

FOLK North West West

Spring 1991

60p



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EDITORIAL

WELCOME to another issue of Folk North-West! Apologies to those of you who sent in articles for this issue, and have not been included. Pressure of space from an exceptional number of both adverts and record reviews makes it impossible to include everything. In order to alleviate this problem I am asking all contributors to limit their efforts to a set number of words, rather than have to limit the number & range of contributors.

In this issue as well as all our regulars such as CLUBSCENE, DANCE-ABOUT and an extra large section of Record Reviews, we have a brand new section which features reports on the local folk scene. So far we only cover East Lancashire & North Wales, so if your locality is not covered, why not volunteer yourself!

Our main feature this issue is the first part of an interview with Paul Adams of Fellside Records, a stalwart of the local folk scene for many years.

Once again I'm afraid we have news of a club being forced to move at very short notice - due to the placing of a pool table in the room usually used by the club! On the plus side, there is a brand new club in Liverpool at the Black Horse & Rainbow; more details in the list of clubs.

All for now, and we will see you next issue! Keep Folking!

Nigel Firth
EDITOR

CLOSING DATE for our next issue which covers JUNE/JULY/AUGUST is APRIL 25th

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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.

OUT & ABOUT with Nat Clare

"ALL THE BOYS LOVE MY AUNTIE FANNY..."

Alright then Shanty-persons everywhere. Lancaster needs you! The mainsail is hoisted and the anchor is aweigh and it is time to force a few "Sea-legs" between your landlubbers' teeth, splice the mainbrace and brush up your nautical bits as you have been cordially invited to the Lancaster Maritime Festival; a four-day celebration of the city's golden age of sea-faring.

All sorts of goodies are promised, starting off with a great deal of noggin-quaffing in the quay-side hostelries. There will be guided walks (for those suddenly taken blind drunk), illustrated talks (for those too inebriated to comprehend the spoken word), and for students of traditional drama, the ancient Lancaster Pace-Egg Play will be performed with the usual gusto, relish and plain over-acting, usual on these splendid occasions.

You can also look forward to musical performances by Hughie Jones, The Shanty Crew, Storm-along John and the rather excellent Jolly Jack.

So come all ye pirates, sea-dogs, press-ganged librarians; in fact anyone who has ever felt the urge to balance a budgie on their shoulder, stand on one leg and make Robert Newton-like noises; give Dave Wright a ring on Lancaster (0524) 841249. The festival is scheduled to run from Friday March 29th to Monday 1st April. See you there shipmates!

"ROLL THE WOODPILE DOWN"

I remember how my auntie inadvertently threw away the autographs of all four Beatles and consequently lost the certain possibility of making herself quite a few hard Ecu by taking them along to Sotheby's. Ever since then, I have resorted to collecting the autographs of anyone who might have the remotest chance of

attaining any semblance of celebrity status. Unfortunately, to date, my collection comprises a signed copy of an L.P. by The Wassailers, an excellent and worthy object in its own way, but unlikely to enable me to retire in luxury next door to Ronald Biggs.

Before me as I write, if my memory serves me well, is the one of those very same Wassailer-persons, a fine-voiced gentleman by the name of Nick Caffery.

Nick, along with George Critchley and Rob Malaney, under the collective name of "Th' Antique Roadshow" are now residents at the long-running Preston Folk Club and invite us to join their friendly and supportive audience on Mondays in the Unicorn on North Road. Oh and do not be surprised if I ask you to autograph my beermat!

BOOM-BANG-A-FOLK.

Radio Humberside are all set to launch their annual folk songwriting competition and this year "A Song For '91" goes International. Hopefully, writers in the folk tradition will avoid the excesses of the Eurovision Song Contest and not bother submitting "Seth Davey and His Puppet On A String". You will be pleased to learn that your efforts will not be judged by Katy Boyle but by Clive Gregson, Maddy Prior and a guest judge from Holland; Cees Bijlsma.

There is no specific theme for this year's entries but the guidelines are "Life, Love and the bits in-between". The winner will be invited to record a single with Harbourtown Records and will have the chance of playing at a folk festival in Friesland, Holland.

The closing date for entries is 12th April. Details and application forms can be obtained from; "A Song For 91" Humberside Leisure Service Central Library Albion Street Hull HU1 3TF. Tel: 0482 224040 Ext: 26

"PO' BOY GUMBO"

Any rich philanthropists out there who would like to sponsor me as I "Bop To The Bayou" in New Orleans between April 25th and May 5th? Just think, for a mere £999 I could be sampling the hot days and warm Southern nights...concerts, clubs and Cajun cuisine...river-boat cruises down the Mississippi...as you are lashed with biting winds, drowned by April downpours and left to suffer the flatulent indignities of Wigan cuisine. No, I did not think there would be!

The trip is being organised by Nancy Covey, who - as well as being married to Richard Thompson - has already led a three week musical safari to Zimbabwe and is planning one to the Soviet Union in October. Nancy asks leading Folk and Rock personalities to host the festivities on her tours and excellent they sound too.

If you would like more information then telephone 071 431 3086 or 071 482 3287 (evenings).

SEVEN DRUNKEN NIGHTS...IN DUBLIN

In two or three days time, I will be sitting in O'Donaghue's bar in Dublin's fair city, reminiscing about how The Dubliners created a major breakthrough for folk music generally and Irish music particularly, when they got to number 2 in the charts in 1967 with "Seven Drunken Nights".

Despite the Irish hospitality and love of "The Crack" I doubt whether anyone will be reading my ramblings, but I mention The Dubliners for several reasons: 1) Younger readers of our illustrious organ may have seen them in the not too distant past on Top Of The Pops miming frantically to The Irish Rover along with those rascally Pogues and 2) They are currently touring the U.K.

Unfortunately, the nearest they get to us is Bradford so look out for them again in the Autumn.

Meanwhile, you could try the video of "The Dubliners' Dublin" or better still joining me for a

night of Guinness, spine-tingling music and the "rare owd crack" on my next visit to O'Donaghue's.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

You will notice a deliberate avoidance of any hint of satire in this piece. It would take a far braver soul than I to risk having various anatomical parts painfully removed by irate persons of a feminist persuasion - whom I hasten to add I support wholeheartedly - so, for those who do not know, early March heralds the arrival of "International Women's Day".

Amongst many fine local events, displays and exhibitions, you can participate in celebrating women's talents and achievements by attending a performance of "Spread Your Wings", an evening's entertainment hosted by Alison Dean (who happens to organise the Cross Keys folk club in Uppermill).

There will be theatre, singing and an all-woman ceilidh band and while the (mixed) evening promises to be a great deal of fun, it is hoped that attention will be drawn to the serious underlying issues. Oh and children are welcome.

Further details can be obtained from Linda Cullen on 0457 871 600 or Carrie Ryan on 0457 870 100.

There, several paragraphs without a trace of humour. Whaddya mean "so what's new?".

I SAY...I SAY...I SAY

Right, now for the folk jokes:

What is the difference between an accordion and an onion? You cry when somebody cuts up an onion!

No? try this one then:

What is the difference between a banjo and a trampoline? You should take your shoes off before jumping on a trampoline!

O.K., we can't all be Mike Harding's...which reminds me, if you possibly have time to see "Waiting For Godot" at Bolton's

6 Octagon theatre, and starring Bernard Wrigley and Mike Harding, do so at once! Andy Hay, who got Mike Harding to agree to the stage role, does a brilliant job with the production. Worth a couple of complimentary tickets, surely?

BLACKBURN FOLK CLUB FORCED OUT BY SHOCK HORROR SEX SCANDAL

No, you did not fall for it this time either. They have been forced out but simply because someone thought that the room would be better suited to a pool table. It is the old, old story... maybe someone should write about it.. cue for a song, perhaps?

The club's new address is The Bank Hotel, Hope Street, Blackburn. They still meet on Fridays and you can get further information from Brian 0254 201930.

RALPH'S SECRET GARDEN

Heard a snippet of Ralph McTell's new album "Stealin' Back" on Folk On 2 a few weeks ago, which saw him return to his jug-band, blues and rag-time roots and a highly enjoyable excursion it is too.

I remember Ralph playing at Bob Williamson's legendary Cattle Market club in Bolton just when Ralph had changed the title of his busking song from "The Streets Of Paris" to the slightly more memorable "Streets Of London". Those were the days! As I remember, Bob broke himself and paid Ralph £12 and the young chap slept in his Morris van in the pub car park!

"THE BONNY, BONNY BANKS OF NAT. WEST."

Do not believe everything you read (especially here!) Henry Kipper is most definitely not dead! (Even though he does look it at times).

Sid Kipper (AKA the delightfully-named Dick Nudds), informs me that The Kipper Family have absolutely no intention of splitting up, dying or touring with The Happy Mondays. They can be contacted for bookings by ringing Dick in Norfolk on 0953 604778.

Whilst you are booking the

Kippers, why not ask Dick about the Canadian duo "Nonesuch" who play Trad British and French music and will be available for bookings in the U.K. in June and July.

A demo cassette is available.

WOT MORE RUMOURS?

Roy Harris has not retired (perhaps they meant Rolf?) but he is limiting his folk club work to clubs within a 3 hour drive of his Nottingham home. He will remain, however, available for festivals, concerts, workshops, schools and story-telling events. Ring Roy on 0602 392789.

Finally a question-

It has been brought to my attention that folk music is listed in The Radio Times under "Easy Listening" now I ask for your comments on the following: "If the music listed is Folk then it shouldn't be easy listening, and if it is 'Easy Listening' then it isn't Folk".

What do you think?

See You. Nat. Clare.

BOTHY FOLK CLUB present Roy Bailey & John Kirkpatrick in Concert at the Blundell Arms, Upper Aughton Road, Birkdale, Southport on Sunday 19th May. Tickets from Clive on 051 924 5078.

PRESTON FOLK CLUB are temporarily dispossessed during March, due to refurbishment of the premises. Thus Dave Swarbrick will appear at Preston Folk Club at the English Martyr's Club, just up North Road on the same side as the Unicorn.

THE WINNER of the Folk Quiz will be announced, and a full list of answers printed in the next issue. There have been so many entries, there has not been time to sort out the winner. Organisers - please send your money to Kath as soon as possible from Quiz sales.

I have received a copy of John Cartain's winning song "Susannah" in the Great Northern Song Contest. Unfortunaley due to lack of space, I cannot print it until next issue. Sorry!

