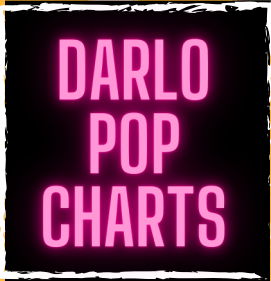


The Holy Mountain of Music Publications



IT'S FREE!



THE WICKER MAN



DIRGE

noun

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

Hey everyone! How are you doing? Good? Good!

Eeee, we're on **Issue 3**. Time flies when you're having fun doesn't it? And it's been a decent year so far with plenty going on in the town and the North East as a whole, musically and culturally.

I've introduced the mag into a few more stockists around the town, a few busy night spots to get more peoples' attention. If you want me to drop a few **copies** off of future issues for your shop or business drop me a line on my email address.

There won't be an issue in September as I have rather a lot of stuff to do, both musically and in my every day life, this is all self contained and run by me. But don't worry I am preparing a bumper **Halloween DIRGE** that will be out just in time for my favourite time of the year.

The Lair of Local is **thriving** this month, with over ten songs from Darlo featured alone. Some I liked, some not so much. But it's a testament to the hotbed of musical endeavour we have in our town. Let's hope I have even more next time! No Darkington this month but it may be back in the near future.

Thanks for reading, and enjoy! **Roz**



@dirgemag



darlodirge@gmail.com



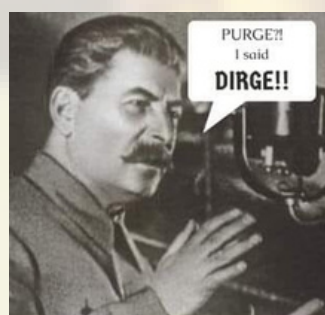
facebook.com/darlodirge



@darlodirge

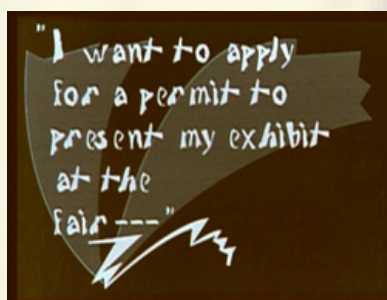


'Darlington for Culture is supporting the production of four issues of Dirge magazine to promote artists and venues in Darlington borough but accepts no responsibility for the content of the magazine'.



www.darlodirge.co.uk

Front cover image from Alejandro Jodorowsky's 1973 psychedelic mind fuck The Holy Mountain.



Issue 3

July 2023

APPEARING SOMEWHERE INSIDE...

GIALLI

THE LAIR OF LOCAL BUMPER REVIEW STRAND!

WHAT'S ON

RETURN OF WAX HEART SODALITY

WENDY CARLOS

END CREDITS

THE WICKER MAN 50TH ANNIVERSARY

EDM AT THE FORUM PREVIEW

LIVE AND LOCAL

DIRGE FREE POSTER!!

OBITUARIES

PYGMY TWYLYTE

ANGIE'S DINER

SPORTS

NEPOTISM

THE BEST NORTH EAST MUSIC PLAYLIST TO BE FOUND ON YOUTUBE.

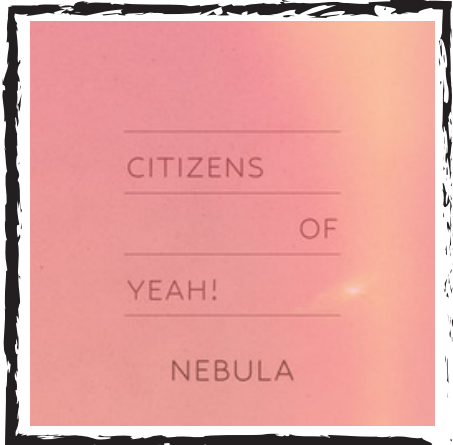
NEPOTISM features all the tracks that have been reviewed in DIRGE. Good and Bad.

Find the link on our Facebook page.



THE LAIR OF LOCAL

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



Citizens of YEAH - Nebula

Quirky and reminiscent of Syd Barrett's solo stuff.

'Come around for coffee, we'll sit and talk mathematics'. Sounds like a scene from my own personal vision of hell. Coffee and TV I could maybe get on board with. Nerd Rock. Is that a thing?

Oh well, it is now. The nerdy lyrics have a strangely comforting quality about them though.

Best cosmos themed song? Has to be Astronomy Domine by Pink Floyd. Citizens of YEAH aren't quite there yet. But one day they may be! **3.8/5**

Search for 'em on Facebook

David Crabtree - Heartbeat

Mop topped, doe eyed Dave is back with more of the same MOR Pop-Rock that would probably sit well on those compilation CD's they put out around Mother's Day for a potential gift idea. **2.6/5**

davidneilcrabtree.com

San Niguel - Bastards

Nige's latest offering 'Bastards' is a sombre, thoughtful lyric dealing with the emotional issues that can be faced by children born out of wedlock.

Just kidding.

Nige has distinctly changed direction from pub/punk rock to late 60's Lindisfarne/protest folk vibes. Bastards has essentially the same chord progression as That's Entertainment by The Jam with a more barn storming four to the floor kick drum rhythm.

There's not much you can say about this song really. It's basically an upbeat track with a message. Musically, it's not the best but Nige gets his point across.

It's sound advice as well. "Don't let those bastards get you down". We all have particular bastards in our lives that get us down. So let this become your new mantra. **2.6/5**

facebook.com/nige.bryan

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!

Silence This Noise - Raincoat

When I think of raincoats I think of the band of the same name from the 70's and those macs that flashers used to wear in the 90's to make it more convenient to expose themselves in parks. Now when I think of raincoats I can now add this song to the list of things the word evokes.

A quaint synth laden intro opens up into the main course.

The 808 beat is satisfyingly free flowing (if a little loud) and has that early 90's, pop/hip-hop vibe. Raincoat sounds like something you could have seen on Top of The Pops in 1994 that comes straight in at number 38 and is never heard of again. I mean that in a positive way. I really enjoyed it. Except for the overpowering 808 hi-hats which really should have been toned down.

Another Darlington producer doing some good. **3.6/5**

soundcloud.com/silencethisnoise

Chris Mardula - Last Train to Nowhere

Mazza does seem to be a purveyor of some tried and tested (or one could even say trite) song titles, including 'Fade Away' and this. It's essentially coffee table music. Well produced but lacking in soul. It could actually be a Ronan Keating single from 1999. **2.6/5**

twitter.com/cmardula

Sorority Grrrls - American Sicko

Presumably a play on words inspired by one of the best books and films of all time - American Psycho.

It's derivative punk by numbers, devoid of humour. The Grrrls sound a bit like X-Ray Spex accompanied by socially conscious lyrics about putting serial killers on pedestals.

Am I their target demographic and will they care? No, and no. And they shouldn't. Good luck to them! **2.3/5**

sororitygrrrls.bandcamp.com

Jen Dixon - What If

Met with a rather uninspiring single cover, this reviewer feared for the musical content that was to come.

A ruminating Jen questions whether her man will leave her or stay in the relationship. Exciting stuff. I could think of better things to write a song about. 'What If' could quite easily be a Natalie Imbruglia B-Side.

The song boasts half decent production and vocally Jen can hold a tune, but this song doesn't do anything for me, it's beige and leaves me feeling bored. Having said that, I'm sure it will appeal to some people out there. **2.6/5**

jendixonmusic.co.uk

Crowley - Something Wicked This Way Comes

Newcastle rock group Crowley are conjuring up a bit of interest at the moment.

