



ST JAMES'S ST BURNLEY  
FRM BOTMS SANDYGATE

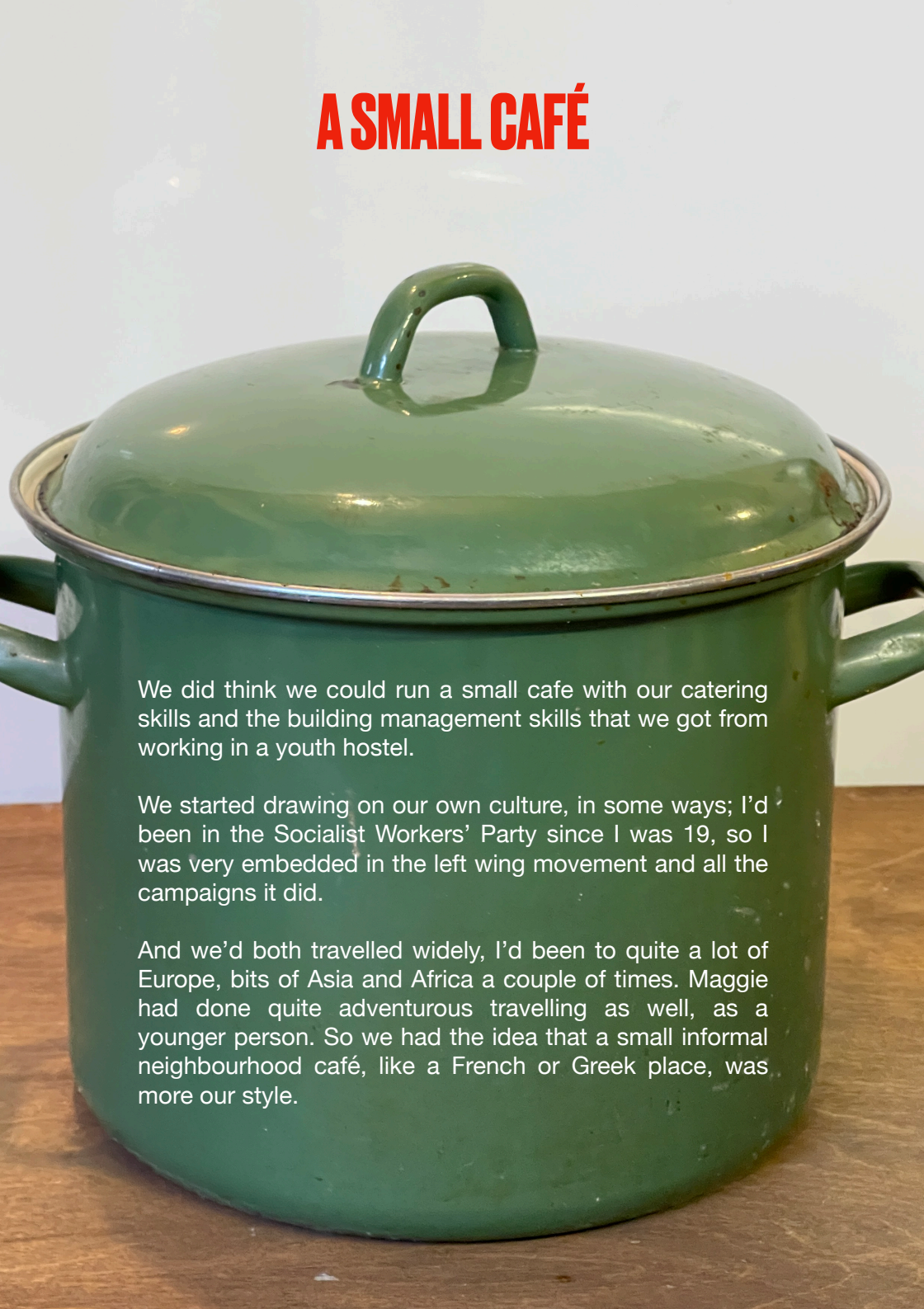






# VOICES OF THE COUNTER CULTURE

# A SMALL CAFÉ



We did think we could run a small cafe with our catering skills and the building management skills that we got from working in a youth hostel.

