

Something for the Weekend

WIN A GIRLY WEEKEND AT T IN THE PARK



NEW MUSIC
By JIM GELLATLY

SCHNARFF SCHNARFF

WHO: Myles Bonnar (vocals), Richard Douglas (guitar/vocals), Andrew "Turtle" MacLean (guitar/vocals), Brian Farquhar (bass/vocals), Jamie Douglas (drums/vocals)

WHERE: Glasgow

FOR FANS OF: Pixies, Nirvana, Arctic Monkeys

JIM SAYS: I had a jolly time at Schnarff Schnarff's recent EP launch at The Record Factory in Glasgow's West End. It was my first time seeing them and it was an impressive show. They clearly enjoyed themselves. All originally from Inverness, the band formed in Glasgow where they continue to be based. Singer Myles went to Manchester for a while, so the rest of the band formed up as Bipolar Bear but they changed their name to Schnarff Schnarff when he returned. Turtle explained: "We found out there was already an MC called Bipolar Bear in the States. After Myles and I bounced some names about we agreed upon Schnarff Schnarff."

"We all loved the combination of the humorous name and our serious — and sometimes dark — music."

Myles added: "Turtle and I were discussing what would be funny when pronounced in an Invernessian accent. "We eventually agreed on Snarf Snarf as it was funny



when Turtle, the most Invernessian-sounding of the band, said it. In addition, Inverness is known to its natives as the Schneck so we mimicked the spelling and pronunciation by turning Snarf Snarf into Schnarff Schnarff. We are very much of the belief that your name is what you make it.

"If you do the right things musically, you can be called anything you want as you will eventually make the name your own, associating it with your sound rather than its original meaning."

I can't agree more. Some of the biggest bands have silly names. Look at Biffy Clyro. You soon forget about that if the music's any good.

The Schnarff Schnarff EP is released through the Glasgow Kelvin College label Electric Honey Records.

It is a live-track EP which BBC Radio Scotland presenter Vic Galloway has described as "Staccato Grunge Pop".

Myles said: "That pleased me as I love Nirvana and they are the undisputed kings of grunge."

The band play The Ironworks in Inverness on June 5 as part of the goNORTH festival. They've also been confirmed for the main stage at the sold-out Belladrum Festival near Inverness in August.

MORE: facebook.com/SchnarffSchnarff

● Jim presents Drivetime on XFM Scotland, Monday to Friday 4-7pm. xfm.co.uk jimgellatly.com Photo credit: Fred Murray

Listen to the band at: thescottishsun.co.uk

EDITED BY LEE PRICE
WITH DAVE MASTERS

APPS and GAMES



I'm a soul man

THERE are thousands of games out there – so why pick one that constantly kills, frustrates and punishes you?

As you start up Dark Souls 2, you've got to be ready for a tough time. Even during the tutorial, you're exposed to some of the difficulties that lie ahead for the 70 to 80-hour campaign.

As soon as you finish the brief training on the basic controls, you're thrown in and have a great deal of freedom to explore

DARK SOULS 2
PlayStation 3, Xbox 360, PC (reviewed) (£39.99)

the world at your leisure. Rather than guide you in one direction or another, Dark Souls 2 will let you go anywhere but will give you clear signs you're going wrong by killing you instantly.

You can try to push through but your chances of success are limited.

The world of Drangelic is something to behold. There are gorgeous views and each area feels unique, with landmarks

4.5

ranging from massive castles to deep, dark caves.

The level design is one of the shining features. Every turn provides something different, be it a new piece of equipment or a horrendously dangerous enemy.

The one major barrier you have to overcome to really get into Dark Souls 2 – as with all other Souls games by From Software – is its difficulty.

It's hard. Really hard. And not everyone will find the challenge to their liking.

The frustration that this game can create will test anyone to

breaking point, and it could ruin the enjoyment for some.

But if you're up for the challenge and can bear the trial-and-error approach, a rewarding experience is in store.

The PC game is graphically better than the console versions and still has the same great gameplay experience.

While not everyone will enjoy the challenges in store, for those who dare to brave it a detailed and gorgeous adventure await.

Prepare to die – but prepare to have a great time too.

JAMIE NIGHTINGALE

IN case you aren't aware – sorry, where have you been? – the World Cup is barely a month away.

And, as you'd expect, there are plenty of apps to accompany this summer's showpiece sporting event.

Panini, fresh from the success of its sticker album, has capitalised on that tide of nostalgic feel-good factor by launching an app for you to collect virtual stickers on.

Adrenalyn XL isn't just about collecting players, though – you can also manage your line-up and take on others.

There are playing sub-sets such as "defensive rock", which includes the world's greatest defenders, and "utility player" for versatile stars.

Players who have featured at two or more World Cups are considered "experts", while special "double trouble" stickers feature two of the world's best players on the same card.

It's Pokemon cards meets Panini stickers, infused with modern technology.

I can't imagine a better combination. While card games of this ilk can often seem

ADRENALYN XL
iOS (free)



3.5

geeky, football has the mass appeal to counteract that. And, if enough people get into it, it could be an absolute revelation.

