

Brinsley Schwarz

Last updated: 10 August 2007

Ian Gomm was once described as the "best rhythm guitarist in Britain" (NME 1971). In those days, he was a member of cult group Brinsley Schwarz.



Ian now lives in Llanfair Caereinion in Powys and writes here about his days as a rock star. He sent us his story after visiting the BBC Wales Bus in Llanfair Caereinion in 2003.

"I was born in downtown Chiswick and grew up in London and cut my teeth on 'The Ventures', 'The Everly Brothers' and 'The Beatles'. As a youngster, I followed a 5-year apprenticeship in mechanical and electronic engineering with EMI Ltd. at Hayes in London where The Beatles' first records were manufactured.

I sang and played lead/rhythm guitar in semi-professional groups in my spare time through the late sixties, and performed around the West London R&B circuit in clubs and pubs, as did Alexis Korner and the embryonic Rolling Stones. I concentrated hard on my guitar playing and was eventually described as the "best rhythm guitarist in Britain." (NME 1971).

During September 1970, I decided to become a full time musician and gave in my notice on a Friday. On the next Monday I joined the cult group Brinsley Schwarz, the country rock band managed by ex-Jimi Hendrix tour manager.

The band evolved into a solid, hardworking and professional pub rock outfit and we packed out every venue we played in the early 1970s! We also supported Dave Edmunds on tour and then Paul McCartney and Wings on his first major U.K. tour since the Beatles.

During the six years we were together we regularly performed on radio and television and played at major U.K. venues, universities, colleges and rock festivals - topping the bill at the first Glastonbury Festival!! We even appeared in the film 'Stardust' with David Essex, enjoyed a huge following in the U.K., Ireland, Holland, and Germany, and recorded 12 albums and 21 singles for United Artists.

We finally split up in 1975 and that's when I, my wife Karen and the family moved to Mid Wales. I built a recording studio and concentrated on my own song writing career. I learned how to engineer and produce records, and recorded The Stranglers, Alexis Korner, Peter Hammill and Amon Duul as well as my own solo song demos."

Article by Ian Gomm

- [More about Ian Gomm...](#)



[more from this section](#)

My Story

[A Week in Westminster](#)
[Abigail's Orang-utans](#)
[Back into the big bad world...](#)
[Bah! Humbug!](#)
[Beard and Booze](#)
[Belonging](#)
[Brinsley Schwarz](#)
[Calendar Girl](#)
[Class of '53](#)
[Don't cry for me Aberaeron](#)
[God Bless the Cambrian News!](#)
[History Hunter](#)
[Internet Innovators](#)
[Jim's Story](#)
[Keeping Butterflies](#)
[Learner of the Year](#)
[Led Zeppelin](#)
[Leila's Long Walk](#)
[Llanidloes Fancy Dress](#)
[Martin's Memories](#)
[Memories from Bont](#)
[Motherhood - My View](#)
[My West Side Story](#)
[Observations of a Sea-Side Town.](#)
[Painting with Pammy](#)
[Prom Days](#)
[Retraining, Recycling](#)
[Storm Chasing](#)
[Student Life](#)
[Superstar DJ](#)
[The Great Storm](#)
[The Illustrator](#)
[The Warden](#)
[The storm of 1937](#)
[Thousand Mile Walk](#)
[Whitbread Writer](#)
[Young Carer](#)
[Young playwright](#)

[Ask a Local](#)
[Digital Stories](#)
[Poetry](#)
[Talking Points](#)
[Your Stories](#)

related www links

[Ian Gomm's website](#)
[My Space - Ian Gomm](#)

The BBC is not responsible for the content of external websites



- [BBC Local](#)
- [Mid Wales](#)
- [Things to do](#)
- [People & Places](#)
- [Nature & Outdoors](#)
- [History](#)
- [Religion & Ethics](#)
- [Arts & Culture](#)
- [Music](#)
- [TV & Radio](#)
- Local BBC Sites**
- [News](#)
- [Sport](#)
- [Weather](#)
- [Travel](#)

- Neighbouring Sites**
- [North East Wales](#)
- [North West Wales](#)
- [South East Wales](#)
- [South West Wales](#)

- Related BBC Sites**
- [Wales](#)
- [Cymru](#)
- [Canolbarth](#)

your comments

Yati Mayor from Glasgow

Listening to the double LP of the 1st 2 BS releases for the first time. Lovin it even the scratches. County Girl, Hymm to me, Old Jarrow you can only love them. Got into Brinsley through The Rumour & Nick Lowe through Costello. What a quality bunch of songs with nods to Gram Parsons The Band The Byrds. Good to read all the comments of how much BS were loved live & on record. Always loved Nicks voice.

