

DIRGE



DIRGE WHAT THOU WILT

DIRGE

noun!

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

So, the mighty Kraftwerk are coming to **Stockton** Town! Never thought I'd ever see that. And I'm still not. Because I couldn't get ticket. **Sob.** Anyway...



In other news DIRGE #12 features **more** contributors and **interviews** than any previous issue. Blimey!

DIRGE has been a bit of a victim of its own success in recent months, I've been inundated with stuff to review and people after **interviews** and things, which is great, but I couldn't fit it all in and some may have fell between the cracks, especially if the stuff wasn't emailed. So if you're not included this time, look out for the next **edition!**

Speaking of which, the next print issue probably won't be out until **March** next year. I will still be updating the socials etc and sharing people's events but I also need a few months off to play music and do some other things.

We have another guest Dirge **poster** designer this month too, we welcome Lauren from **Dragged Up** to the mag!

I'd just like to **thank** everyone for their well wishes after my harrowing Instagram **hacking** experience too. I love you all! **Roz.** X

ISSUE 12

HALLOWEEN 2025

APPEARING SOMEWHERE INSIDE..

JADE MIA BROADHEAD

GRASPING AT REALITY

ROOM 101 WITH CARL JACKSON

THE LAIR OF LOCAL

COUNT IN 5s WITH ROBYN ERRICO

MONSTER MATCH

A/S/L WITH BILL GATESHEAD

MONDO PORCO

CARL GREEN AT THE FORUM

GLAD TOWN GHOST

LYTHE WIRE - PUPPET MASTER

HEAVY PSYCH DAMAGE

SNAPPED AT PLAY

DIRGE POSTER

WEATHERSHIP

OUR MAN IN JAPAN

SERENGETI

AND LOADS MORE!!

PAM GRIER IN...



Front Cover image is a picture of the occultist Aleister **Crowley** in England, 1912.

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

Dirge Poster Designer - Lauren P (@_llren_)

Proof read by Ann Cuthbert (@grallic)



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facebook.com/darlodirge



buymeacoffee.com/dirge

THE LAIR OF LOCAL

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



SET YOUR SIGHTS - THE FIRST TIME

Most Dirge readers know my opinions on Pop Punk. It's not my bag. For what this is, which is an upbeat, up-tempo, nostalgic Pop Punk tune, it's fine. To my ears it's well written enough, but it has all been done to death. **3.4/5**

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

SICK ROBOT - SECRET TELEPHONE (FEAT. VOIDSCAN)

So, Liam has a secret phone. I hope he's not up to no good. Of course he isn't! He's too busy making solid electronic music to cheat on his missus! He's done better stuff but this is still listenable, building in the beat department and with plenty of his signature ambient soundscapes.

3.5/5

sickrobot1980.bandcamp.com

AARDVARK CONVERSATION - HIGHLAND FLING

Dope, this. It's got an Art of Noise aesthetic with John Foxx vocal stylings. It appears to be about holidaying in Scotland, which I'm totally an advocate of. I really want to go to Loch Ness to see Boleskine House. Maybe next year. In the meantime I'll listen to this! **3.9/5**

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

THE LARCHES - EGO DEATH



'Ego Death is about a dependency on psychedelic drugs'. We've all been there. We are grabbed by the bollocks by some gnarly 6 string riffage, and begin to fall further down the K hole when the rhythm section enters the fray to pummel our drugged up collective consciousness even more.

I watched the lyric video to this song on YouTube, a well made vid that showcases the song, you should watch it. Mix wise, the vocals are a little dry. I would have saturated them a lot more as there is a bit of a disconnect happening between the instrumentation and the clean vocal sound, resulting in them sounding a bit weak in the mix.

It's nice to hear something sludgy for a change, mind. Best listened to loud. And drugs are bad. M'kay. **3.8/5**

[instagram.com/thelarches.bnd](https://www.instagram.com/thelarches.bnd)

RICHIE HARRISON - NOTHING VENTURED NOTHING GAINED

Big and bouncy (wasn't that the porno mag from The Diary of Adrian Mole?) stuff from Mr Harrison. Aesthetically tinged with 90's Indie Rock swagger (in fact the intro of Shotgun sounds like it could have been on Definitely Maybe). It's catchy, it's danceable, he could go far this Richie Harrison bloke. There's lots of styles manifesting on Richie's new joint but the songs don't sound disparate, they mould together in a naughty way **4.2/5**

[instagram.com/richieh316music](https://www.instagram.com/richieh316music)

SPACECADETBLOOM - WHY WOULD I LIE?

The Cadets have created a song that fills you with a fuzzy feeling of hope for a band still in the infancy of their career. Their debut is a little bit meandering at times and the vocals do appear to sound flat on occasion but the timbre and delivery of her voice is on point for the shoegaze aesthetic that SpaceCadetBloom are bringing to the table. Ones to watch!

3.5/5

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



PRD - CRABS

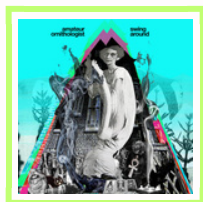


Home made drums! I love home made finger drums. Nice and dirty, this. I suppose it would have to be being called 'Crabs'. I wasn't expecting that thick cockney accent on the vocal, it gave me real Alternative T.V vibes. Complete with cynical, sardonic and clever lyrics, but this is more akin to early 90's grunge than punk. **4/5**

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

AMATEUR ORNITHOLOGIST - SWING AROUND

An exceedingly baroque piece by one of my fave North East bands. Beautifully recorded strings, and an excellently mixed track by Harbourmaster I presume. Striking single cover too.