Given the popularity of FIFA's Ultimate Team mode, the amount of players shouldn't be a problem.

It's still early days, so it's not clear how the game would handle such traffic – but, potentially, this is very exciting.

LP

SHADOW FIGHT 2
Free for all (in-app purchases)

SEQUEL to the Facebook hit combo of RPG and Tekken-style fighting. Build up your man's armory with swords, nunchakus and magic powers to beat baddies across six worlds. You get coins for winning battles but wins aren't easy. Alternatively, you can buy your way to success.

MONSTER BUSTERS
Free for all (in-app purchases)

BATTLE through 500+ levels of "match-three" action as you attempt to liberate your gingerbread men pals from an army of monsters. It's all set in a castle with six types of level to work through, including a boss mode where the evil genius appears in the middle of your grid.

UNPOSSIBLE
£1.49

ONE user commented you need to "die a thousand times before you start to master this" and he was right. It's a fast and futuristic endless runner. It's what's known as "twitch gameplay" – as in you need to have nippy reactions as you fire along attached to a tube while avoiding obstacles.



THE classic theme park simulator has made the jump to iOS – but unfortunately it's a stripped-down version that doesn't entertain half as much as its predecessors.

Following the mobile trend, the game involves waiting hours for rides to build and constantly checking back to collect cash from your shops in order to level up, thus unlocking more content.

It's near unplayable without

ROLLERCOASTER TYCOON
iOS (free with in-app purchases)

wasting money on the micro-transactions that are constantly thrust at you, and even then the entertainment value is limited.

Fortunately, a new full version of Rollercoaster Tycoon is expected on PC later this year but until then, avoid this game.

LP

2

BOOK CREATOR
£1.50 for iOS and Android

MAKE your own interactive ebooks of pictures, playable video and audio clips and share them online. This one is an award-winner and more than 4million people have used it to build their own ebooks. This new version is for Android but an iOS one has been about for ages, priced at £2.99.

CITYHAWK
Free for iOS and Android

CHECK the real-time availability of restaurants around you and book a table with three taps of your screen. Also gets you deals, such as a free glass of wine, at selected venues. Initially covers 600 eateries in London only, but there are plans to roll it out to more UK cities over the next 12 months.



WIN A GIRLY WEEKEND AT T IN THE PARK

T IN the Park is perfect for a weekend break with the girls and it's back with the hottest talent heading to Balado from July 11-13.

See Biffy Clyro, Calvin Harris and Arctic Monkeys, plus Paolo Nutini, Pharrell Williams, Ellie Goulding, Haim and more! Stay in the legendary campsite or go glam in The Residence – for luxury living visit theresidenceexperience.co.uk.

Ensure you're looking good with a visit to Refresh, the pamper parlour with hair washing facilities, showers and toilets. Taste the finest festival cuisine in

Healthy T, including Loch Fyne oysters and Arran burgers.

Pre-order chilled Tennent's Lager or Magners Original Cider using Tennent's Lager's Be Chilled service at tennents.com/bechilled. Don't miss out – get your tickets now from tinthepark.com!

Thanks to festival organisers DF Concerts and founding partner Tennent's Lager, you can win VIP weekend camping tickets, Refresh wristbands, and Healthy T and Be Chilled vouchers and one lucky runner-up will win a pair of weekend camping tickets, Refresh wristbands, and Healthy T and Be Chilled vouchers!

To win just tell us the name of Arctic Monkeys' frontman? Is it A. Simon Neil B. Dave Grohl C. Alex Turner. Email your name, address, daytime contact number, date of birth & answer to win@the-sun.co.uk with T IN THE PARK WEEK-END BREAK in the subject heading.



● Over 18s only, excluding any employees and their families or anyone professionally connected with this promotion. Competition closes Midnight on Friday May 9, 2014. Prize is as stated above. Promoter reserves right to substitute any prize with one of equal or greater value. One winner and one runner-up selected at random after closing date from all correct entries received. Usual Scottish Sun rules apply. Editor's decision is final. For more information and regular updates from The Lady visit tinthepark.com. For the facts about alcohol, see drinkaware.co.uk.



GIRLS ON TOP . . . TITP weekend break could be yours

Crime readers know their stuff...I had one shot to get it right

Says *Sun* columnist TONY PARSONS



TONY PARSONS made his name with blokey "men lii" novels – but now he is embarking on a life of crime.

The Sun on Sunday columnist has just penned his first thriller, about a sleuth trying to track down a serial killer bumping off rich and powerful men in London.

And Tony, 60, hopes that the single-dad hero of The Murder Bag – Detective Max Wolfe of the Homicide and Serious Crime Command – will feature in many more books to come.

SFTW spoke to Tony about taking a punt on something new and how so far it has paid off.

He said: "I've always loved reading crime and I enjoy books that are character led.

"I wanted to create my own serial hero – one of those mythic

characters like Sherlock Holmes or Sam Spade or Philip Marlowe – or Harry Hole." He added: "When I was creating the world of Max Wolfe, I knew that one of the things I wanted to do was give my crime novel an evocative sense of place – like Los Angeles in the novels of Raymond Chandler and James Ellroy, or Edinburgh in the Rebus novels by Ian Rankin.

