

Friday December 22nd 1978

friars aylesbury phase three - maxwell hall, civic centre, market square, aylesbury
friars aylesbury christmas party
pictures from this gig in the galleries
exclusive friars aylesbury interview with viv albertine

THE CLASH

The Slits The Innocents

related friars history (click on date)

The Clash Wednesday June 28th 1978 Saturday January 5th 1980 Stoke Mandeville Stadium Monday July 12th 1982

The Slits Saturday April 19th 1980

setlist

LIKELY TO HAVE BEEN: SAFE EUROPEAN HOME; I FOUGHT THE LAW; JAIL GUITAR DOORS; DRUG STABBING TIME; CHEAPSKATES; THE CITY OF THE DEAD; CLASH CITY ROCKERS; TOMMY GUN.; WHITE MAN IN HAMMERSMITH PALAIS; ENGLISH CIVIL WAR; STAY FREE; GUNS ON THE ROOF; POLICE AND THIEVES; JULIES BEEN WORKING FOR THE DRUG SQUAD.; CAPITAL RADIO; JANIE JONES; GARAGELAND; COMPLETE CONTROL; LONDONS BURNING; WHITE RIOT

band line up

THE CLASH

Mick Jones (guitar/vocs) Joe Strummer (guitar/vocs) Paul Simonon (bass) Topper Headon (drums)

