

DIRGE



DIRGE

noun

a lament for the dead, especially one forming part of a funeral rite.

December 2023

Well, here we all are. Nearly at the end of 2023. And what a topsy-turvy year it's been ladies and gentlemen. This time last year DIRGE wasn't even a twinkle in my eye and now I'm on the fifth issue and people are actually liking it!

DIRGE #5 is jam packed full of festive cheer and excitement for the coming year. And I hope you my dear droog enjoy reading it as much as I enjoyed writing it. Don't forget to let me know how you liked it. I LOVE social interaction!

The Obituaries section is looking a bit erm, full this month. I do hope there are less in the next issue. However, The Lair of Local is also full to the brim in this Christingle DIRGE, showing that the local scene is FAR from six feet under!

I'd just like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who have supported me and DIRGE this year, whether you collect them and keep them neatly catalogued like some people do, or whether you simply use it to wipe your arse, you're all appreciated. Happy Christmas and a brave new year!

'Darlington for Culture is supporting the production of four issues of Dirge magazine to promote artists and venues in Darlington borough but accepts no responsibility for the content of the magazine'.

APPEARING SOMEWHERE INSIDE...

Crimbo Count in Fives

BBC Ghost Stories

Dirge Poster

The Lair of Local

Amicus Productions

Dirge Awards

Jam Retrospective

Peterlee is Brutal

Dragged Up

Ocean Colour Scene

What's On

Cover image taken from the 1972 Amicus Anthology film 'Tales from The Crypt'.



@dirgemag



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facebook.com/darlodirge



@darlodirge

"I want to apply for a permit to present my exhibit at the fair..."



THE LAIR OF LOCAL

This is a local page for **local** music. We'll have no **grinches** here !



KINGDEM - WOLFPACK

KingdEm is an amalgam of the monikers King Tigaro and Endem who collaborate on this joint with production provided by Freddy. I actually misread the title of the song at first glance and presumed it was an ode to Emmerdale's sole watering hole.

I've kept a watchful eye on Endem's output over the years and it's true to say he's improved immeasurably from five years ago. Both his flow and his lyrical content have come on in leaps and bounds and I've heard since his jaunt to Chernobyl the other year, he's actually turned radioactive!

Beat wise this track is tight and hits pretty hard. Do the bars deliver though?

They do. But after a while Endem's voice starts to grate a little bit. The video was directed proficiently as ever by Rob Irish in what appears to be Skin Deep Tattoo Studio up North Road.

I'd never heard of Darlington's King Tigaro. I'm not sure why that is but his flow is on point and his bars are well delivered.

However, I'm not sure wearing a Batman T-shirt and a snapback is conducive to being in your 30's, but that's just personal opinion. Looking forward to the album! **3.3/5**



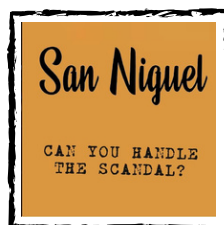
facebook.com/endemutwo

soundcloud.com/kingtigaro

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DARLODIRGE@GMAIL.COM OR MESSAGE ME
ON THE FACEBOOK PAGE. WHAT'S THE
WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN?

SAN NIGUEL - CAN YOU HANDLE THE SCANDAL?

Oooooo I do love a good scandal! One of my favourites is when Stuart Lubbock's lifeless body was found in Michael Barrymore's swimming pool after a drink and drug fuelled gay orgy. But can I handle San's latest album?



With a cover that could have been knocked up quicker than Specky Cult's new one (see right) complete with Stanglers-esque font I was looking forward to listening to this Newton Aycliffe lad's new offering.

San The Man doesn't let the idea of genre restrain him, ticking off Punk, Post-Punk, Indie and Blues amongst others to good effect.

San Niguel began the album during those dark, bleak days of lockdown. I wonder how many albums would not have come to pass without that collective enforced house arrest?

The production on Niguel's debut album is totally fit for purpose and does the job. The stand out tunes to me are Drunk on A Sunday and Mr. Trippy the Dodgy Ice Cream Man which harks back to the days of The Buzzcocks and The Damned.

He's released a lively album and if you're an old punk or simply like no frills unpretentious tunes then stick it on your Spotify or even better, buy the C.D. **3.5/5**

SPECKY CULT - SERIOUSLY?

I enjoyed this brand new track by the acoustic-punk three piece from up north somewhere. For whatever reason I was instantly reminded of weird, female fronted, early 70's German bands, most notably The Rattles who released a classic occult-pop hit called The Witch. The band's vocalist also has an air of Debbie Harrie about her voice.

The production is saturated and lo-fi, just how I like it. It sounds as though she's singing 'I am a Nazi'. I'm guessing that's not literal, but hey everyone's entitled to a political opinion.



A welcome touch of growling Hammond Organ really adds to the vintage flavour. **3.8/5**

instagram.com/speckycult_music

CRAIG RODDAM - LET GO

The honorary American returns. I'm just accepting the yank accent now. You can lead a horse to water... But what of this new tune from Craig 'Goddamn' Roddam?

Let Go is a lot better than his other tracks I've reviewed previously in DIRGE, with a shiny sheen to the mix, plenty of dynamic changes and a semi-powerful chorus. Craig seems to be getting better with each release and he's obviously a hard worker as I have something of his to review pretty much every issue. Have a listen if melodic pop/rock with a hard edge floats your boat. **2.9/5**

facebook.com/craigroddammusic

SARAH JOHNSONE - SAME REFLECTION BUT I'M CHANGED

Teesside's Sarah Johnson and her band come together cohesively as a solid unit on this release, polished and well packaged, although I'm not entirely sure why the EP cover is a still from that scene in Titanic I rewound loads when I was 12. Some kind of band in-joke?

Sarah's new joint is jam packed full of jangly mid 80's post-punk guitars, lush organ/pads which kind of remind me of Boards of Canada, although that's where any comparisons end. It looks like Johnson is using a Casiotone in a video I watched. If Casiotones can make textures like that then I would like one too!

There are a few meandering parts of this EP that make me want to put something else on, a lot melds together into one sonic entity. There are a couple of 'intermissions' that are under a minute, like on Ladytron's first album which are a nice touch.

I wouldn't listen to this for fun but I bet loads of people would.

3.5/5



facebook.com/sarahjohnsonemusic



Listen to the tunes we have reviewed here on our YouTube playlist **NEPOTISM** (North East Playlist Of Terribly Important Songs Monthly)

Link on our **Facebook** Page!



