

# MO' DIRGE





# DIRGE

noun!

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



Mo' Dirge Issue #3

May 2025

So Dirgers, we've made it to May, and with that a new edition of Mo' DIRGE. I've been to quite a few gigs so far this year, all local too. Me and my son are off to see Public Image Ltd later in the month which I'm looking forward to immensely!

There's a couple of anniversary retrospectives in this Mo' DIRGE. One's a 30<sup>th</sup> birthday for the Chuckle Brothers debut album, while Radioactivity by Kraftwerk has reached 50 this year.

The obituaries strand is quite sparse this month (praise the lord) with a couple of notable deaths in there!

I am dedicating this issue of DIRGE to the men and women who kicked the arse of Adolf Hitler and gave The Allies victory in Europe in 1945 so you are free to read the shite that I write about in this zine. God bless freedom.

I'd like to say a heartfelt thanks to Pam Plumb (of Darlington for Culture) who was kind enough to help with the cost of the printing for this issue. If you love the mag and you'd like to help out a bit with printing costs you can do it via that link just below!

This physical copy is Darlo only so if you're reading this online and want one you'd better head down to Darlington. Over and out. Love yas! Roz. X



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facebook.com/darlodirge



buymeacoffee.com/dirge

## TIME IS OUT OF JOINT

'An audio-visual exploration of time and British culture, focused on our nature to return to the past whilst dreaming of the future.'

'Time is Out of Joint is an immersive musical experience produced by North East based musician and composer, John O'Hare with live music performed by a.b.a.d.e.'

John o'Hare is a multi-instrumentalist, producer, composer and artist, exploring his interpretation of the world through noise, experimental and dark ambient styles.

johnoharemusic.com

## REVIEW VODOO BLACK EXORCIST - CHIP SHOP (KEIR STARMER)

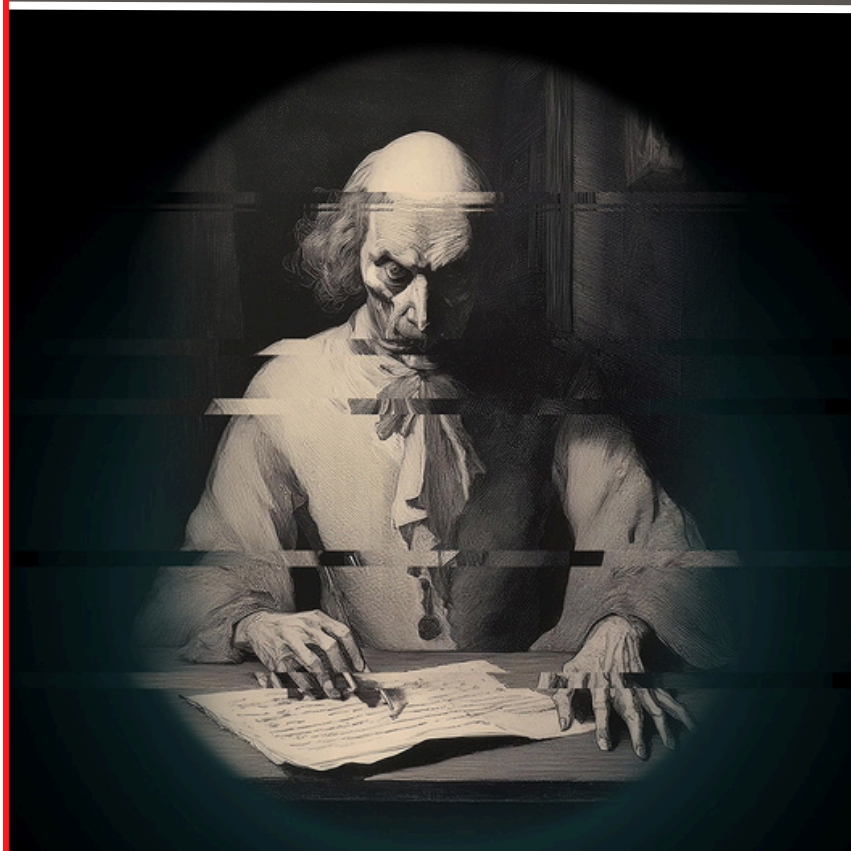
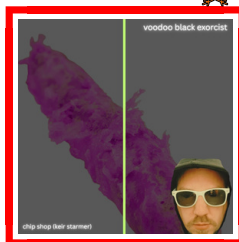
BY MICK ELLIOTT

There's one good thing that comes from hard times and that is good music. Unfortunately this offering from Voodoo Black Exorcist only provides a sick parody of the essential and important bands that choose to speak truth against the powers that be. Why anyone would want to create a cynical pastiche of the only type of music that could possibly save the U.K and world is a mystery, perhaps it's jealousy or an inflated sense of entitlement at the success they have yet to receive.

The song, concocted confusingly by Machine Music leader 'Roz' has not only tarnished his own good name but also threatened the reputation of his son and fellow band member Dave, who wisely chose not to feature on the track.

This insipid cultural appropriation of good music is thankfully over in just over two minutes but by that time the damage is done. An insult to music and ears. 4/5

instagram.com/machinemusicroz



## TIME IS OUT OF JOINT

An immersive musical experience

Friday 16th May, 8pm

The Ship Isis, Sunderland

Live music from **a.b.a.d.e**

Tickets £6



# THE LAIR OF LOCAL

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



## OUTRI & PHIL RICHARDSON - OUR PATHS CROSS

How the heck did Ian make his bass sound like a piano? That's madness! Oh wait. He's worked with a chap by the name of 'Phil Richardson' on this new tune. Mystery solved!

And what a pleasant tune it is. Not in a condescending way (would I?) but in a way that thoroughly relaxes and gets you in the chill zone (chill zone? Wtf am I becoming?) The piano work is lush, panned across the stereo field, with a centralised drum loop that's a bit too dry for my tastes. Just a minor gripe though!

The five minutes passed by rather quickly whilst listening to 'Our Paths Cross' in a darkened room on this lovely, sunny spring afternoon.

