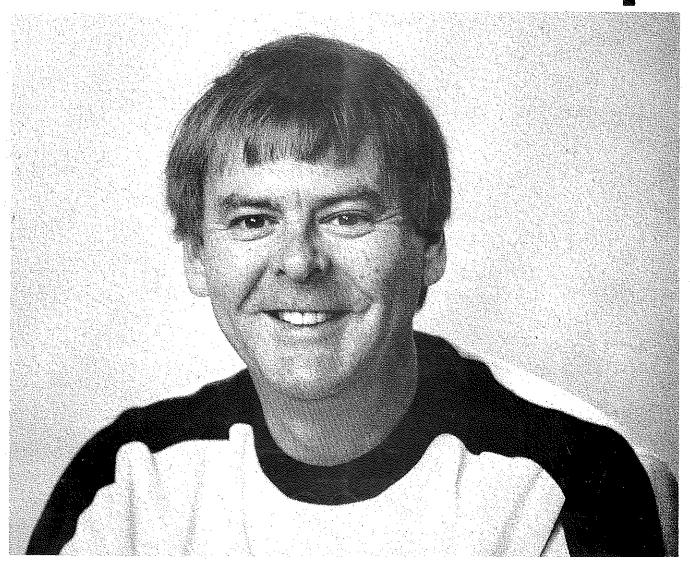
### FOLK North West West Winter 1990/1 60p



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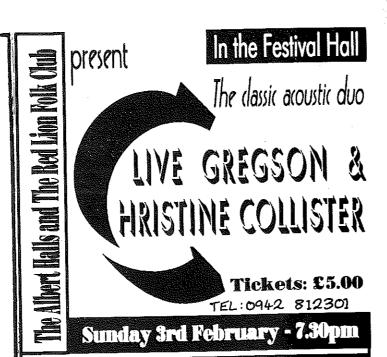
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### EDITORIAL

WELCOME to the another issue of Folk North-West. This one should reach you in plenty of time to give you a good read at Christmas! If it does reach you rather later than I would like, it is largely due to the lateness of submissions sent to me (both dates & articles)

We are continuing this issue with the new features recently introduced. These include CLUBSCENE. this month we feature The Eagle & Child at Billinge as well as Maghull. Next issue, we will feature at least three clubs which is the new regular format.

In the second of our "Youthful Perspectives" on the folk scene Richard Woods has some views about the direction the folk scene is going. Read it - if you dare!

Our main feature is an Interview by Chris Lock with Hughie Jones (an ex-Spinner) in which she asks him "Is there life after The Spinners?". You'll have to read the interview on page 10 to find out.

As a follow on from my article last issue, I heard recently about a club that allowed very little opportunity for floor singers, even when there was no guest! And when there was a guest, only the residents were allowed to sing. This seems to give floor singers, no matter what their standard no chance to progress. I hope it isn't YOUR Club!

Well I think that's enough controversy for one issue, see you all again in March with another Live Reviews (Fylde & Swinton) feature-packed issue!

CLOSING DATE for our next issue MARCH/APRIL/MAY is which covers JANUARY 25th

> Editorial Address: 118.Bolton Road. Aspull, Wigan WN2 1XF

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

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

### OUT & ABOUT with Nat Clare

### THERE WE WENT A WASSAILING.

Do you remember those romantic days of yore, when around this season of peace on earth and goodwill to all mankind (sorry, I don't know the post-feminist alternative term for "mankind"; and "personkind" sounds more like a brand of ecologically sound toilet paper) sweet little voices could be heard coming from the misty depths of the dark evening? Before you rush to answer "Yes" I am not refering to those minuscule hoodlums who scream "trick or treat" threateningly through your letterbox and have scalped the cat, launched your wheelie bin through your lounge window, and are half way up the street, while you are still fumbling pathetically for one of those horrendous 5p coins that you just knew would come in useful one day. No, I refer to the erstwhile folk tradition of Wassailing.

Wassailing should on no account be confused with the more recent tradition of "Absailing", admittedly both produce a range of strangled vocal cries - but wassailing down the side of a mountain could be thought of as a somewhat eccentric way to celebrate Christmas.

The reason I ask, is that by the time you dig this issue of "Folk North- West" out of your Christmas stocking, then you will have missed what promised to be a couple of excellant Workshops on all aspects of song and singing, organised by "Folkworks" the folk development agency for the North of England.

Now, I don't know about you, but I welcome the introduction of these type of initiatives, which not only promise to give folk a higher profile and status, but also provide real value-for-money tuition in things folk, not to mention a cracking day out.

Just think, If this were a fortnightly magazine, I could have told you all about the major folk

music programme launched in Cleveland, led by Teeside's own Vin Garbutt or the brilliant "Song Workout" tutored, amongst others, by the mega-folkie Martin Carthy.

Alas, all these delights took place in late October and early November, sorry, but I mention them to whet your appetite for next time and I'll try my very best to keep you informed of these and similar developments. Meanwhile, I'd be very interested to hear what you think of these workshop— type activities, particularly if you've been on a course yourself. A bottle of Vin Garbutt for the most interesting experience.

Which brings me back to my original point — it's about time something did— if you see me coming down your street this christmas, complete with fairy lantern, carol sheet and wassail bowl, don't set the Rotweiller on me, I'm just trying to recreate a traditional christmas.

### "ONE O" CLOCK, TWO O" CLOCK, THREE O" CLOCK, ... CEILIDH"

That old Bill Ceilidh and the Comets hit , will soon be having Noth- West folkies morrissing in the aisles, if Pete Bearon and Allison Whitaker have their way.

Frustrated by the lack of a regular ceilidh venue in the Bolton/Wigan area, they, in the best folk tradition have decided to run a series of monthly ceilidhs themselves, and very impressive they sound too.

The Ceilidhs will be held in Ince Public Hall, Ince in Makerfield, near Wigan (well, something has to be doesn't it?) starting on February 8th 1991. The policy will be to alternate locally and nationally known bands.

The bands already booked include; Cock and Bull, Tickled Pink, Junction 24, The Chris Wood (ex Oyster) and Andy Cutting (ex Blowzabella) Band, The Riot Band,

Mr. Blundells Arms, and Dr. Young's Music Emporium. There will be a warm-up ceilidh first, to get your frozen bits in motion, but the official launch will be on March 15th with Cock and Bull.

The dances will be from 8 till windows really, really low, I juli 11.30pm and tickets will cost might be able to hear the fair between .50 and .50, with strains of Folkscene wafting by on concessions for the Unwaged ( now the cold winter air and stuff there's a name for a folk band).

Further details from 0942 816569. Try your best to support this noble cause. I for one, will be dancing myself silly - that shouldn't take too long.

### FOLK SCENE.

You know, I've fiddled around with my car radio, time after time (not that I'm the only one - some rascal has tried to nick it about half a dozen times) but, try as I might , I've not been able to tune into Radio Merseysides "Folk Scene"; and the reason is, only partially, because I usually atempt this exercise on the wrong day or the wrong time or both. Ĭ am sorely dissapointed at this, as I am a great fan of local radio folk programmes and believe they play a vital part in keeping the scene alive.

Consequently, I was saddened - when bumping into my old mate Harry Ogden the other week, during my fifteen minutes of fame, singing for my supper at Agraman's highly - innovative club "The Buzz" in Chorlton (Hey not bad, two names dropped in one sentence!) - to realise, that radio air- time for folk in the region seems to be decreasing rapidly.

A pity, since my first (What do you mean "only") local radio appearance was on Harry's Folkspan and I — and several others — remember the performance with great fondness and affection. What about mounting a campaign to bring back the likes of Harry Ogden and Mike Billington back to the air.

Meanwhile tune into Stan Ambrose and Geoff Speed's FOLKSCENE on Radio Merseyside on 95.5FM for a weekly listen to whats happening in the folk world— and who knows, if they play the records really, really loudly and i wind my car windows really, really low, I just might be able to hear the faint ains of Folkscene wafting by on the cold winter air and stuff the duff car radio!

### SECOND SIGHT

Reader Henry Peacock seems to be possessed of psychic powers, as, having just written about the lack of folk time radio time, Henry drops me a line containing an enclosure from that worthy organ "The Radio Times" announcing GMR's (Manchester) new folk/world music programme; from 6.30 to 7.30 Wednesday evenings, featuring alternative folk and world music tracks.

Henry also draws my attention to the fact that Radio Lancashire's "Lancashire Drift" (Saturday 6.05., and Monday at 6.30) is worth listening to, and adds, interstingly, that only Radio Cumbria does not have a current folk programme (there you go Harry!). Also, BBC Radio Three has a programme devoted to world music every Wednesday at 5.00pm.

Another very useful piece of info. from Henry, is the news that folk clubs can advertise their meetings free on Oracle Teletext which makes it almost worth paying the licence? To advertise free send details of:— Town, Tel. No. of contact & Venue, Venue/Folk Club, Date, Event/Guest (must include contact/venue tel. no.) to:—What's On (GRANADA) ORACLE Teletext

ORACLE Teletext Craven House 25-32 Marshall street London W1V 1LL

The service is already used by The Red Lion and several other clubs, which gives the lie to the rumour that what Westhoughton does today, everybody else did it at least three months ago!