It's not peak A.O but it is a delightful slice of downbeat pop. **3.9/5**

[@amateurornithologist](https://www.instagram.com/amateurornithologist)

CANE ROUGE - LIGHTS OUT

I first became aware of Cane Rouge at the excellent Live & Local nights at The Forum. I have to admit my first impression was that they were just another lad rock band, but I ended up really enjoying their sound. That'll teach me to be so flipping judgemental! Also the lads aren't afraid to have a laugh at themselves, which is always endearing. Anyway, what of the title track from their new E.P?

It's a slow burner, but when it finally gets going the listener is richly rewarded with a catchy little number showcasing introspective, relatable lyrics that demonstrate the Cane Rouge boys can indeed be a multi faceted band. **3.7/5**

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

HADDONWOOD - NIGHTMARES

Horror Punk from my home town. It's pretty fun. Horror films and music seem to go hand in hand, don't they? The drums sound a bit weak but it passed a couple of minutes this Halloween season. **3.4/5**

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

CARL GREEN IN PARTICULAR - TRAINEE CLAIRVOYANT

Who's that on the cover, looks a bit like Pacey from Dawson's Creek. (Note to self ask Carl next time I see him.) Remember those Kellogg's variety packs? Well this E.P is the musical equivalent. Instant singalongs, instant quotables from start to finish. I enjoyed it immensely. From the West End musical sound of 'Nefertiti' to the dance floor filler 'Stoop To Conquer', it's a schizophonic rollercoaster ride that'll leave you craving more! **4.3/5**

[@carlgreeninparticular](https://www.instagram.com/carlgreeninparticular)



OPERATION BONSAI - BOWNDIDOWN

Funky! I'm digging that Rhodes piano and the production as a whole. 70's yet modern, with a strong vocal hook. This Bonsai lot know how to write a tune and are currently on an 'interplanetary mission to spread good vibes'! **4/5**

[@operation_bonsai](https://www.instagram.com/operation_bonsai)

MARQ ELECTRONICA - ATLANTIC SUN

The nicest bloke in North East EDM shimmers back into our lives with his new mega hit 'Atlantic Sun'. I enjoy Marq's stuff. It's not the most original music ever but it's easy on the ear and I dig his vocals. Lush synths too. **3.6/5**

[@marqelectronica](https://www.instagram.com/marqelectronica)

DIRGE POP CHARTS

- 1.) STOCK IMAGE - THE LONG FADE 🏆
- 2.) CARL GREEN IN PARTICULAR - TRAINEE CLAIRVOYANT
- 3.) RICHIE HARRISON - NOTHING VENTURED, NOTHING GAINED
- 4.) MIDDLE MANAGEMENT - WOKE
OPERATION BONSAI - BOWNDIDOWN
PRD - CRABS
- 5.) AMATEUR ORNITHOLOGIST - SWING AROUND
ANDREW JOHNSON - INERTIA
AARDVARK CONVERSATION - HIGHLAND FLING

[#DIRGEOFFICIALCHARTS](https://www.instagram.com/dirgeofficialcharts)

BILLBOARD 100

CITIZENS OF YEAH! - IN A NORTHERN CITY

Flowing with metronomic grace, the Citizens have produced a nostalgic piano driven ditty that harks back to simpler times. Skilfully produced as ever, Jono isn't afraid to write about whatever the heck he wants, and he makes it sound cohesive, natural and interesting at all times. **3.8/5**

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

MIDDLE MANAGEMENT - WOKE

Two choices here. Go woke or go broke. Let's go... WOKE!

Always topical, always engaging. Always backed by the topsy turvy, arpeggiated fairground organ of Simone Silvestris.

Sometimes I'm sent music by bands and my heart sinks knowing I have to listen to three minutes of it. Not with M.M though, always interesting. **4/5**

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

ANDREW JOHNSON - INERTIA

Andy's really worked on the instrumentation on Inertia. It's lush. A wall of sound Phil Spector would be proud of. Vocally, hints of Andy's day job (If you know you know) are sometimes a bit too prominent, making it sound like an actual Paul Heaton track. But that's no bad thing I guess. **3.9/5**

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

INTERVIEW

GRASPING AT REALITY

I ENCOUNTERED CHRIS AND KEV AT A NOTORIOUS TEESSIDE DOGGING AREA SO WE HAD A BRIEF CHAT.

REALITY IS OBVIOUSLY YOUR FAVOURITE THING TO GRASP. WHAT ELSE DO YOU LIKE GRASPING?

C - Clouds.

K - Personally, I like grasping at straws.

YOUR LIVE SHOWS ARE RENOWNED FOR BEING RATHER PLAYFUL. SPEAKING OF PLAYING, WHAT DO YOU BOTH LIKE TO DO WHEN YOU'RE BOTH NOT MAKING MUSIC OR WORKING?

C - Mostly gazing into the void, wondering where I left the instruction manual. We're both part of Mozzenjammer too. Go check that out on YouTube. Do it!

K - Mainly gaming and smoking. I'm playing the new Shinobi game at the moment. It's very good!

C - Oh yeah, I'm playing Fallout '76 a lot too.

WHERE IS YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE TO EAT IN MIDDLESBROUGH?

C - My living room. Something about eating lasagne in your pants is unacceptable in restaurants.

K - It's a takeaway, but YK Chow's is amazing and a Middlesbrough institution.

HAVE YOU EVER PLAYED A GIG SOBER? IF SO HOW WAS IT? ASKING FOR MYSELF.

C - I play every gig sober! Only when I'm not playing am I inebriated.

K - Yes, and it wasn't ideal...

THANKS, LADS. FEEL FREE TO COME BACK ANYTIME YOU LIKE.

ROZ.



I've got them exact kecks. So comfy!



GRASPINGATREALITY



SNAPPED!



