

Underground Resistance In Aid of Ukraine



Three compilations to raise money for British Ukrainian Aid.

ukrainecomp.bandcamp.com/music

RIPPING HEADACHES

Black City RECORDS

SHADES OF LONDON
FRIENDS OF HELL
EMPEROR
EVILE



MINI ZINE ISSUE 4

£FREE

INTHE SHOP

We've been very blessed at the Black City as 2022 takes off.

In January we were truly taken aback when we were asked by the mighty Emperor to handle the global pre-order for the July reissue of their back catalogue on delectable coloured vinyl.

Being the only shop in the world at the time to be able to offer these gems for sale was one thing, but to have it at the bands' request was quite another! Big hails to them!



Meanwhile, in February we were chuffed to welcome probably the UK's finest thrash band right now, Evile, to the shop for a signing session prior to their gig that night at the Exchange in support of the blinding 2021 release, 'Hell Unleashed'.

A strong crowd gathered to welcome the band to the shop and many signatures and doodles were made. Also, what a top bunch of people, and big shout out to Ol Drake for donning one of our shirts for the majority of the rest of the tour. A true legend!

As for the gig that night? You know the score - they absolutely killed it. Come back soon chaps!



ADVENTURES IN RECORD COLLECTING

SHADES OF LONDON



Down a tiny side street of Soho in London called St Anne's Court lies a doorway with a flight of steep descending stairs down to what looks like a swanky gym. But back in the 80s and early 90s this stairway led down to the greatest Heavy Metal record shop of them all - Shades of London.

Shades was the go-to Mecca for every rock and metal fan back in that era. Its walls were lined with every sub-genre you could think of. From Bon Jovi to Bathory, posters, patches, rare imports and memorabilia - Shades had it. Touring bands would always make a point to visit, with a young chap named Lars Ulrich making special journeys from the US to come over and grab hard to find NWOBHM releases from there that would go on to inspire some band he was putting together. Not sure if they came to anything...



Being of a (cough) certain age we were lucky enough to visit Shades regularly back in the day as it was the go-to place for new releases. It truly was the record shop that all others should, and will, be measured by. We've tried to capture a piece of that spirit at the Black City and



can only hope people look back in 20 years and remember us as fondly.

Sadly Shades closed in 1992 for a number of rumoured reasons, but its legacy lives on and will quite probably never be matched.

HAILS

Hails metalhead!

Here we are at issue 4 of your favourite piece of scrap paper - Ripping Headaches. Unbelievably we've kept to our word and have released one every quarter... who would have guessed?

As expected this issue takes a little look back on the last year and everything that has gone on, as well as some of the developments that we never planned on but are now shaping the shop into something more than we could have imagined.

We have a chat with SCARS fanzine creator, Lupine, and look back on the record shop that made us dream of one day opening one ourselves.

One year down at the Black City. Who's up for being part of the second chapter?

Stay metal!

BLACK CITY



Cover Image: Paul (The Poser Disposer) Balloff, Exodus 1985

ON THE ROAD

BATTLES IN THE MIDLANDS

As you may have noticed from following our social media, we've been spending quite a bit of time in the Midlands. Birmingham to be exact.

Our good friends from Clobber Records and NeCrow Events have been amazing since we first started stocking the label in the shop and have kindly invited us to bring a slimmed down version of the Black City to their gigs. We've kind of become regulars now down the back of the gig room at Scruffy Murphy's and have had a great reception every time as we've began to make new friends in the "home of metal".

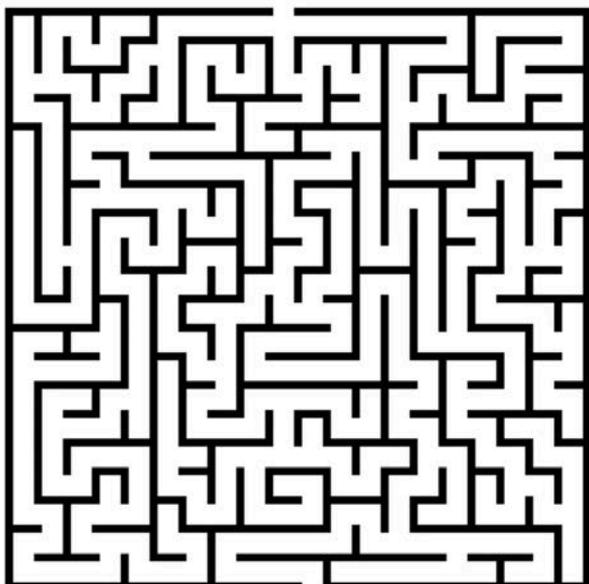
Having already attended amazing shows from the likes of Necronautical, Wiegedood, Wolfbastard and Trivax, we look forward to what is around the corner next from our partnership with NeCrow.