We started drawing on our own culture, in some ways; I'd been in the Socialist Workers' Party since I was 19, so I was very embedded in the left wing movement and all the campaigns it did.

And we'd both travelled widely, I'd been to quite a lot of Europe, bits of Asia and Africa a couple of times. Maggie had done quite adventurous travelling as well, as a younger person. So we had the idea that a small informal neighbourhood café, like a French or Greek place, was more our style.



# ABSOLUTE GAME CHANGER

Let me think. I'll pinpoint it by girlfriends.

Who was I seeing at the time?

It would've been Lizzie so it would've been in my mid 20s when I came back to Burnley and I was just profoundly shocked to find somewhere first of all that was vegetarian, let alone knew what 'vegan' was.

And then to go in and it's like small, warm and friendly and you start looking at the banners and the poster boards. Going 'oh my God!' like anti-racism, socialism, feminism, gay stuff. I think I would've been maybe late 20s when I first went in the Red Triangle.

Er, so yeah when I came back it was quite a surprise to find it.

- Was it like a happy discovery?

Oh my God like, yeah! Ha Ha Ha! It would've been an absolute game changer to have somewhere like that open when I was growing up.

It would of been an absolute game changer.





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men  
& ne  
mad

ANGELS







# BARRED

- Did you go in the Garden Bar?

Yes I actually got barred from the Garden bar!

- How did you manage that?

Well, we were drinking in there. It was late and, er, we were sat by the window and these people left and these bouncers were there and they were having words with these people. The people started walking off and then the bouncers followed them and started hitting them with these sticks.

So I went out said "What the fucking hell are you doing? They were walking away!"

So I went bananas. And, er they said "Right you. Yer barred for life!" I said "Right Ok" but I didn't take any notice 'cos I mean they wouldn't remember who I was.

I used to go... they had some jazz on Sunday afternoons there at one stage. Jazz sessions and they had some really good people. What's he called?

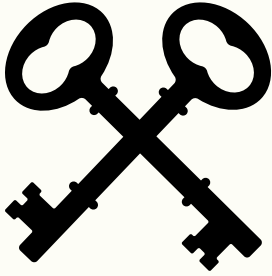
He's probably dead now.

THURSDAY.—Before Messrs. J. S. Veevers, and L. Brotherton.

**A VIOLENT YOUNG WOMAN.**—Elizabeth Marton, a young woman, was fined 20s. including costs, for being disorderly the previous afternoon, in St. James-street. This was her 23rd appearance.—A further charge was preferred against her, of doing wilful damage at the premises of the Cross Keys Inn, St. James-street. According to Mr. J. Proctor (Proctor and Son), who prosecuted, prisoner was ordered out of the house, and after throwing the contents of her glass at the landlady, she took her clog off, and smashed nine windows, doing damage to the amount of £8. Sent to the Quarter Sessions.

YESTERDAY. Before Messrs. T. Hirst, T. Burrows, and W. Parkinson.

**THEFT OF A COAT.**—Richard Whittam was charged with stealing a coat, valued at 5s. 6d., the property of Richard Webster, pawnbroker, Bridge-street.—An assistant in the shop deposed that the coat was missed the previous afternoon, and he afterwards identified the coat.



# CAFE SISTERS



Ahhhh Look

-That's me, Lola and Kelly.

Oh my God I didn't even click that was Lola. That's funny looking at Andy closer to my age now. They had a sort of parental role didn't they?

- Well, me and Lola call ourselves cafe sisters.

Ahhh...

- 'Cos unfortunately Kelly got a brain tumour and she died at 26...

Oh God.

- And at the funeral we were sat together, me and Lola, and we just sort of decided to adopt each other. 'Cos a lot of us that worked there, we worked there because we were in difficult family situations.

Really? Really is that what happened?

- Yeah.

Jesus Christ.

- I walked out of school ya see, that's what happened to me. So at 15 I wasn't doing anything and my Aunty said her friends had opened a cafe and they were looking for someone. I needed something to do, so that's how I ended up there. So it's all kind of, sort of, vaguely lost people...

Oh God.

