

UNDERCOVER FESTIVAL

2025 (SOUTH ESSEX)



OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

26 & 27 SEPT 2025

**THE SHOWGROUND, BATTLESBRIDGE
ANTIQUES, CENTRE, NR WICKFORD, ESSEX**

ON ARRIVAL / WRISTBAND EXCHANGE

GETTING TO UNDERCOVER:

Everyone is asked to try and get to the festival if you can by public transport, taxi or car share.

This helps us manage the site more effectively to the benefit and safety of all. See page 5 for a list of local taxi firms.

Drop off and pick up outside the Nerd Base only please this is near the main entrance to the Antiques Centre SS11 7RF.

DARTFORD TUNNEL: If you are crossing the Dartford Tunnel to the festival. PLEASE NOTE THAT you need to pay the Dartford Crossing Charge by Midnight the day after you cross. Pay by using the link below <https://www.gov.uk/pay-dartford-crossing-charge>

ADMITTANCE TO UNDERCOVER

ADMITTANCE is by advance ticket ONLY, no tickets will be available at the festival site for sale "on the door", but if any tickets are left then they will be available online only up to 9pm each day.

WHAT ARE THE OPENING / CLOSING / RE-ENTRY TIMES:

In order to manage the site effectively and in a safe manner no admittance or readmittance after 9pm each day.

Campsite access (see right) ...

Friday 26th Sept 2025: Doors: 2.30pm // First band on 3:15pm

Saturday 27th Sept 2025: Doors: 12 mid day // First band on 12:40pm

ON ARRIVAL: have your tickets (paper and online) ready at ticket exchange, if in a car you may be directed to the car park and then asked to walk back to ticket exchange.

CARS: While on site to parking please keep your speed to no more than 5mph and have your hazard lights on.

CAMPING AND CAMPERVANS

Campsite is accessible for 2 day ticket holders only from 10.30am on the 26th.

On arrival you will be directed to the campsite. No cars will be permitted on the campsite, so you will have to park up and unload.

Please no camping in the middle as we need to keep that clear for emergency vehicle access.

Ideally campervans should be on site if at all possible before mid day (26th), campervans are asked to drive no faster than 5 mph and have hazard lights on when driving through the campsite to set up.

NO access to setting up camping on the Saturday as camping is for 2 day ticket holders only.

This is necessary so that the site can be managed safely.

NO FIRES OR BBQS ARE PERMITTED ON THE CAMPSITE.

PLEASE NOTE: While there are shops a short driving distance away there are none on site for general groceries.

STAYING ON SITE BEFORE OR AFTER THE FESTIVAL: If you have a 2 day ticket for the festival camping / campervans is part of the ticket for the Friday and Saturday nights other nights you will have to book through the venue.

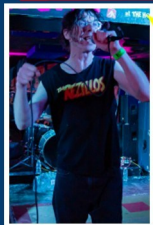
This is the website address <https://www.battlesbridge.com/stay/caravan-and-camping-site>

STAGE TIMES see pages 8, 9 and 10.

Other announcements and safety measures see page 5.

ALL other FAQs etc see www.undercoverfest.com

FINALLY: We are all here to have fun, keep safe everyone and see ya down the front or at the bar!



Dick Lucas - Subhumans

"Undercover festivals are always a good crack, and Mick always gets a great lineup sorted, the September one will be no exception!"

UNDERCOVER FESTIVAL

WELCOME
TO UNDERCOVER FESTIVAL (SOUTH ESSEX) 2025!

Undercover Festival, a genuine, small but proudly independent musical celebration of punk and alternative music including ska punk, post punk, Ska and much more.

Well once again we find ourselves at a new home for the festival.

Undercover 2024 in Guildford was a cracker, while all our regular gigs will remain in Surrey (see page 20) for various reasons I took the decision that we needed to move the festival and freshen it up a bit, with a view to where possible try and recreate some of the Bisley / "Undercover Family" feel back that we started with back in 2013.

I looked at a lot of places but primarily with camping, yes we looked at some locations other small events were at, that could have been easier to put Undercover on at, but I wanted something outside the box.

Battlesbridge Antiques Centre and all they have to offer there is a location that is certainly "outside the box" and will more or less be as unique as Bisley was, bar the early morning alarm of gunfire (if you were there you would know).

We live in difficult times, but we do our best to keep the music we love alive and with your support we will continue to do so.

