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Avast success: Pete Hefferan (second right) is happy with the band's progress

FIVE QUESTIONS FOR... PETE & THE PIRATES

Pete Hefferan is co-frontman of Pete & The Pirates, a Reading quintet who have been making waves with the dark-tinged harmonies and jangly punk of their DIY single releases. They release their debut album, *Little Death*, on February 18.

Did growing up in Reading have an effect on the band? There were no real gangs or clubs, and because a lot of our friends weren't really into music, we kind of just ended up sitting around and playing music together.

Are you daunted about being tipped for success this year? I'm excited about it, really; it's only daunting if you're worried about letting people down.

Are you looking forward to getting the album out? It's been recorded since last year, and we've been putting the finishing touches to it, so I think we're all looking forward to getting it out now. I'm quite proud of it. We did it all in a two-week burst.

It was good to do it in such a short amount of time as it forces you to be more creative; it gives the album a certain feel.

Would you say you're influenced more by American than British bands? We've all got different influences, but a lot of us do like old-school American indie rather than modern British stuff; bands like Pavement and Sebadoh. I think the other thing is that because there's five of us with different influences, it does stretch the band in a lot of directions. We have Beach Boys fans and Aphex Twin fans in the same band.

Is it true that you all write a lot? Dave, our guitarist, has got thousands of songs he's been recording over the years, and we're all the same. In fact, I bet some of them are recording while I'm talking to you. If you asked us to record another album now, we could do it.

Aaron Lavery

Fri, The Bodega Social Club, 23 Pelham Street, Nottingham, 7pm, £7 adv. Tel: 0115 950 5078. www.myspace.com/peteandthepirates

APPETISERS FOOD AND DRINK NEWS WITH ZOFIA NIEMTUS

■ The latest edition of the Michelin Guide Great Britain And Ireland 2008 includes a new accolade for Matlock's The Druid Inn (pictured).

The family-run gastropub, originally built in 1607, has been awarded a Bib Gourmand for chef Michael Thompson's reasonably priced contemporary British menu.

Main Street, Birchover, Matlock, food served Mon to Thu noon to 2.30pm and 6pm to 9pm, Fri and Sat noon to 2.30pm and 6pm to 9.30pm, Sun noon to 3pm. Tel: 01629 650302. www.thedruidinn.co.uk



■ For any disorganised (and wealthy) romantics, Nottingham's Michelin-starred Restaurant Sat Bains With Rooms is auctioning its final table for Valentine's Day to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. The prize

includes the full tasting menu plus champagne, wine and coffee for two. Bidding opens at £300 (e-mail Amanda at info@restaurantsatbains.net for details). The winner will be announced next Wednesday at noon.

Feb 14, Lenton Lane, Nottingham, 7pm to 9.30pm. Tel: 0115 986 6566. www.restaurantsatbains.com

zofia.niemtus@ukmetro.co.uk

■ Chino Latino has launched a takeaway service for its lunchtime bento boxes. The Japanese-style containers hold four dishes, and diners can choose from spicy,

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(see page 27 for further details)

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