- You find, you know, to me they are my teenage parents and I know they are very much so for Lola, with her situation.

See, I wish I could tell a different story. I wish I could say that was the same for me. It was just a bit too late for me, er... and I'm almost violently jealous listening to ya. It's both crackers 'cos you go "It was only a cafe!" but it wasn't, was it?

- Saying that, it was the first place I went to where I met people who weren't like me.

Yeah.

- And I think it totally shaped my adult personality.

Really?

- My values.

Really?

- Yeah.

I guess what the Red Triangle did for me, if I was to think about it in terms of my life journey. I... grieve the absence of a place like the Red Triangle in my teenage years. I think it would've really helped but... in my late 20s it was part of my slow return to the town. That slow thing of going "there is a community and there is a place.'









You  
are invited to the  
**OPENING NIGHT  
PARTY**  
of  
A New Vegetarian Eating Place  
at  
160 St. James's Street, Burnley  
on  
**SATURDAY 25th. APRIL 1992**  
7.00 p.m. till late  
**Food Drink Music**  
Provided by, Andy, Maggie and Sean,  
Red Triangle Workers Co-operative  
Tel. 0282 832319

**RED TRIANGLE CAFE**

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**RED TRIANGLE CAFE**

# THE TIME EVERYONE CALLED IT JIMMY'S

The building that eventually became the Garden Bar, originally was once was a small bar called St James's Bar. Everybody called it Jimmy's and er, it was... run by a couple and eventually they stepped back and one of the regulars started running it.

I occasionally worked for him behind the bar, but the shop next to it was er... the carpet shop. The whole building was owned by Leigh's Brewery, so when the carpet shop eventually shutdown, Leigh's Brewery encouraged them to open it up into both sides of the building.

That's when it became the Garden Bar.

And later it was 'Guys as Dolls'.



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# THE ONE WITH CHRISTMAS DO'S

It was mainly going to the Red Triangle really over the years. Lots of music nights. Young college people just starting out. You could get a soup and roll for like £1.50, or something ridiculous. Back in the day, then it only went up to £2.50.

Er, trying to remember some gigs recently I mean, more recently the stuff that Sage did. He used to D.J.

-The '7 inch Singles Club?'

They got involved with the Blues Festival for a bit. Oh, they used to have good Christmas do's.

People end up sitting on the stairs, packed 'cos there was never much space to sit. Then of course all the political stuff.

It was a centre for local campaign groups and activism.

If you wanted to know where to get a bus for a demo that's where you'd go. And the big noticeboard on the wall with all the posters and everything. It was nice, that big wall of stuff.

They did a lot, Andy and Maggie, really keeping things going politically on the left. Whatever you think about the SWP but, you know, they got involved in all the big campaigns.













# THE START OF PENNINE CREDIT UNION

Oh, and the other thing that 'New Era' did at that time, in the mid 80s, was to help to build the Credit Union movement in Burnley.

At that time there were three Credit Unions developing in Burnley and I was part of developing 'Brun Lea' 'cos that was my area. That was the first place we used to run the Credit Union – was er, the Advice Centre at the bottom of St James's Street. We used to meet there on Tuesdays, Tuesday afternoons, to do the books in that centre.

- So where was the Advice Centre?

It was where Citizens' Advice Bureau was, before it shut. Has it turned into an Antiques' Shop?

- Ah, yes.

In there.

So, that was a very useful community resource, that building, from the mid 80s until whenever it became an Antiques' Shop, about 5 years ago, when Citizens' Advice Bureau lost its funding.

When we registered it was a big thing, registering as a Credit Union. A lot of palaver, cos obviously it's a financial institution - like a bank. So you have to go through all this gubbins. We had a picture taken of us all outside the Advice Centre on lower St James's Street, advertising the fact that these Credit Unions had been registered in Burnley. Of course now they've joined in with Nelson and changed their name to Pennine Credit Union and, in fact, Pennine Credit Union is spreading.

- Oh God yeah, they're like taking over the North!

# DAY OUT

I've noticed that I never used to bring people to Burnley, or this area, but I'm doing it more and more. Like days out kinda thing round Burnley. Look, she's a lucky duck in't she?!