DIRGE POP CHARTS



- 1.) AMATEUR ORNITHOLOGIST - HIDE
- 2.) DRAGGED UP - HEX DOMESTIC
- 3.) AMELIA COBURN - SEE SAW
CAT RYAN - KING OF THE WORLD
- 4.) COMPRESSION SESSION - MALADY
- 5.) SPECKY CULT - SERIOUSLY?
GONE TOMORROW - STUN GUN



DAVE CRABTREE - NOW IT'S XMAS

#DIRGEOFFICIALCHARTS

#DIRGEOFFICIALCHARTS

NORTHERN HOSPITALITY - RUNAWAY LIKE ME

Northern Hospitality are from Hartlepool, but I tried not to let that be a factor in my review of their new song 'Runaway Like Me'.

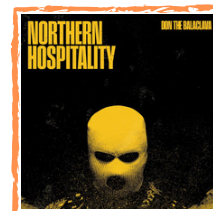
A drum intro reminiscent of Break on Through by The Doors gives way to a watered-down 'Breed' by Nirvana rip off. I was waiting for the front man to come in with "I don't care, I don't care, I don't care". But he did not. The verse comes around and the singer sounds like Liam Gallagher after inhaling the helium from a day-old birthday balloon.

The chorus is listenable enough with plenty to keep you interested. Any 90's Britpop influences are flaunted at this point and it sounds upbeat, energetic and poppy while still maintaining a credible rock edge. Runaway Like Me is no frills, no bullshit Rock n Roll. It's not my cup of tea and could be classed as derivative, but as I am now technically old and grey, I did the Old Grey Whistle Test and I can still remember the chorus half an hour later, so it must have made some impact. 3.2/5

facebook.com/northernhosband

NORTHERN HOSPITALITY - DON THE BALACLAVA

The Teesside group's newest single 'Don The Balaclava' is inspired by the classic 90's CBBC kids programme of the same name about Donald, a mischievous little balaclava who gets up to all sorts of japes, escapades and petty crime in the fictional Yorkshire town of Bally Valley. I think it's on YouTube.



The front cover of this single looks more like something grime legend Ghetts would release. And I'd probably rather listen to him than this. A generic and oft overused guitar chord progression is joined ominously after a couple of bars by a pentatonic lead guitar lick. What follows is a descent into early 00's flavoured indie rock.

I'll save my ultimate verdict for when I see them do it live somewhere. Although after this review I might have to don a balaclava. 3/5

facebook.com/northernhosband

DAVID CRABTREE - NOW IT'S CHRISTMAS



This yuletide offering from David Neil Christmastree actually isn't very festive. There's Not a sleighbell to be heard and he's gone about the song in a sincerely earnest way. But I suppose Earnest did save Christmas.

It's twee, it's unashamedly serious and it's devoid of irony. Even Michael Buble is more creative and original than this.

My favourite line is "All the things we say and do, full of love and laughter. With the ones we care about, till the morning after". Which rather unintentionally implies that the drink dries up, Boxing Day dawns, the hangovers kick in and the festive mirth evaporates. Which is actually quite a true sentiment, if only he meant it that way.

2.5/5



facebook.com/davidneilcrabtree

JENAMI FEAT. THE DUNWELLS - DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN

Sporting a cover that looks more like a page from a SAGA over 50's holiday brochure than the artwork for a new single I was a little trepidatious about what was to come when I gave Darlington's two piece Jenami a spin on my record player. The title reminds me of a Caravan album from 1970 called 'If I Could Do It All Again I'd Do It All Over You'. But alas, this sounds nothing like the pseudo-prog group from Canterbury.



This tune is an unadulterated cheese fest. It's the aural equivalent of a 3-cheese pizza with added parmesan and processed cheese slices accompanied by some Dairylea dunkers.

"All you've got to do is let go" is the mantra of this Jenami/Dunwells collaboration. It's quite an upbeat, summery track, so I'm not quite sure why it was released in these dark, wintry months. But I do think this is their best track to date. It would lend itself well to being on the soundtrack of a sickly Disney kids' film. I enjoyed it. **3.2/5**

facebook.com/jenamimusic

GONE TOMORROW - STUN GUN

Remember when The Horrors were good? They released two solid albums, a middling one and the rest were totally dogga.

Well the intro to Stun Gun is a bit like if they'd carried on being good instead of disappearing up their own arse.



Clocking in at a refreshing 2.08 minutes, this Teesside group have kept it quick and to the point. Vocally I can't help being reminded of Brian Molko's nasally tone mixed with some snarls. The guitar solos don't need to be there, mind. The pentatonic widdling makes Stun Gun sound amateurish.

Gone Tomorrow would have been better off building on the atmospheric, bell like, FM style synths that were utilised on the intro.

All in all though, it's a good track with plenty of potential. **3.8/5**

facebook.com/gonetomorrowband

THE SKAPONES - WINDRUSH

Upbeat and jolly with plenty of rousing trumpets in this historical exploration of the origins of the Windrush generation. The mix is punchy just as is required from a ska track. This is their biggest selling single to date, reaching number one in the UK Reggae Charts, toppling Bob Marley, no less, from the top spot!

The Skapones are going from strength to strength and I wish them well for next year!



3.7/5

facebook.com/theskapones

TEN WORD REVIEWS

MOUSES - NOSTALGIA The musical equivalent of scratching your fingernails down a blackboard.
IRKED - BACKSTREETS Fast, energetic, shouty, heard it all before punk from Newcastle.
ZELA - GASLIGHTING ISN'T REAL YOU'RE JUST MENTAL The thinking man's Taylor Swift. Slick production and highly catchy.
TWAYN - CRIMINAL Listenable pop music with an American accent. Lovely piano chords.
DINKY BOSSETTI - I KISSED A BOY I'd rather listen to Mouses than this tone deaf drivel.
MARQ ELECTRONICA - LIFTING MY SOUL Soulful house that's a lot better than his last single.

AMATEUR ORNITHOLOGIST - HIDE

Good things to come out of Gateshead? Yeah, it's a tough one. At least now we can add Amateur Ornithologist to that pitiful list.

I was an amateur Ornithologist at school. I always tried to connect with birds but I was never any good.

In places, Amateur Ornithologist sound as though they enjoy 70's prog-rock. Not the grandiose stuff like ELP and Yes, more like amazing and oft overlooked groups like Caravan, Hatfield and The North and Gentle Giant, but this has a much poppier, contemporary edge. Daniel's voice is very easy on the ear and there's lush and varied instrumentation throughout. The stand out track on the album for me is "Time to Talk" which I hear is set to be one of the next singles.

Hide is released on January 19th, so buy it!

4.2/5

facebook.com/amateurornithologist



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CAT RYAN - KING OF THE WORLD

As I ponder on Cat Ryan's new E.P, I can't help being reminded of that horrible, sickly scene from Titanic where Leonardo Di Caprio exclaims "I'M KING OF THE WORLD!"

Newcastle's Cat Ryan have produced a quirky little EP with almost African sounding rhythm guitar patterns. King of The World is an undeniably poppy release with electronic pallettes, glockenspiel (or is it a vibraphone?) and guitar, glued together by bass and live drums. The first stand out track for me is Rex Mundi (which is Latin for the EP's title). It's an up tempo bit of tuneage with a catchy chorus and some summery, Hawaiian guitars.