Oh, and Henry also tells me to look out for the group "Cold Iron" whom he says- having recently seen them at Preston Folk Club- are well worthy of our collective attentions. Check them out, Yo!

### GIRLS LOVE MY UNCLE DICK"?

If, by any mad chance you were reading the Independent on August 18th this year, then you would have read of the furore at this years Hull Sea Shanty Festival.

The organisers, it seems, (Independent readers every one, no doubt) insisted that no Hull parent would be permitted to sully their childrens ears with such filthy, sexist, and downright disgusting lines as "All the girls love my Uncle Dick. 'Cause he chases them with his great big stick" The organisers then insisted that the line could only be sung as "All the girls love my uncle Bert because he's such an awful flirt!.

'Shanty Jack" commented " . verses like "The cheeks of her arse woz as tight as a drum" will have to be dropped or changed to "The cheeks of her face" and "Spanish Whores" will suddenly become "Spanish Maidens".

I'd be very interested to hear your views on this. Should folk songs that contain racist, sexist, crude or offensive lyrics be the subject of censorship? Or should we leave the tradition alone? Should the audience, performer or society decide?

### MAGHULL FOLK CLUB - AN APOLOGY

Fooled? No, I didn't think so: and lets face it, who in their right mind would be, by a cheap journalistic trick, about as subtle as those classified ads that begin with word "SEX" in big letters and then try to sell you a clapped out sofa-bed.

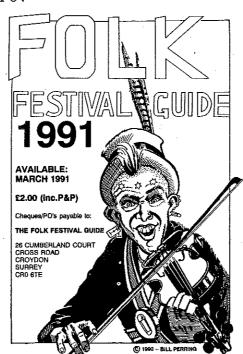
You see, the only apology is, that I haven't managed to get to one of their fantastic sounding evenings or events.

Listen to this and be outrageously jealous: they run concerts and folk nights at other venues, have a community involvment programme, to support local charities etc, by giving free concerts: they have a free guitar workshop every Tuesday for all ages and grades, they visit local folk festivals enmasse in tents and caravans: they have trips out to places like Amsterdam and Dublin for weekends away, and this year, 27 of them are having a weeks holiday on Galway Bay! They have club swaps with other folk clubs: parties and barbeques and - wait for it their resident list has finally reached 50.!!

I for one, am definitley going to get there on Jan 19th for their Special at Melling Titherbarn: a entertainment great nights guaranteed and all for .50. OH, and by the way, does anybody want to buy an old sofa- bed?

Finally , if you don't helping Stuart Hall with his Christmas groceries or Derek Hatton with a spot of book keeping, then here are a couple of dates for your diary: The Rhythm Rascals are appearing at the Eagle and Child, Billinge, on Sunday 24th February, 1991, and The House Band are at Bury Metropolitan on the 16th of the same month. See you there.

Cheers.



### CLUBSCENE with Tony Gibbons

### EAGLE & CHILD, Sundays

Situated mid way between St. Helens and Wigan, in the lovely old Eagle and Child pub in Billinge. The club has been in its present home for a number of years and has a reputation for booking good quality acts, both national and local, and for always having had a strong nucleus of fine residents. The two longest serving groups of residents are Caught on the Hop and Quartz, both having great success in their own right at festivals and clubs up and down the country and their contrasting styles are a delight to listen to. Andy Anderson is also begining to make a name for himself with his fine tenor singing and harp accompaniment. There is another part time resident who plays an out of tune Cittern, but I've been asked not to mention him in case I put people off coming.

Guest nights are every fortnight or thereabouts. The usual policy on a guest night is that only the residents and the quest(s) perform, though in certain cases (someone visiting from quite a distance away) exceptions may be made. Singers nights are usually outstanding, with many fine performers being on hand. On the whole it is a good singing audience usually good natured and able to give and take a joke. There is a bar at the back of the room which sometimes creates a bit of a noise when people congregate start nattering to each other - I've even done it myself without thinking. To be a successful club, you have to give the punters what they want, and I think the organisers do this admirably. The club has never been afraid to give local acts their chance to do a guest night and the audience over the years have been very supportive and loyal. Credit must also be given for the initiative by the club to organise the annual Wigan Folk Festival, which grows in stature every year. This years was a great weekendall it needs is a few more people to make the journey.

As for the club itself, there is no restriction on the type of music anyone wants to perform. My only criticism are (as in most cases) the narrow stairs, the occasional noise from the bar/door area and the small car park- one has to walk many yards sometimes. Still if you can cope with these minor problems and don't mind listening to an out-of-tune cittern player who sometimes turns up, I can thoroughly recommend it. After all it is in the heart of Rugby (League) country - why not give it a try.

Tony Gibbons

EDITOR'S NOTE: For those of people who have never seen Tony Gibbons play, the references to the outof-tune Cittern player are his typically modest references to himself.

### EAGLE & CHILD FOLK CLUB

MAIN STREET, BILLINGE

PROGRAMME -

DECEMBER

9th - LEON ROSSELSON

23rd - Christmas Party

**JANUARY** 

13th - HAND ON HEART

20th - BRIAN McNeill

FEBRUARY

3rd - SWAN ARCADE

17th - SILEAS

24th - RYTHYM RASCALS

MARCH

10th - DAVE SWARBRICK

Caught on the Rop

Quarts, Tony Gibbons Pota Portac, Bric a Brac

Andy Anderson

Details: St. Helens 53058

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### MAGHULL, Tuesdays

How does one begin to describe Maghull folk club? I suppose a bit of history first. The club opened in April 1982 when a group of local middle aged hippies realised they were too old to join in the local youth club and decided to look for a venue where they could meet once a week to sing their songs, play their tunes and tell their bloody awful jokes! Initially there was a small group of residents (15) and admission was 50p. For the first few months it was purely a singers club with residents getting up to perform in different combinations and the word soon spread, with more and more people turning up each week. Eventually people started asking about booking guests- at first a guest about every 6 weeks, then once a month, then fortnightly.

Over the years, however, it became more obvious that the people turning up each week to perform weren't getting a look in so, the club decided to revert to a singers club. One catch here is if you turn up and perform two weeks on the run they make you a resident! There are 50 residents at present - each one gets a chance to run a night once a year. The great thing about this club is its diversity. Literally all kinds of music and song is performed week after week traditional. modern, blues, ragtime, music hall, poetry, country and western, Lancashire dialect and even some plinky plonk Irish stuff!

Preference is always given to visitors - residents will always give up their "spot" to allow a visitor to perform. The audience enjoy joining in with a song, having a laugh with the performers and also showing respect for a performer where appropriate. The club also provides great service to the community by requarly putting together charity nights, visiting rest homes, hospitals, community centres etc. Always appreciated by the recipients and generously supported by lots of residents. Regular events are also organised at the nearby Melling

Titherbarn, a beautiful 16th century building nearby. National quests supported by local performers, Youth Concerts etc are always packed out. As for guests at the club, members are treated to a special free night about 6 times a year on a Fridays. The Wilson family were the first with many outstanding performers to come. I should also mention the excellent guitar workshop run by Steve Higham on club nights beginning at 7.30pm. Many people have benefitted from this and a few have developed into regular performers at the club.

Add to all this the regular club swaps undertaken by the club, plus trips abroad (Paris , Amsterdam, Southern Ireland) and you have some idea of the spirit involved. It is not without criticism, and I do feel that over the years the audiences have become discerning- in the early days everybody joined in with anything. Nowadays, there doesn't seem to be quite the same wilingness to sing along. Also there is an abundance of solo performers- in the old days (as I said earlier) residents would get up in two's three's or more to perform which made for more spontaneity. I also think that the nights should be started more nearer the advertised time of 8.30 to allow more people to perform. This is up to individuals to put right if they want the night to last as long as possible and to fit in as many performers as can be accomodated. Don't worry- I have this grouse with most clubs! Anyway, the club has been running without a break for over eight and a half years, getting stronger.

Anybody is welcome to come along either to perfrom or just listen / mix with the crowd. I beleive plans are afoot for a 20.000 seater stadium, with an astroturf stage. Oh and I almost forgot - it's still only 50p to get in!

TONY GIBBONS.

### CLUB NEWS:

NEW CLUBS JOINING SINCE LAST

The FOX & HOUNDS meet on Tuesdays at 8.30pm at the Fox & Hounds, Tilston in Cheshire. They feature Singers' Nights, local and Nationally-known guests in their programme. The residents are Geoff Edwin-Scott & Rose Beasly and the organiser is Mrs. A. Green, who you can contact on 0829 250516.

Our second new club meets in Wheelton at the Withy Trees pub in Higher Wheelton from 8,30pm. It is mainly run as a music session, but singers are equally welcome to turn up & perform. For more details you can contact Peter Kirby on 0254 830441.

