

JOBBYKRUST



words : Tim

Jobbykrust started in the winter of 1990, formed in a large housing estate on the outskirts of North Belfast. At the time punk was a way of escaping the sectarianism and bigotry prevalent throughout Northern Ireland. Being in a band allowed you to get away from the hate filled housing estates and small minded towns and mix with like minded people for whom what religion you were was an irrelevancy. Through the music culture an alternative lifestyle was offered. This, without a doubt, was a major attraction in Belfast at the time and still is to this day.

By 1990, punk in Belfast had gone into a sort of lull; bands such as Pink Turds in Space and Toxic Waste had been and gone. The scene was centred around the old Warzone Centre (a.k.a. Giros), a dilapidated building in Belfast City Centre. It was here the first Jobbykrust gig took place in February 1991 – as a last minute addition to an all day gig. The gig took place on a day of protests against the first Gulf War. Then, as now, no one listened and the war went ahead. Nothing really changes I suppose. Once the demonstration was over the gig got underway and lasted well into the night. Jobbykrust played poorly, being out of tune, out of time and full of first gig nerves. However the crowd was that drunk nobody seemed to notice, a regular feature of Belfast gigs.

During 1991 two demos were recorded; a self titled one and “Mary Ate A Little Lamb” Both had about 50 copies made but after these were gone no more were produced. Both demos were extremely poor – okay for a drunken laugh but certainly not for general consumption. The recording quality on a four track wasn’t great, the guitars painfully out of tune, and the general sound poor.

Frustrated at the lack of gig opportunities, (the Warzone Centre had temporarily closed and was moving location), Jobbykrust, along with other local bands and people started “No Name Productions”. This was a gig collective designed solely to set up gigs for local bands in a small pub, The Pennyfarthing, in Belfast City Centre. The gigs were usually every two weeks and all proceeds went back into the collective or towards various causes. The gigs were marked with enthusiasm, freshness, and positivity. Many people were involved and all contributed. They were good times filled with hope and optimism.



From this time and right until the end, Jobbykrust were always in an extremely poor financial state. “Jobbyskint” as it was joked. If it wasn’t for amps and drums provided at local practice facilities, there would have been no band. Often this was not enough however, and practices were cancelled through not having a bass guitar, drum sticks, cymbals, or not having the bus fare to get there. At one practice, lacking drumsticks, a futile attempt was made to find useable sticks from nearby trees. On another occasion, the only bass guitar able to be obtained was a borrowed fretless bass with no strings. Needless to say the practice never happened. Money problems were undoubtedly the reason Jobbykrust did so few gigs – and only managed to make it to mainland Europe three times.



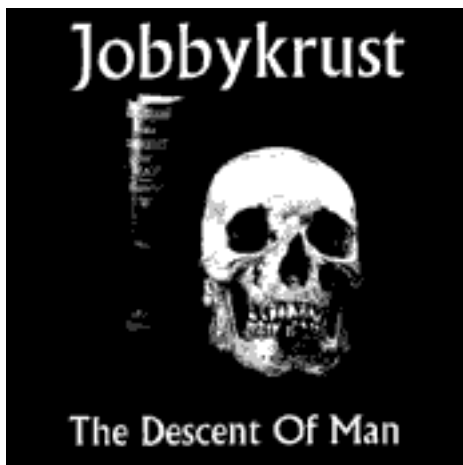
The punk scene in Belfast really took off in 1992 and 1993. There were many people, many bands, and a constant influx of touring bands. Consequently there were many gig opportunities. In 1992 two demos were recorded; “Naivety or Hope” and “We Starve the Starving”. Both were widely distributed and later released on vinyl. These demos were the best of the early songs and were professionally recorded.

During 1993 Jobbykrust never practised or gigged once, preferring instant and mindless hedonism to the constant effort of trying to keep a band going. A stagnant feeling had set in, mainly due to a couple of unsuccessful attempts to get to Europe and frustration at yet another gig in Belfast. Outside Belfast, Northern Ireland was really crap for gigs. Jobbykrust had played to empty halls in Kilkeel and Antrim, and twice to an open mouthed disbelieving crowd in Ballyclare, a small market town north of Belfast. Nothing much seemed to be happening south of the border so gigs there were never attempted. The scene in Belfast was still vibrant but there was a limit to the amount of times the same songs could be played to the same people.