To start off I like the band name as I have an interest in The Great Beast 666.

This song harks back to the age of occult rock, a genre which I am very fond of. The golden period for me being 1968 - 1973.

A bloodstained dagger adorns the cover of the single. I do hope no animals were harmed in the making of that image. It begins in a kind of Celtic manner and then gets rocky when it kicks in.

My favourite bit is probably the half time breakdown. That seems to be the heaviest bit. The guitar solo is for me slightly on the cheesy side but I don't mind a bit 'o cheese now and again.

Vocally, she is powerful which carries the track somewhat.

3.4/5

facebook.com/crowleybanduk

Scarlet Hour - Warhead

A filtered arpeggiated synth bass that Delia Derbyshire would have been proud of 60 years ago inaugurates the proceedings.

Quickly followed by a robotic drum machine beat and what appears to be a slavishly imitated Ian Curtis vocal.

It's actually quite listenable, but also rather derivative and the singer would definitely benefit from finding his own niche. 2.8/5

facebook.com/thescarlethour

Moss Ft. Oui Bee - True

Recorded at Darlo's The Forum Studio with the omnipresent Chris 'Davo' Davison on engineering duties. These two seasoned vets of the Darlo Scene manage to create something rather listenable. On first glance at the title I thought we may be being treated to a Spandau Ballet homage, but fortunately this wasn't the case.

True begins with some vinyl crackles followed by a dry drum beat, not dissimilar to Springsteen's classic 90's hit Streets of Philadelphia. Eventually the drums become a bit more aurally pleasing (Oooo matron) and acquire a bit more character.

It's a good vocal performance by Oui Bee. Singing with distortion on your vocals is tough, it highlights any imperfections and flat notes but thankfully she manages to pull it off quite profesh.

The song builds in instrumentation and angst as two slightly distorted guitars (Uiv Stanshall/Tubular Bells reference there, sorry) and what I believe are live drums enter the fray to provide a final crescendo of cascading moodiness.

It should appeal to fans of later Gary Numan. True also has Trip Hop feels on the vocals and overall atmosphere prior to the rocky finale and I'll look forward to hearing more. 3.6/5

facebook.com/mossmusicpage



Symbol denotes
"Turkey of the Month"
status.

Marie Johns - Your Voice

I don't really know where to start with this new release from the Darlington based artist.

'Your Voice' sounds as though it was recorded on a Sony - Ericsson in the Club 2K toilets in 2002.

If I had paid for this song to be produced and mixed I would be asking for my money back, and compensation.

An 80's choral synth pad is eventually joined by some badly recorded vox. It's hard to describe really. Without the vocal, the backing track wouldn't sound out of place on a self help/hypnosis cassette. Like some kind of soundscape that Chris Morris used in his TV series Jam, when something really sinister was happening. 2.2/5

facebook.com/mariejohns80

Jay Moussa - Mann - American Tennessee

Trans Atlantic, summer tinged pop flavaz from the Mann Machine.

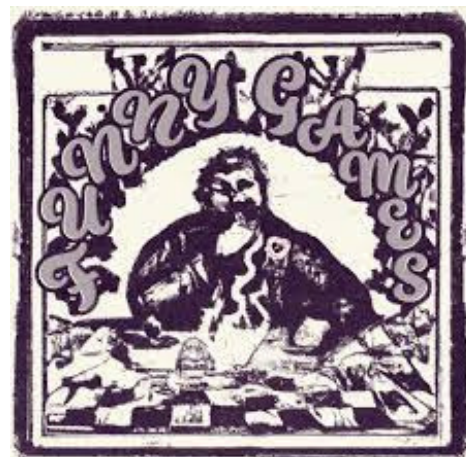
Jay Moussa - Mann has created some exceptional Radio 2 fodder here. Which is by no means meant to be derogatory. American Tennessee offers a modern production sound contrasting with a poppier late 90's edge.

Jay has an infectious voice and this choon is undeniably catchy with easy on the ear vocal harmonies.

It could quite easily sell well with the right promotion and backing. Jay's voice is suited to this genre of music and she could go far! 3.9/5

jaymoussamann.com

Wax Heart Sodality - Funny Games



I thoroughly enjoyed 1997's Funny Games by the excellent director Michael Haneke. Would I also enjoy this latest offering from Wax Heart Sodality?

Well in short. Yes I would. Funny Games is actually quite doom laden in parts. If you slowed it down by half it would make a great Electric Wizard track. Dynamically it offers a lot for your senses with tempo changes and differences in tones and moods. There is a gnarly pitch shifted guitar that sounds pretty hellish provided by Tom 'Nogi' Norgrove. You could draw definite comparisons to early 80's post punk, especially Joy Division, but not to the point where you feel WHS are ripping them off or anything.

The production is pretty on point. Although I think the drums sound rather dead and a bit lifeless. The guitars, for me, are the best thing about Funny Games as they have so much character. I'll look forward to hearing the upcoming E.P.

I am waiting however for Mr Saunders to write a happy song. But I also recognise that I may be waiting sometime. Possibly forever. 3.9/5

facebook.com/waxheartsodality

Blame Yourself - Pillars

Emo music isn't my strong point. And I don't even know what Mid West Emo is.

First off though, I'd like to congratulate Blame Yourself for one of the most emo sounding band names I have ever come across.

The first few bars could actually be a Crowded House song. For some reason it reminded me of Don't dream it's over.

It's poppy, with a strong hook. I didn't even find his vocals annoying which surprised me.

The song's high level production value gives the song a boost and lyrically it's strong, with descriptive, evocative words.

I really enjoyed it. Maybe this is the catalyst for me to finally start listening to emo? Or maybe not. All the same though, tis a jolly good track. And no contrived American accents to be heard! **3.9/5**

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

Ami Leigh - Skeletons

Ami Leigh, one half of Darlo's female answer to Simon & Garfunkel - JenAmi, has new music to offer the world. Ami appears to have gone a bit dancey!

The synth riff is derivative and outdated and I don't like the flabby snare drum sound. 'Skeletons' has a catchy enough chorus, but it does sound like a bit of a dance music pastiche with all the tropes that go with it. And it's pretty much instantly forgettable. I like the single cover, but it doesn't match the music. **2.7/5**

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

Craig Roddam - Better Man

There goes that American accent again that Rodders is fond of. Why the yanky twang? It all sounds a bit phoney.

I wouldn't listen to this genre of music for fun. What genre is it you ask?

I'd say AOR, MOR, Americana influenced Pop/Rock. It's put together quite well and vocally his voice is alright, but as an actual song it's wandering dangerously into non-entity territory. **2.5/5**

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

Jenna Louise - Given Up On Us

So here we have the other half of JenAmi, I wonder who will be victorious in the battle of the solo single? Let's find out!

Given up on Us is a nice enough dose of pop music with a nostalgic, 90's Latin edge in the form of a duet between Jenna Louise & Carl Pemberton. Their voices compliment each other well but I instantly forgot the melody. **2.8/5**

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

JenAmi - Sorry Not Sorry

Gawd, it's been a bit of a JenAmi take over this month hasn't it? They sure have been busy bees. And don't worry, this is not a Demi Lovato cover.

Apparently it's about narcissists. A phrase that is overused these days. Everyone seems to be an armchair psychiatrist now. I digress.

