

# The sheer physicality of Wire was literally stunning



Wire: Mono, Falmouth  
Review by Lee Trehwala



THE last time I saw the celebrated post-punk art-rockers, they played a wondrous set of pointillistic guitar pop at Exeter's Phoenix. Proving that some ageing acts can still surprise, four years on and Wire are a different band.

Playing the biggest gig yet at Cornwall's glorious new music venue, the band mesmerised a capacity crowd with pulverising, hypnotic, beautiful noise.

Beforehand, the place was abuzz with fans of all ages wondering if they'd play the "hits" – 12XU, Outdoor Miner, I Am The Fly, Ex Lion Tamer.

Being obtuse types, it was never going to happen but we did get the likes of Brazil, Used To and Blessed State from one of the most original, and influential, triptych of albums in rock history – Pink Flag, Chairs Missing and 154.

And for those who adored their more electronic period in the '80s there was Boiling Boy and Silk Skin Paws but now reinvented as relentless and guitar-heavy.

Looking back isn't Wire's game and unlike other bands born in the 1970s they are still releasing vital records, so watching a gig where all but one of the songs from their latest album are aired isn't a problem.

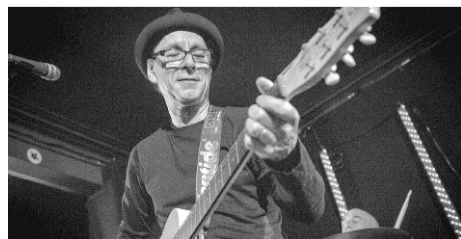
Red Barked Tree, Change Becomes Us and this year's self-titled album are the equal of that original threesome and live, especially, remind us how they influenced a generation of other uncompromising acts.

There were moments at Friday's gig that rivalled the rhythmic firepower of Fugazi (it's all about the rhythm with Wire and in Robert Grey they have one of the punk era's greatest drummers) and the primal guitar wizardry of everyone from Sonic Youth to My Bloody Valentine. Essentially, all children of Wire. The glorious noise (mostly from Matt Simms' ingenious reimagining of the guitar) is offset by Colin Newman's plaintive vocals, Graham Lewis' brooding yet danceable bass and the fact that even drenched in volume Wire can't help but write a tune – witness the eardrum buzz of this year's In Manchester and gig opener, Blogging.

It all came to a head with main set closer Harpooned – a behemoth of despondence, which grew and grew into a miasma of sound. It was literally chest-quaking – what a fool I was to stand next to the speaker. The sheer physicality of it was literally stunning. Hats off to local support The Red Cords, who held their own with their Ramones-like bang-bang-bang. They came to the rescue too when Lewis broke a string and Wire kidnapped a Red Cords bass guitar.

They'll dine out on that one.

Hopefully it won't be another 37 years before Wire grace Cornwall with their presence again.



● Wire's Colin Newman at Mono.  
Pic: www.brianrobinsonphotography.com

# 'Unapologetic pop' of Prides at Pavilion

## Synth trio don't deny the '80s influences

@Lucia Paulis  
Lucia Paulis

lucia.paulis@dc-media.co.uk



IT'S BEEN quite the year for Scottish electro synth-pop three-piece Prides and they're rounding it off by going back on tour.

Since 2014 they have released their first EP and a debut album, performed hit single Messiah at the Commonwealth Games and had their song Out Of The Blue chosen for the Fifa 15 soundtrack.

"It's been pretty manic but we're excited about it," said lead singer and pianist Stewart Brock.

"I guess we really started writing before the summer of 2013, just over two years. It's been a strange one – a long time for us but it's still new and fresh.

"We made a joke we're the unsportiest band possibly in the world attached to a lot of sporting events. It's funny how many people don't know you and then we get 'oh my god, I play Fifa' all the time."

Not only have their songs been associated with sport but their electro sound is synonymous with the '80s; infectious dance beats, exaggerated dance moves and synthesizers.

"There's a big '80s thing. All of us love music from the '80s. I became obsessed with The Cure and Tears For Fears. A plethora of bands from the '80s weren't ashamed of writing



big pop songs – unapologetic big pop songs."

And it's not just the power-pop songs that draw attention; their videos are equally as quirky – giant gorilla suits, glittery suit jackets and blocks of colour appear.

However, it couldn't be more current. With bands such as Chvrches and Bastille also big advocates of electro-pop right now, are Prides influenced by music made by these other artists?

"The influence is definitely there. Although we're different to them, it's nice to be compared to two of the biggest bands in the world."