Without the help of my very very patient wife Jen plus Jamie, Tash, Mikey & Eddie, Jack C, Zak, Keith, Sam and Ian, Ken, Payton, Shell, Sonya, Sean Q, Joe, Trev, along with a select band of trusted friends Undercover Festival would not have been possible; to them I give my thanks!

Also thanks to Ruth from Punctuation Magazine, Martin from Essex Live and definitely Richie from CCR (The 234 Punk Show!) for their support.

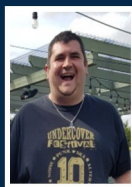
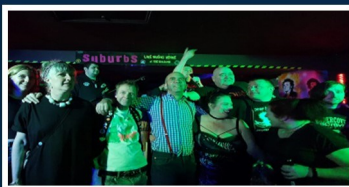
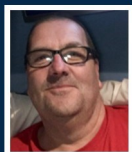
Thanks as well to all the bands, DJs, crew, everyone @ Battlebridge Antiques Centre, and of course YOU

SO... .. AS WE SAY AT UNDERCOVER!

SEE YA DOWN THE FRONT OR THESE DAYS AT THE BAR!

Have a great weekend

Mick & The Undercover Team



UNDERCOVER FESTIVAL 2025 (SOUTH ESSEX)



THE BEST EFFIN' PUNK MAG EVER!

PUNKTUATION!

PUNK NEWS | INTERVIEWS | FEATURES | REVIEWS

The team at **Punktuation Magazine** is proud to be supporting **Undercover Festival** for another glorious year, on this occasion at a new location, in sunny South Essex!

In our opinion, Undercover Festival is simply the **best** independent, small music festival in the UK.

With a sensational selection of bands, on-point organisation, appreciative audiences and great value gig tickets, you'd be hard pushed to find a better celebration of alternative music – this is why so many people return, year after year!

Our reviews, photos and videos of each day of last year's festival can be found at:

<https://www.punktuationmag.com/undercover-festival-day-1/>

We'll be reporting on both days of Undercover Festival 2025!

Keep an eye on our socials for updates, and please add **punktuationmag.com** to your regular music reading.

Enjoy every minute of Undercover Festival 2025!

www.punktuationmag.com



Eddie & the Hot Rods are excited to be playing Undercover Fest in Battlesbridge on Sept 26th / 27th.

So many great bands playing a great festival **on our home turf** and we can't wait!! -

Simon from Eddie & the Hot Rods

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND YOUR SAFETY AT UNDERCOVER THINGS WE ASK YOU TO BE AWARE OF AT UNDERCOVER

PLEASE NOTE: There are a full set of FAQs on the website that we ask everyone to check out as there may be matters for your attention not covered in this programme notice. Also see page 2. www.undercoverfest.com

FOOD AND DRINK: Are provided by the venue which includes vegan food delights. Please do not bring your own food & drink into the festival area (the campsite is fine though) as it pisses them off, plus your drink / food will be confiscated.

ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES: Drugs will not be tolerated. Anyone selling illegal substances will be handed over to the police. NO MESSING!

FIRST AID: If you are in need of first aid then speak to a member of the team or security immediately.

RESPONSIBLE DRINKING: No lecture from us about drinking as we are all here to have a good time, for your safety and the safety of others we ask that you know your limits and be responsible for your actions and drinking. Do not hesitate to ask Security or stewards for help if you think someone may need help.

We reserve the right to refuse entrance, evict and take away the wrist bands of anyone we think is intoxicated especially if they are a risk to themselves, others or the safety of the festival.

MUSIC AT UNDERCOVER IS GOING TO BE LOUD - PROTECT YOUR HEARING! We have some basic foam ear plugs - available on a first come first served basis.

SECURITY There will be 24 hour security on site. If you see or hear anything suspicious please report it to a member of security immediately.

DISABLED TICKET HOLDERS: We strive to do all we can to make Undercover as accessible as reasonably possible. As with any event where some of it is in the open, weather conditions and uneven ground in parts, on a grassed site, need to be taken into consideration, when using a wheelchair or mobility scooter, and for wet weather conditions, suitable clothing,

footwear, etc, is recommended. Further details see the FAQs on the website.

EMERGENCIES:

In case of an emergency it may be appropriate to stop the festival and evacuate the venue, please follow instructions that will be announced or from security.

In an Emergency:

Pease stay calm and follow instructions and evacuate in an orderly fashion

STAGE TIMES: Times are correct when we went to print. See announcements at ticket exchange for any changes.

Drop off and pick up outside the Nerd Base only please this is near the main entrance to the Antiques Centre SS11 7RF.