- Definitely.

I took her down, y'know, the weir, where the Calder and the Brun meet, on our way up to the Lakes the other day. Um, it's like I know, you could be in a gypsy waggon in the North Lakes but look we're by B & M Bargains!

- The scrap yard.

“Look! scenic shopping trolley currently suspended in the water.”

Ha ha ha...!



# THE FIRST RECORD SHOP

So it came down to 160 St James's Street which was a semi derelict former take away.

Which was done badly and had gone out of business and was in a very run down part of town. Which made it the cheapest place for rent and rates in Burnley. And er, it had a taxi office upstairs and things like that.

So it's a building built about 1900 which had a history as a shop before it was a cafe, or take away, or anything like that. And it was incidentally, in its past, it had been a shoe shop.

It was also the first record shop in Burnley.

- No way!

Yes.

It was the first proper record shop, set up I think in the 50s.

So people had got a little bit of an idea of what sort of history it had got, but you couldn't tell from the take away that it had potential.

# FIRST TRUE LOVE

The red greasy spoons cafe, still there. I was taken on a date by one of my first true loves and, er.. I just... well, there's just something really peculiar and awkward about sitting in your little booth and eating beans on toast with someone you really fancy.

Ha ha ha...!

You know... and thinking that I'm not really enjoying the food but thinking I'm meant to. Ha ha ha! You know, there's something unusual about it, cos I don't think I'd done a greasy spoon or anything like that before, coz I always associated it with old people. Which it was! And then there's these two sixteen year olds that truck up. To just go have a little private time in a booth essentially and eat and be cute and talk, erm.. and you know he was a true gent.

Paid for it I guess.







# THE ONE WITH THE MONOCLE

The first time I ever went in St. James's Bar was, I started working when I was 17 at Burton's, on St James's Street (giving my age away!) Someone took me in there one lunchtime.

I'd never been in there before. Well I never went in pubs to be perfectly honest. And, er, they took me in and all I can remember is this lady behind the bar with a monocle and a bowler hat.

The memory has stayed with me for a very long time.

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# IT WAS QUITE A THING

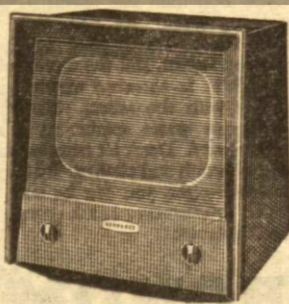
So, from my perspective, there was a youthful feel about it. Er, but yeah... the shops there weren't really anything to look at until 'Eternal Change' landed, from my perspective. But then again I'd been away to London and back in that time. So I missed out on a bit of the evolution but I could see that change. Eternal Change made a lot of difference to the kind of people on that street. Red Triangle too, of course. There was an ethos behind those businesses.

- So did you know the people who ran Eternal Change?

Absolutely, absolutely: Lee and Tina. Aron and Zoe came along in the time I knew them. Mike Crane I met there. Mike, god bless him, rest in peace, took me to the Carlton for the first time. Took me to the Red Triangle for the first time. Lots of memories of people I still know to this day. So I went away to London, came back, broke my leg. I was on 2 crutches for ages. I would say the people there - Red Triangle, Eternal Change - my new circumstances, all came together. I became a Carlton regular...

So yeah, I have lots of very, very fond memories of St James's Street as a thoroughfare, then as a place to be and yeah, between Red Triangle and Expect No Change, Eternally Deranged, Burnley's Strange, Eternal Change... it was quite a thing and I'm still connected to people as a result.

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# THE ONE WITH PICNIC HAMPERS

And if you want some of the murkier side of the town. If you went up Cow Lane, which is the little snicket, you know, where the carpark is.

Well, on that corner was a gentleman's urinal, and people came for miles. I'm not saying what they got up to, but they came for miles. It was a standing joke that people brought picnic hampers.





# THE ONE WITH PEOPLE STOOD ON BONNETS

There were also stories of the carpark being so notorious for parties after the pubs were closed. Everyone would meet up there and go into various cars and pick folk up. It was notorious. In the summer there's stories about folk driving around in the car park stood on bonnets, on top of cars, singing songs 'un being a right party place.