1994 brought with it fresh impetus. Four songs were recorded for a split 7” called “Songs About Shit Things” on Grinding Madness records. A short Irish tour called the “Daniel O’Donnell Must Die” tour was embarked upon in May with other local band Bleeding Rectum. The posters for this caused outrage and made the local newspapers (click for press clippings), especially when Daniel O’Donnell (a popular local country singer) actually received a death threat from a Loyalist crank. This threat was completely unconnected to the tour which was meant as a harmless joke but nevertheless showed how easily things can be misconstrued.



Finally in August and September a European tour (to Germany and Belgium) finally happened with Bleeding Rectum. The tour was in many ways a weird experience. It started with news of the IRA ceasefire gleaned from newspapers whilst on the ferry from Dover to Calais. Everyone at the gigs was asking about this and couldn't understand the cautious, "let's wait and see" response. Unfortunately this reaction proved correct as the ceasefire was subsequently broken before being reinstated. People were unable to understand that the problems in Northern Ireland run very deep, and ceasefires, however welcome, don't remove the ingrained bitterness and hatred that permeates Northern Irish society. The gigs themselves were good, though some of the venues certainly wouldn't have been the band's first choice. The highlight however was a gig on a barge in Bruges with 11 other bands.



Returning home totally invigorated and determined to get to Europe again it wasn't until March 1996 that another tour finally happened – to France, Holland, Germany, Poland, Czech Republic and Switzerland. Just prior to this, songs were recorded for a split LP with Viktors Hofnarren from

Switzerland to be released on Maximum Voice Records. The tour itself was with Swiss band Vide Psychique and was a complete success. Not even spending seven hours at the Swiss border getting strip searched, or a 30 hour drive home from Zurich to Belfast, spoilt it. The highlight was undoubtedly the gig in Lodz, Poland. The complete passion and enthusiasm shown by the people there was an amazing experience, particularly in contrast to Belfast where cynicism was slowly creeping in.

The remaining period until it all ended in summer 1997 was a very busy time. Songs were written and recorded for a full length LP "The Descent of Man" and another split LP, this time with Blofeld. A short Irish tour with bands Headache & Vide Psychique was undertaken in February followed by a final tour to France and Switzerland in June 1997.

Back home, the scene in Belfast in 1997 seemed to consist more and more of the type of punk with nothing to offer except cynicism and alcohol fuelled nihilism. Jobbykrust came in for criticism from these people for religion, social background and for being "crusties". ("Jobbykrust - Even your flees have flees" was written on the Warzone Centre's toilet wall – exemplifying the mindless criticism as well as woeful spelling displayed by these people). The irony was Jobbykrust always contained members from both sides of the religious divide and from different social backgrounds. It was as classless and anti sectarian as was possible. These "punks", whilst a negative presence, were nothing more than a

distraction and Belfast maintained a small but vibrant scene centred around the Warzone Centre staffed by dedicated volunteers.

In the end Jobbykrust had run its course and ran out of steam. The last gig was on July 3rd 1997 at the Warzone Centre. No decision was made to call it a day, it just happened. Seven years was long enough and it was time to move on. Money problems meant there were many missed opportunities, including an offered tour of the USA, but overall, despite financial restrictions, enough was achieved to walk away content and satisfied.

Sick punk bands lashed for their 'Daniel Must Die' tour

THE MYSTERIOUS 'death threat' campaign waged against soft spoken country music star Daniel O'Donnell took a new twist this week.

For residents of south

Belfast's so called student-land claim sick posters mocking Daniel have been on their gable-ends since MAY!

So-called 'thrash' punk bands sickly named 'Bleeding Rectum' and 'Jobbykrust' put up posters this Spring proclaiming both bands were on the: 'Daniel O'Donnell Must Die' Tour.

The sick 'punk' posters urge Belfast punters to 'join the growing campaign to have 'him' strung up!' — 'him', being a reference to the popular Co Donegal mega-star.

SUNDAY WORLD investigated the claims of the disgusted south Belfast locals and found one of the posters pasted to the wall of a church in the university area!

Thousands of people were disappointed this month when Daniel, one of the most successful local country stars

ever, was forced to cancel concert dates because of the sinister death threat.

