

HOME MUSIC

DUNDEE, THE SEX PISTOLS AND THE FILTH AND THE FURY.

OCTOBER 11, 2016 JOHN ROBERTSON LEAVE A COMMENT



The Sex Pistols

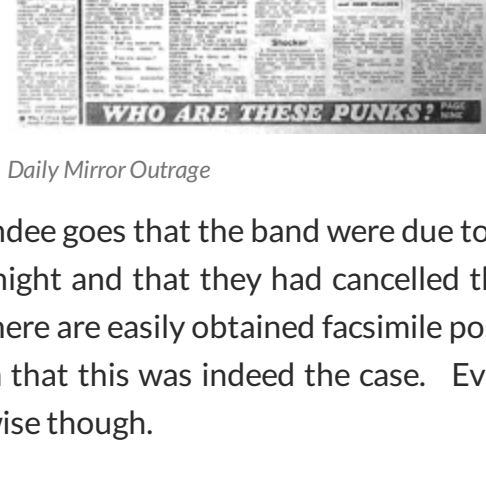
On the 12th of October 1976 the Sex Pistols played their only Scottish gig in Dundee as a young punk band intent on shaking up the establishment. They were to return to Scotland during the 1996 Filthy Lucre tour but it could be argued that in doing so they had effectively become their own tribute band. Their connection with Dundee is also notable however for two dates that they didn't play in the city later in 1976.

It's only too easy to believe that it's forty years since Punk music started to move out of its London strongholds to take over the whole country given how much the social and cultural landscape has changed. In 1976 Dixon of Dock Green with its homespun wisdom had only just ended its long run. The Black and White Minstrel Show was seen as acceptable wholesome family fun and the F word had only been heard twice on National TV, both times on obscure late night arts programmes.

The Sex Pistols played at the Dundee College of Technology's Union, more commonly known as the Bowling Alley by the locals. The band, still including original bass player and songwriter Glenn Matlock played that night to a mixed crowd. You might imagine a hall full of punks but outside of London the punk scene was very small. Most provincial crowds had a majority of curious long haired music fans, perfect for the young John Lydon to noise up.

On the 8th of October EMI had signed the Pistols and their first single, Anarchy in the UK was released on the 26th of November. Malcolm McLaren had put together a punk rock package tour to promote the record during which it was planned to play a second gig in Dundee, this time at the Caird Hall. The tour proved to be somewhat shambolic, a TV appearance on a tea time television show sparking a wave of outrage that was to see many of the gigs cancelled. The Dundee date was to be one of them but rather curiously we seem to have two dates for the gig that never was.

On the 1st of December the Sex Pistols appeared on Thames Television's Today programme, a tea time show hosted by Bill Grundy. By the end of the live broadcast the use of the word fuck on national TV had doubled. The fallout from the show was to effectively end Grundy's career and punk rock and the Sex Pistols in particular were to be on the receiving end of a media and political backlash. During the show Grundy had goaded both the band and their followers, the Bromley Contingent including Siouxsie Sioux into bad language. It was an invitation they weren't going to turn down. Despite the fact it was a show only being seen in London it caused outrage nationwide. The Daily Mirror couldn't resist stoking the fire and their Filth and Fury headline has gone down in punk folklore.



Daily Mirror Outrage

The story in Dundee goes that the band were due to play at the Caird Hall that same night and that they had cancelled the gig in order to appear on TV. There are easily obtained facsimile posters for sale that seem to confirm that this was indeed the case. Evidence elsewhere suggests otherwise though.

The New Musical Express had published the tour dates for the Anarchy in the UK tour on the 27th of November and it showed the Dundee gig as being due on the 16th of December. The Pistols had been rehearsing for these dates when the last minute call to replace label mates Queen, who had to cancel due to illness, on the Tonight Show came. The Anarchy Tour was originally to have seen the Ramones accompany the Sex Pistols as they travelled the UK but the American bands management pulled them out due to what they saw as rushed planning by Pistols' manager Malcolm McLaren. It's possible that the gig organisers had been giving a provisional date leading to the famous 1st of December Dundee posters being printed. The actual line up for the tour ended up as The Sex Pistols, The Damned, The Clash and the Heartbreakers from the States.

As it was no further gig was to take place in Dundee. The high heid yins on the City Council decided that Punk should be effectively banned. It was a situation repeated all over the UK. At least though the former patrons of Dundee's Bowling Alley have the satisfaction of knowing that the band did take to the stage there once giving them a small place in the history of a band that will continue to be talked about for decades to come.