THIS MONTH WE FEATURE **MOZZENJAMMER'S** WEEKEND (NIGHT ONE) AT **PLAY**, WITH PHOTOS BY OUR DANNY HUMBLE! (AND A COUPLE BY ME)



GAYDAR
ZETA POINT
SHE THE THRONE
GRASPING AT REALITY



GIGUPNORTH

SOCIAL YOUTH CULT - CLOSE TO NOTHING

Dark and brooding, this. Everything we've come to expect from the young four piece, who appear to have been summoned up from the underworld to become a force to be reckoned with on the north east alternative scene.

The song starts slowly but still manages to keep your interest piqued, a harbinger of things to come as the chorus pulls the track up a notch in the dynamics department, building to an intense climax (ooo err).

The lads and lasses need to be mindful not to veer into the territory of goth pastiche and keep their sound original to themselves which I believe they are managing to do for the most part.

The drums are big and boomy, I especially like the snare and tom sounds. I shall see them live eventually, I'm sure! **3.8/5**

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

SOCIAL YOUTH CULT TO RELEASE NEW ALBUM



'**The Lighthouse**' the new album by goth whippersnappers SYC is out on **02/11/25**. There will be a launch party at **Crafty Cove** in **Whitby** on the day of the album's release. 'The Lighthouse' is made up of **eight** tracks which were recorded at The Bunker in **Sunderland**. So keep an eye out for it!

REVIEW

By Danny Humble

SERENGETI
FAITHFUL JOHANNES X NEOCIA
CEILING DEMONS

ANGELS CUT
DARLO



Faithful J in full flow

A COOL AND INTIMATE VENUE ON DUKE STREET IN DARLINGTON WAS THE SETTING FOR THE NIGHT'S LIVE MUSIC EXTRAVAGANZA FEATURING THE PROLIFIC CHICAGO RAPPER SERENGETI.

Opening the show on this date of the tour was **Faithful Johannes x Neocia**. They delivered their uber-cool beats and story-telling vocals with laid-back style and humour. The occasional homemade cardboard placard festooned with various lyrics drifted across the 'stage' giving audience members an insight into FJ's mind of whimsical musings and wistful introspection. Their set is always tight and very watchable.

Next came **Ceiling Demons**. I don't think this venue suited these guys. The two front men are energetic and loud and it was a bit abrasive on the ears in this small room. The night after I saw them again in Newcastle and enjoyed their set as the vocal level was matched by the music. The dark of the Lubber Fiend also contributed to their dark melodies and lyrics. I really like their use of live instruments and their gravelly hip-hop musical style.

I last saw **Serengeti** around 8 years ago and he is still awesome although he did the same frustrating thing of cutting short almost every single song he played. His beats and his lyrics are genius and it's such a shame that he seems to get easily bored with his own live show. He kept saying he'd do another one then get out of our hair. Thankfully the crowd kept persuading him to do more. Songs like 'Tracks' and 'Dennehy' and 'The Whip' are just sublime. He did some newer stuff which is also great.

Although Angels Cut is a neat venue, I don't think a sit-down set-up was right for this particular line-up. The next night at Newcastle saw much better performances by all the acts. But I still had a decent night and I appreciate all venues that put on live and original music. **D.H**

 **GIGUPNORTH**



HALLOWEEN CAT, WEST COAST SCOTLAND
BY EVA D/U

STOCK IMAGE - THE LONG FADE

There's a dystopian feel to Stock's latest album. Reflections on the modern age contrast with tales of lost loves and more humanistic themes. One could say it's easy to view Elliott as this 80's obsessed, sardonic Patrick Bateman character from the outside. A lone wolf, a maverick that plays by his own rules at any cost. Yet don't be fooled. His incisive take on 21st century life and the showbiz world, aided by his calling card of baroque synthesisers and Linn drum riddims offer the audiophile a quintessential experience in retro futurism. Dirge says go buy a salmon pink suit from Debenhams and join the revolution. **4.4/5**

 **_STOCK_IMAGE**

JADE, THE VOCALIST AND SONGWRITER FROM RIOT GRRRLS **DINKY BOSSETTI** HAS A NEW SOLO ALBUM OUT. I HAD A LITTLE CHAT WITH HER ABOUT 'DELICATE FLOWER, PRICKLY THORNS' AND OTHER SUBJECTS!

INTERVIEW

JADE MIA BROADHEAD



JADEMIABROADHEADMUSIC

HIYA, JADE. THANKS FOR TALKING TO DIRGE! HOW DO YOU DECIDE ON WHICH SONGS YOU WRITE WILL BE USED FOR DINKY AND WHICH WILL BE USED FOR YOUR SOLO STUFF?

I don't sit down to write either solo or Dinky songs, but naturally the introspective ballad side tends to fit more with the me & and acoustic vibes, whereas the angry protesty ranty songs fit better with Dinky. I've brought songs to Dinky that the band didn't get on with or it didn't fit for one reason or another so then I've done those solo. I love being able to do both. There's the softer sensitive side of me & the screaming hellbitch too! Delicate flower, prickly thorns...

WHAT DO YOU WISH TO ACHIEVE NEXT ON YOUR 'MUSICAL JOURNEY'? SORRY FOR THE CRINGE TERM THERE!

Putting out my debut solo album is such a big thing of course, but it was finished months ago & I've already written the next album so I'm super excited to hit the studio as soon as possible to start on that. We've also spoken about doing a Dinky album which has been delayed somewhat by line-up changes, but hopefully we can start work on that before the end of the year. And just to keep playing, I'd live on tour & play every night of my life if I could. I can do that. I can't do real life!

YOU SADLY LOST YOUR MAM RECENTLY, HOW DID SHE SHAPE YOUR MUSICAL TASTE AND DID SHE HAVE A BIG PART TO PLAY IN YOUR MUSIC?

