

BALLPEIN

Band Biography



BALLPEIN were founded in the Wirral in 1996 by vocalist **Piggy** and guitarist **Si**, and were initially known as Sutcliffe's Hammer, named after the serial killer Peter Sutcliffe, AKA the Yorkshire Ripper.

The first line-up was completed by **Gerry Twice** on bass guitar, and **Andy Kizzage** on drums, playing in a style that would probably be now called Metalcore.

They gigged extensively across North West England and Wales from 98-99 including sets with **Cause For Alarm**, **Knuckledust**, **Withdrawn**, **Freebase**, **Voorhees**, **Assert** and **Stampin' Ground**.

This line up recorded a demo in 1999 of their social-horror themed tracks, although until recently they had forgotten that this had happened!

After Si left, a number of guitarists filled the vacant slot including Craw from **Six Ft Ditch**, and the style changed to a more Oi / Hardcore sound, and eventually Ballpein finally disbanded in 2001. But 15 years later, the band reconvened and the saga continued.



"We had a few discussions and laughs about how fucking good we were, and so we decided to get BALLPEIN up and running again." Says frontman and lyricist Piggy. "The main reason was because we

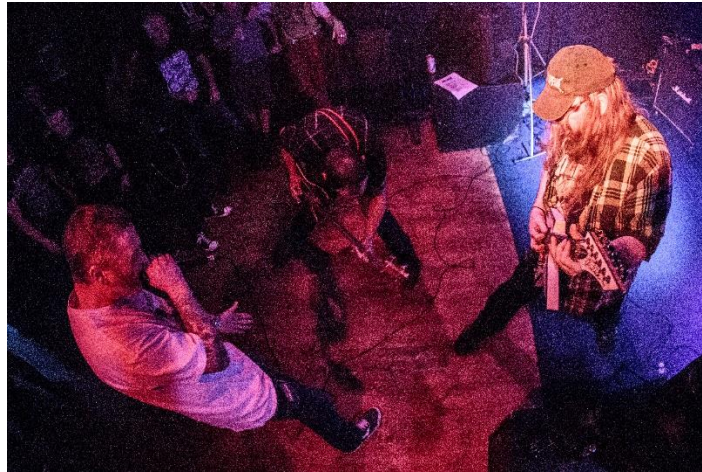
all still have a lot to give music-wise, and it was obvious how much we all loved doing this band and working together as a team again.”

The band reformed after nearly two decades, but needed a new guitarist to fill the vacant slot.

“I’d heard of Ballpein back in the day, but never saw them play.” Says **Steven Hargraves**. “It was a welcome surprise, totally out of the blue, to be asked. I’d just joined **Monstrance**, playing guitar opposite **Carlo Regadas**, and he introduced me to Pig and Ged at a **Discharge** gig in Liverpool.”

It was always going to be hard trying to find someone who not only likes and shares the same interest in music but would also fit in the band in general. Steve was most definitely the right man for the job, his infectious love of what he does has reinvigorated the rest of the band.

“Playing this style of material is a blast for me. I turn up to rehearsals with thousands of riffs and we jam them, and anything that sounds too metal, or not angular enough, they reject!” He laughs. “But luckily I’m on their wavelength too, so I know where to pitch the new material I’m writing.”



“It’s funny,” continues bassist Gerry Twice, “we turned up to play for the first time in nearly twenty years, and I’d realised I’d forgotten how to play some of the songs, but Steve had watched old live videos of them on YouTube and he ended up showing me how to play my own riffs!”

The comeback gigs have certainly gone down well. A new EP is out, showcasing four new songs, and plans are afoot to return to the studio to record an entire album worth of material including some more songs from the original incarnation of the band.

“We want to get a definitive version of the old songs recorded so we can put them to bed and move on, as they only exist on an old cassette and we don’t think that does them justice.” Says Piggy. “But we are very much looking forward to writing new material. We have Steve churning out riff after riff, and Gerry chips in basslines doing his own thing, and I’ve never stopped writing lyrics.”

“When we are in the rehearsal room we are very focussed; we’ll all have input on the riffs and chord progressions, and arrange them as we are playing, trying out different parts until they all work.”

“We don’t fit neatly into any category of music either and I like that.” Says Piggy. “You could look at any one of us, and not guess what style of song we are about to play.”

Reviews

“...Ballpein are ripping through their set. They hold legendary status around these parts, and although new to me, they look like they've been around the block several times (probably tied to the tow-bar of a jeep and dragged behind it). There's a lot of colloquial banter between songs; too much at times, but when the songs do kick in, they do just that – kick in – it's fast and yes, loud, with brilliant guitar work and unusual vocals. They used to be called Sutcliffe's Hammer which earns them extra points.”

<http://link2wales.co.uk/2017/cruidblog/gig-review-burning-flag-abonimate-ballpein-auralskit-maguire-liverpool/>

“...Overall the sound mainly feels like a blend of Death/Thrash riffage with the heaviest and best of NYHC and being honest I would never have pegged this band as British if I hadn't known beforehand! There's some great little flourishes on the demo too that are right off the wall but fit in with the sound perfectly for example the funky bass runs at the end of "Unstable" and the nice bass and guitar intro to "Low Life Cleansin" which kinda spin you upward towards the fast part! They have a good handle on their pace as well, it's not all fast fast fast and the drummer uses a variety of beats not just sticking to the 1-2-1-2 hardcore beat giving plenty of room for the chunky fat breakdowns.

There's also good variety to the vocals there's growling, screaming, shouting (provided by both Ged & Piggy) and even a bit of that nasally sorta vocal you'd hear from proper old school hardcore bands like Sick Of It All or Straight Ahead!”

<http://utsurface.blogspot.co.uk/2013/10/ballpein.html>

Gallery

Hi-Res images available on request.



All photos copyright [Sean Taylor Photography](#).

Band

Piggy – Vox
Ged Ward – Bass
Steven Hargraves – Guitar
Andy Killian - Drums

Videos

Concrete Mixer	https://youtu.be/BzKjuLTi_Ug
The Man in Black	https://youtu.be/HdPWriqGU4U
Socially Severed	https://youtu.be/YNbwGdxmW6o
Live 2017	https://youtu.be/dfBiFjpmcmY
Live 1999	https://youtu.be/RDahspU6DPE

Discography



Demo (1999)

Greed	2.55
Unstable	2.34
L.L.C	2.20
Kurten	3.46



The Man in Black EP (2017)

The Man in Black	2.43
Concrete Mixer	2.15
Sudden Frenzy	1.09
Socially Severed	2.54

Web Links

Official Website	http://www.ballpein.co.uk
Bandcamp	https://ballpein.bandcamp.com
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/BALLPEIN
For further information email	shargraves@yahoo.com

