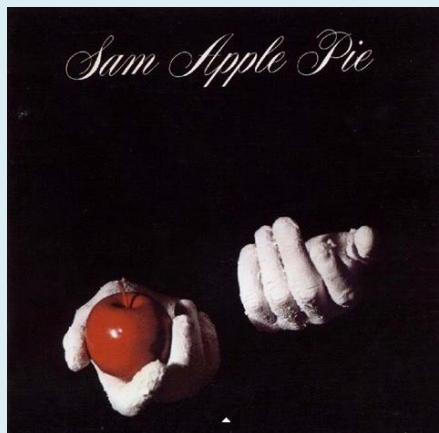


Sam Samson & Jim Mitchell

In Walthamstow, in the 60's and 70's, there was a good number of different bands and groups who played at a different local live venues in pubs, clubs, social centres and public halls. Sadly, virtually all of these venues have gone and their passing has been the demise of the plethora of local musical groups.

Sam Sampson's, Sam ApplePie



One of the best loved and fondly remembered bands who have achieved near legendary status among many Walthamstow residents, was the 'Sam Apple Pie' band who were a locally based blues-rock band, of the late 1960s and 1970s. They were led by Sam Sampson who played the harmonica and sang. Amongst their claim to fame was that they played at the first Glastonbury Festival in 1970 and they are also noted for playing an important role in the early careers of several musicians including Gary Fletcher and Dave Charles (Who went on to play with Kid Creole & The Coconuts and with Dave Edmunds) and Malcolm Morley.

The band was formed in Walthamstow and their base was the Bottleneck Blues Club at the Railway Tavern, Stratford where they were the 'house' band and collected money from the punters at the door. They were an irreverent band who soon attracted a large live following, playing a mix of 12 bar good-time blues and boogie music that was interspersed with humour.



Above: The Railway Tavern, Stratford

The roots of their quirky humour were allegedly, during the power cuts in the 3 day week disputes in 1973, when they were in a club when the electricity failed and they sat around making up obscene lyrics. Unfortunately, their quirky humour was difficult to capture on recordings

They toured the 'underground' clubs, student clubs and rock pubs and in October 1969 they played the Amouges Festival, in Belgium, where Frank Zappa jammed with them.

Their first album was called *Sam Apple Pie* in 1969 and they wrote all but one of the songs on the album which featured lead singer Sam 'Tomcat' Sampson with Mike 'Tinkerbell' Smith and Steve Jolly on guitars, bassist Bob 'Dog' Rennie, Malcolm Morley on keyboards and Dave Charles on drums.



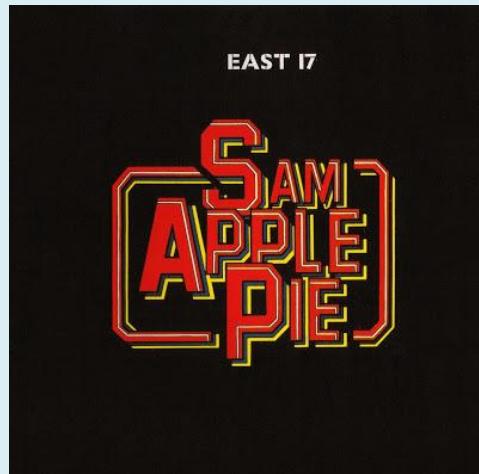
In 1970, they played the first Glastonbury Festival, after which childhood friends Malcolm Morley and Dave Charles left to form the 'Help Yourself' band and Steve Jolly to join the Procol Harum's offshoot 'Freedom' band.

By 1972, Sam Sampson was fronting a new line-up consisting of: Andy Johnson (guitar), Denny 'Pancho' Barnes (guitar), Mark DeMajo (bass) and Lee Baxter Hayes (drums). However, by the time the band's second album was issued, Barnes was absent altogether and Hayes had been replaced by Martin Bell. Despite such instability, 'Sam Apple Pie' were still active in the late 70s. The line-up featured Sampson, Johnson, Gary Fletcher (bass) and Jimmy Knox (drums). Fletcher subsequently joined the Blues Band.