I remember raiding my parents' record collection when I was a kid & discovering Simon & Garfunkel & the Beach Boys who both became firm favourites. She also passed on a love of Elvis - who was her favourite artist & I remember watching his movies with her when I was little. She loved coming to my solo shows & even Dinky ones by the end... "Too sweary, too loud, your skirts are too short!" Her being at shows, especially since her diagnosis, always made them that bit more special & though it's not quite the same, I do feel her with me still. I'm still up there trying to make her proud. I decided to put her on the album cover before she passed because that photo was so perfect, so she got to see the cover & hear it.



I BRIEFLY TALKED TO YOU AT LAST TRAIN HOME, HOW DID IT GO AND DID YOU SEE ANY OTHER BANDS?

It was incredible. I was blown away by how many people came to see us, especially as we were on so early. But playing early gives you a chance to relax after & run around with your clash finder & check out the other bands. I love Venus Grrrls & Ruth Lyon so those were a given, but for me Lawn Chair - a band from Germany I'd never heard of - stole the day. Discovering new artists is what festivals are all about for me.

THANKS, JMB. WILL SPEAK AGAIN SOON!

DELICATE FLOWER, PRICKLY THORNS IS OUT NOW!

ROOM 101



MIDDLEMANAGEMENTNT

THIS MONTH IT'S THE
MANAGER...

CARL JACKSON
FROM MIDDLE MANAGEMENT!



5.) Ed Sheeran's Galway Girl



What a lazy, racist, piece of shit song. Change the Irish girl to a European and it becomes comedic. Maybe a French girl with onions around her neck playing accordion. Now go a bit further afield, maybe make some assumptions about Afro Caribbean or South East Asian people, yeah? No, Ed, because it's sweeping generalizations, it's lazy, and it's racism, you whopper. Mick Hucknall of the 2010s.

4.) The Hijacking of the St George Cross by the Far Right



Lest we forget! Lest we forget, my Grandad got a chunk of shrapnel in his leg fighting fascists in Dunkirk. He was an immigrant. Ah, but now you are using the flag and World War imagery to propagate your right-wing agenda? Lest you forget, lest you forget! Oh, and no one is offended by the flag. They are just a bit embarrassed because people like you have hijacked it.

3.) Football



I tried, I really did. I don't get it. Ninety minutes of hoofing a ball around, and sometimes nothing happens. I could have been watching a rerun of Royal Rumble '98 or something interesting.

2.) Families Who Plaster Their Kids All Over YouTube for Financial Gain



How far has Western capitalism distorted your perception of reality when you purely view your child's existence and the time you spend together as a money making venture? Imagine trying to monetise every single aspect of your child's existence. Only playing with them so you can film it and put it online for a brand deal.

1.) Stock Image's Wax Melt Choice



It's not the choice. He has some great ones. Bergamot and sandalwood type vibes. It is how he deploys them. It's not uncommon for him to get a Pumpkin Spice going in July, or whiff out a Pina Colada mid-January. Renegade.

MIDDLE MANAGEMENT'S NEW E.P
IS OUT NOW!



THANKS, CARL. WE
COULD'VE DONE WITH MORE
PEOPLE WITH YOUR STRONG
CONVICTIONS BACK IN THE
30'S !

I know Roz as the creative force being the /this notorious Dirge Mag. Only notorious by the way as it's a bastion of truth and reality. And occasionally quite amusing. So it's intriguing for me to discover if the man's creative edge translates into his musical output? I miss the first song as usual not realising the live stream in the bar is actually **Machine Music** performing in the main room next door. Three people in folk horror robes and hoods play a sort of spooked funk rock mash up. I actually thought it was some old footage from the 70's.

I've heard MM's online material, it's a prolific output with huge stylistic variations and numerous spin off projects. The striking thing about it all, is the attention to musicality and detail but delivered in a nonchalant and seemingly oblivious to at least current conventions way. Which translates exactly the same way in a live setting. This is what Roz describes as his 'pop shit' project. For context I would translate 'pop shit' as comparable to the sounds of Eels, early Beck and even Gorillaz. Put some Stranglers bass in the mix. And a Casio tone disco preset. And a toy piano. Deliver it all like you're living in your world, not ours. Dance weird. And play guitar notes that shouldn't fit, but do. A creative force yes. **4.1/5** in accordance with Roz's own marking scheme.

There's three in the band now, it's only their third gig (please correct me if that's wrong) and there's realistically some gelling and refining of the performance to work on, but the material is all there. The audience love it, and the MM don't realise it. I like that. It's way off what you expect to hear on a night out in Darlington. Sing along and smile if you dare. It's edgy though. Mid set they played the superb 'Pedestrian Sex'. I could have listened to that one all night.

Carl has done his back in, he can barely walk, but this true gentleman of the North East music scene (and beyond, they made it to Number 3 in the Finland pop chart oh yes!) is chatting away about his songs with us, right up until he's due on stage. The set, he tells us cheerfully, is going to be all songs from the bands early days which is "quite a long time ago".



The monk with the spunk. Machine Music (Image - Lorraine Richardson)

He reminds me of Ade Edmundson. I have a vague recollection of seeing Carl play in one of his bands in the fuzzy past, so I'm expecting something really good like Devo. What we get is as fresh and relevant as anything being force fed to us by the music industry just now. In fact it's better.

There's a skilled way of writing songs like those performed by CGATS tonight that's in slow decline, replaced by the "I'm so bored I can't be arsed" school of lazy song writing by numbers. Which is fine, I don't care. But it's nice when you hear what's actually possible.

I can't help thinking this is a set of songs that's somehow been overlooked by the universe. I guess that goes with the territory, as in, being a band from the North East of England. Not LA. The set is absolutely full on angular new wave. Joe Jackson. Devo. Split Enz. XTC. Crowd are very happy. Carl does most of the show seated at a small kitchen table twitching and fidgeting manically in his chair. Its brilliant, like being sat in the living room with your slightly eccentric uncle after he's popped too much medication into his vodka and energy drink cocktail. And maybe a jazz cigarette.



