

FOLK North West

Summer 1990 60p



BLACK FAMILY INTERVIEW - Part 2

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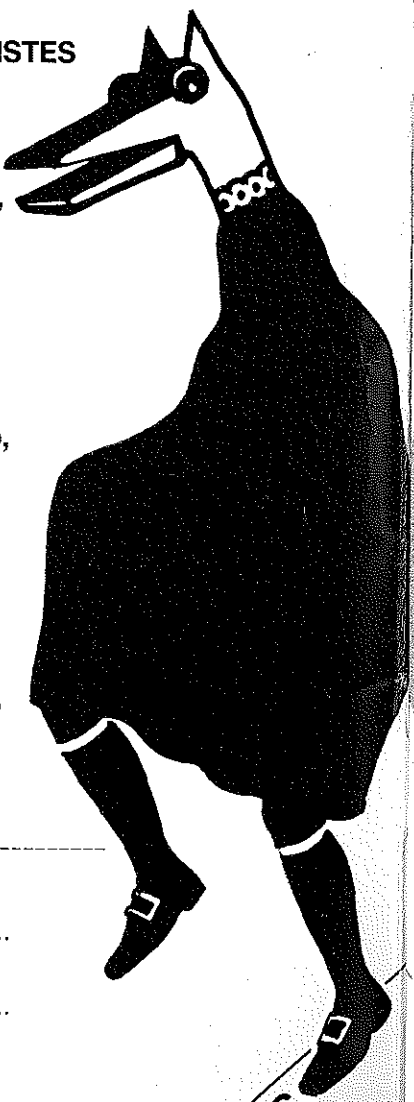
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The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of either the Editor or of the Federation.

The Editor accepts no responsibility for contributions claimed to be original or for any inaccuracies therein.

EDITORIAL

WELCOME to the latest issue of Folk North-West. First of all, some apologies for the non-appearance of some of our regular features in this issue. Sara Grey is on tour abroad at present and thus was unable to contribute her usual Youth Page. There was very little Tours News this issue, and due to pressure of space, I'm afraid that even what little there was has been pushed out. Both will be back next issue.

The good news however is that there are several new features in this issue. Tony Gibbons introduces his new feature "CLUBSCENE" on page 8. This is a replacement for the Club of the Month feature, but in a more objective form that will allow us to give more information about more clubs each issue.

The second new feature is entitled "DANCEABOUT" which is being written by Roy Smith and will give News &

Views on Social, Clog, Morris & Sword Dance throughout the North-West. If there is enough interest, we could consider adding a similar feature to CLUBSCENE as well. We've also got Bluegrass News, and of course all our regular features and it is packed with Club Dates and News as always.

I've been told I should keep this short & snappy, so there it is! See you all again in September at The Fylde Festival!

Nigel Firth
EDITOR

CLOSING DATE for our next issue which covers DECEMBER/JANUARY/FEBRUARY is OCTOBER 25th

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OUT & ABOUT with Nat ClareBONNIE DUNDEE.

I remember vividly, sitting in my primary school class room and pathetically miming to "up wi' the bonnets O' Bonnie Dundee" on a sing-a-long folk type radio programme, that hopefully died out when Bill and Ben received their M.B.E.s and were pensioned off to the House Of Lords. Dundee for me, and the rest of my clueless classmates - could have been in outer space for all we knew and "bonnets" were the things the wolf wore, trying to convince Red Riding Hood that he was her Grandma. More relevant to us fledgling songsters, might have been "up wi' th' flat caps o' t' Bowton cloggers" but alas such relevance was unheard of in education both then and now.

Still, now I'm (more) grown up, I know Dundee to be a North of the border location slightly more attractive than "good owd Bowton" and to add to its already stupendous reputation, Dundee Repertory Theatre is holding a Folk Festival from the 11th to 14th of July.

There will be four nights of live musical entertainment for folk-lovers everywhere! Concerts... Ceilidhs...singarounds...." The line-up includes Battlefield Band, Gaberlunzie, Fuaim, Dougie McLean, Coelberg and the Dundee Strathspey and Reel Society fiddling their collective fingers off. I'll raise my bonnet to that!

TUNE IN TO THE HOLME SERVICE.

Remember when radios used to look like radios and not little spongy things that you stick in your bodily orifices. Now you sit in your railway carriage, oblivious to all but the monotonous mega-pop pumped out by some faceless, mindless, and talentless Joss Dickey? Well those were the days eh? You could leave your front door open without fear of your radio being stolen - there is no way that the burglars could have lifted it!

And now we have a new Holme (sic) service that offers folksters an opportunity to get their hands on "Music you can't buy in the shops". The Holme service produce a mail order catalogue of very interesting tapes, records, and books giving the customer an opportunity to track down elusive albums or books and discover new musical horizons, perhaps?

Potential customers can obtain a FREE copy of the catalogue by sending their name and address to: "The Holme Service", 80 High Street, Holme-on-Spalding-Moor, East Yorkshire, YO4 4AA. Go on - try it and the next time you see someone wearing a personal stereo-stick it somewhere else and make it a very PERSONAL stereo!

SCHOOLS FOR SCANDAL?

I may have gone madly nostalgic this edition - but didn't universities used to be the place where the class swot went to study the "Techno Physio-Sociometric properties of Toe Nail Clippings"? Well not any more, pal!

This summer Salford University is holding its amazing Arts Summer School offering short courses for enthusiastic amateurs. Of special interest to us Folkies are the Folk Singing Course, (including a tutorial on which ear to stick your finger in?) which takes place on the 21st and 22nd of July. The course is aimed at people who like to sing Folk songs and who would like to improve their performance by using "Techniques and interpretations within an oral and rural setting." (I am lost already) The course tutor is Terry Whelan, well known to Manchester folkies with long memories. The course sounds great the only drawback is the 0 fee- anyone want to sponsor me?

If singing is not your scene, how about the Folk Dance and Music School from the 21st to the 24th of July? It is a practical course concentrating on the various aspects of English traditional social and display dance. It also offers musicians

an opportunity to learn more about the performance of dance related music, style and repertoire. The course tutors are Milly Chadband, Peter McLoughlin, Steve Burgess, Jamie Knowles and Brian Peters. Further info from Carol Smith, Continuing Education Officer, University Of Salford, Salford M5 4WT. TEL: 061 745 5069

THE BUZZ.

Not the thing you go home on when you have had fifteen pints but Agraman's (the human anagram's) roots music and comedy club at the Southern Hotel, Nell Lane, Chorlton, every Thursday at 8.30. Now you can also hear the Buzz on KFM with hot new music and top new comedy. So if you like Cajun, Comedy Bluegrass, blues or folk, or just a real good time- get on the Buzz before three come along at once.

"THAT P.A WAS A LOAD OF...COMPOST!"

Are you are a timid wee folkie, given to performing versions of Icelandic lullabies in your local wine bar, populated by Stock-Aitkin and Winterfly-type lager clones? Then why not hire a P.A system, an 8 way monitor mix and a lighting bank from "Compost". who have moved to larger premises at 11 Page Moss Parade. Huyton, Merseyside L36 2PA.

BILLINGTON RESCHEDULED... SHOCK! HORROR!

Our local, lovable, medieval minstrel, Mike Billington, has had his new programme "revised" now "World Music Unlimited" will broadcast Sundays 8-11pm/ Mondays 9-11pm and Thursdays 9-11pm, on FM104.9 (permanent waves). Listen to it and write to us letting us know what you think.

EXCELLENT YOUNG TALENT!

I bet you thought that this was some pervy, sexist sub- Bernard Manning (if that's possible) ploy to get your attention. well you are wrong! It refers to the wealth of young folk talent appearing at the Beverley Folk Festival, taking place over the

weekend of 15th to 17th of June, which includes Simon Thoumire, winner of the 1989 "Young Tradition Award" and finalist Lee Willinson. Whatever the tabloids say not all young kids are glue-sniffing anarchists. Beverley really is a family Festival

The line up is varied, impressive and much too long to list but suffice to say that last years festival sold out so why not book early? If "Folk North West" goes to press after the Festival- book really early and get the best camp- site for next year.

GET THE LEAD OUT.

If you have not yet visited the Leadmill in Sheffield, then you are missing some excellent world music and international sounds. How about Jaleo- Spanish Flamenco- on Tuesday 19th June? Hank Wangford (never try to say that after a pint of scrumpy with vicar) and Edward 11 and the Red Hot Polkas, Sunday July 22nd or the Albion Band on Sunday 23rd September? More info from Sara Unwin, (Mondays only) or Mark Pemberton on (0742 754500).

LA CIAPA RUSA

No, not the name of a pizza parlour or a seedy time share company but a six piece traditional Italian Folk Band. How do you like "Pittero" and "Musa"? with a little parmesan cheese. I hear you say. Well for the natural ignoramuses out there (including me) the pifero is a small reed instrument and the musa is the Italian bagpipe. They will be on tour from Friday 24th August - Sunday 2nd September. It will be interesting and unusual.

REED ON.

The mega-accordion trio of John Kirkpatrick, Mark Perrone and Riccardo Tessi are all set to return in the autumn. They will be back in September, so if you would like them to play at your wedding, Barmitzvah, or celebrations at selling your house then book them from Adastra on 037781 662.

The Seventh Merseyside International Festival Of Sea Music 1990.

Let's hope for a fair wind for this years festival, taking place on Saturday 23rd June and Sunday 24th June 1990. The venue will be most appropriate, Canning Dock in the Maritime Museum, adjoining the famous Albert Dock, Liverpool.