Birmingham has been brilliant to the Black City - we're cooking up ways we can repay the dedication and passion of, without doubt, one of the best metal scenes in the country.



MAZE OF TORMENT

Help Dave Vincent find his codpiece!



365 DAYS OF METAL

By the time you read this we will have surpassed our first 365 of being open as a shop. A whole year? We can't quite believe it if we're honest. It has truly flown by as the memories of nervousness and excitement of opening day still seem very fresh in our minds.

We've seen two live sets performed in the shop, acoustic sets, record signings, famous faces, childhood heroes, world exclusives, our travelling stall, tears, laughter, many a beer, a few parking tickets, but generally a great time!

What has been the best though is the amount of wonderful people we once knew as customers but are now able to call friends. Every single one of you are amazing!

And here we are now a year later and celebrating with our own alldayer being held at the wonderful Gryphon. Curated by our friends at Wulfhere Productions, Hrafn has pulled together a lineup to be proud of as we have some of the best Black Metal



the UK has to offer to help us blow out our first candle on the cake. Not only are these some of the best talents out there right now, but they have all contributed to the first year of history in the shop in one way or another.

Here's to another year flying the flag for Heavy Metal. We can't wait to see what it holds for us all.

BLACK CITY CITIZENS

In this issue we spoke to the creator of SCARS Fanzine - Bristol's newest addition to the world of metal fanzines.

He goes by the mystical name of Lupine. Weirdo...

Tell us about yourself?

My name is Lupine, the creator of SCARS fanzine and the unspoken store assistant. (Ha, not likely - Ed)

What band got you into metal?

It's pretty boring but just the traditional Metallica/Black Sabbath. Kill 'Em All was quite literally life-changing for little old me.

What was the first metal album you ever bought?

I actually wanted to buy tapes instead of vinyl, but was swayed in changing my mind because HMV didn't have tapes and my brother said vinyl is a lot better sonically. So with all my money I bought Leprosy by Death, Samsara by Venom, Prison and Rust In Peace by Megadeth.

What is the last metal album you bought and what's good about it?

The Ominous Future of Humanity Part I by Forgotten Heritage. It's clouded in disgusting production but is just barely



conceivable as to sound very terrifying. If you love your underground scene, definitely check this out!

All time favourite metal album and why?

The Sound of Perseverance by Death, and if that needs an explanation as to why, then just listen to it again and you'll hear why it is such an influential album among bands and musicians.



What's the one album people are surprised to find out you own?

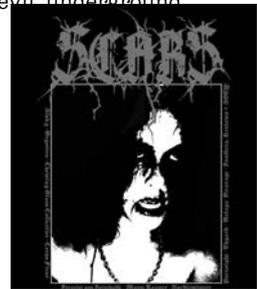
Duke by Genesis, that is just such a brilliant and easy-to-listen record!

Do you mainly collect CD, vinyl or tapes? And what influences that?

It has to be vinyl - they're like the Rice Krispies of physical music, with their snap, crackle and pop. There's so much more room for appreciation in terms of the design, sound quality and overall personal value. Plus, music is an art and should be treated the same way you would treat an oil canvas painting.

What's a great album people may not know about that they should check out?

Scars by Hate Meditation. Talk about pure, evil, underground black metal - this has it all! I would go as far as to say it's possibly one of the darkest albums that I've ever listened to. Fun fact: The magazine is named after it!



SCARS can be found online at:

Instagram

www.instagram.com/scarszineofficial/

ALBUM SINCE THE LAST ISSUE

FRIENDS OF HELL - FRIENDS OF HELL

If you've ever spent time shooting the breeze with us at the shop you know for us it's generally all about one thing - the riff!

Formed by ex-members of both Electric Wizard and Reverend Bizarre, amongst others, Friends of Hell's self titled debut out on Rise Above Records is rocking our world in the most grim way possible right now.

Taking obvious influence from the forefathers of doom in the likes of Saint Vitus, Candlemass and Trouble, FoH are far from just another retro-indulgent doom act on the scene. Far from it in fact, as blended into the mix you'll begin to hear the nods of appreciation to the likes of Hellhammer/early Celtic Frost and Bathory thrown in for an extra morbid effect.

