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The House of Love's Guy Chadwick (foreground) and Terry Bickers (background)

There are many theories as to what went wrong on the road to their demise in 1993 but, unlike those sailors from the Marie Celeste, the members of The House of Love are still around to tell the tale. Even better, singer-guitarist Guy Chadwick, lead guitarist Terry Bickers and drummer Pete Evans are back together with a new album, She Paints Words in Red.

Their set kicked off with two new songs, including single A Baby Got Back on Its Feet, which belied the 25 years that have passed since their first LP – even if Chadwick's grizzled hair did not.



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There were a few guitar-related technical problems but as the band hit its stride more new numbers were mixed with some of those songs everyone really ought to know and love, including I Don't Know Why I love You, Beatles and The Stones and Christine, which sparked an outbreak of moshing among blokes who were definitely old enough to know better.

There were a few notable absences from the 1 hour 20 minute set but it ended in the best way possible with the band's anthem, Shine On. Here's hoping The House of Love continue to do just that for years to come.

Special mention must also go to Bristol singer-songwriter Patrick Duff's solo support slot. Armed with just a guitar and effects box, the former Strangelove frontman cast an intense gaze across the rapt audience as he movingly sang a series of melancholy and witty songs. At the end he declared that he had really enjoyed his return to his home city – as did I.

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