# THE ONE ABOUT NEW ERA

As I was going to say about St James's Street...

Funnily enough when I started work after the kids, after I brought the kids up, you know, you go off and have kids and you go back to work.

My first job, my main job, was with New Era.

At that time they were based at the Advice Centre at the bottom of St James's Street. So I started work there in that building and New Era, who I worked for, had in fact set up the Advice Centre as part of their work in the 80s.

Working around er... I mean around that time it was, there were no jobs, it was helping people get jobs. Er... helping people deal with unemployment and they formed New Era out of that really. Thinking that the best way to get out of unemployment is to become employable, to help them run little businesses themselves.

So that all happened at the Advice Centre on St James's Street and I worked there. That would be in 1992 and we were based there for a year or two.



# NIGHT TIME BUZZ

- What was the rest of the street like at that time?

It was a lot busier. The Cross Keys was a very busy pub in those days. The Garden Bar in its original incarnation was busy. Busy drinking place, er... more of the shops were occupied than there are now, but there were still lots of taxis and take aways.

In those days before Uber and phone Apps and everything, people would finish their drinking and come down to St James's Street to get a taxi and usually get a take away to go home with in the taxi. That meant it was heaving late at night on Saturdays - Fridays and Thursdays for that matter!

Burnley had a good night time buzz in those days, because clubs like 'Angels' were going and people were coming into town for it.





# ONE POT OF TEA

So we committed to a pattern of opening that we kept for 25 years. Because we were very consistent, people knew when we'd be there and not there. Er...and because we weren't trying to do a lunchtime and then go home people could hang out in the afternoons. Spend a bit of time meeting friends after college and that sort of thing.

- The one pot of tea gangs?

Yeah, but I have to say that the thing that cracked the cafe, as an on going institution, as a running business, was the point where young people from Burnley started coming in.

'Coz we knew our older friends would come and we'd see a bit of trade from them. We knew that some of the people who worked around the town centre that were like minded would come to us.

But we didn't know when we started whether it would appeal to people a generation or two younger than ourselves. When that started happening then we knew that we were on to something.



# BUS STOP

So I moved to Burnley at the age of 13, in 1979 and I lived walking distance from St James's Street.

I used to catch the bus to school from there sometimes. I could get off there and walk home sometimes. So I've been aware of Lower St James's Street since 1979 from moving here at the age of 13.

- So what was it like in the 70s?

Coming to Burnley in '79. Where Burnley was economically on its heels. Thatcher had just come in, things were only getting worse and the whole town was a bit down at heel but, that end of town, St James's Street, was clearly down at heel. You know... it looked scruffy, shops weren't all of that. Just like it looked for quite a long time really, until very recently.

- So when you're a kid and you were waiting for your bus, was it a comfortable place to be?

No. Never. Because racism was a big thing in Burnley. Was a bigger thing in Burnley than now, or anywhere else actually.

Er... so if you don't mind me using the language. The usual racial that I got was n\*gger. Which I found extremely confusing and couldn't respond to really. I've been spat in my face, for no reason, by adults when I was a kid just for the colour of my skin. That never happened in Leeds but it happened in Burnley, and when I left Burnley as a late teen going to college in London. I never thought I'd miss the place, never thought I'd turn back. But here I am now supporting Burnley football club and saying this is my home town.

# POLITICAL STUFF

- Did you go to music nights at the café?

Er... Red Triangle?