CLUBSCENE with Tony Gibbons 7

BOTHY, Sundays

Now in its 27th year, the Bothy Folk Club, held at the Blundell Arms, Upper Aughton Road, Birkdale, is an institution not only in the local folk scene but nationally. One of the finest rooms you could ever wish to sing in, either as a guest or punter, you can sense the feeling of history in the room - all the great names of the past who have appeared there, the long list of local legends who have been residents at one time or other. Present day residents include Pete Rimmer, Bev Sanders, Neville Grundy, Ray Rooney, Keith Mandle, et al. Holding it all together in his own inimitable way is Clive Pownceby, surely the best M.C. a club could wish to have.

There is no set policy on what kind of music can be performed - I have heard the accusations that it is a "trad" club and the audience and residents somehow put their noses up at anything that is not "proper" folk (whatever that is!). Well do not you believe it. I have always found that it is a very broad-minded club with a good sense of humour, as well as being very loyal and knowledgeable. Allied to the club are the Southport Swords, Mr. Blundell's Arms Ceilidh Band, and the Argameols Ladies Morris Team. All these are involved in local community events and ceilidhs organised by the Club. There is even a sort of "souvenir shop" at the club, selling their own diaries, car stickers, key rings, Christmas Cards, etc.! The trip to the bar downstairs can be a bit of a trek, and the stairs would be quite daunting to anyone not fully mobile but, all in all, this is the club that others could do with taking lessons from. Hopefully it will exist forever - I cannot imagine it not being there!

And to finish on a couple of points (1) floor singers are not normally accommodated on a guest night and (2) the club always starts on time! (8.15 prompt). Other clubs please note !!!!!

NORTWICH, Friday

Based at the Harlequin Theatre, Queen Street, Northwich, this lovely little club is high on my list of essential clubs to visit. The room is actually the bar of the theatre - but don't let that put you off! Its compact size and design lends itself perfectly to everything you need for a good atmosphere. A superb bunch of residents - Sarah Burdon & Ian Sherwood, Alan Carpenter, Jamie Anderson, Graham Sowerby, David Giles, Sean & Sandy Boyle, plus excellent local and national guests. Each time I have visited the club, I have been mightily impressed by the atmosphere generated by both the residents and the audience - they are a great crowd for joining in with a song. Another plus is the warmth of the welcome they give to guests and visitors alike - you will only be a stranger there for five minutes! I cannot really find anything wrong to say about this club - even the one flight of stairs is twice as wide as the norm!

An annual membership scheme is in operation - for per year you get reduced prices to ceilidhs and other folk club social events, plus an excellent club newsletter posted to members at least every three months.

If you fancy a trip out there any Friday night, I am sure Sarah Burdon (0606-48577) would be only too delighted to give you directions you will not regret it.

The Albion, Sundays

Held in a ground-floor room at the Albion Hotel, Albion Street, New Brighton, this was always one of my favourite clubs. It had been over 12 months since my last visit, due to other commitments, and a few changes have been made - not all for the better.

On the plus side - a fine nucleus of residents including Tinlantin (now a 5-piece band), Ron Howarth, George and Gill Peckham, Strange

East Lancashire

Greetings from the snowcapped hills of the Lancashire Pennine region. You might find this hard to believe, but not all North-West Federation members live West of Wigan. In an attempt to redress the balance, yours truly has become the East Lancashire representative for the Federation.

Allow me to introduce myself. I am Linda Wright, one of the many residents of Maghull Folk Club. I have started investigating the folk scene in my area, and will be reporting in each issue about anything I find relevant to East Lancashire, such as clubs, events, festivals etc.

Burnley Folk Club was officially relaunched in November. It has now moved to a new venue, at the **Dugdale Arms**, Dugdale Road, off Padiham Road. There is plenty of parking, but facilities for the disabled are typically non-existent. If any disabled person wants to come along, ring the organiser beforehand. Joan McEvoy, who used to run the club, has had to step down due to family commitments, so Rod Finlayson has taken her place. The residents of the "new" folk club are Liz Brown, Dave Cook, Steve Cook, Rod Finlayson, Roy Kelly, Kath Reade, Linda Wright and "Ginny Run".

The first Thursday of every month is a guest night; the second is a singers night. The third is a "hosted" singers night, where an invited visitor or a resident has the opportunity to have a full "guest" slot. The fourth is a singaround. There is no entry fee, but a hat is passed round for contributions. The relaunched Club is a small but enthusiastic venture that welcomes all support. Why not go along? It is just a minute away from Junction 10 of the M65.

Steve Cook, resident of Burnley Folk club, will be appearing at Maghull's Annual Youth concert at the Melling Tithebarn in March. If you can get a ticket, it is well worth going to.

Linda Wright.

North Wales

I am writing this whilst recovering from the Christmas Festivities. My own Club, **Llandudno**, had the residents from **The Bee** in Rhyl as our guests for our Christmas bash. This is becoming something of an annual event, and a great time was had by all. Since the Summer there have been several changes to the residency. The Club, bid farewell to **The Rambling Boys** and welcomed new residents **Gill Williams** and **John Les Pritchard**, helped occasionally by myself, **Geoff Durno** and **John Freeman**. The Club is hoping to increase the number of guests they book this Summer Season, booking every other week instead of every three weeks. We hope this will allow us to book more singers from the North West, and lighten the load on the residents.

The residents from Rhyl have been telling me what a fabulous night they had with **Jez Lowe** at the end of November. He seems to go from strength to strength and is one to look out for in the Club dates. The regulars at Rhyl are looking forward to the 31st May when **Mark T.** is their guest and we think it is the first time that Mark has performed solo in the area.

Over at **Beaumaris** the Club seems to be thriving with an impressive guest list including **Black Eyed Biddy**, **Isaac Guillory** and **Wizz Jones**. The Club uses two venues one is **The Old Bulls Head Hotel** for singers nights and the other one is the **Bulkeley Hotel** over the road for their guest nights. This means that the nationally known guests get to play to a larger audience and of course this all helps financially.

The main concert venue on the North Wales coast is **The Arcadia Theatre** at **Llandudno**. The management have always had a sympathetic policy to folk music and have booked **The Dubliners** and **Christy Moore** in their Spring programme.

Now for a bit of a moan. At a time when more and more artists are sending out contracts to sign

from P.8

Pork, plus others. There is easy access and even toilets for the disabled adjoining the room; a good cross-section of music and song with no set policy. It is essentially a singers club with occasional guests.

Unfortunately, the room has been altered and become more compact than before - herein lies the rub! One or two pillars obstructing the view of the stage can prove to be a bit of a nuisance, but the main disappointment to me was the number of people congregated all night at the bar when there were plenty of seats to be had. The noise generated by the constant chatter from these people - admittedly some were, I suspect, residents of the hotel - really put me off. Even with a P.A. system in use, I found it difficult sometimes to hear what was being sung or said. It must be even more off-putting for a guest. I really do feel that it is the responsibility of club organisers/residents to have a quiet word or even make a general appeal for order. Maybe I just called on the wrong night. I hope so, because the potential for a smashing club is definitely there.

from P.7

It is rather disappointing when a turn cancels at the very last minute. This has happened twice recently to one of our local clubs. If a more professional approach is to be expected from folk clubs I'm sure a more reliable attitude should be adopted by Artists.

Lastly, I would like to try and encourage all the young singers that attend folk clubs to get up and "have a go" - this is the only way that a young singer can overcome the nerves that we all suffer from when we first start singing in public.

So why not have a weekend away and take in one of the North Wales Folk Clubs, we would all love to see you.

Arthur Bowman.

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 -
Chris, Paul & Gren, Dave Molloy.
EAGLE & CHILD -
Caught on the Hop, Quartz, Andy Anderson, Pota Portac
FOLK AT THE NEST -
The New Seven Stars Band
FLEETWOOD -
Spitting on a Roast
HORWICH -
Joyce Riding, Tom Ferber
LEIGH -
Calico, Pennygate, Influx
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, Mark Dowding, Nothing Yet
WHITE SWAN -
Dave & Helen Howard, Plan B, Maggie Billington, Graham Shaw, Dave Vaughan, Maureen Hotham
WIGAN -
Joan Blackburn, Lawrence Hoy

WE'LL KEEP A WELCOME IN THE FELLOWS.

Nigel Firth talks to Paul Adams of Fellside Records

In an attempt to find out more about the North-West's premier record label, **FELLSIDE RECORDS**, Nigel Firth went to talk to Paul Adams at his Workington home. Paul had just returned to work after a period of convalescence at home following an operation.

Nigel Firth: How & why did you start Fellside Records, since there were quite a number of other labels around at the time?

Paul Adams: I hadn't intended to start a record label. It began as a recording studio; I had a background in Folk Music and Jazz and had dabbled in broadcasting and recording. Not long after I set up I met Brian Horsfall at Tradition, the late Alan Green at Folk Heritage and other people like Bill Leader and the idea developed from there. It was not intended to just cover Folk Music, but Jazz, Country Music etc as well, basically anything from the locality. The early catalogue reflected this; we did local things like dialect, border dance music and fiddle music.

By the time the first Jazz record came along (no. 16), it was fairly well established as a folk label. Record 17 was Roy Harris' Rambling Soldier from the Roy Palmer book of the same name. That in a sense established us once we took on a singer who was very well known in the revival, and we've never looked back as a folk label since.

Some four years ago, I realised my other ambition and established a Jazz label, Lake Records. That is very satisfying because it has established itself with a reputation on the Jazz scene similar to Fellside's on the Folk Scene. It has done some very nice things and financially gives a better return than the folk label does.

NF: Haven't you recently had artist crossover?

PA: Yes, Marilyn Middleton-Pollock did one album on our Folk Label which had some blues on it. She has just released a CD of Vaude-

ville Blues and is now getting work both in Jazz and Folk Clubs.

NF: Do you still do other types of music, or have you now concentrated just on Jazz & Folk?

PA: Yes really, I still do the occasional job for people in anything that comes along. I do the remastering of tapes for another record company; these are not necessarily Folk Music things. We do our own cassette duplication, but don't advertise because we are already so busy duplicating our own stuff. It isn't a part of what we set out to do, and there are time constraints as I'm still holding down a full-time job and playing in two bands, which makes life rather interesting!