Tue Feb 16 09:09:59 2010

Ray Davies from Folkestone

I don't remember attending any gigs at Maidstone Art College around 1970, but was aware of Brinsley Schwartz, and remember Steve Lovering since we both went to Ponty Grammar and Maidstone. I bought a second hand album called "Original Golden Greats" around 30 years ago because I remembered Nick Lowe was in the band. It must have been around the time that Breaking Glass was released. Speaking about bands from the past, a Maidstone stalwart called Dave Blossie used to follow Kimla Taz in Merthyr-small world!

Wed Oct 28 10:00:28 2009

Bill Mould North Vancouver Canada

I am from Vancouver but went to London on holiday in 1971 and forgot to come back until 1989. I was a big fan of The Brinsleys and saw them play live quite a few times - including once at The Rainbow supporting The Sweet. Yes, The Sweet! I hasten to add that I was only there to see Brinsley Schwartz. I was actually at The Brinsley's farewell gig at the Marquee Club. Highlight of that night for me was 'Private Number'. Remember Nick Lowe at the end of the night saying something like "Anybody want to buy a used PA? It's going cheap". It was sad. I was also a big fan of Graham Parker and the Rumour and saw G.P. at the Commodore Ballroom in Vancouver. He was supported by Pierce Turner who just blew the crowd away. So, in a long roundabout way, I would like The Brinsleys for introducing me to Pierce Turner. In fact, I would just like to thank them period.

Wed Aug 26 09:53:36 2009

Marie Boatman, Maidstone

Great fan of you all, my sister Joan and her friend Lyn were your groupies they used to meet up with you at your gigs and chat, I have been a great fan since Joan took me to see you and meet you way back in the early 70s, I have a treasured album from you all on my 16th birthday you all signed the album nervous on the road

Thu Jun 11 10:54:17 2009

Joe Ickenham

Hi Reutsch, I think the track you are after is "Old Jarrow" from their album "Despite it all" You should be able to pick it up easily enough.

Tue Mar 17 16:45:07 2009

Ruetsch Bruno from Nantes France

I've been searching a masterpiece unknown for nearly 40 years, heard on an anonymous tape, lyrics begin by "Dink all day/dreamed all night/where an old girl was born/... " With Google I probably find today the band (Brinsley Schwarz ?) , I must now ask from which album it comes...

Wed Mar 11 10:05:41 2009

Rick Blears, Altrincham, Cheshire

The Great Brindsley Schwartz Hype was, sadly, all my fault. I suggested it and it seemed like a brilliant idea at the time. I have two points to make about the almost universal condemnation it sparked at the time and that has continued ever since. First, we took the enormous risk (and put in the Herculean amount of work and belief it took to get the thing to happen) for one reason. We believed in the bands music absolutely and believed they couldn't fail to become musical legends. Second, with the world's media at their feet at the Fillmore East, they played an absolutely crap gig. Tame,%! 20lifeless and hesitant. The other acts on the bill that night blew them away. Spending the next 35 years blaming me for the band's lack of success won't change that. When it really mattered they couldn't repeat the music they turned on like clockwork in the pubs, clubs and studios back in the UK. In a phrase, they bottled it... None of this changes the fact that they were capable of producing the most delicious rock music...on their day. Nobody hyped anybody. We just loved them a little too much and believed their musical magic would be delivered professionally on tap. All we asked was for them to play. Let's hope that puts the record straight.

Thu Dec 4 16:49:52 2008

Phil Witty from Saundersfoot.

Just came across this article, I remember seeing Brinsley Schwarz in the Afon Lido, mid seventies, Taste were supposed to headline, but when we arrived , it was announced that they had broken up, I was really looking forward to seeing Rory Gallagher, I can also remember The Keef Hartley band playing, with Miller Anderson on lead vocals, whom I recently seen again playing with Spencer Davies, supporting Dave Edmunds in Newport, to recap, it was a great day at the Lido, always impressed with B.Schwarz, very professional.

Thu Nov 13 09:47:04 2008

Steve Stephens Weybridge

I am heading for the wrong side of 50-ish and my son Joby is into making short films and music videos. A band he has recently (last year) shot some footage of is called "Ammunition" they hail from the West Country. It's the fact that he has their album playing in the background that has prompted this addition... Everytime I hear Ammunition I think of "Ballad of a has been..." It is probably more likely my memory playing tricks as it a long time since I heard any Brindsley stuff. But I am going to look and see what is available.

Wed Nov 12 09:28:39 2008

Daniel Coffey (now San Francisco)

But what about Cochise and Bees Make Honey - what great stuff was played in the humble bars of London in those days...D

Mon Sep 1 09:27:00 2008

Glynn from New malden

Hi. Do you remember Dave Reeves (my dad) who supplied your band with Hiwatt amps? My mum remembers you.

Sun Jul 20 13:22:04 2008

Geoff Nunn, Leeds

Good to find this page So many memories. The gig in ? Holland Park when there was a bomb scare. The landlord grabbed the mike and said get out. The band stopped - we all formed an orderly queue and got a couple of pints each.

