

the Sunday MUSIC



by COLAN LAMONT

LIFE for The Cutkelvins has become even more of a family affair — with little brother Brandon joining the band.

Three siblings — Shereen, 21, and brothers Kyle and Jay, 23 and 24 — have been performing together for just over a year and came fourth on last year's *The X Factor*.

Now their younger sibling Brandon, 17, is being thrown into the mix too.

He says: "I always wanted to rap before and have done that. But my first show with The Cutkelvins will be in July so I'm ready and excited to do it."

"It was always part of the plan for me to join but when they auditioned for the *X Factor* it wasn't the right time."

"Now I feel ready and it's perfect timing."

But joining the band, who hail from Lanark, won't stop his older siblings from teasing him because of his shyness around girls.

Big brother Jay jokes: "The Lady Killer is what we call him, the Silent Assassin."

Shereen adds: "He's ready to take all the ladies so the boys better watch out."

Since *The X Factor*, the band have been enjoying the spotlight.

Fans mobbed them when they helped out at The Scottish Sun's pop-up Christmas shop in Glasgow last year.

And this year they have been hard at work recording an album.

They already have more than enough songs but are beginning to pick and choose which ones they think best suit their sound and have the best chance of success.

It hasn't been easy but they finally feel ready to make their name all over the world.

Jay says: "We are working on the single and the album all the time."

"The aim is to bring out a single in the summer."

"Our motto is to make music that makes people want to get up



AMBITION . . . The Cutkelvins are aiming to build on their success after *X Factor*

and party — that's the vibe, to get up and dance and just feel it.

"Hopefully, we get some nice weather for people this summer to listen to it because it's perfect for that."

And the summer is shaping up to be a belter for the band as they begin to line up festival slots and Brandon's first gigs.

They're performing with

big names like The Vamps at South Tyneside Festival on July 15 and are in talks to perform further ashore in Gibraltar and the US.

Kyle admits it's all been great news for such a new band.

He says: "We've really not been doing it for very long but it's been absolutely amazing

to come so far in the space of just a year. Our first audition wasn't even 12 months ago and that was our very first performance together."

"To be honest, it only seems like a couple of weeks ago."

"The brilliant thing is we get to do it with family so we never feel like we're away from home."

"We feel like we are back in the house."

But home could be about to

change for the family as they consider a move to London to further their career.

Shereen says: "We record in Scotland as well but there's more opportunities in London so it might be easier."

"We'd move but we're still Scottish at heart."

● For more info on the band and to access their social media channels go to www.cutkelvins.com

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FRESH . . . group with new addition Brandon, back

Band of brothers (and sister!)



IBG

WHO: Liam McLaughlin (vocals/guitar), Danny Bonner (guitar), Andy McLuckie (bass/vocals), Martyn Stuart (drums)

WHERE: Glasgow

FOR FANS OF: The Fratellis, The View, The Coral
JIM SAYS: Debuting last year with the Picturesque EP, Glasgow indie-rocks IBG seemed to take a step back for a while. I'm delighted to say they've rediscovered their mojo, which they are calling their 'Passion Aggressive' project.

Latest single Homesick is another cracking track following in the wake of the outstanding Shooting Pains. Frontman Liam told me: "We felt like we took the foot off the gas a little bit in terms of releases after the EP. This year we have decided to start recording at every opportunity we get, bringing out plenty of new songs and videos. We are trying to release as much exciting new content as possible, as part of the Passion Aggressive project. It's a fitting name which we all liked, as making original music is our passion and we are going to keep it coming this year, and in the future. Maybe it could be the album title when we reach the 13th or 14th song?"

That's great news for anyone who's been enjoying their music as I do. They've got the



NEW MUSIC

By Jim Gellatly

knack for writing great hook-laden songs, and seem to get better with every release. It's no bad thing there's a certain rawness to the recordings... especially with so much over-produced pop music doing the rounds.

Liam said: "The songs have always had a raw sound, building on a simple melody. Most of the focus is on the lyrics — it has always been that way. It's varied, fast and slow, with some songs uplifting and leaning on the heavier side. Others are really gentle and meandering. I'd say over time we have developed our own sound. I like to keep my Glaswegian accent when singing and we make sure the words are always clear along-

side the instruments. It's music that we all enjoy playing, with styles taken from all our influences."

Those influences range from the classic sounds of The Kinks, Creedence Clearwater Revival and Pink Floyd, through to Arctic Monkeys. I'd heard IBG stands for I Belong To Glasgow — but it seems that's not the case.

Liam explained: "When we first started playing live we were under the name Illicit Bounty Gang. After a change of line-up, and some sober discussion we decided to shorten the name to IBG. We are all native Glaswegians so, in jest, we sometimes say it stands for I Belong to Glasgow but actually it can mean whatever you choose. Three simple letters, that's all."

IBG make their Scottish festival debut at ButeFest in Rothesay at the end of July along with the likes of Dougie MacLean, Mad Caddies, King Creosote and The Hoosiers. Liam teased: "We will also be supporting a hugely successful 90s band in Glasgow in September". An Oasis reunion finally on the cards then? Maybe not.

MORE: facebook.com/ibgband
● 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