The final new club this time meet at the Fleece Inn, Highgate Kendal on Sunday evenings from 8.00pm. Not surprisingly it is called FOLK AT THE FLEECE. They usually have a guest every week, with a Residents/ Singers Night once a month. The residents are: Travel by Steam (Duo), Brian Robertson, Pacel O'Rogues (4-piece) and John Harper. More details from Christine Britton on Kendal 732647.

There have also been a number of changes of venue & organiser. Full details are in the list of clubs, but I've tried to pick out some key items here:

**DARWEN FOLK CLUB** have moved from the Borough Hotel to the Kiosk in Sunnyhurst Woods, where they first started.

BURNLEY FOLK CLUB have had a change of organiser, Joan McEvoy has give to give up due to family comitments and Rod Finlayson (0282 39784) is the new organiser. Among the residents are Ginny Run, Dave Cook, Roy Kelly & Liz Brown. All types of music are welcome and hope to book an artist monthly.

LLANDUDNO FOLK CLUB has a new organiser in Mel Bowman and the residents are now Geoff Durno,

John, Les & Gill Williams and

Arthur Bowman.

CLUB RESIDENTS: BEE -The Beez Knees BLACKPOOL -Taditional Edge BOTHY -Clive Pownceby, Pete Rimmer, Ray Rooney, Bev Saunders, Neville Grundy, Keith Mandle CROSS KEYS -Phil Chadwick & Alison Dean DARWEN -Chris, Paul & Gren, Dave Molloy. EAGLE & CHILD ~ Caught on the Hop, Quartz, Andy Anderson, Pota Portac FOX & HOUNDS Geof Edwin-Scott & Rose Beasly FLEECE FOLK -Travel by Steam, Brian Robertson, Parcel of Rogues, John Harper FOLK AT THE NEST -The New Seven Stars Band FLEETWOOD -Spitting on a Roast HORWICH -Joyce Riding, Tom Ferber LEIGH -Calico, Pennygate, Influx LLANDUDNO -Geoff Durno, Arthur Bowman, Les & Gill Williams 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, Sarah Burdon, Ian Sherwood, Graham Sowerby Alan Carpenter & Jamie Anderson ,RED LION -Auld Triangle ROCHDALE -Chrissy Waldren ST. ALBANS -Heirloom TRITON -Ages Apart, Chris Lock. Neil Higgins YARROW VALLEY -Derek Gifford, Mark Dowding, Nothing Yet WHITE SWAN -Dave & Helen Howard, Plan B, Maggie Billington, Graham Shaw, Dave Vaughan, Maureen Hotham WIGAN-JoanBlackburn, LawrenceHoy

### IS THERE LIFE AFTER THE SPINNERS?

That is the question I put to High Jones, ex-Spinner, when we met the other day. It is now over two years since the Spinners took to the road for their final farewell to their Loyal fans the length and breadth of the country.

CL. Hughie, I don't want to dwell too much on the past, but tell me briefly what life has been like since the Spinners went their own ways. I imagine after thirty years it has been quite difficult?

HJ. The split had been carefully planned for about two years. We did a nationwide tour called "The Final Fling". That was a tremendous success - playing to packed houses wherever we went. It had been dropping off a bit before that. But yes, the tour was great. We had an album out at the same time which did very well.

### CL. How long did the tour last?

HJ. Over a year. We did have some time off during the summer, but it was very tiring, particularly during the latter part of the year. November/December is a good time to be on the road, but we worked almost every day — it was hard going. So yes, the end of the Spinners was a well-planned decision, and I was prepared when it came. Having said that Chris, my wife, said it took a year to get it completely out of my system.

I was glad that Hughie had mentioned his wife at that point, as I
wanted to ask her a question
which, although I was prying
beyond the bounds of investigative
journalism, was dying to know.

CL. As an ex-Naval wife, I know that "a sailor home from the sea can get under your feet and be a bit of a nuisance, to say the least!! Does a "singer home from a tour"get under your feet as well?

CJ. Yep!

 ${\it CL.}$  That's what I like , an interviewee who is concise and articulate.

CJ. I think the problem was that for the first year, although Hughie knew that he didn't want to go on the road singing, he didn't know what he DID want to do. We had intended to sell the house, but have not been able to because of the slump in the market, so that has altered some of our plans. I'm out at work through the day though, and it is maybe as well, because I also have my son at home, as well as my husband, cluttering everything up.

HJ. So what we did in that first year whilst deliberating our futures, was decide that we wanted to work together. Chris would very much like to run a quest house or small hotel ('cos she's a wonderful cook), so we have formed a company together, (along with our son), and that should allow us do anything from running a quest house to music publishing, and hopefully a few things in We have called the between. company WEE HUGE. Can you see it in years to come. "THE WEE HUGE EMPIRE"- Sea songs by appointment to Her Majesty The Queen!!

CL. I most certainly can, Sir Hughie. In the meantime would you like to tell me something about your new book?

HJ. During the course of the first year, I got back copyright of the songs I had written over the course of the last 25/30 years. I chose 15 songs which I thought would stand up well in print, but because these songs alone did not look much like a good book, I added some yarns.

CL. The book is really beautifulthe quality is first class.

HJ. Thanks. Yes I wanted something that wouldn't fall to pieces when little fingers were learning to play the recorder. All the music in the book is simple to follow and ideal for learners. I would love to see the book go into schools. Most of the bookshops in Liverpool I have approached have taken copies, as have The Maritime Museum; they have been a great help.

CL. And the title?

HJ. Ah yes! Hughies Ditty Bag. May I quote the Oxford Shorter Dictionary?:DITTY BAG; Bag used by sailors to contain their smaller necessaries.

CL. There's no answer to that!

HJ. Quite!

CL. What about a solo album to go with the book?

HJ. That's Wee Huge's next project. I hope to get together with Johnny Mac, the Spinners Bass player. However he's very busy and I have to get in the queue. I'd like David Williams to produce - he's done Spinners records before, and then there's a guy called John Harper - a brilliant guitarist. So yes, that's very much something I'm thinking about just now.

CL. And what about the immediate future? Are you going to join up with anyone else, or do you intend to "go it alone"?

HJ. Well I have done one or two things with Johnny Mac and Mick Groves during the last year. They were very enjoyable and well received, but yes I do want to get out there by myself now. The trouble is, I'm not known as a solo singer - I think people think I've died - I've not, honest, even if it sometimes looks that way. No it is a whole new ball game, and I'm looking forward to it.

CL. Well Hughie, and Chris, good luck in whatever you do and thanks for taking the time to come and talk to me.

FOOTNOTE: I have twice 'done a night' with Hughie since he left The Spinners and everyone agreed that as a solo performer, he's not half bad. He can be contacted on 051 427 6826. His book can be obtained from most bookshops in Liverpool and from the Maritime Museum. Why not pop a "Ditty Bag" in someone's stocking this Christmas.







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### ANOTHER YOUTHFUL PERSPECTIVE

### by Richard Woods

If you were to ask any "normal" person or "non folkie" what folk music is they would sort of look at you strangely and say things like, "It is full of people who prance round with bells on their shoes banging each other with sticks," or "It is bored anarchists who depress everyone with songs about mining disasters and lifeboat men." Now there is nothing wrong with morrismen or singing about mining disasters, but is this a true reflection of the folk music we all love and enjoy?

Folk music has so much to offer to so many people. From Fred Jordan through Vin Garbutt to Battlefield Band there is a whole host of talent which is far more enjoyable, honest, and sincere than anything you will find on Top Of The Pops. And yet there is an enormous chasm between Folk Music and the youth of today; young people are not going to jump, so it is up to us who know what folk really is to encourage those who don't to come and see what happens in these mysterious gatherings every week in the local folk club.

I have sang and played in folk clubs since about twelve and now. six years later, I know that nowhere else could you find the encouragement, support and humour that you do on the folk scene. Folk clubs and festivals have that sort of instant attraction; the laid back atmosphere and general acceptance of anyone who is willing to come and listen or play makes it an enjoyment for anybody. It is encouraging to see more young people on the folk scene today, but 90% of these are the children of parents who are all converted folkies.

I have no concrete solutions to the problems but I suppose the answer lies in people just inviting other people along. Though I would be cautious about who I would ask my friends to come and see first time round at a folk club. There are some acts which for a first experience would put people off for life. On the whole

I think the more contemporary acts appeal to the younger generation; Allan Taylor, Dick Gaughan, Gregson and Collister as do the bands such as Battlefield, Oysters, Capercallie.

This is not the recipe for an "instant folkie" because everyones tastes are different and there will be people who do not like all those I have just mentioned - but anybody with any appreciation for music in general will realize that folk is <u>not</u> just Arran Sweaters and bobble hats. Bob Geldof having just formed a new band with violins, accordions and tin whistles has had huge success- it is a "new sound" which people like. So we have to tell people (young and everyone else) that they can hear more of this every week at ... all those places on the middle pages.