Have a listen if you want to get in the 'chill zone', this June! **3.9/5**

[instagram.com/outri\\_bass](https://www.instagram.com/outri_bass)

## MIDDLE MANAGEMENT - DO WE HAVE ANYTHING LEFT TO SAY?

Oooo, Disco beat! Quickly joined by a cheeky bass refrain and some panned guitar. I think Ima like this one! Carl seems to be channelling a bit of his inner Bryan Ferry here. Suave! The lyrics appear to be a lament on the state of modern architecture, which I completely agree with, but that's for another time and place.

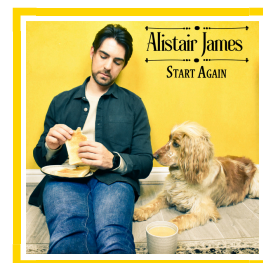
I enjoy how there are syncopated guitars synergistically teasing each other between the left and right pans. I do think the vocal hook could have been stronger, the introductory instrumental groove was begging for it. The hook does grow in power on the pseudo-choruses though, especially with the help of Simone's backing vocal, building into a quintessential Middle Management skew-whiff pop extravaganza that's instantly listenable. I don't know where skew-whiff came from, that phrase has never been in my lexicon, ever. **4/5**

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



## ALISTAIR JAMES - START AGAIN

Eden from Big G was kind enough to send me this new Spring offering from Alistair James, all the way from the industrial heartland of Middlesbrough, UK!



I think it's fair to say that 'Start Again' is a stripped down Indie affair. Essentially an electric guitar accompanying Ally's dulcet tones.

It's hard to explain but for some reason the first line "I'm just sitting on my own, chewing on toast" made me feel slightly nauseous. My therapist believes it's because I've got some kind of pathological issue around watching/hearing people eat.

Speaking of toast, the song is an able slice of Indie Pop but it doesn't really go anywhere, and being at four minutes long it really should build to something more than the initial intro motif. I'm sure some people will enjoy it, I just think that I'd be rather bored watching it in a live setting. **3.2/5**

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

## A NATION RISING - STORIES OF LEAD AND GOLD

I withdrew my foisty Whitesnake wig from the wardrobe and dusted off my air guitar in preparation for listening to 'Stories of Lead & Gold', A Nation Rising's debut album.



A.N.R make great driving music. I don't actually drive so I just walked about whilst listening to this album but if the wind started blowing in my face it felt comparable.

The album is a rollercoaster of emotional ups and downs, big riffs and more sedate, thoughtful instrumentals. There really is something for everyone! Parts of it do feel like alternate versions of 90's hit show 'The Gladiators' theme tune but I think A.N.R is self-aware enough to realise that. Plus, that theme tune is a stone wall banger. Awooga!

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



## VULTURES - MORE/LESS



**DIRGE** likes the way More/Less builds and grows. It's a catchy and punky spoken word song (but fortunately nothing that resembles Sleaford Mods) which for some reason reminds me of early 80's Robert Palmer. I think it's the tempo and the synths. It's definitely a grower, this. Liked it! **4/5**

@vulturesband316



## NORTH SEA FEVER - UNION

NSF's press release begins its opening gambit with 'There's lots of hyperbole used when talking about bands. 'Best band ever' or 'they deserve to be on a bigger stage', but with North Sea Fever, this is no exaggeration about how good they are.'

I beg to differ.

It's Greenday but less fun. Not that Greenday were fun to begin with. As a band they sound tight but the song is just rather meh. Especially after the press release intro. Yeah, press releases are intended to be positive but they have to at least be grounded in reality. **2.9/5**

facebook.com/northseafever

## GLAD TOWN GHOST - THESE WITCHING HOURS

I'm finding it hard to believe that this was recorded in Blighty and not across the Atlantic in some sort of forest shack. I should say as a caveat that I usually hate music like this. By 'this' I mean music with banjos. Except that scene from Deliverance (classic!)

However Glad Town Ghost, or Dale to his pals is certainly accomplished at what he does.

'The Cleveland Water' kicks off Dales new E.P. I'm not well versed in water of the Cleveland variety but I once drank from The Skerne and I've never been quite the same since. More on that in a future issue.

I also have no knowledge of Americana but I certainly am an advocate of the old Harmonica (as featured in 'Consecutive Towns') and it sounds rather apt in Dale's repertoire.

His words are well formulated and crafted into stories which are in fact 'Five character studies of imposters, saints and lovers.' Melancholic and thoughtful, without slipping towards a mire of sentimentality. Some of the vocals do sound a bit 'put on' at times like he's trying to imitate an obscure Simpsons character, but on the whole Dale's gruff voice holds up well with a certain uniqueness to it. There's a nice width to the mix and it's not too polished which suits the songs, keeping with the 'pastoral' quality of the music.



The highlight of the E.P is 'La Da Da Da' which could easily be used as the music for one of those American road movies soundtracking the grandiose panning shots of rolling hills, lakes and mountains. 'These Witching Hours' is a quaint E.P that will appeal to neo - folkies **3.8/5**

instagram.com/gladtownghost



## JAM TUB - HOSTILITY OR HANDSHAKES

Personally, I choose hostility every time! But are there any traces of hostility in my review of Jam Tub's new choon?



Nope. It's a good one, this. A well constructed, measured and engaging little ditty, heralding a marked change in direction from 'A-biotic', which I believe I reviewed for another local music publication. It's poppy, yet far from light weight. I am concerned about the pre-chorus lyric however. 'I will follow through'. Sounds a bit like me after a three day Dark Fruit bender. The production sound slaps, with some nifty vocals and melody lines by Michael Stott. Go and have a listen to it. You'll want to shake my hand for this recommendation! **4.1/5**

instagram.com/jamtubofficial

## THEE STRAWBERRY MYNDE - REFLECTIONS



A well rounded and authentically 60's influenced E.P from thee three piece. The songs are well written and immediate. I'll have to get round to seeing 'The Mynde' next time they're in the area. My fave from the E.P is the title track which I reviewed in the last Mo' Dirge. It's available now on France's 'Rogue Records'. **4/5**

theestrawberrymynde@bandcamp.com

WANT YOUR MUSIC REVIEWED IN **DIRGE**? YES, OF COURSE YOU DO! SIMPLY EMAIL YOUR LATEST RELEASE TO **DARLODIRGE@GMAIL.COM** OR MESSAGE ME ON THE FACEBOOK PAGE. WHAT'S THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN?