PREVIOUS POST

[Kat Healy, Wolf, A Five Track, Five Star Gem.](#)

NEXT POST

[The Day the Banshees Split in Aberdeen](#)

LEAVE A REPLY

Your email address will not be published. Required fields are marked *

Comment

Name *

Email *

Website

[POST COMMENT](#)

This site uses Akismet to reduce spam. [Learn how your comment data is processed.](#)

Follow @thebarleyboat

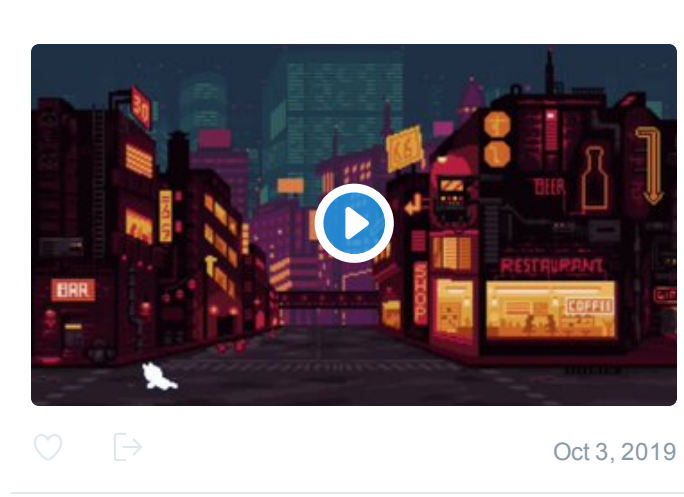
TWITTER FEED

Tweets by @thebarleyboat

The Barley Boat Retweeted

L-space @Lspace_band

Our double A-side I NEVER KNEW TIGERS IN THE STREET comes out tomorrow on @LNF Glasgow! We're excited for everyone to hear them - they're a bit of a departure for us.



Oct 3, 2019

The Barley Boat @thebarleyboat

Very sad news. Kim Shattuck, star of LA punk scene, dies aged 56 | Punk | The Guardian [theguardian.com/music/2019/oct...](https://www.theguardian.com/music/2019/oct...)



Kim Shattuck, star of LA punk scene, dies aged 56. As well as her own band the Muffs, Shattuck also played with the band the Bags.

theguardian.com

Oct 3, 2019

The Barley Boat @thebarleyboat

Best pop song ever? Definitely in the top ten. [youtube.com/watch?v=Eab_be...](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eab_be...)



Jun 5, 2019

The Barley Boat Retweeted

Islay Sessions @IslaySessions

★Islay Sessions Line Up★

We're very excited to announce the line up for 22 - 24 Nov - tickets available soon!

We'll have music from @eabhalmusic | @kim_carnie | @ClaireHastings1 | #charlieestewart #Vox plus Sessions and Workshops



Jun 5, 2019

The Barley Boat Retweeted

Double A-Side Records @ASideRecords

Have YOU got tickets for our 2nd birthday? @CarlaJEaston, @homeconomics and @LemonDrinkBand are playing. AND we're having a raffle for @mllivieux - with real prizes and all sorts...there might even be cake 🍰🍷🍷

Tickets: fixr.co/event/758455523



Jun 4, 2019

The Barley Boat Retweeted

Unheard Indie @UnheardIndie

Absurd by Decian Welsh & The Decadent West ((FOR FANS OF Retro Video Club, Jordan Allen, No Hot Ashes)) @DecianWelsh #EasKilbride open.spotify.com/track/50Xtpe2U...

Apr 22, 2019

The Barley Boat Retweeted

errant media @errantmedia

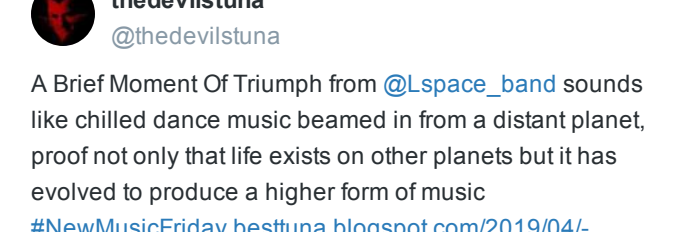
Errant MEDIA is a record label/gig p... youtube.com/channel/UCzYf...

Apr 22, 2019

The Barley Boat Retweeted

LEITH DEPOT @leithdepot

@leithdepot #community #supper (3-5pm) this Thursday 25th April. We'll be serving some #free #food (#vegetarian/#vegan inclusive) Same as last time, free food, tea & coffee; no alcohol sales during this time #leith #edinburgh#communitynotcharity



Apr 22, 2019

The Barley Boat Retweeted

thedeivistuna @thedeivistuna

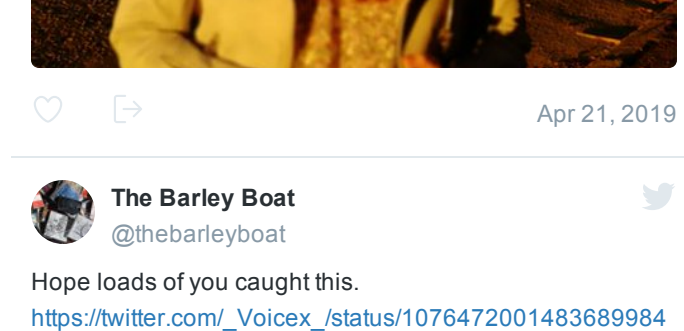
A Brief Moment Of Triumph from @Lspace_band sounds like chilled dance music beamed in from a distant planet, proof not only that life exists on other planets but it has evolved to produce a higher form of music #NewMusicFriday besttuna.blogspot.com/2019/04/l-space...

