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Life, but not as you know it



SONG QUEST: Biscuithead and the Biscuit Badgers

Cockroaches for Badgers

THE popular Leeds beat combo Biscuithead and the Biscuit Badgers have opened a new chapter in the history of participatory music-making by inviting anybody interested to suggest subjects for songs on their next album.

The rewards (various promotional goodies plus a kind of immortality through a mention on the finished recording) are great, but the task, if you know the ways of the Badgers, is even greater.

I mean, 'my girlfriend's left me' or 'isn't spring lovely?' won't really cut

it; the Biscuits, when it comes to exploring difficult subjects through the use of tubas, ukuleles, drums, keyboards and moustaches, tend to skirt round the bleeding obvious. Their songs so far have covered, among other things, land hermit crabs, Runcorn, flea-beetles, cheese, gloves and the immortal blond-haired heart-throb, the late Doug McClure.

So, trying to look inside the Badgers' minds, you could pick an easy, populist subject which will please everybody (cheese or Doug

McClure for example), or go for something esoteric and obscure along the lines of land hermit crabs or Runcorn.

My own choice would be a song about the Madagascan hissing cockroach, incorporating authentic sound effects and maybe demonstrating some of the simple tricks these affectionate and charming insects can apparently be trained to perform. (And please ignore the crassly insensitive link to Rentokil which appears on one hissing cockroach webpage).