Tony Davis of the Spinners has again assembled a fine body of would- be sailors to perform their shanties, forebitters and dances. Look out for the Marske Fishermen's Choir, the authentic shanty crew, Hearts Of Oak, Bob Webb from Massachusetts, Johnny Handle, the venerable Stan Hugill, stormalong John and Tony Davies' own ship-mates.

The festival opens at noon on Saturday and continues until 5pm. A "Dance and Skylark!" is arranged for the evening. On sunday there will be a seamen's service on board at 11am and the festival will close at 4pm. Further details available on 051-639-2265. Recommended foe land- lubbers and sea-farers alike!

For more information on these items, please contact the club organiser (page 31 for numbers)

The CROSS KEYS celebrate their second anniversary on July 4th when their guest will be Alan Taylor. Please note Phil & Alison have moved, and their new number is listed on the Clubs' page.

WIGAN are changing their night, by popular request and on the suggestion of the landlord from Tuesday to Sunday as from July. They will continue to offer the best of local & national guests.

The BOTHY are temporarily dispossessed at the moment due to extensive refurbishment of the Blundell Arms. Until the end of June they can be found at "Our Lady of Lourdes" club, Liverpool Road, Birkdale.

Maghull switches to a "Singers Club" from the end of June, but they will be having FREE guest nights on other evenings every six weeks or so for members only. First free guests are the WILSON FAMILY on August 17th.

Also from Adastra you could be the first Folk club in the Federation to really get stuck into Europe as 1992 approaches, by booking "La Musguna" an exciting band from central Spain (I hope its not a revenge mission for all the ...heads we send to Benidorm every year!)

Finally you could do worse than trying to get French singer/guitarist Gabriel Yaiovb, the legendary Alan Shivells backing guitarist, who will be over here in Nov/Dec. Contact Adastra for more information.

EVERY PRESTON GUILD.

Are you old enough to remember Lonnie Donegan and his skiffle group or young enough to be thrilled to nappy-wetting excitement by "Button Moon and the Moon Monsters? Well both of these interesting, aesthetic experiences could have been undergone by paying a visit to Preston Guildhall in the last couple of months.

For those whose age falls somewhere sandwiched between the above have been some intriguing little programmes of more than passing interest to those of you who are saturated thoroughly and exclusively by all things folk. You could have seen the "Chieftains", Stanley Houghtons classic Lancashire comedy "Hindlewakes" and even Mike Hardings lecture on the Himalayas! Send for a programme so you do not miss anything else. TEL:0772 203456.

AN A" THAT.....

If you are a Scottish exile living South of the Border, either through choice or necessity (nice Robbie Coltrane line the other day " In Glasgow if they like you ... they let you live!") then the home sickness might be slightly abated by scouring a copy of the Scottish Folk Arts Directory, 1990 a snip at .75 from S.F.A.G. 49 Blackfriars Street, Edinburgh EH1 1NB .

If you have nothing better to do write to me with news and info. See ya after the leaves fall and the drought.

Welcome to a new magazine feature! Not to be confused with the old "CLUB OF THE MONTH", which was basically a self-advert for the club in question, being written by the organiser of that particular club. Nothing wrong with that, I suppose, but there was a feeling that an independent view of each club would be much more interesting and, dare I say it, honest! So yours truly has volunteered to visit every member club until each one has been covered.

The idea is not to review the guests or singers on any particular night - instead I shall be commenting on an atmosphere, room, the welcome one can expect, access, travel distance, club policy, etc.. One thing I will definitely not be commenting on is the beer - I don't think this has any relevance to the music/song/dance etc. that goes on in the club. I would hope that my comments - albeit personal opinion - might encourage some people to consider visiting a certain club. After all, most clubs are well within an hour's drive for the vast majority of us. Even the furthest clubs can be reached in about two hours.

Following Mally Dow's excellent letter in a previous issue, I shall probably make comment on access/non-access for physically disabled people - a subject dear to my heart. I appreciate that in most cases the best rooms acoustically are either upstairs or in some inaccessible part of the premises where the club is held - it's almost Utopia to find somewhere ideal for all sections. However, I shall mention any that pose extreme problems - I'm sure there are people out there who would be interested to know.

Please bear with me. I hope not to upset too many organisers if my opinions hit a raw nerve - the idea is to encourage people to try your club, but a little constructive criticism should be welcome!

TONY GIBBONS.

CLUB RESIDENTS:

BEE -
The Beez Knees
BLACKBURN -
Flatbroke
BOTHY -
Clive Pownceby, Pete Rimmer, Ray Rooney, Bev Saunders, Neville Grundy, Keith Mandle
CROSS KEYS -
Phil Chadwick & Alison Dean
DARWEN -
Annie, Bernadette & Graham Dixon
EAGLE & CHILD -
Caught on the Hop, Quartz, Colin & Jean
FOLK AT THE NEST -
The New Seven Stars Band
FLEETWOOD -
Spitting on a Roast
HORWICH -
Joyce Riding, Tom Ferber
LEIGH -
Calico, Pennygate, One Two Many
LLANDUDNO -
The Rambling Boys
MAGAZINE -
Dave Locke, Ranting Sleazos, Jack Coutts, Frank & Helen McCall, Gill Burns, Adrienne Coutts
MAGHULL -
Gordon Mackenzie, Harry Forsythe, Dave Day, Tony Hughes, Mike Lennon, Len Nolan, Pete Jackson & Cathy, Phil Boardman & Harry Hayes, Chris Kelly, Neal Higgins, Alan & Steve.
NORTHWICH -
Sandy & Sean Boyle, Tony Howard, Sarah Burdon, Ian Sherwood, Jamie Anderson, Graham Sowerby
RAINHILL -
Colin & Jean
RAVE ON -
Full House
RED LION -
Auld Triangle
ROCHDALE -
Chrissy Waldren
ST. ALBANS -
Heirloom
TRITON -
Ages Apart, Chris Lock, Neil Higgins
YARROW VALLEY -
Derek Gifford, Phil Hartley, Nothing Yet
WHITE SWAN -
Dave & Helen Howard, Plan B, Maggie Billington, Graham Shaw, Dave Vaughan, Maureen Hotham
WIGAN -
Joan Blackburn, Lawrence Hoy

PRESTON Folk Club Mondays

My first port of call was the "UNICORN", Garstang Road, Preston. The club has recently moved there after many years at the Lamb Hotel. Although it is not a central as the Lamb, it's quite easy to find - just off the ring road. Lots of car parking space courtesy of an adjoining superstore! The pub itself is quite large - the club room is situated above.

Lots of stairs to climb, I am afraid. The room itself is a good size, holding about 50-60 in comfort, with a fair sized stage at the far end. There is a bar in the room which is not used on club nights.

On the night of my visit there was a guest group - "Gentlemen Soldier" from Manchester, who played to an almost full house. Apparently the attendances have been very encouraging at the new venue. What I particularly liked was the strong nucleus of resident singers and musicians including Hugh O" Donnell, Tom Walsh, Steve and Liz Turner, etc. This has always been one of the strengths of the Preston club - a high standard of resident singers and musicians.

The residents kick off with an informal session - they even let me join in! Singers, musicians, poets etc are always welcome on singers and guest nights.

I found the atmosphere very friendly, the night well-organised and, all in all, a very enjoyable club.

It only took me forty minutes from Liverpool in my old Fiesta - I bet a lot of you well-heeled yuppies can get there a lot quicker! Highly recommended, but make sure you are fit for the trek to the bar!

Tony Gibbons.

THE CASTLE, Halton Runcorn - Wednesdays

Just picture the scene - a magnificent stone-built 18th century pub adjoining the ruins of an ancient castle, with superb views of the surrounding countryside. Upstairs, a comfortable - sized room housing the folk club, with a side room containing the bar - I could even tune up in there without driving people mad!

The main room will hold about 60. What I like about this club is the easy-going atmosphere and good-natured banter. Nobody is a "star" - everyone is there just for the pleasure of being part of it. There are a number of residents including Bob O" Callaghan, Bob Elliot, Chris & Carol, Terry, John, Dave, Norman, and Albert the demon fiddler! Everything is so laid back - I have always felt completely at ease whether as a guest or paying customer.

Guests are featured once a fortnight, both local and national, with the other nights reserved for anyone who wants to come along and do their bit. Having said that, if anyone turns up on a guest night and wants to perform, I do know that the residents are quite happy to let visitors take precedence - not always the case in some clubs! The club are also keen on club swaps - Maghull had a cracking night there a few months ago. I personally think its one of the best club around - there is no set policy on what kind of music you perform. Anything goes, in fact!

My only criticisms are (again) the stairs and narrow passage, and actually finding the place! After all this time, I still get confused looking for it. However, I'm sure if you phone Bob O" Callaghan (051 424 5367) he would be only too glad to give you directions. It will be well worth it! Travelling time from Maghull by car - about 30 minutes. Not too far from anywhere, really.

Tony Gibbons.



This interview by Tony Gibbons began last issue; that part was mainly concerned with how Shay and his family became involved in the folk scene. In this second part, Shay Black brings us right up to date with what both he and his family are doing now:

TG. You are obviously still based in Liverpool, involved in the local scene. What about the rest of the family?

SHAY. Obviously, Mary has her own career, fronting her own band. She is so busy in Ireland and elsewhere, plus the fact she has three children of her own. It was, and is, a bonus when we all got together to do the record and tour. Michael is based at Berkeley University, California, though he has taken time off to teach P.E. in Limerick. He is very involved in traditional music in the States and performs regularly in San Francisco. Martin still lives in Charlmont Street in Dublin - he's turned the family grocery store into a bicycle sales/repair shop. Frances has been working with the traditional band "ARCADY", led by ex-DE DANNAN bodhran master Johnny Ringo" McDonagh. She also performs solo, backed by Pat Armstrong. So you can see, we're all quite busy in our own way.