Lost My Connection is one heck of an Indie-Pop banger too. All in all it's a solid EP, so you should stream it, buy it and share it. DIRGE recommends.

4/5

facebook.com/catryan17

CHRIS GROOM - BLACKOUT TONIGHT

As the first few bars resounded, I didn't think I was going to like this song by Redcar lad, Chris. It didn't strike me as something I would vibe with in my daily life. I was feeling it a bit more by the end though.

It's a stripped bare track with subtle yet well arranged piano and a strong vocal, marred slightly in my opinion by some tinny reverb. 3.2/5

CRUX - DREAMSELLER

In yer face Rock n Roll that grips you right away with a dirty guitar riff that segues into a Muse-esque falsetto breakdown.



"I want it my way or the highway" should be banned from being used as a lyric however. Terribly overused phrase. Still good though!

3.5/5

facebook.com/cruxnewcastle



JENNA LOUISE - IT'S CHRISTMAS AT LAST

Lush instrumentation guides a strong vocal from Jenna. I decided to watch the lyric video so I could fully immerse myself in Jenna's Christmas concept. The vid is what you'd expect. A lot of well-presented 20 somethings enjoying the festive season. The song itself is listenable. Easy on the ear and well manufactured. One of the better offerings in this year's fight for local Christmas Number one.

3.3/5

facebook.com/jennalouisemusic

COMPRESSION SESSION - THE MALADY OF CRACK ARSED JACK

These Darlo lads love being in Dirge, don't they? And who can blame them? I think I've had one of their songs in every issue so far? Or maybe not, I can't remember.

Delivered with a cool, understated performance, C.S are one of two bands to feature this month that both slag Donald Trump off. Stu the singer told me this was recorded in their practice room so it's a good job I love it Lo-Fi!

Reverse delay, Velvet Underground drums, mangled vocals and a simple yet effective bass motif form the main basis of the track, which is both laid back and interesting.

3.9/5

LIZZIE ESAU - ROADKILL

You know when Nirvana ripped off 80's by Killing Joke (RIP Geordie) for their song Come as You Are? Well Lizzie has somehow spectacularly succeeded in ripping both of these classic songs off for her alternative rock/pop track 'Roadkill' and not realised.

In all fairness the motif is only used on the introduction and the verses, the chorus is listenable and fresh with a decent production value. 3/5

facebook.com/lizzieesau.music

CHRIS MARDULA - IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME

Another Christmas song to review! With these Yuletide ditties you are really spoiling us.

This is a cheesy one, not going to lie. But that's what it's all about this time of the year, and it's complete with sleighbells so that's an extra mark. It's Christmas Time is produced nicely with a gradual build up to a climactic flourish (ooh err missus) in the final few bars. When Chris says "It's Christmas Time", he sounds like Boy George in the classic 80's tune 'Feed the World', I'm not sure whether this was purposeful or simply an unhappy accident.

The lyrics are a tad trite, yet evocative and his vocal holds up well, albeit in quite an earnest way. 3.1/5

facebook.com/chrimardulamusic

JEN DIXON - SAVE ME (REMX)

This dance revamp is certainly better than the original which I reviewed in a previous issue. The lyrics "Catch me if I fall" should never be used in a song, EVER. It's been done to death. I dug the instrumental though. 3/5

facebook.com/jendixonmusic



BOOKS, RECORDS, TAPES, CDS, DVDS AND LOADS MORE!

AMELIA COBURN - SEE SAW

I think I can hear some combo organ on this excellent new track from Amelia Coburn. The sound of the transistor organ is not utilised enough these days. Anyway, the lyrics to 'See Saw' are evocative harking back to a dark, distant time of magic, witchery and weirdness.

Coburn is in possession of a soft yet rich voice that suits the esoteric nature of 'See Saw' which is accompanied by an equally creepy, monotone music video featuring folk-horror puppets ala those old Judderman videos made to promote the classic 90's alcopop 'Metz'.

The song more than stands on its own without the aid of the video though and I am enjoying this new direction that Amelia has taken.

facebook.com/ameliacoburn

4/5



TOKYO ROSE - SANTA CLAUS SONG

I've followed Tokyo Rose (Derek to his mates) during the recent years of his musical journey with bemusement and incredulity in equal measure. He truly is a North East music enigma.

You can't help but like the guy though. Literally zero fucks given. Which is the way it should be.

He's knocked out a Crimbo song this year that sounds as though it was produced on some sort of obscure 80's home keyboard, while managing to make the song sound like a semi-successful punk band penned it in 1982, hoping to cash in on some much needed royalties to save them from the dole queue. And you can't say fairer than that! 3.2/5

facebook.com/tokyorosebiz

KIM RALLS - WINTERS PAST

The hardworking Dales troubadour has just released his second foray into the busy and competitive local Christmas market.



It seems minimum imagination went into Kim's single art for "Winters Past" but is the song the dog's baubles?

Well, as a caveat, I had better tread carefully here as I don't think Kim is a fan of my work, considering he appears to have blocked me on several social media platforms. Don't worry though Kim, no hard feelings. I'm still a big fan.

This is the kind of song that conjures up images of cosy fireside singalongs in a country pub, stroking the ageing resident Border Terrier while gazing out of the window at the snow laden hills in the distance and sipping on a wee dram of whiskey. The backing vocals sound rather strained and detract from the main melody, but it's a good effort, and I'll look forward to next year's! 2.7/5

facebook.com/kimralls

THE GREAT BEYOND MINI



DROGGED UP - HEX DOMESTIC

There's plenty of Dandy Warhols style coolness exuding from this Glaswegian group and more gnarly distortion than you can shake a Boss Ds1 at. Really neat lyrics abound with a lovely warm, homely production sound. There are shades of Syd Barrett's shambolic solo stuff too (in a good way, I have mad love for Bazza).

This is something John Peel would have played regularly on his Radio One show in the late 90's. The tracks are short and sweet with a lush amount of space in the mix. I have Scottish blood so every time I hear a Scots accent I feel an instant affinity. I sense hints of The Vaselines and 60's garage/surf guitars effected with generous use of tremolo.

Drogged Up are wonky and wacky, but not in a contrived Timmy Mallett type way. Actually, I was on Wackaday once. Well, my picture was. Me and my sister made a W-Moat whilst on holiday, which was a sand castle in the shape of a letter W (for Wackaday). We sent the photo in and Timmy included it in the show. And that's how I will finish this review. On a lovely, nostalgic note. Oh, and listen to Drogged Up.

