

# Something for the Weekend



BY CHRIS SWEENEY

**SURF** rocker Rory Williams couldn't afford a bag of messages this time last year — but now he's recording his debut album in Nashville with the Sunset Sons.

It is an amazing turnaround for the Bournemouth boy who started last year with just €50 to his name.

The mad journey began when Rory headed out to French surfing town Hossegor. He said: "Surfing is massive now in Europe. I got dropped off there by some mates who were driving through."

"I wanted to have a bit of a change. I'd heard about Hossegor and I was lucky enough to meet this Welsh guy who's been there for 25 years. He gave me a sofa to sleep on."

## Builds the character

"The bar which our EP *Le Surfing* is named after is where I met all the boys in the band."

"It was like everyone's living room, people were sleeping in vans or couches — but we'd go to the bar and have breakfast together, then go surfing."

The band only formed to make some cash through playing covers. Rory, 26, said: "The plan was not to have a proper job, that seemed like a good idea — and it still does."

"The transition to doing our own stuff was pushed by the people who came to the gigs."

"They kept asking, 'Do you have your own songs?' So we started doing them."

*They then began gigging in the Alps and attracting attention from music industry bosses.*

Rory said: "12 months ago, I had €50 to my name."

"Pete our bass player had to buy my shopping. It was that bleak."

"We're all mates. You go through ups and downs, you argue, you have good and bad times."

"Without that, you're not really a band. It builds the character,

without the stories it's nothing. Like when we'd be in the Alps, we get snowed in on the road due to an avalanche — you're stuck in the van thinking if the petrol runs out, we'll freeze to death. Stuff like that brings you closer."

The lads knew they were on to something when they passed the magical "three beer" test.

Rory added: "The French crowd are hard to impress so it was a good testing ground."

"We'd play in this Quicksilver store next to the Quicksilver office."

"Everyone finishing work would

get two free beers. The guy in the bar told us, 'Look they're only here for the free beers, not you'. But then he came over and told me, they've all bought a third beer — and they never do that."

"From there it just kept going and now we're in Nashville making our debut album."

*After finishing up in the studio, the group heads off on a UK tour. And they hit King Tut's in Glasgow on March 8.*

It promises to be a very big year for the boys, after the likes of BBC and MTV tipped them to break through. Rory raved: "We're

really excited about playing King Tut's — we've heard a lot about it. "It's a massive compliment to have people talking about us."

"We've kept ourselves quiet and the band has broken out, but to now have BBC and MTV picking us out — I'm blown away."

"If these people are pushing us, bring it on because we feel ready."

"We may fall at the next hurdle but right now I've got no complaints."

"I want the pressure to mount a bit more. Bring it all on."

●To order the band's new EP *The Fall Line* and get tour tickets, go to Facebook.com/SunsetSons



# Surf's up

## ONE2SEE

**GEORGE** The Poet has plenty to say. His delivery on top of dynamic music is a cracking combination. Now he's hitting the road.

His UK tour kicks off at Berkeley in Glasgow on February 19. Get tickets at: iamgeorgethepoet.co.uk.

## ONE2HEAR

**LESS** is more — that's the formula for new Lancashire duo Aquilo are following. Current single *Losing You* is a gem of a track with a really strong melody.

Listen to it now at Facebook.com/aquilouk.

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# NewMusic



Jim Gellatly

## DANIEL DOCHERTY

**WHERE:** Bellshill  
**FOR FANS OF:** Passenger, Bastille, George Ezra

**JIM SAYS:** Young singer-songwriter Daniel Docherty launches his first EP tonight with a sold out gig at Glasgow O2 ABC2.

This *Holy Fire* is a stunning debut that bleeds emotion. Written from the heart, it just oozes class.

Daniel's stunning guitar playing coupled with some beautiful orchestration and Chris Gordon's slick production results in something pretty special. Add Daniel's voice, which has been favourably likened to James Blunt, and you get a package of the strongest quality.

It's no wonder record labels are starting to sniff around. The 21-year-old is the real deal. Daniel is a familiar face on the streets of Glasgow and across Scotland, where he's been busking for a few years.

He said: "I began to play guitar for people in school, and started to sing and write songs when I was about 16. I was always eager to go out and try busking."

"I've been very lucky to be able to visit different cities with my music, and have had some great busking adventures including going over to Dublin."

"Busking has given me a better understanding of an audience — how to know when to change things in a set or if the mood isn't right for certain songs. When



I watch videos of me playing back in 2010. I really see a huge difference."

"Busking has helped develop my confidence both personally and as a musician. Stage presence and audience interaction is something you work on without realising by busking."

If ever there was evidence that he's created a demand for his music, it was when he made his TV debut in October on STV Glasgow's *Riverside Show*. Shared on social media, his performance received an unprecedented number of views, likes and shares that established artists would struggle to get. Daniel added: "I got told it was the most shared video, which is unreal. It was amazing to

see how many people had watched and shared it. The guys at STV have been very supportive."

When it came to financing the EP, Daniel went down the crowd-funding route. Thanks to his ever-growing fan base, he easily surpassed the target ahead of schedule.

He said: "I was very lucky with my pledge campaign. People have been so generous."

Though he's played plenty of shows on his own, Daniel's gig tonight at O2 ABC 2 will be the first time he's performed to a live audience with a full band. Understandably, he's a bit nervous. He admitted: "I am terrified! I just hope I can get through the set. I'm still trying to get my head around it being sold out. I spent a lot of time promoting the gig, and the hours have paid off. I need to get into the frame of mind of 'looking forward' to the gig rather than being worried about it."

"I suppose it's natural to be nervous, but sometimes it's difficult to enjoy yourself when nerves get the better of you."

I'm sure he'll be fine, and I can't wait to check out his set tonight.

**MORE:** facebook.com/daniellocherty-music

●Jim presents Drivetime on XFM Scotland, Monday to Friday 4-7pm.

www.xfm.co.uk www.jimgellatly.com