## MARQ ELECTRONICA - MY TABLE

I saw Marq in the Gateshead branch of IKEA recently. He had a huge grin on his face. The maestro ran up to me exclaiming 'Roz, I've just bought my bucket list dining table for £739, reduced from £839'. Turns out he loved the table so much he made a tune about it featuring Josh 'Gippa' Gibson.



Marq's actual table

I prefer Marq's earlier stuff. Josh's rap seems a little 'ill fitting' and slightly wooden. I am taking into account that he's only a young 'un though and I'd be interested to hear some of his own work. Marq's vocals are on point as ever.

3.3/5

@margelectronica

## THE GREAT BEYOND

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



### THE FODS - THE INEFFECTUALS

Pseudo-anthem Indie Rock from Manny's 'The Fods'. It's got rather too much widdly pentatonic guitars for me, with vocals and phrasings that sound a hell of a lot like Dave Lee Roth from Van Halen. Which isn't a bad thing as Dave is a cracking singer but it all sounds slightly incongruous in an Indie setting.

3.3/5

[thefods.bandcamp.com](http://thefods.bandcamp.com)

### E.P GRILLETTE - FAREWELL WEARY TRAVELLER

A short and relatively sweet instrumental from Grillette, 'the best a man can get'. All the way from Louisiana. It's more like an intermission between two 'proper songs' on an album really, and as a result I'm thinking it probably wasn't the best song choice to send in.

2.9/5

[threads.net/e.p.grillette](https://threads.net/e.p.grillette)

### EEADE - THEY WERE ONLY BODIES

Lashings of early New Order are on offer here from the young Eade (pronounced eed).

It's unpretentiously playful and the verses and breakdown seem to dissolve into each other like a melodic film cut.

The arpeggiated chords on the breakdown (while obviously not a rip off) sound a bit too much like Where is My Mind? by Pixies for my liking, but probably not enough to be in danger of being sued by them. Have yourself a listen today!

3.8/5



[instagram.com/eeade\\_](https://www.instagram.com/eeade_)

### MYE\_TAAI - I BET YOU A £5ER

This is a fruity and danceable little number all the way from The Hague, Netherlands. From beginning to end, the two piece's new tune is a criminally furious funk fest, so danceable that they should probably taken to the International court of justice!

4.1/5

[instagram.com/mye\\_taii](https://www.instagram.com/mye_taii)

## CRYMWAV - SENSE OF ADVENTURE



After a listen, I put this review off for a whole month. Now the deadline has passed and I'm still avoiding writing about it.

Half of my word count now explains how little I wanted to listen to this song again. Like a basic cliché joke song made by your lame uncle 'demonstrating' how great 70's rock music was.

Awful, silly rhyming lyrics and the same guitar riff a child would immediately play if you asked them to make an old rock song for a ketchup advert.

W.F

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



### THE BURGERS - ARE YOU REALLY LISTENING TO MUSIC?

Well, am I? I'm sold on the band name. The burger is the finest delicacy known to mankind.

Cool bit of Glasgae punk, this. Not exactly barrier breaking but enjoyable non the less. It's delivered with a thick Scottish accent which I always enjoy. The drums sound big and bolshy with in ya face guitars. Not my usual choice of music but it sure passed a couple of minutes nicely!

3.7/5

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



## DIRGE POP CHARTS



1.) JAM TUB - HOSTILITY OR HANDSHAKES 🏆

MYE\_TAAI - I BET YOU A £5ER 🏆

2.) VULTURES - MORE/LESS

THEE STRAWBERRY MYNDE - REFLECTIONS

MIDDLE MGMT - DO WE HAVE ANYTHING LEFT TO SAY?

3.) OUTRI - OUR PATHS CROSS

GLAD TOWN GHOST - THESE WITCHING HOURS

EEADE - THEY WERE ONLY BODIES

4.) THE BURGERS - ARE YOU REALLY LISTENING TO MUSIC?

5.) MARQ ELECTRONICA - MY TABLE

TURKEY OF THE MONTH VBE - CHIP SHOP (KEIR STARMER) 🦃

#DIRGEOFFICIALCHARTS

BILLBOARD 100

# INTERVIEW



WE SPOKE TO PIONEERING TRAINING, RECRUITMENT AND CONSULTING AGENCY CREW GAL TO FIND OUT WHAT THEY OFFER THE NORTH EAST MUSIC AND CREATIVE ARTS SCENE.

**Hey Crew Gal! Tell DIRGE about what you do and the services you provide to the local music industry and beyond.**

We're Crew Gal—a creative training, recruitment and production agency based in the North East. Our mission is to give people real access to the creative industries through hands-on, fully-funded courses and practical experience. We've trained over 350 people so far, many of whom have gone on to work in TV, film, live events, and music video production. Alongside our training, we also provide skilled crew for music videos, gigs, and festivals across the UK. Our heart is in the North East, but our work is making waves far beyond it.

**I know you best for producing music videos for North East bands, I recently saw your video for Specky Cult, which I enjoyed. Which of your music videos do you think turned out best?**

Thank you. We loved working on Catch 22 with Specky Cult! Honestly though, they're all amazing in their own way, and each one brings something different to the table. Our learners have created videos for artists like Lauren Amour, Hels Pattison, Richie Harrison, Old Bones, SEASONS, and Snakes with Tits, each with its own style, story, and energy. But rather than picking favourites... why don't you let your readers decide? 😊

**What plans have you got for the future of Crew Gal?**

We've got some seriously exciting projects lined up. We're kicking off a brand new exclusive music video project with Hector Gannet, and continuing to develop incredible visuals with Shannon Pearl, Craig Redpath, Ivies and Tom A. Smith—all rising talents from the North East we're proud to support.