- Yeah

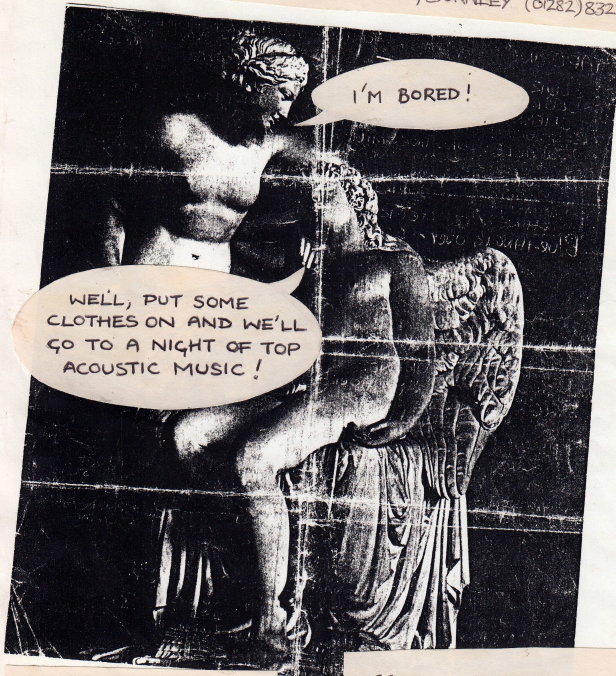
Yeah, er... I did a lot of stuff there, did a lot of events. Organising for the, I don't know if it was Stop the War at the time but, it was political stuff. I think we did some movie showings and some music nights, to get people involved.

- We've done lots of things there at the Red Triangle. Haven't we?

Ah yeah, yeah! Oh I remember the soups.  
I did like the soups. Gorgeous!



THE RED TRIANGLE CAFÉ  
160 ST JAMES' STREET, BURNLEY (01282) 832319



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DEAN YOUNG

SUNDAY, JULY 7<sup>TH</sup>  
8:30PM

FOOD & DRINK AVAILABLE

£1.50  
ADMISSION



# THE RED TRIANGLE TIME WARP

It's funny in't it, what you remember?

- Do you remember Lower St James's Street well?

Oh God, yeah! It's where we lived. Every evening into the time warp.

- Do you remember the first time you went?

Nooo, weirdly no.

I'm pretty sure I'd been shopping in the 'Change' for a while, that was opposite the Red Triangle. Eternal Change - which was that awesome little hippy alternative shop.

I think I just ran into one of my mates in there and they took me but, I don't remember specifically 'cos I was probably quite young. Probably 14-15 and came back later on, older and more independently.

I do remember being absolutely delighted however. Oh, it was a friend from youth theatre but, I remember being absolutely delighted by the prices in there. 'Cos it was 50p for a pot of Earl Grey tea and they didn't hurry you up and they'd come out and chat to yer and get to know yer and you didn't have to be normal.

No one said "Oh you're behaving weirdly" or anything like that and you just felt at home. To the extent that the joke was the Red Triangle time warp. That you'd go in there for a quick brew 3 hours later and your mum would be ringing Andy and Maggie!

# HOMEMADE

Everyone was a big family there, a community. It wasn't just about the café. It was about getting people together and sort of networking, doing music or art, or anything like political stuff. Everyone was just in it together. So that's what I loved about the café, cos there wasn't really anywhere else that did that. Just a café or a pub or whatever, but it was more than that. It was like a home for many people, it's what I loved about it.

- Did you organise music nights?

Yeah, a few. Years ago though. 'Cos like we used to get involved with Burnley Blues. Then we'd do little things for like Palestine and I think we did Love Music Hate Racism and quite a few others actually. Jam Out Capitalism er... yeah quite a few. Then we'd make our own posters, like draw it out, like by hand. Then we'd scan it at the Newsagents up the road. We used to do that. We didn't like make a poster in 'Word' we'd actually draw it and scan it. So it's quite cool.

- Like handmade?

Yeah, like handmade, doing it all. Getting all the bands together. Say, like will you play for free? We'll give you a meal and a beer, your travel home or whatever. So it was nice. Like I said a real community spot that we needed. My college friends would play, say a bit of poetry. I think, cos it was really close to Burnley College as well, arty and musical people would just turn up at the Red Triangle and like, this is a place to just be ourselves, you know? And we're not judged, we're all here. It was good.



*Cheapside, Burnley*



# MEN ONLY

- When was the first time you went in The Garden Bar?