TAXIS:

Getting to your home / hotel / B&B is a lot easier if you get a cab.

Suggestions (not recommendations) of local cab firms below:

Wickford Taxis (Wickford) 1268272727

Happicabs (South Woodham Ferrers) 01245321321

Abba Cars (Rayleigh) 01268777300

Bestax (Rochford) 01268 777300

A&B Taxis (Basildon) – 01268555555

Steve's Radio Cars (Canvey Island / Benfleet) 0126875001

Value Cars (Basildon) 01268 525252

ABC Radio Taxis (Benfleet) 01268 556666

Southend Mini Cabs 01702 861998

Best Tax (Rayleigh) 01268 777300

5 Star Travel (Benfleet) 01268 566799

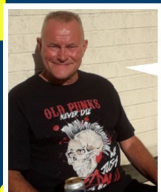
NEED ANYMORE INFORMATION?

Got a question? Speak to security or pop over to the ticket exchange area who will look at the best way to answer any questions.

FINALLY:

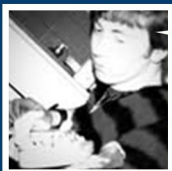
We are all here to have fun, lets look after each other; keep safe everyone and see ya down the front or at the bar!

What The People from some of the Undercover Family Say: We think its great at Undercover, but we would say the would we not. **BUT** what about friends of Undercover who come back every time!



I go to the Undercover Festival because it is the friendliest and great atmosphere, great sound system which complements the great choices of bands. **Chinner**

We have been to undercover festival for many years starting in Margate, the Dome and Boston music rooms, Guildford and now Battlesbridge. It's always friendly and we have gained many new friends who are more like family now, the music is always enjoyable and great. **Lis McNally**



Undercover has a great family feel to it and Looking forward to September having missed out on Bisley - **Mike Talbot**

"Undercover is a brilliant little festival. Our tribe are the friendliest bunch of misfits you could care to meet" **Matthew Howlett**



We go to Undercover because the locations are great, the people superb and the music fantastic See you down the front. **Paul Kingston**

The Undercover Festival is always a date that goes into the gig diary early. This year to add to the usual selection of great bands and friendly faces there is the experience of a new venue to look forward to. The only question that remains is the camping option!" **George Walker**



INTRODUCING TWO UNDERCOVER FESTIVAL CHARACTERS

Jamie the ever present stage manager (from RED Anger) along with Keith Woodhouse the larger than life MC have been a great help and key to the smooth running at each and every Undercover Festival. Undercover would not be the same without them. Check them out for a unique one off double act on the Friday over at Aprils Acoustic (ish) Den Of Iniquity.

WELCOME BACK KEITH Keith has not been well this year and we are chuffed to bits that he has recovered and is back fighting fit and ready for getting "most" of the names of the bands right when he is the MC for the main stage.





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2025 Gig list

For info and tickets on all shows call us on 07508 496411

Black frog Presents @ Chelmsford Social Club & Blues Box @ HB The Hot Box

ALL SHOWS IN BLACK ARE THE CHELMSFORD SOCIAL CLUB

ADDRESS: 55 Springfield Road CM2 6JG (Rear of Tesco)

Black Frog Presents @ Chelmsford Social Club **doors at 7pm show start at 8pm**

Blues Box @ HB The Hot Box

ALL SHOWS IN BLUE ARE AT THE HOT BOX CHELMSFORD

ADDRESS: 28-29 Viaduct Road CM1 1TS

Saturday afternoon **shows doors 1pm show start 2pm**

Sunday **shows doors at 3pm show start 4pm**

Weekday **eves doors at 7pm show start 8pm**



If you don't know an act, check them out on YouTube

Sun 28/9/2025	Chris Rand & the Heavy Echo @ £HB £12
Thurs 2/10/2025	Dirt Road Band @ £12
Fri 03/10/2025	Mim Grey Band @ £20
Sun 05/10/2025	Mississippi MacDonald band @ HB £12
Fri 10/10/2025	Albert Lee @ £25
Sat 11/10/2025	The Ugly Guys @ HB £12 afternoon show
Fri 17/10/2025	The Vagaband @£20
Sun 19/10/2025	Wreckless Eric @HB £15
Fri 24/10/2025	KOSSOFF The Band Plays on @ £20
Sunday 26/10/2025	Tim Edey @ HB £15
Wed 29/10/2025	James Oliver Band with Norman Watt Roy @ HB £15
Fri 31/10/2025	Hells Bells play AC/DC

