

# What's On

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## Edgar Road follow in the path of Kaiser Chiefs

FOLLOWING in the footsteps of Leeds rockers Kaiser Chiefs has taken a Moray band on their own musical journey.

Edgar Road are an Elgin five-piece whose original members all attended Elgin High School - hence the street name.

Formed three years ago, the group began to build up a following in 2014 after the addition of Polish keyboard player Maggie Wellenger to their ranks.

Completing the line-up are singer and songwriter Mark Conti, lead guitarist Simon Watterson, bassist Mike Bylers and drummer Allan Hall, making up a band who have been enjoying a successful year.

In October, they will record their second EP at the Chairworks recording studio in Leeds with a producer who has just helped Kaiser Chiefs finish off their latest album.

But that's not all Edgar Road share in common with Ricky Wilson's I Predict A Riot rockers. The Moray band recently played the Tartan Heart Festival at Belladrum, where the Kaisers headlined last summer.

"We've actually done a couple of festivals this year, as we've just done Jocktoberfest at the Black Isle



Edgar Road at Jocktoberfest, from left: Maggie Wellenger, Mark Conti, Allan Hall, Mike Bylers and Simon Watterson.

Brewery," said bass player Mike.

"Belladrum was the biggest gig we've had so far and we really enjoyed it, but Jocktoberfest was probably the best.

"It's nice playing festivals. We've got songs we are working on and when you've got 45 minutes at a festival you can go out there and play your best songs, and then go and enjoy the rest of the bands."

Maggie was recruited to the band soon after arriving in Scotland. Back

home in Poland she received her primary and secondary education at a specific music school.

"So I've been trained in music for all my life," she said. "I got a call from Mark and a few days later I found myself in the garage practising away with the band."

Mike added: "The rest of us in the band aren't trained musically so we just do something that sounds good and Maggie is better on the technical side."

Maggie not only plays keyboards and provides backing vocals but she does the band's musical arrangements. She also took Edgar Road to Poland earlier this year to record their first five-track EP All About Everything which has proved popular with their growing support.

Another notch in the group's belt came when they entered the Soundwave music competition in Glasgow which offered a chance for the finalists to perform live at the city's O2 Arena.

"We went down to Glasgow for an audition and we've just heard we've got through to the next stage," said Mike.

"That was closed doors, the next one is in front of an audience at the start of October."

Edgar Road's musical influences include U2 and Marillion, but Maggie says they are keen not to draw too many comparisons.

"I think our sound is unique for the market around here. It's a very specific sound, our own sound that people recognise as Edgar Road."

For more information, videos and recordings by the band, visit their website or Facebook and Twitter pages.