The gaffer. Carl Green (Image - EnA Photography)

The band are all high level musicians, the bassist has the best shoes and hair as bassists always should have (actually that was the same for Machine Music), we end up taking notes on the drummer's parts to rip off for our own band, Sorry did I say "rip off"? No, I meant "learn from". The guitarist is effortless in knocking out a whole encyclopaedia of spiked up angular parts. For a rainy Thursday night in Darlo this was a very good evening. Worth the risk of parking on double yellows in front of the keep-clear-at-all-times sign.

The Forum is a brilliant place, nice bar, nice people and a glorious stage and sound system. A few too many hideous tribute acts for me personally, but we can't change the world. There's worse things out there to be sad about obviously. I'll be seeing both bands again soon. Buy their stuff instead of Perfume Genius. (Overrated insipid whining indie crap 0.1/5). **S.S**

 **SABOTEURSBANDUK**





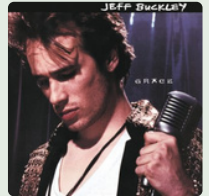
JOINING US THIS MONTH TO
SELECT SOME OF HER FAVOURITE
ALBUMS IS DARLINGTON'S OWN
ROBYN ERRICO!

 ROBYN.ERRICO



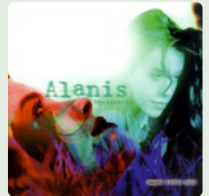
JEFF BUCKLEY - GRACE (1994)

This album was the easiest and most obvious choice for me. Jeff probably has my favourite voice of all time, and this album has everything that I enjoy within music – darkness, dreaminess, anger, haunting beauty. Mojo Pin and So Real are my standout tracks. I'll always wonder what else he would have created if he'd made it past 30.



ALANIS MORRISETTE - JAGGED LITTLE PILL (1995)

It is the almost unparalleled brutal honesty and rawness that Alanis delivers in these tracks that sold this album as a top five. She is one of the artists who reminds me that it is okay to say exactly what you mean in a song without any sugar coating (You Oughta Know, I'm looking at you). Every time I listen, I find new wisdom in her words.



AMY WINEHOUSE - BACK TO BLACK (2006)

I wrestled with myself about this one, because I love Frank about equally to Back to Black. However, You Know I'm No Good, Wake Up Alone and Me & Mr Jones are some of my most favourite tunes of all time and I had to pick one, so there we go. Amy was a true visionary, and she'll always be one of the very greatest as far as I'm concerned.



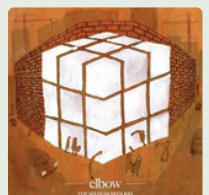
RADIOHEAD - THE BENDS (1995)

It could have easily been In Rainbows, but this was the album I had on repeat as a teenager and I still find it exciting every time I listen to it. It's full to the brim with angst which I weirdly find very cleansing. For me, not a single song is a skip, but special mentions go to Planet Telex, (Nice Dream) and Just.



ELBOW - SELDOM SEEN KID (2008)

I'll always have a massive soft spot for Elbow, and I bloody love this album. Guy Garvey's lyrics are poetry to me – The Bones of You includes some of my favourite lyrics of all time. Tracks like Mirrorball make me feel like I'm drifting down a river, while Grounds for Divorce makes me want to smash things for fun. What else do you need?



THE MANIFESTO OF MONDO PORCO

1.) A Boycott of Spotify and Streaming Services by Artists.

A total of €600 million. That is the amount Daniel Ek, Spotify founder, plunged into military A.I tech through his own venture capital company. He is currently worth \$7.3 billion and is funnelling that money into automated killing machines.

As an artist, you will earn roughly \$0.003 per stream on Spotify while Ek sweeps up the profit from ads and subscriptions. Not only that, but his platform is being flooded with bots and A.I artists. This means he can pay real creatives even less. As a user, you are funding Spotify either through ads or by paying for a subscription. All of this is going into the military industrial complex, while very few of your favourite artists make much money from it.



We can not bemoan the fact that we don't get paid for making art if we expect it from others for free. Nor can we hold up placards and wave flags against the horrors of war, knowing the fruits of our labour are funding it.

And what for? The hope that new fans find us, when we all know that algorithms are stacked against that anyway? Is the meagre sum we are paid more important than preventing a Skynet-style apocalypse?

Manifesto point one involves a boycott of streaming services, particularly Spotify, both by consumers and artists. **M.P**



MONDO_PORCO1



THIS MONTH'S
A/S/L IS **BILL
GATESHEAD!**

Bill Gateshead is a one man music project whose output ranges from minimal electro to lo fi garage rock. Raised in Gateshead and now based in South London, Bill is more known for the rate of his album releases than the music itself, averaging around six full length LPs a year.



It's Gateshead's own Windy Miller!

The bald headed multi instrumentalist claims to enjoy his small listenership as it allows him to make his art without compromising on his vision. Bill is currently working on an instrumental album inspired by Hiroshima with a track due to appear on a compilation raising money for Palestinian aid. **B.G**



BILLG8SHEAD

DEBUT SINGLE BY **AMERICAN WRESTLING**

'Loser Rock' (their words, not mine) trailblazers **American Wrestling** release their first ever **single** on **Halloween**. 'They Only Come Around When the Lights are Low' is being celebrated by the band on November **1st** at The **Cumberland Arms** in Newcastle with tickets priced at **£8**.

Cop the single at

americanwrestling.bandcamp.com



DIRGE ROASTS...



GLADTOWNGHOST

GLAD TOWN GHOST!

I CAUGHT UP WITH **DALE** DURING THE NIGHTMARE SEQUENCE IN 1989'S **THE BURBS**, AND DECIDED TO ROAST HIM.

HI DALE, THANKS FOR TALKING TO LITTLE OLD DIRGE! WHERE DO YOU THINK AMERICANA BASED FOLK SITS IN THE FIRMAMENT OF THE NORTH EAST MUSIC SCENE?