NF: I'm sure it does! How much of the process can you do yourselves from an artist coming into the studio to the finished product on sale in the shops?

PA: It hasn't changed much since the advent of CD's if that is at the back of your question. We take it as far as production master stage. This is a tape ready to cut the master disc from or to produce the CD master. Cassettes are all done in house, we have a bank of twenty identical cassette decks so we can record in real time and on CD releases we use the CD as the master, which is easier than reel-to-reel tape.

NF: Do you see more going onto CD?

PA: Yes I don't think there are two ways about that. There is resistance, and it's a difficult situation for a small company to be in. We have just done Jez Lowe, our biggest-selling artist on all three formats. It is the first and probably last time we will do that as the bills were horrendous and I'm not sure sales justify it.

The CD is a statement of faith by the record company in an artist, whilst the vinyl is to keep the club audience happy. To be honest I don't think we will meet too

much resistance over the longer term. It's simply a question of how long vinyl will take to die. The smaller labels don't have the resources of the big companies to switch about. If we have trouble selling 1000 L.P's, we are going to have even more trouble selling 1000 CD's. Although break even point on CD's is lower because of the higher retail price, but it's still a difficult decision to make.

NF: So some releases will still be Vinyl & Cassette?

PA: Yes, although I'm not sure what that means at present. We may decide to ditch Vinyl altogether; there's no intention to blackmail the customer, it's just the way the market is going. I've been trying whilst convalescing to expand our distribution, and I found distributors don't want to know if you haven't got CD's, they won't touch vinyls at all. I also don't want to be caught with a large stock of vinyls on my shelves. We recently disposed of a large part of our back catalogue, and although it sold very cheaply, we did quite well out of it.

NF: Do I imply you would only consider vinyl for an artist selling mainly through the clubs?

PA: That's right, although in practice, most of our sales are via the artist on gigs, and perhaps a few through mail order.

Jez Lowe is well-known enough to sell through distribution. Interestingly, if you can get the records into the retailers, they do sell. I have a friend who has a shop in Kendal, and he can sell £600 a year and that in a small market town. The trouble is that the small specialist record shop has almost vanished, to be replaced by the multiples that will only sell the top 50 albums.

NEXT ISSUE: We talk about what records (sorry I should say CD's) are planned and other aspects of the recording business. We will also try to clear up some common misconceptions.

THE
WIGG IN CE ILIDHS
MONTHLY 1991

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MARCH 15th	OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF 'The WIGGIN CEILIDHS With COCK AND BULL'	£3.50	£3.00
APRIL 12th	FINE LOCAL BAND FROM TOTTINGTON 'THE RIOT BAND'	£2.50	£2.00
MAY 10th	THE CHRIS WOOD (ex Oyster) and ANDY CUTTING (Ex Blowzabella) Band. Caller Hugh Rippon	£3.50	£3.00
JUNE 7th	From Southport with a strong local following MR BLUNDELLS ARMS.	£2.50	£2.00
JULY 12th	Wakes Week With the return of DR YOUNGS MUSIC EMPORIUM	£2.50	£2.00
SEPTEMBER 13th	Very Popular on previous visits to the North 'TICKLED PINK'	£3.50	£3.00
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BROADFOLK

First what is on, then what may be off. Folk on 2 is stronger at the Radio 2 "hour", with some shorter, sharper reviewing and tighter sets - and is serving the Northern folk scene well, unlike Folk Roots which is suffering from a re-definition of NEWS. NEWS should include North, East, West and South, : Folk Roots serves only the South & East rarely the North and - as Taplas keeps pointing out - almost never West Wales.

The Stan Hugill "shanty" series of four half hours, also on Radio 2, was excellent but the quality of the shanty singing was more variable. Why has Television not taken up this topic?

Our own local radio programmes are as strong as ever and still in place at present though informed rumour leaves me worried about what happens in the new financial year. Would you believe a "local" folk programme for the whole of BBC North Region? - that is virtually all of northern England. Another sufferer from "the cuts" is the regional Television opt-out slot: some have to be "all-North", leaving fewer for the North-West. They are also to concentrate on current affairs. I am assured that programmes like the Fylde festival one are not excluded - but anyone who wants to put a cultural programme on air will have to fight harder to get the fewer slots available. The "national" arts Late Show seems to define national as "inside the M25, just jetted into Heathrow, or in Europe or the States".

Another friend of folk is under threat: Woman's Hour is not to lose its team or its title, but will move from its after-lunch slot to become "a morning sequence". Will their eclectic approach to music survive?

Finally, I loved Lancashire Drift's "from the archives" show for Radio Lancashire (nee Blackburn) celebration of 20 years on air - Pendle folk in the Wellspring, and a young Strawhead!

Beverley Folk Festival

21st-23rd June 1991

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DANCEABOUT

News on Social, Morris, Sword & Clog Dance

Bothy Ceilidhs have been running for some years now, and very successfully too. Now they are to be joined by two other series of such events: the Wiggan Ceilidhs at Ince Civic Hall, and the Worden Arts Centre Barn Dances at Leyland.

The Ince variety is officially launched on Friday, 15th March with the Cock and Bull Band. Nationally known bands then alternate with local bands - generally on the second Friday in the month, but do check first with Peter or Alison (0942 816569). Special rates for the unwaged.

If you are a fan of Cock & Bull then why not go and dance to them again the night after (Sat. 16 March) when the Worden session is launched? Following events come in May, September and November with Airs & Graces, Ran Tan and Blowzabella. More details re. subscription rates and party bookings (0772 455908).

Mention of the Ran Tan Band reminds me that they have now produced a tape ("If You're Up You're In It"), the quality of which can do them nothing but good. Another band from that hot-bed of music, dance and song - Leyland - Cats In The Village have also hit the tape trail with a good offering of their own. Catering for a different part of the spectrum of dance is the Houghton Band; in fact they will have been doing that for 25 years come September, when they are planning a celebratory binge at the Leyland Masonic Hall. It is rumoured that long-time friend Rob Gordon will also be there with his Scottish band. That band grew out of the Houghton Folk Dance Club - who celebrate their 30th Anniversary in April (Friday, 26th - if you are interested) with a "do" at Houghton Village Hall.

Mention now of a new-ish band here in the North West which has been drawing a good deal of favourable comment: Melandra from Manchester University. All members are present or past students and

electric folk rock is their natural style, so I am told, although other styles can be accommodated. The contact is Peter Crowther (061-223-7002).

Morris & Sword teams are girding themselves up for the approaching season and Horwich MM will be into an early start with their "Day for St. George" on Saturday, 20th April, when a number of the North West-type teams will be appearing. Teams in the Preston area have already planned on all-encompassing Day for 15th August - BUT that is in 1992 coinciding with Preston Guild activities, and the first reading of the Official Proclamation. Each of the 8 teams in the locality will be inviting guest teams, and the "Old" Garstang team intends putting in an appearance - probably at the Torchlight Procession in early September. By then there could be a 9th local team: this winter a small group of Border Morris enthusiasts has been meeting on Wednesday evenings. Anyone else interested? Contact Fiona Frank on Preston (0772-626498).

The National Youth Folklore Troupe was started last year: its aim is to give young people with special skills the chance to meet others to form a performance group to represent their country at folk festivals. In 1990 the programme included Country, Morris, Longsword, Rapper Sword, Clog, Step, and Broom Dances and the music was performed by members of the troupe with only a little adult help. This year they are hoping to have applications from singers as well. The age group for 1991 is 10 to 16 as at 31st July. In 1992 it is hoped to have two troupes: 10-13, and 14+.

There is a one week residential course at Easter which includes outings most afternoons as well as rehearsals. Riding, Ice Skating and Swimming were included in 1990. Accommodation is at a Youth Hostel near Wantage and arrangements are made for getting all participants to and from venues.

TOURS NEWS by Tony Gibbons

I would like to thank those clubs (Northwich, Maghull, Billinge, Preston, and Folk at the Vic) who booked Brian McNeill (ex Battlefield Band) on his first-ever solo tour. He was overwhelmed by his reception and asked me to pass on his thanks. Having shown it can be done, I have news of other acts looking for work - legendary Scotsman Hamish Imlach, available from October 6th - 16th.

A new, interesting combination of Anne Lennox-Martin and Dave Mitchell (of "Spring Chickens" fame) are available for either June - July or October. Anne is a legend on the folk club circuit, and getting together with the very talented Mr. Mitchell could prove to be a master-stroke.

A fine group from Belfast - "CRAOBH RUA" (Red Branch) are interested in touring around the end of August. Featuring banjo, fiddle, uilleann pipes, whistles, guitars, bodhran and vocals. They are trying to "make it" on the English folk club scene and are open to offers from clubs in our region. Let us see what we can do!

Also on the market - that finest of all Irish singers Len Graham, with storyteller John Campbell. Len's superb interpretation of traditional songs of his native Ulster, plus John's hilarious stories and anecdotes, should provide an excellent evening's entertainment. Available end April.

John Pearson, making a national name for himself, will be available from March. Now based in Dover, John is more in demand and last year played with great success at, among others, Edinburgh Folk Festival, International Guitar Festival. Time we saw more of him in this part of the world.

"The Caledonia Ramblers" are a Scottish-based group specialising in a blend of Scottish, Irish and American traditional music. With considerable experience performing in North America, they are available in April or after August. I

have a demo tape of the band.

Local singer-songwriter Dean Johnson is looking for bookings. His stature is growing all the time and has a two cassettes under his belt already. He would welcome the chance to do support spots if anyone is looking for an appetiser to their main act.

And Finally ... Sherwood, Duncan & Swan (see Record Reviews) are available for tour 2 - 16th October. Get in touch with me if you are interested in them or any others mentioned on 051 526 6522.

Tony Gibbons

The special need is for more BOYS to apply! A search is on for commercial sponsorship but meanwhile they are asking for support from all who have an interest in folk and believe that by showing youngster performing well it will encourage others to have a go - especially if there is some TV coverage. At least it may encourage other young people to take folk song, music and dance more seriously.

More details and application forms from N.Y.F.T.E., 24b Bedford Grove, EASTBOURNE, BN21 2DU (s.a.e. please). Donations to N.Y.F.T.E., 11 Sadberge Grove, Fairfield, STOCKTON-ON-TEES, TS19 7RN. I know that Hoghton FDC have made a substantial donation to help them send out letters of appeal to Clubs; perhaps you have seen one already?

