**The Adders** – A Brief musical History from Something Nasty in the Woodshed, The StarkAdder family from Cold Comfort Farm and spin offs [ 1992 till..now

The story of this band and the music history ,songs , musicians and others involved started around 1992 with original members: Rog Hunt [guitar] and Julie[then Matthews]-vocals and flute- meeting at teacher training college in Exeter – music being a big driver for both!

Rog though mainly knew 70s/80s rock and post punk music with a bit of Dylan Nick Cave,etc thrown in ,had hardly sung and was still dismayed at not being able to ape the rock guitar of Hendrix or Heavy Metal heroes !.

Julie - having run the folk club at Swansea University ,had worked her way on from a Moody Blues affair to many new fields and also become heavily skilled in versions of English and Irish folk songs- both vocally and on the flute –

This strangely enough was a good mix – had potential…. !

After Rog had worked out that he could write a reasonable bit of strange chord guitar shenanigans to a Julie lyricked song -and he was better at that than teaching -a change was made- Geographically and otherwise.

The pair of them hacked up to East Devon from Brixham after Rog leaving teaching for the good of all :with a Jawa & side-car .

With Julie still teaching they started to attend a few ,of what were – in the days before current wave of ‘open mic sessions’ - Folk Nights !!

Here they began roughly performing Irish Welsh and English folk songs learned from a couple of Julie’s books .

OMG ..but it was a good breeding ground .Things had to tighten up in those sort of surroundings – playing live together to a bunch of strangers with nasal drone critique skills. They didn’t often join in with our random choices !

So – from this with Covers of Folk songs not quite completing the circle – It seemed some thing else was looking for a way in – original songs were gestating– that were not going to be overdue for long !

To begin with- Some early sessions on a few self penned numbers with Matthew Smith – briefly on bass and recording – [since moved to the Southern Hemisphere] ;Ian Richardson- on keys for a short while till after the initial 3 song recording -and Nick Martin playing fiddle and electric guitar.

This got us the attention of a local recording studio in Honiton-

This was Daylight Music -run by Mr Ian Dent -who recorded our first 3 track session and put a song called ‘The Mirror’- lyrics/tune by Julie and rest by Rog on a Compilation of 24 Devon Bands -with the risqué coastal-rock title ‘Long and Pink!

. By the time that CD was released and a strange ,multi-band, semi-mimed gig at Exeter Riviera was preformed- the line up had changed

:-Matthew was on his way to Australia .

The other three advertised in the Express and Echo and music stores [ no social media then !] and were soon gifted replies from:- Chris Durant –a tidy drummer [previously from the South east but landed in Exeter] and Rob Hills– :- talented Sidmothian bass player whose only shared song that came to light with us much later was one of our finest.

The Adders Nest has spread from that time onwards really -around east Devon with various forays and variations in the South West ……

So – the five of us started rehearsing on other songs written between Rog [who had begun exploring ways to make songs from a loose imagination and the most unusual chords in his guitar book] and Julie’s tune-smithery and writing skills

But then we hit decision time …?**The Name…?** It’s always a brain tease for any band and ours was no exception.

Unrelatedly , Rog had recently read and loved the Stella Gibbons book – Cold Comfort Farm - This strange, comic and twisted theme which stems from what the Grandmother of the large brood of **StarkAdders** saw as a child on the farm –The reason why she controls from but has never left her bedroom—

What she saw was … :**Something Nasty in the Woodshed** ‘:- Never identified but always quoted.

Rog suggested this and [ much to his surprise and uncertainty] the others ,after a full night of shared debate ,seemed set on it and the Name has mostly stuck in some form- to this day ! Before long weird-monster headed T Shirts were in production…

Something Nasty were kind of lucky- in the very early stages somehow making contact with the Cavern Club in Exeter at their birth -who needed a band to test out acoustics of the venue with a mixing desk ! –

Then rehearsing often twice a week the songs came a-flowing and gigs

[in the days before virtually all pubs would only take covers bands] were found and usually re-bookable. The former ‘Sleeper’ in Seaton being a favourite with locals who knew us ,[possibly starved of alternatives!] and filled the place good and rowdy.