Chilling

At first it was thought loyalist terrorists were behind the chilling threats, rekindling terrifying memories of the 1970s sectarian massacre of Fran O'Toole's Miami Showband. But loyalist sources have denied this. Then a Co Derry man contacted SUNDAY WORLD to claim he was behind the sinister warnings.

Daniel O'Donnell himself said of the threats: "There are many, many people who love me, but there are also many, many people who genuinely dislike me!"

Gigs 1991 - 1997

1. Giros / Belfast – 16/02/91
2. Pennyfarthing / Belfast – 17/04/91
3. Kilkeel Leisure Centre – 20/04/91
4. Giros / Belfast – 27/04/91
5. Market Bar / Ballyclare - 16/08/91
6. Pennyfarthing / Belfast – 05/09/91
7. Vicos / Belfast – 28/09/91
8. Pennyfarthing / Belfast – 03/10/91
9. Market Bar / Ballyclare – 02/11/91
10. Pennyfarthing / Belfast – 28/11/91
11. Richardsons / Belfast – 17/01/92
12. Pennyfarthing / Belfast – 23/01/92
13. Limelight / Belfast – 13/02/92
14. Richardsons / Belfast – 20/03/92
15. Riverside Tavern / Kilkeel – 27/06/92
16. Richardsons / Belfast – 03/07/92
17. Pennyfarthing / Belfast – 09/07/92
18. Richardsons / Belfast – 20/08/92
19. Underground Rock Club / Antrim – 22/08/92
20. Charlie Haggertys / Bangor – 17/09/92
21. Tokyo Joes / Belfast – 22/12/92
22. Giros / Belfast – 22/01/94
23. Giros / Belfast – 18/02/94
24. Giros / Belfast – 13/05/94
25. Limelight / Belfast – 26/05/94
26. Kellys / Portrush – 27/05/94
27. Steffi Squat / Karlsruhe, Germany – 01/09/94
28. Villa Roller / Stuttgart, Germany – 02/09/94
29. Schlauch / Pforzheim, Germany – 03/09/94
30. Clockwork / Leuven, Germany – 08/09/94
31. La Zone / Liege, Belgium – 09/09/94
32. Bruge “Banned from the land”, Belgium – 10/09/94
33. Lint Fabriek / Kontich, Antwerp, Belgium – 11/09/94
34. Giros / Belfast – 28/06/95
35. The Derry Arms / Portrush – 08/07/95
36. Giros / Belfast – 12/08/95
37. Richardsons / Belfast – 21/09/95
38. Duke of York / Belfast – 07/03/96
39. Dunkirque, France – 29/03/96
40. Au Bunker / Lille, France – 30/03/96
41. Zanetti Bar Cave / Breda, Holland – 31/03/96
42. Glass Fabriek / Groningen, Holland – 01/04/96
43. Friesenstr / Bremen, Germany – 04/04/96
44. Archiv / Potsdam, Germany – 05/04/96
45. Zoro / Leipzig, Germany – 06/06/96
46. Kopi / Berlin, Germany – 07/03/96
47. Xylo / Lodz, Poland – 08/04/96
48. Seda Litina / Brno, Czech Republic – 09/04/96
49. Barrtkade / Freiburg, Germany – 10/04/96
50. Kammgamkeller / Schaffhausen, Switzerland – 11/04/96
51. Stampfenbeckstr / Zurich, Switzerland – 12/04/96
52. Music Box / Edinburgh Punk Festival – 10/08/96
53. Giros / Belfast – 30/09/96
54. Duke of York / Belfast – 15/10/96
55. Galavans / New Ross, Rep of Ireland – 22/02/97
56. The Attic / Dublin, Rep of Ireland – 23/02/97
57. Sunshine Bar / Dundalk, Rep of Ireland – 27/02/97
58. The Derry Arms / Portrush – 28/02/97
59. Giros / Belfast – 01/03/97
60. Lille, France – 16/06/97
61. Strasbourg, France – 17/06/97
62. Schrott Bar / Biel, Switzerland – 18/06/97
63. Zurich, Switzerland – 19/06/97
64. The Manoir / Geneva, Switzerland – 20/06/97
65. Maloka / Dijon, France – 21/06/97
66. La Barplace / Caen, France - 24/06/97
67. Rouen, France – 25/06/97
68. Giros / Belfast – 03/07/97