Our focus is on growing opportunities for learners and creatives in the region while continuing to show what North East talent is capable of on a national level.

**And anything else in the near future you'd like DIRGE readers to know about?**

Yes! Recruitment is now open for our next intake of the Creative Screen Production course. If you want to get hands-on experience working on real music videos like these, now's your chance.

Drop us a message at [crewgalhq@crewgal.com](mailto:crewgalhq@crewgal.com) to find out more and secure your spot.

**Thanks gals! Good luck for your future endeavours! Roz.**

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



## NON-NEWS

### KNEECAP ARE SHIT AND ANNOYING

THEY JUST ARE THOUGH, AREN'T THEY? TWO OF THEM LOOK LIKE THEY'RE STRAIGHT OFF THE DARLO FB GROUP FOR NICKING QUAD BIKES AND THE ONE IN THE IRA BALLY LOOKS LIKE AN ONLINE SEXUAL PREDATOR. THEIR MUSIC IS TURD AND THEIR POLITICS ARE SIMPLISTIC AS HECK. HOPEFULLY THEY'LL DIE A DEATH LIKE THOSE NOVELTY ACT RUSSIAN LESBIANS TATU DID.

## WHAT'S ON - MAY & JUNE

DIRGE'S TOP PICKS FOR THE COMING MONTHS

- 10/05 BLACK RAIN/S.Y CULT, LITTLE BUILDINGS, TOON
- 12/05 MEKONS, THE CLUNY, TOON
- 16/05 RATTUS INHERITUS, LAST POST BAR, THORNABY
- 16/05 TIME IS OUT OF JOINT, INDEPENDENT, SUNDERLAND
- 16/05 MANFROG, NEU BAR, STOCKTON
- 17/05 UBRE BLANCA / HOLY BRAILLE, ZEROX, TOON
- 22/05 ZETA POINT, NEU BAR, STOCKTON
- 22/05 CORUADT, FLINT & STEEL, LITTLE BUILDINGS, TOON
- 24/05 ELECTRO POP EXPERIENCE, THE FORUM, DARLO
- 30/05 PUBLIC IMAGE LTD, BOILER SHOP, TOON
- 07/06 OUTSIDE THE ORIGINAL, THE CLUNY 2, TOON
- 07/06 STRAIGHTEN OUT, THE GROVE, TOON



An **Arriva** bus tour around some of the most picturesque areas in County Durham was an enjoyable precursor to the main event. Newton **Aycliffe**, Chilton and Ferryhill. All my favourite local **beauty** spots. I reached the fair city early enough to sink a couple of Sagres at The Head of Steam, catching the last few **sunrays** of what had been a rather balmy day by April's standards. I made the crippling **uphill** walk to The Angel soon **after**. It was packed to the rafters, they must love their free gigs in Durham! **Jam Tub** took to the floor **first**. They were full of energy. It made me tired just watching them jump about and 'twas a good job I brought my earplugs (thanks **D.H.**). Tinnitus is real! **Sometimes** I cringe when folk say bands have 'bags of energy' because a lot of the time it's put on, it's faux and looks contrived, but none of that cringe with Jam Tub. They're just three lads having a **laugh** with some good songs to **boot**.

**TINRIBS** were next, and another enjoyable live **entity**. The singer appears to have borrowed Kingsley from Benefits' wardrobe for the occasion too. Nice touch! I then gave some **DIRGE** mags to **STEVE** from Million Years to put out and had a natter with some folks from **Queens Screech** in the picturesque beer garden.

I then reapplied my ear plugs and returned inside to watch **Million Years**. Another solid group with some canny riffage and a big sound. I then staggered to the bus **station** and tried not to be sick for the rest of the **way** home. A busy night with a cool **atmosphere** and some engaging live bands. **Poyfick!**

[instagram.com/t.i.n.r.i.b.s](https://www.instagram.com/t.i.n.r.i.b.s)

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



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

## NON-NEWS

STOCK IMAGE 'SWEARS DOWN ON HIS NANA'S LIFE' THAT HIS NEW ALBUM WILL BE FINISHED BY 2029.

THE 80'S **REVIVALIST** HAS HIT BACK AGAINST A SECTION OF THE NE MUSIC SCENE WHO BELIEVE THAT HIS 'NEW ALBUM' IS ALL A MADE UP **LIE** LIKE JACK TORRANCE'S PLAY IN THE **SHINING**. EVEN GOING AS FAR AS 'SWEARING ON HIS **NANA'S** LIFE' THAT IT WOULD BE **COMPLETED** BEFORE THE **END** OF THE DECADE.

My second jaunt to Stockton in recent times was to witness a heat of **NE Volume's** 'prestigious' (their word) Battle of The Bands competition. I have to admit that I have actually grown to enjoy a good Battle of The Bands. I now file them under 'guilty pleasures'.

On entering the 'out the front smoking area' I suddenly felt like I was in some sort of 90's youth club. About 20 teenagers vaping, smoking and drinking cans of fizzy pop. Adam, one of the co-owners, greeted me at the front door and let me in for free which was a nice gesture.

First band fighting it out for a place in the next round were **Urban Times** a four piece made up of young whippersnappers from Bishop Auckland and Sunderland. Slight technical difficulties were suffered at the hands of a dodgy guitar cable but that didn't put the young pups off, playing a set of predominantly cover versions which were done to a competent standard. The singer couldn't decide which Indie Rock frontman to imitate so it came across as a bit forced but he's only a young 'un and still finding his on stage persona.

Things took a heavier tone (thank Satan I brought my earplugs) next with local metallers **Ossuary**. What stuck out for me was the machine gun like double kick pedal and the extremely gnarly bass tone. Not to mention the teenage dirtbag on guitar, sporting a mullet and a trailer park tash.



The Hollows. They was robbed! (Pic by Dan Humble)

Things took an unexpected turn when Darlo lad **SHDE** took to the stage to provide his own brand of Americanised rap. He brought quite the fanbase, they were singing along like no one's business!