Bob took his sax, Billy a drum and then out we went into the street. My sister used to babysit for Brinsley and Berenice in the Carew Road days (went down there recently - its all flats now). Nick dedicated a song on a BBC session to "Shell the belle and uncanny Canny". Where is Malcolm Hardy Addison now? Got the "Cruel to be Kind" CD of BBC sessions. How did Poac her get onto the BBC session version of Egypt? All the best to all of you.

Thu Mar 20 09:14:59 2008

Dave Shaw from Eastbourne

Was lucky to move to London at beginning of the seventies and saw the BRINSLEYS many times .. have a couple of pics I took at the KENSINGTON pub and MARQUEE gigs. Does anyone remember the great gig at HAMMERSMITH PALAIS with DAVE EDMUNDS and does a tape exist?? Many thanks to IAN for all the truly wonderful concerts and if I remember right they were billed as BERT and the ELECTRICIANS that night at the ROUNDHOUSE when wearing the fab tartan jackets !!

Fri Feb 22 09:34:05 2008

Steve Lovering from London

Good to read you're still making music Ian and in my homeland too. Loved the Brinsleys since they were regulars at Maidstone art school dances back in the late 60's. Then never missed a London pub gig or the opportunity to prop up the Dingwalls bar with Nick Lowe. They're a national treasure and should recognized as such.

Tue Jan 29 13:04:01 2008

mike158, tony158, Bangkok

I bought the double sampler album "All Good Clean Fun" in either late 71 or early 72. Brinsley Schwarz's "Funk Angel" was on side 3. I got rid of the album sometime in the mid 70s - as one unfortunately does - but I recently found a website featuring the said sampler album: As soon as I saw the name "Brinsley Schwarz", the track I mention immediately came back to me: In particular the dominating rythum guitar and (double-dubbed) vocals. Best regards to all.

Mon Jan 28 13:26:17 2008

Gary Davies Aberdare

Hi All, Last Nov 07 I was in New Orleans and I tracked down Bob Andrews (Brinsley keyboards) via his website prior to leaving. Met up with him, what a great guy, we had lunch in 'Napoleons', original place to eat and he took myself and my wife on a tour of the flood devastation area (lower 9th). So good to talk about the old days, long live The Brinsleys. He now plays piano in bars, hotels and he seems happy with it - good on him I say. He is still recording with Allen Toussaint, Elvis Costello etc. A great day to remember - Thanks Bob.

Sat Jan 19 13:59:12 2008

TS Smith from Houston

Picked up 'Brinsley Schwarz' and 'Despite it All' while at college in 1970/71 and was immediately hooked. Incredibly good music still to this day. Unfortunate to have never seen live. Big fan of Ian Gomm also. 'What a Blow' and 'Gomm with the Wind' were stellar LP's.

Fri Jan 18 08:34:16 2008

Paolo Venturino - Milano Italy

Hi, I love the Despite It All album and by the way I'm trying to play Ebury Down that fits my vocal range. Unfortunately I'm not able to find all the chords of it. Does someone know

where to find them ? Thanks.

Sun Nov 4 19:21:30 2007

Blair Davis from New York

The UK rock and pub rock scene of the 70s is my favorite period in music. Artists such as Brinsley Schwarz, Dave Edmunds, The Records, Graham Parker, Elvis Costello and Kursaal Flyers were able to cross over into other genres, including punk rock, alt country, power pop and classic rock. Present day here in the USA, artists such as Graham Parker, Elvis Costello and The Records (with singer John Wicks) are keeping the music alive and well by making new albums and playing live gigs. I would like more information if Ian Gomm and Nick Lowe ever plan to tour or record a new album with Brinsley Schwarz!

Mon Oct 22 08:04:38 2007

Bob Barrett, Sunderland

Saw Brinsley Schwartz many times. Most memorable was at Birmingham University end of semester ball in 1972. They came on late in the evening/early morning & played acoustic in the library to keep the noise down but agreed to play the following day outdoors in the University grounds. It was a fabulous day & they were terrific & I have been a fan ever since. Just bought Silver Pistol/Please Don't Ever Change CD to replace my vynals.

Sun Oct 14 11:02:30 2007

John Medd, Nottingham UK

I'm currently in negotiations with Ian and a couple of publishers with a view to putting out Ian's [auto]biography. If anyone out there has flyers, programmes, ticket stubs etc and wouldn't mind scanning them for me I'd be very grateful. Thank you.

Mon Aug 13 11:42:36 2007

Ant from, Rhaeadr

I was a founder member of Greasy Truckers we had quite a lot to do with the Brinsleys and Dave Robinson and we promoted the Roundhouse gig and a lot more in West London in the early seventies. Incidentally Hawkwind recorded their hit single Silver machine at our roundhouse gig,(See the first Greasy Truckers album). Good to hear Ian is a fellow emigre and not that far from us (and still playing!)

