwhelming compliment" was a favourite. As the applause died down post song, some wag would often be heard hollering "Quite good!" or "Not bad!" to bands. "Turn the keyboards up!" was another one ... even if a band didn't have a keyboard player. "Sausages!" was a stranger one and yeah! Taking heckling to surreal levels was even more fun. "Shout kitchen implements at the band!" followed by "Whisk!" or "Food Blender!" confused



some bands while others would join in. "Things you'd find in your garage!" was a hoot until a strangely visited fellow hollered out "Dead bodies!" Got a bit dark that time.

Moving on ... antics in the pit! Down the years I have witnessed all manner of madness! The dance floor is for so much more than dancing! Pull up a table and two stools and sit down for an arm wrestle or game of slaps whilst a band plays. That was a particularly silly sight. Sports Day in the Pit was always a favourite too. Drunken loons miming the

Egg and Spoon Race or Three Legged Race, not to mention Javelin throwers or Triple Jumpers busting out a move ... The infamous Human Pyramid is always a winner and has caught in all over the country at Punk venues where a row of people get down on all fours and then another row on top of that and then another row ... some brave soul is needed, of course, to clamber to the top, at risk of it all collapsing beneath them. If successful though, the results can be spectacular! All while a band is playing remember!

The most memorable moment of antics in the pit however, was when a friend of ours who was taken with both the world of Goth and of Wrestling would bring a mannequin head to gigs as a sort of bodiless companion. Naturally, it became the ball in a Rugby Scrum. Honest. A full Rugby scrum. While a band played. I've never heard out like it.

Make gigs daft! See you in the pit for some star jumps! **Marv Gadgie**
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Facebook: Gadgie Fanzine

**Coming up next
month: BOBI Gig
Number 3**



<https://bobi.boston>

**CHEKHOV'S
GUN**

**(Sleaford)
Grungey Gothic Goings
On!**

**ONLY
DESTINY**

**(Lincoln)
Synth Shenanigans!**

**HEDGEHOG
REALITY**

**(Fosdyke)
Peculiar Pop
Pandemonium!**

ALICE KAT

**(Boston)
Acoustic Antics!**

**Saturday, 25th May, 2024
at the Queen of Spades**