

MUSIC

NOW BOOKING

THE SHERLOCKS

Nottingham



NOTTINGHAM bands Reflekter and Vega Bay, and Birmingham's Ivory Wave, will be on the bill when indie rockers The Sherlocks return to Nottingham this month. The Sherlocks' Brandon and Kieran Crook think it's important to give young acts a leg up

"Even if you play hundreds of your own gigs, being asked to support an established name is a chance to get your music in front of a bigger crowd," says Brandon.

"It happened to us in 2014 when Tom Clarke of The Enemy messaged us on Twitter to say we could have a slot with them. On the day of the gig, I picked Kieran up from school, still in his uniform, and we all drove up to Glasgow for the soundcheck."

Frontman Kieran, his brother and drummer Brandon, lead guitarist Josh Davidson and his brother and bassist Andy, are no strangers to Nottingham. They sold out Rock City in 2017.

"We always look forward to coming back," said Brandon, who along with the others has also appeared at Y Not and Dot to Dot Festivals. "We've been given some opportunities, but we have worked for every one of them," said Kieran.

"Some acts get thrown on to support arena tours on day one because of their record label, but you miss out on so much by doing that," he added.

Kieran turned 24 in November and bassist Andy is even younger, but this summer will mark the 10th anniversary of The Sherlocks.

Brandon says: "If things move too quickly then you risk disappearing as soon as you arrive. We look up to bands like Snow Patrol who took a decade to hit the big time, while Kings Of Leon sold more copies of their fourth album than the previous three combined," he added.

Earlier this month, the Bolton Upon Dearne band posted pictures on social media of them back in the studio, fuelling speculation about new music.

"We have about 18 to 20 potential songs to consider for our third album," said Kieran. "After our lighter, more melodic second record, we are now thinking of going back to a rockier sound."

This month, the band are releasing a new upbeat single called One Day.

Kieran: "I wrote it before our first album was released, but even then I knew that it was really a second record song, so it has been tucked away gathering dust and waiting for the call. Now it's time has come."

■ The Sherlocks play Rock City on Tuesday, February 25. Tickets: alttickets.com, £19.25.

'I am what I am and you get what you get'

From being a quarter of Eternal to footballer's wife to Strictly contestant, Louise Redknapp never stops. Now she's on the way to Nottingham's Rock City. She talks to **HELEN BARNES**

It's been 15 years since you've performed live - isn't it really nerve-wracking coming back after such a big break?

Yes, it is. I worry no-one's going to be interested that no-one's going to want to listen. It is completely nerve wracking, but I've done it at the end of the day because it's my passion, it's what I love and for the first time, in a long time, I've really had something to say.

What can the fans expect?

It's really important to me that this tour isn't nostalgic; it's about moving forward. I'm going to be doing all the old songs, lots of Eternal songs and lots from the new album, but I want it to feel current and up to date. I want fans to feel they know the music but that it's relevant in today's music scene.

Rock City is a legendary venue - have you heard about the new floor?

Yes, and I'm really looking forward to coming back to the city. Nottingham is a place I've not performed at for a long time.

Was it the writing that you missed? Is that what initiated the return to music?

No, I don't know. I had my kids, I was very content, then something happens in your life where creatively everything comes at once - the opportunities. I always say this, but timing is really important.

Were you ever tempted by The Big Reunion in 2013?

I did want to do a reality show - and I'd love to sing with the girls again - but I just didn't want to do that style of show where it wasn't just about the music.

When you tour, who will you take with you, apart from the band?

It depends. The kids will definitely come to a

number of them. But, because everyone I work with are such good friends, it's like a home from home anyway.

Speaking of friends, do you stay in touch with any others from school?

Yes, I'm in touch with all my school friends - my three closest friends are all friends from school. We've been friends since we were 10, so have been there every step of the way - we're just mates, regardless. I'm deeply proud of what they have achieved, and they are of me, but when we are all together it doesn't matter what any of us have done - we are just mates from when we were kids.

Congratulations on Strictly. Have you used any of the dance moves you learned on the show in your tour?

NO! The foxtrott or samba will not be appearing! I haven't done any Strictly-style dancing since I finished the show.

Ronan returns to region

MARK the date in your diary: Ronan Keating is back, and he's heading for the Midlands in June.

Celebrating 20 years of solo success with a new album and tour, he'll be in Nottingham and Birmingham following the release of his new album *Twenty Twenty* on Friday, May 1.

Ronan describes his new record as "a greatest hits of brand new music".

For the album Keating has dived into his back catalogue and revisited three of his biggest hits -

Life Is A Rollercoaster, *Lovin' Each Day* and his debut solo single *When You Say Nothing At All*.

And, for some of the new tracks, he's called in some friends - the first, Emeli Sandé.

■ You can see Ronan Keating performing onstage on tour on Tuesday, June 16, at Symphony Hall, Birmingham (thsh.co.uk/symphony-hall), and on Thursday, June 18, at Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham (trch.co.uk/).

Ronan Keating