This August I went to Fylde Folk Festival and took three friends with me who had never even thought of folk music before. They absolutely loved it and next year many more want to go, they have even started going to the local folk clubs (shock, horror!!?!) The future of British folk music (as with everything else) lies in the hands of the youth, but were folk is concerned the majority of young people have their hands tied behind their backs. At stake is the total loss of something we all enjoy and the loss of new talent. new sounds and new ideas. likes of Tracey Chapman, Suzanne Vega and Billy Bragg were never quite accepted into the folk scene and so left, taking with them a lot of talent which should have easily been secured with folk.

Folk music has to move with the times and though some may argue that this means the loss of the traditional folk song, I think it is generally accepted that we can have new and old, Electronic and acoustic. Unaccompanied instrumental folk alongside each other; If we don't we may risk losing our dearly loved folk altogether.

### DANCEABOUT News on Social, Morris, Sword & Clog Dance

"Charity begins at home," so they say. Well, it began in early September for the Houghton Rapper Team when they volunteered to do a tour on behalf of the Pain Relief Foundation. The local organisers had chosen the spots in consultation with George Rowe: West View Leisure Centre at Ribbleton (Preston); Sherwood at Fulwood (Preston), "Owd Nells" at Billsborrow. Perhaps wishing to avoid more pain (!) the audience coughed up no less than 7. A marvellous response, especially in view of the feigned lack of interest on the part of most of them. Perhaps they had a genuine wish to help a good cause, were some of them more appreciative of the teams efforts than was at first apparent??

At the end of the month the charity theme was taken up by Leyland Morris Men: as part of the local Arts festival - and wanting to do something a bit different- they undertook a "Dancing of the Bounds of South Ribble". Actually they selected spots close to the borough boundary and travelled by mini bus or car! A number of the team elected to make it a sponsored "Danceathon" in aid of the Multiple Sclerosis Society. At the time of writing there is still some money to come in, but the total is up to 56.70. A very worthwhile effort I think you will agree.

Another travelling team was the Lancashire Wallopers Clog Dance Team, who went to dance at the 10th and last - Newcastle Cloggies weekend by special invitation.

Looking forward now, to Boxing Day in fact - the Southport Swords usually do a tour of their home towns pubs at lunchtime: further details from Dave Lamb (051 356 3750). If you should find yourself in the Sheffield area why not try to see one or both of their local teams? O.K., so you may have seen Handsworth or Grenoside at a day of dance or at a Folk festival; why not try to see them in their traditional setting on the traditional day? Some of the dancers

tell me that there is that little "something special" about it -even if it is b.... freezing cold! Handsworth do a "warm up" spot at 11 at the cross in the square at Woodhouse before dancing outside the Parish Church at noon. A good sing follows at the "Cross Keys" Grenoside, on the other hand, just do the one spot - albeit lengthier-and are usually accompanied by some of the local Morris sides. That spot goes from 11 to 12, and also concludes with a good sing in the pub. If you are interested then contact Ray Ellison on (0742 453361) Plan your route and you could see both teams dance.

Even at this stage of the year there are still Folk Festivals on the go: try Amber (16-17 Nov\_) or Bedworth (24th Nov). Don't forget the next Bothy Ceilidh on 14th December, will you?

Other snippets of information: Recently out is a tape by "Old Clever Clogs" himself: Sam Sherry. Not dancing though, here he sings songs from his music hall days, and the tape includes some rare tracks from 78 records made in the 1930's and the 1950's. Fascinating stuff!! You can obtain the tape via Alan Barber (Preston 742690) who also stocks - or can obtain - a wide range of books tapes, records and such items as Morris Bells and badges. Also just out is the latest reprint of the "Folk in Lancashire" leaflet (5th edition in fact). Available in quantity from Margaret McFarlane (Ormskirk 423882)

The band workshop still meets on a monthly basis in Southport, ably led by Stephen Burgess: more details from Peter Rowland (Adlington 482928). Rather more occasional is Melanie Barbers Appalachian Clog Group (Preston 742690), and if you are looking for a "one off" event that is a bit different and has a lot of fun, why not try Houghton Folk Dance Club's Day of Welsh dance with David Burke on Saturday 12th January? Details from Mrs. Greta Cowgil on Hoghton 2907.

### BROADFOLK

Folk on the telly? Yes, Rhythms of the World's MacColl appreciation finally appeared- and to give you some idea about the length of time a TV documentaries take to make, it was being prepared before his Tim May had made an excellent appreciation of Ewans life and work, and even avoided too much talk over the music.

But this was a look backwardswhat of current singers and writers, those musicians involved in hard cash, for instance? If you remember, Hard Cash is an innovative project where folk (and folkish) musicians provided relevant songs for a documentary series on low pay. It was made at the Manchester Production Centre by Dave Henshaw, and a parallel record came out on a Special Delivery back in the Spring. that time I was told that the series had been accepted by Controller BBC1 Johnathon Powell, and it was just waiting for a suitable slot. Six months later, attempts to find out what happened ran into a series of replies along the line of "Hard Cash? never heard of it" from Then a casual conversa-London. tion with Christine Collister revealed that it had been dumped. Even as I type this the press office at Manchester are failing to ring back with a formal statement ten days after I pressed Dave Henshaw now the question. working for the Bristol Wild Life is currently filming in Brazil - he's probably safer there than in the more vicous jungles of the BBC bureaucracy.

on local radio. GMR have finally lived up to their promise of reinstating a folk programme with a Wednesday 6.00 - 7.00pm Leslev Osborne. However, this is the only good news: all ILR and independant community radio stations have decided that folk music isn't commercial enough and zapped their Mike Billington zapped output. from KFM, Harry Ogden from Picadilly/key 104, Owen Lewis from Marcher Sound. BBC Wales have also

killed off Geoff Cripps' Folk on without Mondays replacement. Complain loudly, frequently and intelligently.

Radio Times have also decided that you don't need to know when Leslay Osborne, Nick Dow, Geoff Speed & Stan Ambrose are on- indeed when any specific programme is on local Their new layout for the radio. combined North Region edition programme detailsomits all again, write to Nicholas Brett at 35a Marylebone Road and complain ( unless he's recanted before this printed- then write congratulate him)

Worse may follow at the BBC where the combination of North West, Yorkshire and North- East into North Region has brought clashes of programming policy and the need for more cuts. An informed source from the former regional HQ at "It looks as Manchester tells me if all specialist music could go regional". At worst, that could mean one programme for the whole region - and that probably before midnight on Sundays! best it means the loss of our existing three very different and well supported shows to a single one attempting to cover Cheshire Cumbria and everything in between. Write to Steve Ireland at New BH in Manchester to press the case for local music being supported locally - and while your at it- ask why the MU budget is being withheld from folk music.

Finally, fancy yourself on the telly? Our PR man is in contact with a Manchester based group; supported by NW arts, who are attempting to produce a strong NW base of writers and others, including musicians. They will be running meetings and courses to train people in TV techniques- if you fancy that, let Ian Wells know - he'll be the folk contact.

FOLKEAR.

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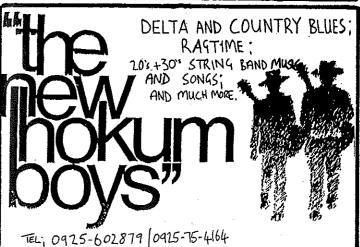
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### January Dates

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SATURDAY	1ST	8TH	15TH	22ND	29ТН
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SUNDAY	2ND	├ : 9TH	<del>\</del> :16ТН	+	<del>}</del> : 30ТН
BOTHY EAGLE & CHILD FLEECE FOLK LEIGH LLANDUDNO RAVE ON THE ALBION WHEELTON	MIKE SILVER Singers' Night JEZ LOWE & BAD (s) ROY BAILEY Singers' Night No Dates Singers' Night MUSIC SESSION	Singers' Night LEON ROSSELSON Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night	JANET RUSSELL Singers' Night BERNARD WRIGLEY MAD JOCKS & EN (q) Singers' Night Singers' Night MUSIC SESSION	Christmas Party Singers' Night Singers' Night	CLOSED CLOSED HOGMANAY PARTY NEW YEAR PARTY (r Singers' Night Singers' Night MUSIC SESSION
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TUESDAY	4TH	11TH	18TH	25TH	
BLACKPOOL BLACK HORSE FOX & HOUNDS MAGHULL WIGAN YARROW VALLEY	Singers' Night	Singaround BERNARD WRIGLEY Singers' Night Singers' Night TONI BUNNELL	CHRISTMAS BASH (u) Singers' Night	CLOSED CLOSED CLOSED CLOSED CLOSED	
WEDNESDAY	5ТН	12TH	19TH	26TH	
BROMBOROUGH CROSS KEYS NEW SEVEN STARS RUNCORN WHITE SWAN	Singaround Singers' Night	Singaround Guest TBA	Singers' Night	CLOSED CLOSED CLOSED CLOSED CLOSED	
THURSDAY	6ТН	13TH	20TH	27TH	
BEAUMARIS BURNLEY COCKERMOUTH DARWEN FLEETWOOD GREGSON'S LANE MAGAZINE ORMSKIRK THE BODDIE SHOP THE BUZZ	CELTIC MUSIC Singers' Night IAN SHARP/PHIL (d) CLOSED Singaround CLOSED No Dates Singers' Night Singers' Night Guest TBA	CLOSED JANET RUSSELL ALAN BELL BAND Singers' Night Tom McCONVILLE	Christmas Party Christmas Party Singaround CLOSED Singers' Night	Singers' Night Singers' Night CLOSED CLOSED CLOSED CLOSED Singers' Night Singers' Night CLOSED	
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BEE BLACKBURN EDGAR's EIGHT	Singers' Night RON & LUCY No Dates	JUNGR & PARKER Singers' Night	Singers' Night Singers' Night	CLOSED Singers' Night	····
NORTHWICH POTTERIES RED LION	BERT JANSCH & (g)		Christmas Party	Singers' Night Singers' Night CLOSED	