Strong vocal performances from the girls drive the poppy production by Hayley McKay cohorts 'The Dunwells' and it's a decent song but is also quite forgettable. **2.6/5**

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

Steve Larkin - Use Me

I won't lie, the mix on this Bill Withers cover version is awful. It sounds as if Steve has been sent a wav file and plonked his vocals on top, converted it erroneously into mono before adding a helluva lot of compression without giving it any real thought.

The backing track is essentially the same as the 1972 original. Devoid of the inventiveness to make it his own, which defeats the object of a cover song.

Withers had a soulful, powerful, distinctive voice so 'Use Me' was a rather ambitious feat for Steve to attempt.

He's had a good go, but as a vocal performance (aside from the fact it sounds like it has been mixed and mastered to cassette and then compressed to within an inch of its life) it falls rather flat. If Steve was a duck I'd advise him to put himself in the oven till he's Bill Withers. **2.2/5**

[thestevelarkinproject.com](https://www.thestevelarkinproject.com)

Stock Image - Locked Away

Unashamedly 80's in timbre, tone and instrumentation, complete with gated reverb on the snare ala Phil Collins, Stock Image, or Boro lad Mike Elliot (formerly of Phantom Radio) has created a nostalgic, melodic and harmonious little number reminiscent of mid 1980's pop with an Italo Disco flava.

Vocally he gets the job done, although I'm sure Mike would be the first to tell you he is not the most powerful singer. I enjoyed the lyrics, they suit the music well and the two elements combine to create something very listenable. **3.8/5**

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



Cherie D'Avino - Beautiful Curse

'Beautiful Curse' begins with a piano introduction reminiscent of the music from those charity adverts, the ones that are designed and carefully manufactured to make you feel sad so you hand over your money to the kiddies, the animals, and poorly people. I was waiting for a voice over to come in and try to tempt me to give £5 a month. Instead, Cherie's vibrato doused vocals enter the piano and string fest that is 'Beautiful Curse'.

There is no denying that Cherie has a very proficient voice, powerful at times, soothing and vulnerable at others, embellished on occasion by the obligatory Christina Aguilera style vocal gymnastics.

The song itself however left me feeling rather bored. The production is low key and understated which is a nice touch, as let's face it, it's the vocal performance that carries the song. The lyrics appear to be about Cherie's struggle to make it big in the cruel world of music and I wish her all the best! **2.9/5**

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



THE GREAT BEYOND

I've heard there is a universe outside of The North East.



Passive Fix - I'll Take it All

I can't help thinking there is some sort of in joke and rhyming slang going on in this band name. I'll let you draw your own conclusions.

Midlands band Passive Fix have engineered a bit of an alt-rock banger on this one. The segue between the introductory bars and the 'drop' is satisfying and I'll take it all sounds snappy, punchy and launched a direct assault on my headphones.

3.8/5

facebook.com/passive.fix

Liam Dutch - You Can Be The Star

Liam's PR company sent me Mr Dutch's last track but I couldn't think of anything to write about it so I just left it. A bit of a change in direction for his follow up and a marked difference in quality as well.

It sounds like a from beyond the grave Marc Bolan collaboration with Kasabian (While they still knocked out good tunes, not their girlfriends). With some late 1960's garage rock fuzzy guitars.

Plenty of 1970s glam rock flare, not of the Gary Glitter variety thankfully. I would happily be in Liam's gang, though. He sounds fun. 3.9/5

facebook.com/liamdutchmusic

The West Order - Girl Without A Name

Paisley's The West Order have dropped a new choon and it happens to sound like every local band you've ever heard. You know one of those groups you see down the pub who have just made that all important transition from covers to originals, and they sound like Oasis songs that weren't good enough to make it on to even Standing On The Shoulder of Giants.

Quite a tinny acoustic guitar riff begins the tune with a Wonderwall strumming pattern. Things don't pick up much when the vocals come in as, unfortunately, he can't sing.

The band stated in their bio that the chorus of Girl Without A Name sounds Nirvana-esque. I'm not quite sure where they got that from, it doesn't sound remotely like Nirvana. A pentatonic scaled wailing guitar solo then kicks in and I know that I never want to listen to this song ever again. 2.2/5



facebook.com/theretrogradesband

Drab Majesty - Vanity

The new release from one of the best bands of the last few years heralds a bit of a change in direction. I think this is the first time I've heard an acoustic guitar on a Drab release. That's the only notable thing about it. It's boring, and I'm rather disappointed. 3/5

La Livas - Bell & The Butterfly

Indie rock from the Black Country with artwork by 'Premier league footballer Jody Craddock'.

Is that meant to be impressive? I've never heard of the lad but I'd like to tell Jody that his font positioning leaves a lot to be desired, looks very cramped in the bottom left corner.

Track wise it's quite an unoriginal joint which is rather formulaic, complete with a done to death guitar chord progression followed by a quickening four to the floor snare and kick crescendo which has also been tried and tested thousands of times over the years. This track would probably get a bunch of very pissed up 20 year old lads jumping about in a smallish club for a bit before they forget the song ever existed.

The Bell and the Butterfly title itself could be a semi successful Giallo movie from 1972, so I've scored it up slightly for that.

Also, Robert Carlyle is apparently a fan so that's a bit of a buzz for them as well. Begbie approves. Just don't send him round to glass me.

2.7/5

lailivas-band.com



DARLO POP CHARTS



- 1.) WAX HEART SODALITY - FUNNY GAMES 🏆
- 2.) MOSS FT. OUI BEE - TRUE
- 3.) SILENCE THIS NOISE - RAINCOAT
- 4.) JENNA LOUISE - GIVEN UP ON US
- 5.) AMI LEIGH - SKELETONS

#DIRGEOFFICIALCHARTS

BILLBOARD 100

Failed To Ignite - The Reality of Growing Up

I'll have to begin this review by stating that I love certain types of punk and I generally like pop music but I actually loathe pop-punk, with a passion. It's just so American. It's alien to me. It's sickly and watered down. It's a genre of music that most people grow out of when they hit their twenties.

So when Anthony aka Failed to Ignite sent me his latest single I was a little apprehensive. And on listening to it a couple of times, it was exactly like I'd imagined it would be.

A feeling started to grow on me after listening to it.

After a couple of seconds it came to me. It's the exact same melody as 90's happy hardcore banger 'Children of the Night' by QFX RMX 1. And now I'm wondering if it's just an unfortunate coincidence or whether it was a contrivance on Anthony's part?

This music just isn't for me but I'm sure it will appeal to younger fans and I wish him all the best for the future.

I am left wondering though... What was it that failed to ignite? A body? A classmate's hair? A dog poo bin? I need answers! **2.8/5**

facebook.com/failedtoigniteofficial

REVIEW



Aaron McMullan - Swing Hosanna, Sing the Salt

Aaron is a Gaelic folk muso with a gruff, baritone voice, complete with a broad Northern Irish accent (which is one of the **best accents**.) He's a good story teller, thoughtful and expressive while segueing from personal introspection to traditional folk tales and back again.

Understated production with no frills instrumental accompaniment, predominantly acoustic guitar (which is recorded well, sounding earthy and pastoral) and what could be mandolin with a hint of bodhran, **piano** and violin.