Hi Dirge, you're not little at all. For me all American folk is hugely influenced by Anglo and Scot immigrants and their music, many of whom were probably from our area. I typed out a huge essay on this but it'd take up too many pages I think. I can't speak for anyone else and don't know where my music or style of music sits in the North East music scene, there's loads of great writers here, I don't believe anyone sits above anyone else. Like all music, people love it, people despise it, I'm going to keep writing songs until I'm gone either way.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE STATUS QUO OF THE TEESSIDE SCENE AT THE MOMENT? DOES IT FILL YOU WITH HOPE?

Yes it does. Our area is full of amazing creative people, a lot of people seem to be doing their own DIY things rather than wait for opportunities, which I'm fully on board with.

I do think more grants should be available for Teesside specifically, and that some of these should be for less commercially minded artists. I understand why the few funds that come in go to the same people with backing, organisation and financial viability, but this must change. To be honest it seems to be slowly getting there. I think the North East is the most densely populated artistic region in the country, and manages to do so with the least resources.



WHAT INSPIRES YOU THE MOST TO PICK UP THE GUITAR AND WRITE A SONG? WHAT COMES FIRST? THE LYRICS, A MELODY OR THE CHORD PROGRESSION?

All my songs are just little pretend stories based on my own life, people and scenery that I've known etc. I always have a lot of lyrics on the go, and musical ideas or concepts. In terms of inspiration, this is the first time I haven't been in a band since I was 14 years old, so writing songs is something I must do, it's my only musical outlet. I've tried to stop before, was not good. Some songs come out fully formed in 10 minutes. I've just finished one that I had the idea for 12 years ago. I think once you've established the parameters of your style, they come from elsewhere in their own time. We're just conduits. If you're meant to write music and don't then it will batter you, metaphorically.

THANKS DALE, GOOD LUCK WITH EVERYTHING AND DON'T BE A STRANGER! ROZ.

LYTHE WIRE!

PUPPET MASTER!

WE JOIN TEES MUSIC SCENE ENTHUSIAST AND PROLIFIC GIG GOER **MAL LYTHE** AS HE TAKES US THROUGH HIS RECENT CONCERT EXPERIENCES AND WHAT'S COMING UP IN THE FUTURE!

Hello Malcoholics, I want to do something a little different for this month's Lythe Wire. I'd like to look back at the past year and volunteering with **Whippet Up**. Whippet Up is a community interest company formed by artists and community artists. They run weekly well being sessions in Saltburn, Middlesbrough and Kirkleatham where everything is made by the people who attend. You can check them out on whippetup.org.uk or for updates on **upcoming** events follow them on Insta at [@whippet_up_works](https://www.instagram.com/whippet_up_works).

The first **show** I ever saw them perform was a day before I turned 40 as part of Valley of Light in **Saltburn**. I found the whole thing to be wholesome, seeing this group of creatives bring people together to create something cool and also having a lot of fun with it. (You can read my full review of **Valley of Light** on my T T Teesside Blog.) I have joined in on a few **Whippet Up** sessions. It's cool because not only do you get to see how the props and stuff are made, but you also get to have some very interesting conversations.

I **mean**, I've found myself opening up to strangers at the time about my Mother's Dementia. That's how comfortable they make you, but it's also a good laugh. There's one person who always tells me I look like former WWE wrestler **Hornswoggle**. TBF, she's right. After seeing and enjoying the Rise Up show at **Redcar Kite Festival**, I got asked if I'd like to fill in at Stockton **Eid**. I was a little nervous going in, but it turned out to be so much fun. I haven't even mentioned that **Amelia Coburn** does the music for Rise Up. So that's fun as well. Big fan of Amelia, I am. I got to do Stockton **SIRF** with them, which was a fun weekend, and even got involved in the parade going around **Stockton** fixing things. There was also **Between The Tides** and **Festival of Thrift**.



I have a few more things coming up with them this year. Give them a **follow** for updates. But also, thank you to Jane and Paul for being so welcoming to me. Thank you to **Hollie** for introducing me to these awesome people. And also Jan, Anne, Kelly, Lisa, and Amelia for all being super awesome to work with. **2025** has been different in the **best** way possible. **M.L**



@WHIPPET_UP_WORKS



T_T-TEESSIDE-BLOG

OBITUARIES

PATRICIA CROWTHER (Witch) 1927 - 2025

JILLY COOPER (Author) 1937 - 2025

DANNY THOMPSON (Bassist) 1939 - 2025

PATRICK MURRAY (Actor) 1956 - 2025

JANE GOODALL (Scientist) 1934 - 2025

PATRICIA ROUTLEDGE (Actor) 1929 - 2025

CHRIS DREJA (Guitarist) 1945 - 2025

JOHN LODGE (Musician) 1943 - 2025

D'ANGELO (Musician) 1974 - 2025

ROY EVANS (Eastender) 1937 - 2025

SAM RIVERS (Bassist) 1977 - 2025

DAVE BALL (Musician) 1959 - 2025

PRUNELLA SCALES (Actor) 1932 - 2025

WHAT'S ON - NOV/DEC

DIRGE'S TOP PICKS FOR THE COMING MONTHS

- 01/11 **TONEHEDGE ALLDAYER**, LUBBER FIEND, NEWCASTLE
- 04/11 **BOW WOW WOW**, THE CLUNY, NEWCASTLE
- 08/11 **INDIE SHOWCASE**, KU BAR, STOCKTON
- 09/11 **STRAIGHTEN OUT**, THE GROVE, NEWCASTLE
- 14/11 **WOLFGANG FLÜR**, THE CLUNY, NEWCASTLE
- 14/11 **FIELD MUSIC**, FIRE STATION, SUNDERLAND
- 18/11 **ASH**, BOILER SHOP, NEWCASTLE
- 22/11 **ARTHUR BROWN**, THE STUDIO, HARTLEPOOL
- 22/11 **BENEFITS**, KU BAR, STOCKTON
- 22/11 **HUGH CORNWELL**, DIGITAL, NEWCASTLE
- 04/12 **ORGANOLOGY**, THE EXCHANGE, NORTH SHIELDS
- 06/12 **POLYVINYL RETURN!**, THE EXCHANGE, NORTH SHIELDS
- 10/12 **MIKE LINDUP TRIO**, PILGRIM, NEWCASTLE
- 11/12 **SHANNON PEARL**, THE CLUNY, NEWCASTLE
- 13/12 **ROXY MAGIC**, THE FORUM, DARLINGTON
- 20/12 **CARL GREEN & THE SCENE**, THE GEORGIAN, STOCKTON