### NOTES FOR DECEMBER

- a. PHIL BEER & STEVE NIGHTLY
  b. LYNN & BARRIE HARDMAN
  c. FIONA SIMPSON (CHRISTMAS PARTY)
  d. IAN SHARP/PHIL WAITES
  e. THE SALLY BARKER BAND
  f. OLD ROPE STRING BAND

- g. BERT JANSCH & PETER KIRTLEY
  h. HARVEY ANDREWS (All Tickets SOLD)
  i. LOOSE CHIPPINGS PLUS BRAM TAYLOR
  j. FAIRLY FAMOUS FAMILY CHRISTMAS CEILIDH

- J. FAIRLY FAMOUS FAMILY CHRISTMAS CELLID.

  k. AGM/ Singers' Night

  l. CEILIDH with RIOT BAND AT DERBY HALL

  m. PANTOMIME Junior Drama Production

  n. CEILIDH DANCE with JACK AT A PINCH

  o. CEILIDH DANCE with BILBO BAGGINS

- p. ANNUAL BEEF & WHINE BUFFET! q. MAD JOCKS & ENGLISHMEN r. NEW YEAR PARTY NIGHT

- s. JEZ LOWE & BAD PENNIES t. CEILIDH (Tuesday 11th December)
- u. CHRISTMAS BASH with ARIZONA SMOKE REVIEW

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a. b.	SHAY STEY	BLACK & HESKETH	YMOT	GIBBON STEVE	NS HIGGI

- b. STEY HESKETH plus STEVE HIGGINS
  c. MARTIN HALL & HELEN LAGUE
  d. Singers' Theme Night 'Hung; Drawn & Quartered'
  e. ROY BAILEY & JOHN KIRKPATRICK (Ticket only)
  f. BARELY WORKS (Friday 25th January)
  g. ALAN TAYLOR plus JOHN CANEY & MAIRAND O'DONNELL
  h. STANLEY ACCRINGTON
  i; KEN POWELL & HOLLY BURTON
  j. STANLEY ACCRINGTON
  k. KEN POWELL & HOLLY BURTON

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	PUNCH BOWL	Singers' Night				

### 18

BRIAN PETERS (tbc)

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MARILYN MIDDLETON-POLLOCK

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KEITH HANCOCK BAND with MARTIN CARTHY & DAVE SWARBRICK (22)

### February Dates

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nn ·		HOUSE BAND - C (f) KATHRYN TICKEL (g)	
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Nina Szifris & Mike Scott John Carey & Maried O'Donnell

21st Loose Chippings (10th Ann.)

5th

Jez Lowe

10th Strawhead

12th Pota Portac

20th Vin Garbutt

Dick Miles (tbc)

Dave Burland

Tom McConville

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### OBITUARY: Alan Green by Joe Stead

Let me tell you about Alan Green.

I first met Alan in 1972. He was the engineer on my first ever album which was recorded for Westwood Records. We did it in a two bedroom semi in a cul-de-sac in Poynton. He had turned one bedroom into a studio and the other into the control room. He slept downstairs in the living The house was somewhat sparse; the wallpaper and a lot of the plaster had been removed to run the extra electrical trunking needed for a recording studio. We became close friends.

Later he moved to Llanfair Caereinion in Mid Wales where he bought a derelict cottage. rescued a dog called Judy that the owner before him had left to starve in the barn and with his own bare hands he started single handedly to build a recording studio. He lived close to the poverty level but the ground was cleared, the drains were laid and slowly brick by brick the studio was built. Like the semi detached house before he had broken from tradition and built a control room and a studio with no interconnecting window. Alan believed that a good engineer could hear if the artiste was standing in the right position and he also firmly believed that an artiste could perform better if left to his own devices without faces peering at If the song needed the artiste to be theatrical then they could do it without being watched. When the studio was complete he started building his own 16 track mixing desk. He never stopped and an Empire was born albeit in a distant part of the Folk Galaxy.

Although Alan was responsible for countless albums on his own label. on my labels Sweet Folk and Country, Greenwich Village and for other free lance producers who came to him for assistance his name is probably known to but a handful of folkies. Yet the world would be much poorer had he not beavered away for years on his hillside. He produced so much

music that a radio station could play his music non stop for a more than a month, night and day and never repeat itself. The artistes who recorded with him look like the who's who of the Folk world. Here are just a few: Alex Campbell, Harvey Andrews, Phil Beer, Paul Downes, Jim Mageean, Johnny Collins, Jim Rooney, Bill Keith, Mathews Brothers, Houghton Brownsville Banned, Dave Weavers. Miriam Backhouse, Callenia, The Amazing Mr Smith, Matt Armour, Shag Connor and his Carrot Crunchers, Martin Carthy, Kempion, Jacqui and Bridie, John Goodluck, John the Fish, Two Beggarmen, John Kirkpatrick, Alex Atterson, Paul & Linda Adams, the list is endless and I apologise to those I have omitted.

Suddenly, as it will, fate took a strange hand. Alan had often talked about his sweetheart. I had known him for many years and we would talk late into the night about the girl who left him when he was a teenager to become a World Ice Dance Skating Champion. There was never any real danger that he would settle down to a life of married bliss or otherwise. No one would ever match up to the lady who as Heather Hibbert had, with Robin Jones, represented England and Great Britain to gain bronze, silver and gold medals in both the European and World Championships. But she returned to him some 10 years ago and they married.

The recording business was moving swiftly. Suddenly we were entering a period when equipment was obsolete almost as soon as it was manufactured. Alan's home made desk, brilliant though it was, straining under the pressures being put upon it to keep up with the standards set in studios elsewhere. Alan decided to put aside the pressures and strains of running a recording business and after a brief dalliance computers, designing his own programmes for Apple, he and Heather bought a Hotel in Llandudno. North Wales.

ALAN GREEN OBITUARY (continued)

Alan died unexpectedly on Monday October 15th 1990. He was just 49 years old. He leaves a wife Heather, and three sons. Darryl. Dean and Duane. But, beside them. he left a lot more. Any of you readers who have a Folk Heritage Recording, or a Sweet Folk and Country, or a Greenwich Village record, tucked away somewhere should have a look at the credits on the back. If you find Alan Greens name is there you will find that a little bit of him lives on every time you play it. He has stamped his name very firmly into the history of folk music recorded in this Island and for this reason he will never be forgotten even to those of you who claim never to have heard of him.

JOE STEAD.

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### LETTERS to the EDITOR

### CORRECTIONS....

I would like to correct a piece of misinformation contained in the Summer 1990's FOLK NORTH-WEST. With reference to the cassette release " WHEN MIDNIGHT COMES" by Beryl Graeme I would like make it known that neither myself nor my company, FELLSIDE, has any connection whatsoever with recording. The information is incorrect and I don't know where it came from. I appreciate the complimentary remarks made about my production abilities, but I am undeserving of them in this instance and the credit is due to another genius.

It is worth pointing out here what my company's policy is on cassette releases because FELLSIDE'S name gets bandied around guite a lot. FELLSIDE RECORDING is the overall company name and the Folk Music label is called FELLSIDE. Releases on both FELLSIDE and LAKE (the Jazz label) will bear the appropriate logo. If they do not they are NOT releases on that label. They will also bear the appropriate catalogue number "F" or "L". To date FELLSIDE has not released anything on cassette only other than back catalogue samplers

Alongside of this I also undertake recording, production and manufacturing on a purely cash basis for anyone who wants to hire me. This is usually done under the guise of PALADIN MUSICAL ENTERPRISES (PME). This takes advantage of our 16 Track Studio and cassette duplication facilities. Releases in this context will either bear the customers own label and name and catalogue number or our special customer prefix "C".

I hope that clears up any confusion. The rule is: if it hasn't got the logo it ain't the genuine article and the moral is: don't believe everything you read in folk magazines.

Best Wishes
PAUL ADAMS.
FELLSIDE RECORDINGS/FELLSIDE
RECORDS/LAKE RECORDS/PME

### CELTIC CONGRATULATIONS.

Congratulations on Authur Bowmans review of the Celtic Magic concerts at Llandudno. As a North Wales celtic club organiser and TAPLAS (Welsh folk magazine) contributor I was there throughout the festival and wish to compliment Mr Bowman on an excellant and detailed review. I too felt that Davey Spillane was too loud for enjoyment (as indeed he was at Gwyl Werin Y Cnapan last year) but enjoyed the contributions of all the other bands apart from the Blues Bunch.