Roy Smith

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23rd

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SEASON TICKET @ £17.00, AFTER June 1 st £19.00, SATURDAY TICKETS £12.00, SUNDAY TICKETS £10.00.
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Souvenir Festival Magazine @ Programme of Events 50p, WEEKEND CAMPING £2.00 PER PERSON.

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Fundraising News: Geoff Dormand

The Federation now contains some fifty folk clubs stretching from the Lake District in the North to The Potteries in the South. Although the Newsletter lists all the clubs, it is difficult to know how each club is doing financially.

A glance at the listings suggest that the clubs booking big guests regularly are likely to be financially stable, whereas others may benefit from additional funding. Without knowing details we do not know which are struggling. I am certain there ARE clubs who would benefit from additional funding.

As the Fundraiser, it is my job to raise at least £1000 for those struggling clubs. Whether it is your aim to book a special guest, or some other project, we are here to help you. Over the next twelve months, fundraising activities will be taking place to help you, the member clubs.

If as an individual member club, you wish to organise your own fund raising activity, why not let me know about it. Already several clubs have raised money, but why not involve your club in (say) a week of fundraising?

On Monday May 6th the Federation is organising a "Day Of Folk" at the Hotel Victoria, New Brighton. To do this we need help from all the member clubs. I would like each club to put forward a resident singer or group to take part in this special day. For more information on this Folk Day or any other fund raising activity write to me c/o "Folk News", Wirral Globe, Globe House, Catherine Street, Birkenhead.

On Wednesday March 20th there will be a five hour folk spectacular at the Black Horse And Rainbow Pub, Berry Street, Liverpool. The music kicks off at 8pm and continues through to 1 am (late bar). Proceeds from this event will go towards the Day Of Folk (Adverts, Room Hire, etc.). If anyone would like to take part they can also contact me on the above address.



THE 'NEW SPRING' TOUR 1991

	MARCH			Tickets and Info.
Wed.	20	BRISTOL	The Thekia	0272 293301
Thu.	21	TELFORD	Madeley Court Theatre	0952 680291
Fri.	22	BINGHAM	Leisure Centre	0602 419741
Sat.	23	LONDON	Queen Elizabeth Hall	071 928 8800
Sun.	24	MALVERN	Winter Gardens	0684 892277
Mon.	25	SWANSEA	Penyrheol Theatre	0792 897039
Wed.	27	GRAVESEND	Woodville Halls Theatre	0474 337459
Thu.	28	SWINDON	Wyvern Theatre	0793 524481
Sat.	30	BANGOR	Theatr Gwynedd	0248 351708
APRIL				
Tue.	2	LINTHORPE (Middlesborough)	Little Theatre	0642 815181
Wed.	3	MANCHESTER	Band on the Wall	061 832 6625/ 832 0183
Thu.	4	BURNLEY	Mechanics Hall	0282 30005
Fri.	5	HEXHAM	Queens Hall Arts Centre	0434 607272
Sat.	6	KENDAL	Brewery Arts Centre	0539 725133
Sun.	7	HULL	Spring Street Theatre	0482 23638
Mon.	8	LEEDS	The Astoria	0532 490 362/ 490 914
Wed.	10	BARNSTAPLE	Queens Hall Theatre	0271 43239
Thu.	11	WEYMOUTH	Weymouth College	0305 208856
Fri.	12	FROME	Merlin Theatre	0373 65949
Sat.	13	SALISBURY	Arts Centre	0722 21744
Mon.	15	ST. ALBANS	Maltings Arts Centre	0727 44222
Tue.	16	BRACKNELL	Wilde Theatre	0344 484123
Wed.	17	CHELMSFORD	Chancellor Hall	0245 495028
Thu.	18	TUNBRIDGE WELLS	Assembly Halls	0892 32072/ 30613
Fri.	19	NORWICH	Arts Centre	0603 660352
Sat.	20	NORWICH	Arts Centre	0603 660352
Sun.	21	BIRMINGHAM	Inter Varsity Centre	021 551 7800

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SATURDAY	2ND	9TH	16TH	23RD	30TH
BREWERY ARTS BURY POYNTON SOUTHPORT ARTS ST. ALBANS	HANDS IN POCKETS THE BACKROOM BOYS	BRAM TAYLOR CEILIDH with S (k) Singers' Night	ST. PATRICK'S (u) DAVE TOWNSEND GONE TO EARTH	DICK GAUGHAN SARA GREY CEILIDH with B (l) THE HARPBREAKE (n)	CEILIDH AT DER (j) EASTER FOLK FE (m)
SUNDAY	3RD	10TH	17TH	24TH	31ST
BOTHY EAGLE & CHILD LEIGH LLANDUDNO THE ALBION WHEELTON FLEECE FOLK	Singers' Night Singers' Night JOHN CAREY & M (o) Singers' Night RESIDENTS & Si (p) MUSIC SESSION ROUGH MIX	STRAWHEAD DAVE SWARBRICK RICK CHRISTIAN Singers' Night Singers' Night MUSIC SESSION VIV & ANGELINE	Singers' Night POTAPORTAC Singers' Night Singers' Night LES JONES MUSIC SESSION Guest TBA	JOHN PEARSON Singers' Night VIN GARBUTT Singers' Night Singers' Night MUSIC SESSION THE VERY DONKEYS	Singers' Night Singers' Night CLOSED BLACK-EYED BIDDY Singers' Night MUSIC SESSION HAWTHORN
MONDAY	4TH	11TH	18TH	25TH	
HORWICH POYNTON PRESTON TRITON FOLK AT THE VIC PUNCH BOWL	Singers' Night Singeraround CLOSED No Dates Singers' Night	Singers' Night Singeraround DAVE SWARBRICK(v)	Singers' Night Singeraround CLOSED	Singers' Night Singeraround CLOSED	
TUESDAY	5TH	12TH	19TH	26TH	
BLACKPOOL MAGHULL YARROW VALLEY BLACK HORSE WIGAN FOX & HOUNDS	Singeraround Singers' Night Singers' Night No Dates JEZ LOWE STEVE TILSTON (a)	Singeraround Singers' Night Singers' Night	Singeraround Singers' Night THE FLUENCE Singers' Night	Singeraround Singers' Night Singers' Night GEOFF HIGGINBO (b)	
WEDNESDAY	6TH	13TH	20TH	27TH	
BROMBOROUGH CROSS KEYS LIVERPOOL NEW SEVEN STARS RUNCORN WHITE SWAN	Singers' Night INFLUX ANNIE BRIGGS Singeraround Guest TBA No Dates	Singers' Night PETE COE Singers' Night Singeraround Singers' Night	Singers' Night KEITH RYDER FOLK NORTH-WEST(t) Singeraround Guest TBA	Singers' Night Singers' Night DICK MILES Singers' Night Singeraround Singers' Night	
THURSDAY	7TH	14TH	21ST	28TH	
BEAUMARIS BURNLEY COCKERMOUTH DARWEN FLEETWOOD GREGSON'S LANE MAGAZINE ORMSKIRK THE BODDIE SHOP THE BUZZ	Singers' Night NICK DOW ALAN BELL BAND CLOSED BECKIE GREEN Singers' Night RANTING SLEAZOS Singers' Night Guest TBA THE BRASSHOPPERS	Singers' Night PHIL SHACKLETON NICK DOW Singers' Night Singeraround Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night GOD'S LITTLE MO(d)	Singers' Night CHERRINGTON & (c) Singers' Night CLOSED Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night TABOOLA RASA	Singers' Night Singeraround BRAM TAYLOR Singers' Night CONCERT KATH READE MARK T. Singers' Night Singers' Night SARA GREY WOLLY AND THE (e)	

NOTES FOR MARCH

- a. STEVE TILSTON & MAGGIE BOYLE
b. GEOFF HIGGINBOTTOM
c. CHERRINGTON & WARD
d. GOD'S LITTLE MONKEYS
e. WOLLY AND THE NEW CRANES
f. BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR FOLK CLUB (27 YEARS)
g. LYNN & BARRIE HARDMAN
h. MARILYN MIDDLETON-POLLOCK
i. EASTER BONNET PARTY
j. CEILIDH AT DERBY HALL WITH RIOT BAND & JEAN SEYMOUR
k. CEILIDH with SHAKE THE DICE
l. CEILIDH with BILBO BAGGINS
m. EASTER FOLK FESTIVAL
n. THE HARPBREAKER BLUES BAND on January 22nd
o. JOHN CAREY & MAIREAD O'DONNELL
p. RESIDENTS & Singers' Night with RON HAWORTH'S BAND & JEFF HURST

- q. MARILYN MIDDLETON-POLLOCK
r. HARVEY ANDREWS (Tickets ONLY)
s. JEZ LOWE & THE BAD PENNIES
t. FOLK NORTH-WEST Fundraiser
u. ST. PATRICK'S NIGHT (17th)
v. DAVE SWARBRICK at ENGLISH MARTYR'S

