

MEET BAND THAT MAKE MUSIC AT HOME



FLAT OUT...
White formed
from ashes
of Kassidy,
above

Life in the studio

By ANNA GAULT

SCOTS band White are so determined to hit the big time they live in a recording studio.

The Glasgow five-piece are making noise with their punk-funk sound and think making music at home is the secret to their success.

The band have risen from the ashes of indie outfit Kassidy – which split shortly after frontman Barrie-James O'Neill left to join his then girlfriend, pop star Lana Del Rey, in the States.

Remaining members Hamish Fingland, Lewis Andrews and Chris Potter joined forces with singer Leo Condie and drummer Kirstin Lynn to form White and have been quietly making their rise.

Hamish, Lewis and Chris live together at Park Lane Studios in Glasgow and think being able to record tunes in their 'living room' keeps them going.

'It's awesome – but I'd quite like an oven'

Hamish, 28, who plays guitar and synth, said: "We live for making music and living in a recording studio is awesome because you are only a knock on the door away from doing something creative."

"If you've got an idea you always have someone to bounce it off of and can't get lazy really."

"It definitely helps you stick with it and not give up."

"We appreciate that we are in an amazing situation and every band in the world would like to have it."

But the guys admit combining recording with domestic life can have its challenges.

Guitarist Chris, 28, said: "It's awesome but I'd quite like an oven – it took us seven years to get a freezer but right now we only have two

hobs, a microwave and a toasting machine.

"We don't have a washing machine either and paying at a laundrette is a bit annoying."

Hamish added: "Obviously because we live here and it's not just a recording studio you do find household things making their way into the studio – scrap heaps of clothes and mugs."

Their home features an office and small kitchen that leads into the recording studio, a living room and two bedrooms upstairs.

And living and working with your bandmates means no escaping inevitable bust-ups.

Hamish said: "There were lots of kinks at the beginning but we've worked them out by now."

"We've had every argument you can have and know to give each other a wide berth at times. You

can have quiet nights even if someone is working on music. The living room is sound-proofed.

"We have locks on our bedroom doors, so we all know to let everyone have their alone time."

Lewis added: "The studio used to be a bedroom and my bed was in it with clothes lying everywhere"

"It was slightly chaotic so we managed to move things around and get me out of there."

Leo added that going in to record where his bandmates live was a bit strange at first.

He said: "The public and private aspect can collide because you are working in a living space but we've managed to get over that now."

Thankfully the perks outweigh the difficulties and after Leo and Kirstin joined the trio two years ago they have been focused on putting their recording studio to good use.

They have now released their new EP *Cuts That Don't Bleed* and their debut album will follow closely behind.

Bassist Lewis, 27, said: "Not having any neighbours is great and you can make as much noise as you want 24 hours a day."

"You don't have to worry about paying for studio time, which can cost anywhere around £200 to £800 a day."

"It's a lot cheaper than renting a flat separately and recording at a facility. We get a bargain here."

He added: "We'd recommend it to other bands but it is a commitment. You just need to be up for working on music all the time."

● White play the O2 ABC in Glasgow with Babystrange on December 16. Tickets are available at seetickets.com

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NEW MUSIC
By Jim Gellatly

BARSTOW BATS

WHO: Steven McKie (vocals/guitar), Andrew Rendall (vocals/guitar), Barry Gemmell (bass/vocals), Kit Allen (keyboards), Jonny Tait (drums)

WHERE: Dumfries

FOR FANS OF: The Coral, Arctic Monkeys, Echo & The Bunnymen

JIM SAYS: I was gutted to hear last week that Dumfries & Galloway's Wickerman Festival won't be returning.

I've got so many great memories, not least hosting the main stage last year and introducing legends such as Squeeze and The Waterboys.

As winners of West Sound FM's West Factor competition, Dumfries lads Barstow Bats opened the festival in 2013.

I was really impressed with their energy and attitude. More recently they shone at another local festival, Electric Fields.

Andrew said: "We were lucky enough to play the main stage at Wickerman, just six months after forming. It helped us reach new listeners early on and it's really sad to see that it won't be carrying on."

"It was a brilliant festival. Alex and Nick, who founded Electric Fields, take a keen interest in the local music scene and we've been lucky enough to play every year at Electric Fields."

"2016 saw them expand the festival to two days and it was a brilliant weekend with a superb line-up. I'm sure they'll be looking to carry that on in 2017."

"There's also Eden and Knockengoroch, though we've



yet to play these! We did play at a brilliant wee festival called Firefly in Moniaive this year, so hopefully that will return in 2017.

"I think as long as festivals are giving local bands a chance to get on the bill it will benefit the local scene."

Barstow Bats, who take their name from a passage in Hunter S. Thompson's seminal *Fear And Loathing In Las Vegas*, have just released their debut album.

It's titled *Lyer Riots*, in tribute to a much-missed Dumfries boozer. Andrew was one of the regulars campaigning to save the pub, also a favourite haunt of Calvin Harris back in the day.

He said: "For us, The Lyer was the best pub in Dumfries. Bus seats, wooden floors, good jukebox, sound people. There used to be a regular open mic night and it was the first place McKie and myself played live. It was just a cool place to be."

"It felt like more than just another pub to a lot of people. When it shut down a couple of years ago we were all devastated. We wanted to name the album after it as a wee nod to everything the place and people involved gave us over the years."

Lyer Riots is out now through the Smart Indie label. Barstow Bats support Leeds band The Strawberries tonight at The Priory on Glasgow's Sauchiehall St. There's an album launch gig tomorrow night at The Live Lounge in Dumfries.

MORE: facebook.com/Official-BarstowBats

● 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



SPLIT... Barrie and ex Lana