"My home city is London and 27 Savile Row felt like an original location – and it had a nice ring to it. It's a place where Max can grow and make his own.

"I also thought he needed to have a human side, so he's got a five-year-old daughter, Scout. I wanted him to have some family – but not to be tied down and I'm looking forward to him evolving in future books."

‘I cashed pension’

Former music journalist Tony's best-known novel is the semi-autobiographical novel Man And Boy, which sold millions and won the 2001 British Book Of The Year prize.

Tony admits: "It was a big deal for me to change genres.

"People who read thrillers know their stuff. I only had one shot to get it right and it couldn't just be OK. I basically cashed in my pension and wrote on spec and kept telling myself I haven't gone insane.

"I feel I've used every muscle in my brain to get this right."

It seems to have paid off. Tony was offered a three-book deal for his crime novels by Century and Arrow. And

early reviews of The Murder Bag have been positive, with thriller writer Lee Child calling it "spectacular".

Tony admits: "I've been really chuffed with the early reviews and I feel I'm on to something – but we shall see.

"I've worked so hard on Max that I just want everyone to love him as much as I do."

Tony is great mates with Piers Morgan – so has the TV presenter read the book?

The writer says: "Ha, not that I know of. He came to the launch which is typical but I haven't heard what he thinks of it!"

As for the secret of a great crime novel, Tony says: "Twists are vital – but they have to be earned and make sense. I also believe a thriller should have heart."

He is currently working on the second Max Wolfe book, The Slaughter Man, which will be out next year. The third will be released in 2016.

He said of the third book: "I have the title and the plot but I will keep it under my hat for now.

"The next few years are all about Detective Max Wolfe for me – and of course writing my column for The Sun on Sunday."

● The Murder Bag by Tony Parsons is out now.

EMILY Brighthouse works in the public relations industry and she knows how to live life to the maximum.

But maybe she's been doing too much for far too long.

She's 29, about to lose her job and her flat but has gained an Asbo.

Could things get worse or is she finally going to meet

GIRLS LIKE US
Charlotte Ashby, £1.99

The One who will save her from herself and make everything in her life OK?

Fun, frivolous and full of embarrassing moments, it also gives a wonderful insight into the world of public relations and is a pretty decent debut novel.

100 DIY JOBS
Sarah Beeny, £20

EVER wanted to tile your own bathroom or learn how to hang a door properly?

Then this attractive hardback is the book for you.

In it, Sun on Sunday columnist and property expert Sarah Beeny shares her DIY wisdom.

She shows you how to do everything around the home, from plumbing in a washing machine to putting up shelves.

This really is a book for beginners and is somewhat geared towards the girls but if it can save you a fortune on workmen's fees, who cares?

Essential reading for any homeowner. Now pass me my spanner . . .

JENNY GREEN

COMPLETELY USELESS GUIDE TO LONDON
Martin Pullen, £7.99

THERE is so much more to London than meets the eye. Our wonderful capital city has it all – and then some.

From amazing architecture and codices of history to some of the best shops and restaurants in the world.

But it is also home to some pretty useless information.

Did you know that if the London Eye ever broke loose, it would take four years and 324 days to roll completely around the earth?

Or that the Queen's underwear is made by Rigby & Peller in Hans Road, next to Harrods in Knightsbridge.

Useless facts make for a mighty interesting read.

Martin Pullen

REISSUE CORNER
Harlan Coben

AMERICAN author Coben has a winning formula for writing thrillers. Take an ordinary person – reasonably happy, fairly successful – then turn their life upside down because someone close has a secret past that threatens everything.

It's compelling stuff, playing on our darkest fears, and has helped him shift 50million books.

Now some of the best ones have been republished by Orion. They include Just One Look (hubby disappears after wife shows him mysterious photo) and Six Years (bloke finds ex who broke his heart doesn't exist).

Coben's writing can be clunky and he's no Linwood Barclay but his plotting is masterly. **SJC**

THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN
Jack & Holman Wang, £6.99

time for child and parent to discuss what is happening in the story based on that word.

The images are simply stunning and the concept wonderfully simple but oh so perfect.

The tale may be short but it's certainly not lacking in learning.

THE LATEST IN A POPULAR BOARD BOOK SERIES is a fresh retelling of Mark Twain's classic tale.

The concept behind this Cozy Classics' book is wonderfully simple: Take 12 child-friendly words and put them together with 12 needle-felted illustrations to offer a brilliant take on early learning.

Each page features just one word relating to the relevant picture – giving ample

BOOKS

EENY MEENY
MJ Aridge, £7.99

A SADISTIC killer is on the loose, kidnapping couples and forcing them to decide who lives – and who dies.

Each time, the desperate victims – ranging from friends and lovers to work colleagues – are locked in a room with a gun and a single bullet.

They have no food or water but a mobile phone with just enough power to receive a message that gives them two terrifying choices – kill or be killed.

This taut, fast-paced debut is truly excellent and introduces Southampton-based DI Helen Grace.

I sincerely hope we haven't heard the last from her.

JENNY GREEN

Beny Meeny