MONDAY	1ST	8TH	15TH	22ND	29TH
HORWICH POYNTON PRESTON TRITON FOLK AT THE VIC PUNCH BOWL	Singeraround Singeraround Singers' Night No Dates Singers' Night	Singeraround Singeraround JOHN KIRKPATRICK Singers' Night	Singeraround Singeraround DAVE SUMMERS Singers' Night	Singeraround Singeraround Singers' Night	Singeraround Singeraround KEITH HANCOCK Singers' Night
TUESDAY	2ND	9TH	16TH	23RD	30TH
BLACKPOOL BLACK HORSE FOX & HOUNDS MAGHULL WIGAN YARROW VALLEY	Singeraround No Dates Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night PETER BELLAMY	Singeraround Singers' Night Singers' Night SARA GREY	Singeraround CHRIS SMITHERS Singers' Night Singers' Night PHIL HARE	Singeraround Singers' Night Singers' Night PHIL HARE	Singeraround Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night
WEDNESDAY	3RD	10TH	17TH	24TH	
BROMBOROUGH CROSS KEYS LIVERPOOL NEW SEVEN STARS RUNCORN WHITE SWAN	Singers' Night LESLEY DAVIES Singers' Night Singeraround Guest TBA No Dates	Singers' Night PHIL HARE JOHN KIRKPATRICK Singeraround Singers' Night	Singers' Night STRAWHEAD Singers' Night Singeraround Guest TBA	Singers' Night Singers' Night MARTIN STIMPSON Singers' Night Singeraround Singers' Night	
THURSDAY	4TH	11TH	18TH	25TH	
BEAUMARIS BURNLEY COCKERMOUTH DARWEN FLEETWOOD GREGSON'S LANE MAGAZINE ORMSKIRK THE BODDIE SHOP THE BUZZ	Singers' Night JON HARVISON BEDLAM CLOSED Singeraround Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night KEVIN SEISAY / (b)	Singers' Night Singers' Night NORTHERN ECHO Singers' Night PHIL HARE Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night LESLIE DAVIES ATTILA THE STO (c)	Singers' Night LOCAL GUEST Singers' Night CLOSED LOOSE CHIPPINGS(k) JIM COUZA Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night THE BARELY WORKS	Singers' Night Singeraround TOM McCONVILLE Singers' Night DAVE SUMMERS Singers' Night PHIL HARE Singers' Night Singers' Night STANLEY ACCRIN (a) GEORGE BOROWSKI	
FRIDAY	5TH	12TH	19TH	26TH	
BEE BLACKBURN EDGAR'S EIGHT NORTHWICH POTTERIES RED LION	Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night GEORGE FAUX LOUIS KILLEN SWAN ARCADE	CAUGHT ON THE HOP FIXED PENALTY JANET RUSSELL GARVA Singers' Night KIPPER FAMILY	Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night GORDON TYRRALL ROGUES GALLERY	Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night DEREK BRIMSTONE	
SATURDAY	6TH	13TH	20TH	27TH	
BREWERY ARTS BURY POYNTON SOUTHPORT ARTS ST. ALBANS	BATTLEFIELD BAND GEORGE FAUX BERNARD WRIGLEY (e) CREAM OF THE B (i)	NINA SZIFRIS & (d) CEILIDH with G (f)	JIM COUZA DAVE SWARBRICK (g)	REDMAYNE CEILIDH with Q (h) ROSE AMONG THORNS	
SUNDAY	7TH	14TH	21ST	28TH	
BOTHY EAGLE & CHILD FLEECE FOLK LEIGH LLANDUDNO THE ALBION WHEELTON	CHRIS SMITHER DEREK GIFFORD SARA GREY SECOND STRING Singers' Night Singers' Night MUSIC SESSION	Singers' Night ARTISAN BRIAN PETERS PHIL HARE STANLEY ACCRIN (j) RESIDENTS' NIGHT MUSIC SESSION	NICK DOW Singers' Night MARTIN CARTHY HARVEY ANDREWS Singers' Night Singers' Night MUSIC SESSION	Singers' Night DAVE SUMMERS Guest TBA STAFF FOLK CLOCHAN Singers' Night MUSIC SESSION	

NOTES FOR APRIL

- a. STANLEY ACCRINGTON
b. KEVIN SEISAY / EDDIE BASKERVILLE
c. ATTILA THE STOCKBROKER / JOHN OTWAY
d. NINA SZIFRIS & MIKE SCOTT
e. BERNARD WRIGLEY & GEOFF HIGGINBOTTOM
f. CEILIDH with GORTON TANK
g. DAVE SWARBRICK / RHYTHM RASCALS
h. CEILIDH with QUIET MAN
i. CREAM OF THE BARLEY
j. STANLEY ACCRINGTON
k. LOOSE CHIPPINGS 10th BIRTHDAY PARTY

WEDNESDAY	1ST	8TH ✓	15TH	22ND	29TH
BROMBOROUGH CROSS KEYS LIVERPOOL NEW SEVEN STARS RUNCORN WHITE SWAN	Singers' Night Guest TBA Singers' Night Singaround Guest TBA No Dates	Singers' Night LEE COLLINSON JOHN RENBOURN (u) Singaround Singers' Night	Singers' Night Guest TBA Singers' Night Singaround Guest TBA	Singers' Night Guest TBA Singers' Night Singaround Singers' Night	Singers' Night ROBB JOHNSON & (b) Singers' Night Singaround Guest TBA
THURSDAY	2ND	9TH	16TH	23RD	30TH
BEAUMARIS BURNLEY COCKERMOUTH DARWEN FLEETWOOD GREGSON'S LANE MAGAZINE ORMSKIRK THE BODDIE SHOP THE BUZZ	Singers' Night PARCEL O' ROGUES JEZ LOWE Singers' Night Singaround Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night ACCORDIANS GO (d)	Singers' Night Singers' Night TAP THE KEG Singers' Night TOM McCONVILLE Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night PHIL HARE Guest TBA	Singers' Night LOCAL GUEST FIONA SIMPSON Singers' Night Singers' Night TH' ANTIQUE (w) Singers' Night Singers' Night BRIAN PETERS Guest TBA	Singers' Night Singaround Singers' Night Singers' Night GEOFF HIGGINBO (c) Singers' Night DICK MILES Singers' Night Singers' Night Guest TBA	Singers' Night Singers' Night Guest TBA Singers' Night 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	GEOFF HIGGINBO (e) Singers' Night Singers' Night CHRIS NEWMAN & (g) Guest TBA DOUGIE MACLEAN	Singers' Night GILL & PETE BE (f) Singers' Night EDDIE WALKER & (h) Guest TBA JANET RUSSELL	Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night FESTIVAL SINGA (i) HUW & TONY WIL (j)	Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Guest TBA ALLAN TAYLOR (k)	MARK T. Singers' Night Singers' Night RICHARD GRAINGER Singers' Night
SATURDAY	4TH	11TH	18TH	25TH	
BREWERY ARTS BURY POYNTON SOUTHPORT ARTS ST. ALBANS	VIV & ANGELINE THE ALBION BAN (l) LA CHAVANNEE (n) Singers' Night	DAMIEN BARBER CEILIDH with B (m) JUNE TABOR & M (o)	BERNARD WRIGLEY ALAIN STIVELL PIERRE BENUSAN (p)	ALIAS RON KAVANA RANTING SLEAZOS CEILIDH	
SUNDAY	5TH	12TH	19TH	26TH	
BOTHY EAGLE & CHILD FLEECE FOLK LEIGH LLANDUDNO THE ALBION WHEELTON	TIM LAYCOCK Singers' Night Guest TBA Guest TBA Singers' Night Singers' Night MUSIC SESSION	Singers' Night Singers' Night CAUGHT ON THE HOP Singers' Night GEOFF HIGGINBO (r) Singers' Night MUSIC SESSION	ROY BAILEY & J (q) FIRST PRINCIPLES MELANIE HARROL (t) BRAM TAYLOR Singers' Night Singers' Night MUSIC SESSION	CLOSED Singers' Night Guest TBA Singers' Night STEVE TILSTON (s) Singers' Night MUSIC SESSION	
MONDAY	6TH	13TH	20TH	27TH	
HORWICH POYNTON PRESTON TRITON FOLK AT THE VIC PUNCH BOWL	Singers' Night Singaround Singers' Night No Dates Singers' Night	Singers' Night Singaround FIRST PRINCIPLES Singers' Night	Singers' Night Singaround HUW & TONY WIL (a) Singers' Night	Singers' Night Singaround Singers' Night	
TUESDAY	7TH	14TH	21ST	28TH	
BLACKPOOL BLACK HORSE FOX & HOUNDS MAGHULL WIGAN YARROW VALLEY	Singaround No Dates TURKEY RHUBARB Singers' Night Singers' Night PETE CASTLE MARILYN MIDDLE(v)	Singaround Singers' Night Singers' Night	Singaround Singers' Night Singers' Night CATS IN THE VILLAGE	Singaround CIL CHAIS Singers' Night Singers' Night	

NOTES FOR MAY

- a. HUW & TONY WILLIAMS
- b. ROBB JOHNSON & PIP COLLINS
- c. GEOFF HIGGINBOTTOM
- d. ACCORDIANS GO CRAZY
- e. GEOFF HIGGINBOTTOM
- f. GILL & PETE BENBOW with DAVE MOLLOY
- g. CHRIS NEWMAN & MAIRE NI CHATHASAIGH
- h. EDDIE WALKER & JOHN JAMES
- i. FESTIVAL SINGAROUND
- j. HUW & TONY WILLIAMS
- k. ALLAN TAYLOR (Tickets ONLY)
- l. THE ALBION BAND / THE NEW HOKUM BOYS
- m. CEILIDH with BILBO BAGGINS
- n. LA CHAVANNEE (French Traditional Band) - MAY 2ND

- o. JUNE TABOR & MARK EMMERSON - MAY 9TH
 - p. PIERRE BENUSAN - MAY 14TH
 - q. ROY BAILEY & JOHN KIRKPATRICK
 - r. GEOFF HIGGINBOTTOM
 - s. STEVE TILSTON & MAGGIE BOYLE
 - t. MELANIE HARROLD & OLLIE BLANCHEFLOWER
 - u. JOHN RENBOURN (To be confirmed)
 - v. MARILYN MIDDLETON-POLLOCK
 - w. TH' ANTIQUE ROADSHOW
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 - 12th Huw & Tony Williams Cross Keys
 - 14th Huw & Tony Williams Northwich

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LETTERS to the EDITOR

A PLEA FOR HELP.....

I write in response to two of the letters in the last issue. Regarding clubs giving bookings following good floor-spots; at Wigan Folk Club, we have always had a policy of supporting hitherto unknown acts. Floor Singers are more than welcome (in fact, on Singers' Nights, we'll buy them a drink) and, over the last 12 months, we have given bookings from floor spots on 16 occasions. On the issue of supporting local acts, out of our 44 guests so far, 34 have been local, mainly "unknowns". With specific reference to Lennon & Higham, I recall them giving an excellent floor-spot, and, strange as it may seem to readers of your last mag, it resulted in their being offered a booking. Then (amazingly) they were given another booking. Then (astonishingly) they were given a third booking...and, apparently, they never remembered any of them... and I thought we were friends.

Regarding supporting young acts; we were first to give Potaportac a club booking and have offered them several since; and we were first with Natasha Jones and Stey Hesketh, to name but three. Unfortunately no-one from other clubs came to see them. In fact (with the notable exception of Gregson's Lane and a few other individuals) it is rare to get any visits from other clubs members or residents - unless, of course, we have paid them to come!

