

s f t w**MUSIC****ONES TO WATCH**By **CHRIS SWEENEY**

ONE man and a dog may be a cliché — but it was a living nightmare for Fort Hope.

The Hertfordshire rock trio list the gig — in Rosyth — as not one of their finest hours, but they have bounced back in style and are making waves with new single *That's The Way The River Flows*.

Frontman Jonathan Gaskin admitted: "We were young and came up on tour, we ended up sleeping in our van because someone messed up and we didn't have a hotel room."

"We parked up in a country lane with no lights at all."

"And even though it's a cliché, we played that gig to one man and his dog. It was literally just them for the whole gig."

The guys are back in Scotland next week and are confident things will go better this time.

Since then they've signed to Virgin EMI, which meant they couldn't hit the road for the last 12 months.

Jonathan, 29, said: "It was so f***ing weird."

"You get lost in a different world."

"We forgot what it was like to be on tour, we were dying to get back out, but it was always go back to the studio, record a bit more."

"Then finally we got the green light. And it's like 'come on, yes'."

"We've packed the set with new songs. We were a bit worried people would be shouting, play this or that. But so far, there have been no complaints."

The three guys staked everything on being their own men.

Jonathan explained: "It's something we seen happen to a lot of

bands. It's rare someone becomes the size they want to be when that happens."

"We've tried to avoid being called a hardcore band, or a pop band."

"We want to be really flexible so we can never be put into a scene — and then that takes over."

Fort Hope have just released a new EP which includes big single *That's The Way The River Flows*

and they're building up to the album. They did think they had it

done last year, but Jonathan admitted: "The best thing is taking your time, you end up with something really good at the end of it."

"We want the album to have a proper sound running through the whole thing."

"We did that in September last year, but now we've split those songs now into a couple of EPs."

"It's been seven months since we wrote what we thought was the album, and it's changed in our

heads so we have different ideas now about what we want it to be."

Amazingly the guys have been battering away for 14 years.

Jonathan added: "It's always been our whole focus in life. We've known if we want something, we have to go out and get it for ourselves."

●Fort Hope play Electric Circus in Edinburgh, Mad Hatters in Inverness and King Tut's in Glasgow on May 10/11/12 — go to facebook.com/forthopemusic

Dogged lads have Hope for the future

ONE2SEE

FATHERSON have made some big strides in the last few years.

And the three-piece from Kilmarnock are looking for a sizzling appearance at this summer's T In The Park.

So they've announced A Road To Tour, which is going all over the Highlands and Islands.

The boys — Ross Leighton, Marc Strain and Greg Walkinshaw — will hit Skye, Thurso, Orkney and Aberdeen later on this month.

Get all the info at gigsinscotland.com

ONE2HEAR

EDINBURGH young guns Man Of Moon's new EP looks like being an absolute beller.

The first track, *I Run*, is magic.

Good distorted vocals, a nice rhythm and some superb drums that keep it all going.

Talking about the EP — titled *Medicine* — one half of the duo, Chris Bainbridge, said: "Medicine can be different things to different people — it can be good, bad, drugs, a cure, the answer or the problem."

Hear the single at soundcloud.com/melodic-records



ANTI
WORLD TOUR
SPECIAL GUEST BIG SEAN

MONDAY 27 JUNE

**GLASGOW
HAMPDEN PARK**

GIGSINSCOTLAND.COM | TICKETMASTER.CO.UK | 08444 999 990

RIHANNANOW.COM

f /RIHANNA

@RIHANNA

@BADGALRIRI

NEW ALBUM
ANTI
OUT NOW



NEW MUSIC

By **JIM GELLATLY**

BETTER ENEMIES

WHO: Jamie Mackie (vocals/guitar), David Temple (guitar), Rhys Jones (bass), Chris Sutherland (drums)

WHERE: Aberdeen

FOR FANS OF: Biffy Clyro, The Vaccines, The Xcerts

JIM SAYS: North-east lads Better Enemies have cranked it up for the release of their self-titled debut album.

Formally known as Suburban Saints, the Aberdeen four-piece decided a name change was in order to reflect their change in direction.

Drummer Chris Sutherland explained: "After recording the new album we felt that what we had created wasn't really fitting in with anything else we'd released before."

"We've matured musically and as a group of friends."

"A new name was the best way to emphasise that."

"I think the music is gradually heading towards rock."

"We found that out of all the Suburban Saints tunes, we were enjoying the more upbeat, heavier ones."

"When I started writing ideas for the album, I was taking this into account."

Recent single *Get Me Out* is a perfect introduction to the new sound.

Melody-laden pop/rock, it sets the agenda for the album. Previously self-produced, they headed down to Glasgow to work on the album with renowned producer Bruce Rintoul (Twin Atlantic, We Were Promised Jetpacks, Fatherhood).

Chris added: "It gave me a break from producing and to really focus on nothing but the record."

"It was a great to have the time to

experiment with sounds and for me to work with another producer."

"Bruce is great at getting the best performance out of people."

"The album is full of catchy melodies and sing along moments, but the main goal was to create something that would translate to a great live show. We feel we have succeeded in that."

Though the album was recorded a year ago, they've kept much of the material under wraps.

Last month's album launch gig at Café Drummond in Aberdeen was actually their first ever show as Better Enemies.

Chris said: "The launch gig couldn't have gone better. We were a bit apprehensive

about the fact we were playing an entire set of mostly unheard material, but the crowd took to it really well and were singing along."

Continuing to write and record new material in Chris's home studio, the guys are currently putting together their first proper tour.

Meanwhile, Better Enemies' next confirmed date is at Aberdeen's Exodus club on Friday May 20, with support from Cook Doo and Miss Lucid.

Chris added "It's a free entry show and should be a great night!"

MORE: facebook.com/betterenemies

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



Now watch video of Better Enemies at: thescotishsun.co.uk