Unfortunately everyone seemed to either go outside or leave before **The Hollows** arrived on stage. I was rather impressed by them and I believe they should have won.

But, drum roll please...AND THE WINNER WAS...**SHDE!!**

3.8/5

Hello my loyal Malcoholics. We are in the sunny season which means it's also the start of festival season. The first festival I attended was 'This Is Middlesbrough' in Middlesbrough (obviously). That was a proper fun day. My band of the day was Martha May and the Mondays. **Perfect Chicken** also put on a cracking set with their usual antics. There was also Stockton Calling. I was a bit more chill this year, only seeing ten bands. My favourites of the day were **BitchFinder General** a punk band fronted by Jayne Dent (**Me Lost Me**). See them when you get the chance, a delightful mix of rage and satire. Also **Picture Parkour** were great. I got a photo with them and everything.



It's Carl Green again! He's taking over this page!

A new art gallery opened in Middlesbrough called **The Zoo**. It's in The Cleveland Centre and is a cool little space. It features a firefly who I met at **Valley Of Light** so I had a nice catch up with him and enjoyed all the other mint art that was on display. **Stock Image** got to live out his childhood dream of playing Ku Bar. He got to support **Carl Green and the Scene** in a night that can be described as 'proper good'. Also the last **Komparrison** gig was really something else. Great support and a real emotional send off for them.

My next gig is in Cafe Etch with **Draaags**, **Perfect Chicken**, **Gaydar** and **Mouses**. Be there or be a triangle. Much love and see you at the front. **ML**

## ROOM 101

WE ASK BANDS AND ARTISTS WHAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO BANISH FROM THE WORLD FOREVER AND PUT INTO THE INFAMOUS ROOM 101.



THIS MONTH IT'S...



### CARL GREEN IN PARTICULAR!

**DIY** - Great fun apparently if you're handy with saw and screwdriver. I can't knock a nail in straight so the fun element tends to elude me.

**OMG** - See also LOL/FFS/IMO/TBH etc. People are still peddling this filth despite the risk of lengthy prison sentences and public ridicule.

**SUV's** - Vehicles with a superiority complex. Big, brash and unpleasant to know.

**OCD** - Getting better. Only re-arranged the mug shelf twice today.

**BTS** - Shiny, whiney, Korean teen product created by corporations with zero interest in music. All that is wrong with 21st century pop.

**FAQ's** - A list of questions nobody asked providing answers nobody wanted.

**WWW** - Bit late to fully return Tim's gift but the world could seriously do with a year off from the internet. So happy I wasn't born this century.

**UFO's** - Alien teasers. A quick flash then they're gone. Rude if you ask me.

**NME** - Not a natural fit for those of us in the odd-pop business. I get the distinct impression interesting music makes them nervous.

**DFS** - Disappointing range of overly priced beds and sofas.



Carl's new E.P 'Mundanity & Mustard' is out now!

[carlgreeninparticular.bandcamp.com](http://carlgreeninparticular.bandcamp.com)



Hi Carlos, George here. Some good picks there, my friend! Many thanks and I'll see you again soon!





# PREVIEW

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

# NECRO'S NIGHT

ZEROX  
TOON

I LOVE A BIT OF **NECRO**, ME! DO YOU? IF THAT'S A **YES** YOU JUST MIGHT LOVE NECRO'S NIGHT AT ZEROX IN NEWCASTLE THIS MAY!

So who is this enigmatic and shadowy figure, Necro? And what is his **evening** all about? Full name Necro Noise, the horror movie influenced Dark Synth producer hails from the deepest, darkest depths of North Shields and is intent on providing a necromantic night of musical debauchery for all who dare **enter**.

Necro's Night is an **electronic** music event that aims to bring 'horror back to da club' by way of live performances from solo artists and bands. Mainly focussing on the darker side of music but also lighter synthpop artists such as Jake **Major** from time to time. The evening climaxes with a massive D.J set by the eponymous Necro Noise, (a Dark Synth **producer** in his own right) playing a variety of tracks from genres as diverse as Synth Pop, Synth Wave, Cyber Punk, Dark Synth, Dark Wave and French House plus a range of his own productions.

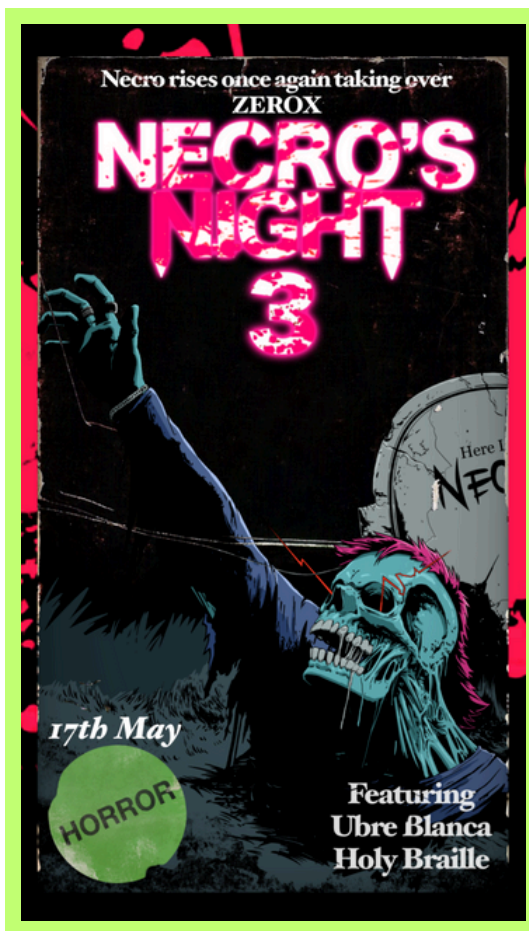


The man himself, sporting a rather fetching mullet

As most of you are probably aware, I'm somewhat of a horror **fanatic** myself, so the aesthetics of the premise and the promotional material were appealing to me and I'm interested to see how everything evolves.