Sun 2/11/2025	Krissy Matthews Band @ HB £15
Fri 7/11/2025	Deborah Bonham Band + Mike Happnin Boy £20
Mon 10/11/2025	Martin Harley @ £15
Friday 14/11/2025	Robert Vincent Band £20
Sat 15/11/2025	Paul Rose Trio @ HB £15
Fri 21/11/2025	Limehouse Lizzy £25
Sun 23/11/2025	Stray @ HB £15
Fri 28/11/2025	Connor Selby Band £20
Sat 29/11/2025	Robbie McIntosh & Hamish Stuart Live & Acoustic 2 shows @ HB £20 each
Sun 30/11/2025	Mojo Preachers @ HB £12
Fri 5/12/2025	Robbie McIntosh Band £25
Sun 7/12/2025	Jon Amor Band @ HB £12
Fri 12/12/2025	ZZ TOPPD £20



AN ACOUSTIC (ISH) DEN OF INIQUITY?

Since 2013 we have put on a fair few acts at the festival and stand alone gigs.



But with all the previous 12 Undercover Festivals only four people (apart from Mick of course) have been playing or treading foot on stage each and every time at the festival, there is of course Jamie the ever present stage manager along

with Keith Woodhouse the larger than life MC for all our festivals (see page 6).



BUT - Only 2 musicians have played at each and every Undercover, the Undercover tradition that is now Wyrd Sisters whether that's been on buskers corner or on stage.

That's our very own April Showers and Bon Bessom, Bon also played Undercover a few times with The Piranhas Four

(RIP Bob Grover, sadly missed).

So fast forward to this years Undercover Festival and we bring you....

APRIL'S ACOUSTIC (ISH) DEN OF INIQUITY

See page 10 for the line up!

Hosted by our dear Undercover Friends April and Bon along with Wyrd Sisters and The Hedge Inspectors, all in the bar tent and where the band merch will be on sale, expect some familiar Undercover Faces and some new to Undercover amongst the madness, in an acoustic or acoustic (ish) setting. **ENJOY!**



**RICHARD
JOBSON
THE SKIDS**

*We can't wait
to be part of*

Undercover Festival.

Heard great things about it.

*The Skids will unleash a new set
as we start to prepare for the
Absolute Game tour.*

We're ready! Are you!

UNDERCOVER

APRIL'S DEN OF ACOUSTIC (ISH) INEQUITY

FRI

26TH SEPT

**Jerry Lunn Vinyl
Only DJ Sets
(3.05pm &
3.45pm)**

**The Hedge
Inspectors
(4.25pm)**

**Gripper Lee
(Flat Pack Set)
(5.10pm)**

**Joe Bitter
(5.55pm)**

**Shell The
Alternative
Folkie
(6.55pm)**

**The Dirty Ugly
Punk Monkey
and His
Laughing Gnome
(7.55pm)**

**Wyrd Sisters
(9.05pm)**

**The Assassination
Bureau
(9.50pm)**

SAT

27TH SEPT

**The Hedge
Inspectors
(12.40pm)**

**Wyrd Sisters
(1.25pm)**

**Joe Bitter
(2.05pm)**

**Static Kill
(3pm)**

**Assassination
Bureau
(3.50pm)**

**Fraser Morgan
(4.40pm)**

**Cherry & Peesh
(5.40pm)**

**Shell The
Alternative
Folkie
(6.40pm)**

**Gripper Lee
(7.45pm)**

**Wyrd Sisters
(Stage
Finale)
(8.55pm)**



**LINE UP AND STAGE TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE
SEE STAGE OR TICKET EXCHANGE FOR NOTICES**

UNDERCOVER FESTIVAL

MAIN STAGE LINE UP AND STAGE TIMES

FRI 26th SEPT 2025

DOORS 2.30PM TO 9PM

**15:15: The Undercover
Festival Car Park Loonies #2**

16:00: MONUMENTAL

16:45: RAGE DC

17:30: DAKKA SKANKS

18:20: EAST TOWN PIRATES

19:15: CODENAME COLIN

20:15: SUBHUMANS

21:30: POPES OF

CHILLITOWN

**22:30 TO CLOSE (The Other
Stage): JERRY LUNN (VINYL
ONLY) AFTERSHOW DJ SET**



**PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL TIMES ARE CORRECT AS WE GO TO PRINT
SEE NOTICES FOR ANY CHANGES.**

MC Keith Woodhouse & Trev B DJ in between bands (both days).

