

Something for the Weekend



With Chris Sweeney



BILLY Bibby reckons he can learn from his mistakes and make a name for himself in the music world.

The lad from Llandudno in Wales was the lead guitarist for rockers Catfish And The Bottlemen, above, but quit to do his own thing.

But now he realises his experiences can shape his future. He is now billed as Billy Bibby & The Wry Smiles and he is making up for lost time.

He said: "You're learning things all the time doing this."

"With Catfish, we really did and you see where it got the band to now. If you make mistakes, you need to correct them as soon as possible."

"I've taken that onboard and brought it into what I'm doing now. It makes it a lot easier when you've had those experiences – when you come up against something you've been through before and know the answer."

"It's helping to fast-track things at this stage."

Billy has only put out one single so far, the well-received *Waitin' For You*, but there's an EP to follow early next month.

And he's confident it'll connect because of the reaction to Catfish songs.

Billy, 25, right, admitted: "I was mainly writing the lead guitar parts for them."

"But with this, I've taken on the songwriting. It's different but it does give you the confidence that you can write something people will like."

"At the same time, the music is quite different."

"I didn't want to follow what Catfish are doing. I wanted to put my own stamp on it."

"And the track we brought out seems to be going over well."

"Now it's about getting the EP out and that gives people more songs to engage with."

"The last three gigs we did before the end of the year went so well and were busy. The feedback was brilliant. I want to push this as hard as we can."

Right now, Billy is firmly the man in control, but he's keen to

open things up. He added: "I'm not going to say to the other guys, 'I don't want to hear what you've got'. At the moment, it's all been my stuff. We've had to get songs ready for the tour."

"But in future and over the next year, we'll bring in all sorts of ideas. That'll make for better songs if everyone is chipping in."

"All the magic happens in the studio. If you get everything tight and you practice hard, you can enjoy it on stage."

"The three lads I've got in are

great musicians. I feel like this is it now, it's properly moving forward."

The band makes its Scots debut on February 12 at Sneaky Pete's in Edinburgh then Inverness Ironworks the following night.

Billy said: "We'll go where anyone will have us. I started touring from a young age with Catfish. We hardly turned down a gig as we wanted to get out there and play in front of anyone, really. It's the same sort of mindset with this. We want to

squeeze as many gigs as we can into a short period of time – and do as much as we can."

"Obviously I'm going to get a few who know me from the Catfish days. I have mates and connections from those gigs too."

"But there will be people outside of that circle who will come down and see us."

"I want to encourage more people to come out and hopefully it just snowballs."

● To hear the single and get tour info, go to facebook.com/billybibs20

I'm learning all the time



DE ROSA

WHO: Martin John Henry (vocals/guitar), James Woodside (bass/synths) and Neil Woodside (drums). **WHERE:** Bellshill/Uddingston.

FOR FANS OF: The Blue Nile, Neil Young, Radiohead.

JIM SAYS: Nearly seven years since their second album, Lanarkshire favourites De Rosa are back with a stunning new record, Weem.

They split in 2009 after touring their Prevention album but got back together in 2012 to work on new material.

Singer Martin said: "We had worked constantly for a few years and were mentally exhausted. Basically we let that manifest itself by not being very good friends to one another for a while."

"However in 2012 we all reunited and decided to rekindle our friendships and make a new De Rosa album. The whole process has been amazing, and it shows how much of an important part music plays in my personal life, that it can help to heal broken friendships."

"I feel really close to my band-mates these days and we're having a great time."

The band decamped to Highland



Perthshire to record, renting a cottage in the village of Weem, near Aberfeldy.

Martin said: "We recorded our first albums in traditional recording studios with producers at the desk."

"With Weem we wanted to have some fun and also to not have the pressure of expensive studio rates hanging over us. We had a great time, writing, playing, recording and drinking into the wee small hours every day. Once we had the tracks recorded, we sent them to producer Andy Miller to mix at his studio in Hamilton."

The break seems to have served De Rosa well, creating a beautiful collection of songs that complement the early material perfectly.

Launching the album with a sell-out show last Saturday as part of Celtic Connections in Glasgow, De Rosa play Beat Generator Live in Dundee tomorrow night, Edinburgh's Summerhall on January 30 and The Lemon Tree in Aberdeen on January 31.

Weem is out today through Mogwai's Rock Action label.

MORE: facebook.com/derosaband
● Jim presents a weekly showcase of New Music on Amazing Radio Sundays 2-4pm. amazingradio.com/jimgellatly.com

Watch video of band at:
thescottishsun.co.uk

ONE2WATCH

ONE
2
SEE

EDINBURGH hot-shots Bwani are hitting Celtic Connections tomorrow night and they'll be playing Paul Simon's iconic album *Graceland*, to celebrate its 30th anniversary. Some of the African musicians who appeared on the album will join them on stage at Glasgow's Old Fruitmarket. Get ticket info at celticconnections.com

ONE
2
HEAR

STING'S wee girl Eliot Sumner has a really distinctive voice, just like her old man.

And she seems to have his knack for a funky beat too. Her album *Information* is released today. It's an interesting blend of her high-pitched vocals with electro rhythms banging away. Hear it at eliotsumner.com

THE TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT

4

CONTRARY to the tea-totalling name, these hard rocking, bluesy Brits crack open their second album with the barnstorming *Three Bullets* – an ode to their bourbon of choice.

And it's this infectious, heady swagger that permeates *White Bear*, marking it as a confident step forward.

Channeling The Black Crowes in the exceptional *Get Yourself Free* and jiggling-out with Oh Lorraine, they've a few new, surefire live faves here too.

While the soulful yet restorative *I Hope I'm Not Losing My Mind* closes this chapter two with a good dose of depth and resonance.

ROB LEWIS



WIN
Fender Telecaster signed by
The Temperance Movement



+ SIGNED ALBUMS FOR RUNNERS-UP

WE'RE celebrating the arrival of The Temperance Movement's second album *White Bear* by giving away an iconic Fender Standard Telecaster signed by the band. And four runners-up will get a signed copy of the new album.

The British rock band, currently on a UK headline tour which finishes on January 27 at the O2 Forum in London, released their self-titled debut album to critical acclaim.

They have been compared to the likes of The Rolling Stones, Led

Zeppelin and The Black Crowes and you can see our verdict on their latest album, *left*.

So to be in with a chance to winning the signed Fender Standard

Telecaster, email your contact details to win@the-sun.co.uk with TEMPERANCE in the

subject line.

● T&Cs: Over-18s and UK residents only. One entry per person. Closing date midnight Sunday, January 24, 2016. Winners selected at random. No cash alternative. Not transferable. Promoter is News Group Newspapers Ltd. Not open to staff of the promoter or promotional partner.