I'm not sure how many folk albums come with a parental advisory **warning** but this one most definitely should. Aaron has a very **fruity** vocabulary. The word 'fuck' must have been used about 100 times, which to me is slightly excessive. It would make a very messy drinking game. Every time Aaron says fuck you have a shot of single malt. My favourite from the album is probably **Underneath the Breaking**. Dark and brooding, bordering on sea shanty with an aggressive vocal.

I couldn't listen to this album on a regular basis, but as a special treat around Christmas time, perhaps. The songs are overly **long** and sometimes you do wish they would end sooner. On the flipside though Aaron has created an even, well thought out album of **alternative folk** which I would recommend listening to.

facebook.com/aaronmcmullanmusic

3.9/5

PREVIEW METAL MACHINE MUSIC TO RELEASE COMEBACK SINGLE!

Metal Machine Music are to release their first single for some time after a long absence due to other musical projects and a new venture as a freelance life coach.

The song which is called '**Lucifuge Rofocale**' backed with '**E Orgasm (Holy Mountain)**' is set to be released on all major streaming platforms (and limited edition **invisible** cassette) on July **28th**.

Roz told **DIRGE** - 'This could be the one. The one that breaks **mmm** worldwide. I'm hoping to make it into the **charts** with this new record. I just want to urge all my **fans** to go out and grab it, it'd make me dead happy.'



facebook.com/themetalmachinemusic

ANGIE'S DINER - A taste of Heaven

Angie's Diner has now become a staple of the **Market** area. Providing tasty food with a smile, selling a range of delicious produce from hot dogs to cheeseburgers to bacon sandwiches to fries, complete with an outdoor seating area so you can watch Darlington **life** go by. In fact, Angie's **Diner** was the only food I ate at the Darlington Food Festival, because evidently, I am a cultured soul.

facebook.com/angiesdinerdarlingtonmarket

4/5





Each issue we bring you a classic Darlo band from the distant past. This time we feature...

SPORTS

Sports are without question the best band to come out of Darlington. With an idiosyncratic **grunge** sound and a melodic edge, songwriter **Wayne Coulson** penned some really, really good songs. With a small yet dedicated fan base the band really could have gone on to find national recognition had it not been for the fact they were collectively all rather lazy.

Around when the Darlington music scene was at it's most effervescent in the early **2000's**, Sports gigged regularly but nearly always locally, rarely venturing further than Newcastle. The band went through various line up changes and eventually fizzled out with Wayne and the drummer and their original bassist **Rob Powton** starting a short lived group called La Vampire Nue, before Wayne left the area altogether to take up butchery. These days **Wayne** is very much back into his music and you can listen to his newer stuff here - glamhock.bandcamp.com



David Walker, Wayne Coulson and Sera Waring at The Tap and Spile (drummer out of shot)

DOUBLE WHAMMY FOR VAPE DEPRIVED DARLINGTON DISTRICT

You know, I was just thinking the other day how the town was suffering from a lack of Vape outlets and those **Mini Marts** that never seem to have anything on the shelves except the odd loaf of Kingsmill and a **spartan** drinks section.

But, lo and behold, as if the retail gods above had been paying heed, one more of each have popped up in my local area within a few feet of each other. **Miracles** do happen.

Roz's **Unpopular** Opinion



I might not be a fan of his music but that Umbro/Pretty Green collab looks fiiiire

There is a new band on the scene that seem to be encapsulating the "**Emperor's New Clothes**" theory amongst the disaffected. Or what I call FAOR (**faux anger** orientated rock.) That band is **Benefits**.

I'm not an advocate of politics in music. For the most part it takes the fun away, it removes the art, it rips its soul out.

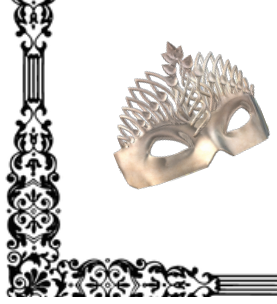
There are some exceptions to the rule; **Rage Against the Machine**'s first album is a great example of political lyrics shining through and being digested due to the strength of the music. I'm afraid hitting the demo button on a home keyboard and putting it through a distortion pedal may have worked for **Suicide** in 1977 but Benefits don't have the same charm or evocative lyrics as the New York duo did.

The early 2000's craze of having a 'The' band name has been replaced by simply coming up with a random banal word that represents the **drudgery** of every day life. I understand it's what a lot of people may want from a band but it's just not for me.

Yeah, by all means shout about the ills that are currently blighting society but make sure you have some bloody good music to back it up. **Benefits** don't. There's just no way around that fact. If political venting was the order of the day I'd rather just watch a YouTuber or listen to the radio or watch Question Time.

I prefer music for music's sake. Not to get an obvious point across in an attempt to tap into the **zeitgeist**.

benefitstheband.com



RETURN OF THE MASK

We speak to Dave Saunders as WAX HEART SODALITY re-emerge



I've seen you are now quite an avid jogger. Is it similar to Kraftwerk's situation in the early 80's when they discovered cycling and then the music went on the back burner?

Running and music have similar cathartic properties that they allow me to escape. Life, as we all know, can be quite constricting, sometimes to the point of **strangulation**. Both music and running allow me some alone time with my head to work things out and mull over stuff that I might not have had the headspace for. Both allow me to push boundaries (physically with running and creatively with music and performance) which keeps me from stagnating. Oh, and both allow me to dress up in clothes I'd be ridiculed for wearing out of the context of performance/running (fancy shirts and sparkly masks with Wax Heart Sodality and **garish tight sportswear** when I'm out running).

There seems to be a slight power dynamic within Wax Heart. Your mask is a lot more feathery and larger than the other three. Is this to make sure they know who's boss?

Haha... Sadly not. We're very much an egalitarian organisation, e.g. equal writing credits, no excessive focus on the individual, and so on. The honest reason for my **mask** being the most flamboyant and bold is that I physically have the most to hide. The other members can get away with minimal mask wearing as they are young and attractive. I, on the other hand, have a physical appearance that doesn't quite fit, and would probably **detract** from people's enjoyment of the music, therefore I need to cover up and distract people from my many imperfections.



The WHS lads often like to go out for a 'band meal' in full regalia.

It must be quite a buzz to play at Whitby Goth Weekend. Did the Goths like you or were you looked down upon for not using a drum machine?

From what we've seen so far the **Goths** love us and we love them. It feels like an **inclusive** scene that seems to encompass a wide range of genres (dark wave, alt-rock, post-punk, techno, etc) and we've been welcomed with open arms. Whitby Goth Festival was a bucket list event to perform at. We were delighted to be asked to play and it didn't disappoint. It was great soaking up the atmosphere during the day and checking out the amazing outfits that people were wearing (which made my stage get up feel so pedestrian), eating black ice cream, perusing the Goth market, heading up to the **Abbey** and so on... Then on the night we headed to the spacious and ornate setting of The **Met Lounge** & Ballroom and gave it our all. The other bands (none of which used a drum kit), the promoters and crowd were friendly and accommodating, there was a goth disco to finish the night and I got to walk through the **dark**, atmospheric streets of Whitby en route back to my hotel. What more could you ask for?

What are your plans for the rest of the year?

We're set to release another single in the next couple of months (date TBC), which will be the second from our debut **EP** that's coming out on 1st September. We're playing **Last Train Home** on 2nd September and the rest we'll play by ear!