TG. Very briefly, what about the new album?

SHAY. It's titled "Time for Touching Home", which is line from one of songs on it ("FIRST CHRISTMAS" by Stan Rogers). Although the album is by the BLACK FAMILY, and features Mary on every track bar one, she isn't on the cover photos! There are a few reasons for this. Basically, "THE BLACK FAMILY" as a touring band are the four of us, minus Mary. She is so committed to her own career, and so busy, that her schedule just wouldn't allow the whole family to tour together. Secondly, we knew that with her name, we could practically sell out every gig. Therefore we decided to try and succeed on our own ability without relying on Mary's name.

TG. Well, having heard the album and thoroughly enjoyed it, it only remains for me to ask - will we see the "BLACK FAMILY" over here?

SHAY. Well, you never know! Obviously it would depend on various things like availability and also what offers came along. It would be very nice, though, to do a few festivals or concerts - that's not really up to us, it's up to promoters and organisers.

TG. Thanks for all your time.

SHAY. You're welcome.

NB. Just a few short weeks after this interview, Kevin Black passed away following a long illness. I'm sure everyone will join me in expressing our deepest sympathy to all the Black family in their time of sorrow. I can only add that he's left behind a great legacy of music and song, through his enormously talented children.

"We would like to try out a new idea. A sort of "Dance news item" and I wondered if you would have a go at it" "Oh aye! When do you want it for? Well about ten days ago really!"

That was the launch of a page in "Folk North West" to be devoted to news from the social dance side of things, as well as from the local Morris, Sword and Clog teams. How far have I got with it? Well, all I can work on at the moment is what I know is planned. You may know of other things, So... I am going to be reliant upon you people out there to keep me aware on what is going on, and what is being planned ahead. Information can be sent via the editor or - better still - sent direct to me at 7 Southgate, Fullwood, Preston, PR2 3HX. Tel: 0772 716772.

Now, where to begin! It used to be said that all the social dance clubs went into summer hibernation around about Easter time. Not any more though: Many remain active for most of the summer too and some such as Bolton FDC, produce a hand-out with all the dates.

One rare opportunity - which you will have missed by the time you read this! - was the visit of the American caller Bill Litchunan. He was scheduled to do just three events on this years visit throughout the North West, and Houghton FDC were hosting one of them. The same club has another, very different, event planned for Tuesday 19th June: This is an evening meal at Alston Hall - the adult education place near Longridge which also serves excellent food! - followed by a fairly light hearted look at "100 years of Morris dancing in Leyland". Booking is essential, so ring Preston 0772 716772 or Houghton 2907. Maybe not an event of universal appeal, but certainly something different. Too many people have moaned about there not being enough done in this way. I wonder how many of those people will make sure they are at the

event - or ask for something similar to be put on at another venue?.. Why pay for someone to travel up from London to deliver some VW memorial Library Lecture when there's material and speakers available locally.

Other coming social dance events I can think of at short notice are: The Open Air Barn Dance at Lytham Town Centre on 23rd June, with Toll Bar Band; a weekend at Aston Hall 20-22nd July and 28th July to 4th August; and the Lancaster Folklore Fiesta on Mon 20th Aug. which also includes some of the visiting foreign teams.

Turning to the Morris /Sword /Clog scene I will not list the events you have already missed! Sufficient to say that the early spell of fine weather gave a good start to the "outdoor" season- which included Horwich Morrismen's Day for St. George with six North West style teams present, and Southport Swords annual Day of Dance.

June, of course, is the peak demand time for the teams with an abundance of fetes and galas, festivals and garden parties going on locally, and the folk festivals in full swing far and wide. I think Horwich where going up to Alwick again; Houghton Rapper are travelling down to the Greensleeves weekend; Lancashire Wallopers are due at the Redcar folk festival in mid July (after their early May jaunt to Eastbourne) and Leyland will be spending their summer holiday in the Loire Valley of Western France again with Group Felix Landreau. Their interpreter has had to pull out of the trip, so if any of you fancy a trip with them.....!!

Roy Smith.

P.S. Don't miss the opportunity to witness the appearance of the Abram Morris Dancers, Saturday 30th June is the date when they are dancing all around Abram. (Further details from Jim Fox, 0204 55143).

After all the waiting, I found the Rhythms of the World piece rather underwhelming. It somehow failed to get over the drive and enthusiasm of the featured bands. Perhaps because they spent more times on interviews than with world music bands in the series - and cut each music sequence much shorter. It also failed to do what it claimed - placing the English Dance revival. And what about English song revival?

Rather more interesting was the Kaleidoscope piece on acapella bands - partly produced in response to reaction when they left English folk completely out of an earlier piece. Artisan came over well, talking intelligently and singing as well as ever. Also on 4 were two interesting pieces. Richard Baker in his Comparing Notes, talked to pipers Liam O'Flynn and Kathryn Tickell. This will have been missed by most listeners as it goes out at 4pm on a Thursday. Prior to the repeat was an unusual programme. "All in a Sailor's Chest", written by Sam Richards, was an impression of a deep sea sailor in the great days of sail, complete with shanties.

BSB sent their first month's schedules: Folk music is noticeable by its absence. The commercial music POWER channel, includes World music and New Country. NOW, which stops being Lifestyle for the weekends and becomes Arts, has two programmes which concentrate on the precious end of the arts: "ballet, opera, concerts"

Back in larger audience areas, GMR haven't reneged on their promise of a folk show from May, just rescheduled it to September. Please keep writing to remind them the audience is feeling deprived.

The new R2 Arts shows - 10pm to midnight at weekends- includes a regional effort every Friday. The Scots and Irish ones have included folk music, and the producer for Manchester, Mark Radcliffe, considers folk an art.

Folkwear.

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"Most impressive", Jim Lloyd, *Folk on 2*.

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3rd, 4th & 5th AUGUST 1990

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Weekend tickets : £16 (£14 before 30th June)
 Day and event tickets also available
 Children under 10 free : 10 - 15 half price

Details : Festival Office, 19 Front Street, Plty Me,
 Durham DH1 5DT Tel : 091 384 4445

The light nights and good weather have arrived at last. My mind wanders off remembering the long warm nights of the festivals of last year and the fabulous music and musicians that we met, and I cannot wait for June when we go off again on our travels.

By the time the newsletter arrives on your door you will just have time to pack the tent, load the family into the car and head for the lovely village of Edale in Derbyshire for their Bluegrass Festival from 1 - 3rd June. There you can see one of Americas top bands "Nashville Bluegrass Band" who are heading this year. Also on the programme are many English bands, contact for the festival is Tom Travis 04578 61789.

June 22-24th is Ironbridge Roots and Bluegrass Festival. Friday is mainly roots music with Joe Anne-Kelly who is England's finest lady blues singer. Among other artists on the Friday are Thomas Martin from Birmingham and Terry Clark from Reading. The Saturday night headliners are another fine band from America "Live Wire", a 5 piece B/Grass band and with the pick of the English bands it will make a superb Saturday concert contact Mal Salisbury 0952 727698.

After the festival "Live Wire" are touring the U.K; only dates nearby are 25th June at York, contact Chris Lawrence 0904 628442; and 26th at the Theatre Clwyd, contact John Prytherch 0745 825306. John is also the organiser of the Abergele festival July 20 -22nd and if you like your music played in the old time style then this is YOUR festival. A large part of the festival will be devoted to old time music, hoe down's, clog dancing. This is one of the friendliest festivals you can visit, set high up in the mountains of Wales but not too far from Abergele for your family.

I will be at all three festivals so come by the stall/tent and say "Hello".
Dave.(from Frets old and new).

Don't these notes come round frequently!! This time things are even more hectic because my workplace has moved from Liverpool to Warrington with the chaos that moving 200 people around normally creates. We have been there about 4 weeks so hopefully things will soon be back to normal.

Well, the Festival Season is upon us again! Last year I managed 9, some with her who must be obeyed and some for which I was given a "48 hour pass" where I was allowed to take my tent and go alone. This year it looks like I will miss Holmfirth but, hopefully coming up there is Edale, the re-timed Chester, and Wigan, when Bernie seems to have assembled a really good line up. If you didn't get there last year, I can tell you its a terrific venue (50 yards from bar to bed!!), there's hot water and flush toilets. Why not give it a try this time? I want to try some new ones - watch for reports in future issues.

Clubs? Well since the last magazine I have been to Maghull (weekly!!), the "Castle" at Runcorn (one of the friendliest ever), the Nantwich club (to hear Tony Gibbons new cittern) and a couple of others. Everyone seems in good heart and there is even a hint of audiences increasing.

I attended a North West Arts meeting in Manchester on your behalf and it was very constructive. Once I receive the minutes I will give you an outline of what went on. There may be something for both clubs and festivals.

I am still looking for a Fund-Raiser - any volunteers? This is to raise funds to put straight back into folk activities in our clubs. Come on, there must be one genius at money extraction out there.

Have a good summer and bring all your friends to the clubs in the Autumn.

Dave Day

Kath Holden Interviews the Festival Organisers This Issue: Bernie Forkin (Billinge)

Wigan Folk Festival is in its fifth year. I spoke to Director Bernie Forkin about the evolution from a day to a full weekend.

KATH. How did the first one happen?

BERNIE. It started as the Billinge day of folk - I suppose a sort of extension of the folk club based around the Club acts. We also booked Johnny Collins, Strawhead and Bryony plus good local acts.