Prides return to Cornwall to play Falmouth's Princess Pavilion on Saturday, following their set at Newquay's Boardmasters this summer.

"We absolutely loved it. You hear a lot about it and it was just great. We had an amazing reception on the main stage and it was actually my birthday so double celebrations."

Speaking about the new tour and album, The Way Back Up, Stewart said: "We want to do bigger and better, lots of songs from the album we haven't played before, plenty of dancing and bright lights."

For tickets see [www.crbo.co.uk](http://www.crbo.co.uk)

## Surfing into Unpronounceable Name

The Razorblades  
The New Inn, Tywardreath  
Review by PM Doutrigne



WHEN you think about it, it's a bit odd that surf music never really took off in what is essentially the country's most appropriate place for the genre. After all, Sheffield was one of the beacons of the heavy metal scene.

Before surf stalwarts The Razorblade took to the stage, however (figuratively, that is – bands play at floor level at The New Inn), we got to sample the new bluesy outfit led by Honey's Sarah Marie Tyrrell.

The term is slightly misleading for, in spite of the ever-present harmonica, Old, New, Borrowed & Blue "marry" (get it?) blues with Americana and country-rock. The result comes across like a down-home mixture of Bonnie



Raitt and Sheryl Crow, with set closer Call Me Home boasting an additional Nashville feel thanks to special guest Sam Howard from Killer Car Junkies on lead guitar.

"Are you ready to rock, Place With Unpronounceable Name?" asks guitarist and frontman Rob Razorblade.

For the next hour-and-a-bit, the German three-piece unleashes an all-out sonic assault which, if your idea of surf is Jan & Dean, may come as a shock. While their surfed-up covers can be hit-and-miss (Pixies' Here Comes Your Man and Joy Division's Love Will Tear Us Apart gain absolutely zilch), self-penned numbers such as Police Control and Hey! hit the spot right away. Inevitably, Dick Dale's Miserlou gets an

airing but it's the band's very own Punk Rock Rocker – complete with singalong – that steals the show. As the clock strikes eleven, surf's up and everybody in Place With Unpronounceable Name is beaming.

● **CELEBRATING** the 50th anniversary of one of the most incredible music of duos of all time, **The Simon and Garfunkel Story** will be at Hall For Cornwall on November 6. Featuring seasoned West End award-winning leading man Dean Elliott (Buddy Holly in Buddy – The Musical) and a full cast of talented actor-musicians, **The Simon and Garfunkel Story** tells the tale of the duo from their beginnings as Tom and Jerry to their international success. Using a huge projection screen, the show features 1960s photos and film footage while a full live band perform all their hits. The performance starts at 7.30pm. Call 01872 262 466 or book online at [www.hallforcornwall.co.uk](http://www.hallforcornwall.co.uk)



## Babe stations

THE Babe Rainbow, from Australia's Byron Bay, offer experimental psychedelic pop straight out of the Sixties.

The Babes are currently packing their bags to support The Growlers' 2015 US tour, playing at this year's CMJ Seminar NYC, Hollywood's Beach Goth festival and then Cornwall to play Perranporth and Falmouth.

Back in their homeland the Babes have been out and about on the road with likes of Ty Segall, Tomorrows Tulips, and label-brothers King Gizzard And The Lizard Wizard.

The Babe Rainbow are now putting the final touches on their debut long player due out in early 2016. But the funky-freak-parade starts right now with first single Aloe Vera and some special European dates which include these two special Cornish dates at the Watering Hole, Perranporth, on Friday, November 6 and Falmouth's Mono on Sunday, November 8.

Support at Mono comes from Falmouth's very own The Golden Dregs.

**DONOVAN**  
RETROSPECTIVE  
**TOUR UK 2015**  
Carnglaze Caverns,  
Liskeard Sat 14th Nov  
St Ives Guildhall,  
St Ives Sun 15th Nov



Tickets £25.00 +Bf in Adv.  
£28.00 on door. Doors 7pm

Tickets from [www.crbo.co.uk](http://www.crbo.co.uk)  
Tel:- 01726 879500

V.I.P. Packages: [support@donovan.ie](mailto:support@donovan.ie)  
[www.donovan.ie](http://www.donovan.ie)

New Donovan Double CD "Retrospective" and Single "One English Summer" on Amazon and iTunes  
Design: Jessica Lee-Short: Donovan Discs 2015

An AnJen Events promotion in association with Meadow Light Services