

ON THE STRIP: NEWS

THE LIBERTINES SECRET GIG

Arena filling band The Libertines appeared at Cliftonville's Tom Thumb Theatre last week, playing an impromptu show at a tiny venue along the Margate coast. They blew the small audience of 80 away when Peter Doherty, Carl Barât, John Hassall and Gary Powell took to the tiny stage and played on a Wednesday. Since then, Carl and Peter also played a small pub called The Taprooms in Margate, performing an acoustic rendition of 'Death on the Stairs' among other songs. This is all ahead of the opening of the band's new hotel The Albion Rooms, a five storey, 10-room property.



KOYO

Psychedelic rockers KOYO have been blasting through the country, selling out shows on tour and playing a host of festivals including Reading and Leeds since they first formed in 2015. The young Leeds rockers blend influences from Ozric Tentacles to Kurt Vile and have received praise from Steve Lamacq (BBC 6music), Napalm Death and Killing Joke among others. Next, KOYO are set to play a number of summer festivals before hitting the road for an extensive UK tour. Included in the lineup for this year's Download Festival and Tramlines Festival, they'll also be hitting up Glasgow, Leeds, Manchester and London on their tour.

DAVE GROHL & DAVID BOWIE

Having hoped to have recorded a song with David Bowie (the singer turned down the opportunity) before his death, Dave Grohl has revealed to GQ that the song will now be released, recorded by a mystery band: We tried it, kind of worked on it, then I actually contacted Bowie about doing it together for this movie soundtrack, that didn't work out. He didn't like the movie, it wasn't me, it was the movie (laughs). Then I started working on it again, and I then gave it to another band, who hasn't used it yet."

SNOW PATROL

Recently releasing their seventh album 'Wildness', Irish rockers Snow Patrol have announced that they'll be hitting the road in December and January for arena shows. You can catch them on the following dates: 5th Newcastle Metro Radio Arena, 7th Belfast SSE Arena, 11th Dublin 3Arena. January: 25th Birmingham Arena, 26th London O2 Arena, 29th Leeds First Direct Arena, 30th Manchester Arena, 31st Glasgow SSE Hydro.



PLAYING A BLINDER

THE BLINDERS ANNOUNCE THEIR DEBUT ALBUM, 'COLUMBIA'.

Straight off the back of two sold-out headline shows at London's Borderline and Manchester's Gorilla, The Blinders have announced the release of their forthcoming debut album 'Columbia'. The three-piece alternative rock band from Doncaster, now based in Manchester, have been self-releasing their music up to this point, but since receiving praise and airplay from Radio 1, Radio X and 6Music, they've now signed to the record label Modern Sky UK.

The band met at school and were inspired by Arctic Monkeys who were local heroes at the time. Growing up, singer and guitarist Thomas Haywood, bassist Charlie and drummer Matthew Neale all shared a love of indie music and took inspiration for their debut from The Smiths, Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds and also strangely, Kanye West. However, the band also draw influence from a range of writers and musicians from Jack Kerouac, Rimbaud and Orwell to Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen and Mark E. Smith, giving their lyrics a sinister edge.

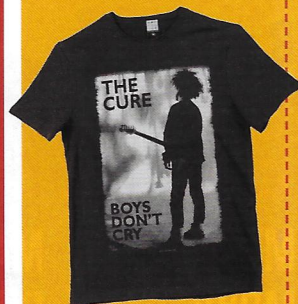
The Blinders are part of a wave of a new generation

of politically involved British guitar bands alongside Cabbage, The Touts and Broken Hands. Speaking of the new album, the band stated: "We invite you to open the gates to this new world and indulge in drudgery under absolute autocracy, served to you on a plastic tray."

On the album The Blinders present their politically engaged and intelligently informed opinions alongside heavy rock, emotionally charged vocals and clever song arrangements.

Produced by Gavin Monaghan at Magic Garden Studios in Wolverhampton, the album's dark, in-your-face sound sits somewhere between Black Sabbath and Placebo. Since playing a number of festivals and support slots in 2017 including Reading & Leeds, Isle of Wight, and TRNSMT, The Blinders set out on their first debut headline tour in February. They recently supported Cabbage who called them the "best band in the country right now" at their all-day festival at Manchester's Ritz.

EVERYTHING MUST GO PRODUCTS



THE CURE T-SHIRT

Just in time for The Cure's Hyde Park 40th Anniversary show, Rockabilia.com have released this slim fit 'Boys Don't Cry' t-shirt. It features an iconic black and white photo of Robert Smith with his guitar in hand. Available from Rockabilia for \$29.99.

VANS SK8-HI PRO SHOES

Ultimate skater company Vans have released their latest brand of high top trainers, the Checkerboard Sk8-Hi Pro shoes. A new twist on a classic design, these shoes will have you standing out at the skate park in black, white and blue. They're a lightweight, lace-up shoe with a choice of black or white laces, available now from Vans. co.uk for £65.



ANDREW W.K. BOBBLEHEAD

Live up your dashboard with this Andrew W.K. 'Throbblehead' limited to only 1000 hand-numbered figures. Andrew stands proudly with a sinister stare and folded arms and a nose bleed, replicating his iconic 'Party Hard' music video, though this figure measures in at six inches tall. Available from Aggronautix.com for \$29.95.