

# Hi-vis vest finally got me noticed

**CALLUM Beattie's future is glowing — and it's all thanks to his hi-vis jacket from Tesco.**

The talented singer used to push shopping trolleys for the supermarket chain.

But it amazingly got him face to face with the Kaiser Chiefs and REM.

Callum, 27, explained: "I used to stick it in a bag."

"At T In The Park, I'd chuck on my hi-vis, jump over the fence and have my demos at the ready."

"So I'd stay unnoticed until I saw somebody worth talking about — and I'd make my move."

"A lot of them loved the idea of it and said they used to do that when they were kids too, anything possible to get your name out and make things happen."

"With REM, I'd met them before they went on using the hi-vis and gave them my demo."

"They were really lovely. But there were free drinks backstage from this keg of Tennent's."

"I got so p\*\*\*\*d, I fell asleep. I woke up and was like, what's going on here? Then I just brass-necked it, walked up and stood by the side of the stage — I could see people eyeing me."

"I waited until it was the instru-

mental part of Orange Crush and went for it."

"I jumped on and then got dragged off — so I've basically headlined T In The Park already."

"It's all up on YouTube, everyone can see it."

Now he's set to release first single We Are Stars on March 31 with an album out after the summer.

Ironically his days of backstage blagging caught up with him on his album — as Kaiser Chiefs rocker Nick Hodgson remembered him.

Callum said: "The Kaiser Chiefs played at Meadowbank, I got past the barriers with my hi-vis again."

"I saw the drummer Nick and told him my story."

"He took me backstage for a beer and chilled out with the band."

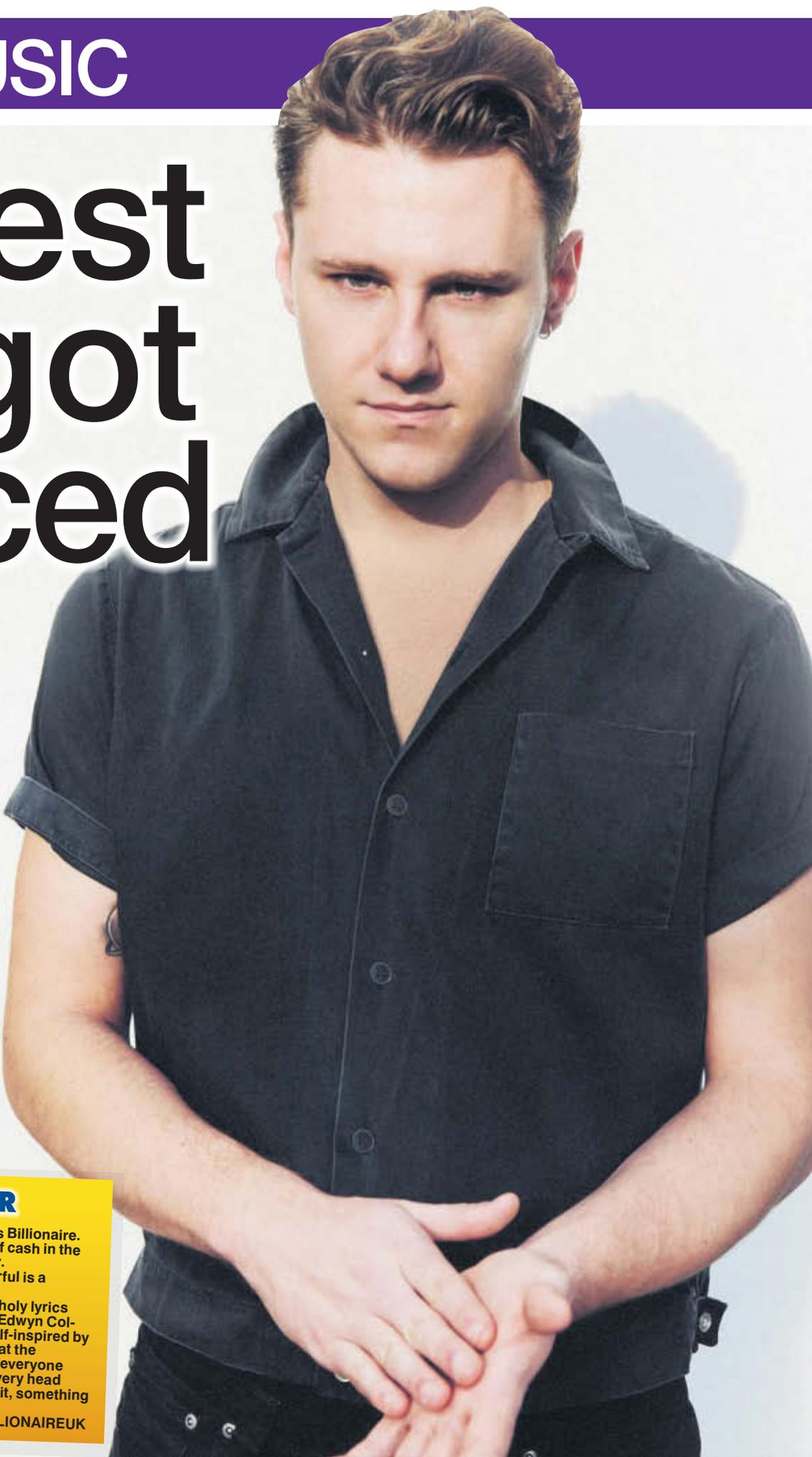
"So he said, 'we're so inspired by you, would you give us your autograph?'"