Our most infamous and best forgotten being a mini tour arranged by a fan in Salisbury who got us to plug in up there -along with two other venues -one evening at The Porton Down works social-club....[ a little mind altering was required by some band members to morally face this!]

But, on the plus side, there were a lot of good ones over the three years, we even picked up a small traveller/ punk Exeter fanbase !, and recorded a fair bit after this as well– mainly using Bullrush Studios in Minehead -crashing on the floor there for weekend sessions .

All good things come to an end though and ,without ever discovering what was ultimately unidentifiable in the Woodshed- Something Nasty reached a signing off time in mid 1995 :- Relationships changed, Nick needed to swap countries – Wales not being as hard to reach as Australia though still too far !

But their songs will now be accessible to whoever wants to listen in this site...

The next Phase

So,having pretty much gone our separate ways- musically and otherwise-

this fell on Rog to continue something . Though for a few years without the Something Nasty name and any musically related connection …

From 1996 for a couple of years there are recordings of other songs by Rog on his own – under the bizarrely named ‘BEDOUIN’ title – a CD sent off to producers with one reply :that the songs were not ‘jolly enough’ – At a time of Radiohead !

And then soon -with other guys [initially guitarist and good songwriter himself: Dave Cox from Branscombe ]– some of which made it to a band level- some songs never made it beyond home based reel to reel to cassette tape

One recorded by Jackroller [A name we chose that had been for scumbags who robbed homeless hobos in the American North ] at his home in Bow: by the legendary Mike Dobrijevic ‘Dobs’- . Mike becoming multi-instrumentalist- guitarist-bass and drummer in this band after an extensive history of his own in bands for decades.

[Mike was later to rejoin us as The IdleLovers/Adders in the 20teens]

At this stage c.’97 to ’99 we were **‘Jackroller’**- a complete and brief name switch! #

This did not last long before the end of the second millennium with just a few gigs including randomly Exeter’s Cavern club again !

Into 2000 and the new millennium

.After a breather and outside music gap the dust slowly started to settle – with new ties and graced with progeny and stability !-

Having bought a semi converted LDV minbus to play in -separate to the mobile home he and Ali then shared on the edge of Exeter in 2001 gradually there were a few songs that Rog felt the urge to try out louder with other muso’s!-. But who with and where!

After moving to Ottery a little spell of between band creation was then recorded early 2001 by Rog at Tony in Teignmouth’s tidy home based studio –

This was with Tony’s talented backing on several chosen few onto **The Idlelovers** CD and a host of not quite favourite others can be found from this time aswell.

……. But then Thankfully ,a re-call back to the mid-nineties and fertile ground became apparent – SNITW Drummer :Chris Durant was not busy percussion wise later in 2001 -soon they got in touch – running a few new creations over together in Chris’ Silverton home garage .

We gave Ian McCord from the same village a shout . He’d been writing his own good stuff but was happy to join us – and proved to be a natural on the bass – finding and applying the classy background tuneful glue to **– what** became **LOSTOMBRES-** God knows where that name came from but it stuck for a while !-.

After some searching in Exeter music shops we were then joined by the Fender- Bending skank-fan : Big Ian ‘Barefoot’ Davey from Exmouth- on lead guitar. There started around 2-3 years of rehearsing and quite a few gigs from Taunton to St Austell and beyond.

From this band ,following a 7 song CD recording at a studio near Silverton in 2003 there then came:- Roughly 4 cd’s worth of songs Recorded by the engineer and very talented sound engineer and Producer **Jon Smith** in the garage and some Live-…. With the chosen greatest hits being the 12 song CD ‘PERMANENCY’.

This included a cover of Dolly Parton’s ‘Jolene’ and a classy number bequeathed by old Dave Cox called ‘Wheels’.

Our charity Everest Climb fundraiser Talaton gig -with live recording from Jon at -with crazy banjo jinxed version of Born To be Wild- raised some eyebrows- heavenward perhaps!