Amongst the album's 9 tracks the standouts are 'Shadow Of The Impaler', which sounds like a cocktail of Day of Reckoning and Monotheist, and the super groove laden 'Evil They Call Us'.

Spanning only 40 odd minutes in length as well there is little time for complacency or boredom to kick in and you'll find yourself going back to repeat the whole process again.

With cover art to rival any from the proto-/70s/classic metal canon, Friends Of Hell is old school Heavy Metal done the way it always should be. No frills, no flair, no bullshit.

Just the RIFF!



Black City RECORDS

THE CONQUEST OF STEEL 2022

THE RUINS OF JORVIK, The Fulford Arms, York
9 - 10 April

MANORFEST, Whittlebury Park, Towcester
27 - 29 May

CARDIFF DEATHFEST, Fuel, Cardiff
3 - 5 June

DOOMSDAY FEST VI, Concorde 2, Brighton
4 - 5 June

DARKNESS OVER CUMBRIA, Fell Foot Wood, Cumbria
15 - 16 July

BEERMAGEDDON, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove
26 - 28 August

REAPER FESTIVAL, Rebellion, Manchester
3 - 4 September

DARKNESS OVER CUMBRIA, Fell Foot Wood, Cumbria
7 - 8 October

ERADICATION FESTIVAL, Fuel, Cardiff
17 - 20 November

We will be adding more dates for our mobile shop throughout the year. Please check our website for updates
www.blackcityrecords.co.uk/mobile-shop



07 - 08 October 2022
Autumn Edition

Fell Foot Wood, Cumbria
LA12 5PN

Darkness Under the Sunlight
Open Air

W.A.S.P.

SEAFIOUS
(Darkthrone Tribute Set)

VOID BELOW

OLD CORPSE ROAD
DARKMIGHT
REQUISITE VISION
EXCLUSIVE U.K. DEBUT

OMEGA THRON 3

PIST

VOID BELOW

W.A.S.P. Official T-shirt = £15
Weekend Ticket = £55.00
Parking = £3.00

Black City RECORDS

WELL, THAT WAS WEIRD

If you frequent the Black City regularly you'll know that there is generally a story or two to be garnered when taking refuge on the Sofa of Hades.

Such as the chap who came in to secretly stroke the sleeve of Autopsy's tasteful collection of ditties, 'Shitfun'. Not only to stroke it, but mesmerisingly mutter "shitfun, shitfun, shitfun" under his breath as he did, only to panic and scamper away when he realised he'd been clocked... THREE TIMES! He hasn't been back.

E-scooters! Don't you just love em? No, neither do we. Though great hilarity did ensue when one hapless rider careered down the hill of Lodge Street to face plant straight into the building site hoardings outside the shop. Silly monkey.



"Could you show me where the classical section is please?" I'm sorry we don't stock classical, just heavy rock and metal. Sorry.

"Hmmm, I'm just wondering.... Do you happen to stock any 90s house?" No. Fuck off!

The lost chap outside the shop looking for Park Street. What do you do? Go outside and politely give him directions of course. A thank you would have been great. What did we get? "How the hell do you do any business?" Cheers buddy, safe journey now.

The Saturday evening hen parties are always good. We particularly liked the one party member who crowed, "Did you see inside that shop? There's a bloke in there who looks well weird". There were no customers in at the time :-/

Til next time...

VIEW FROM THE BAR

Heavy Metal and beer! They go hand in hand, right?

We recently received a nice delivery from our friends at DMC Brewery, who are based in Wakefield. They are brewers of the finest alcoholic ginger beer you can imagine and were kind enough to send us a 4 can taster pack for our delectation on those quieter days.



Having chugged through half of these already, we have to say that Valhalla is coming up trumps as our favourite so far. These will be an absolute summer essential and we can't wait to get our hands on more. Dangerous stuff though, as the temptation to just neck the whole can at once is seriously high.

Check them out at dmcbrewery.com



On another note, two of our absolute favourite customers - the illustrious Carl and Zoe recently bought us a little midweek gift of potentially three of our favourite things. A bag of peanuts (one) and some Motorhead (two) beer (three). We've yet to tuck in to the bottle of Road Crew - the brand's American Pale Ale but we're chilling it down in the icy tombs of Morgoth (our fridge) for that perfect sunny day.

When people say what makes a good customer. The gifting of peanuts and beer sure does help.