Necro's **Night 1 & 2** which took place at Little Buildings and The Cluny 2 respectively featured the likes of Holy Braille (who are back for Necro's Night 3), Gaydar, Jake Major and **Squarms**.

The third in the current trilogy takes place at **Zerox** on Saturday May 17th featuring **Holy Braille** and Glasgow's **Ubre Blanca**. Tickets are priced at £5 advance and £8 OTD with hell breaking **loose** at 7.15.



## NON-NEWS

**ANGULAR** POST-PUNK LOCAL SEMI LEGENDS MIDDLE MANAGEMENT RECENTLY SHARED A PRACTICE ROOM CLIP TEASING THEIR NEW SONG 'MAPS ARE **LIARS**'. WELL I COULDN'T POSSIBLY COMMENT ON THAT AS I DON'T WANT TO BE SUED FOR LIBEL (AGAIN) BUT LEAD SINGER CARL SAYS 'IT'S LIKE THE **ORGY** SCENE FROM EYES WIDE SHUT'

IT'S A BIT **NAUGHTY**. IT'S ALSO A BIT SAUCY.

## MIDDLE MANAGEMENT TEASE NEW 'EROTIC' TRACK!

BELOW IS A STILL OF THE **ACTUAL** FOOTAGE. LOOKS LIKE THAT SECRET CAMERA I INSTALLED IN THEIR PRACTISE ROOM IS FINALLY GETTING PUT TO GOOD USE!



THEIR NEW SINGLE IS **OUT** NOW! GO AND **LISTEN** TO IT.

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

## OBITUARIES

**GEORGE FOREMAN** (Inventor) 1949 - 2025

**EDDIE JORDAN** (F1 Guy) 1948 - 2025

**JOHN HEMINGWAY** (RAF Pilot) 1919 - 2025

**CHRIS JASPER** (Musician) 1951 - 2025

**VAL KILMER** (Actor) 1959 - 2025

**CLEM BURKE** (Drummer) 1954 - 2025

**DAVE ALLEN** (Bassist) 1955 - 2025

**DAID THOMAS** (Musician) 1953 - 2025

**THE POPE** (Catholic) 1936 - 2025



# REVIEW

BY DAN HUMBLE

CEILING DEMONS

G.A.O.N

MACHINE MUSIC

NEV BAR

STOCKTON

I've seen our lord and Dirgemeister (aka Roz) and his popular beat-combo **Machine Music** once before and they are a tight and pleasing unit. Roz and Dave ripped through their short set of sweet songs without pomp or ceremony and are so cool they don't even have to wear sunglasses on stage. With bass, guitar and a drum machine I didn't hate (I'm a proper drum snob) the lads' set was replete with enjoyable indie/rock/pop ditties full of sometimes dark and sometimes amusing lyrics. Short, to the point, get off stage, job done. I like that.

**The Golden Age of Nothing** promised much with an electric violin (it's actually a viola - Roz) and a guitar. Again, the drum machine was passable to this drummer's upturned snout. However I was a bit bored at first by the seemingly identical tempo and pacing of each song. Nothing really stood out. But as their set went on I found myself enjoying the swirly sameness of the music. The vocals were too bland for my taste. Perhaps if I could've heard the lyrics I may have had a different opinion.

**Ceiling Demons** had a backing track too, but as they are a hip-hop/rap outfit the lack of dynamics in the percussion fits the style. Real bass and guitar were appreciated and those guys were solid. The two front-men are charismatic enough but I'm not a fan of this style of rapping. I don't know what you call it. Loads of North East acts employ this mode of delivery. Just quite samey in terms of cadence. Some of the music was great but overall they were not my cup of Vimto.

However the audience really enjoyed all the acts, so what do I know? **D.H**



The two G's. (Pic by **Mal Lythe**)

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

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

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



# SABOTEURS

NOW AND AGAIN I LIKE TO 'REACH OUT' TO LOCAL BANDS ON MSN MESSENGER. SOMETIMES THEY REPLY!

## AGE?

In vampire years we are children, maybe pre teens.

## SEX?

Ticking 4.75 of the 7 generally recognised boxes.

## LOCATION?

Based in Stockton on Tees with origins in the former U.S.S.R and Yorkshire, England.

## RELIGION?

Enthusiastic non-believers.

## POLITICS?

Ideologically communistic, anti-establishmentarian, selective nihilism.



## MUSIC?

Saboteurs is 3 persons and 1 machine trying to sound like 25 persons.

The only purpose is to get people to dance in their heads.

Most of our influences are from another century - bits from the last one and lots from the next one.

## ART?

If it's not art destroy it.

## WHERE TO MEET?

Our first gig is at the Black Bull in Gateshead on Friday 2nd May. The same night as Bennies play at the big dome thing.

Well by the time this issue comes out that will have all happened. So I hope it went well guys and gals!

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



30 YEARS ON

## THE CHUCKLE BROTHERS - TO YOU TO ME

You're probably aware of The Chuckle Brothers' foray into **Grime** in recent years (most notably their critically acclaimed collaboration with Tinchy **Stryder**) but you may not be so acquainted with their earlier, more experimental works.

'To You To Me' is the influential **debut** album by Rotherham duo The Chuckles. Regarded by many critics as the stand out **progressive** dance album of 1995, it's a powerhouse of insightful and sometimes painfully introspective **lyrics** reinforced by **intricate** beats that go in extremely 'hard'. Whether pumping on the speakers in the club in the wee hours or through your headphones, home alone with a **bag** of veterinary grade **Ketamine**.

When **Barry** passed away in 2018, I, like everyone else from my generation, was rendered dumbfounded and in **shock**. I **thought** he would live forever.

Alas, it was a **comfort** to know that he (and Paul) had left behind such an extensive and varied body of music.



Little is known about the production phase of the **album**. This particular era in The Chuckles' timeline is acknowledged by fans as the 'twilight **years**' owing to their **hard** drug use around that time, which is very possibly why the album came out sounding so honest, raw, disorientating and **psychedelic**.