Sun Jul 22 21:12:23 2007

James Wright

By the time I was one year old you had broken up but as a teenager I raided my mums record collection and found the Bryn album. Immediately converted all my mates into huge fans,your music had, and still has a massive influence(we play it a lot). By weird chance my mate ended up working with Bryn in a music shop in Kew and my brother did landscape gardening for Nick! My mum knew Nick in his youth and said she was "the girl from Bristol town" who left with the drummer instead" (rock and roll woman) Something I was looking for the chords for which led me hear. Great stuff, if any one knows how to play it let me know...

Wed Jul 11 09:26:22 2007

70s live music fan from Cardiff

Wish those days would come back, when you could go to your local town hall and see a bill of four or five great bands for about the price of an LP. Nowadays you have to fork out about 4x the price of a CD just to see some group who've only been formed a couple of months.

Thu Jun 7 09:27:28 2007

steve-liverpool

have lyrics to b o a h b b q for guy in atlanta.

Wed Feb 14 09:30:52 2007

Jim, Atlanta, GA USA

Have listened to them since '78. Where can i find lyrics and chords to Nightingale and Ballad of a Has Been Beauty Queen? Any suggestions are greatly appreciated.

Mon Dec 4 08:04:43 2006

Allan Bishop, Cannock Staffs

Great to see so many memories of the brinsleys truly a great band if you havent heard any of ian gomms stuff give your ears a treat he has and still is making some great music thakns ian love to know if bob andrews is still gigging.

Tue Nov 14 09:27:11 2006

Brian McCausland from Hampshire

BS were undoubtedly the best live band I ever saw - by far! ...and one of the few outfits to play in Belfast in the early 70s where I saw them a few times at Queen's University. Fantastic memories - I too would pay a small fortune for a reunion gig!

Mon Nov 13 10:03:28 2006

Phil Linnell, Cheltenham, Malvern

My introduction to live music was seeing the Brinsley's at Cheltenham, certainly the town hall and the Pavillion Club? '73 -'74, Some times with Man, Budgie, Ducks DeLuxe or any combination. The greatest inspiration for a budding guitar player like me, now 30 years later. I still remember these gigs even though I have none of the records. Still feelin the feelin, love to see a re-union!!Bless you.

Wed Sep 20 09:14:27 2006

Lonnie - Minneapolis USA

Saw them a ton of times with my Dad, I was under age. My Dad was and is still good pals with one Declan MacManus (AKA Elvis Costello)- Great Songs and Fab Shows for a 12 year old.

Wed Aug 23 09:42:44 2006

John Connors..Dublin

I remember seeing the boys do a gig in Liberty Hall Dublin in about 1972. They had just acquired a new sound system which had a wonderful crisp, clear sound unlike the thumping distorted feedback which would have been pretty common at the time. It was a truly memorable gig. One thing that struck me was how little movement they did around the stage. Very concetrated on their playing. Nowadays people cant stand still for a minute. The punks took this jumping around to new levels. Also remember Bob Andrews playing keyboard with one arm in plaster. When I think of some of the reasons given for canceling gigs nowadays. If the lads are having a reunion, don't forget Dublin.

Thu Jul 27 13:57:03 2006

Graham Maddrell - Liverpool

No doubt about it - even 30+ yaers on, Brinsley Schwarz still holds a place in my heart as one of my favourite bands ever. Cruelly underrated - more than just pub rock - they were very influential on a lot of people, certainly for me as influential as The Band. Saw them loads, met them a few

times (mainly in Liverpool at Liverpool Stadium, The Cavern, Empire, Liverpool Polytechnic etc) and being a naughty boy, I taped all of these gigs on my cassette player and still have them today. You may think this is over the top but Silver Pistol ranks up there with Sgt Peppers, Live Dead etc - simply great! Hope all the boys are doing well, but would pay a fortune for a reunion gig - what about it? By the way, nice to see Allan Mayes wrote in on this forum. Knew Allan years and years ago, played in bands on same circuit as his bands - Rusty, Restless! Allan if you ever read this again how are you mate? I'm still in the same place so why not try and get in touch, if not have a nose at <http://harkmatilda.tripod.com> for a bit of nostalgia. Anyway, good luck to Ian and keep on doing what you're doing!

The BBC is not responsible for the content of external websites.

Mon May 22 15:27:56 2006

Paul from Glasgow

I only ever saw them once - at Bickershaw. After a miserable night of rain, sitting in the mud waiting for the Dead to appear a few hours later - the Brinsleys came on, the rain stopped and they were utterly magical

Thu Mar 23 21:54:10 2006

steve lambert -liverpool

simply the finest band ever-every night. albums of unbelievable quality with songs that could melt your spine or make your neck sweat. saw this band about twenty times and always so friendly and willing to talk - they didn't like touring with Al Stewart and were glad to nip out for a pint. Now I'm down at heel and my complications bad but the Brins just make me feel gladder than glad. Best and worst night ever -last ever live gig at Marquee I think - the boys had us all rockin up and down the aisle and played to a standard sublime even for them. Five different guys who just combined to make it as good as it can get and that is thirty years on. thanks lads.