KATH. Did you make a more conscious effort to book more national guests for the second?

BERNIE. We've always stuck with the locals - and I think you'll find most festivals are built on a solid bedrock of local artists. However, the second was more of a fun day with Maxi & Mitch, Bernard Wrigley and the Doonan Family - just as well as it bucketed down!

KATH. Why the move to Wigan Pier for number three?

BERNIE. We weren't too happy with the second venue; Wigan offered the Pier for a one day event, which was an overall success apart from the odd hiccup. The evening concert with Gregson & Collister was terrific. The Council was happy with that and offered Lowton Civic Hall for a weekend.

KATH. Are you happy with the venue?

BERNIE. Lowton has everything you could ask, with excellent facilities for the disabled. The campsite is big and well serviced by the Council. I haven't seen a better self-contained festival site without having to erect marquees etc anywhere.

KATH. This years line up - Rick Kemp, Maddy Prior, Phil Cunningham, Aly Bain.....?

BERNIE. The main thing as far as we're concerned with is to provide variety, we're only lacking a good world roots act but there was none readily available and affordable.

KATH. And there's something for everyone?

BERNIE. Loads of workshops, loads of singarounds. The dance element will be expanded this year with the help of Dave Shotliffe.

KATH. How are ticket sales going?

BERNIE. They're up on last year and we have every confidence all will go well, but we would like to see a bigger turn out from our locals. After all it's them we're trying hardest to please.

KATH. Bouquet time I think -

BERNIE. An event is easy to organise when you've got good solid help and support. Pete and Judith Gleave do the stewarding rota; Alan and Margaret Marsden do the craft fair. Colin and Jean do publicity, accommodation and going round the local clubs, Julie Padgett - sales for the programme and Dave Shotliffe the dance. Last but not least as they say my other half - Angela who does mounds of work and phone answering.

KATH. I can't resist the last word Come on folks lets cast off our apathy and lethargy and support our local Festivals

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BEE BLACKBURN EDGAR'S EIGHT NORTHWICH POTTERIES RED LION BREWERY ARTS	Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night No Dates TONI BUNNELL CLOSED	PETE COE RADOUX Singers' Night LES BARKER and () THE BURGLARS	Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night HARRY-CA-NAB ALY BAIN & PHI (n)	Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night BLUES 'N' TROUBLE	BRAM TAYLOR Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night POOR MOUTH
SATURDAY	2ND	9TH	16TH	23RD	30TH
BURY POYNTON ST. ALBANS SOUTHPORT ARTS	CLOSED RORY McCLEOD + (k) CLOSED	FRANCIS & HELE (i) CEILIDH Singers' Night	MARTIN WYNDHAM (j) RATTLE 'N' REEL CLOSED	BONNIE SHALJEAN CEILIDH with C (l) CLOSED	THE RIOT BAND ALAN BELL BAND (m) CLOSED
SUNDAY	3RD	10TH	17TH	24TH	
BOTHY EAGLE & CHILD LEIGH LLANDUDNO RAVE ON THE ALBION	PETE MORTON Singers' Night CLOSED GEOFF HIGGINBO (b) No Dates Singers' Night	Singers' Night PHIL HARE Singers' Night Singers' Night	ALLAN TAYLOR FESTIVAL AT LO (a) Singers' Night Singers' Night	Singers' Night RICHARD GRAINGER Singers' Night Singers' Night	
MONDAY	4TH	11TH	18TH	25TH	
HORWICH POYNTON PRESTON TRITON FOLK AT THE VIC	Singers' Night SINGAROUND wit (c) STRAWHEAD No Dates	Singers' Night SINGAROUND MARTIN CATHY	Singers' Night SINGAROUND Singers' Night	Singers' Night SINGAROUND PETER BELLAMY	
TUESDAY	5TH	12TH	19TH	26TH	
BLACKPOOL MAGHULL WIGAN YARROW VALLEY BLACK HORSE	Singers' Night Singers' Night UNCLE JOE'S MI (d) JEZ LOWE STEVEN FEARING	Singers' Night Singers' Night CLOSED JOE'S BOYS	Singers' Night Singers' Night CLOSED ROGER WILSON	Singers' Night Singers' Night THE HOUGHTON W (e) KAREN TWEED	
WEDNESDAY	6TH	13TH	20TH	27TH	
BROMBOROUGH CROSS KEYS NEW SEVEN STARS RUNCORN WHITE SWAN	Singers' Night SAD PIG SINGAROUND Guest TBA BENNY GRAHAM (f)	Singers' Night CLAIRE MOONEY SINGAROUND Singers' Night MIKE SILVER	Singers' Night SWORD IN THE S (f) SINGAROUND Guest TBA Guest TBA	Singers' Night BRAM TAYLOR SINGAROUND Singers' Night Singers' Night	
THURSDAY	7TH	14TH	21ST	28TH	
BEAUMARIS BURNLEY COCKERMOUTH DARWEN FLEETWOOD FOLK AT THE DEE GREGSON'S LANE MAGAZINE ORMSKIRK RAINHILL THE BODDIE SHOP THE BUZZ	Guest TBA No Dates PETE CASTLE Singers' Night SINGAROUND Singers' Night CLOSED Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Guest TBA	Singers' Night LES BARKER & L (g) CLOSED DICK MILES Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night	Singers' Night Singers' Night SINGAROUND Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night TONY GIBBONS & (h) Guest TBA	Singers' Night GORDON TYRRELL CLOSED DEAN JOHNSON Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night	
	HOT STUFF + MI ()	STEPHEN FEARIN ()	R. CAJUN + SIM ()	ROB GRAYS LITT ()	

SUNDAY	1ST	8TH	15TH	22ND	29TH
BOTHY EAGLE & CHILD LEIGH LLANDUDNO RAVE ON THE ALBION WIGAN	Singers' Night SARA GREY & TO (a) CLOSED BRAM TAYLOR No Dates Singers' Night CATS IN THE VI (s)	COCKERSDALE Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night J.J.JONES	THE MOSSLEY DUKES BERNARD WRIGLEY Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night BRIGANTES	CLOSED SINGAROUND Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night INFLUX	CLOSED SINGAROUND HIMSELF & THE (b) Singers' Night Singers' Night LAMMERGEIR plu (t)
MONDAY	2ND	9TH	16TH	23RD	30TH
FOLK AT THE VIC HORWICH PRESTON POYNTON TRITON	Singers' Night GARY & VERA SINGAROUND wi (c) No Dates	Singers' Night SEAN CANNON SINGAROUND	Singers' Night Singers' Night SINGAROUND	Singers' Night DONAL MAGUIRE (d) SINGAROUND	DAVE SWARBRICK (f) Singers' Night COLD IRON (Gre (e)) SINGAROUND
TUESDAY	3RD	10TH	17TH	24TH	31ST
BLACKPOOL BLACK HORSE MAGHULL YARROW VALLEY	Singers' Night RESIDENTS' NIG (a) Singers' Night LEYLAND MORRIS (h)	Singers' Night McCALMANS Singers' Night	Singers' Night CLOSED until Singers' Night	Singers' Night September 11th Singers' Night	Singers' Night Singers' Night
WEDNESDAY	4TH	11TH	18TH	25TH	
BROMBOROUGH CROSS KEYS NEW SEVEN STARS RUNCORN WHITE SWAN	Singers' Night ALAN TAYLOR (S () SINGAROUND Guest TBA STANLEY ACCRIN (g)	Singers' Night FIRST PRINCIPLES SINGAROUND Singers' Night SARA GREY	Singers' Night KEN PEARSON SINGAROUND Guest TBA Singers' Night	Singers' Night DAMN CHIC SINGAROUND Singers' Night TOM McCONVILLE	
THURSDAY	5TH	12TH	19TH	26TH	
BEAUMARIS BURNLEY COCKERMOUTH DARWEN FLEETWOOD FOLK AT THE DEE GREGSON'S LANE MAGAZINE ORMSKIRK RAINHILL THE BODDIE SHOP THE BUZZ	Guest TBA No Dates DEREK GIFFORD Singers' Night TONY NYLAND & (j) Singers' Night CLOSED Singers' Night Singers' Night ALAN TAYLOR No Dates BARELY WORKS	Singers' Night MELANIE HARROL (i) CLOSED NIC DOW Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Guest TBA	Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night	Singers' Night Singers' Night Guest TBA CLOSED DEREK GIFFORD Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night	
FRIDAY	6TH	13TH	20TH	27TH	
BEE BLACKBURN EDGAR'S EIGHT NORTHWICH POTTERIES RED LION BREWERY ARTS	Singers' Night RON FLANAGAN & (l) Singers' Night No Dates Guest TBA CLOSED	Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Guest TBA EDWARD II & TH (q)	Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Guest TBA Guest TBA	GEOFF HIGGINBO (k) Singers' Night Singers' Night Guest TBA	
SATURDAY	7TH	14TH	21ST	28TH	
BURY POYNTON SOUTHPORT ARTS ST. ALBANS	JOLLY JACK JUNIOR DRAMA P (n) Singers' Night	CLOSED CEILIDH with B (o)	OLDHAM TINKERS	CEILIDH with G (p)	

NOTES FOR JUNE

a. FESTIVAL AT LOWTON CIVIC HALL - See Advert for details
 b. GEOFF HIGGINBOTTOM
 c. SINGAROUND with CLIVE & KIERAN EVERY WEEK
 d. UNCLE JOE'S MINT BALLS
 e. THE HOUGHTON WEAVERS
 f. BENNY GRAHAM (Shanty Man)
 g. LES BARKER & LESLEY DAVIES
 h. TONY GIBBONS & SHAY BLACK
 i. FRANCIS & HELEN ROE
 j. MARTIN WYNDHAM-READ
 k. RORY McCLEOD + STEVE FINN + CATHY CRAT
 l. CEILIDH with CAUGHT ON THE HOP
 m. ALAN BELL BAND + TONY NYLAND + BILIOUS BROTHERS
 n. ALY BAIN & PHIL CUNNINGHAM

