

Something for the Weekend

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NEW CONSOLES

DESPITE no official confirmation, it's widely considered that the next generation of gaming consoles is upon us, with Xbox and PlayStation set to announce successors to the Xbox 360 and the PlayStation 3.

As yet, next to nothing is known about either the 720 or the PS4, but the potential is mouth-watering.

Last time such a face-off existed, Microsoft shocked Sony by jumping the gun with the 360, an embarrassment those at PlayStation are unlikely to want to repeat.

Expect one, if not both, new consoles to be announced at E3 in LA in June.

Rumoured features include "super HD", at 4096 x 2160 pixels, a resolution beyond most normal TV sets; an ability to recognise second-hand games and refuse to load them; and significantly more powerful processor – the Wii U is twice as powerful as the Xbox 360.

Whatever happens, an exciting new dawn awaits next Christmas, which is likely to be the earliest release date for either console.



HERE

DUE 2013

DUE 2013

What's NeXt?

GAMERS can expect a generation-defining year ahead in 2013. The Wii U has replaced the Wii but the successors to PlayStation and Xbox – plus big franchise releases – will hit the headlines in 2013. We take a sneak preview.

JUGGERNAUT RELEASES

GRAND Theft Auto is gaming royalty, reflected by the ludicrous amount of buzz already generated for GTA V.

The graphics, as you'd expect, look sublime, from the various teasers released by Rockstar, with the expected release on March 26 – a final swansong for the 360 and PS3.

Open-world is very much in gaming vogue at the moment. Like GTA V, Tomb Raider will also be arriving in 2013, scheduled for release on March 5.

Lara Croft remains one of gaming's most iconic protagonists – and the latest release is hotly awaited by the series' legion of fans.

Alongside those longstanding franchises, makers of Uncharted Naughty Dog will debut new title The Last Of Us on May 7.

In short, it watches two survivors journeying through a post-apocalyptic world. It boasts recognisable, trademark gameplay and graphics from Naughty Dog, with many tipping it as a game of the year contender.

Other headline game releases include Dead Space 3 (February 8), Crysis 3 (February 22), Sim City (March 8), BioShock Infinite (March 26), Star Trek (April 23) and Dead Island: Riptide (April 26).

MOBILE MOVEMENT

THE iPhone and the host of Android devices mean that many gamers will be solely mobile-based.

With the continuing improvement in graphics, power and community on both smartphones and tablets, progression should continue in 2013.

Apple are likely to announce their perennial upgrades to iPhone and iPad.

With apps increasingly close to console standard, costing just a couple of pounds, the gaming landscape has been revolutionised – something the next gen of consoles will surely address, too.



Edited by NATASHA HARDING

BOOKS

2013 promises to be another big year and there are some big books being released too. Here's our pick of the best.

The Universe Versus Alex Woods

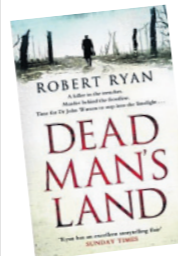
By Gavin Extence, £14.99, released next month

WHEN teenager Alex Woods befriends curmudgeonly Vietnam war veteran Mr Peterson, people cannot believe their friendship and how close the pair become. Funny and heartbreaking.



Dead Man's Land

By Robert Ryan, £12.99, released next month



DEEP in the trenches of Flanders Fields, men are dying by their thousands every day. But when a body turns up with bizarre injuries Dr John Watson is suspicious. Soon more bodies appear – there is a killer who must be stopped.

With All My Love

By Patricia Scanlan, £12.99, out in February

BRIONY thought she had a good relationship with her mum Valerie until she discovered a letter uncovering a huge lie. As Briony falls apart, Val thinks back on her life and realises she made a grave error. Sure to be another bestseller.



Delia's Cakes

By Delia Smith, £25, released in February

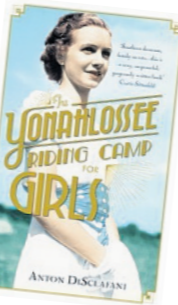


FIRST published in 1977, Delia's Cakes has never been out of print. Now it has undergone a contemporary makeover, retaining the much-loved favourites that have stood the test of time, plus new recipes, ideas, photographs and methods.

The Yonahlossee Riding Camp For Girls

By Anton DiSciapani, £16.99, released in June

IN 1929 a 16-year-old girl is sent from her home in Florida to an exclusive boarding school in North Carolina. She has done a "bad thing". A coming-of-age story about the destructive power of sexual attraction.



The Storyteller

By Jodi Picoult, £18.99, released in March



SAGE has a past that makes her want to hide from the world. When she strikes up an unlikely friendship with Josef Weber – old enough to be her grandad – she feels she has found someone to open up to. Until he tells her his evil secret.