After several more line-up changes, the band recorded their second album *East 17* in 1973, with Sam Sampson and Bob Rennie from the first album, supported by Andy 'Snakelegs' Johnson and Denny "Pancho" Barnes on guitars, and Lee Baxter Hayes on drums.

They disbanded in 1974, but reformed the next year. In the intervening period, from mid 1974 to February 1975, the band members performed with Vincent Crane as Vincent Crane's 'Atomic Rooster' band. Further line-up changes included bassist Gary Fletcher, who subsequently joined The Blues Band, keyboard player, Steven Golick and drummer Martin Bell.

The band continued into the late 1970s, changing its name to The Vipers, (not to be confused with the new wave band of the same name) before disbanding. Former member,



Andy Johnson, died from throat cancer on Friday 5 March 2010 in Hastingwood, Essex, at the age of 62 and I believe that Mike (Tinkerbell) Smith died in the USA

Jim Mitchell's, Jimmy Riddle & The Pissspots & Dr Sleeze & The STD's

The story of the Sam Apple Pie band was inextricably linked with another Walthamstow band led by ex Monoux schoolboy named Jim Mitchell who fronted bands named 'Blockade', 'Jimmy Riddle & The Pissspots' and 'Dr Sleeze And The STD's'. For Jim, there wasn't anything that was musically taboo and his bands had a brand of irreverent anarchic humour that was spiked by some extremely acerbic, cutting lyrics.



The band line-up was: Singer; Jim Mitchell, Drummer; John (Josh) Brown (Who also played drums for the Tweets of Birdie song fame, although he likes to keep this quiet!) The bass player was Garry Tilly; Guitar was Peter Lay (Who played for many years in 'Sleeze' and was previously in band called 'Fidget'). Keyboard was Simon Wills. Backing them and having fun on stage were; Sue Lay in black stockings and suspenders and Nola the rubber doll. These two were known as the Viagra twins.



Left: Jim Mitchell (3rd on left with stick) and band members

At many gigs it was difficult to know whether you were listening and watching the 'Sam Apple Pie' band or the 'Jimmy Riddle band' as members of both bands (And other musicians) wandered on and off stage. It seems that Jim Mitchell's 'Blockade' band fused with the 'Sam Apple Pie' band and became 'Jimmy Riddle & The Pissspots'

Jimmy Riddle had a live show recorded by channel 4 which can be seen on YouTube that features a very large group of jamming musicians. He has also been joined on stage by Paul Jones of Manfred Mann fame, and is one of the few people who's claim to fame is taking Stevie Wonder for a drink in an east end pub back in the days when Jim was a roadie.

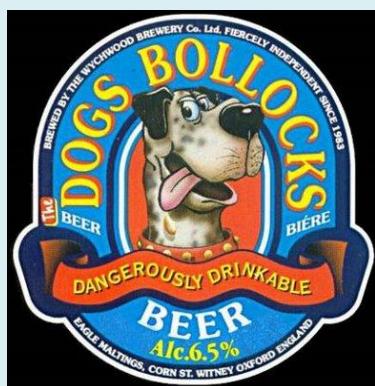
Unfortunately, Jim has suffered MS for many years. This has never stopped him 'gigging' and in his music taking the 'pee' out of everyone, from Essex girls to Blow up dolls, nothing being sacred.

However, the 'Jimmy Riddle' band has one particular UK claim to fame.

The Dog's Bollocks

The Urban directory says: In UK slang terms the "dog's bollocks" means the best. It comes from the habit of male dog's licking their testicles (bollocks) and that they must taste good as they spend so much time in this activity.

Example - The concert last night was the dog's bollocks.



Don X aka Andy Lightshow made the following post in June 2006.

http://www.phrases.org.uk/bulletin_board/49/messages/77.html

"The phrase "Dogs Bollocks" was coined in the early eighties at Lloyd Park Pavillion during a benefit for EVS (emergency volunteer service), a group of bikers engaged in the delivery of blood to hospitals.