I don't think I'm alone in finding it annoying when Glasshouse residents become proficient with their sling-shots. If you left the safety of your own bunkers once in a while and visited us, you don't need a passport and we're sure you'll enjoy yourselves, and we promise to reciprocate your visit. To be honest, we have probably been to your club already...and you never even noticed.

You'll realise by now that this letter is really a plea for help.

We have already been forced to re-schedule our guest list in the face of severe financial constraints and unless we get help are in danger of closing (perhaps because we gave too many "unknowns" bookings). So the message is short and sweet...HELP.

Lawrence J. Hoy.

BOOKINGS FOR LOCAL ARTISTS..

I read with great interest the letter by Steve Higham in the last edition. As Colin & Jean we experienced almost exactly the same problems and a similar number of clubs willing to "take the chance" (Bromborough, Llandudno, Kendal, The Triton & Sandbach).

We did have some success with Festivals but only after much persistence and the offer of doing it for very little in the way of fee on the promise of next year if you go down well. The fairest people we dealt with were the organisers of Fylde, Warwick, Poynton, Shrewsbury & Wigan. All of whom booked us and sometimes offered the return booking.

Having said all that it is a soul destroying exercise and not for the faint hearted or easily discouraged, it is even more discouraging when you see the same names at all the festivals, year after year, with usually only the Headliners altering.

I find I agree with the major point of Steve's letter and I believe it to be a bitter indictment on the Folk Scene.

Jean & I even had one folk club organiser come to us after we had finished our booking at Sandbach and say "I would love to book you for my Club I think you were great but no one would come because your names not well known enough".

With that kind of attitude how do we ever progress?

Colin Wilson

LIVE REVIEW:

Gregson Lane Folk Extravaganza

"A Folk Extravaganza" - and that is just what happened at St. Mary's High School, Bamber Bridge on 17th November. Organised by Gregson Lane Folk Club in conjunction with BBC Radio Lancashire and South Ribble Arts Festival, the event opened in grand style shortly after noon with The Great Northern Song Writing Contest.

The contest competently presented by Nick Dow was the focus of the afternoon. Twenty songs were performed before the judges line up of Bernard Wrigley, Derek Gifford, Tony Hewitt, Terry Martin and Sian Turner. The overall winner was John Cartain with the song "Susannah". Joint second were Joan Blackburn with "St. Caedmon" her song about Whitby and Tony Cliff with "England My England". The standard of both song and performance was very high.

Running parallel were children's entertainments with magicians and various workshops. Neil Brook from "Cats in the Village" provided a most enlightening workshop demonstrating the versatility of the Hurdy Gurdy, and explained the intricacies of its construction. The fiddle workshop run by Chris Leslie of "Whippersnapper" added unscheduled entertainment to the afternoon concert with an instant band of young talented musicians - whose ages ranged from 6 to 14 years, prompting enthusiastic applause from an appreciative audience.

With the Song Contest completed the main Concert began with a lively set from Cats in the Village, followed by Lammergeier (residents of the Castle Folk Club). The Antique Roadshow comprises Nick Caffrey, Rob Malaney and George Critchley and treated all to some fine unaccompanied harmony singing. Bernard Wrigley regaled an eager audience with stories, anecdotes and songs in his own inimitable style resulting in faces aching from laughter.

The concert was brought to a thundering finish by "Whippersnapper", the highly talented Chris Leslie, Martin Jenkins and Kevin Dempsey, who never fail to stun an audience with their distinctive arrangements.

To carry the evening through to and a bit beyond midnight, Cats in the Village provided the lively and pulsating music for the Grand Ceilidh bringing the event to an enjoyable conclusion.

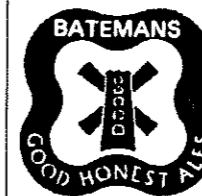
With the event only in its first year, Graham and Bernadette Dixon, Keith Snape and all at Gregson Lane Folk Club need not worry about next year. For all those who missed it - pity.

PAUL HOLDEN

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BOOKSHELF

HUGH E. JONES "HUGHIES DITTYBAG"

Opening the covers of this book, I feel the sense of anticipation that a child has when opening the famed "lucky bag" will there be the bon-bons that one hopes for? The unequivocal answer is Yes:

From "Ellam Vannin" (funny how rarely he gets the credit for that) through "Champion of the Seas" to "The Christmas Time Odd Job Man" this baker's dozen has something for everybody. "Stoc-kholm Tow" reviews vivid memories of early days in Suffolk when this redolent mixture was used as the remedy for virtually anything.

Linking the songs are anecdotes and personal recollections of incidents occurring over the thirty years of being a "Spinner".

This is a book to dip into over and over again and one concurs with Mike Stevens in his excellent foreword on his hope that Volume Two is on the way. Once again recommended for singer and non-singer alike. Nice one Hugh.

Get a copy from: Wee Huge Publications, 5 Church Road, Penny Lane, Liverpool.

IAN WOODS

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RECORD REVIEWS

MARTIN CARTHY & DAVE SWARBRICK
"Life and Limb" Topic SPD 1030

Recorded live at various venues in the USA during their recent tour, this is rather more than simply a souvenir of a memorable evening.

This is a complete restatement of everything this peerless pairing has ever stood for and, as such, it is a required purchase for anybody with serious pretensions to owning a definitive library of Folk music.

The opening song gives you the album in microcosm. It is "Sovay", (AKA The Female Highwayman), arranged with not the slightest trace of artifice or sophistry, but played and sung with a commitment and passion that is enough to make you catch your breath. It is simply brilliant.

From here on in, they progress magisterially. Carthy, with consummate ease, takes the shell of "The Little Beggarmen" and, with a revision of the lyrics, turns that tame kitten of a song into a rampant tiger which savages the governments housing policy and leaves it for dead. His gift for doing the business of fitting brand new engines into clapped-out over sung chestnuts is beyond praise...think of "Rigs Of The Time" on "Out Of The Cut" or "The Dominion Of The Sword" from "Right Of Passage". If it is instrumental panache you are looking for then try the sets of marches and reels for size. "Sailing Into Walpole's March" is sheer exhilaration and there is a bravura performance of "Carthy's March" into the bargain.

Long past the point of having to prove anything to anyone, they are simply, genuinely, without parallel. Each is a solo performer of the very highest order, each has been at the peak of their profession for so long that their various little touches of technique, their musical signatures, have become so firmly embedded, by frequent adoption, into the

tradition that now it is impossible to see the join. The whole is still greater than the sum of the parts and I am going to be reduced to tired old Melody Maker clichés about chemistry and sparks to describe what happens when they share a stage or a studio.

The album climaxes with a revisitation of one of their most famous songs from their last period together. "Byker Hill", which builds into a monumental tribute to their collective genius for giving the right treatment to the right song. For once Edison's old saw about "Inspiration and perspiration" is the opposite one...no-one works harder at their craft than these two. If the Folk fraternity ever adopts the "Hall Of Fame" idea, so beloved of our Country cousin, then the first two stars to be put on the pavement outside Cecil Sharp House should be inscribed with the names Carthy and Swarbrick.

Bernie Forkin.

THE ALBION BAND 1990
(Topic 12TS 457).

One of my favourite albums of last year was "Give me a saddle, I'll trade you a car" by the 1989 vintage of those old war horses, The Albion Band. On first hearing the 1990 model of the band (more or less the same line-up...still as flexible as ever), the feeling was that there is nothing to come up to the excellence of "Give me a saddle..." However, as with all good albums time and numerous revolutions on my turntable brings forth the subtlety of this opus and it is with great pleasure that I can pronounce 12TS-457 a very fine album indeed and the latest in a long line of quality Albion releases.

The Hutchings/Beer songwriting partnership is proving a winning formula and there are four such compositions here, three by Phil Beer alone one by ex-Albioner Dave Whetstone and the beautifully performed "Rambleaway" (Trad.).

The album starts in typical up tempo Albion style with "Yellow Dress" a song of "new love grown too old", and progresses in similar vein with Phil Beer's "The Power and the Glory", a savage indictment on megalomania.

Overall there is not a bad track in sight with other highlights for me being "The Flood" a graphically descriptive song of the Severn bursting its banks; the tragic comment on the homeless as portrayed in "Nameless kind of hell" and the chilling "Lock up your daughter". Phil Beer's lyrics on the latter are hauntingly real and the song is summed up with the final lines...

"Now if I ever inclined to have children,
I would be sorry to hide them away
But I couldn't tell them I used to
know freedom.
It's better that way".

A song very much in the mould of Mike Silver's "Somebody's Angel". Certainly in the top five albums of the year so far.

Mike Billington

JEZ LOWE AND THE BAD PENNIES
"Briefly on the Street"
Fellside FECD 79

Having witnessed the "launch" of this album at the Bothy Folk Club before last Christmas I can honestly say that the recording is as truly "mediocre" as the live performance. Those who know me will understand of course what I mean by "mediocre" - a term which I reserve only to those who deserve such high acclaim. Basically Jez Lowe is so talented he makes me sick.

This album does nothing to dispel that envious view and, with the help of the "Bad Pennies" ie the excellent voice of Bev Sanders who even manages to sound distinctly north-eastern on "You Can't Take It With You" and gets, to lead the vocals on "Jordan", and Rob Kay who sings, plays keyboards, melodeon and recorder and wrote the tune "The Begging Bowl"; not forgetting special guest on

fiddle, Chris Leslie, turns this album into a paragon of instantly memorable and mind rattling songs and/ tunes.

Those that I find hardest to drive out of my head are the aforementioned "You Can't Take It With You", "The Wannie Wind" and "The Soda Man" which features a supporting cast of the Sanders "bairns" (sounding very Lancashire!) and John Lowe as well as a magical arrangement. Evocative too through a clever honky-tonk piano arrangement is "Alice" a poignant epitaph to an obviously much loved character. There is a great deal of social comment in Jez's work but the way he delivers his music makes you feel enlightened rather than browbeaten, an approach epitomised in the political polemic "Fun Without Foods".

This is a superbly presented and well recorded album (by Paul Adams) and carries the Fellside logo - so yes, it is the genuine article! Buy it - on a CD if you have a player. Perhaps even "mediocre" is too good a word.