CAMPING ON SITE FRIDAY FROM 10.30am.

WRISTBAND EXCHANGE CLOSSES BOTH DAYS 9PM SHARP

UNDERCOVER FESTIVAL

MAIN STAGE LINE UP AND STAGE TIMES

SAT 27TH SEPT 2025

DOORS 12 MID DAY TILL 9PM

13:00: THE STEREOTYPES

13:45: HINGE

14:30: THE FANZINES

15:35: DHARMA HOUNDS

16:10: RAT HOLE

16:55: RED ANGER

17:55: EASTFIELD

18:45: MENACE

**20:10: EDDIE & THE
HOT RODS**

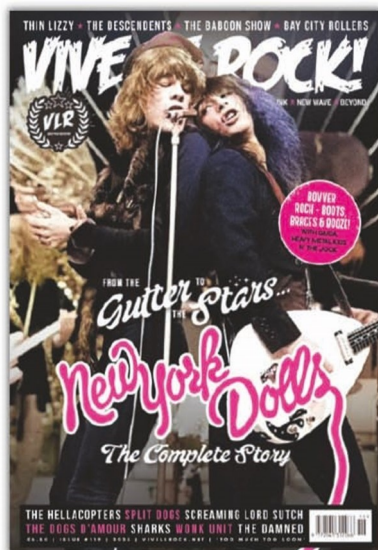
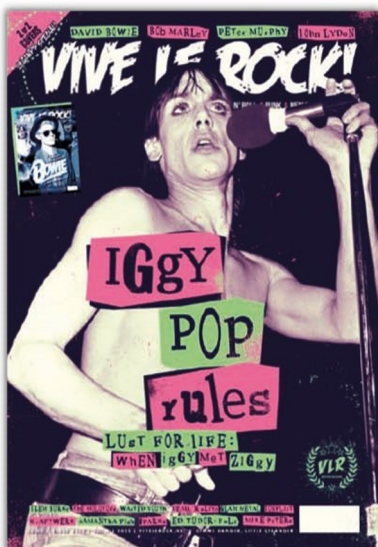
21:20: SKIDS

**22:30 TO CLOSE: JERRY LUNN
AFTERSHOW VINYL ONLY DJ SET**



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UNDERCOVER



At Undercover we are chuffed to bits to have Skids close the main stage on the Saturday.

The Skids were formed in the summer of 1977 in Dunfermline Scotland and would go on to make 2 albums and seven singles before 1979 was ended,

and all bar one on the Virgin label. Arguably the biggest Scottish punk band of the 1976-79 era, their most successful year was 1979 where they spent over half the year in the singles charts with hits like **Charade**, **Working For The Yankee Dollar** and their biggest song, the top 10 hit **Into The Valley**. **ENJOY!**



The Hawk (opposite the train station) Battlesbridge

OPENING HOURS

Monday:	11:00 - 23:00
Tuesday:	11:00 - 23:00
Wednesday:	11:00 - 23:00
Thursday:	11:00 - 23:00
Friday:	11:00 - 23:00
Saturday:	11:00 - 23:00
Sunday:	11:00 - 22:00

A stylish pub for relaxed drinking & dining, serving real ales, Sunday roasts, fresh fish & vegan options

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UNDERCOVER FESTIVAL

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The Showground, Battlesbridge Antiques Centre, Battlesbridge, Essex SS11 7RF

4KIDZ MENACE **PORES OF CHILITOWN** **EDDIE & THE HOT RODS** **EUBI HUMPS IANS**

East to West Pirates **CODENAME COLIN** **Eastfield 20** **DAKITA SKANKS**



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<https://www.rblwickford.co.uk/>



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EVENTS ARE STRUGGLING

EVENTS THOROUGHOUT THE UK ARE IN DANGER OF BEING CANCELLED DUE TO LOW TICKET SALES. IF YOU INTEND ON GOING TO AN EVENT, PLEASE CONSIDER BUYING YOUR TICKETS ASAP. THE COST TO HOST EVENTS IS RISING, FOR VENUES & PROMOTERS ALIKE. WITHOUT THE SALES, EVENTS CAN'T & WON'T HAPPEN. IT'S A GROWING ISSUE WITHIN THE INDUSTRY AND WE MUST KEEP OUR VENUES AND EVENTS ALIVE!

Please Buy Your Tickets & Don't Wait

WWW.UNDERCOVERFEST.COM