INTERVIEW

J.P RIGGALL

WEATHERSHIPBAND

YOU RECENTLY STARTED UP YOUR OWN LABEL SINISTER KID. IS THAT FOR YOUR OWN RELEASES OR ARE YOU HOPING TO RELEASE STUFF BY SOME LOCAL BANDS? IF SO WHO WOULD YOU LIKE ON YOUR ROSTER?

It's more of a pet project really, kind of a revamp of Bear Love Records. Facebook kindly removed me as admin from that page so I couldn't access it, and it didn't really fit with the Weathership aesthetic anyway. Sinister Kid does. For now it'll be our home, but long-term I'd love to put other stuff out. That'll probably be once I hang up my guitar though.

TELL DIRGE A BIT ABOUT THIS GIG AT CHRISTMAS, THE DARK DARK XMAS HAS BECOME A BIT OF A REGULAR THING, EH?

Yeah, it's become a tradition now. We started in 2013 at The Studio in Hartlepool, then moved to The Green Room in 2014. We've done every year since, except for the gap between 2019-2021. It's honestly my favourite gig of the year (though Stockton Calling might run it close). It's always packed with familiar faces and usually sells out. We called it 'Dark Dark Xmas' because we're naturally a bit on the melancholic side — apart from 2017 when Be Quiet Shout Loud! played and brightened it up!

HOW'S THE ALBUM RECORDING GOING? AND WHEN'S IT DROPPING? HOW DOES IT COMPARE SONICALLY TO THE LAST ONE?

We're currently recording partly on our own and partly with Jamie Donnelly (Up The Music Services). We're about 40% through — all the songs are written. The record follows a narrative about a man aboard a ship dealing with mental health issues, and a lot of current affairs run through it as similes, which I think people will relate to. Sonically, it's in the same ballpark as the last album, but we're pushing the dynamics harder: quieter quiets, louder louds. The plan is to release a run of singles over the next few months, then hopefully drop the full album in the first half of next year. Personally, I think it's my best lyrical work yet.

YOU LIKE BISCUITS. WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE BISCUIT?

Top two, hands down: Digestives and Bourbons. Both understated, both comforting — especially dipped.

I DIG THAT. NOT PARTICULARLY EXHILARATING YET SAFE AND COMFORTING. LIKE ROY CROPPER OFF CORONATION STREET. SPEAK AGAIN SOON, MATE! ROZ.



GREEN DRAGON YARD
STOCKTON-ON-TEES

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22.11.25 DUBLIN	ACADEMY 2
03.12.25 WOLVERHAMPTON	KKs STEEL MILL
04.12.25 NEWCASTLE	THINK TANK
05.12.25 HUDDERSFIELD	THE PARISH
06.12.25 PETERBOROUGH	MET LOUNGE
07.12.25 BRISTOL	EXCHANGE
10.12.25 NOTTINGHAM	BODEGA
11.12.25 MANCHESTER	DEAF INSTITUTE
12.12.25 MILTON KEYNES	CRAUFORD ARMS
13.12.25 LONDON	OSLO

THE GREEN ROOM

BROUGHT TO YOU BY SINISTER KID RECORDS AND VAGRANT GUITARS AND EFFECTS

A DARK DARK XMAS

SATURDAY DECEMBER 20TH
THE GREEN ROOM, STOCKTON

#10

WEATHERSHIP

MIDDLE MANAGEMENT
RISCO

DOORS 7:30 PM • E7+BF ADV
ALL AGES, U18'S ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

MONSTER MATCH!

IN THIS NEW STRAND, I PIT TWO NOTORIOUS MONSTERS OF MUSIC AGAINST EACH OTHER IN A TOP TRUMPS INSPIRED FACE OFF.

THIS TIME IT'S...

MONSTER	G.G ALLIN	VARG VIKERNES
		
NAME	JESUS CHRIST ALLIN	KRISTIAN VIKERNES
AGE	36 (AT DEATH)	53
HEIGHT	1.80 M	1.73 M
CRIMES	ASSAULT	MURDER
JAIL?	YES (2 YEARS)	YES (21 YEARS)
POLITICS	MISANTHROPE	NEO NAZI
ACTIONS	SCAT	ARSON

This is a tough one, as both are real pieces of shit. **Vikernes**, under the moniker '**Burzum**' made better music than **Allin**, (quite a lot was composed in his prison cell) but he definitely takes this Monster Match. A murderous neo Nazi with links to Anders **Breivik** and a penchant for wantonly setting fire to ornate wooden churches in his native **Norway**. And yes, G.G **Allin** was named **Jesus** Christ at birth.

I'M A
FIRESTARTER
TWISTED
FIRESTARTER!



REVIEW

STOCK IMAGE
REGENCY
RECORDS

I've seen **Stock Image** a LOT over the last two years. He's come on in leaps and bounds since his Cult Figure, **Spazgasm** and Phantom Radio days. In fact, the last gig I saw him at The Mega **Misfit** Market was my favourite thus far. The main reason for this being, on the last song '**Human**' Stock (AKA Mick Elliott) seemed to slowly collapse to his knees and finished the set in this position which me and my son found highly amusing. In fact I almost **pissed** myself. Would anything like that happen at his daytime show at **Regency** Records? Let's see.