Derek Gifford

DAVE SUMMERS
"Croons and Contemplations"
FLUFF 002

I have to declare an interest : I was in the audience at The Grapes in Croston on the night after Bonfire night when this was recorded. An amazing collection of federation organisers and performers, including a bass line you could not buy (Derek, Pete, Gregg) had come to see if Dave Summers could match his previous standard. They were not disappointed and nor will you be if you buy this tape. Few singers would risk starting with a song called "Downhill All The Way" - even fewer claim to be past it at 33! But Dave is a man with courage - after all, he has played the Hare & Hounds in Maghull in spite of coming from Milton Keynes. That is how he came to write "Mistaken Identity" ("I might talk posh but I don't vote Tory"). In the few years Dave has been here he may not have lost his accent but he has picked up on local referen-

ces - snide comments about Morecambe and feeling ones on Skelmersdale - and fed them neatly into his songs.

The obsession with the details of daily life that came out in his first tape, are here again "Exasperated Lullaby", "The Dentist". Some are more seriously humorous: "The Santa Claus Privatisation Scheme" and "Hallelujah, I'm Born Again". The audience responded in true born again style with Hallelujahs and Amens between laughing at the accurate wit: "She knows what's incorruptible, and what's more important, she knows what's Tax Deductible" Suckers for romance will love "Crooning in the Car Park For You".

Those of us who fancy we are good with words are jealous of Dave's abilities - listen carefully to the puns, cracks and neat rhymes in "Down at the Library". His writing is matched to his laid back performing style - and his guitar supports the words fluently without getting in the way.

Dave Summers is the most literate wit around the folk scene. He writes funny material with good chorus lines so you can enjoy the songs again and again - this tape will only add to his reputation. Catch him whenever you can.

Ian Wells

Derek Gifford "When All Men Sing"

Derek Gifford, as well as singing and playing on this album, has written the music for all the tracks, whilst the lyrics are all the work of Keith Scowcroft, who does not sing on the album.

The Album is a compilation of the work of the two men, and there are some very good tracks to be heard. It is nice to encounter some new traditional-style songs, and this cassette is full of them. Derek's delivery, whether unaccompanied or with guitar, is distinctive and enjoyable. The only thumbs-down note I have is about the backing vocals, which is surprising, when you consider that Alison Younger is one of the vocalists. But they

add nothing to any of the songs, and spoil "The Crabbing Song" which would be better sung by Derek on his own.

Tracks to look out for : "When All Men Sing", the title track, is an unaccompanied song that I expect will soon be a favourite at singarounds. "Dead Men's Shoes" is a humorous reflection on working life on the factory floor.

This album is special for another reason, though. It is by one of our own. Derek Gifford runs the Yarrow Valley Club in Croston.

Linda Wright.

TOM McCONVILLE "Cross The River"
Old Bridge Music OBM CD01

Tom McConville is a "very, very nice man" as anyone who has met him will verify. He is also an excellent musician and his latest recording exemplifies this, kicking off with two lively reels collectively known as "The Hurleys".

The Hurleys, namely Andrew and Des from Leeds, feature effectively on a number of tracks playing bodhran and fiddle respectively. Also giving excellent support throughout the album on several tracks is Chris Newman (who produced it) on guitars, electric bass and synthesiser. As well as this plethora of talented people is Maire Ni Chathasaigh on whistle and pianos who adds even more to the arrangements of certain tracks.

The 14 tracks include several songs of which I especially liked "How Can My Poor Heart", a Robert Burns poem set to Tom's own tune, and "Cross the River" by that excellent songwriter Tim Ward which is also the title track. Tom's voice could never be classed as of the greatest folk sounds but his singing is as relaxed as his fiddle playing and is therefore always a pleasure to listen to; no more so then on the unaccompanied "Wish the Wars Were All Over".

My favourite tunes are "Frenchie's Reel", the well known "The Lark in the Morning" and a delightful piece called "The Goodnight Waltz"

This whole album is 45 minutes of good folk music and well worth the extra investment in CD format. A very, very nice album.

Derek Gifford

RICK CHRISTIAN "Looking for Signs"
Just For The Record. Just 1

Lummy, this is turgid stuff to these headphones! - the sort of material and execution that gets singer/songwriters a bad name. A sameness of tempo, melody and delivery recurs through these 10 tracks, and over the best part of a week I have tried to find some redeeming feature but the best adjective I can come up with is "uninspired". The vocals remind me of John Denver at his most fey.

I know the world's eco-systems worry us all, and it is a downer when your lover leaves and you wish they had not, but these ineffectual songs are not going to create empathy in the listener - certainly not in this one.

Rick thanks everyone involved in the recording, especially Gill for her patience and understanding. I would suggest that such qualities are helpful for anyone endeavouring to get inside this release. I would also question whether "Mary's Waltz" is composed by Rick - much of it bears such a similarity to "Haste To The Wedding" that a Chiffons v. George Harrison litigation could be a distinct prospect. Trad. Arr. v. Christian?

Sorry Rick but we can do better than this. Phone 0621 859561 for info. and a second opinion copy.

Clive Pownceby

SHERWOOD, DUNCAN & SWAN.
"From the Heart"
CELTIC MUSIC CM055.

Three fine musicians - Ian Sherwood (resident at Northwich Folk Club), Gordon Duncan (ex Tannahill Weavers), and Hudson Swan (another ex-Tannahill, now resident near Warrington) have combined to produce a stunning debut album of instrumental music on Highland pipes, whistle,

fiddle, bouzouki, guitars and keyboards. Covering mainly Scottish and Irish material, with the odd exception, the playing on this record really jumps out to you and challenges you not to be impressed.

The choice of material, the arrangements and the production are top class. To top it all, the most amazing bagpipe playing I have heard in many a year! Full marks to all concerned - it is great to have musicians like this in our midst. Information from Hudson Swan on 061 775 4612.

Tony Gibbons

DEAN JOHNSON "Day & Age"
Delta Records

When Nigel offered a Dean Johnson cassette for review, I volunteered because I knew the name from somewhere... as I listened to the 20 minute offering it all came back to me... Wigan Folk Festival and a 25-minute concert spot. At the time I had dismissed him as a Wannabe Richard Thompson/Clive Gregson - seven months later I am of the same opinion; his intentions are good but he lacks their songwriting skills and vocal and instrumental prowess.

It is tempting to choose the title track as the worst on the cassette with its wonderful tautological opening line of "Everything is changing, nothing stays the same", but the award must go to "Laughing in the face of love" which attempts a sparse backing, and fails. The best of the six tracks on the cassette is Neil Young's "Captain Kennedy", the best track of Dean Johnson's is "Don't say Goodbye" which is the most melodic, lyrically satisfying and most evocative of Richard Thompson.

This cassette is produced by Dean and Mike Watson; Dean supplying both vocals and instruments. For a first it is not a bad effort, but imitation, although the sincerest form of flattery, can take you only so far, and there IS only one Richard Thompson.

Janet Hale



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THE OYSTER BAND WITH JUNE TABOR.
"Freedom and Rain"
Cooking Vinyl. Cook 031

Conceived in the bar at Bracknell, if the rumours are to be believed, and intended to be an English answer to 10,000 Maniacs. I guess the first thing to say is that it misses that target by several leagues. The good thing to say is that it is a spectacular achievement on almost every other level.

The band themselves are in blistering form. I do not believe I have ever heard them play as well. Messrs. Lax and Chopper set the pace, hammering out a tremendous rhythm as a foundation for some very tasty guitar work from Telfer and melodeon fireworks from John Jones. Add to this bopping brew the peerless singing of June Tabor and all that is needed is some material worthy of the attention of such a team.

They found some. Right from the off, they are into overdrive with a magnificently brooding version of Si Khan's "Mississippi Rain". Brooding, heavy and quite, quite, marvellous, this sets a fearsome standard for the rest of the album to follow. We progress, by way of Shane McPogue's "Streets of London" and Richard Thompson's "Night Comes In" to Billy Bragg's "Valentine's Day is Over". All three of these are fine enough versions but it could not be truthfully claimed that they banish memories of the originals.

The strangest cut just has to be "All Tomorrow's Parties". This is the old Velvet Underground block-buster from the '68 album "Andy Warhol Presents ...". The odd thing is not that they have chosen such a weird piece, but rather that they have done little except recreate the original. June does a fair impression of Nico's deadpan teutonic intonation, but the band cannot match the oppressive density of Messrs Reed, Cale, Morrison & Mme. Tucker. Still, ten for effort and perhaps we might have a crack (Ha!) at either "I'll Be Your Mirror" or "Sunday Morning" if there's a next time.

Whether it was intentional to explore the contemporary on Side One and the tradition on the other, I could not say. If it was, it was an inspired move. It opens with a stupendous version of "Dives & Lazarus" and never slackens pace for a minute. "Dives" gets my vote for the best interpretation of a traditional song since Home Service's stunning attack on "Babylon". Augmented by the brass, sounding as a raunchy as the Memphis Horns ever did, they deliver everything implicit in the lyric ...pride, pomp and hellfire. Brilliant. As if that was not enough, we are treated to a spectacular reading of "Bonnie Susie Clelland" which crackles and burns just as the flames which consume the hapless heroine, and a very fine "Dark Eyed Sailor", also full of life and power. The album closes with Jones' own "Finisterre", a song written well within the tradition and destined to have the very hell sung out of it.

If there were more bands like this then we would have no trouble arousing the interest in fans of other, more accessible musics. It is strong stuff, dynamically played and wonderfully well sung. An achievement to rank with "Liege & Lief", "Please To See The King", "No Roses" or "Alright Jack", it deserves to sell in millions. Definitely the album of 1990 ... I would not be too stunned to find it is THE album of the '90's. It will take some beating.

Bernie Forkin.

SARA GREY "Promises to Keep."
Harbourtown. (HAR 011).

It was four years ago since Sara Grey's last recording "You gave me a song" was released on the Greenwich Village label. She was of course at the time partnered by fellow American Ellie Ellis who I understand has now returned home. Just as with this album Sara is surrounded by an impressive band of musicians although the only survivor from 1986 is the very talented Shay Black. In addition to Shay she is backed by Tony Gibbons, Dave Howard, Rick Standly and Harbourtown artists Brian

Peters and Roger Wilson. The album is a pleasing mix of light and shade; easy listening songs and profound songs with a couple of tunes for good measure. There is the beautiful Dave Goulder song "Dry stone walls" with simple but evocative guitar from Shay Black, and the superbly arranged "Oh Death" where Roger Wilson's fiddles bind the whole like an egg! Sara also keeps up her love affair with the songwriter Si Kahn on the emotive "Mervin Barr" and the unaccompanied "Sunrise".