Thanks and "Goodbye Dave" (in HAL 9000 voice)



facebook.com/waxheartsodality

WHAT'S ON - JULY, AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

DIRGE'S TOP PICKS FOR THE COMING MONTHS

- SAT 1ST JULY** - RECORD FAIR, COVERED MARKET, **DARLINGTON**
- THU 6TH JULY** - NIGHT OF ELECTRONICA, THE FORUM, **DARLINGTON**
- THU 6TH JULY** - STOP WRITE HEAR (OPEN MIC FOR WRITERS), HASH, **DARLINGTON**
- THU 6TH JULY - SAT 8TH JULY** - TALL SHIPS FESTIVAL, **HARTLEPOOL**
- FRI 7TH JULY** - SIOUXSIE SIOUX, TYNEMOUTH PRIORY, **TYNEMOUTH**
- SAT 8TH JULY** - END CREDITS (FORMERLY WHITENOISE), CAFE ETCH, **MIDDLESBROUGH**
- THU 13TH JULY** - VIIA & EVE COLE, THE FORUM, **DARLINGTON**
- FRI 14TH JULY** - CLOUDBUSTING (KATE BUSH TRIBUTE), THE FORUM, **BILLINGHAM**
- FRI 28TH JULY** - WE ARE CHAMPION (QUEEN TRIBUTE), THE FORUM, **DARLINGTON**
- SAT 29TH JULY** - TRACKS IN TOWN MINI FESTIVAL, MARKET PLACE, **DARLINGTON**
- TUES 15TH AUG** - SWANS, THE BOILER SHOP, **NEWCASTLE**
- THU 31ST AUG** - EMMA KENNY'S SERIAL KILLER NEXT DOOR, THE HIPPI, **DARLINGTON**
- SAT 2ND SEPT** - LAST TRAIN HOME FESTIVAL, VARIOUS VENUES, **DARLINGTON**
- WED 6TH SEPT** - WITCH FEVER, THE FORUM, **DARLINGTON**
- FRI 8TH SEPT** - SANCTUM SANTORIUM (DARK 80'S HITS), GEORGIAN THEATRE, **STOCKTON**



Tees Valley International Film Festival Returns

And **YOU** can be part of it!



Has your band made a **music video** that you think is good enough to win an award? Or perhaps you would like to make one? There's still plenty of time to have a go!

The deadline for submission is **August 30th**. TVIFF will then select the best films and music videos from those submitted and these will be screened in the cinema at **Arc** in Stockton over the course of the four day festival, creating a bit of exposure for your band as well as the video's creative team.

From the selected films the TVIFF judges will then select their nominations and the winner will be announced at the awards ceremony on the final night of the festival, which takes place on Saturday **28th** October.

To **submit** your music video (or short film for that matter), just head to the TVIFF website and follow the link to Film Freeway. There you can upload your film or music video and then wait and see! When you go to **Film Freeway** enter **TVIFF25** for 25% off the submission fee (the fee is quite low anyway, I know as I entered one of my videos last year and I am glad I did!)

I'll look forward to seeing all the creations at the event, might see you there!

TVIFF.CO.UK

WENDY CARLOS

The Unsung **Pioneer** of Electronic Music

There aren't many bona fide geniuses in music.

Wendy Carlos has to be close to that particular status though. And it is a damn fine shame that she hasn't made more music over the years (film scores in particular.)

Carlos is an **enigma**. Part musician, part scientist, doing more for the advancement of the **Moog** Synthesizer than Kraftwerk or Rick Wakeman ever did.

In fact, Carlos was experimenting with vocoders while Kraftwerk were still playing space rock and dallying with musique concrete. Very behind the times were the Dusseldorf lads compared to Wendy in the early 1970's.

Albums to check out -

A Clockwork Orange (1971) Vastly ahead of its time in terms of instrumentation and sound design. This score is an amazing, intricate and sublimely far out exploration of classical themes performed electronically and painstakingly multi-tracked using a (monophonic) Moog Modular system.

The Shining (Unused score, 1980). A lot of the music Carlos penned for Kubrick's seminal 1980 horror masterpiece was not used in the final cut. Which is a great shame because it's a master class in tension building and atmosphere. You can find all the unused cues on YouTube.

Sonic Seasonings (1972) An early ambient album predating Eno's works by a couple of years. It's an expressive sonic portrait exploring the changing seasons using found sound and plenty of electronics.



REVIEW

BOSKO GREEN - SCENES FROM A DYSTOPIAN PRESENT

Bosko is quite prominent on the local **Open Mic** scene but I wasn't going to let that put me off!

The album contains predominantly **protest** lyrics, which is fine if you like that kind of thing. I don't, personally, but Bosko doesn't come across as preachy or annoying so I didn't have to cringe right the way through it.

Hummingbird is more of an introspective lyric which resonates with me more than his words of a political bent. A soothing, melodic piece of music featuring both acoustic and electric pianos. Whereas tracks like **Noble Gas** feature clever lyrics about the disparity between the rich and the poor. Most of the songs are short, sweet and punchy and don't fall into a pit of self indulgence like quite a lot of stuff I review seems to.

And I speak out recycles what has to be the most overused chord progression of all time. It is a decent tune, just with that chord progression it's easy to get it mixed up with other songs which utilise those chords. Accordion is always a nice touch though. All in all Bosko's album is worth a squirt, something to stick on whether you're political or not. I would say it was mainly for folkies but I'm sure a wide range of listeners could very well enjoy it too.

*Background image from **Soylent Green** (1973)

3.8/5

facebook.com/boskogreen



REVIEW

END CREDITS THE TRAVELLER

I reviewed a song by these cool dudes from **Teesside** and I found myself digging the album too, so here I am reviewing it. Yes, twas out last year but as a person I am behind the times, and besides, Dirge wasn't a thing then.

Elements of **Kula Shaker**, Nirvana, The Doors and Oasis. Gnarly guitars, atmospheric keys and powerful drums abound, the latter taking on a Dave Grohl type quality. Vocally the lead singer is a bit of a hybrid of Liam Gallagher and Alex Turner, which can't be a bad thing. I like this band's use of **keyboards**, subtle when required and then raucous when it comes to the Hammond Organ solos. It's a very commendable debut album which bodes well for the future of **Teesside** Rock n Roll.

facebook.com/endcreditsuk



4/5

REVIEW

The Unlikely Pilgrimage of **Harold** Fry

At **Vue**

I have been keeping a watchful eye on the release of this movie as I had a vested interest due to the fact that I drunkenly stumbled on to the film set while they were shooting this in **Berwick** a couple of years ago, and I wanted to see if I was in it in the background somewhere.

The film follows the elderly Harold Fry (played by **Jim Broadbent**) on a wrinkly road trip across England in an attempt to right a wrong from his past, calling in at various villages, towns and cities (including our very own fair **Darlington**) to touch the lives of the people he encounters along the way, ever haunted by the memories of his son who committed suicide years before.

It is a bittersweet tale of loss, faith and hope that succeeds in being moving without being schmaltzy or overly sentimental, aided by the stellar acting talents of Jim Broadbent who provided a touching performance as **Harold**.

There is some lovely cinematography throughout which shines a light on our glorious English countryside. And although, rather unsurprisingly, they cut all of the scenes from my supporting role on Berwick sea front, me and the wife enjoyed it a great deal. Laughs were shared and **tears** were shed.

3.6/5



REVIEW SHINE ON - A TRIBUTE TO PINK FLOYD

Photos by **John** Finlayson

At The **Forum**

Tribute bands get looked down upon by some music fans. I imagine it's the tacky image of the stage clothes and in some cases really bad wigs. But when the ale is flowing and the mood is right, nothing beats a good quality tribute.

