

EIGHTIES RECOIL/SEVENTIES DECAYED

After the reemergence of Prince Buster ska as a major new music style/beat for the eighties, coming up fast behind is the reemergence of the Stax sound. The Stax style has one big extra and that's brass - lots of it. Throughout the seventies brass instruments were very rarely seen in rock but now as we go into the eighties the trumpet, the saxophone and the trombone are coming back. Leading the field are Dexy's Midnight Runners from Birmingham who until recently were managed by ex-Clash manager Bernie Rhodes. Other bands with a big brass sound are also emerging not least of which are the Q-Tips. Those that came to the Dennis Brown Friars gig in May 1979 may remember just how good that brass sound felt in the Friars hall. The Beat seem to be using both ska and Stax together so either way they win. What else is there going to be in the eighties? Who knows? ...but it wouldn't be too surprising if rockabilly and roots blues bands don't reemerge sooner or later.

Friars started in June 1969 and some how or other has survived right throughout the seventies despite being exiled from Aylesbury for nine months in 1970/71 and threatened with closure in 1972. Hopefully throughout the seventies Friars has brought some good times and memories for the 35,000+ different people who've attended the gigs. Concerts have ranged from Kate & Anna McGarrigle and Steeleye Span to the Clash and Sham 69. What is notable is that, particularly in the latter years, Friars reputation, mainly established originally by David Bowie, Ian Hunter and Peter Gabriel amongst others, grew to the point where today it is regarded as one of the best places to play in Britain. Infact, as we move into the eighties the list of bands that are currently playing Aylesbury has to be regarded as exceptional. Neighbouring towns and cities like Luton, Bedford and Oxford whose individual populations are many times greater than Aylesbury have nothing to compare with it. Infact Luton and Bedford both of whom are far bigger towns than Aylesbury are virtually completely starved of any kind of live rock music which is an appalling situation. Some local councils seem to have an almost Dickensian attitude towards rock music and those living in places like Luton and Bedford should try and do something about it. The only other local authority apart from Aylesbury with a reasonable attitude seems to be Hemel Hempstead where an excellent set of gigs have been presented over the last year. The main problem with towns like Bedford and Luton is the old story of a few idiots damaging venues or causing violence inside or outside venues which can have the effect of destroying all live music literally for years and thus depriving thousands of people of any kind of relevant live music. Specific gigs that come to mind were the Blondie & Clash gigs at Dunstable in early 1978 which witnessed some appalling scenes since when there has been virtually nothing in that area. Similar problems occurred at Ian Dury's performance at Oxford earlier this year since when there has been a dramatic decline in relevant gigs in Oxford. You could probably put the reason for these large towns being completely starved of any kind of rock culture or as little as 20 people who spoiled things for everyone else which is the tragedy of the whole situation. Your views on this and any other points regarding Friars Aylesbury would be greatly appreciated on the Friars 1980 Poll Forms which will be available from January 5th onwards. The Poll gives you a chance to say exactly what you think about Friars in general as well as the opportunity to put forward any constructive ideas for improvement. The Poll also gives you a chance to say what bands you would like to see at Friars in 1980 which will have a major effect on who actually appears.

- SATURDAY JANUARY 5th.....THE CLASH - Completely Sold Out - Unfortunately no tickets will be available at door on night.
- SATURDAY JANUARY 19th.....There may be a gig on this night - watch out for details.
- WEDNESDAY JANUARY 23rd.....THE RAMONES - See overleaf for details. Earth Records opens at 8.30a.m. If any tickets are left at 2.00p.m. on Monday postal applications will be dealt with at that time.
- SATURDAY FEBRUARY 2nd.....Dunno yet.

The Otway Aylesbury Hostelry Tour of 27/12/79 was a stunning success despite the rain. The whole tour took place in one evening and featured sets in the Green Man, The John Hampden, The John Kennedy, The Duck and The Derby Arms. Each gig was completely different and each featured different songs. The Hampden & The Kennedy were acrobatic whereas in the GM and the Derby there was only room for John to stand on a table. FD (GBB)