NOTES FOR JULY

a. SARA GREY & TONY GIBBONS
 b. HIMSELF & THE BROTHER
 c. SINGAROUND with CLIVE & KIERAN
 d. DONAL MAGUIRE & LIAM WEBSTER
 e. COLD IRON (Gregg Butler's old University Folk Group)
 f. DAVE SWARBRICK (31st)
 g. STANLEY ACCRINGTON
 h. LEYLAND MORRIS MEN
 i. MELANIE HARROLD & OLLIE BLANCHEFLOWER
 j. TONY NYLAND & BILIOUS BROTHERS
 k. GEOFF HIGGINBOTTOM
 l. RON FLANAGAN & TREVOR COLUNNEY
 m. EDWARD II AND THE RED HOT POLKAS (13)

n. JUNIOR DRAMA PANTO
 o. CEILIDH with BILBO BAGGINS BARN DANCE BAND
 p. CEILIDH with GORTON TANK
 q. EDWARD II & THE RED HOT POLKAS
 r. WHISKY PRIESTS (Saturday July 21st)
 s. CATS IN THE VILLAGE
 t. LAMMERGEIR plus ANTIQUE ROADSHOW

18 AUGUST DATES

WEDNESDAY	1ST	8TH	15TH	22ND	29TH
BROMBOROUGH CROSS KEYS NEW SEVEN STARS RUNCORN WHITE SWAN	Singers' Night MARTIN STIMPSON Singaround Guest TBA CLOSED; reopen (b)	Singers' Night Guest TBA Singaround Singers' Night	Singers' Night MARILYN MIDDLE (d) Singaround Guest TBA	Singers' Night Guest TBA Singaround Singers' Night	Singers' Night Guest TBA Singaround Guest TBA
THURSDAY	2ND	9TH	16TH	23RD	30TH
BEAUMARIS BURNLEY COCKERMOUTH DARWEN FLEETWOOD FOLK AT THE DEE GREGSON'S LANE MAGAZINE ORMSKIRK RAINHILL THE BODDIE SHOP THE BUZZ	Singers' Night No Dates Singers' Night Singers' Night Singaround Singers' Night CLOSED Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Guest TBA No Dates	Singers' Night KNOTTED CORD CLOSED TRADITIONAL EDGE Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night	Singers' Night IAN BRUCE plus (c) Singers' Night CHAMELEON Singers' Night CLOSED Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Guest TBA	Singers' Night STEVE TILSTON CLOSED Singaround Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night CLOSED (Whitby (d)) Singers' Night	Singers' Night Guest TBA Singers' Night ARTISAN Singers' Night CLOSED Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Guest TBA
FRIDAY	3RD	10TH	17TH	24TH	31ST
BEE BLACKBURN EDGAR'S EIGHT NORTHWICH POTTERIES RED LION	Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night No Dates Guest TBA CLOSED	JUNGR & PARKER Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Guest TBA	Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Guest TBA	Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Guest TBA	Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night
SATURDAY	4TH	11TH	18TH	25TH	
BREWERY ARTS BURY POYNTON SOUTHPORT ARTS ST. ALBANS	CLOSED CLOSED		THE MIGHTY HOU (e)	FOLK FESTIVAL	
SUNDAY	5TH	12TH	19TH	26TH	
BOTHY EAGLE & CHILD LEIGH LLANDUDNO RAVE ON THE ALBION WIGAN	CLOSED Singaround CLOSED Singers' Night No Dates Singers' Night USHER'S WELL	Singaround Singers' Night	Singaround IAN WALKER Singers' Night Singers' Night RAGING CAJUNS	Singaround Singers' Night Singers' Night Guest TBA	
MONDAY	6TH	13TH	20TH	27TH	
HORWICH POYNTON PRESTON TRITON FOLK AT THE VIC	CLOSED SINGAROUND wit (a) Singers' Night No Dates	Singers' Night Singaround RICHARD GRAINGER	Singers' Night Singaround DEREK GIFFORD	Singers' Night Singaround Singers' Night	
TUESDAY	7TH	14TH	21ST	28TH	
BLACKPOOL BLACK HORSE MAGHULL YARROW VALLEY	Singers' Night CLOSED Singers' Night CLOSED	Singers' Night Singers' Night	Singers' Night Singers' Night	Singers' Night Singers' Night	

NOTES FOR AUGUST

a. SINGAROUND with CLIVE & KIERAN above the bar (Free Admission)
 b. CLOSED; reopens SEPTEMBER 5th
 c. IAN BRUCE plus IAN WALKER
 d. CLOSED (Whitby Folk Festival)
 e. THE MIGHTY HOUSE ROCKERS

Advance Dates for September:

1st	Sonja Christina Band	POYNTON
5th	Keith Hancock	CROSS KEYS
5th	WHITE SWAN reopens	
5th	Tom Topping Band	RED LION
9th	The Watersons	EAGLE & CHILD
9th	Uncle Joe's Mint Balls	WIGAN
15th	Cream of the Barley	ST. ALBANS
15th	Black-eyed Biddy	POYNTON
16th	Rythm Rascals	WIGAN
16th	Steve Turner/George Faux	BOTHY
21st	Keith Hancock	RED LION
27th	Toni Bunnell	FLEETWOOD

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 Johnny Collins Hand on Heart Caught on the Hop
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 Derek Gifford * Owen Lewis * Jez Lowe * Phil Hare
 GARVA (Shay Black, Tony Gibbons, Terry Kennedy, John Murphy)
 QUARTZ * Colin & Jean * Ragged Robin * Bric a Brac
 Coggler's Brew Dance Band * Judy Dunlop & Steve Marsh
 Dave Summers * Bryony O' Sullivan * Gavelkind
 Lennon & Higham * Glorishears * Hands in Pockets
 Heather Gough * Brass Tacks * Keith Scowcroft
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DAY/SESSION	FULL PRICE	CONCESSIONS
Friday Eve	4.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	3.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Friday Dance	3.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	2.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday (All day)	9.50 <input type="checkbox"/>	7.50 <input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday ('til 6pm)	5.50 <input type="checkbox"/>	4.50 <input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday (Evening)	6.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	5.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Sat (Maxie & Mitch)	3.50 <input type="checkbox"/>	3.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
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AGENTS PERCEPTIONS:

I write again to waste your and my time on the now annual topic of your columnists very limited perception of agents.

In the Spring 1990 edition of FNW Nat Clare wrote:

"if you want to book a top calibre act..." so far so good. He continued, however, "... (and can afford it) then ring the Stoneyport Agency ... If you can't or don't then book someone else! I'm saving to have Robin Williamson play at my retirement party".

Can't your writers use their sparkling wordprocessing skills against more worthwhile targets than paranoid and parasitic agents without a sense of humour (ie. me, according to Clat Nare)

I am trying to provide a service on behalf of artistes trying to make living in an increasingly competitive world. I know that no-one has asked any performer to become a performer and that no-one owes anyone a living but your writers jotters fall on humourless ears when such ill-directed remarks could be construed as sticking the knife into someone's livelihood.

If you must review an informative document like my agents brochure - please pass it to someone who is capable of reviewing it dispassionately. Mind you, I think it would be waste of space if you did run a review of it. Best not to mention it at all. I think, on balance.

If Clarty Nat has seen the previous bone of contention (which he did judging by his opening "mega-controversy" remark) he will understand why I react in this ungrateful way to your funny contributors who are trying to help us lepers out there in folk land.

For example, last time, "... any organiser who can pay those prices..." was written in refer-

ence to the agency - sounds like It might have been Clarty Nart with an early quill. It is not surprising that my hackles rise again.

Please add me to your editorial team.

I am good at spelling, joyed up ritting and I will bring my own pensil, rubber jotta and white stiff. Then I could moan parasitic warnings whenever Nearly Clot hoves in view and write in-depth pieces for you about agents with rising paranoia.

John Barrow (Stoneyport Agency)

The EDITOR replies: Nat Clare's "Out & About" feature is intended to be light-hearted. If we merely put out the press releases we receive, very few people would read the column. I am sure however that Nat had not set out to cause offence to anyone in writing the paragraph.

FROM ROY HARRIS.

May I use the pages of your magazine to announce my forthcoming retirement from full-time singing.

This year marks my 26th as a professional, but also my last. I am taking up new employment as from January 1991 and from then on will not be touring.

For the rest of this year, I will honour the bookings I already have and any others that might come in (Broad hint - if you want me - ring now. 0602 392789) but from Jan 91 onwards will only be open for the occasional festival, concert, or short distance booking as my new work times allow.

Best wishes to all the many folk scene friends I have made in your area over the years.

Roy Harris.

Complaints & Criticisms...

We were pleased to receive our minutes of the last meeting, which we note was attended by the "Committee" and one club organiser. (Conclusion - we are not a Federation, we simply buy FOLK NORTHWEST at folk clubs in order to find out who is on and where).

The primary reason for the existence of the N.W.F.F. is to produce a magazine. That magazine is subscribed to by the clubs in the North West and distributed by those clubs and paid for by the audiences of those clubs. Surely information about those clubs and what happens in those clubs, i.e. who runs them, information about guests (who they are, what they are like) and what their performance was like by way of review should be of prime importance in the content of that magazine. (See the new article "CLUBSCENE" elsewhere in the magazine - ED).

