



# Split Festival Announcement

**Due to financial constraints Split Festival will not take place again. The Sunderland based festival has been a big part of the North East music calendar since it began 2009, but sadly organisers have decided to call it a day.**

Split's Rob Deverson explained the decision: "We are so proud of what we have achieved, but ultimately the economics of live music events has left us unable to see how the event can continue. Each one of the team has invested personal cash into the festival to keep the business alive over the years, but sadly, we simply can't keep it going."

Split's Martyn McFadden added: "Since 2009 we've brought the likes of Dizzee Rascal, The Charlatans, Ocean Colour Scene, PiL, The Cribs, The Futureheads and Maximo Park to Sunderland and we've had financial support from Sunderland Council and The Art's Council. The Split team have worked tirelessly and without financial reward to put on a quality event, so it's a real shame we haven't been able to sustain it. However, to show how hard it is to make this kind of event viable, neither Evolution Festival (Newcastle) nor Stockton Weekender (Teesside) will take place this year and that's a real shame for music lovers in the North East."

Split's Ross Millard added: "In the past 10 years the music industry has changed and with the rise of the internet record sales have fallen, to cover this loss of revenue artist's agents are asking for significantly higher fees for live performances and many festivals are finding this unsustainable. We have spent as much as £140k per year on booking the bands, but we haven't been able to recoup those artist's fees in ticket sales and other revenue."

Split's Barry Hyde concluded: "It is a sad day announcing the end of Split, but at the same time I have an immense sense of pride, not only in the Split team that worked hard to make it happen since 2009, but also the punters. We have not had a single arrest, or incident and the crowds treated the bands that played with love, respect and heartfelt hospitality. The event last year in Mowbray Park was, in my opinion, an historical event for Sunderland and I feel happy that it was our farewell."