Er... Couldn't tell you what year it was, or why I went in on my own one day. It weren't... it was seen as men only at the time. I went in and I thought 'why should this be men only?' A lot of women out there who were gay, why can't we go in there? So I went in and asked for the manager and it were Alan. Un.. I've always got on with Alan (not Andrew, we hate each other! But you can't like everybody can you?) Anyway Alan were lovely. I said I go out with a group of women who know another group of women, an' another group of women, an' how would he feel about us coming down? Would we be made to feel welcome or what have you?' He promised me that he'd make us feel welcome and we talked for ages. Probably about what it were like to be gay in Burnley an' not having anywhere to go. Apart from the odd night here and there. Er... anyway the week afterwards quite a few of us went down 'an fine.

- So what were it like before?

Before we went there?

- Yeah.

Er... we used to go to the Hop once a week. Panama Joe's one night a week, a lot of years ago. The Plane Tree maybe two nights a week, maybe one. Then the Garden Bar.

- So did you feel like it was somewhere you could call yours?

Not straight away. But after we'd been going a while yeah, we did. It were good for a while.







# THE ONE ABOUT FOOD

- So what do you remember about 'Papa Sam's' ?

Not Much, cos we were all drunk after the Mud Club! All going for food an' Kebabs un Kebabs (without chilli sauce). Cos you usually end up not eating and you wake up and you've got a Kebab next to your head!

- Deary me!

Everyone was queuing up weren't they?

- Oh yeah.

And nattering, or talking to each other and getting into cabs to go home with their Kebabs. I think I had, I think I used to get chips and curry, maybe from that Sumbal's? 'Cos they had like a curry sauce that they'd do which was different than the usual one.

- Yeah, they did good curry at Sumbal's. I think I used to get mushroom Korma.

Oh did ya?

- Yeah

An' there was that cafe I've been in once. You know, the cheap food?

- The one with the bus stop?

I can't remember why I went in there, but I did go in there once. an' er... the little Newsagents.

-Yeah, still the same people in there.

They had pick and mix.

Ha Ha Ha! I only remember the food by the sounds of it.



# CO-OPERATIVE FLAVOUR

I did like the shopping and planning the menus er... and the cooking... Yeah, I did enjoy it, not being all kind of orders. I did like thinking almost 'What are we going to cook?' an' then going out and buying. Therefore having a kind of integrated feel with the Market. The big Co-op, as was then... there was something called 'Leo's', which was a very big er... Co-op, it wasn't just food, but that just had the little bit of a co-operative flavour.

And I enjoyed, maybe not as much as Andy, but I did enjoy the small scale. Actually doing something at some part of the day that's just quiet continuity. Keeping a record for, I mean we stopped doing it about 1997/98, but it was nice to think, what have we done and what meaning has it had, as it were.





# THE ONE WITH HITCHEN'S

So there's something about Lower St James's Street and that end of town.

I kinda thought about it being quite a bad place.

'Cos you'd come out of the main drag, particularly once it was pedestrianised and once you got past, was it JD Sports? or whatever, it all starts to get bit tatty.

The more you walk along the tattier it got.

Me Mum used to shop at Hitchen's down there. Which was this really cheap like remainder clothes shop and that was the only... oh and Fitzpatrick's Cycle Shop, they where the only places I associate with that side of town. You didn't really go down there.

Was it the 'Plane Tree', or the 'Cross'?

- The Cross Keys is right at the bottom and the Plane Tree is over the round bout.

Oh right, then it's the Cross Keys I was thinking about, it was a bit far flung. It felt like a darker, shadier, end of town.

Felt a bit odd going down there...



# Menu Friday 19th March

## Starters

Spicy Peanut Dip with Crudité's  
Carrot and Orange Soup + Roll

---

£1.50

## Main Dishes

Griddled Pineapple with  
Curried Sweet Potato filling  
Served with Wild Rice

£5.00

Courgette Roulade

with New Potatoes and Mixed  
Dressed Salad with Lemon Mayonnaise

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£5.00

## Desserts

Steamed Apple Cake + Custard

Baked Banana with Yogurt <sup>or ice cream</sup>

£1.50





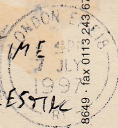






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# THE ONE WITH GLAMOROUS VERONICA

It was pretty buzzing down there at that time, er... cos there was the 'Oz' as well.

- With the Glamorous Veronica?

Yeah, the Glamorous Veronica and her daughter Nicki and her daughter Lucy, they were little diddy things. Lucy does a similar thing now, doesn't she do vintage clothes?