Ink Cards

Free for Android
GOOD way for Android users to send thank you cards using snaps of themselves with their pressies. You don't even need a stamp. Just pay about £1.50 per card that you design and it gets delivered.



John Lennon Letters

£5.99 on iPad
APP version of the popular book of the same name. One for hardcore Beatles fans. It's a collection of 88 private letters written by John Lennon – including ten just for the app – with transcripts for easy reading and a voiceover from actor Christopher Eccleston.



Toca Band

Free on iOS
CARTOON musical fun that looks like a kids' game but will impress music fans of all ages. Help a band rehearse for a show by mixing beats and sounds.



Ebay for iPad

Free on iOS
IT couldn't be easier to turn naff presents into hard cash. The eBay app for iPad makes flogging a doodle. It keeps track of your items in a list and makes it simple to shop too.



Apple's 12 Days Of Christmas

Free on iOS
GET a free download every day until January 6 with this annual freebie from Apple. There are decent songs, apps, books and films.



By JIM GELLATLY

WITH the New Year almost upon us, I thought I'd highlight my 10 favourite emerging Scottish acts.

It has been a total privilege to write about them in this column or play them on the radio in the past 12 months.

I reckon it's been another vintage year for new music in Scotland, and I think these acts are in for an even better 2013!



ANDERSON MCGINTY WEBSTER WARD & FISHER

THE Dundee folk rock supergroup have been turning heads all year, including some memorable festival appearances.

Fresh from supporting their long-time hometown buddies The View at the Caird Hall last week, their outstanding version of Dougie MacLean's Caledonia features on the first ever TV ad for Caledonia Best ale.

CHVRCHES

THEIR first gig was like a major label A&R convention – unofficially making them the hottest new Scottish band of 2013.

The Glasgow electro-pop trio, above, easily live up to the hype.

No surprise to see them included in the long-list for the BBC's prestigious Sound Of 2013 and invited to play SXSW.

FATHERSON

BACK in March the Ayrshire band picked up the Best Rock/Alternative gong at the Scottish Alternative Music Awards.

They've gone from strength to strength – including their biggest headline gig to date at the Garage in Glasgow and recent support slots with Feeder and Admiral Fallow.

FLUORESCENT HEARTS

A BRILLIANT blend of rock and pop, I knew nothing about the Cumbernauld band when I first stumbled upon them opening an

unsigned bill at King Tut's in Glasgow. The foundations are there to make a major breakthrough, and their album Anthem simply oozes class.

FLUTES

THE self-titled debut album from the Anglo-Scots has been a favourite with some key blogs and music sites.

As word spreads about these guys it won't be long until everyone's hailing them "the new Frightened Rabbit".

FRIDGE MAGNETS

THEY may have missed out to Aberdeen band Duke for the In:Demant Unsigned Act Of The Year at the Young Scot Awards – but they did bag themselves a deal with Distiller Records, home to Sound Of Guns and Funeral For A Friend.

They picked up the Best Electronic prize at the Scottish Alternative Music Awards and found themselves on daytime Radio 1.

HOLY ESQUE

THEIR guest performance at the inaugural Scottish Album Of The Year (SAY Award) hinted that they might be future contenders for the prize themselves.

The dark indie rockers are set to fly the

flag for Scotland at next year's prestigious SXSW showcases in super-hip Austin, Texas.

They'll join fellow-Scots invitees like Chvrches, Bwani Junction, Kassidy, Paws, Tango In The Attic, Washington Irving and Young Fathers.

MADISON

I JUST can't get enough of these guys at the moment.

Balancing pop-rock and indie cool, the Cumbernauld boys blew me away at Stirling's Reloaded festival at the Tolbooth.

MEGAN D

THE Edinburgh teenager, below, could well have been top of this list if it wasn't in alphabetical order.

There's a certain innocence to her songwriting. She's refreshingly grounded and extremely genuine.

I'm not sure she knows just how talented she is... not that I'd want to make her big-headed!

A star in the making, quite frankly.

THE VELVETEEN SAINTS

RECENTLY playing shows with Tim Burgess, Peter Hook and The View, they are coming of age as a live band.

The Clash are an easy reference point, but The Velveteen Saints have a lot more to offer.

The rockers play their final show of the year tomorrow night at Broadcast in Glasgow's Sauchiehall Street.

Check out all 10 acts on Jim's latest New Music podcast at indemandscotland.co.uk.

He will also be featuring the acts on Sunday's In:Demant Uncut along with the best of the sessions.

Tune in 7-10pm on Clyde 1, Forth One, Northsound 1, Radio Borders, Tay FM, West FM & West Sound FM.

SFTW ONES TO WATCH IN 2013 NEXT WEEK



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