Tue Mar 14 22:49:19 2006

Lawlsie in Leek, but formerly of south London..

Many happy memories of going to various Brinsley gigs in the early 70s. One sticks out, the Roundhouse, north London, around Christmas, 1974. They all came on stage wearing red tartan jackets they'd bought for their recent tour of Scotland. And Nick Lowe made a sarky comment about the 'chart success' for Peace, Love and Understanding and the fame that inevitably followed. I mention the Roundhouse because it was recently on the news. Has had a facelift, apparently, and has studio and rehearsal facilities for up and coming young bands. Seems fitting. Ian, you were ALWAYS my fave Brinsley! Good to hear you're doing so well. Wales is a great country. Me & my other half holiday there twice a year. Who needs abroad, eh? Keep on trucking, maaan.

Mon Feb 6 23:17:56 2006

Denis Knowles Maidstone

First let me say hello to Iam Gomm. As Ian knows, I was head of marketing at United Artists, but not responsible for the terrible hype that I was confronted with when I came back to the office after the Easter break only to find a copy of Brinsley Schwartz on my desk. Fame Pushers, Brinsley's management, set up the whole hype. My job was to pick up the pieces, working closely with Dave Robinson on the Despite It All album. Something however did come from the hype. Doctor Sam Hutt was on the flight top New York. Sam worked next door to UA's offices in the Family Planning

Clinic. Some time later I was to help set up BJ Coles Cow Pie label with Sam, now Hank Wangford, releasing his first album Jogging With Jesus. Incidentally, Sam wanted to use the name Wankford, but on my advice changed it as I feared that it would be impossible to get his name mentioned on the Beeb. Ian, if you are readin this you can contact me on Denisknowles@aol.com Regards Denis
Fri Feb 3 14:47:10 2006

Jaime Benavides from Madrid

Brinsley Schwarz and what came later (Parker+The Rumour) has been the best rock band ever. I'm 41 now and have more than 2000 vinyls. Next will be BS lost sessions. Keep it up.

Wed Jan 25 20:11:50 2006

Allan Mayes, Austin , Texas

I was always a big fan of the Brinslies and saw them every time they were in the Liverpool area between 70-73. As a novice musician at the time I used to drag my singing partner along to see them until he eventually became a convert. We made friends with Nick and the boys even though we were only 17 years old. My partner eventually moved to London and renewed his friendship with Nick and the band. Oh, by the wayhe changed his name to Elvis Costello shortly after.

Fri Nov 11 00:19:57 2005

Bruce Pennington/Milford Haven, Wales/New Orleans,

Turned on to BS shortly after arriving back in the States (Aug.'70) post 6 years various locales Spain/Morocco/Wales. Never got to see a live gig, but have all the vinyl. Esp. like the art-work on the double and all the tunes everywhere. Right up there with the Byrds, Flying Burrito Bros., and the like. Did someone say reunion?

Wed Jul 6 22:23:47 2005

Alan Harley Southport

Heaths, Wellington, Telford, 1974ish. Such a happy atmosphere and it didn't matter that you didn't know the band. 30 years later I've got all the music and agree that they're overdue for reforming. Also remember them for being happy and willing to talk to anyone at the bar before a gig. Great band.

Fri Jul 1 12:19:48 2005

Jim Minnesota USA

I got into the band via the bargain bin at record shops in Boston as a kid. They had a following that got even more happening after the Stiff/Elvis Costello stuff got out. You could turn up the lps cut out or used, and that is how I got into them. They had the tunes, and they could rock. Can't say any better about a band from back then. Never saw them live as this was all after the fact.

Mon Jun 27 09:01:08 2005

Bill (Liverpool but originally Newport)

I discovered this thread when i was google-ing for "Kensington Court Club". I fondly remember seeing BS three times in Newport, the first at a church hall gig promoted by my mate's brother (Johnnie Perkins) then there were gigs at the Nash College and the Kensington Court Club as well. They were a fine hard-working band who deserved better than they achieved - there was a gig to break the band when the record company flew out UK rock journalists to a showcase gig in America. The journos got blitzed and didn't write good reviews of the gig and this put a damper on the

fortunes of the band. A real shame.

Fri Apr 29 23:44:23 2005

Gary - Aberdare

Hi Tony, I was speaking to Alan earlier today and asked him about 'chicken'. He said that it was him, dating back to his tax office days. I believe you are a guitarist/flautist and that you were into 'jingles'. Small world. He's just laid down some tracks, must have a listen. Did you see 'Brinsleys' live anywhere else? I still hope for a reunion - Mr.Gomm, has this ever been discussed ? I once spoke to you in Barry Memorial Hall and in Newport. I remember - bet you don't!!