The opener 'Silly You, Silly Me' is a Country and Western tinged **meditation** on the confusion and futility of **life**, complete with a blistering guitar solo that leaves you questioning everything you once thought you knew about music.

Other **gems** include 'Dance With The Man' (rumoured to be a nod to pop impresario Dan the Vun) a spoken word rave masterpiece (with a massive female lead chorus) that influenced everyone from Klaxons to LCD **Soundsystem**.

'**Chu Chu** Chucklevision' set the precedent in the mid 90's Trip-**Hop** scene. The brothers' bars on this one are next level. This joint is also notable for its impressive **sax** solo.

'Oi You' is a **protest** song about refusing to follow the crowd and becoming old before your years. The song's four to the floor **909** beat is the driving force behind The Chuckles' pertinent lyrical motifs. A call to **arms** for a generation of kids who just want to throw off the shackles and get off their heads on MDMA.

Although **not** one bit of this album could ever be described as 'throw away' the poppiest number has to be 'On The **Beach**' a song that **implores** the listener to believe anything is possible. It features a masterclass in **sampling** by Paul on the then cutting edge **Akai S2000** sampler.

These songs are just a snap shot of the **album** as a whole, and if you are reading this then you are **probably** an avid music consumer, in which case you really should go out and buy this album off **eBay** or at the very least listen to it on YouTube. RIP Barry Elliot **1944 - 2018**.

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

IT'S ONLY WORDS

Some of the finest **lines**  
known to humanity



## PAUL GIOVANNI & MAGNET - THE LANDLORD'S DAUGHTER

Much has been said of the strumpets of yore, of wenches and bawdy house queens by the score. But I sing of a baggage that we all adore, the landlord's daughter.

Oh, her lips are as rose as her wine is a treat, her whisky is good and her figure is neat.

And while she is serving her bitter, she's sweet, the landlord's daughter.



You'll never love another, Although she's not the kind of girl To take home to your mother!

Her ale, it is lively and strong to the taste, 'tis brewed with discretion and never with haste. You can have all you like if you swear not to waste the landlord's daughter.



And when her name is mentioned, The parts of every gentleman Do stand up at attention!

There's Jane of the blossom and Doll of the crown, Pretty Kate of her Garter and star down in town.

Fat Dolly who keeps her red heart of renown.

But I'll take the landlord's daughter!



Oh, nothing can delight so, As does the part that lies between her left toe and her right toe!

A fine tune with beautifully 'bawdy' lyrics by Paul Giovanni, sung by much of the cast of 'The Wicker Man' in the Green Man Inn in Summerisle in the Spring of 1973.

# KRAFTWERK

# RADIOACTIVITY AT 50



I first became properly acquainted with Kraftwerk at the tender age of 15. I'd heard a few of their hits, songs like 'The Model' and wanted to explore some more. I paid £5 for the **CD** from Music Zone in Queen Street, took it home, stuck it on my **AIWA** Hi-Fi system and never looked back. Futuristic yet nostalgic in character, Radioactivity is actually a bit of a psychedelic gem that will 'take your brain to another **dimension**'.

A concept work of sorts, addressing dual ideas of the **FM** radio (hence the **Volksempfänger** radio which was mass produced by the Third Reich in the 30's, an early masterpiece of modern Hi-Fi design). Another duality of the album is the crossover between English and **German** language. Kraftwerk's unofficial (and **largely** unsung) fifth member Emil **Schult** (who ironically did a lot more for the band than Wolfgang Flur or Karl Bartos ever did) previously spent time in the USA and as a result had a rather good grasp of **English**. Schult also wrote the lyrics for a myriad of other **Kraftwerk** hits as well as designing a slew of their album art (what a guy!!).

**While** many of the (by then awfully outdated) prog rock bands of the time were using the Mellotron, a large and expensive bit of **kit** that is regarded as an early sampler, Kraftwerk instead used the Uako **Orchestron**, a smaller and more versatile alternative to make polyphonic string and choir sounds. It's ubiquitous appearances on the album give 'Radioactivity' its retro futuristic charm. New Order sampled the Orchestron intro from 'Uranium' for their 1983 song 'Blue **Monday**'.



This is the first of the **Dusseldorf** lads' albums to be fully electronic. By now the flute and vibraphone had all but disappeared from Kling-Klang studio, replaced by a core instrumental set up of **Arp** and Moog synthesisers, homemade drum machines, the previously mentioned **Uako** Orchestron and an early Sennheiser Uocoder.

We are guided into the **title** track via way of Geiger **Counter**, an introductory piece utilising a bass drum sound to replicate the sound of a Geiger counter (which detects and measures radioactivity). 'Radioactivity' is a sentimental song, an ode to the FM **radio** frequency that many of us grew up with. It's the perfect pop track. A beautiful synergy of lyric and melody delivered with vocals that although aren't technically spectacular are nonetheless endearingly **imperfect**, touching and honest. 'Airwaves' is a definite nod to one of Kraftwerk's favourite bands The Beach Boys, complete with (obviously less accomplished) vocal harmonies and **Theremin** style synths which you can definitely liken to 'Good **Vibrations**'.

**You** experience a spectrum of musical feelings on your journey through the album, from the pseudo proto dubstep madness of 'Antenna' to the romantic and earthly 'Ohm Sweet Ohm' featuring the ubiquitous Orchestron offering a nostalgic cello sound. You could actually believe 'Radioland' was an old time 1940's tune until the **Uocoderised** voice synth makes its appearance.

Speaking of 'Antenna', this odd little exploration is years ahead of its time. Some big, mad synths and futuristic drums topped with really cool dual language **lyrics** and melody lines from Ralf **Hutter**. If you haven't **heard** this album before then **LISTEN TO IT NOW!**

Emil Schult, Schult, Schult!