The place was **packed** out, man! Yes, the shop is quite cosy anyway but it was great to see so many

Saturday afternoon revellers. Especially when there was quite a lot of other stuff going on elsewhere in **Stockton**. Stock played the album in its entirety and then (due to overwhelming crowd coercion) played two of his big hits. The P.A **sound** was all a bit weird, very bassy with absolutely no top end but that didn't detract from anyone's **enjoyment**. Stock had some exclusive merch on offer too! Well done to both 'The Image' and Steve from **Regency** Records for a fab afternoon's entertainment.

The **Mozzenjammer** cats were down to film it all too, so make sure you check that out! **4.2/5**

INTERVIEW

PRETENTIOUS

 [PRETENTIOUS_BAND](#)



HI LADS, LET'S BEGIN WITH YOUR ALIASES. ANY STORY BEHIND THEM OR JUST FOR LAUGHS?

It came from watching classic Doctor Who and seeing the whacky cliff hangers and I thought that sounded like a name so I decided to call myself it. It started as a kind of joke but as time went on we all came up with one that was unique to us.

YOU THREE ORIGINATE FROM HARTLEPOOL, I BELIEVE. WHAT'S THE MOST PRETENTIOUS THING ABOUT POOLS?

Firstly, us. Secondly everyone else who lives here. Everybody needs some level of pretentiousness in their life.

PRETENTIOUS ARE BIG INTO HARMONY AND MELODY. WHAT NORTH EAST BANDS ARE KILLING IT WITH THEIR VOCAL HARMONIES AND MELODIES RIGHT NOW?

Perfect Chicken have really cool two part harmonies going on throughout their first album. Other bands and artists with cool melodies would be James Leonard Hewitson, Will we talk? and Northern Hospitality to name just a few. There's a lot of good bands in the north east music scene at the moment.

YOU MENTION AN UPCOMING 'DEFINED IMAGE CHANGE' WHAT WILL THIS INVOLVE?

Up until now we've been focusing on creating music and playing gigs mainly. So now we're taking into consideration the other aspects. We're currently collaborating with MAAD Productions to create music videos, short stories and other media formats that complement our music and interests.

LET DIRGE READERS KNOW ABOUT YOUR UPCOMING SINGLE...

Our next single 'More or less' will be released 5th December alongside a music video. It's our second release to date and our first single from our upcoming debut album, so we can't wait to get it out there! Hope you like it!

THANKS FOR TALKING TO DIRGE, LADS. GOOD LUCK WITH THE SINGLE AND ALBUM! ROZ.



PROMOTER SPOTLIGHT



WE ARE SHINING THE SPOTLIGHT ON DYNAMIC NORTH EAST PROMOTION DUO 'HEAVY PSYCH DAMAGE' LET'S MEET 'EM!

Heavy Psych Damage are a new promotion team based in Newcastle. Created by Jake **Salmon**, guitarist and vocalist in SHAN and his partner Sorch **Harm** who became the secret third SHAN through her organisational and artistic input.

Heavy Psych Damage originated as a podcast lockdown project for Jake. Utilising his radio experience from running the rock show at **Spark** Radio 2015-2020, the podcast was aimed at exploring underground music, featuring interviews with bands local and from elsewhere.



The **podcast** evolved into promotion by starting to aim to keep the underground music scene alive in our city of **Newcastle**, prioritising a community around music that reflects our values, those being grassroots DIY and giving a platform to noise, punk and all things weird and wonderful.

Our next gig is at The Globe on the 8th of November with Glasgow based doom heavy hitters **Teleost**, with **SHAN** as support and another band tbc. Keep your eyes peeled for everything Heavy Psych Damage have in store for you.

OUR MAN IN JAPAN

THE MAN KNOWN ONLY AS 'ROGER THORNHILL' RECOMMENDS SOME MUSIC ALL THE WAY FROM HIS BASE IN TOKYO.

After the ramen-brained insanity that was the previous single '**REVERSE APPLE**', lunatic Tokyo punk double-act **VAIWATT** seduce with lullaby fan-fave 'Cocoon In The Night'. This late-night, widescreen delirium should soundtrack a karaoke scene in some gonzo Haruki **Murakami** film adaptation set in the depths of Koenji.

Lead lad **Ken** always performs like some glorious cross between Beetlejuice, Marc Almond and Jonny Rotten.



(He's certainly captured the hearts of masses of alt-Tokyoites - shows are consistently packed with **VAIWATT** converts: T-shirts everywhere.) On 'Cocoon' though, he pulls off something intimate, emotive, desperate alongside a delicious, do-tell bassline.

As champions and facilitators of bands that wanna tour Japan, their twice-yearly **EDO WAVE FESTIVAL** invites UK & EU bands they've played alongside to sold-out venues in Tokyo. Defo worth booking them at your local venue then. 'Cocoon in the Night' is out November 30th. Catch it on YouTube before then. **4/5**



HEAVYPSYCHDAMAGE



KEN_VAIWATT



A stylized, painterly illustration of a woman with long dark hair, pale skin, and wide, staring eyes. She has a shocked or terrified expression with her mouth open. She is wearing a blue jacket over a green and white checkered shirt. She holds a large, blood-stained knife in her right hand, pointing it towards the viewer. Her left hand is clenched into a fist, with a gold ring visible on her ring finger. The background is a solid, vibrant red. To the left is a dark, textured vertical element representing a door frame. In the upper right, there is a large, glowing yellow sun or moon. Below it, a small, dark, ornate clock or decorative object is visible. The overall style is reminiscent of classic horror movie posters.

THE SHINING

a STANLEY KUBRICK film