Jon being a proper sound blending recordist , player and inventive musical talent. Rog and he met as they were both members of the ‘Ottery St Mary music Collective’ committee . Jon being sound tech for some great mini weekend festival gigs for a few years arranged by the Collective and held by the river at OSM >[Rock by the River !with Lostombres appearances]

After the demise of this band in around 2004 – with too many rehearsals and not enough gigs [for some of the band !] there came a quieter patch – with brief guitar replacement input from the talented Pete Fallon– but as we’ve heard in the country :-fallow patches are often necessary for busy fertile ground to be rested and ready to sprout properly again !…..

By 2005/6 life had changed – historically /politically post 9/11 but also most SNITW related personal musical ties had shifted ,reformed and new roots forged.

Rog and Jon began working on **new** songs and many that had not made it to the band. This led to a bunch of not too shabby home recordings evidenced here –

but with the ‘Jewel in the Crown’! :ultimately in ’06 being the 9 track ‘Since the Beginning’ .

This was Jon’s choice of 10 songs under the new ‘two man virtual band’ song related title of **Petrolmoon.**-. We added a lot of very nice Artwork by Jon [ a talented ex ArtSchool graduate] on the numerous CD’s compiled by him printed :– and still available from a local outlet near you- somewhere [ ? car boot sales!] !

We also laid down a whole lot of new songs and tracks together in Jon’s bedroom studio that didn’t make it to the final 10 but these can also now be heard here !

Then Rog also ran an open mic session for about a year upstairs at The London Inn in Ottery with Jon sorting the sound – with old Lostombres inherited equipment.

But after the band gap there was No way of playing much of these Petrol moon and other stuff live though – which kind troubled Rog – being a bit of a lover of the performing side so in 2007 following a move to Tipton St John .. we formed a band ! \_

-Rich Ward joined Rog and Jon for a while on drums -We started putting stuff together in the Pavilion down by the river in 2007/8 and were christened………you’ve guessed it ?[back to Cold Comfort times]…………….**The Starkadders** !. And recorded an interesting few original numbers with him before Rich moved away to London.

Then it became :-Jon on bass [sometimes solos, 5 string with neat effects &B/Vs , Rog[Crafter hybrid electric/acoustic new guitar] and new superb skins basher -Gareth Barden joined who had played in a band with Jon in their teens!]

We had ‘good times, bad times -we had our share !’ but played quite a few gigs, Phoenix Exeter,many local festivals, Rog’s wedding, and later Jon’s wedding !! [when Mike Dobs had joined on lead guitar a few years later]- and with Jon’s devotion to skilled recording :a fairly decent CD [or 20! ] up until around 2016.

This was a different sound – often Kind of rockier than anything else I’d done and well -Fun . We had gone in this time from being called –**Starkadders** to **The Idlelovers** [ a name taken from early 2004/5 recordings -fake band on the Teignmouth recordings !] to just **the Adders**

All good things come to an end though . With Jon moving on and Mike moving from Exmouth to faraway Dartmoor.Some time round 2016.

Back to just Rog bandwise! –

There were always open mics from this time on and through one of these I met an old friend Adrian Forster – Who told me at some stage that his partner Martha Thomas was a very neat percussionist – Kahon and pretty much anything including teaching groups in these skills. Apparently She well might like to play some of my stuff…..

Saved by the bell ! – Martha joined me

We have played together a lot – Just an acoustic guitar , one singer songwriter and a great percussionist – open mics – pub gigs Respect festival performances and also soon with Jon back on duty with electric 6 string/ tidy effects and b/v’s. And the band played on with old and some new songs.

With a suitably shorter moniker – just

We then got hit by the lergy as did the world , things changed for Adders members.

Jon left and later came back for recording and playing to record with Rog .

Soon The other connections we got the very talented steel finger guitar player Chris on guitar and b/v’s – and what a lucky star – he was old friends and had played in many bands from the 70s /80s/90s with …Mike Dobs-- Mike was back ! and in on bass with extra licks and beautiful glue – to 2022 **The [new ] Adders** . Summer of 2022 several gigs around Devon – and …… who knows what next !

This site made by Angelo is really like a musical book for memory and record !

Rog