4.1/5

facebook.com/droggedup





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IT'S TIME TO LOOK BACK AND REFLECT ON THE YEAR THAT WAS **2023** AND CELEBRATE THE BEST AND WORST OF ALL WE HAVE REVIEWED AND EXPERIENCED DURING THIS TUMULTUOUS **365** DAYS. WELL, SINCE DIRGE BECAME A THING IN MARCH.

POV. YOU ARE IN THE FUNCTION ROOM OF A WELL KNOWN DARLINGTON PUB (AS I COULDN'T AFFORD A PROPER VENUE). THERE ARE ASSORTED, FANCY NIBBLES AND COMPLIMENTARY SPARKLING WINE, YOU ARE SURROUNDED BY THE CREAM OF THE TEESSIDE MUSIC SCENE AND YOU ARE UP FOR AN AWARD. LET THE WINE FLOW AND THE DRUM ROLL COMMENCE!

HIGHEST RATED ALBUM - AMATEUR ORNITHOLOGIST - HIDE



HIGHEST RATED SINGLE/E.P - DRAGGED UP - HEX DOMESTIC



TURKEY OF '23 - MARIE JOHNS - NO MAN'S LAND



GOOD SPORT OF THE YEAR - JENAMI



FILM OF THE YEAR - THE KILLER



T.V SERIES OF THE YEAR - BABYLON BERLIN



GIG OF THE YEAR - OCEAN COLOUR SCENE, NEWCASTLE



LOCAL GIG OF THE YEAR - GOLDEN AGE OF NOTHING, MIDDLESBROUGH



MOST NOTABLE CELEBRITY DEATH OF THE YEAR - MATTHEW PERRY



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REVIEW

HOLY BRAILLE
ANALOGUE BLOOD
STOCK IMAGE

The Forum

Twas a dark and frosty night. I needed something exciting to warm the cockles... And then I remembered! It's The Festive Evening of Electronic Music at The Forum with Holy Braille, Analogue Blood and Stock Image! So with delightful expectation and frivolity I wrapped up warm and skipped to **Borough Road** with Dave.

The place was relatively busy. Not 'tribute band busy' but for a cold mid-week evening it was a fair turnout of about 40 to 50 people. I was looking forward to what this night would bring. And at 8 o'clock the pre-Xmas festivities began with Stockton's answer to Phil Oakey, Stock Image.



Stock is getting where a fart can't these days. His leather **Filofax** must be fit to burst with all his gig bookings. Newcastle, Boro, Gateshead, Stockton and now, finally my beloved Darlington. He'd attached some blue lights to his keyboard stand which was a lovely touch and really heightened the Christmas spirit within the audience. Stock's Tuneage is insanely catchy but I've already said enough about him in this issue. So, moving swiftly on.



I lost my Analogue Blood virginity this very night. I recognised a few of the songs off their debut album 'Control'. They're a two piece from Darlington, playing Prodigy-esque heavy-rock-trance. I saw Ian the singer the other week in a solo capacity with Chump Wrecker and I think I preferred The Chumpster slightly more. This was still a solid performance though, complete with Hanratty's frenetic, gurning, facial feels.



Sunderland's Holy Braille were certainly a sight to behold. I think the singer must've been overheating from all the intense lighting as she kept taking off items of clothing. Ooooo Matron! A very good live spectacle. I'd liken the music to a sped up Nine Inch Nails, bridging the gap between dancing and moshing. Why choose to do just one? Why not mix and match?

Twas a good little gig this. The bands were all decent, there were no wankers in the audience (besides me) and the sound mix was tip-top as usual.

4/5

NOSH



WHERE? - ALDI HOW MUCH? - £2.99

After really appreciating ALDI's previous forays into the Byzantine yet seldom mastered sub-culture of deep filled Yorkshire puddings, imagine my excitement when I chanced upon this bad boy in the ready meals section of my local ALDI.



Mmmmm Yummy!

I highly recommend this, especially if you're after a winter warmer with minimum fuss. Two good quality bangers, fluffy mash and peas in a large Yorkshire smothered in flavoursome onion gravy.

WHAT'S ON JANUARY & FEBRUARY

DIRGE'S TOP PICKS FOR THE COMING MONTHS

05/01 THE JAM'D, THE FORUM, DARLO
13/01 WERBENIUK, BOSKO GREEN, MLT, BORO
18/01 HUGH CORNWELL, BOILER SHOP, TOON
19/01 THE DOORS ALIVE, CITY HALL, TOON
19/01 AMATEUR ORNITHOLOGIST, GLOBE, TOON
20/01 SHRUG, STOCK IMAGE, TOFT HOUSE, BORO
20/01 BIG LITTLE GIGS RAVE, LIBRARY, DARLO
27/01 LANKUM, BOILER SHOP, TOON

06/02 DRAB MAJESTY, BELGRAVE, LEEDS
10/02 ABC, GLASSHOUSE, GATESHEAD
15/02 BOMBAY BICYCLE CLUB, CITY HALL, TOON
22/02 SLOWDIVE, NX, TOON
25/02 RICK WAKEMAN, GLASSHOUSE, GATESHEAD

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BLUES NIGHT IS FIVE!

All hail Blues Night records in **Richmondo**. The only place you can find reasonably priced craft ales and vinyl records under one roof (there's millions said Geoffrey!) in the locale. They sometimes have live bands on too, in fact only the other week they had one of my fave groups DRAGGED UP playing, but I unfortunately didn't go.

Happy Birthday! Follow them on the link below or even better call in and buy something.

facebook.com/bluesnightrichmond

HARK - THE SOUND OF STORIES

By Ann Cuthbert

The refurbished Darlington Crown St. library made the perfect setting on a **snowy** evening for the sell-out Hark! The Sound of Stories Winter event. As we've come to expect from Hark! (presented brilliantly by **Tracks** Darlington) there was the as-always great mix of classic literature, read this evening by local writers Mary Atkinson, Marilyn Longstaff and Bob **Fischer**, and superb music from Eve Conway, **Mayshe**-Mayshe, The (red-cloaked, fur-hooded) Cornshed Sisters and The Bookshop Band.

But this time there was an added dimension. Tracks, funded by Creative Darlington and the Arts Council, had commissioned Darlington writer Pam **Plumb** to collaborate with musician Eve **Conway**. Working together, both created original pieces which were premiered at December's Hark! Pam read her story The Book Binder then Eve presented her musical piece which complemented and expanded on Pam's work. Both were received warmly by a hugely appreciative audience.

It's great to see how an event like this brings together both **writing** and music in such an enjoyable way as well as reinforcing valuable connections between local writers and musicians. **AC**.

Ann Cuthbert is a local writer and poet who hosts Stop Write Hear, a monthly Open Mic for Writers.

[instagram.com/grallyc](https://www.instagram.com/grallyc)



A Cornshed Sister!

DELIA DERBYSHIRE

November 23rd marked the annual Delia Derbyshire Day, which celebrates the work and influential career of the BBC Radiophonic Workshop pioneer.