"And nine years later, I got my record deal and my manager asked me if there was anyone I'd like to work with."

"I said, 'can we try Nick from The Kaiser Chiefs?'"

"And literally the next day I got a text out the blue from Nick and it was just a picture of my autograph from all those years ago."

●Callum plays Edinburgh's Cabaret Voltaire on March 10. Visit [www.facebook.com/callumbeattieofficial](http://www.facebook.com/callumbeattieofficial)



## ONE2SEE

CANADIAN rockers July Talk were last over here warming up for Catfish And The Bottlemen in front of 10,000 diehard fans.

That's no easy task. But they did a damn fine job, winning over a load of punters. So now they're taking off the stabilisers and going it alone.

They're at Electric Circus in Edinburgh tonight — the gig is part of their European tour.

Get more information on the band at [www.facebook.com/julytalk](http://www.facebook.com/julytalk)

## ONE2HEAR

JOHN STERRY is better known as Billionaire. And while he's not got that kind of cash in the bank, he's got plenty in his locker.

New single Reasons To Be Fearful is a superb pop song.

It's got a brilliant mix of melancholy lyrics with a happy tune — like a young Edwyn Collins. John said: "The song was half-inspired by the refugee mess that's going on at the moment. Just a comment on how everyone can contribute with something, every head probably has some great ideas in it, something interesting to say."

Hear it [www.facebook.com/BILLIONAIREUK](http://www.facebook.com/BILLIONAIREUK)

## ECHOES WORTH REPEATING

### ECHO ARCADIA

**WHO:** Leigh Moyes (vocals/guitar), Dawid Zielinski (guitar), Euan Mushet (bass), Andrew Gray (violin), Dan Ciesielski (drums), Kate Mountford (vocals), Jenna White (vocals)

**WHERE:** Edinburgh

**FOR FANS OF:** The Verve, Elbow, Fleetwood Mac

**JIM SAYS:** Edinburgh indie rockers Echo Arcadia have just released second album Visions Of Symmetry. It's a thing of beauty. Creating a cinematic atmosphere, it soars effortlessly from track to track. The band have been around for about eight years, but the new album feels as fresh as ever. Mind you, the current line-up has only been together for about a year and a half. Frontman Leigh Moyes joked: "We have had a real Spinal Tap history



### NEW MUSIC

By Jim Gellatly

with people coming and going. No drummers exploding as yet though!"

Visions Of Symmetry is a very personal collection of songs. Leigh said: "It charts a journey through self-doubt, depression and the light at the end of the tunnel. The music always lifts and transforms the lyrics and elevates the songs. It's not just a journey through my life but a rollercoaster ride set to music. It's very personal to all of the band. I write the lyrics and the basic song structure but the whole band is involved in every song. They

have elements of all of us running through them." He admitted that it hasn't been easy to break through: "It's been a struggle getting Scottish mainstream radio to play us. We don't seem to be niche enough for some radio stations. Another issue is getting people to come to live gigs. I love the saying that 'every band you've ever been to see, used to be a local band', so go and support local music if you like having music to listen to."

They clearly enjoy playing live, even when there isn't a large crowd. In fact, one of Leigh's favourite gigs was anything but busy. He explained: "We played a gig at Banshee Labyrinth in Edinburgh for Castle FM. We were on late. There were two people left in a room that had been busy. I looked down at one point and when I looked

up there were about 30 folk there, all dancing and singing away! After ten minutes the audience doubled again. The room was rammed. We played our set and couldn't get off the stage with the cries of 'more, more, more'. We ended up playing another set!"

Echo Arcadia support Nottingham's Eyre Llew at Sneaky Pete's in Edinburgh on Wednesday (March 8). They are back again at Sneaky Pete's on Saturday (March 11) for a What's The Noise? showcase, also featuring Losing Ground, Will & The Wild Horse and Karma Bull.

**MORE:** [echoarcadia.com](http://echoarcadia.com)  
Jim presents a weekly showcase of New Music on Amazing Radio Sundays 2-4pm.  
[www.amazingradio.com](http://www.amazingradio.com) [www.jimgellatly.com](http://www.jimgellatly.com)



Watch a clip of the band:  
[thescottishsun.co.uk](http://thescottishsun.co.uk)