Mon Mar 14 19:47:29 2005

Antony K

Hi again - should have mentioned that the latest copy of the magazine 'Uncut' features a free tribute CD to music influenced by 'The Band'. On it is a live version of 'Silver Pistol'.

Fri Mar 11 17:15:24 2005

Anntony K

Hi Gary from Aberdare - 'Chicken' was Alan Price, the bass player and singer. Left the band and joined the police!!!!!! He's now in a band called 'Kiss This'. Strange old life.

Fri Mar 11 17:08:22 2005

Ian Gomm from Mid Wales

Thanks to everyone who has posted their memories of Brinsley Schwarz so far. It's great to know that I'm not the only one who enjoyed them (and I was only a member the group)! Just published - the previously unreleased Brinsley Schwarz "It's All Over Now" album recorded from the original master tapes. It was thought by many fans to have been lost, and contains the original Brinsley Schwarz version of "Cruel To Be Kind" which Nick Lowe and I wrote. I am currently working on a new CD compilation of unreleased Ian Gomm tracks called "Sorry For The Slight Delay".

Sat Mar 5 11:39:14 2005

Gary - Aberdare

Hi Tony, Good to read your message. I was there at the Afan Lido gig (May 1970) Keef Hartley had his 'big band' that night and it was a great gig. As stated in my previous message, I hope 'Brinsleys' get it together for one more time. You have me stumped over 'Chicken'- who is he ? I am still in contact with most of the guys - now there is a band who should have gone on to bigger things. Hope you read this message.

Sat Mar 5 09:13:53 2005

Tony - Aberdare

Hi - Saw Brinsley Schwarz in the Afon Lido in Aberavon in 1970'ish? I think at around that time you had just come back from USA. Had only read about you guys & the associated 'hype' in the Melody Maker.... All I can say is that you were absolutely superb. I can still remember parts of the set even now - including Bob Andrews' big 'Lesley' speakers! Also on the bill were - Atomic Rooster, Writing on the Wall, Keef Hartley..... At 52 the memory is fading some what. One of my all time favourite albums is 'Despite It All' & the reason that I've ended up here tonight is that I've just ordered a double package of the 1st album + 'DIA' and I thought "I wonder what they're doing these days?". Funny old life. Oh, "Gary from Aberdare" - 'Ohibo Paronti' - I used to work with 'Chicken' a long time ago. Saw him Tesco's last week - Rock 'n' Roll!

Thu Feb 17 22:47:43 2005

Rob, Dingle peninsula S.W Ireland

For Colin from Shrewsbury who above mentions the free festival. Well 'man' I think it may have been Harmony farm in Kent. The 1st. one lost about £600 so a second was staged 2or 3 weeks later also FREE (yes those days really did exist) and cut the loss to about £200 overall. About 5000 at each festival, not to mention the roach eating goat! Regarding 'Nightingale' a beautiful song, indeed one of the loveliest songs I know, "Last night I heard a nightingale She sang not 3(?)yards from my head" It always makes me smile - its the MALE nightingale that sings the songs! Anyways its still a beautiful song, and for my money 1 of the best Nick ever wrote. I lived with them for a year or so 70/71ish Real ordinary people, with some extraordinary music. And 1 last thing which warms my heart,3 of them still married to the same partner. Like their music it kind of puts a different slant on things or helps (re)define rockn'roll. Good luck to you's all

Mon Jan 24 22:40:38 2005

Janet R

I'd never heard of Brinsley Schwarz until I moved next door to him 5 years ago. (I'm too young, you see!). Brinsley introduced my 16 year old son to electric guitars and now he wants to form a rock band. I know that Brinsley is gigging again, interested?

Wed Dec 15 10:12:00 2004

Steve Japan

Also a big fan who always enjoyed seeing tha band. Most surreal occasion was at the Edinburgh music festival when they were supporting the Incredible string band in a midnight concert. Anyway, the Brinsleys didn't turn up in time so the ISB went on first. When they finished most people went home, and I found myself almost alone watching BS at 2 in the morning, with only a few sleepy drunks for company.

Tue Oct 19 04:38:02 2004

colin in shrewsbury

Brinsleys - what a band. Saw them many times and they never failed to deliver. But one gig stans out. at a small free festival (man!!) somewhere south west of london - they performed for some unknown reason to the backdrop of a porn film!!!! and if my memory serves me well they were giving out ciggies from the stage. like i said what a band. now howz about a reunion?

Tue Sep 21 20:51:52 2004

John Barry, Paris

Great but underrated band. Nightingale is a very special song but there is one line in it which I just can't make out. Can someone please send me the lyrics? I want to perform this song at a party and impress the guests (as well as myself)!