This year also marks 60 years of Dr. Who which Delia provided the iconic theme to. So, who was Delia Derbyshire?

Delia was born in 1937 in Coventry and showed a flair for music at an early age. She was offered a place at Cambridge Uni where she studied Maths and Music. She began to work at the BBC Radiophonic Workshop in 1962, with one of her earliest works being the Dr. Who theme tune in 1963.

Delia went on to record a large body of work in the areas of film & T.V as well as being part of 'White Noise' who recorded the seminal 1969 electronic album 'An Electric Storm'.

Her music career tapered off in the 70's with a resurgence in 2001 when she collaborated with Peter Kember. Sadly, her later life was blighted by alcoholism and Delia died the same year. Leaving us an important and enigmatic body of work that we should all be thankful for.

THE RETURN OF THE STUDIO THAT DRIPPED BLOOD?

Amicus Studios was a stalwart and second only to Hammer at the top of the British Horror scene for about a decade between 1965 and 1974.

Typically producing portmanteau films in the style of 1945's iconic Dead of Night, the people at Amicus released some amazingly spooky and sinister titles like Dr Terror's House of Horrors, The Torture Garden, Vault of Horror, Tales from The Crypt, The House that Dripped Blood, Asylum and my personal favourite - From Beyond the Grave.

Then, Amicus was gone, a ghost of cinematic glories past. Consigned to the annals of Horror history forever. Or so we thought...

Fast forward your Betamax to 2023, like a Phoenix rising from the ashes a small team of film industry darlings initiated the development of Amicus Mk 2 with the blessing of the family of late Amicus head honcho Milton Subotsky. Led by Lawrie Brewster of Hex Studios who said of the project "Our aim is to re-establish Amicus Productions as a beacon of independent British horror".



The new face of Amicus? Megan Tremethick

The team are attempting to source the finance via Kickstarter for a brand new portmanteau horror picture entitled 'In The Grip of Terror' set to star Laurence R. Harvey (Human Centipede 2) and Megan Tremethick. I've watched the pitch for it and was impressed by the energy that has been fuelled into the project. But will it be successful?

Only time will tell. I will say that the Amicus phenomenon was very much of its time, which is most of the appeal for me. Complete and unadulterated nostalgia for a period in the last century that I was never a part of. And I do hope the team can convey that. But, if Brewster and Co's evident passion for the genre and Amicus as a whole is anything to go by, they'll have a damn good go!

[facebook.com/amicusproductions](https://www.facebook.com/amicusproductions)



WE HAPPENED ACROSS **MAL LYTHE** OF THE TEESSIDE MUSIC PODCAST IN THE BACK ROW OF A CINEMA SO WE ASKED HIM TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF HIS TOP 5 CHRISTMAS SONGS



HEY, I'M MAL LYTHE AND I MAKE A MUSIC PODCAST CALLED T T TEESSIDE MUSIC PODCAST. I ALSO WRITE A BLOG CALLED NE BUILD A PLAYLIST. HERE ARE SOME CHRISTMAS TUNES THAT I ENJOY. FIRST OF ALL DOES ANYONE REALLY LIKE CHRISTMAS SONGS? WE LISTEN TO THEM ONCE A YEAR AND I THINK NOSTALGIA IS A BIG PART OF IT. ANYWAY HERE WE GO...

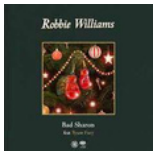
Bo Selecta - Proper Crimbo

It doesn't get more nostalgic than a Bo Selecta Christmas song. No matter how many times I hear this one it makes me laugh. The Michael Jackson verse is hilarious!



Robbie Williams Ft Tyson Fury - Bad Sharon

One of my favourite singers, Robbie Williams recorded a Christmas album which included a song with Tyson Fury. Need I say more? Probably, but here we are...



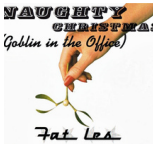
Blink 182 - I won't be home for Christmas

This is more of an anti-Christmas song but I've always really enjoyed this fun upbeat pop-punk tune with The Grinch-like lyrics.



Fat Les - Naughty Christmas

A song from the point of view of someone who's had too much to drink at the office party. The lyrics are a bit creepy but it has a way of staying in your head after listening to it.



Wham - Last Christmas

Screw Whamageddon, this is a banger.



facebook.com/lytheweekend

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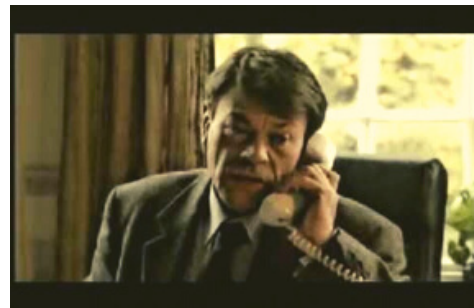


No, not the vastly overrated mod **band** who had 3 good songs. This is an ode to **Chris Morris'** seminal and downright hilarious sketch show from **2000**, that, for some reason, was never heard of again after its maiden **series**. Let's find out more!

Sinisterly spawning from a short lived sketch show on BBC Radio One known as '**Blue Jam**' in the late 90's, its creator and comic genius Chris Morris converted it to televisual format via **Channel 4**. Yeah, I can't quite imagine it ever being shown on The Beeb, can you? Especially not these days.

It's not even as though **Jam** was what's known today as 'politically incorrect' or offensive like Little Britain is considered now. It was just incredibly and horribly **bleak**, which is probably why I enjoyed it so much as a fifteen year old.

Subject matter such as rape, prostitution, insanity, isolation, infant death, loneliness, terminal illness, **child abduction/murder** and sexual **paraphilias** aren't usually synonymous with comedy, but for whatever reason Morris succeeded in getting laughs left right and centre from me, at the time and nearly 24 years later.



My favourite character - the unhinged G.P played by David Cann



Chris Morris, the show's creator

Another of the comedy's unique selling points was Morris' use of **ambient** and electronic music throughout the bulk of the sketches within the series. Artists he utilised included **Brian Eno**, Aphex Twin, Moloko, Amon Tobin, Massive **Attack** and Funki Porcini amongst many others, including pop artists like Minnie Ripperton, Sade and **Prefab Sprout**. Morris even **produced** some of the music himself, with **WARP** Records releasing a compilation of a selection of songs used in the radio show 'Blue Jam'.

Apparently, in a move that had never been witnessed before, Chris Morris asked Channel 4 not to bisect the episodes of Jam with an **advertising break** so the atmosphere wasn't compromised.

Firmly left of field audio/visual distortions and manipulations added to a depressing and disorienting **cornucopia** of mental and emotional stimuli, and it's a shame that Jam was never to be heard of again. But luckily for you all 6 episodes can be found on that conduit of nostalgia, **YouTube**.

