

Something for

the Weekend

THE LAST SEPTEMBER

WHO: Pete Deane (vocals/guitar), Craig Nicholson (guitar/vocals), David Bishop (bass), Archie MacFarlane (accordion/key-board), Simon Usher (drums)

WHERE: Edinburgh

FOR FANS OF: Elbow, Coldplay, Idlewild
JIM SAYS: Edinburgh outfit The Last September take us on a glorious musical journey with their third album *Volcano*.

The first single *This Train Remains* sets the pace perfectly. The video for the song first caught my attention.

It was created by Bafta-winning animator and filmmaker Ainslie Henderson, who first hit the spotlight as a musician himself.

He was a contestant on the BBC's *Fame Academy*, later scoring a Top 5 single. I bumped into him recently playing his first gig for some time, opening for indie legends James in Stirling. Earlier this year he made

NewMusic

By JIM GELLATLY



the stunning stop-motion video for their single *Moving On*. The video for *This Train Remains* undoubtedly helped the band's profile ahead of the release of *Volcano*.

The Last September singer Pete told me: "We've had a good amount of blogs picked up on the new stuff. The video has gone really crazy. Ainslie has a good head for music video ideas."

While band members hail from as far afield as *The Borders* and the *Isle of Skye*, Edinburgh is very much their home. That's reflected in the album. Pete said "The *Volcano* in question is *Arthur's Seat*. It's such a ubiquitous presence. We

wanted to reflect where we are. At the same time, we didn't want to go down the route of plastering Scottish flags all over the band. It's not an album that has any particular political or patriotic message.

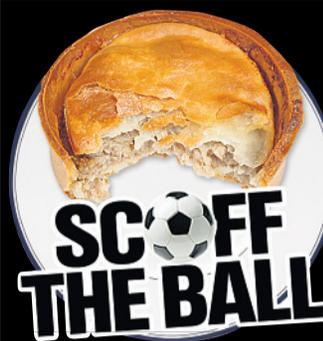
"It's just about saying 'this is where we are, let's take a little snapshot for posterity'. Hopefully we've captured some of it here. Many of the songs also have themes rooted in the countryside."

The guys took a different approach to the new record, with more of an emphasis on live performance. Pete explained: "The last two albums perhaps lacked a certain live ambience. This was something which we really wanted to capture."

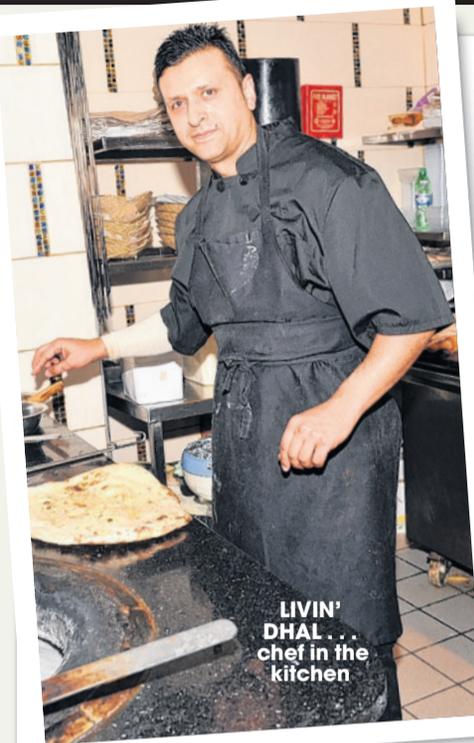
The results are most pleasing to the ear, and will hopefully be the catalyst to take *The Last September* to the next level.

MORE: www.thelastseptember.co.uk

● Jim presents *Drivetime* on XFM Scotland, Monday to Friday 4-7pm. www.xfm.co.uk www.jimgellatly.com



Tam Cowan's



TALK about singing for your supper!

My dining companion at this week's review was regular reader John Bruce who won the prize last month when I asked for a few tunes that might be heard in an Italian restaurant.

The response from Scottish Sun readers was great and my favourites included *Zuppa-Dee-Doo-Dah*, *Pasta Dutchie*, *Papa Was A Minestrone*, *A Boy Named Tiramisu*, *Itsy Bitsy Teeny Weeny Yellow Polka Dot Zucchini* and *Is This The Way To Amaretto?*

But John clinched it by suggesting all the tracks would be recorded by Rigatoni Bennett, Crostini Aguilera and Salami Davis Jr. In keeping with the contest, the plan was to try an Italian restaurant in John's native Glasgow.

But, after a couple of drinks (it would have been rude not to toast his victory) well, you know what it's like... we were both choking for a curry.

John recommended his local - *Nakodar Grill* in *Dennistoun* - where he's no stranger to the £4.95 express lunch that's available seven days a week from 12 noon until 4pm.

Tikka Chance On Me

Yep, £4.95! Could you even get a McDonald's or a fish supper for that sort of dosh these days? Change from a fiver? For a sit-in lunch? Even if you got food poisoning, you'd probably think twice about complaining.

Anyway, we were both singing from the same hymn sheet as I ended up enjoying arguably my best curry of 2014.

(And please bear in mind, dear reader, that I probably eat about three a week...)

Staying with the singing theme, *Nakodar Grill* boasts a private dining room with karaoke - so we started exchanging our favourite Indian restaurant songs.

Tears On My Pilau, *It's My Chapati And I'll Cry If I Want To*, *Korma Chameleon*, *Gimme Gimme Gimme (A Nan After Midnight)*, *Bhaji Trousers*, *Tikka Chance On Me*, *Love Me Tandoor*, *It's Bhuna Hard Day's Night* and, of course, *Ring Of Fire*.

(If you've got any more, folks, please do us all a favour and keep them to yourself...)

Only one bum note. On a very quiet Monday night - we were actually the only ones in - why did they give us such a tiny table for two? There wasn't enough room to swing a kitten, never mind a cat, and a seat on *Death Row* would have been more relaxing. Two quick points before we go any further.

One: never use the phrase "no room to swing a cat" if you're in a poky veterinary clinic - they don't like it.

Two: if you ever end up on *Death Row*, order an all-you-can-eat buffet as your final meal and happily nibble away for the next 40 years. Anyway, to create a bit of space, I ended up sitting my paratha on the window ledge and I'll remind you once again of a pal who, when he visits a restaurant with his missus, always asks for "a four for two".



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