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ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Paper 1 Language and the individual

Data Booklet

Text B

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The Blogging Goth

News Articles and Public Relations
from the UK Goth Scene



Whitby Divided: A Festival of Two Halves and #OurWGW

Posted on [October 29, 2015](#)

Tomorrow I'll be schlepping down to Whitby, North Yorkshire, for the biannual [Goth Weekend](#) – the second of their 21st anniversary year.

A lot can change in 21 years of course, and certainly the crowds that flock to the UK's premier Goth festival have changed a great deal in that time. Conveniently, a video has been posted by Matthew North, a musician who has played at the Spa many times over WGW's life, and his video from 1996.



Nowadays, as well as the crimped hair and effortless eye makeup, are the jolly-faced older generation in brass and brown leather, patrons of the newest 'old' subculture, Steampunk. Soon, I'll pen an article defining this peculiar and popular alternative faction – but suffice to say, although they started out a subgenre of Goth, they now stand notably apart. A line has been drawn down the middle of Whitby, neatly following the river...

On one side, the pubs and nightclubs and Pavilion, home of the bands and the gigs which are a ticketed event. On the other, Whitby Old Town, the tourist shops and the Abbey which are swamped with photographers, and St. Mary's Churchyard, an [ongoing controversial location](#).

The Goths and the gig-goers complain, saying the Old Town Guard don't even bother with the gigs, choosing instead to mass book all the accommodation and swan around the town, posing for the flocks of 'togs' – they simply 'holiday' in our subculture a couple of weekends a year and then shove it in a cupboard until next Whitby.

WGW generates over £1.1m every year for the weekend, and the town clearly reaps a major benefit from the festival, regardless of who does or does not go to the Pavilion for bands. Tourism is the lifeblood of this rather isolated town, even if [the pressures on its infrastructure are starting to get out of control](#); I recommend reading the comments on this article for commentary on the 'True' Goths vs. Newcomers disgruntlement.

The Tweeting Goth

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