MY FAVOURITE SKETCHES

"COFFIN MISTAKE"

"PHONE SEX DOCTOR"

"SYNCHRONISED COCKS"

"SEX FOR HOUSES"

"THE DAY KILROY LOST HIS MIND"

"PLUMBER BABY"

"SYMPTOMLESS COMA"

"IT'S ABOUT RYAN"



Brian Topp. Who seems to have made a career out of looking like a weirdo

OCEAN
COLOUR
SCENE

CITY HALL
NEWCASTLE

20/12



T.V

ROUNDUP

BABYLON BERLIN SERIES 4 (NOW TV)

In the latest series of this majestic German **historical** drama, we creep from the **Weimar** era ever so slowly into the time of the rise of the Nazis. Sumptuous sets, mesmerising **music** and a captivating cast are just three factors that cement Babylon Berlin as one of the most **entertaining** shows to watch in recent years.

This series is set in 1930 moving into **1931** and begins to feature glimpses of the impending onslaught of NAZI and S.A rule over Berlin and the German nation at large. There is set to be a **final** season bringing us to the moment Hitler claimed ultimate power in Germany in **1933**. If you are a fan of German History or simply a fan of great neo-**noir** Television then this is the show for **you**.



4.2/5

THE RAP GAME U.K (BBC THREE)

This BBC series is one of my guilty T.V pleasures. Do I watch it for the **beef**, the shit **clothes**, the plastic road men and the **fumbles**? Yeah, of course. But, as a fan of Grime and to a lesser extent U.K rap there are some entertaining moments to enjoy on here too.

The Rap Game is essentially a **reality** T.V show in which aspiring MC's are pitted against each other in weekly **challenges** for the chance to win £20k. The contestants all have to live together too, ala Big Brother which makes for some classic **awks** moments.



4/5

Ocean Colour Scene are one of those bands I have always wanted to see but for whatever reason have never gotten round to. **UNTIL NOW!**

I felt really bad about that front page spread Simon **Fowler** was subjected to in the tabloids the other month, looking shall we say, not at his **best**.

So possibly out of sympathy or just because I want to see the band before Simon has some kind of health crisis I bought a pair of tickets for me and Davey which came to £90. **Was it worth it?**

Newcastle is a **lovely** little city. The people are friendly and there's lots to do. The old O2 **Academy** near the train station is now called NX. And City Hall is now the **O2**. It's all rather confusing. It's only a 10 minute walk there though. A pleasant saunter up **Grainger** Street.



There was a real buzz outside the venue. I'd brought my trusty **Adidas** bag but I was told by the security that bags aren't allowed. So I had to take all the stuff out, walk over the road and hide the bag in a **bush**. Would it still be there after the **gig**?

Fowler is one of British Rock's last great voices. And similarly Craddock is one of the last British **guitar** heroes. They were bouncing off each other on stage and it was heart-warming, a pleasure to **behold**.

When Steve whipped out his gold top Les Paul I knew we were in for a treat, as the opening notes of **Riverboat** Song resounded the City Hall **erupted**. It was one of the best live moments I've ever experienced. It's a **timeless** track. One of the greatest Rock n Roll songs of all time. Simon Fowler was top notch on this. He's not a spent force like the media portrayed him. His **voice** is still very much **there**. Yeah, he's put on a few pounds but haven't we all?

I had to get right down the front for **Hundred** Mile High City. It's a euphoric track which makes me pine for the mid 1990's. They played what was essentially a greatest **hits** set, which was fine by me. The most bizarre moment of the night was when a Geordie



who looked like Robbie Savage started accusing another bloke of **sniffing** his **wife**. Me and Dave were howling. Twas a top night. And I will **definitely** see them again. Oh, and someone nicked my bag from the **bush**. Also, shout out to Crib **Neil** who I saw at the gig.

4.3/5

REVIEW



THE KILLER NETFLIX



The first twenty minutes of David Fincher's latest movie is basically a Patrick Bateman style **monologue**, performed by the always watchable Michael **Fassbender** as the eponymous 'killer', in which he covers various topics and quotes from a number of historical figures (my favourite being one from Aleister Crowley) punctuated by The **Smiths** songs.

The serenity and introspective calm dissipates in a split second of **folie** and is quickly replaced by an intense action set piece on the streets of Paris, buoyed by the instantly recognisable hallmarks of a Trent **Reznor**/Atticus score. Fassbender cuts a lone, very much self-contained contract killer in what transpires to be an age-old tale of **revenge** on a gargantuan scale. It's also nice to see the classic **Fincher** monologue accompanying the remainder of the film.

The killer himself is a **cool** customer. I'd describe him as a more badass, more **amoral**, less sleazy version of James Bond. I would have given this movie a higher score if it wasn't full of Smiths **songs**.

4.2/5

PETERLEE IS **BRUTAL**

A Dirge Day Out

Ever since I saw A Clockwork Orange when I was a kid my imagination has been fired by **Brutalist** architecture. So when I learned the other year that there was some virtually on my door step I vowed to visit one day, regardless of Peterlee being regarded by many as a shit **hole**. Well, I finally decided to take the kids for a grand day out to see the Apollo Pavilion, which was constructed in the middle of a housing estate in **1969** to mark the **Moon Landings**.

We caught the X66 to Stockton, then the X22 to Peterlee. Looking out of the window in awe at villages and their inhabitants that I had heard of but never seen in person; Trimdon and **Fishburn** amongst others. Once we reached our ultimate destination it was only a short walk up **Pasmore Road** to the Pavilion. It felt great to finally encounter it, although regrettably the three children were rather nonplussed.

Pasmore said of his creation "an architecture and sculpture of purely abstract form through which to walk, in which to linger and on which to play, a free and anonymous monument which, because of its independence, can lift the activity and psychology of an **urban** housing community on to a **universal** plane".



This didn't happen. It was vandalised and became **haunted** by local youths looking for somewhere new to hang out. I know, who would have guessed?

Well, as you can see in the pictures, it's still very much standing and it's **definitely** worth a visit if you're in the area.





TRACKS ROUND UP

WITH SARAH WILSON



All is merry and bright at Tracks HQ as we look back at the fun we had in 2023 and look ahead to planning exciting musical happenings in 2024. Last Friday saw us hosting a sold out Hark! The Sound Of Stories gig in the beautiful Darlington **Library** featuring Mayshe-Mayshe, The Cornshed Sisters and The Bookshop Band. Plus a special author/songwriter collaboration between Pam **Plumb** and Eve Conway being performed for the first time. It's wonderful to be able to bring live music to such a wonderful, **historic** space.

Anyone looking for the gift of live music this Christmas, head to our website and treat yourself and your loved ones to tickets to one of our upcoming shows in 2024. We have **BIG Little Gigs**, our family friendly music event 'BIG Little Gigs Rave In The Library' on Saturday **20th** January. There are two time slots, one 5pm-6pm and one 7pm-8pm. Bring your small ones along and start the new year dancing to some sweet beats whilst waving a glow stick around the **library**.