Currently we are lucky if there is any club news at all. Any items which appear are only there if the itself submits it (*My Emphasis - ED*). Even basic items, e.g. what type of room, information about guests, what type of residents, the type of music welcome, are not given.

This magazine should help to encourage people to go and try other clubs. The N.W.F.F. Magazine is the only one we know of which does not have any reporters! No-one is actually responsible for going to the clubs and collecting news. (*Any volunteers? - ED*).

The Federation is trying to raise £1000. WHAT FOR? Most clubs are desperately trying to make their own books balance. Most of us use residents as "free" collection weeks when the door and raffle money gets saved up to afford the guest. Affording a better guest to attract people in would appear to be the ultimate aim of most clubs.

May we also reply to Tony Gibbons.

TOURS He asks why clubs are not interested in tours. The whole point of booking a guest is to try to get someone who is special and NOT appearing anywhere else - to try and attract a wider audience. If you can't bargain on bringing more than normal in, then you can't afford them. Therefore tours are counter-productive - good for the artist, disaster for the club.

CLUB SWAPS When the Rainhill club opened, Dave Day said he would organise a coach and get a contingent from Maghull to visit one night. We protested that it would do us no good. Colin and I managed to travel to Maghull week after week to visit the Hare and Hounds, (a fifteen minute ride in a car) without any undue hardship. Why then did he have to make it seem like a major exhibition for anyone to come to our club. Let people be keen enough to get out of their ruts and seek out other clubs. If the N.W.F.F. Magazine did its job properly and told people what there was in the North West, then more people would get to more clubs simply because they were interested.

Colin & Jean.

THE EDITOR REPLIES.

Many of the committee are also club organisers, and if few others attend, it is largely because they chose not to do so!

Tours are good for everyone; both the artist and the club gain. The Federation surely covers a large enough area for there to be little or no overlap.

£1000 would put us in a better position to help you. Many perfectly good clubs have folded through cash flow problems and falling numbers. With funds we could provide extra advertising, arrange clubs swops tours, cheap artists etc. Without it we can do nothing!

I am writing to ask for your help through FOLK NORTH WEST with a special feature we are producing. The Whitby Folk Week of 1990 will be the 25th consecutive year that an event has taken place in Whitby and we will be marking the event in many ways, one of which will be a commemorative book/booklet covering all the first 25 years. In order to make this publication as comprehensive as possible we are looking for information from as many sources as we can identify. It would be of great help to us if readers of FOLK NORTH WEST who have photographs, old programmes, newsletters and any general material relevant to previous Whitby events could make these available to us. We would also welcome any relevant anecdotes and/or reminiscences for consideration for inclusion in the publication. All material forwarded will be very carefully documented and returned after publication and, of course, all material used will be fully acknowledged.

Yours sincerley

Malcolm Storey
26 Marine Avenue
North Ferriby
Humberside
HU14 3DR.

BOOKSHELF

"SWEET SLEEP" By Christopher Headington, published by GARAMOND.

The book is subtitled "a collection of lullabies, poems and cradle songs" and is intended, according to the author, "to introduce quality of lullabies to new generations of parents and children". In that aim he has succeeded very well.

There are some twenty-eight songs and poems in the collection, most of them familiar and expected lullabies, many complete with tunes. The entire book is beautifully presented and illustrated in colour throughout with well chosen Victorian illustrations. In addition you will also find one or two surprising traditional songs such as "Billy Boy" and "Dance to your Daddy".

I don't think it is likely to turn your child into a folksinger but at least it is a change from the constant diet of Kylie & Jason put out by most of the commercial radio stations. Strongly recommended if you have young children and would like to sing them to sleep with a proper lullaby. It would be equally effective just as a book to read to them at bedtime.

Nigel Firth.

Eagle & Child Folk Club

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CELTIC MAGIC - JAN 31st - FEB 3rd
AT THE ARCADIA LLANDUDNO

January 31st: John James, Dublin
City Ramblers and De Dannan.

The event started with John James accompanied by a well known face on the North West Folk Circuit, Eddie Walker. Their set consisted of mainly American songs notable of which was "Way Down Town" and although there was a very Celtic influence the technical expertise of John James made it a very enjoyable set. The organisers then apologised for the non appearance of "Stockton's Wing". The Dublin ferry carrying them had unfortunately caught fire and at the moment was in the middle of the Irish sea. The Dublin City Ramblers played a fast moving set with some exceptionally fine singing notably on "Four Green Fields" and "Fields of Athenray". Their banjo player Shaun McGuinness puts me in mind of the late Luke Kelly of the Dubliners. The audience really appreciated them and they finished off with two songs that "The Pogues" have made very popular in recent years Ewan McColls "Dirty Old Town" and the "Irish Rover". The final set was performed by De Dannan, they combined stunning singing and playing with some of the best tunes and songs one can imagine. Notable of these was the Stephen Foster song "Hard Times" and an arrangement of the Beatles song "Hey Jude". All in all it had been a most enjoyable evening and a fine prelude to the Festival.

Feb 1st - Calenning, The Hennes-
sys, Dick Gaughan, Davey Spillane
Band Stocktons Wing.

Thursday night was going to be a long one, since Stocktons Wing missing from Wednesdays bill had been incorporated into the line up. First on were Calenning, a compilation of accordion, concertina, flute, recorder, pipes, guitar and drums. Unfortunately although musically competent they seemed to lack a stage presence and an ability to hold the

audience. The unannounced appearance of Dick Gaughan on stage certainly changed the mood of the Concert. This Scottish singers powerful voice and excellent guitar work can stop a show anywhere. His anecdotes and stories are a joy to listen to; I especially liked the one credited to Joshua Nkomo who said that when the white man came to Africa the Africans had the land and the white man had the Bible but when they opened their eyes after praying the white man had the land and the African had the Bible. Now the problems in putting on so many bands on one evening began to show. The wait between Dick Gaughan and Stocktons Wing was over three quarters of an hour.

Stocktons Wing are a band that seem to have been raised on the Irish Showband circuit. Though they played several Jigs and Reels and some good traditional music their songs seemed largely to be middle of the road Pop Music, but their dynamism and showmanship guaranteed them a fine reception. The third group of the night were "The Hennessys". Though their set seemed a little laid back after the high powered Stocktons Wing it was very pleasant unlike the former you could hear every single word. I did not realise the extent of Frank Hennessy's song writing ability until tonight with such fine songs as "The Carmarthen Oak" and "The Keeper". The technical problems persisted with the setting up of the Davey Spillane Band, It was well after midnight when the band took to the stage. Though introduced as the best Piper in the world the sound for me was all too loud, though the younger people in the audience seemed to enjoy the tracks he played off the Atlantic Bridge album. The Concert finished eventually well after one o'clock.

Feb 2nd, Alastair McDonald, Ar
Log, Capercaillie, Furey Brothers
with Davey Arthur.

Friday night started with the Scottish singer Alastair McDonald, I must say its a great shame we do not see more of this excellent Scottish singer in the North West. His songs ranging from Great Scottish ballads to modern topical songs. The Scottish theme continued with Capercaillie. The first thing that struck me was how young they all were at a time when people say young people do not seem to be interested in Folk Music it was refreshing to see a technically brilliant young band. I'm sure the future will be very bright for these excellent musicians. Ar Log are probably the best known of the Welsh bands on the programme, unfortunately amongst such illustrious company they seemed to lack some sparkle but were well received by the knowledgeable Welsh audience. The Fureys, what can I say about them? All the old favourites The Green Fields Of France, Steal Away, even the Masons Apron played at furious speed by Davey Arthur. It is the magnetism of Finbar and brothers that is so appealing and as many of the audience were fans their performance went down brilliantly.

Feb 3rd; The Jukes, Blues Band,
Dolores Keane Band, The Oyster
Band, Sileas.

The first to take the stage were The Blues Bunch, unfortunately they sounded very much like a sixties blues group and out of context with the rest of the Festival. In contrast the second band The Jukes were a revelation, this local band from the Bangor area have recently reformed adding fiddle and melodeon along the way. Their sound is a mixture of Blues, Cajun and traditional music in a brilliant and exciting format; any organiser looking to book a new band could not go far wrong with this group. Of all the Welsh bands on offer at the Festival The Jukes were by far the best, but due to a lack of time the organisers would not allow them an encore which greatly upset the audience. In place of a Scottish representative the organisers had booked Sileas, two harpists and

gaelic singers. Having to follow 25
The Jukes was a formidable task but their warm personalities and beautiful singing won the day, it was a pity their set was so short; they were greatly appreciated.

Technical problems now reasserted themselves; the programme was an hour late. The Dolores Keane Band were next on offer. Though Delores has a fine voice and the band played very well they never seemed to hold the audience, I think the initial technical problems had much to do with the lack of atmosphere. The best song was kept until last, an African rhythm about the then imprisoned Nelson Mandele. Topping the bill on Saturday night was the Oyster Band, who are nearly a rock band but they certainly had the audience on their feet and dancing. All in all the Festival has been a roaring success, when someone drops £30,000 worth of Folk talent on your doorstep and then gives you tickets for it, you grab the opportunity with both hands.

The concerts were recorded for H.T.V., so hopefully they should be on our screens in the Autumn.

Arthur Bowman

Toni Bunnell

YOU OF THE DARK NIGHT: New Cassette Album

"Toni Bunnell possesses one of the best voices I've heard from a traditional style singer and her latest tape 'You of the Dark Night' is overflowing with her songwriting, singing, storytelling and playing..... A tape that succeeds in every aspect."