Although disappointed choice of the Welsh representatives at the event- with the obvious exception of our top band "Ar Log" and suprise favourites "Jukes" (why were MABSANT, HIN DEG, CHARTISTS, HWNTWS, TRIOBANT or Clwyds own CLOCHANfavourites with the northern crowds not invited?) I thought the concerts were well balanced and very good value at night. I look forward to watching the concerts on HTV this Autumn, and, perhaps attending a second festival next year.

Keep up the good work.

Chris Bailey, Organiser, Club Gwerin Delyn.

### Bookings for Local Artists...

I represent one half of a duo called Lennon and Higham, doubtless you've never heard of us, well that hardly suprises me and I'm about to elaborate as to why. During the past 18 months or longer Mike (Lennon) and myself have been travelling accross half of gods creation doing floor spots to look for gigs and make our name. We have always been received very well but when we have asked for dates we have been told on so many occasions " We only book known artists" How then do people become known artists or is this just an excuse. Is it who you know rather than how well you perform. I have to say at this point, out of the many folk clubs we have visited we have had approx four yes four clubs with faith enough to give a booking to us as "unknown" artists, The Bothy ,Billinge, The Castle and the Cross Keys all of the clubs have simple standards and open their doors to anyone who is willing to entertain. But the vast majority of clubs either consider themselves too big to have unknowns or are afraid to book unknown performers through fear of losing out on the night. If the latter is the case then maybe a fund should be set up which will enable these clubs to subside their regulars in attending concerts by unknown If on the other hand artists. clubs really think themselves too important to book unknowns, then what does the future hold for the Federation as a whole? It cannot possibly survive.

For folks sake something has to be done!

Yours sincerely. Steve Higham.

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### CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS

Winter again - already. I think we've still got some of last years holly dried up behind one of our pictures.!!!

All our member clubs seem to be back into the swing, with the sad exception of Rainhill. Still it shouldn't be long before those restless spirits, Colin and Jean find another venue, preferably one with heating.

Our "find a volunteer" campaign has had some further success. On the "local reporter" front we now have Arthur Bowman doing his bit for Wales, Geoff Dormand for the Wirral and Geoff Payne for the Liverpool side of the river.

(Editor's note: These reports will begin next issue)

We now want someone for the Chester/Cheshire area, for the "mid Lancashire" area, for Manchester, and for the frozen North. We need a few more enthusiasts to come up from periscope depth and lend a hand HOW ABOUT YOU? You don't have to be an expert at purple prose, the bold Nigel will edit your efforts.

Dave Bresnen volunteered to do the Bluegrass page; Richard Woods volunteered to do the Youth page; Sara Grey volunteered to review the Second Federation Youth concert; Chris Lock volunteered to interview Hughie Jones; Graham Dixon volunteered to do the quiz; Maghull club volunteered to run a Fed Charity Night which raised 5 etc. It's spreading like measles. so — why not join in? We need help with everything if we are to revitalise our local folk scene.

On a personal note, a very happy Yuletide when it comes round and a wish for '91 that our clubs grow and prosper and more people begin to find out just how good folk club sessions can be.

### BOOKSHELF

REFLECTIONS OF A DONEGAL MAN.

PACKIE MANUS BRYNE.

The house is warmed by the turf burning brightly in the hearth. Through each window are wonderful views of the high rocky hills of North Clare or out across the glittering expanse of Galway Bay.

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What a setting in which to read Packie Byrne's magical story. This tracing of the life of an ordinary man with an extra ordinary talent is an immensely satisfying and entertaining journey, from his beginnings on a hill farm in Donegal, through a multitude of life's experiences to a reflective, still humorous, retirement.

So - If you really have someone to whom you'd give your last Rolo to, give them a copy of this instead.

But — if you want to be totally logical, give them the b\*\*\*\*y sweetie and get this little treasure for yourself.

DAVE DAY.

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### RECORD REVIEWS

IAN BRUCE - Blodwen's Dream. FELLSIDE FECD 076.

This is Fellside's first release on CD and very good it is too. Having played the disc several times already, simply because I like it, I sat down to give it a "real listen" in order to do this review. So, having poured myself a large scotch, I settled myself under the headphones.

Wow! It was difficult to know where all the different sounds were coming from. I certainly know nothing about multi-tracking or recording engineering, but they have done a lovely job on sound balance-great to listen to.

And so too is Ian Bruce. He is a powerful singer/songwriter in every sense, and this CD displays a good balance of his material.

"John"- about an Irish immigrant living over here in order to give his family a better chance in life: "I can play you anything" will appeal to those of you who have struggled to learn the guitar or a song, and thought you would never make it.

"Ghost in the Chair" and "Black Fog" are probably my own two favourites, the former mellow and melodic and the latter strong in content and truly written from an experience which Ian can relate to. I am sure a few people will see themselves through that song. "Blodwen's Dream" I have heard many times before, but on this disc it has been given the "gospel" treatment and it works well-very singable.

"My Eldorado" is the only song which he has not written himself (this one by Graham Miles), but it is done extremely well. Ian loves singing this song, and it shows. The rhythms on this album vary immensely, from folk to blues and from gospel to rock'n'roll. All in all a cracking album.

Well done Ian, well done Fellside.

CHRIS LOCK

JUDY DUNLOP: & STEVE MARSH.
" Friends in Passing" Cassette.

Judy and Steve hail from the Worksop area and this, their second tape, shows why they are so well regarded in that locality.

This is a carefully judged selection of the traditional ("Gypsy Davey"), the contemporary (Woody Guthrie's "Deportees") and the self composed, a tuneful guitar piece by Steve, titled, "Daisy Bumsteads Caprice".

On the basis of their first collection and a snatch of performance I caught at Bedworth Festival, I invited them up to this years Wigan Festival, and they turned in two super concert spots, full of character and professionalism. Repeated listenings to this set will show anyone who has not yet had that pleasure what they missed.

Judy has a terrific voice with real presence and clarity. Her phasing is simple and stylish with no artifice or sophistries to detract from the song at hand. Pure and mellow, she allows the songs to breathe and does not try to gild the lily with uncalled pyrotechnics. Likewise, Steve's playing is sharp, concise and deceptively complex. leaping from the speakers crying "Listen to me" he contents himself with delivering a solid, sympathetic backdrop to Judy's splendid voice.

I am happy to highly recommend this excellent cassette and feel sure that they will be a force to be reckoned with on the folkscene for a long time to come.

BERNIE FORKIN.

CATS IN THE VILLAGE. "Cats in the Village" (Tel 0772- 451076)

Based in the South Ribble, the Cats are best known as a Ceilidh band. They are a good one too, but they are much more than that. There are six Cats, which gives the band a great selection of talent and a wide variety of sound. They are equally at home with songs and tunes, as this tape shows.

With their amplified line - up, the Cats definitely lean towards the heavy end of the folk spectrum, although they do cover the whole range, and even sing unaccompanied.

The songs are a mixture of the well-known and the less - familiar. The Cats have also borrowed a song from their near neighbours Lammergeier that deserves a wider audience. The arrangements are thoughtful and often strikingly original. There is for instance an almost brutal "Blackleg Miner" and later a truly melodious "Pleasant and Delightful". The instrumentals include medleys of dance tunes featuring crisp, confident mandolin as well as fiddle and banjo, and including a little humour too.

This cassette bursts with character and is an excellent introduction to the Cats. However, to experience their light show and effects you will have to wait for the video or, better still, see them live.

HENRY PEACOCK.

Focus. "FOLKUS N.W."

Folkus are Sue and Roy Webster plus Jenny Wright, and they have an excellent 6 track cassette.

Nowadays we have African music, Cajun music, Bluegrass, Scottish, Irish etc so what a pleasure to come across a real "English" gem.

Sue Webster has a lovely voice (as those who remember the Jack Ketch Band will recall). Husband Roy plays a good guitar and Jenny (ex resident at the Triton F.C.) provides both music and good harmony vocals.

The cassette was produced and recorded by Bob Buckle on the Wirral and he has made an excellent job of it.

Give yourself a treat, only 6 tracks but every word distinct, every note true and the whole very professionally presented.

Dave Day

"LIMBO" - Lee Collinson Spiv Records SP1V 102.

Lee Collinson is an accomplished guitarist — his skills took him to the finals of the Young Tradition—al Musician Of the Year in 1988 and again in 1989. This album, though, presents him primarily as a singer, and an able one too.

The songs are an interesting selection of traditional and contempoary, sometimes suprising, songs. His voice is gentle and unhurried, pleasant rather than exciting. Accompaniment is usually acoustic guitar alone— Lee is quite able to provide both rhythm and decoration, and avoids the temptation to over elaborate. There are also the tunes— imaginative and atmospheric settings of traditional pieces which complement the songs beautifully.

A new face is always welcome on the folk scene. On this showing Lee will soon become a familiar and welcome one.

I enjoyed this record and look forward to seeing him in person very soon.

HENRY PEACOCK.

