

● DOOM Eternal's first single-player expansion, The Ancient Gods Part One will be available as a standalone game. The news means that you can

tackle new realms in the Doom universe and fight new enemies without owning the full title or even completing the main campaign. It's out on October 20.

● GOOD news: Streets Of Rage 4 is getting new DLC. Bad news: the addition to the outstanding brawler has no arrival date. Developer Dotemu responded to

a fan on Twitter. They said: "YES, we will add new content but there is no ETA, you guys are awesome and deserve the best so give us time to do things right."

SIM-ple racing



PROJECT CARS 3 faces a mountain of Everest proportions to help slightly Mad Productions move on from their Fast & Furious fandango.

That game was so disappointing that it left a sour taste in the mouth of anyone who played it, *our report above*.

Now, less than a month later, Project CARS 3 needs to salve the pain.

The cause certainly wasn't helped by rumours that the third instalment of the racing sim had turned 10's Forza series in its headlights.

That's fighting talk. If you're going to take a not at the king, then you had better not miss.

This is a very different beast from the previous two outings. They were fire-breathing, black-solid sim racers that took joy in seeing weekend warriors heading into the wall time and time again.

Now they have gone soft and put on a few extra pounds during quarantine. But we like the new look. It's a good move. It makes the whole thing more approachable for all racing fans. That has to be a good idea – if only for the general sales.

They have reworked the handling and controls to move it from hardcore sim to a more casual affair which is more forgiving.

There is actually a vibe of last year's bodemasters Grid only dialled up a little more.

Project CARS 3

Xbox One, PS4 and PC £44.99

But that move is a big Catch 22 situation. As many gamers will join in the fun now, others will switch off because it is no longer the training tool for real-world racers.

The career mode has been re-built from the ground up. There are no more long and boring grinds where you get trapped in one racing series for way too long. Now you get a real Smörgåsbord of racing opportunity.

You battle through a 10-tier system where you start on more run-of-the-mill fare before getting into the elite series.

It keeps that Grid feel in that no race outlives its welcome and you can attack them however you want.

You also have three goals in each race – achieve them and it helps to unlock the next events. They are never too challenging and often add a little extra flavour to the race.

Wins bank experience and coin that you can spend on new cars and shiny bits to strap to them. However, there is a kicker because the cash you bank is never quite enough to really buy the number of cars you need to push yourself forward – we definitely felt a grind coming on.

That said, you can just stay in one car and upgrade or downgrade it as needed from race

to race, but that can get very messy. You have to navigate through a barrage of menus to get to the garage and you get the feeling that it all could have been a little more elegant.

There is a healthy selection of rides on show – something for every petrolhead, from America muscle to import tuners and even Formula E machines which is a welcome addition.

You can also leave your mark on your car. As well as tweaking and tuning under the hood, you can customise it with a livery. It is fun but nowhere near as inclusive as the one in Forza... unless you have a thing for tyres.

Again, it does the job in a Grid sort of way.

A lot of the issues here surround the change in focus. The racing purist in me is outraged at the thought of mixed-class races with Mustangs and 70s Escorts on touring car grids. We also moaned a bit at the depth of weather but the legendary tyre system has all but been binned.

This is a strange beast. The legacy from the first game casts a huge shadow over it and its sim heavy roots have almost been forgotten.

Slightly Mad have done a full 180 on the series. That may be a result for casual fans, but it'll be a car crash for hardcore racers. This could be the most Marmite game of 2020.

★★★★



● BANDAI Namco says Ace Combat 7: Skies Unknown will get three new fighters this year to celebrate the franchise's 25th anniversary. The ASF-X, the ASF-XII, XFA-44 and the XFA-44 Defender all

return from past games. The game will also be getting a new Casual Easy mode in a free update coming soon. That will be perfect for any newcomers or for those just looking to live their Maverick dream with minimum effort.



TOP 5 GAMES THIS WEEK

1. Animal Crossing: New Horizons
2. PGA Tour 2K21
3. Mario Kart 8 Deluxe
4. Grand Theft Auto V
5. Minecraft

● UNDEAD shooter Zombie Army 4: Dead War may have finished its first season but Rebellion have confirmed **TWO** more in the next year or so. Season two will launch later this year so expect more goodies like a new campaign, skins and weapons. It should follow the season one framework in being both paid for and free. Then

season three is marked for a 2021 launch. There is no word yet on whether it will jump to next-gen consoles, but with so much planned, it would be a shock if it didn't.



Rebellion also revealed that more than two billion undead Nazis have been blasted, touched and blown up, including 50 million Hitlers.



NEW MUSIC
By Jim Gellatly

MATT SCOTT

WHERE: Kilmarnock
FOR FANS OF: Bruce Springsteen, Kings of Leon, The Killers
JIM SAYS: Despite lockdown and not being able to promote his debut album with live gigs, Ayrshire singer-songwriter Matt is doing a grand job in getting the word out.

As It Was When It Happened has had glowing reviews. The album has the sound of a band, but it's pretty much all his own work. Matt explained: "I play everything on the record. Every drumbeat, every bass line, every riff and solo and every sung word. My brother did feature on the solo at the end of All Out Of Sorts, but for the album as a whole, I play the lot."

Though he'd done the band thing when he was at school, Matt never really fancied going down that route. He puts that down to his brother John's experiences. He said: "He was in an esteemed band (Red-house) that supported Bon Jovi at Hampden Park. I saw and experienced some of the stuff they went through and it put me off the band idea for a while."

After starting out jamming along to the classic rock sounds of Thin Lizzy, Led Zeppelin and The Doors, he has John to thank for pushing him on with music.

The 30-year-old said: "I wrote my first song when I was about 13 but my first 'real song' when I was 17. I used to write for other people, like my brother and the singer from his band."

"One time the singer couldn't make a wee recording session, so I put down a guide vocal. From there I found out that my voice wasn't completely deplorable and all the times singing along with Jim Morrison worked."

"I gained a bit more confidence in my voice and went on to write and play more, writing the kind of songs that I was into rather than trying to impress band members."

Matt started singing and playing his own songs when he was 21, with his first gig at Bar Bloc in Glasgow. As his reputation grew, in 2014 he was invited to perform for Frankie Miller when the music legend received the Glasgow Lord Provost's Award for performing arts.

Matt's first full album has been a while coming, but it's worth the wait. He's successful blended contemporary rock with a more rootsy feel. He said: "This is always the way that the album should have been. I just never had the resources to make it happen. I love the Americana influences, but I knew my first album had to be a rock and roll album, and that is what it is."

He added: "I'm honoured to have worked with Paul Winton of North Road Studios in Bellshill. He got what was in my head and could help create the vibe I was going for."

Though he's been doing some online sets, Matt's itching to play live again. He joked: "I've not yet mastered the skill of playing everything at the same time, so there will be a band for future shows."

MORE: mattjamescott.com
● Jim presents a weekly showcase of New Music on Amazing Radio Sundays 2-4pm.

amazingradio.com
jimgellatly.com

Watch video of Matt Scott at
thescottishsun.co.uk