(ROCK 'N' REEL)

"I did admire Toni's ability to write good singable tunes....The French dance tunes were great; played on the hurdy gurdy, they sounded wild, primitive and really exciting."

(ESSEX FOLK NEWS)

"...I gained an impression of someone who is not only a compulsive songwriter, but also a more than adequate live performer. The main feature of the cassette, however, is the singing and songwriting of Toni herself. ..An enjoyable set of thoughtful contemporary folk songs."

(PRITTLE-PRATTLE)

"I was impressed immediately by Toni's clear pleasant voice...I continued to be impressed by Toni's writing and singing throughout the cassette. She is very talented musically, and demonstrates her versatility by playing guitar, hurdy gurdy, harmonium, dulcimer and fiddle!"

(SOMERS JOURNAL)

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ROY BAILEY "Why does it have to be
me?" Fuse Records CF396

HARVEY ANDREWS "25..." HYMC 200125

LES BARKER "Oranges & Lemmings"
DOG007

Hard Cash ought to be record of the year - and that can rarely be said on concept albums, especially unfashionable concepts like exploitation right here in the U.K. Fans will reach for the Richard Thompson tracks - but if you appreciate good writing, seek out Clive Gregson's "The Great Provider". It expresses the view of the sweatshop owner - brilliantly - and well compliments the more obvious songs for the under-dog. These include Martin Carthy and June Tabor's traditional interpretations, and excellent new songs by Keith Hancock and Ron Kavana. Don't miss Lal Waterson's extraordinary political squaredance "Hilda's Cabinet Band."

The record complements Tony Henshaw's four part BBC Manchester TV documentary, currently sitting on the shelf waiting for a BBC slot, which uses the songs as an integral part of the series. Look out for the screening - but buy the record now!

Many years ago, Roy Bailey issued a record of children's songs. Now the people who enjoyed that have children and they in turn want a record: **Why Does It Have To Be Me?** is the result. Excellent writers featured include Si Kahn, Fred Small, John Maguire, Jeremy Taylor, Leon Rosselson, and such songs as "Nasty Spider", "Vitamin Dance", "Skin", and the ingenious "Irritating Poem". Roy's superb voice is supported by Val Bailey, Sue Harris, John Kirkpatrick, and it comes complete with a booklet of the words. Buy lots for your birthday presents for young folk.

Harvey Andrew's 25... is also the result of requests - for a record of just him, his songs and his

guitar. This recording should satisfy this demand. It celebrates 25 years as a singer - songwriter - no hits, but a continued commitment to real issues, events, and people. Harvey is that rare creature, a songwriter with a good voice, and rarer still, a long running songwriter who comes up fresh each time. Would-be wordsmiths should buy and listen - again and again.

Compared with Hard Cash, **Oranges and Lemmings** is not so much light relief as a six pack of hysterical laughter. Les Barker, backed by the "pedigree" version of the Mrs Ackroyd Band, send up everything in sight with a manic glee and a dogged devotion to puns. Try "Quasi B Goode", M Carthy's definitive "Hard Cheese Of Old England", the vocal brilliance of Lesley Davies backed by June Tabor - and the ultimate "curry after the gig" song, "The William Patel Overture" (poppadum, poppadum...). Oh, and the sleeve notes are worth a second look - Lal Waterson on triangle (Philips screwdriver)". Devotees of the Barker oeuvre will miss the parodies - neither "No Courgettes" or "Send In The Cones" survived attempted negotiation with the right's owners, but thrill instead to Martin Carthy's brilliant rock version of "A Tortoise From Hell". Almost the same band will be at the Mechanics for the Burnley Festival, so buy it now, learn the words, and sing-along-a-Les-&-Leslie in August!

Ian Wells.

WOODBINE AND IVY.
Polly Bolton, John Shepard and Steve Dunachie.

This tape belies its innocent appearance - its contents are highly charged with emotion! All the more surprising that it is a collection of traditional songs.

The arrangements of John Shepard on piano and Steve Dunachie playing violin provide the perfect background to the voice of Polly Bolton. And what a voice it is!

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A familiar song like "The Bonnie Light Horseman" is drawn out with such an aching beauty that it seems transformed into another song altogether. Some arrangements are adventurous. In "Searching For Lambs" the vocal floats over the synthesizer while the violin soars ever upwards. Sovay is taken almost at a gallop, with some undeniably modern touches. There are simple arrangements too, none more effective than "The Blacksmith", with just a piano and a voice that is barely to contain the singer's anger.

The accompaniments are so disciplined, with every note made to serve a purpose, that the boys fully deserve three stately pieces to themselves. This recording will richly reward anyone who hears it. It has been produced by the group themselves and is available from Polly Bolton at 56 Lower Corve Street, Ludlow, Shropshire for plus something for postage and packing.

Henry Peacock.

"WHEN MIDNIGHT COMES" BERYL GRAEME
Blanktape/Fellside.

Beryl Graeme has long been a stalwart of the Yorkshire folk scene being a one time member of the group "Owl and Kettle" and, in recent years, being seen regularly at festivals accompanied by "Monologue John" with whom she formed the partnership known as "Mixed Baggage".

This is her first solo cassette and she is ably accompanied on a number of tracks by George Norris another smashing singer and a very competent guitarist.

There are many well known songs, both traditional and contemporary, on this cassette including "Galway Shawl", "Willy Oil Lad", "Rose Of Allendale" and "John O' Dreams" all of which have become or are becoming favourites in clubs and at festivals. Less well known is Beryl's rendition of "Husheen" which illustrates her versatility with the Gaelic and "My Youngest Son" which is given very sensitive treatment by both singer and accompanist making it something more than just another lament on the Northern Ireland situation.

However, it is Beryl's unaccompanied singing that for me is by far the most memorable and enjoyable feature of this cassette. She has a clear, powerful and wide ranging voice, although in the latter respect, I think she stretches it a little on "Sweet Williams Ghost". I especially liked her presentation of "False Laird" which she sings comfortably and confidently. There is only one track I can say I didn't like and that was her version of "Blackwaterside" and feel that a few more singers on the choruses may have helped to give them a little more atmosphere.

But these are minor criticisms and with excellent recording by Blanktape Studios of Sheffield who have captured the soul and magic of Beryl's voice admirably and the usual highly professional production of Paul Adams of Fellside this cassette accurately represents the enjoyable style and singing of Beryl Graeme.
Derek Gifford.

Charles Mann. "Walk Of Life"
Various "Zydeco, Blues "n" boogie!

The first two offerings (from a small Louisiana recording company) to be released by Cooking Vinyl on its new "Gumbo" label, presumably created to cash in on the current British interest in cajun music.

Charles Mann has a fine, rich voice and the title track on this album is the wonderful "cajunised" version of the Dire Straits song that has been released as a single and deservedly given plenty of airtime over the past few months. However the album soon drifts into straightforward country and pop, with the mandatory accordion being virtually unheard after side one. A great cover version of Bruce Channel's "Hey Baby" livens up side two, with some good mouth harp. A reasonable record for those who don't mind country music.

The second album is much more authentic sounding mix of songs, created by sifting through boxes of tapes from the studio store room. Some good catchy tracks with learning to rhythm and blues.

Terry Murphy.



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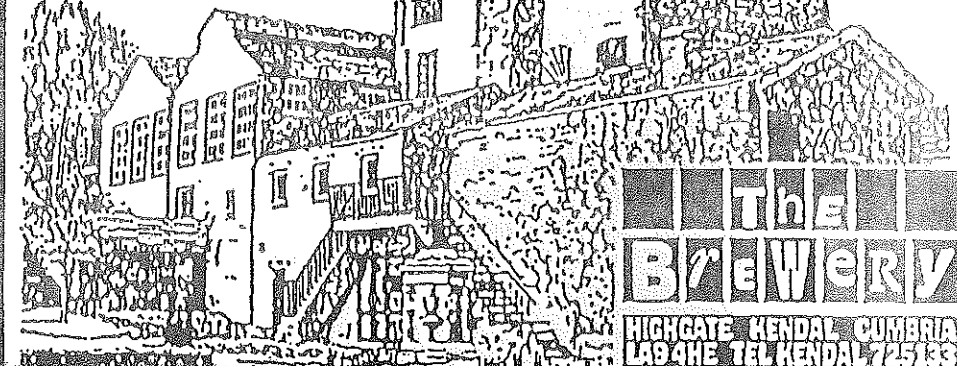
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GORDON HALL "In Horsham Town"
Veteran Tapes VT115

At a time when the Traditional singer looks set to join the Dodo, Gordon Hall is a truly remarkable find. Born some sixty years ago into a large Sussex singing family, he never performed outside his immediate circle and it took the encouragement of collector Mike Yates to present his talents to the world at large.

At first hearing, I found that Gordon's passionate, full throated delivery, coupled with an insistent tendency to end every line with a vocable, took some getting used to. But, beneath the pyrotechnics, lies a singer of remarkable skill and delicacy. His voice is capable of all kinds of subtle shading and he uses decorative touches in ways that highlight both text and tune.

The songs are if anything more remarkable than the singer! His texts are so complete and rich in poetic detail that hearing them is like stepping back two centuries; one cannot help wondering if the Hall family were connected with the broadside trade. Some of the items, such as "The Molecatcher" and "Green Brooms", will certainly be known to readers of Folk North-West; but be prepared for versions that are definitely larger than life. Of those less familiar, there is "Teach and Maynard", a stirring tale of piracy brought to justice; there is a local lovesong "The Maid of Rye"; and there is a deliciously whimsical tale of wedded bliss, "My Wife's a Good Old Creature".