(I got them) Wide Dynamic RangeLow Distortion Blues again Mama!

Hello kids, we have been at it again, spinning tape and sparing nothing to bring you audiophiles a reasoned report of what happened when playback head met magnetic particles. Now read on...

There are some good ideas simmering on "Lessons in Love" by Jon Poole (Turtle Records TRMC 005) but unfortunately they are other people's. On some songs, Peter Case's cynical snarl, on others Gregson's impassioned Clive questioning, even an Elvis Costello edginess surfaces through a lyrical content that usually says "ain't love a bitch". This is however a very listenable release, with a post-punk urgeny (!) about the sparse guitar (Billy Bragg) and the lyrics forced home without lubrication.

No track will take up more than four minutes of your time, and when the songs are as succinct as "I'm Coming Home" which I loved with its P.S. refrain "But I'm not coming home to you" - why labour the point? The songwriting though is not of consistent quality. Stock lines about "warm love going cold" or love being "but a game" are not striking or original enough to seize the imagination. Occasional backing vocal is by Liz Poole, the organ to contrast with the guitar's dominance is by Jon, and John Slater is the excellent producer of this cassette, which all in all I'm glad I've heard.

On the insert photograph, Jon looks very much like Martin Stephenson, but I wonder who Jon Poole is? I suspect the thought sometimes crosses his mind too.

I've reviewed John Pearson's work before, so his style is familiar, but what a leap forward is his latest tape "Streamline Train" (Last Days LDR 90) where John's vocals and guitar are augemented by such respected musicians as Kenny Craddock on keyboards and accordian and the superb drums of Liam Genocky. That Pearson can summon into the studio people like this who have been used by John

Mayall and Van Morrison is a measure of just how much his star is in the ascendent, with regular national radio exposure, and more prestigious support gigs.

I remember Raf. Callaghan introducing me to John's work back in the early 70's. His guitar style both then and now is the 1930's acoustic Country Blues that has always been close to his heart. Playing too, with a command and expertise that simply cannnot be bettered - there is an ease, an effortless technique here that recalls Ry Cooder. This a wellbalanced selection of solo, duo & group playing which features some of John's favourite Country Blues traditions. The title track is his interpretation of Clarence Lofton's early boogie-woogie. There is some tasty 12-string guitar work on Leadbelly's "As I went down the railroad track" and the duet with Roger Hubbard, a fine slide guitar player, on "Walking Blues" highlights their feel for Robert Johnson. Dave Hayward and George Pearson have played together for a number of years and they give a marvellously loose country sound to several numbers here, including John's own "Oozlin' Daddy Blues". There are also contributions from Raf. Callaghan and Neil Morton.

Favourite track for me is "Precious Memories" with its downhome sentimentality; I am a sucker for that sort of thing. If I have a criticism once again it is purely a personal gripe about including material like "Jesus on the Mainline" which is a little too familiar to most people.

He plays Southport now & again and you will always catch him at the Wirral International Guitar Festival, but being based in the South-East means we do not see him live here as often as we should. Write to Box 128, Dover, Kent, CT16 2SX with a cheque for \$6.50 and a copy of this little gem will pop onto your doormat in a little jiffy bag. Thank yoy, thank you once again for allowing me into your homes!

CLIVE POWNCEBY

Lynn and Barrie Hardman familiar in the North West particuarly in East Lancs where they organise the Haslingden Folk club. It must have been difficult for them to reduce their working repertoire to just ten songs, but final choice clearly reflects their interest in issues and concern for the less- privele-There are representatives of the work of Woody Guthrie (Deportee), John Prime (Sam Stone) and Steve Goodman (Penny Evans), together with a couple of traditional songs and one from Hardmen themselves!

These songs receive a straight forward and honest treatment from the voice of Lynn, usually, with guitar accompaniment from Barrie. This brings over the message of the songs without distractions. Lynn's voice if forceful without being strident, but can be tender too. It is very much better than the picket line voice to which she admits! Variety is added by the keyboards of Dave Price, who also produced the cassette at Abraham Moss Community Recording Studio.

Should you ever doubt that folk music has a conscience, this tape will re-assure you that it does.

HENRY PEACOCK.

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### LIVE REVIEWS

FRAGMENTS OF FYLDE.

What do I remember from Fylde this year? The usual inability to be in three places at once. A few disappointments - acts not living up to their reputation, and not the fault of Allan Bell. None of the North American acts I actually enthralled. around specially for the Allan Taylor/Mike Silver pairing saying "I've never caught them together " only to remember two songs into the set where I had seen them before - and why I'd forgotten. Sumaj Rumi would have enthralled me more if I hadn't seen Awatinas at Burnley.

A more predictable disappointment was my own workshop intended to help folk organisers with PR - the only people who turned up already knew how to do it and the very ones who could have learned something useful stayed smugly away!

Now for the raves: Fred Jordan of course, Les Barker, Huw and Tony Williams: The Kippers: Dick Gaughan: Les Barker: Keith Hannock: Mrs Ackroyd and Roy Bailey.

Roy's Saturday afternoon somewhat incongrously for under a cricifix in the Catholic Church Hall, was one of those sessions that justify ones faith in our sort of music. Starting with "Rosas Lovely Daughter" he built the set emotionally politically, audience response, to a sustained high few artists will Along the way we ever achieve. joined in with "Why does it have to be me" listened with awe to "The Last Leviathon", approved songs about the Falkalnds and by Si Khan, before the roof trembled multi part, full throated singing with "Roving Home" and "Here is my home". Not just the best set of the festival, but the best set of the year for me.

IAN WELLS.

Are now taking bookings for Ceilidhs in 1991, mainly with Martyn Harvey as caller. Major bookings for this year include:-

Lancashire Wallopers Weekend of Dance (re-booked for 1991)

Westmorland Step & Garland Dancers Weekend of Dance (Re-booked from 1989)

Redcar Folk Festival (Re-booked from 1989)

Fylde Folk Festival

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### LIVE REVIEWS

### Swinton Folk Festival

One day festivals to my mind are difficult to judge. Whether good or indifferent they somehow never develop the atmosphere of a weekend. However, if hard graft and enthusiasm were the ingredients then Swinton should have been flying high. It never quite was.

We arrived around midday at the White Lion to see how the Acoustic concert was progressing. Very well by all accounts, though I must admit that the room is very small and we could not get in. The displays in the morning by Rivington and Clitheroe morris teams whetted the appetite for their procession through the town. The singaround with Nick and Molly Dow in the Lancastrian bar was relaxed and enjoyed by all concerned. At the same time were workshops, a musicians session, an excellent and varied three hour children's entertainment and clog stepping to boot! If you could not find anything there, the afternoon concert began at 2pm. Not generally renowned for their capacity audiences, this was no exception. Competent performances were by Richard Grainger, Jolly Jack & the Bilious Bros, a rather wearing set from Mabsant, rounded off by fiddle gymnastics by Dave Swarbrick.

The evening choice was between the Grand Ceilidh, Concert or singaround. In terms of audience the concert was a disaster. It eventually started late after a crowd from Leigh Folk Club and others moved in. It is a sad fact of life that no matter how talented local people are - and the one thing not lacking was talent, with a line up including Nick Dow. Richard Grainger, Geoff Higginbottom, and Hands in Pockets - you have to have the proverbial "big name" to draw your average punter. Anyway I enjoyed it, and the extra quests John Carey and Moraig O' Donnell, in between trips upstairs with my daughters to the Ceilidh where the band with a line up of Swarbrick. Nicol, Pegg and the Marriotts with caller Eddie Upton were allowing to thoroughly people themselves, I didn't think this

was permitted! Many I spoke to said that a band of lesser mortals would still have packed the Ceilidh, but would have been cheaper, the available finance being used on concert guests.

But who knows? There is nothing more fickle than a folk audience, as any club organiser will tell you, and I certainly don't envy Festival organisers. So good luck Swinton. Here's to number seven.

KATH HOLDEN.

