

# Talking heads

## Paul Lamb

### Paul Lamb & The Detroit

**Breakdown's** *Ready, Fire, Aim* is out 4 November and *RC* asked him which movie it could soundtrack?

"Any Rudy Ray Moore *Dolemite* movie, if Tarantino was remaking it and Johnny Winter was starring in it!"

**If you could revisit any of your albums, what would you change?**

I'd re-sequence *Gunshot Lullaby* and *Tales From The Gravel*, because the songs segued, but iTunes put a two-second gap between the songs.

**Is there anything still unreleased?**

We trimmed some songs from *Hangin' On For Dear Life* and a couple for *Tales From The Gravel*, and some got shelved in several other bands over the years.

**Have you done anything fans may not know about?**

A soundtrack and voiceovers for the movie *Koi Of Hungwa*.

**If you were to make a split 7", who would it be with?**

JJ Grey, Mofro or Motörhead. Lemmy is God!

**If you were to produce another artist, who would it be?**

Eminem. I'd love to hear his ideas translated through musicianship, instead of samples.

**Where were you when you first heard one of your songs on vinyl?**

*The Glory Revival*, while living in an abandoned house in Phoenix, Arizona. We thought we were on our way to stardom! We were stoned.

**What was your favourite record shop when you started out?**

Car City Records, Detroit. I lived there as a child and I spent every penny I ever got.

**Your first record?**

Aerosmith, *Toys In The Attic*.

**Was anyone in your family a musician?**

A great uncle toured in the 20s and 30s in a polka band.

**Have you kept studio notebooks?**

I have every work I've ever done completely documented.

**What would you ask your music hero?**

Quincy Jones: If he believed it was possible for integrity in music to come full circle again?

**What's the oddest circumstance in which you've had inspiration for a song?**

After jamming on my birthday with Walter Trout, we partied at Gwithian Beach, Cornwall, and at sunrise on top of a World War II artillery mount on the cliffs I wrote *Time Of My Life* in one sitting.

**Who's taken music forward in the last decade?**

The Black Keys.

**What's your most prized personal music item?**

My autographed copy of Muddy Waters' *Electric Mud*.

**Which band would you most like to see in a reality TV series?**

Our band!

**Who would you like to cover one of your songs?**

Tom Waits, *If Only Goodbye*.

**Which of your songs is the most personally meaningful?**

*When The Crown Hit The Ground*. Last April, I lost some friends at sea on the boat, *Wamow*, which left Scotland for Norway in search of the Northern Lights. In my state of mourning, I wrote the song.

**Of all the people you've worked with, who taught you the most?**

Robert Bradley, a blind man from Westside, Detroit. He said, "close your eyes and play the colours". I did, and it transformed my playing. I still play harmonica with my eyes closed.

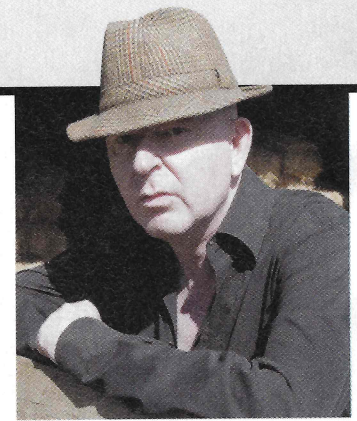
## Alan McGee

**Alan McGee** is back helming a new label, 359 Music, which opened its account with three new albums by **John Lennon McCullagh**, **Mineral** and **Chris Grant**. Three more new sets are due to follow from **Gun Club Cemetery**, **Pete MacLeod** and **Tess Parks**, and **Ian Shirley** asked Alan how he got back in the record label saddle...

"Iain McNay at Cherry Red offered me half the company [359]! He's a great friend and was the first person to sign me and The Laughing Apple, at 19. I trust him. He still sends me publishing cheques!"

**John Lennon McCullagh has been compared to a young Bob Dylan.**

He's a freak of nature. A 15-year-old guy who talks about Robert Johnson in detail. It's a brilliant record, but I don't think he's even got there yet. I think that his second album will be a really great record. Richard Hawley loves him and is going to take him



out on tour and take him under his wing.

**How did you discover him?**

I was DJ-ing for his dad in Rotherham as a favour, and he said, "could I put my son on stage?" John was 14 and he just nailed it. I said, "You're fucking brilliant! Go and write some songs." We recorded the album in a day in Sheffield. £232. Totally DIY.

**What are your plans for the new label?**

Just to put out records that I like. And I actually now listen to everything that I'm sent!

## John Lees' Barclay James Harvest

**John Lees' Barclay James**

**Harvest's** *North* is out via Esoteric and the band tour the UK from 7 to 23 November. *RC* asked frontman **John Lees** what was the last album he bought?

"Jackson Browne's *Looking East*."

**Is there anything still unreleased?**

There are multitrack demos of quite a few of my later songs written for the old BJH (before the split with Les Holroyd) that have never been released before.

**Have you done anything that fans won't be aware of?**

We did some bits and pieces on the old Asda Price adverts, around the time of *Gone To Earth* (1977), with Davy Rohl, at Strawberry Studios.

**When did you first hear one of your songs on vinyl?**

At home with my parents, when John Peel played our first single, *Early*

*Morning*. In fact, I used to have a home recording of that event, with our dog barking in the background!

**Did you ever write songs under the influence?**

No.

**What was your first record?**

Paul Anka, Diana.

**Have you kept studio notebooks of your albums?**

I have most of the rough notes of my song lyrics as they developed into the final versions, plus loads of photos, white label pressings and rough sleeve designs.

**What's the oddest place in which you've had inspiration for a song?**

By a swimming pool while on holiday.

**Who would you like to cover one of your songs?**

River Of Dreams, Rod Stewart.

**Who would you do in karaoke?**

Anything by Abba. ➤



BJH's John Lees, left