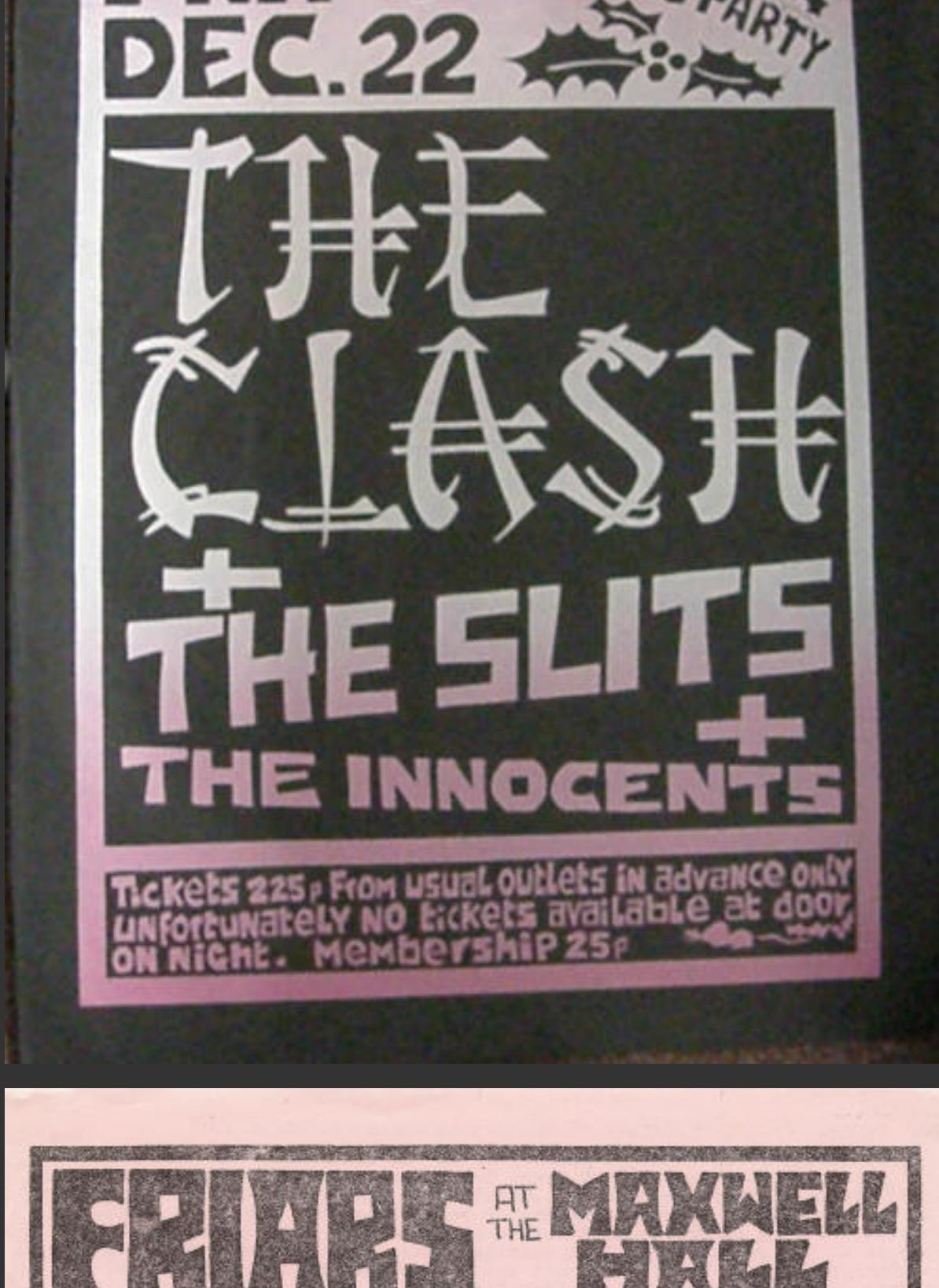
THE SLITS

Ari Up (vocs) Palmolive (drums) Viv Albertine (guitar) Teresa Pollitt (bass)

THE INNOCENTS

Sarah Hall (bass) Marguerite Martin Greg Van Cook (guitar) Fiona Barry (keys) Susy Hogarth (drums)

gig poster and flyer (click to enlarge flyer)