In an exchange of banter with "Combo Pete" (Wake Arms MCC) over a pet rat (Nemo):-

Combo Pete "Look at the bollocks on that rat"

Me "Shut up, this band's the rats bollocks"

Combo Pete "My dogs got bigger ones"

Me "O.K this band's the dogs bollocks"

The band in question was 'Jimmy Riddle and the Piss pots' aka 'Sam Apple Pie' + 'Southside Blues Band'

From there, the phrase entered biker vocabulary, had an ale named after it and spread to general useage.

the 'Dog's Bollocks')

(There is a 'dangerously drinkable' beer brewed in England by the Wychwood Brewery called 'Dogs Bollocks';

Bill Bayliss

February 2015

A Discography



Sam Apple Pie Album 1969

Tracklist

1. Hawk
2. Winter Of My Love
3. Stranger
4. Swan Song
5. Tiger Man (King Of The Jungle)
6. Something Nation
7. Sometime Girl
8. Uncle Sam's Blues
9. Annabelle
10. Moonlight Man
11. Tiger Man (Mono Single Mix)
12. Sometime Girl (Mono Single Mix)

Credits/Musicians

Sam (Tomcat) Sampson,
Mick (Tinkerbell) Smith,
Andy (Snakelegs) Johnson,

**Bob (Dog) Renny,
Dave Charles,
Steve Jolly**

Listen to them on You Tube:

Hawk

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yL6MEGYfbvI&list=PLPIXVd82YPln_FrhozeEMjzamZNDu8QXI

Winter of my love

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yL6MEGYfbvI&list=PLPIXVd82YPln_FrhozeEMjzamZNDu8QXI

Stranger

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yL6MEGYfbvI&list=PLPIXVd82YPln_FrhozeEMjzamZNDu8QXI

Swan Song

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yL6MEGYfbvI&list=PLPIXVd82YPln_FrhozeEMjzamZNDu8QXI

Tiger man

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yL6MEGYfbvI&list=PLPIXVd82YPln_FrhozeEMjzamZNDu8QXI

Sometime Girl

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yL6MEGYfbvI&list=PLPIXVd82YPln_FrhozeEMjzamZNDu8QXI

Uncle Sam's Blues

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yL6MEGYfbvI&list=PLPIXVd82YPln_FrhozeEMjzamZNDu8QXI

Annabelle

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8lKjBVXF8w>

Moonlight man

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8lKjBVXF8w>

E17 Album 1973

Tracklist

01.Good Time Music

02.Louise

03.Out On The Road

04.Route 66

05.She's The Queen

06. Old Tom

07.Flying

08.Call Me Boss

09.Another Orpheus

Credits/Musicians

Sam 'Tomcat' Sampson - Harmonica, Vocals

Bob 'Dog' Rennie - Bass

Andy Johnson - Guitar

Denny 'Pancho' Barnes - Guitar

Lee Baxter Hayes - Drums

Listen to (Some of) them on You Tube:

Good Time Music-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8lKjBVXF8w>

Out on the road

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8lKjBVXF8w>

She's The Queen

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8lKjBVXF8w>

Old Tom

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8lKjBVXF8w>

Another Orpheus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wmHFW9YA6FE>

7" Recording 1980

What's the matter with me

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wmHFW9YA6FE>

Jimmy Riddle/Dr Slease Recordings

Jimmy Riddle & The Piss'pots 'Live in 1984' PT1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QS3OC4yTB7E>

Jimmy Riddle Band Part 2...Sam Apple Pie...Dr Slease

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QS3OC4yTB7E>

Dr Sleeze and the STDs..TV Monsters..Sam Apple Pie..Jimmy Riddle and the Pissspots

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lQASRpjTQy8>

Dr Sleeze and the STDs...Cheesy Love Songs...Sam Apple Pie...C.C. 12-10-13

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YvjHSgBtfM4>

Dr Sleeze and the STDs...Happiness...a penis...Sam Apple Pie

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jzcG-Fg5UFY>

Dr Sleeze and the STDs...Those Adverts...Sam Apple Pie

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CjM3njHGqWU>

Dr Sleeze and the STDs...Didya Get Some On Your Shoe...Sam Apple Pie

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CjM3njHGqWU>

Dr Sleeze and the STDs...Jesus Is Counting...Sam Apple Pie...C.C. 12-10-13

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=opdwQ3-ifmA>

Doctor Sleeze and the STDs with the Viagra sisters....Wedding party

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=opdwQ3-ifmA>

NB: The above is not a comprehensive discography