And we are linking up with The **Forum** Music Centre to bring you a very special gig celebrating Independent Venue Week on Thursday 1st February. Featuring the punktastic **Mouses** playing some of their brand new material plus sterling support from Darlington QE quirk pop superstars **Maeve** and The Trains.

Wishing you a **musical** festive season and a fun filled NY x

www.tracksdarlington.co.uk

In this brand new strand I hit up groups I like on **MSN Messenger**. This issue we have Glasgow's

DRAGGED UP



Dragged Up formed in 2018 when Gnatiuk, Shaw and Jones spent a Christmas jumble sale staring at a mildewed 7" pressing of John **Inman's** 'Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer' wondering if it could ever be bettered.



Their ambition was matched by Lalli and Mors, and together they were determined to beat Inman's moderate 1976 chart **success**.

However, this mission is often thwarted by their innate lack of 'positive vibes only.' An episode of **Dramarama**, led Gnatiuk to believe they were trapped inside a mirror by an evil doppelgänger who, through **telekinesis**, auto writes lyrics on crisp packets. Meanwhile Jones equally fails to bring joy to the world, but instead revels in writing on the minutiae of day-to-day provincial **misery**.

Help Dragged Up fulfil our mediocre dreams by engaging with their "nerve-wracking" output at draggedup.bandcamp.com.

Our sludge-scazz-garage-trash is coming soon to a community centre annexe near **YOU!**

facebook.com/draggedup

OBITUARIES

MATTHEW PERRY (Actor) 1969 - 2023

GEORGE BROWN (Drummer) 1949 - 2023

JOSS ACKLAND (Actor) 1928 - 2023

TERRY VENABLES (Footballer) 1943- 2023

KEVIN WALKER (Guitarist) 1958 - 2023

SHANE MACGOWAN (Singer) 1957 - 2023

DEAN SULLIVAN (Actor) 1955 - 2023

DENNY LAINE (Musician) 1944 - 2023

BENJAMIN ZEPHANIAH (Poet) 1958 - 2023

STEVE HALLIWELL (Actor) 1946- - 2023



DAVE'S DISCS

WE ASK LOCAL MUSIC MAKER AND AVID VINYL COLLECTOR DAVE C (AKA EL SOMBRERON) TO SHARE HIS FAVOURITE RECENT VINYL PURCHASE. THIS MONTH...

I PRESENT THE DEBUT QUEEN ALBUM, SIMPLY CALLED QUEEN OR QUEEN ONE. I'M A BIG QUEEN FAN AND THIS IS A SOLID DEBUT ALBUM, BOASTING SOME STAND OUT TRACKS LIKE KEEP YOURSELF ALIVE, GREAT KING RAT, LIAR, MY FAIRY KING AND SON AND DAUGHTER.

I COPPED THIS FROM HEAD BOOKSHOP ON POSTHOUSE WYND FOR £20, IT'S AN ORIGINAL 1973 EDITION.

THIS ALBUM FEATURES "AND NOBODY PLAYED A SYNTHESIZER" ON THE LINER NOTES. WHICH BECAME A THEME FOR ALL OF THEIR ALBUMS UP UNTIL 1980'S THE GAME IN WHICH THEY FINALLY SUCCUMBED TO THE POWER OF THE SYNTH.



@theravenofgenetix1979

DIRGE GET IT ON WITH...

**JAMES
HEWITSON**



I ACCIDENTALLY KNOCKED INTO JAMES LEONARD HEWITSON IN THE MARKS & SPENCERS REFRIGERATOR AISLE. I APOLOGISED AND ASKED HIM FOR A CHAT.

facebook.com/jamesleonardhewitson

When I saw you in Darlo last you were rocking a backing track. Have you replaced the band with a phone because they're more reliable?

I don't comment as I don't feel it's appropriate.

You've just played live with Space at Boro Town Hall; I remember talking to Tommy in Seaton Carew once and he was dead cool. Was it your biggest gig to date and how did it go?

I don't think it was my biggest gig but it was a gig where you learn something. A band like Space have been around for so long at a really high level, you can't not learn something valuable on gigs like that. I was battling a cold and my voice wasn't 100% but I think it went okay! The crowd were nice and I sold some albums.

When you're not making infectious, radio friendly Indie-Pop what do you like to do with your spare time?

I am currently taking French classes.

If you had to choose one of your songs that most represents your sound to put in a time capsule for future generations of music lover, what would it be?

Stable.

Thanks for that insight James! Good luck for the future and in the words of Delboy, **Bonjour!**

THE CABINET OF DR. KRAFTWERK

Ex-Kraftwerk musikerarbeiter Karl Bartos has re-scored the seminal 1920 forerunner of Psychological Horror 'The Cabinet of Dr Caligari'. As a huge fan of both Kraftwerk and the film I am awaiting the release in February with bated breath.

Although not greatly musically active since leaving Kraftwerk in 1990, Bartos has released two studio albums, both of which are pretty listenable. And unlike other former member Wolfgang Flur who regularly DJ's in the North East, Karl has a few Kraftwerk songwriting credits to his name, most notably The Robots from 1978.

Bartos has described the project as "narrative film music and sound design for Robert Wiene's psychological thriller".

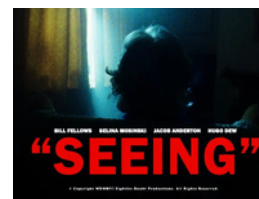
The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari premieres in Frankfurt next year and is set to meld symphonic elements with synthesis. Bartos has also recently written a book about his time in Kraftwerk entitled 'Sound of The Machine'.



SEEING IS BELIEVING

The psychological horror short by local lad Jim Campbell, filmed in Darlington with Bill Fellows is on YouTube right now to watch at your own leisure if you so desire. It premiered in late October at Tees Valley International Film Festival.

Simply go to
[youtube.com/
@eightiesdoubt
productions](https://youtube.com/@eightiesdoubtproductions)



A first look at Lily-Rose Depp in Robert Eggers' upcoming Nosferatu remake. Not a patch on Isabelle Adjani. Looks good though!

GHOSTS OF TV PAST

OUR TOP 5

BBC Ghost **Stories** for Christmas

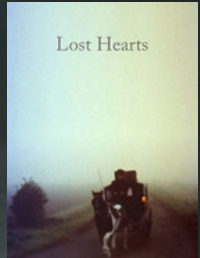


ARE YOU ALL COSY IN YOUR
GROWN UP **ONESY** AND FLUFFY
SLIPPERS?
A GLASS OF MULLED **WINE** OR HOT
CHOCOLATE IN HAND?

GOOD, THEN WE'LL BEGIN.