Production and presentation are exemplary; would that larger companies used such high quality tape. A pity that there is no room for any information on the songs.

Any criticisms? Well, there is no denying that here and there he does overdo things. On the last track "Sam Hall", he manages to go right over the top. Yet this is a cassette no-one even remotely interested in traditional singing can afford to be without. Gordon Hall once remarked that when the

songs started to move him, his braces rode up his back! After hearing this cassette, mine are fair strangling me!

Fred McCormick
NITTY GRITTY DIRT BAND
"Will the Circle be Unbroken II"
MCA Records

Somewhere around '72, the Dirt Band completed its evolution from "House on Pooh Corner" Psychedelia to premier league Country Rockers by recording their triple set "Will the Circle be Unbroken". The idea of a bunch of long-haired hippies invading Nashville and rattling out great versions of songs dear to the heart of the Country Clan caused palpitations. The band stuck manfully to their task, overcame the prejudice and enlisted the help of almost every living member of the Country Hall of fame from Chet Atkins to Mother Maybelle Carter to produce the definitive album of Country Music.

It was inevitable that they would be tempted to do it again and almost 20 years on they have. It was never going to top the first album for the simple reason that they used up all the best songs on that project and some of the participants have passed on: but they have had a very good try.

This is as much a snapshot of its time as Vol I was in '72. Johnny Cash and June Carter rub shoulders with John Prine, John Denver, Emmylou Harris and Roy Acuff. The songs are good with the odd great ("Life's Railway" sung by Cash to the tune of "Union Miner" being one) thrown in. The playing, by Nashville's Finest, is superb.

Thought! Imagine if someone like the Oysters got together with the Coppers, Carthy, Tabor, Prior, etc plus all the top players Davy Spillane, Phil & John Cunningham, Richard Thompson and went systematically through the whole cream of British Folksongs for a triple set. Wouldn't it be something? Country's done it twice now - surely folk could have a go before the rest of the old boys go to join dear old Ewan?

Bernie Forkin

OFFICER	NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Chairman	Dave Day	170; Liverpool Road South; Maghull; Liverpool	051 526 6661
Treasurer	Kath Holden	7; Sunleigh Road; Hindley; Wigan	0942 58459
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Assistant Editor	Bernie Forkin	38; Bramcote Ave.; Islands Brow; St. Helens	0744 53058
Publicity	Ian Wells	62; Sydney Ave; Hesketh Bank; Preston	0772 813267
Advertising	Paul Holden	7; Sunleigh Road; Hindley; Wigan	0942 58459
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Membership Secretary	Kath Holden	7; Sunleigh Road; Hindley; Wigan	0942 58459
Minutes Secretary	Joan Blackburn	66; Ince Green Lane; Ince; Wigan	0942 321223
Youth Activities Coordinator	Sara Grey	21; Knowsley Road; Ormskirk	0695 77818
Development Officer	Graham Dixon	77; Hayfield Avenue; Hoghton	0254 853929

THE AIMS OF THE FEDERATION SHALL BE

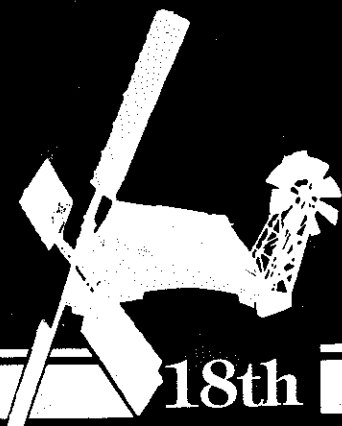
The promotion of Folk Music in the North-West by:-

1. The 'block booking of artists for tours.
2. Joint publicity of the Member Clubs
3. The general support of the Member Clubs
4. Joint organisation of Concerts & Ceilidhs in the area.
5. The support of Festival Organisers in the area.
6. The organisation of events to attract the 'under 18s'



The Federation Clubs

DAY/CLUB	TIME	CLUB ADDRESS	ORGANISER	PHONE NO.
SUNDAY				
BOTHY	8.00 pm	Blundell Arms; Upper Aughton St.; Birkdale	Clive Pownceby	051 924 5078
EAGLE & CHILD	8.30 pm	Eagle & Child; Main St.; Billinge	Bernie Forkin	0744 53058
LEIGH	8.00 pm	Boundary Hotel; Manchester Road; Leigh	Theresa Tooley	0942 892226
LLANDUDNO	8.30 pm	The London Hotel; Upper Mostyn Street; Llandudno	Arthur Bowman	0492 622049
RAVE ON	8.30 pm	Grosvenor Rowing Club; The Groves; Chester	Nick Mitchell	0244 315094
THE ALBION	8.30 pm	Albion Hotel; Albion Street; New Brighton	A. Sims	no phone
MONDAY				
HORWICH	8.30 pm	The Toll Bar; Horwich; b	Joyce Riding	0257 792304
POYNTON	8.00 pm	Poynton Folk Centre; Park Lane; Poynton	David Brock	061 483 6521
PRESTON	8.15 pm	The Unicorn; North Road; Preston	Hugh O'Donnell	0772 745498
TRITON	8.00 pm	The Liverpool; James Street; Liverpool	Doreen Rickart	051 227 3911
FOLK AT THE VIC	8.00pm	Hotel Victoria; Albion Street; New Brighton	Geoff Dormand	051 639 7928
TUESDAY				
BLACKPOOL	8.30 pm	Deans; Cocker Square; Blackpool	Mike Read	0253 884224
MAGHULL	8.30 pm	Hare & Hounds; Maghull; b	Dave Day	051 526 6661
WIGAN	8.30 pm	Wigan Snooker Club; (near Wigan R.L. ground); Wigan	Joan Blackburn	0942 321223
YARROW VALLEY	8.30 pm	Grapes Hotel; Croston; r. Preston	Derek Gifford	0695 625097
BLACK HORSE	8.30 pm	Black Horse; Grange Rd. West; West Kirby; Wirral	Tom Topping	051 342 5836
WEDNESDAY				
BROMBOROUGH	8.30 pm	R.A.F.A. Club; Bromborough Road; Bebington; Wirral	John Coleman	051 334 8513
CROSS KEYS	9.00 pm	Cross Keys Inn; Running Hill Gate; Uppermill	Phil Chadwick	0457 870391
NEW SEVEN STARS	8.30 pm	The New Seven Stars; Standish; Nr. Wigan	Steve Chatterley	02572 67654
RUNCORN	8.30 pm	Castle Hotel; Halton Village; Runcorn	Bob O' Callaghan	051 424 5367
WHITE SWAN	8.00 pm	White Swan; Green Street; Fallowfield	Anne Morris	061 881 8294
THURSDAY				
BEAUMARIS	8.00 pm	Bull's Head Hotel; Beaumaris; Anglesey	John Harley	no phone
BURNLEY	8.30 pm	Talbot Hotel; Church Street; Burnley	Joan McEvoy	0282 38199
COCKERMOUTH	8.30 pm	Tithe Barn Hotel; Station Street; Cockermouth	Terry Haworth	0900 604765
DARWEN	8.30 pm	The Borough Hotel; Grimshaw Street; Darwen	Annie Walton	0254 771435
FLEETWOOD	8.30 pm	Steamer Hotel; Queens Terrace; Fleetwood	Dave Ryan	03917 6351
FOLK AT THE DEE	8.30 pm	Dee Hotel; West Kirby; Wirral	'Buddy'	051 678 6713
GREGSON'S LANE	8.30 pm	Castle Hotel; Gregson Lane; Hoghton	Graham Dixon	0254 853929
MAGAZINE	8.30 pm	Magazine Hotel; Magazine Lane; Wallasey	Jack Coutts	051 220 0152
ORMSKIRK	8.30 pm	Ormskirk Cricket Club; Alty's Lane; Ormskirk	Alan Hesford	051 548 9378
RAINHILL	8.30 pm	Rainhill Labour Club; Warburton Hey; Rainhill	Colin & Jean	051 424 1878
THE BODDIE SHOP	8.30 pm	Railway Hotel; Heatley; Lymm	Graham Sowerby	0925 65503
THE BUZZ	8.30 pm	Southern Hotel; Mauldeth Rd. West; Manchester 21	Agraman	061 431 5374
FRIDAY				
BEE	8.30 pm	Bee Hotel; Bodfer Street; Rhyl	Dave Costello	0745 332488
BLACKBURN	8.30 pm	Fox & Hounds; Livesey Branch Rd.; Blackburn	Brian Kirkham	0254 201930
EDGAR'S EIGHT	8.30 pm	The Liver Hotel; Brook Street; Chester	Mal Waite	0244 319426
NORTHWICH	8.30 pm	Harlequin Theatre; Queen Street; Northwich	Sarah Burdon	0606 48577
POTTERIES	8.00 pm	Marquis of Granby; Market Place; Burslem; Stoke-on-Trent	Jason Hill	0782 813401
RED LION	8.15 pm	Red Lion Hotel; Wigan Road; Westhoughton	Pat Batty	0942 812301
SATURDAY				
BREWERY ARTS	8.30 pm	Brewery Arts Centre; 122a; Highgate	John Smyth	0539 25133
BURY	8.00 pm	The Napier; Bolton Street; Bury	Jean Seymour	061 761 1544
POYNTON	8.30 pm	Poynton Folk Centre; Park Lane; Poynton	David Brock	061 483 6521
SOUTHPORT ARTS	vars.	Southport Arts Centre; Lord Street; Southport	Neil Johnstone	0704 40004
ST. ALBANS	8.30 pm	St. Alban's Parish Hall; St. Alban's Road; Liscard; Wirral	Steve Eyre	051 677 1430



18th

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