Fri Aug 13 08:46:37 2004

John - Pittsburgh Pa USA

I've never seen the band but I've all the vinyl. While a lot of the popular music of vatiuous "ages" has become unlistenable the music of this band in its beauty, simplicity and honesty just goes on. The kind of stuff that defines why there are such things as 'cult bands'.

Fri May 21 15:33:58 2004

Sparky - Cwmbran

I first saw the Brinsleys at the Paget Rooms Penarth in the Winter of 1971 and went on to see them In Newport (Kensington Court Club), Cardiff University, a club in Swansea (can't remember the name but Speedoo was the single at the time) and the Cardiff Top Rank. They were easily the best band at the time and probably the best I've ever seen. I have a recording of them live at the Top Rank and would be willing to swap if anyone else has any live Brinsley stuff out there. Cheers, Sparky
Sun May 2 19:40:32 2004

Gary Davies from Aberdare

Having been a life-long Brinsley Boy, the biggest treat was going to see Macca in the old 'Capitol Theatre' in Cardiff and to hear the announcement that 'To open, we have the best 'rock'n roll band in Britain - Brinsley Schwarz'. That night I sang myself sore and it surely was a night to remember. Years later, I managed a local band 'Ohibo Paronti' and travelling to one London gig the guitarist had to visit some guy to buy a new amp. On arrival, we were greeted by Brinsley himself, painting his garden fence. Now that's what you call 'a small world'. One day we can all hope for a reunion of the Brinsley's.
Fri Apr 9 14:25:48 2004

Kieran from Århus, Denmark

'..last night I heard a nightingale sing...' This song haunts me - I need the lyrics + chords!! Please
Tue Feb 10 11:34:17 2004

Alan from Stockport

Just about the best live band we saw in the seventies. I saw brinsley's loads of time listening to "home in my hand" as i write absolutely wonderful.
Tue Jan 6 22:43:23 2004

RUPE Londinium

Sorry to be a predant/pedant but I could have sworn that the Hypocrite that Ian and the Brinsley's used to play was a cover of the Bob Marley classic. I think it was either on Natty Dread or Catch a Fire. Forgive me if I'm wrong Allen/Alan (delete button won't work), they may have done another song of the same title but I've only heard them do Bob's tune.
Mon Dec 29 19:29:55 2003

Peter & Pam from Peterborough

Pam and I were what you might call Brinsley Groupies in the 1970's. Our very first introduction to the band was at the Bickershaw Festival, where the Grateful Dead topped the bill. Brinsley Schwarz had an early morning spot so probably did not attract the same level of attention, however their fresh and original style made them many friends on the day. At the time we lived in Liverpool and one of the first gigs we attended was at the original Liverpool Cavern. Over the next few years we saw the band whenever they were in town and wherever else we could afford to travel to see them. We saw them at a venue in Sheffield, just after Nick had announced that they had dropped 'Country Girl' from set list playlist as the band thought it had had its day. Not so - as the gig came towards it's close, yours truly took up the chant and within a few seconds the entire audience was shouting for the song. Funnily enough it always seems to have been included from then on. We were eventually on first name terms and were occasionally invited backstage. I can remember Ian teaching me chord sequence to 'Peace Love

and Understanding'- who would have believed at the time it would have been a hit.

Tue Dec 23 17:38:23 2003

Marc from Worcester

Great information on Brinsley Schwarz in the book "no sleep till canvey island by Will Birch" - essential reading for all fans of pub rock.

Wed Nov 19 00:13:45 2003

Allan Bishop from Cannock

I've been a Brinsley Schwarz fan since early on - used to see them whenever they played the Midlands. I'm a hammond organ player and loved Bob's playing, esp on Hypocrite that Ian wrote, also Surrender to the Rhythm and Country Girl. Used to play them in our set. My best mate who is no longer with us used to be big fan so when i play a Brinsley track, brings back great memories. Loved the way they were so laid back. Thanks for the great music guys.

Tue Oct 28 11:36:14 2003

This site is now closed and cannot accept new comments.

[BBC Homepage](#)
[Wales Home](#)

Going Solo

Last updated: 03 August 2007

Read more about how **Ian Gomm from Powys** developed a career as a solo artist after rock band Brinsley Schwarz split up - and how one of his songs made it to Number One in the Spanish charts.



"I was signed by the newly formed independent Albion record label based in London. My first solo album entitled 'Summer Holiday' was released in the UK in 1978 and the following year the same album now called 'Gomm with the Wind' was released on Stiff/Epic Records in North America.

A single from the album 'Hold On' took off on college radio and eventually climbed to number 12 in the U.S. Hot 100. For over 5 months I toured and played all the top venues in the U.S. attracting audiences of 20,000 or more!

I recorded my self-produced fourth album 'What Makes A Man A Man?' in 1986 at my home studio, with additional studio re-mixing in Holland.

I then spent the next few years writing new songs and finishing the building and wiring of yet another recording studio, this time on top of a Welsh mountain - Mountain Sound Studio.