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Contact Dave Day 051 526 5661

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Contact: Geott Dormand 051 639 7928

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### 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.
- Joint publicity of the Member Clubs
   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 EAGLE & CHILD LEIGH LLANDUDNO RAVE ON THE ALBION WHEELTON FLEECE FOLK	8.00 pm Blundell Arms; Upper Aughton St.; Birkdale 8.30 pm Eagle & Child; Main St.; Billinge 8.00 pm Boundary Hotel; Manchester Road; Leigh 8.30 pm The London Hotel; Upper Mostyn Street; Llandudno 8.30 pm Grosvenor Rowing Club; The Groves; Chester 8.30 pm Albion Hotel; Albion Street; New Brighton 8.30 pm Withy Trees; Higher Wheelton; (on A674 Blackburn) 8.00 pm The Fleece Inn; Highgate; Kendal	Clive Pownceby Bernie Forkin Theresa Tooley Mel Bowman Nick Mitchell A. Sims Peter Kirby Christine Britton	051 924 5078 0744 53058 0942 892226 0492 622049 0244 315094 no phone 0254 830441 0539 732647
MONDAY HORWICH POYNTON PRESTON TRITON FOLK AT THE VIC PUNCH BOWL	8.30 pm The Toll Bar; Horwich; b 8.00 pm Poynton Folk Centre; Park Lane; Poynton 8.15 pm The Unicorn; North Road; Preston 8.00 pm The Liverpool; James Street; Liverpool 8.00pm Hotel Victoria; Albion Street; New Brighton 8.30 pm Punch Bowl Hotel; Hoylake; Wirral	Joyce Riding David Brock Hugh O'Donnell Doreen Rickart Geoff Dormand 'Buddy'	0257 792304 061 483 6521 0772 745498 051 227 3911 051 639 7928 051 678 6713
TUESDAY BLACKPOOL MAGHULL YARROW VALLEY BLACK HORSE WIGAN FOX & HOUNDS	8.30 pm Deans; Cocker Square; Blackpool 8.30 pm Hare & Hounds; Maghull; b 8.30 pm Grapes Hotel; Croston; r. Preston 8.30 pm Black Horse; Grange Rd. West; West Kirby; Wirral 8.30 pm Stanley's True Free House; Powell St.; Wigan 8.30 pm Fox & Hounds; Tilston; Cheshire	Mike Read Dave Day Mark Dowding Tom Topping Joan Blackburn Mrs. A. Green	0253 21153 051 526 6661 0695 576215 051 342 5836 0943 321223 0829 250516
WEDNESDAY BROMBOROUGH CROSS KEYS NEW SEVEN STARS RUNCORN WHITE SWAN	8.30 pm R.A.F.A. Club; Bromborough Road; Bebbington; Wirral 9.00 pm Cross Keys Inn; Running Hill Gate; Uppermill 8.30 pm The New Seven Stars; Standish; Nr. Wigan 8.30 pm Castle Hotel; Halton Village; Runcorn 8.00 pm White Swan; Green Street; Fallowfield	John Coleman Phil Chadwick Steve Chatterley Bob O' Callaghan Anne Morris	
THURSDAY BEAUMARIS BURNLEY COCKERMOUTH DARWEN FLEETWOOD GREGSON'S LANE MAGAZINE ORMSKIRK THE BODDIE SHOP THE BUZZ	8.00 pm Bull's Head Hotel; Beaumaris; Anglesey 8.15 pm Dugdale Arms; Dugdale Road; off Padiham Road; Burnley 8.30 pm Tithe Barn Hotel; Station Street; Cockermouth 8.30 pm The Kiosk; Sunnyhurst Woods; Darwen 8.30 pm Steamer Hotel; Queens Terrace; Fleetwood 8.30 pm Castle Hotel; Gregson Lane; Hoghton 8.30 pm Magazine Hotel; Magazine Lane; Wallasey 8.30 pm Ormskirk Cricket Club; Alty's Lane; Ormskirk 8.30 pm Railway Hotel; Heatley; Lymm 8.30 pm Southern Hotel; Mauldeth Rd. West; Manchester 21	John Harley Rod Finlayson Terry Haworth Chris Dave Ryan Graham Dixon Jack Coutts Mike Lennon Graham Sowerby Agraman	no phone 0282 397 84 0900 604765 0254 706318 03917 6351 0254 853929 051 220 0152 0695 78994 0925 65503 061 447 7482
FRIDAY BEE BLACKBURN EDGAR'S EIGHT NORTHWICH POTTERIES RED LION	8.30 pm Bee Hotel; Bodfer Street; Rhyl 8.30 pm Fox & Hounds; Livesey Branch Rd; Ewood; Blackburn 8.30 pm The Liver Hotel; Brook Street; Chester 8.30 pm Harlequin Theatre; Queen Street; Northwich 8.00 pm Marquis of Granby; Market Place; Burslem; Stoke-on-Tree 8.15 pm Red Lion Hotel; Wigan Road; Westhoughton	Dave Costello Brian Kirkham Mal Waite Sarah Burdon ntJason Hill  Pat Batty	0745 332488 0254 201930 0244 319426 0606 48577 0782 813401 0942 812301
SATURDAY BREWERY ARTS BURY POYNTON SOUTHPORT ARTS ST. ALBANS	8.30 pm Brewery Arts Centre; 122a; Highgate 8.00 pm The Napier; Bolton Street; Bury 8.30 pm Poynton Folk Centre; Park Lane; Poynton vars. Southport Arts Centre; Lord Street; Southport 8.30 pm St. Alban's Parish Hall; St. Alban's Road; Liscard; Win	John Smyth Jean Seymour David Brock Neil Johnstone ralSteve Eyre	0539 25133 061 761 1544 061 483 6521 0704 40004 051 677 14

# MAGHULL FOLK CLUB

GREETINGS TO ALL OUR OLD FRIENDS - AND TO ALL THOSE WE HAVEN'T YET MET.

Another milestone reached in our 9th year - our residents list has finally reached 50!!

WE MEET AT 8.30 P.M. EVERY TUESDAY IN THE FUNCTION ROOM AT THE HARE AND HOUNDS, LIVERPOOL ROAD, MAGHULL (051-526-1168).

YOU PERFORM - THEN ITS FREE. EVERY TUESDAY IS A 'SINGER'S NIGHT' AND ADMISSION IS 50P, UNLESS

OUT TO PLACES LIKE AMSTERDAM AND DUBLIN FOR WEEKENDS AWAY. THIS YEAR, 27 OF US ARE HAVING A WEEKS HOLIDAY ON GALWAY BAY. WE HAVE CLUB SWAPS WITH OTHER FOLK CLUBS, PARTIES AND BAR-B-QS AND GENERALLY GET ON VERY WELL WITH EACH OTHER. WHY NOT COME AND JOIN IN THE FUN??? WE DIVIDE THE RESIDENTS INTO THREE GROUPS WHO RUN THE CLUB ON A MONTHLY BASIS. THE TEAMS ARE:-WE RUN CONCERTS AND FOLK NIGHTS AT OTHER VENUES, HAVE A 'COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROGRAMME' OF SUPPORTING LOCAL CHARITIES ETC., BY GIVING LOCAL FOLK FESTIVALS 'EN-MASSE' IN TENTS AND CARAVANS; WE HAVE TRIPS TUESDAY FOR ALL AGES AND GRADES FROM 7.30 - 8.30 P.M.; WE VISIT EVERY

(Pab/May/July/Aug) Phil Boardman

(March/June/Sept/Dec) B. MEL (Jan/April/July/Oct) Sue Howard

Les Blundell Mikki Boardman Dave and Gaynor Bresnew Clover (Christine, Frank Ron and Bob)

Pote and Cathy Jackson Steve Higham Alan Hesford Harry Hayes Chris Wilson Debbie Singleton Arthur Marshall

George and Joan Peter Melly Tony Gibbons Bella and Maria) The Sisters (Barbara Graham Saggers Gordon McKenzie Chris Kelly Harry Forsyths

Joe Ryan

Larry

old Bones (Mikki Neal Higgins Demure (Derek & Bernie Davis Colin and Jean Harry, Joe and Jane, Dave, Len Nolan Tarry Murphy Mike Lennon Ray Leigh Janet Kemp Tony Hughes Ian Tupling Phil.) Les Newcombe Muriel)

OUR CLUB IS SUPPORTED BY;-

SECTION CULTURAL FUND MERSEYSIDE ARTS

TETLEY WALKER LIMITED

### KORTHOOTING EVENTS

# Saturday 15th December - CLUB CHRISINAS DINNER

### Henre and Hourds - £6.50

melodrama! (Plus a welcome drink) Full Christmas meal plus 'Artisan' with songs, carols and costumed Victorian

# Saturday 19th January - SPACIAL AT MOLLING TITHERARY - 62.50

Owners.

THE PARTY OF THE P

4 part harmonies from 4 nice people

songwriter (won £1000 song search at Kendal first solo appearance in the North West. mean multi-instrumentalist, vocalist Festival). 'Battlefield Bards' Ace fiddler makes his

"See ing Chickens"

a 5 piece complete with lady vocalist.

lot to do with folk, but posi The sensation of Fylde Folk Festival, here as brilliant. positively

# Saturday 9th Manch - SELVED FEDERATION YOUTH CONCESS

### Ingrid Henderson

Superb 13 year old harpist from Fort William, who has just won the 1990 Young Tradition Award

Melling Tithebarn - £2.50

her brother Alan. A rare treat. the way down specially for us and appearing with organised nationwide by Radio Two. Coming all

"Pota Portac"

progressed during the year (Billinge flavour coming back to show us how they have Office Control First public appearance in last year's Great musicians with an

Ben and Joe Broughton

they are capable of unicycling, juggling and fire eating!! Watch for This!!! What a duo - brothers representing Chester Folk Club. As well as being time musicians

Has your club any 'under 21' stars? Ring me!

## Saturday 20th Agril - TITHERNA SPECIAL

Others to be confirmed

Plus support. Sisters Unlimited (To be confirmed)

Watch Wext Bilition

ALL ENQUIRIES - DAVE DAY - 051-526-6661