## NEWS

### DINKY BOSSETTI IV - A NEW HOPE

NORTH EAST ROCKERS **DINKY BOSSETTI** HAVE MANAGED TO PROCURE A NEW LONG-TERM BASSIST. HOPE HETHERINGTON STEPS IN TO THE BREACH TO REPLACE INTERIM PLAYER KAT. WE AT DIRGE WISH THEM ALL THE BEST WITH THE NEW LINE UP.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO FIND OUT IF HOPE IS ANY GOOD ON THE BASS, THE BAND ARE PERFORMING AT THE **BUNKER** IN SUNDERLAND ON SATURDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY WITH **STOLEN DEAD MUSIC** AND **HORROR PUNKS HADDONWOOD**.



THE NEW LINE UP OF DINKY

[instagram.com/dinkybossetti21](https://www.instagram.com/dinkybossetti21)

## COMPETITION WINNER!

LET'S SEE WHO  
WAS BEHIND THE  
BEARD AND GEGS!



Image by Shannon's Aunty

Yes, of course it's the North East's favourite purveyor of Witch-Pop **Shannon Pearlz**!

We placed the vast amount of correct entries into a witch's hat and pulled from it the name of one lucky entrant. And the winner of that all important DIRGE adornment is...Drum roll please...**TIM DREDGE**!

Please contact us with your address and we will get that sent off. Well done, Tim. I'm sure you'll wear your adornment with pride.

## NEWS

### DRAGED AROUND EUROPE

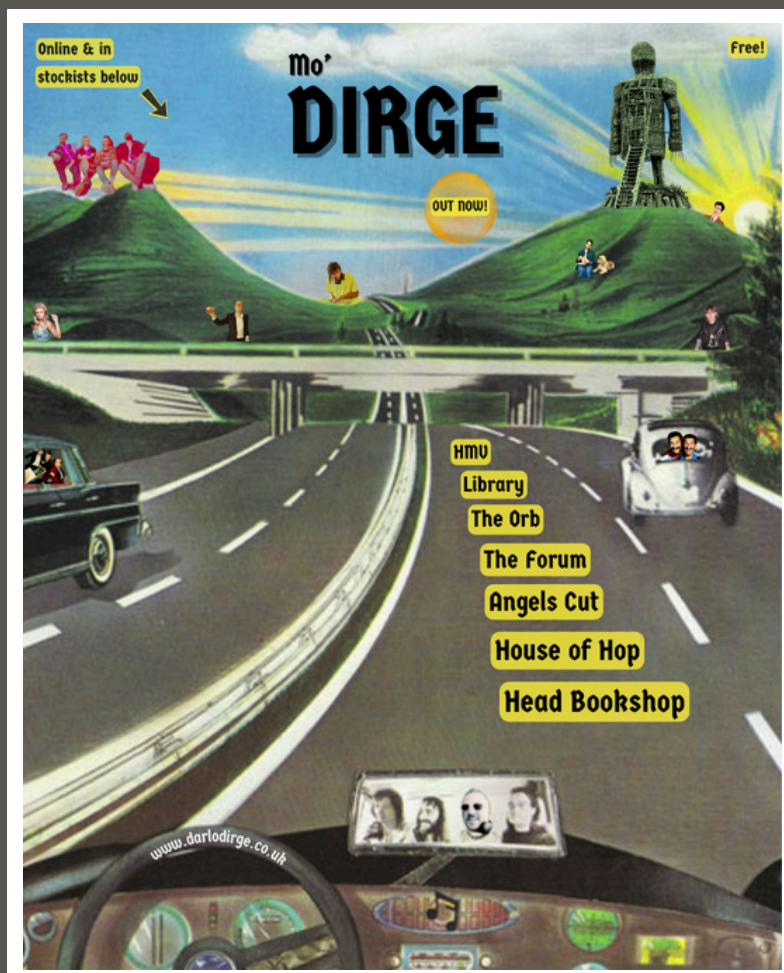
STRANGE SCOTTISH SONGSMITHS AND LOVERS OF DIRGE **DRAGED UP** HAVE BAGGED A EUROPEAN TOUR SUPPORT WITH **THE HARD QUARTET**.

THE GLASGOW GROUP WILL BE FLITTING OFF TO SUCH DESTINATIONS AS DRESDEN, HAMBURG AND MADRID IN SUPPORT OF THE INDIE ROCK SUPERGROUP THAT'S MADE UP OF STEPHEN MALKMUS, MATT SWEENEY, JIM WHITE AND EMMETT KELLY. YOU CAN SEE THEM MORE LOCALLY AT **LEEDS BRUDENELL** ON TUESDAY JUNE 24<sup>TH</sup>. EEK!

## NEWS

### BADGER SETT TO RELEASE ALBUM

**BADGER** ARE INVITING PEOPLE TO JOIN THEM TO CELEBRATE THE LAUNCH OF THEIR DEBUT ALBUM 'A GIFTED KIND OF STUPOR' AT **ZEROX**, NEWCASTLE ON FRIDAY 11TH JULY. MY MATE MICK IS GOING I BELIEVE SO I MIGHT TAG ALONG WITH HIM, IT DEPENDS IF I CAN MANAGE TO TOLERATE LISTENING TO ABC'S LEXICON OF LOVE ALBUM **ALL** THE WAY THERE AND BACK.



LTD EDITION MO' DIRGE. BE QUICK - PICK ONE UP TODAY!



Achtung! Vor Abnahme der Rückwand Netzstecker ziehen!

# Dirge Kleinenpfänger

GW 110-240 VOLT 50~/=

## Zur Beachtung!

Dieses Gerät darf nur für Hörrundfunk-Empfang, Hochfrequenz-Draht-Hörrundfunk-Empfang einschl. Empfang von E.W.-Rundfunk, Draht-Hörrundfunk-Endverstärkung beim einzelnen Teilnehmer, nicht-synchronisierte Schallplatten-Wiedergabe, Mikrophon-Lautsprecher-Übertragung, Hörrundfunk-Empfangsverstärkung, nicht-synchronisiertes Schneiden von Tonföhlen (ohne Vervielfältigung) benutzt werden.



Vor Inbetriebnahme auf Netzspannung achten



Ein  
Vor Nässe schützen

Entbr.

[www.darlodirge.co.uk](http://www.darlodirge.co.uk)

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