I will primarily only go and see acts that play the music of bands that are now defunct. I've seen some really good ones over the years, mostly at The Forum, and that is where I am heading tonight with my son, **Davey**, who is also a Floyd fan.

The place was busy, and so was the stage! A 9 piece band no less and you could tell they mean business! Celebrating 20 years of **Shine On** we took our place in the auditorium for an evening of Pink Floyd madness.



Most of the songs they played were post **Dark Side of the Moon**. Which in my humble opinion is the worst era of Pink Floyd. It's samey. It's generic, its bluesy. It's a tad boring...

A broad palette of Floyd songs from '67 would have been a hell of a lot more enjoyable. Every song melded into another one with Gilmour's pentatonic blues solos and left me and Dave feeling rather disengaged.

When the Dark Side songs came on I was elated, but they didn't do many. Don't get me wrong the band were completely professional and obviously had a passion for Pink Floyd but ignoring the first 6 or 7 years of the band's career in favour of playing later Gilmour orientated widdly blues driven bore fests was a bit myopic.

3.5/5



REVIEW Once Upon A Time in Northern Ireland

Hard hitting and stark portrait of the troubles in Northern Ireland from a human perspective. I binge watched it (yes this is the type of content I **binge** watch.)

This BBC2 documentary is equal parts touching and **shocking**. It never fails to leave me dumbfounded that these events actually took place in the U.K, and some of them in my lifetime. There are interviews with former **IRA** men (and women) and former **UDF** men, including self confessed killers as well as the people affected in their day to day lives and those with family who were victims of the violence.

4/5

The full 5 episode series is available now on **BBC iPlayer**



DIRGE'S **JUKEBOX**

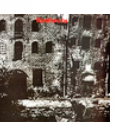
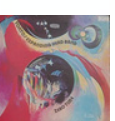
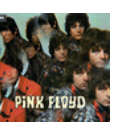
Thom Yorke - Suspiria

Kraftwerk - Computer Welt

Pink Floyd - Piper At The Gates of Dawn

Tonto's Expanding Head Band - Zero Time

Hugh Cornwell - Nosferatu



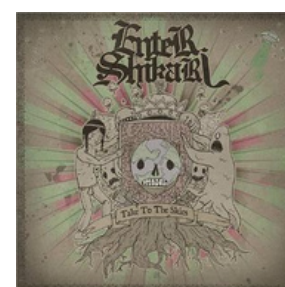


We tracked down Teesside band **End Credits** at a local nature reserve where they were enjoying a relaxing picnic and held them at gun point until one member, **Blaise**, gave us 5 of his top album picks.



Enter Shikari - Take To The Skies

First off, a British rock band, Enter Shikari with their debut studio album, Take to the Skies. It's a great mix of post-hardcore electronic rock, which they are now considered to have pioneered.



Red Hot Chili Peppers - Blood Sugar Sex Magic

I love Red Hot Chili Peppers, a band formed in the early 80's that play a mix of hard rock and funk rock. This particular genre and album in particular I love as so much emotion is expressed through the music. A perfect combo of hype and chill.



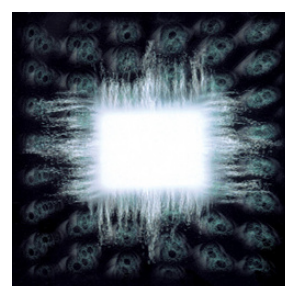
Stoned Jesus - Seven Thunders Roar

The third album I'll be picking is called Seven Thunders Roar from a Ukrainian desert rock band, Stoned Jesus. I remember listening to this album while doing school work and found myself entranced by its sound.



Tool - Ænima

The next band I think I should mention here is Tool, the album I choose will be Ænima. I selected this one as each musician really knew how to serve each song, making this album a really good one to listen to. After hearing it over a couple hundred times I still manage to pick out parts from songs I didn't hear the previous times I've played it.



Presidents of The U.S.A - Self Titled

Finally I picked the presidents of the United States self titled album released in 1995. This was my final choice as this album is just pleasing to listen to. The three musicians are quite talented and also pretty funny due to their not so serious lyrics and on stage antics.



THE WICKER MAN

50th Anniversary 4K Screening Durham Gala Theatre



The Wicker Man is one of the most intriguing, interesting, well written, evocative and quintessentially **British** films of all time. So when I found out it was being shown as part of the 50th anniversary celebrations in a glorious **4k** restoration up the road in **Durham** I just had to book a ticket.

The **Gala Theatre** is in the heart of Durham's city centre and is a friendly little place much akin to The Arc in Stockton. After negotiating a fair amount of stairs we reached a cavernous area which was essentially the **cinema**.

We were greeted upon arrival by two welcoming women who gave us our green man cocktails. They were very tasty, yet they weren't green which I thought might have been the whole point. As it was the wife's birthday however, we were already quite well oiled so we remained unfazed.

Twas quite a jovial atmosphere during the screening. I did have a couple of qualms however. The aspect ratio for the screen seemed to be slightly erroneous. People's heads were getting cut off, and the 4k quality was essentially the same as the other recent cuts I've seen. All in all though it was a good event and the Gala is a quaint, hospitable venue. Alas, I think me and The Wicker Man need a cooling off period now. I've seen it well over 30 times and we may need some time apart before the next viewing. Maybe the 60th Anniversary. **No hard feelings!**

THE **SOUND** OF THE WICKER MAN

The soundtrack to this cult classic is part of the reason it has garnered such a revered cult status. Arranged by Paul **Giovanni** who adapted mostly traditional Scottish songs, it truly is an ethereal, surreal and hypnotising album of music with some quite saucy and sinister lyrics and motifs in places.

The stand out tracks are **Corn Rigs**, Gently Johnny, Willow's Song, **Maypole** and The Landlord's Daughter (You'll never love another, although she's not the kind of girl to take home to your mother.) Each one an evocative, well suited companion to the film. Also of note is the song **The Tinker of Rye** which is an unsubtle, bawdy duet (featuring the real vocal talents of Diane Cilento and **Christopher Lee**, he himself an accomplished baritone) about, erm, well, listen to it and make up your own mind.

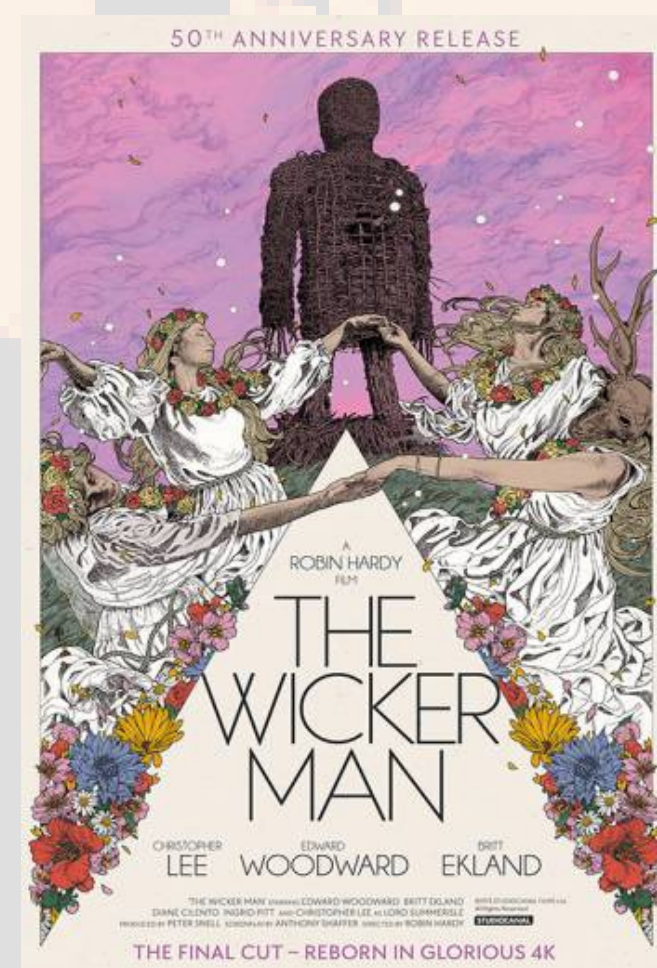
You can spot Giovanni at various points in the movie, most notably in the Green Man Inn singing **Gently Johnny**. Interestingly a number of the songs were sung by the character of Daisy, who played the nasty girl in the school house on a mission to get a beetle to crush itself on some thread within her school desk.