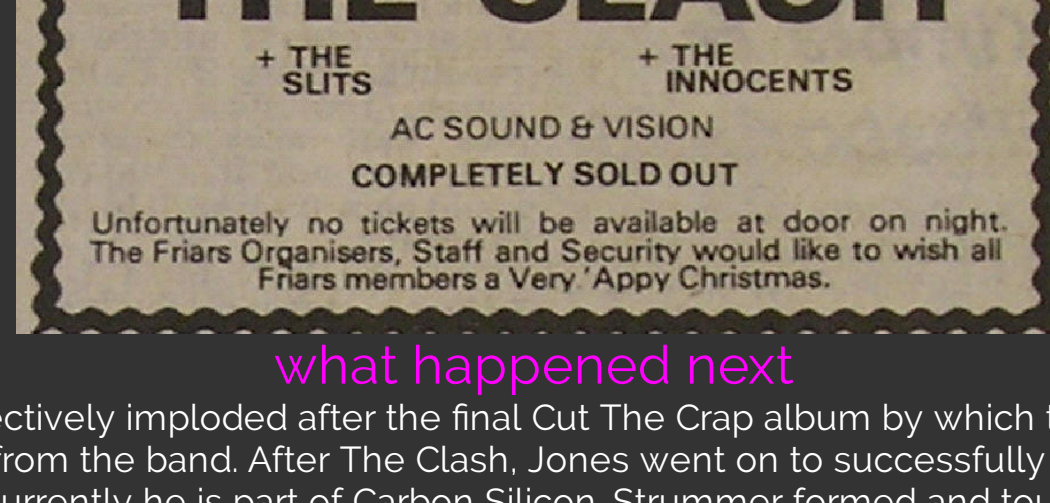


WHAT IS THAT PATHER CHRISTMAS ON THE FA CHRISTMAS TICKETS DOING?
First things first (What an opener) is it our imagination or are Friars gigs getting better and better? Since September 1st we seem to have had a whole string of absolute crackers...Camel, Radio Stars, Siouxsie, Steel Pulse, TRB, Hackett, XTC and Penetration/Gang of Four. This last gig was a complete revelation. Gang of Four turned out to be one of the best new bands we've seen at FA for years - brilliant original songs - if this band can keep it together they'll be huge in the not too distant future. They have an EP out on Past 'Damaged Goods' + 'Love Like Anthrax' + 'Amalite Rifle' which together with Stiff Little Fingers 'Alternative Ulster' is an essential seven inch (What?). Penetration were as good. That gig has to be one of the best of '78. Reprise.
We still get comments from some quarters that all Friars presents these days is punk. "It's punk punk punk - that's all we get!" etc etc rant/rave rant/rave (This quote to be said in a high pitched M.Python voice). What do these people mean? Gang of Four were just like the Velvet Underground and Penetration were very like Jefferson Airplane. Admitted both bands have a new-wave image but it's essential to look past the public image(?) and find out what's really going on. That gig should have appealed to everybody - why there were even heavy guitar riffs and long hair and bells and things. Rock!
The reason that the traditional rock bands appear less frequently at FA these days is mainly because they very rarely tour and when they do they often only play large sit down concert halls. We were lucky to get UFO, Camel, Hillsage and Steve Hackett in recent months and those interested in these bands can rest assured they are interested in playing FA they will be and are very welcome. The yearly Friars Foll which takes place each year throughout January & February has a large influence on who appears at FA so if you feel strongly about who should play FA in '79 no matter what your taste, make sure you fill up a poll form. We find that most people who complain that the wrong bands are appearing never filled up a poll form so they've only got themselves to blame. Destroy apathy. Realign.
Incidentally we're currently trying to get a date on the 5th with a kind of brilliant cross between Camel & Steadfast. The 5th are arguably the only true traditional underground band in existence. They have the biggest and most active appreciation society of any band in Britain and staggered a bewildered music industry by effortlessly selling out the Rainbow regatta. Retrospect.
It's a shame about X-Ray Spex having to postpone their FA gig originally scheduled for Jan 6th. It will be happening but it will be later on now. The reason they can't do the 6th is that EMI Records insisted they did some European dates around that time. (Have record companies got the right to do this sort of thing? Apparently yes! Medafins.
One of the great things about the whole new-wave/punk movement in the apparent rejection of rock elitism (a disease that did and still does affect some of the old-waves - or atleast their managers as indicated above). The sort of attitude... "Yeah - Friars Aylesbury - great place - great audience.. we did some classic gigs there when we were breaking through in the early days... 'course we couldn't play there now... it's too small etc. etc..". Contrast that attitude with that of the Clash who are currently just about the hottest live act in Britain with 'Give 'em Enough Rope' bobbing about in the higher reaches of the British album chart and 'Tommy Gun' a right into the British Top 30 singles on the first week of release. They not only agreed to play the FA Christmas Party on December 22nd but openly admitted that they'd be bloody disappointed if they didn't. If more bands took this attitude they might find they had a lot more support from their grass-roots audiences which at the end of the day is essential. The Clash are emerging now as the ultimate British rock band - We'll never forget those last few seconds back stage before they walked on stage at FA last June. It must have been similar (we imagine) to some moments before the Stones went on stage in the early sixties. It's very difficult to describe - but it was a kind of intense electric excitement which portrayed the knowledge without anything being said that this was one of the most important bands in the world about to do it.
FRIDAY DECEMBER 22nd... FA CHRISTMAS PARTY with THE CLASH + THE SLITS + THE INNOCENTS (Immediate ticket application advised as early as possible on Monday Dec 11th from usual outlets - Max of 2 per applicant)
SATURDAY DECEMBER 30th... FA CHRISTMAS PARTY PART TWO with OSIBISA + TCOT (Tickets available now)
SATURDAY JANUARY 6th....Dunno yet!
There will ofcourse be all the usual FA Christmas lunacy at both parties. Please have a good time but please look after the place and each other and please (beg please) don't fill any balloons with water. (A couple of folks nearly ruined the Groovies Party in Jan doing this) Thanks. Above film in the Maxwell Hall tomorrow (10/12/78) FB (Slits atleast-Ben's wish come true)

ticket

memories

press cuttings



what happened next

The Clash effectively imploded after the final Cut The Next album by which time Jones had been sacked from the band. After The Clash, Jones went on to successfully form Big Audio Dynamite. Currently he is part of Carbon Silicon. Strummer formed and toured with The Mascaleros. Simonon went into art and came back into prominence in 2007 with The Good, The Bad and The Queen, a project also featuring Damon Albarn. Topper is believed to be living and playing in the Dover area. Joe Strummer died in 2002.