- Yeah in Hebden, an' she did some of her first singing at the café.

Yeah, that's right. Lots of people played for the first time. That's right - Lucy Caterpillar. Yeah, amazing! So she kinda like, grew up there and she used to come over for a milkshake and Veronica would come over for a soup. She'd get a soup, but not have a roll. No butter, no roll. There were some bargains over there as well. They weren't always my style. There were some good little finds.

- Sometimes she saved things for me.

Did she?

- Yeah she'd go "I've found this thing, see if you like it." She was lovely.

I really liked her a lot.









# WORKSHOPY THINGS

- We ended up going to the Red Triangle. I did a poetry class.

Yeah, creative writing.

- I did a creative writing thing. I can't remember what else I did. An' there was something... were it Clare Shaw?

Yeah, Clare.

- But er, she did some poetry recitals but that was through 'Mind', but that connected us. 'Cos we ended up going a lot to the Red Triangle and I think it were through other things. 'Cos we worked for Mind and they kept running little things, workshopy things.

We went to lots of things didn't we? Music things, as well as creative writing and stuff.

- We went to one and while they were being taught how to do creative writing there were a woman doing a charcoal picture of us all.

I didn't go to that one I don't think.

- So there were loads of little things like that. So it became like a bigger thing. It weren't just going to the café were it?

No.





CLARE SHAW

HEAD ON



# THE HIDDEN RIVER

I thought, you know, coming back to Burnley again. You know it's the same journey for the poor old Brun?

- That's what I was just thinking then.

Like, why have I gone to London?

- Go find the River.

Fuckin' absolutely, 'cos things like hidden rivers, they speak so loudly about. Rivers are just... they're the most incredible kind of holders of history.

You know, I'm like wild about mud larking and you find shite and shards and fragments of stuff. I haven't found a patch in Burnley yet, but I will.

Yeah, so like rivers as holders of history like, you know, energetically and geographically and in this very literal sense. That they carry little artefacts an' in terms of the chemicals that run through them. The wildlife and the shapes that they've made on the land but then the human history of something like a hidden river, and the way it works emotionally as a metaphor. The burying of stories, and the life of stories...

- There's that river that goes right at the back of the Red Triangle.

Yeah.

- And it goes past the Empire at the back. So you've got Cow Lane Car park you've got the bridge that comes over...

Yeah.

- Yeah.

Oh God it used to give me the flipping willies that, when I was a kid, that little river! Which river is that?

- I don't know off the top of my head.

Google Maps. Can't tell you how much I've enjoyed ranting like a maniac at you...

- It's been a good afternoon

The Calder. It's a tiny, incredibly culverted, restricted little section of river the bit that passes where you were saying. Tiny little cos it's so constricted in. Then it vanishes. It's funny looking at it on Google Maps where it keeps vanishing.

The poor river.







# VIBE

Because I just quite liked being there, I liked the vibe and it was dinner and a fiver in your pocket and it was still quite sociable. I was quite sociable, so I wasn't shy about serving, do you know what I mean?

So and for me it was a way of meeting people. I knew that hanging out there would be the avenue for meeting the types of people that I wanted to meet. Does that make sense? At one stage I was working there and at Burnley Mechanics and the play place. Bloody hell, I had three jobs! It paid the worst but, I just loved doing it, enjoyed being there. Andy and Maggie would annoy me, but I just absolutely loved them to bits as well. Cos I learned, when I initially worked there it was like properly co-operative. So they were teaching me the cooking, the running of the cafe which, well, you just picked that up really, the money and everything. So I really valued that and probably felt that I had a lot of value as well. Do you know what I mean? Er... in a place where I could just be myself without censoring myself. I think it was one of the first places I came across where I could just be myself uncensored. Er... and I enjoyed serving and I got quite into music nights as well and even organising them sometimes. An' compèring them, so yeah.













# ENDNOTE

Voices of the Counter Culture was researched,  
compiled and written by Fiona Hornby.

It is the culmination of dozens of interviews with  
people who remember Lower St. James's Street and  
in particular the Red Triangle Café at number 160.

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