After years of producing and engineering I was finally lured back into recording my songs again. It was here that I recorded my 'Crazy For You' album, which was released worldwide in 1997 on the Japanese MSI label.

The song 'Cruel To Be Kind' which I co-wrote with Nick Lowe back in our Brinsley days has been featured in three recent American film releases: 'Dead Man's Curve' (Mount Royal) in 1998, '200 Cigarettes' (Lakeshore) and 'Ten Things I Hate About You' (Touchstone) in 1999. It's also been featured on numerous '70s' compilation CDs in both Europe and America.

I was back at Mountain Sound Studio in Mid Wales in summer 2000 laying down 12 new backing tracks for my latest album "Rock 'N' Roll Heart". Two Nashville musicians, Jeff 'Stick' Davis, The Amazing Rhythm Aces' bass player, and Pat McInerney, drummer with 'The Blue Moon Orchestra', Nanci Griffith's band, both flew over from the States especially for the project.

I then flew back to Nashville, Tennessee in November 2000 where the rest of the album was recorded and mixed. Russell Smith ('The Amazing Rhythm Aces' singer) and Nanci Griffith are both featured singing with myself whilst Clive Gregson, who used to be in 'Any Trouble' and 'The Richard Thompson Band' for many years, plays most of the electric guitar and keyboards. The album was re-mastered at Nashville in Spring 2001 and finally released in Summer of 2001 with artwork

[more from this section](#)

My Story

[A Week in Westminster](#)
[Abigail's Orang-utans](#)
[Back into the big bad world...](#)
[Bah! Humbug!](#)
[Beard and Booze](#)
[Belonging](#)
[Brinsley Schwarz](#)
[Calendar Girl](#)
[Class of '53](#)
[Don't cry for me Aberaeron](#)
[God Bless the Cambrian News!](#)
[History Hunter](#)
[Internet Innovators](#)
[Jim's Story](#)
[Keeping Butterflies](#)
[Learner of the Year](#)
[Led Zeppelin](#)
[Leila's Long Walk](#)
[Llanidloes Fancy Dress](#)
[Martin's Memories](#)
[Memories from Bont](#)
[Motherhood - My View](#)
[My West Side Story](#)
[Observations of a Sea-Side Town.](#)
[Painting with Pammy](#)
[Prom Days](#)
[Retraining, Recycling](#)
[Storm Chasing](#)
[Student Life](#)
[Superstar DJ](#)
[The Great Storm](#)
[The Illustrator](#)
[The Warden](#)
[The storm of 1937](#)
[Thousand Mile Walk](#)
[Whitbread Writer](#)
[Young Carer](#)
[Young playwright](#)

[Ask a Local](#)
[Digital Stories](#)
[Poetry](#)
[Talking Points](#)
[Your Stories](#)



[BBC Local Mid Wales](#)
[Things to do](#)
[People & Places](#)
[Nature & Outdoors](#)
[History](#)

[Religion & Ethics](#)
[Arts & Culture](#)
[Music](#)
[TV & Radio](#)

Local BBC Sites

[News](#)
[Sport](#)
[Weather](#)
[Travel](#)

Neighbouring Sites

[North East Wales](#)
[North West Wales](#)
[South East Wales](#)
[South West Wales](#)

Related BBC Sites

[Wales](#)
[Cymru](#)
[Canolbarth](#)

specially drawn by Dutch artist Nick Kaptein.

August 2002 saw my first chart-topping songwriting success when 'Cruel To Be Kind' was this time covered by Spanish teen idol Nam Thomas and was number one in the Spanish singles charts. The single was taken from Nam's album "No Tengo Prisa" which was also number one in the Spanish album charts.



In October 2002 a UK record label, Hux Records, released my first live CD titled '24 Hour Service'. This was a 1979 concert recorded in San Francisco whilst the band were on our second US tour.

To date I have recorded 11 solo albums and 13 solo singles. I have also branched out into the lucrative British football club record market by notching up tracks on twelve different football supporters club CDs including Scottish World Cup Anthems (also featuring Rod Stewart) and the latest Manchester United supporters club CD where I appear as Red Deville!" ***Ian Gomm from Llanfair Caereinion.***

- To read Ian Gomm's story from the beginning, [click here](#).
- To read more about people's memories of King's Hall before it's demolition in 1989 [click here](#) .

Archive Terms of Use

This document is made available for archival or reference purposes and should only be used for private (non-commercial) purposes. These pages may contain materials or content which do not belong to the BBC and in particular materials or content which belong to members of the public whose identities may or may not be known. Whilst the BBC had the necessary rights, permissions and clearances to include and publish them as part of the former 'Where I Live' BBC website, the BBC may not have the right to allow users to use, copy or exploit them or to distribute them to others. No such usage is permitted and the BBC cannot process requests for permission to do so. For more information about deleted or discontinued web pages on the BBC, go to: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/help/web/mothballing/>