Jones and Headon reunited for the first time on stage in 25 years in January 2008 at a Carbon Silicon gig (Jones' current band)

odds and trivia

official web presence

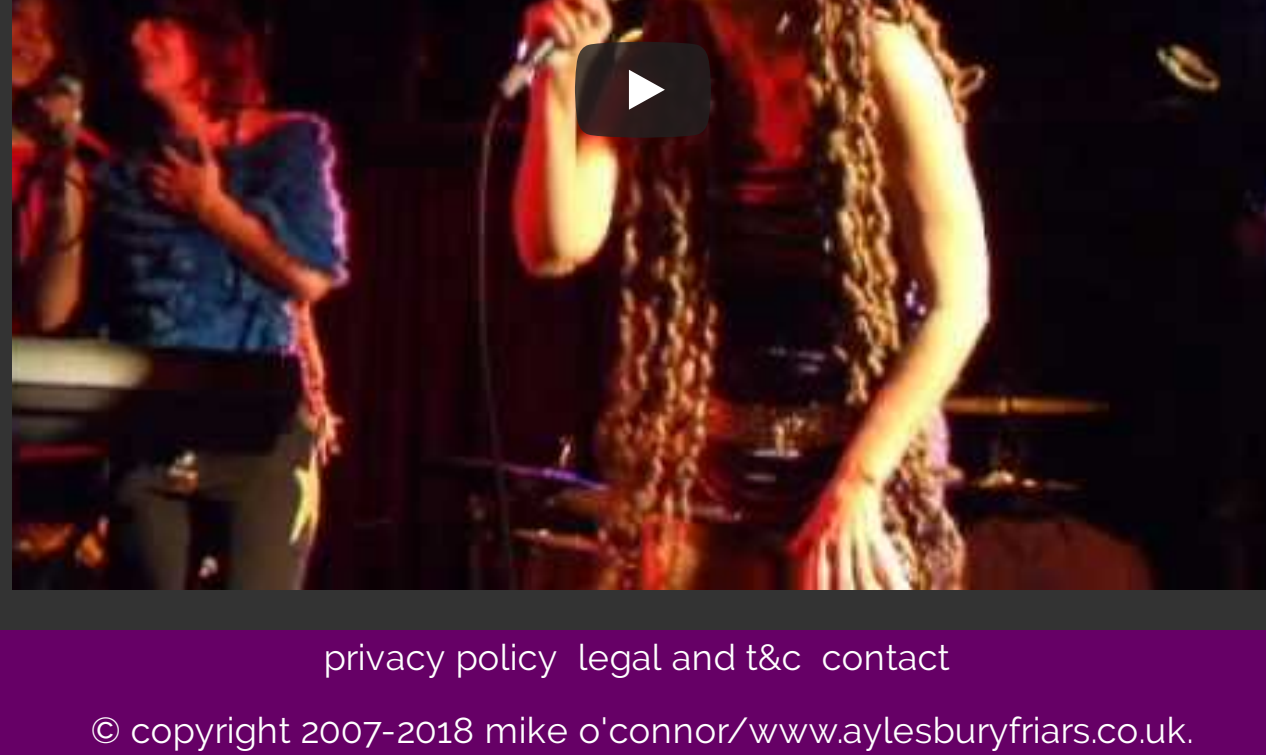
The Clash Official Site Blackmarket Clash (who kindly allowed some cuttings)

sound and vision

The Clash - Tommy Gun



The Slits - Newtown



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