**Canis Strange** - Circa mid to late 70s.

They appear to be more prog rock/metal than anything.

Line-up:  
Guitar - Mark Hobbs,  
Guitar - John Bain,  
Jezz Startup - drums  
Paul Life - bass.

They played Free numbers and even a cover of cliff's Devil Woman... They did have a neat Blackmore style instrumental called Ritual, very prog.  
NT

"Paul Life was big and had a battered Ford Escort which the worldly boys who grew up too soon called 'The Shag Waggon'. Anon

Paul Life's Escort may indeed have been called The Shag Wagon but he sported a tasteful sunstrip at the time bearing the legend 'Pat Travers' - a Canadian heavy metal guitarist - the letters of which we'd doctored to read 'Spat Ravers'...

Canis Strange started out with me (Mark Hobbs) on guitar, John Bain on guitar, Jezz Startup on drums and Paul Life on bass. We went through our most 'famous' stage with a trio of Tucker-Grange-Hill-esque gigs in the main hall with me, Jezz, Paul, and Nigel Digby on lead guitar and played the Bosa Chios several (drunk) occasions.  
MH

"The one and only time I saw "Canis Strange" was at a Christmas disco concert. There were two bands the first of which - the doomy Joy Division influenced one - did a rather good song called "False Religion" - "You've got a false religion, a false religion" was the chorus. They were supporting "Canis Strange" who came on and, I think played some heavy metallist stuff to begin with ("Smoke on the Water" quite possibly - didn't everyone?)  
JP (still think this was the regular John Bindens or the Fallen Heroes - WM)

These pieces of text are now believed to be about either Fallen Heroes or Razor Sharp or both - which confuses matters rather a lot. I'll leave it here for now - can somebody else sort it out....

I remember seing them once in the Bosa Chios - a nightclub in the North Walsham precinct so small there was barely room for the band let alone an audience. It was later burnt down and I believe the owner, a cypriot called Vic, had his collar felt as a result (allegedly). I remember the guitarist being the most talented member of the group, he played a dark red Gibson SG guitar and may not have been at Paston. This fits with the idea that John Binden was an esteemed guitarist of the time.  
*RW)*

another early member, Paul Addison, possessor of a very politically-incorrect nickname which I can't really repeat, fancied himself on keyboards. Having no cash, his resourceful (and, let's face it, pretty clever) father made him an organ (fnaagh fnaagh) which resembled an electric glockenspiel. Crap was the word, and I suspect dangerous was another. On this fine instrument, Addison penned the now infamous 'Ritual' which one of your correspondants referred to in the piece on 'Strange. It was, needless to say, utter shite. *MH*

There was another Canis Strange in about 1984 (i.e. post paston) containing somebody called Katie Sylvester (who one would think probably didn't go to Paston) and a guy called Alistair Murphy, who was it seems the brain behind almost the entire "cromerzone" scene (?!?!), who put on gigs on the coast. I have to admit I am now deeply mystified, Bill reckons this lot are in fact the same band but had gone through so many line-up changes that they no longer contained any of the original Paston members. (Alistair I know you are out there, perhaps you can iron some of this out...)

Another one (band) was circa 74 - 75, with Raymond Fiske and Stu Oakley and some others can't remember who. I think the contributor on the Canis Strange page describing the Xmas disco is thinking of this lot, unless this was an earlier canis strange, and i certainly remember Paul Life (doesn't everyone?) they played a rather good version of a Status Quo number - the title long escapes me but I think immediately pre Blue for You era, and, an extended version of Smoke on't Water, that sort of stuff. PH (any ideas on this one anybody?)