

SPINE

LESS.

Featuring further
anarchic antics
of that favorite madcap duo -
COGLAN & PALMER

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SPINE

Editorial:

In this issue - a follow-on from issue 1 - we provide some basic documentary evidence concerning the comic capers of our two eccentric chums. For a bit more context than we present here you really need to see issue one.

"The demoniac person thinks: "So much wealth do I have today, and I will gain more according to my schemes. So much is mine now, and it will increase in the future, more and more ... I am the lord of everything. I am the enjoyer. I am perfect, powerful and happy. I am the richest man, surrounded by aristocratic relatives. There is none so powerful and happy as I am. I shall perform sacrifices, I shall give some charity, and thus I shall rejoice." In this way, such persons are deluded by ignorance."

(The Bhagavad Gita. Chapter 16, Verse 13-15.)

Letters To The Editor.***Let noble thoughts come to us from everywhere.***

I have to say that I have been overwhelmed by the response we received to the first issue of the New Boathouse fanzine and only wish I had the space to respond to all our well-wishers in person ! Many thanks for your interest and concern.

Dear E.J. Yes, we agree that the loss of the Boathouse has been a great blow to the experimental music and live art scene in Yorkshire.

Dear R.W. While there has been much speculation over the reasons why Palmer ran away from the Boathouse in 2001 - the consensus among many of those who were his "friends" in Hull at that time was that Paul treated him like a "wife". Disregarding the appalling sexism implicit in that comment and taking into account Paul's character formed by his early years at Naval College, it would be more likely that Paul treated Palmer as his "batman". Of course, the dissonance between one's self-image and the truth of one's character can be so painful that we attempt to flee it. But this is all mere speculation.

Dear Anonymous. It is always a pleasure to hear that we have readers as far away as Tyneside. And yes, we do believe that our Palmer may be the same one as leads your art workshop. I would also like to say what an interesting life you seem to have led !

Dear D.K. No. No. NO! Maybe. And yes.

Dear M.B. Unfortunately I cannot agree with you - there is absolutely no evidence that Palmer was blackmailed by Coglan into selling him the Boathouse. Without any firm evidence of wrong-doing on either side (photographic especially welcome), it would be totally irresponsible of you to continue spreading such vile rumours.

Dear W.A. No, we cannot agree with you in this matter. It is always wrong to take the law into one's own hands.

Dear R.R. We have gone through this before. There is absolutely no firm evidence that any money exchanged hands between Palmer and Coglan in addition to the money that Coglan claims to have paid Palmer for the Boathouse.

Dear S.K. It is hard to believe that there may be a public interest aspect to all this. Granted that it was public money that paid for the Boathouse in the first place (Year of the Artist funding in 2000 in fact) but surely artists are entitled to do whatever they wish with their leftover materials ? We do not know enough in this office to say whether Palmer could be obliged to pay the original purchase price back to the Arts Council or not. Perhaps in these cash-strapped times...

Dear D.P. Although it was thought at the time when the Boathouse was bought from the Kingston Rowing Club that there was something in the deeds to the Boathouse to prevent it being sold for private exploitation., apparently there was not.

Dear B.G. Yes, a substantial amount of work was undertaken by a number of individuals over some years to secure and protect the site. And no, Palmer has never offered any form of compensation for this loss.

*"Be kind, and friend or foe you should not mind,
A kindly heart will never be unkind ;
Ill-treat your friend, and he will turn a fiend,
And love your foe, in him a friend you find."*
(Omar Khayyam)

In issue 3: Hypocrisy and Eccentricity in Contemporary Performance Practice - a case study.

"Oh what a tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive."

24th October 2011

Mr Alistair Palmer (aka Harry)
Unit FF 5
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Oceana Business Park
WallSEND
North Tyneside
NE28 6UZ

Tel: 07796 216470

Email: plot40@hotmail.com

To: [REDACTED]
Northern Area Team,
Hull City Council,
2nd Floor
The Orchard Centre,
Hull, HU6 9BX

CC: Mike Bisby, [REDACTED]

Ref: Hull Boat House Steering Group (regarding Kingston Rowing Club).

Dear [REDACTED]

As joint owner of the Kingston Rowing Club, I would like to confirm that I grant permission to The Hull Boat House Steering Group to use the site for arts, music and gardening projects. It is my understanding that the group is organised and run by Mr Brian Gilson and Mr Mike Bisby, in their respective capacities as Chair and Administrator. The Hull Boat House Steering Group can be contacted c/o Mike Bisby, [REDACTED]

A license to occupy and use the site, which specifies the terms of agreement between myself and the group, is in preparation. In return for a token rent, the group will be responsible for all costs, insurance, maintenance and security related to the former Kingston Rowing Club (KRC) site.

Please take this letter as proof of intent that the KRC site should become a valuable community resource, my faith in the group and its commitment and ability to deliver.

Please feel free to contact me directly if you should need further information or clarification.

Yours sincerely,


Mr Alistair Palmer (aka Harry)

Coglan notifies the Steering Group of the change of ownership - for some reason Palmer never has.

Kingston Rowing Club Site

Hide Details

FROM: dante@pre-raphaelitebrotherhood.com

Monday, 5 March 2012, 1

TO: brian g gilson

Hello, good evening Brian, I am mailing to inform you that from the 1st March 2012, I am the owner of the Kingston Rowing Club. I will be using the main boat house as my studio and workshop and it will no longer be available for events. Please inform the other group members as I do not have contact information for everyone.
Best regards Nigel.

Reply to dante@pre-raphaelitebrotherhood.com

Send

The time between Palmer's letter and Coglan's email to me is the length of time that Palmer told the Boathouse Steering Group that it would take for him to arrange the written agreement that they were after. In fact, it now appears, this is the time it took for Palmer to set up and carry through the sale of the Boathouse to Coglan. During this time, Coglan presented himself as Palmer's agent in Hull regarding Boathouse affairs. Having donned this disguise, Coglan then proceeded to attend meetings of the Boathouse Steering Group as Palmer's representative - with hindsight, he was obviously there to represent his own interest while pretending to be a friend. During this time, Coglan offered to take away over 30 sacks of crushed tin cans (accumulated over more than 5 years of activities at the Boathouse) and cash them in at a scrap metal merchants - the money to be used in the interests of the Hull Boathouse Steering Group and their activities on-site. It is understood that Coglan pocketed this money in his own interest. The estimated value of the cans was £10 a sack. This behaviour continues - it is reported that Coglan has been seen on-site removing materials which do not belong to him - mainly scrap metal at the moment.

There is no way that Palmer could have also sold him the contents of the Boathouse. They simply were not his to sell. If he gave this impression to Coglan then he has seriously misled the man.

There is also increasing concern over other property on the site including a substantial archive of materials relating to Paul Burwell's career as an artist and musician, the remainder of Paul's extensive library and artworks stored by other artists on the site. To date, neither Palmer nor Coglan have made any attempt to trace the owners of this property - one wonders with what intent ? and how much extra Palmer hopes to gain from his friendship with Coglan ?

Palmer currently runs art sessions for the Prison Service in the Newcastle region while continuing to present himself at conferences (Bar Camp NE 3, for example) as an "eccentric artist" (sic).

Coglan presents himself as a property developer - reportedly with a history of flouting the planning laws.

B: Proprietorship Register

This register specifies the class of title and identifies the owner. It contains any entries that affect the right of disposal.

Title absolute

- 1 (29.02.2012) PROPRIETOR: NIGEL COGLAN of 12 Park Avenue, Princes Avenue, Hull HU5 3ER.
- 2 (29.02.2012) The price stated to have been paid on 24 February 2012 was £5,000.

