

ANNA GAULT
Music Writer

FOLK trio Wildwood Kin might sound mellow but their fans are anything but.

The group – made up of sisters Emillie and Beth Key and their cousin Meg Loney – are gaining a big following since signing to major label Sony.

And in the age of social media, the girls now have to deal with some bizarre behaviour from their supporters.

Drummer Meg said: “We had a weird Facebook message a while ago from an older guy who took a photo of himself in bed and sent it to us saying, ‘Just wanted to say goodnight.’”

“That was a bit odd – he was topless and tucked up in bed.”

“We didn’t message him back – we thought it was best left unanswered.”

The band, from Exeter, broke into the Top 40 with their debut album *Turning Tides* and took to the stage at Glastonbury this summer.

And their all-female set-up, including their manager Sarah Woodward, has stuck out in the music world.

Guitarist Emillie, 22, said: “We have a female manager, Sarah, and a lot of people assume she is our mum.”

‘Less partying and more eating for us!’

“That upsets her and us because at the moment it’s a very male-dominated industry and hopefully we are helping to break that stigma – our radio plugger is a woman too. And sometimes people will comment on Meg being a female drummer – not that it’s bad but the fact they point it out tells you something.”

The trio are playing Stereo in Glasgow later this month. And while they are looking forward to playing to a Scottish crowd, they

We Kin be pioneers for girl groups



ON THE UP...
sisters Emillie and Beth and cousin Meg are gaining support



can’t wait to tuck into some Caledonian grub. Meg, 23, said: “We always get lovely audiences in Scotland. And what we really love about Glasgow is the amazing food. There are so many nice restaurants.”

“We had the best brunch ever at Café Gandolfi (pictured above), so it will be less partying and more eating for us afterwards.”

Meg also has some Scottish family in the north-east and admits they are miffed the band have yet to play Aberdeen.

She said: “I have a bunch of family, cousins and an auntie and uncle in Aberdeen so I have fond memories of visiting them.”

“Hopefully we will get to play a show in Aberdeen at some point – they are always upset because we don’t go as far north as that.”

The band got together as a gap-

year experiment, with Emillie dreaming of a career as an illustrator before their music took off.

She said: “We never thought that being in a band full-time would be an option. I had the application all filled out for an illustration course – it’s probably lost somewhere now. When we started out it was almost filling a gap year and we never thought it would snowball into anything else at all but since we started it hasn’t really stopped.”

But music was always the end goal for banjo player Beth.

The 20-year-old said: “I always wanted to be a musician, though at school I was told to have something to fall back on. I just stuck with it and if I had gone to uni it would have been to study music anyway.”

The band could be likened to a UK version of Haim with their long hair and perfect

HIT... Harris and Haim

harmonies. But they are more pop-folk than pop-rock and it’s unlikely any Calvin Harris collaborations – such as Haim’s *Pray To God* – are on the horizon.

Meg said: “We find it hard to pigeonhole our sound or describe it because we bring in a lot of different genres.”

“Obviously, the whole alternative folk thing runs throughout with the harmonies but we have also got electronic elements and combine interesting instruments, like

classical folk with drums. We have been reviewed a lot as pleasantly awkward.”

“And we really want to engage with fans so have a bit of banter with them between songs but we have a bit of a strange sense of humour.”

And the girls are happy to stay on the fringes for the time being with fame and money not topping their priorities.

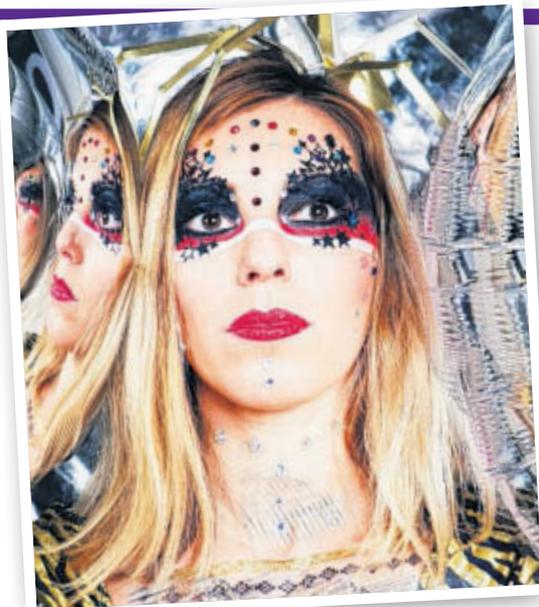
Meg said: “Celebrity culture can be quite damaging in this day and age.”

“People comparing their lives and success, with social media being so prevalent.”

“We want to try to break from that culture if we can but it is amazing when we get opportunities to play bigger venues and put our music out there.”

● Wildwood Kin play Stereo in Glasgow, October 26.

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MALKA

WHERE: Glasgow

FOR FANS OF: Sia, St. Vincent, M.I.A.

JIM SAYS: Singer-songwriter Tamara Schlessinger made her name in music fronting acclaimed alt folk outfit 6 Day Riot.

London-born but raised in Newton Mearns near Glasgow, as a teenager she was an international gymnast. Sadly, at 17 she broke her ankle representing Scotland at a tournament in Poland.

Moving back to London after the injury, she studied fashion at the renowned Central Saint Martins College. It was there she found her love for music.

She said: “I sang on various covers as a session singer until I launched my own project as a solo artist. I then formed 6 Day Riot in 2006 and had success with music used in Hollywood films plus tours with bands such as Belle and Sebastian and Deacon Blue. The band parted ways in 2012 when I decided to launch my new project MALKA.”

After more than a decade in London, she relocated back to Glasgow a couple of months ago. *Ratatat*, her second MALKA album, is released on Friday. Hook-laden rhythmic pop, it’s a delightful listen. She’s been picking up some healthy



NEW MUSIC

By Jim Gellatly

play on BBC Radio 6 Music, with presenters Lauren Laverne and Chris Hawkins long-time fans.

Moving away from the folky sounds of 6 Day Riot, Tamara’s now going in a very different direction. That’s reflected in her artist name. She explained: “MALKA means queen in Hebrew and Arabic. When I first launched the project, I had the idea of a tribal queen leading her followers.”

“The first album as MALKA was very much moving into a new style for me as I was firmly in the folk pop world before. I decided to change my musical sound and as an electro pop artist I was creating beats and finding my new identity. With this album I felt very secure in the sound and allowed myself to

be exactly who I wanted to be.” *Ratatat* is released on her own label, Tantrum Records, which she’s been running since 2006. Like her 2015 debut *Marching To Another Beat*, the new album was co-produced by Jay Glover, whose credits include *Groove Armada* and *The Brand New Heavies*.

Though she has a band for gigs, most of the recording is just her. She said: “I play about 90 per cent of the instruments. This time I had extra help with guitar, drums and trumpet on two tracks.”

Without a big label bankrolling the project, Tamara turned to her fans for finance via the crowdfunding site PledgeMusic.com. She said: “This is the second Pledge campaign that I’ve run and again it’s been very successful. But it is harder and harder to break even with releases, never mind make a profit. People are buying less music and if I didn’t have my music used in TV and film I would struggle to make any form of profit.”

MALKA plays Sneaky Pete’s in Edinburgh on November 1, and *The Hug and Pint* in Glasgow the following night.

MORE: malkamusic.co.uk

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

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