That's me, that!



Ingrid Pitt in my favourite scene





TRACKS **ROUND UP**

With **Sarah** Wilson



Hello **DIRGE** readers, I Hope you are enjoying the sunshine! Another little **Tracks** update for you about our upcoming Summer events.

We have now announced the full line up for **Tracks In Town**, our new event featuring original artists supported by Darlington Borough Council coming to the market square on Saturday 29th July. The event is free and kicks off at 1pm and runs right through until 8pm. We love introducing people to new music and hopefully inspiring audiences to give upcoming artists a good go.

- Opening the event are Darlington lads **Pink Moon**. A 5 piece indie rock band with influences spanning a range of genres from the Chilli Peppers to Fleetwood Mac. Their new EP, 'Hazed' is set to be released this summer.
- **James Leonard Hewitson** is a songwriter from Hartlepool who plays quirky guitar-pop with influences from indie-rock to punk and post-punk. He will be releasing an album later this year with Darlington record label Butterfly Effect.
- Teesside's **Moon Wax** will be bringing their retro funk and soul vibes to the day. With national radio play and support slots with Craig Charles Funk and Soul Show the band are perfect for a Summer's afternoon in the market square.
- Newcastle's **India Arkin** will be making her Darlington debut at Tracks In Town with her unique heartfelt indie pop that has gained her a residency at Gateshead's The Sage.
- Main support comes from Darlington golden boy **Luke Royalty**. Luke will be taking to the stage fresh from playing Durham Brass Festival with his own infectious blend of indie and urban pop.
- Headliners **Avalanche Party** are North Yorkshire lads flying high with festival appearances at Reading and Leeds, Brighton's The Great Escape and Austin, Texas' music industry highlight SXSW.

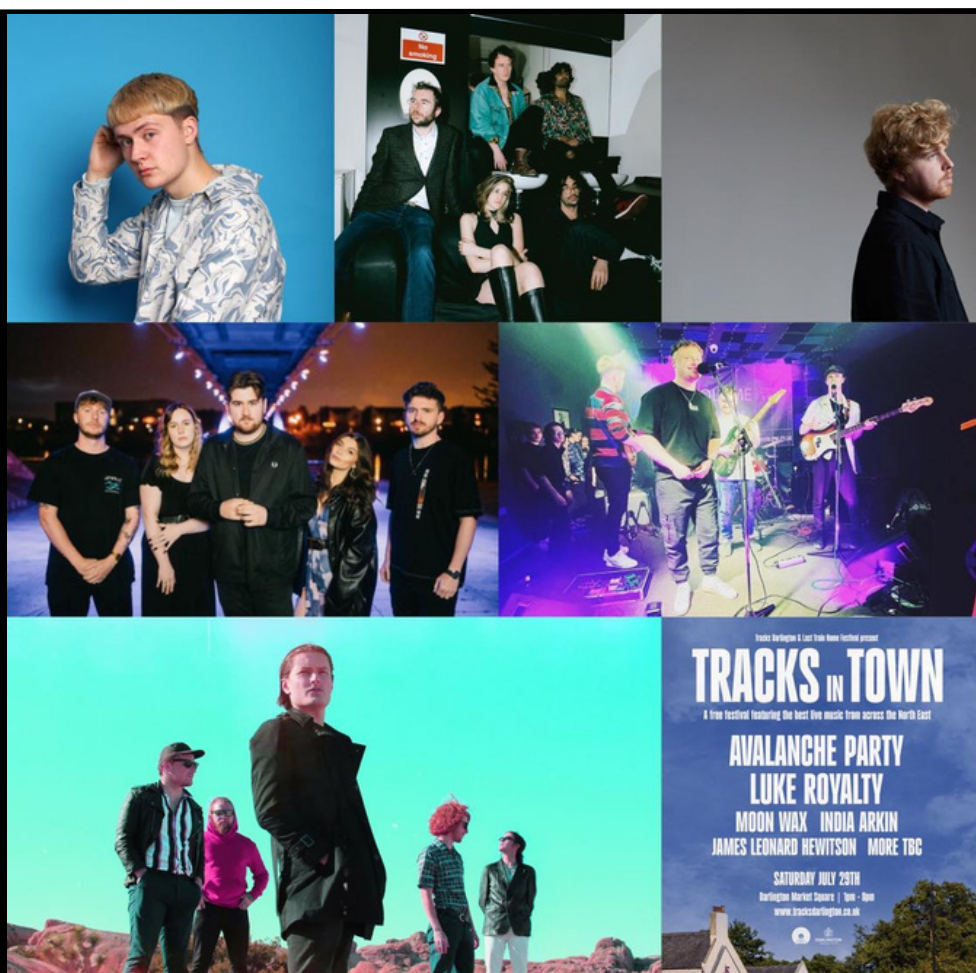
tracksdarlington.co.uk

Thurs 13th July- The Platform featuring **Uia** and **Eve Cole** at The Forum Music Centre.

Sat 29th July- **Tracks In Town**, Darlington market square.

August- **Tracks Tuesdays**, acoustic sessions 12pm-3.30pm every Tuesday in the market square.

Sat 2nd Sept - **Last Train Home Festival**, music and comedy, five stages across three venues.



**YOUR AD COULD BE
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Do you want to
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via our email address
and as long as it's
loosely music based we'll
stick it in next time!

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Giallo movies (the plural being **Gialli**) are bred from the garish crime based **pulp fiction** novels originating in the 1920's which usually had a yellow (giallo in Italian) front cover. Although catapulted into the relative mainstream by Dario **Argento** in the early 70's, the genre had been about for about 7 years prior to Argento's Giallo takeover.

Gialli have a few notable **tropes**. Often they take on a whodunit format with a plethora of unfortunate victims being dispatched by way of a Knife wielding assailant in a long **black** coat and, or a mask. I'm making the genre sound quite formulaic here and at times it can be. But a lot of the time Gialli can be **fun**, gory, surreal and bizarre, with excellent cinematography capturing 1970's Italy, accompanied by a wicked soundtrack (quite often by the maestro himself Ennio **Morricone** or prog-funk rockers, **Goblin**.)

Blood & Black Lace

A masterclass in how to utilise lighting, colour and shadow by Mario Bava from 1964. Generally regarded as one of the first and best in the Giallo genre. It's a garish, brash, multicoloured whodunit that ticks all the boxes for a fan of Gialli. This film was essentially the blueprint for every future movie in the genre.



