

the Sunday MUSIC



ONE2WATCH by CHRIS SWEENEY

WHITE Room have been taken under the wing of music legend Paul Weller.

The Brighton boys are making a big noise at the moment – and Scots fans will get to see what all the hype is about next month.

The lads will be playing the TRNSMT Festival at Glasgow Green – and they can't wait.

Lead singer Jake Smallwood said: "I've heard really good things, that there's a proper good response and music scene – that people go to watch gigs and get involved."

"Everything we heard is that it's absolutely buzzing up there, so we can't wait to experience it."

"You've got to make sure you make an impression on people, especially when it's your first time playing a city. If you mess it up, people talk. You need to smash it the first time, so word gets around and then the next time, they know all about you."

"Playing TRNSMT will let the promoters see us, get us invited back and then we've broken down the barrier and we can be up there playing all the time."

"Playing a new place is never just another gig."

They insist being internet savvy is the key to unlocking chart success, but they are adamant that there's more to them than being nifty on social media.

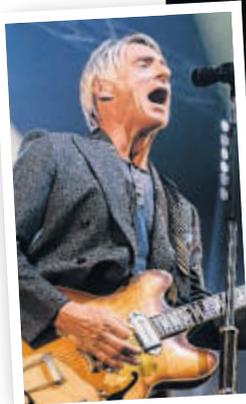
Jake said: "The fact that so much is online now, you're being heard in all these different places in the world. It's better than sending CDs all round the country and never knowing if they got lost in the post. You can find out straight away now."

"But you can't change the fact that people need to see live music – and love it. If you play a wicked show, no matter how much promotion you've done on Facebook, a really good show is going to be ten times better. People then know you're not just a band who can do a track online and make a pretty video."

"Smashing a gig is the most important thing."

One huge leg-up the five-piece have got has been the backing of The Modfather Weller.

He took a shine to them and they've been out on tour with him too. Jake explained: "He's such a lovely fella, it's been a dream come true working with him – it's special. With Paul, he doesn't f***



about. He says what he thinks, there's no beating around the bush and you need that.

"If he don't like something, he'll say it and if he loves it, he'll say it. It's incredible to see him work too. Normally when we've got a batch of tracks, I'll send them over and then we'll have a long phone chat to see what he thinks."

"He might say the melody is off or try this, he gives us little ideas."

"It's brilliant to have someone so iconic to chat to." After festival season, the group will release a special EP titled 8. It's ended up as a concept project unintentionally. Jake said: "We've got the first double A-side Take Me Away and Stole The I.V up on Spotify now.

Then we'll do another two tunes, then another two and another two. "Then we'll compile them into a physical and digital release called 8. It's all lyrically around the number 8, it's a huge number – it's infinity, it's luck, there's so many meanings to it."

"We felt there was something to it and we realised that without noticing, the themes of the lyrics tied into those meanings."

"The tunes all interlock in that way. We didn't start out wanting to write something conceptual, it happened subconsciously in my mind – so I'd be a fool not to run with it." While most punters assume the band took their name from the iconic Cream song, they're actually named after where they rehearse. Jake added: "Before we moved in, it was entirely white,

with white walls and ceiling. Then we put all our gear in there and had to do some soundproofing. So now it's more of a grey, foamy room."

"But that didn't quite have the ring to it. Maybe we'll call the first album Grey Foamy Room by White Room."

And while the guys have a load of things on the go and are very busy, they're not taking their eye off the ball at TRNSMT. They are part of the Jack Rocks 7, who're seven young acts tipped for success. Jake said: "We want as many people as possible to come see us. The more people there are the better we can show you guys a good time. And then you guys can show us a good time afterwards."

●For more information check out www.whiteroomhq.com

We are Well looked after

ONE2HEAR

AVERAGE White Band were a 70's sensation.

The Dundee group won plaudits for their funk and r&b. Now three members of the group – Hamish Stuart, Molly Duncan and Steve Ferrone – have started over. They've formed the 360 group and released first single Mighty Fall.

It's a classy soul number inspired by Muhammad Ali. See www.facebook.com/360bandofficial

ONE2SEE

TRNSMT have added a whole host of rising Scottish stars to their bill.

Leading the way is blue collar rock hero Gerry Cinnamon. And also joining him are JR Green, The Van T's, The Vegan Leather, Vistas, Wuh Oh and Vukovi.

Make sure to check them out on the King Tut's Stage across the weekend at Glasgow Green, from July 7 to 9. Get ticket info at: www.trnsmtfest.com

CALUM MACKENZIE JONES

WHERE: Moray

FOR FANS OF: Hozier, James Bay, Paolo Nutini

JIM SAYS: Young north-east singer-songwriter Calum Mackenzie Jones is making his mark. The 16-year-old from Oran near Buckie has had airplay on BBC Radio 2, showcased at XpoNorth in Inverness and has even performed in front of royalty!

He played for the Princess Royal in March at the official opening of the Castle To Cathedral To Cashmere project in Elgin.

He told me: "I got the opportunity to discuss my music with her. She was really lovely and seemed genuinely interested in what I had to say."

He has his mum Lorraine to thank for the Radio 2 appearance. She sent a copy of his song Your Man to the Dermot O'Leary Show for the Some Mother Do Indie feature earlier this year.

Calum explained: "Mum sent in a copy of the song and a really funny story about travelling hundreds of miles for ten-minute gigs, trying to fit ten pizzas in the oven for band practices, trying to sleep through my drum practices and having another son (Ryan) who constantly threatens to change his name to 'neglected child' by deed



NEW MUSIC By Jim Gellatly

poll! They got in touch a few days later to ask if she would be happy to be interviewed live by Jo Whitley. My mum presents a weekly show on our local hospital radio station but she was shaking like a leaf during her interview with Jo Whitley!"

Calum also used to present a chart show on Wave Radio, based at Dr Gray's Hospital in Elgin.

He still does the odd show, but his main focus is now on his music. He started drumming when he was just eight. After a break, he took it up again when he went to Milne's High School in Fochabers. He said: "Our school is really big on music and has a fantastic orchestra, jazz band and the renowned Fochabers Fiddlers. I became drum-

mer for each of them. At 13 myself and two others formed a band to play at the school fete."

That band eventually became Footerin' Aboot, a ceilidh and functions band he continues to play with. Calum launched his debut solo album Wasted Days at the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative National Event at Perth Concert Hall on Wednesday. It's an accomplished collection of songs, blending folk and pop, with a nod to artists like Ed Sheeran and George Ezra.

Calum plays most of the instruments himself on the album. He said: "Some of the instruments I'd never played much before so I had to learn as we went along!"

Proceeds from the record are being split between the Bootstock music festival on the Black Isle, raising funds to provide educational opportunities for disadvantaged children in the poorest regions of Nepal, children's cancer charity Logan's Fund, and Wave Radio.

Calum's upcoming dates include the Belladrum Festival near Inverness in August. His diary for next year is already starting to fill up.

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



▶ Watch a video of the band playing at: www.thescottishsun.co.uk