Lost Hearts (1973)

A genuinely creepy and rather sinister offering, adapted from a story by M.R James. A boy is sent to live with his much older cousin after being orphaned, where he is haunted by a boy and a girl combo with their hearts missing. The atmospheric cinematography is heightened by the ethereal music, including a track named Hyperion III, a 1966 avant-garde piece by Bruno Maderna. And I still experience a frisson of terror every time I hear a hurdy gurdy.



Schalcken The Painter (1979)

Extremely creepy period ghost story set in The Netherlands. Godfried Schalcken was a real artist in the 17th century, but this adaptation was based on the 1839 story Strange Event in the Life of Schalcken the Painter by Sheridan Le Fanu. Utilising low key lighting and dour sets to create a feeling of distinct unease, the mood darkens even more when a sinister, ghostly figure is introduced to haunt the eponymous artist and make his life a living hell.



A Warning To The Curious (1972)

M.R James is adapted once again for this tale, set in the 1920's. Peter Vaughan plays Mr. Paxton. An amateur archaeologist who travels to the coast of Suffolk on a treasure hunting expedition of sorts, but someone or something has a real issue with anyone who dares to attempt to dig it up. There are a couple of (uncharacteristically for the BBC) violent moments and blood spill, made more horrific by the various pieces of dark classical music that really ramp up the spook factor.



The Stone Tape (1972)

Although (along with Schalcken The Painter) this more modern, sci-fi orientated tale wasn't part of the main Ghost Story for Christmas strand, it was broadcast on Christmas Day in 1972, so is still worthy of inclusion in this list and notably features a marvellous electronic score and sound effects by the BBC Radiophonic Workshop. A research team enter a reputedly haunted house and start to wonder if the stone walls are acting as some sort of recording medium that captures the voices of spirits.



Whistle And I'll Come To You (2010)

You've guessed it. Another M.R James adaptation. We follow the fortunes of James Parkin, touchingly and sensitively portrayed by the late, great John Hurt. James has left his wife who is suffering from dementia and travelled to the coast to get some respite by the sea, but he is haunted by apparitions and experiences strange goings on. Are they linked to his wife? And are the happenings his own internalised guilt and grief manifesting themselves? A highly watchable, spooky and poignant episode.



THE GOLDEN AGE OF NOTHING

STOCK IMAGE

CHUMP WRECKER

CAFE ETCH
MIDDLESBROUGH



Well I was umming and arring about going to this gig but am I glad I did? Let's find out...

The **X66** was on time for once so that was a good omen. So with my three kids (or Mini Dirgers) in tow we travelled through to the land of **Parmos** and heroin addicts.

I'd been to the evening's venue, **Café Etch** once before for a drink, it's a quirky little place with a couple of floors offering a good selection of food and beverages. The performance area is probably what you'd describe as **bijou**. It's about the same size as my front **room**, but with the various lights and things in it, has a charm about it. I got the kids a hot chocolate and myself a pint and began to watch **Chump Wrecker**, aka Ian Hanratty from Darlo.



He's quite a character is Ian, and a bit of a music scene veteran, being in such classic bands as **Goatsniffer** and **Nemain**, and I was quite impressed with his hardware based set. If it had been a bit later on and several pints or speckled **Mitsis** further into it he would have had the crowd dancing about like no one's business. Chump has plenty of stage **presence** which is a good thing when you're a one man operation with no projected visuals to fall back on. Speaking of one man operations...

4.2/5



Yes, up next to grace the stage of Café Etch was Stockton's **Stock Image**, dressed in his now iconic trademark pink suit, black T-shirt and **loafer** combination. He seemed to be a bit awkward on stage, probably due to his newfound sobriety, and fair play to him, I couldn't go up on stage by myself without a drink in my hand. He reeled off **banger** after banger to the point where I couldn't take anymore. I was a mess. I had that many of his **melodies** going through my head simultaneously I thought I was going to have an **aneurysm**.

And in the blink of an eye, top of the bill Stockton stalwarts **The Golden Age of Nothing** entered the tiny stage to round off the evening's proceedings. I've seen them live a few times now and always enjoyed the shoegazey gothiness of the Teesside trio. The electric **viola** put through a myriad of effects pedals is always interesting to hear in the songs which are **downbeat** yet paradoxically catchy, driven by the electronic drums like any self respecting Goth band. They topped off a **great** evening of music and I'm glad I went!

QUESTION MARKS RAISED OVER THE MAJESTIC THEATRE AFTER UNLICENCED BOXING MATCH ENDS IN INJURY

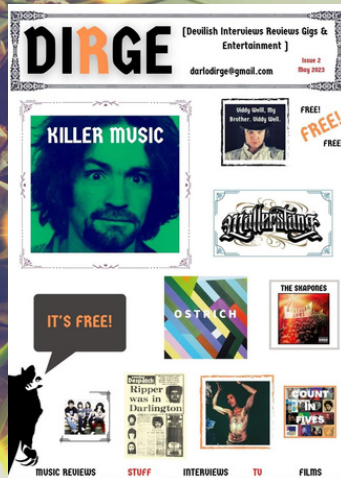
The **Fuzz** were called to the theatre on Skinnergate in October when an unlicensed boxing fight got out of **control**, resulting in a man suffering what has been described as a 'life **changing** injury' as three quarters of his ear was ripped off during the bout. It is unclear whether this was simply a sporting mis-hap or a purposeful **act**.

I really like The **Majestic** as a venue so I hope this doesn't mean anything detrimental for their **future**, I highly recommend the pantomimes, we all went last year and had a great laugh. It's **Cinderella** this year and it's set to be a riot!



Actual image from the match

Thanks for reading DIRGE in 2023



JAMES CAMPBELL BEGINS PRE-PRODUCTION ON 'A FATHER'S DEBT'

The Darlo film maker has set the ball rolling on his next production 'A Father's Debt', the second in a trilogy of gritty North East based short films shot on 16mm.

The follow up to 'Seeing' is set to ramp up the violence factor in a big way as a father takes revenge on those that have wronged him and his family.

Production starts in 2024 and if it's anywhere near as good as 'Seeing' we should be in for a treat next year!



Dylan Barnes is itchin' in the kitchen



MUSIC CREATORS

YB

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Industry guidance and support to schedule gig nights for young people.

YB Gigs
(13-17)

'Where youth ignites sound'

Monthly under 18's gig night organised by Young Blood Promoters.

YB Music Creators
(13-17)

'Fuelling the future of music'

Write, Create and develop your music guided by professional mentors

THE HOME OF UNPOPULAR MUSIC PRESENTS...

WERBENIUK

BOSKO GREEN

FRAZER LAMBERT

SAT 13TH JAN

TOFT HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH

TICKETS £6 (ADV.) £8 ON DOOR

fatsoma.com

DIRGE POSTER



A vintage German **Krampus** Christmas Card.