Apr 5, 2019

The Barley Boat Retweeted

Iisa @iisawalskismusic

obanlive.com/signed-votin... I NEED YOUR VOTES URGENTLY! Watching my lead in the Oban Live competition evaporate. Today I still have tomorrow morning AND looking to go to a place near Paisley or Glasgow where there will be lots of people I can ask to vote. PLEASE TAG AND RETWEET ❤️



Apr 21, 2019

The Barley Boat @thebarleyboat

Hope loads of you caught this. https://twitter.com/_Voicex_/status/1076472001483689984

Dec 23, 2018

The Barley Boat Retweeted

Kathy Muir @TheLeuns

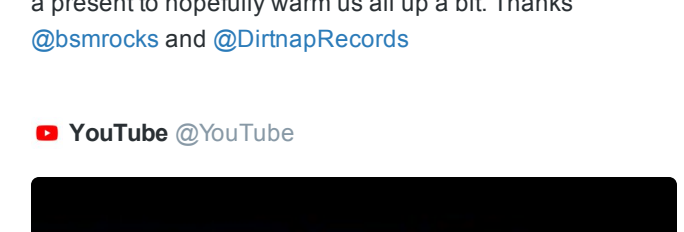
Check out my new album "If I Can Breathe" distributed by @Distrokid and live on Spotify! open.spotify.com/album/5wDPm646...

Dec 18, 2018

The Barley Boat Retweeted

Laurie Cameron @laurie_cameron_

Well I'll be damned. You CAN dance to my music! Here's a talented bunch from Kansas based @SeamlessDance featuring my old cover of Christmas (Baby Please Come Home) vimeo.com/122166276



Dec 17, 2018

The Barley Boat Retweeted

Martha @MarthaD91

you.be/RKaJpAwA9D0 Seasons greetings friends! Here's a personal but very warm up all a bit. Thanks @bsmrocks and @DirtNapRecords



Dec 13, 2018

The Barley Boat Retweeted

Laurie Cameron @laurie_cameron_

"I send my love, Merry Christmas from Scotland, & lulled w/ a stiff drink, this one's to you"... soundcloud.com/laurie-cameron...

Dec 11, 2018

The Barley Boat Retweeted

wojtek the bear @wojtekbearband

📢 there's still a few copies of our debut album, "a talent for being unreasonable" left, and between now and 7th January 2019 @scottclon984 will be giving 20% of all their sales straight to @shelthescotland

buy the album bit.ly/2MADT41 🎧📢

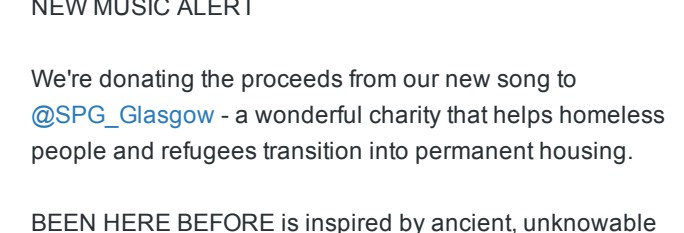


Dec 11, 2018

The Barley Boat Retweeted

L-space @Lspace_band

We're donating all the proceeds from our new single to @SPG_Glasgow - it's available on @Bandcamp and you can donate however much you like. Also, the song is about unknowable, ancient horrors. Merry Christmas from L-space! l-space.bandcamp.com/track/been-here...



Dec 10, 2018

The Barley Boat @thebarleyboat

Wonderful. <https://twitter.com/MeForQueen/status/1072246911854354432>

Dec 11, 2018

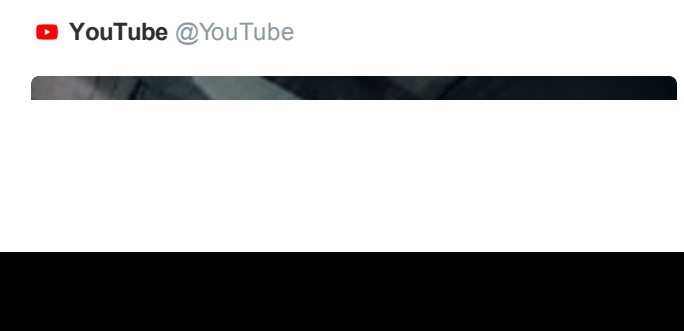
The Barley Boat Retweeted

L-space @Lspace_band

NEW MUSIC ALERT

We're donating the proceeds from our new song to @SPG_Glasgow - a wonderful charity that helps homeless people and refugees transition into permanent housing.

BEEN HERE BEFORE is inspired by ancient, unknowable horrors. Merry Christmas! bit.ly/LSpaceBHB



Dec 9, 2018

The Barley Boat Retweeted

Douglas T Stewart @DouglasTStewart

Blue Monday. A couple of years ago my good friend Gus Gus and some pals recorded and filmed this extraordinary version of the New Order classic done on instruments available in the 1930s. I thin it's rather special. [neworder.youtu.be/HLbaOjWpcc](https://www.youtube.be/HLbaOjWpcc)

Dec 9, 2018