Cat 'O Nine Tails

Shot in Berlin, Turin and Cinecittà Studios in Rome and released in 1971 this solid outing for Dario Argento is definitely a cosmopolitan Giallo. Offering a highly listenable score by Ennio Morricone, the second in Argento's so called 'Animal Trilogy' is about as good as it gets for the genre.



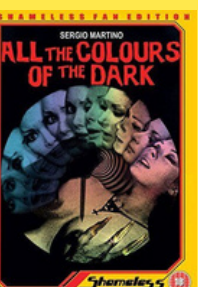
Torso

Torso is a pseudo-slasher directed by the prolific, lover of violence Sergio Martino from 1973. Regarded by some as the first slasher flick ever produced. The assailant's mask is incredibly creepy and this film truly is a laugh a minute and is apparently one of Quentin Tarantino's personal favourites. It's a little thin on plot but the music, kills and on location scenery more than make up for its lack of story.



All the Colours Of The Dark

Starring the undisputed queen of the genre, Edwige Fenech, 1972's psychedelic whirlwind from the golden age of Gialli, again by Sergio Martino, is one heck of a thriller. The talented mainstay of film composing Bruno Nicolai provides the score in a fever dream complete with black masses and is notable for being filmed not in Italy but in post-swinging 60's London.



Deep Red

I will have to begin with the music on this 1975 Argento masterpiece. Apparently he tried to procure Pink Floyd to provide the soundtrack to Deep Red, but they said no. Argento turned to a young home grown band called Goblin to provide the score and I think he made the right decision. All the elements of a great thriller are present in this flick. The cinematography, the script, the acting, the music and the finale.





Darlington has never really had a thriving electronic music scene, and even today it's still not as good as it was 10 or 20 years ago. Maybe this evening will herald a renaissance? O.G of the Darlington Scene **Ian Hanratty** has put together a small, yet perfectly formed line up of hardware based producers to get The Forum dancing.

I've been listening to **Vision 25-C** today and it's Detroit-esque with cheeky **Model 500** style basslines and what sounds like some **303** style squelchy, acidic riffs.

Danny Carnage's stage name sounds like some sort of happy hardcore MC but he's actually an acid techno producer and from what I've heard sounds pretty good. I listened to his latest EP and I dug it. Early 90's Prodigy era flavaz with a few wobbly basses thrown in for good measure. Wobble basses can be counted as old skool now right? **Junglist** massive riddims meet frenetic Squarepusher style squashed, spliced, diced and sliced breakbeats.

I couldn't find anything by **Chump Wrecker** but I believe it's the moniker of Ian, organiser of this event and one half of local trance-rock juggernaut Analogue Blood.

I understand it's going to essentially be hardware only. Which is a nice touch, although hardware doesn't always equate to quality. But from the standard of the music I've heard by these artists it should be a varied and fun evening of live electronic music if the vibe is right.

Judge for yourself on **July 6th**.

- **DATE - THURS JULY 6TH**
- **TIME - 7.00pm TIL 10.30pm**
- **PRICE - £8**

REVIEW



Becoming Ian Brady

I found this on **Amazon Prime**. It's a middling to fair documentary exploring Brady's mental state from his formative years right up until his eventual death in 2017. Featuring a small ensemble cast of 'experts' some of which I think just call themselves Criminologists for shits and giggles.

The series features a few **photographs** of Brady and Hindley that I hadn't seen previously so that piqued my interest a bit but I found this documentary to be quite sterile and unengaging, although the insight into the many mental disorders suffered by Brady that could have been causal factors for the **Moors Murders** was of interest.

2.1/5

Available to stream now on Amazon Prime



OBITUARIES



TOM BUTCHART (1972 - 2023) - Sound It Out

TREAT WILLIAMS (1951 - 2023) - Actor

GLENDA JACKSON (1936 - 2023) - Actor & MP

KENNETH ANGER (1927 - 2023) - Film Maker

RAY SHULMAN (1949 - 2023) - Multi-Instrumentalist

TINA TURNER (1939 - 2023) - Singer

ANDY ROURKE (1964 - 2023) - Bassist

PHILLIP SCHOFIELD'S CAREER (1987-2023)



REVIEW PYGMY TWYLTYE AT THE GEORGIAN THEATRE



I love the Georgian Theatre in Stockton. It's historic, makes dead nice **pizzas** and the best thing of all, I can bring my whole family! It's so important for venues (when it's possible) to accommodate all ages as the young 'uns are the next generation of music **fans**. So after a couple of beers, a pizza and a bowl of fries we were ready for the main hall and **PYMGY TYLYTE**.

Frank Zappa released a helluva lot of music, and it was a known fact that the bearded **virtuoso** only used the world's best musicians in his band. So it stands to reason that **Scotland's** premier (or possibly only?) U.K tribute to Zappa would need to be extremely accomplished musicians. **So, were they?**

Of course they were. They **nailed** it. The entire band are excellent, passionate musicians who obviously love what they do. I had a couple of conversations with the singer and sax player and they were both incredibly sound. They played a few of my favourite songs but Frank's back catalogue is just so extensive that they aren't going to be able to please everybody all of the time. They did a great version of **Montana** and next time I see them I hope they have incorporated **Don't Eat the Yellow Snow** into their 2 hour set. (**Hint.**)

The sound quality was great. Hats off to the sound guy who had to mix a 7 piece band and all manner of instruments.

If you are a fan of Zappa you **MUST** see this band.

4/5



facebook.com/pygmytwylytezapptribute

REVIEW WERBENIUK & SOEVER AT THE FORUM

Remember when most gigs were about £4? I thought I'd go to Live & Local so I can pretend it's 2002 again. £4 on the door is what all local gigs should be priced at. This monthly night is an initiative I support as it at times can be difficult for grass roots bands to get a gig round here. **The Forum** is a solid venue with consistently good sound and useful facilities as well as friendly and helpful staff.

There weren't many punters when I first arrived. Which I was expecting. Not that the bands shouldn't garner a decent turn out, rather it's a week night and local bands who play originals don't usually get a massive crowd at the best of times.

Soever were two blokes with guitars. The singer had a distinctive voice which was a bit of an amalgam of different 90's Britpop vocalists. Song wise I enjoyed them, they were pleasant tracks played wit. Apparently there is usually a **drummer** but he was involved in an accident. Sounds about right for a drummer. I wish him a speedy recovery and I hope he's back behind the skins soon. I'd like to see them as a full band in the future, I liked what I saw.

Next up were Teesside oddballs **Werbeniuk**, who I'd come to see. They write good songs and put on a show. I hadn't seen them for time as well. The Stockton band's songs are catchy with vocal harmonies and tribal rhythms. The sound seemed a bit tinny for some reason, I'm not sure why but this little issue didn't detract from my overall enjoyment. All the members kept swapping instruments which is always good to see and there was a decent array of **electronics**. My favourite song from the evening was 'The Cat that Got the Cream'. The string sound really stood out on that joint and packed a punch.

The atmosphere was rather sedate but that's to be expected. Would be good to see them on a weekend with a bit of drink flowing and a few more people there.

3.8/5



Werbeniuk on stage, with 1970's laundry bin

facebook.com/soever
facebook.com/werbeniuk

DIRGE POSTER



Paul McCartney recording a drum in the **toilet** for his 1980 album McCartney II.