Music has been in Sara's blood as long as she can remember with influences from her mother and Polish grandmother. Indeed she remembers her mother singing around the house and jitter-bugging with her aunt! What chance did she have? She had to pursue a musical career.

If you have seen Sara perform you will know of her relaxed stage presence as she sings with clawhammer banjo accompaniment and recites stories from her days in her native U.S.A. (She has lived in England for twenty years or so!) An engaging album and one that will undoubtedly delight her many fans.

Mike Billington

MARILYN MIDDLETON POLLOCK
Those Women of the Vaudeville Blues
LAKE LA 5018/C ALSO LACD 18

"If you're a married man, then you ain't got no business here, 'cos when you're out with me I may make your wife shed tears. 'cos I'm a mighty tight woman and there's nothing that I fear".

That snatch of lyric from Sippie Wallace's "I'm A Mighty Tight Woman" dating back to 1926 will give you an idea of what the female "Classic Blues" was all about - plenty of boastful sexual imagery but never Classic nor always blues. What we have is a hybrid form - like jazz itself - stemming from such sources as the rural blues, tent show songs and vaudeville and music hall performances of the early 20's (and even earlier) ragtime and jazz.

Marilyn Middleton Pollock's 2nd album for Fellside, on its smaller Lake label which specialises in Jazz output is a loving tribute to the genre and to the wide variety of singers that it produced, particularly in Chicago. New York too was important, in fact musicologists would date the era from Mamie Smith's recording of "Crazy Blues" in 1920 to roughly the time the Depression hit America in 1929. By this time the great days were fading and tastes changing. Who wanted to hear the music of the twenties anymore?

Well me for one, and obviously Marilyn for another. Accompanied here by Andy Thorburn on piano, with Dick Lee and Phil Morris on clarinet, sax and trumpet, her vocals are suitably exuberant or world-weary as the material requires. Her affection for both song and its original singer is apparent throughout; here is a labour of love and it is well worth the effort.

This release is an accessible way into the work of such legends as Ma Rainey, Bessie Smith, Edith Wilson, Victoria Spivey and many, many more who leaned heavily on music hall, vaudeville and cabaret for their inspiration. Odd though to hear this music without a backdrop of hisses, pops and clicks that accompanied the original 78s. Atmospheric but often hard listening which this is decidedly not!

I have seen Marilyn win over a boisterous late-night Ceilidh audience at Whitby Festival with her delivery and personality just I imagine Ma Rainey must have done in the days of kerosene footlights and an absence of house p.a. I do not think that is too romantic a comparison either - this is a fine piece of work by a fine artiste and as such is a credit to her.

CLIVE POWNCEBY

GILL BOWMAN "CITY LOVE"
Fellside FE080/c & FECD80

Gill is Fellside's new Scots contemporary writer with a dash of traditional. This is her debut

available in both tape and CD formats. As such it is good - an accomplished, professional recording and though nothing here would keep Randy Newman awake at nights, there is substance in Gill's writing and a fair degree of maturity. On solo gigs it is just her plus acoustic guitar (the way Barbara Dickson began!) but there is a much fuller sound with plenty of Easy Club/Edinburgh folk mafiosi help. Rod Paterson did the cello arrangements for example and on a couple of cuts, Christine Kydd's sublime harmony vocals are, for this reviewer, a major bonus.

Gill's own songs are primarily those of relationships, of love under stress, of parting and uncertainties, and there is no romance here in the sense of hearts and flowers. As Gill says "This love's a City Love, wanton and wild". A particularly fine song is "A Story Today" - easily the equal of Beautiful South's "A Little Time" when it comes to the regretful anger inherent in a relationship going through the motions. I find the line "and her unspoken sadness grows from a whisper to a shout" quite overwhelmingly poignant.

Of course there are weak moments. The "isn't life a bitch" metaphor is surely, if not over-worked, then greatly fatigued by now. On a song called "Psychics In America" where it is the hook-line, incongruous is how I would describe Gill's vocal. When compared to others of her own songs where it sounds entirely right that she use Scots vernacular it is odd to hear tired mid-Atlantic phraseology on this one.

I will give her credit though for her version of "The Queens Four Mary's" - a song I have always disliked in that the melody is just that - a melody as opposed to the standard dirge beloved of generations of Club residents. Eminently listenable this one, in fact that sums up the whole tape. I am glad I have heard it and I will not be sellotaping over the holes to recycle it. Nice one Gill, I will look forward to the next one!

CLIVE POWNCEBY



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When the book of the same title was published in the mid-1970's, there were two accompanying EP records. Well, EP records have come and gone! Meanwhile people in general, and school teachers in particular, have had to hunt around trying to find what they could and where they could fit the bill. Thank goodness The Hobby Horse Club (the junior section of the EFDSS) is awake to the need to produce more of this type of material. They have helped sponsor the production of this cassette.

You will require the book for the instructions, of course, but I do like the help given on the insert indicating if there is a "once to yourself" or not, and how long. Each dance is announced on the tape, and there is a reprise of each dance - which reduces the amount of rewinding you need to do. All thoughtful touches.

However, when you have two people with the amount of playing and dancing experience clocked up by David Fleming-Williams and Richard Stapledon, these are some of the benefits you get.

Their playing is catchy, crisp and clear, with none of that "slurring" of notes some accompanists indulge in - and hopefully that will encourage crisp and clear stick-striking, hand-clapping and footwork from a new generation of dancers. There is a variety of groups who will find this cassette a great help, and some of the Morris teams around could benefit from adding it to their collection: both dancers and musicians would learn from it.

Me? After a few flurries of dancing I was happy to simply sit back and listen - it is good for that too! P.S. Contact Alan Barber on Preston 742690 for your copy.

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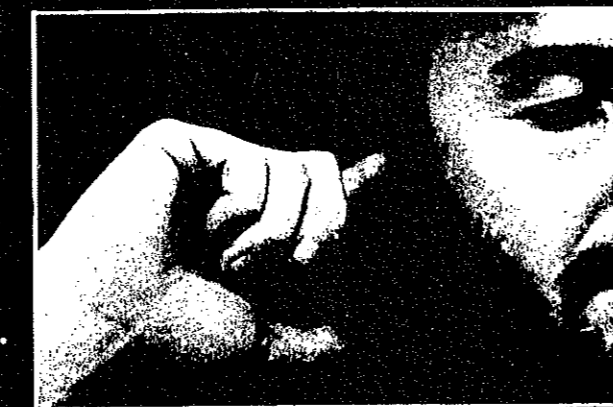
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RED LION	8.15 pm	Red Lion Hotel; Wigan Road; Westhoughton	Pat Batty	0942 812301
SATURDAY				
BREWERY ARTS	8.30 pm	Brewery Arts Centre; 122a; Highgate	John Smyth	0539 25133
BURY	8.00 pm	The Napier; Bolton Street; Bury	Jean Seymour	061 761 1544
POYNTON	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 Rd; Liscard; Wirral	Steve Eyre	051 677 1430

POYNTON



CENTRE

FOLK 19TH EASTER FOLK FESTIVAL MARCH 29,30,31 1991 - GOOD FRIDAY, EASTER SAT & SUN

ARTISTS BOOKED SO FAR INCLUDE:

TOSS THE FEATHERS STRAWHEAD
THE OLDHAM TINKERS
THE GEORGE BOROWSKI BAND LOUIS KILLEN
PLUS MANY, MANY MORE

JOIN US FOR CONCERTS, CEILIDHS, MORRIS DANCING
SINGAROUNDS, WORKSHOPS, JAM SESSIONS, CRAFT STALLS
GOOD FOOD, REAL ALE, CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT

TICKETS ADVANCE ON THE DOOR FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT :-

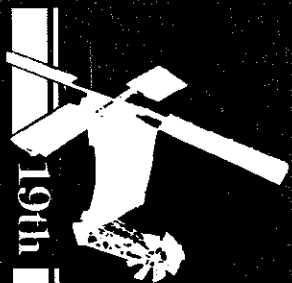
WEEKEND	£14.00	£16.00
FRIDAY	£4.00	£4.50
SAT./SUN.	£8.00	£9.00

CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE
12-16 year olds FREE

Pauline or Dave BROCK on:
0625 875555 (Mornings)
061 483 6621 (Evenings)

OR Send SAE to:

POYNTON FOLK CENTRE,
PARK LANE, POYNTON, NR STOCKPORT
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19th EASTER FOLK FESTIVAL

Martine Hall

Fleewood Lanes

30th & 31st AUGUST
1st SEPTEMBER 1991

Over 90 Events

Music Song and Dance

Ceilidhs, Workshops

Singarounds, Pub Sessions

Palace of Varieties.

New Events and Venues for 1991

Simply the Most

Book Early with

Festival Director Alan Bell

55 The Strand, Rossall

Fleewood FY7 8YP

Tel: (02533) 872317

Artists Booked so far include:

Kathryn Tickell Band, Roy Bailey,
Fisher Family, Barely Works, Stanley
Accington, Strawhead, Marie Little,
Deighton Family, Sileas, Jez Lowe &
the Bad Pennies, Les Barker, Melanie
Harold & Ollie Blanchflower, Old Hat
Dance Band, Garra, Black Eyed Biddy,
Alan Bell Band, Rhythm Rascals,
Caught on the Hop, Jim Couza, Quartz,
Scolds Bridle, Roger Westbrook, Bayou
Gumbo Cajun, Alan Bond, The Cats,
Andy Murphy, Traditional Edge, Tom
Walsh, Tallyman, Brian Osbourne, Wyre
Levee Jazz Band, Going Dutch, Rock It,
Paul Greenwood, Three in a Row,
Spitting on a Roast.

Plus Bispham Barnstormers etc,

With many more to be confirmed.

Comperes: Nick Dou, Ian Gartside, Pat Ryan
& Ken Howard, Derek Elliott, Phil Capper.

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LANCASHIRE DIALECT COMPETITION
YOUNG PERSON TALENT COMPETITION
WORST SINGER IN THE WORLD CONTEST
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Weekend Tickets from ONLY £20.00
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Children 12 - 14 years half price.

FREE children up to 12 years.

FREE camping and caravan site.

FREE entry to Craft Fair.

(Weekend Ticket Holders.)

FREE Bus Service.

BOOK EARLY - ALL TICKETS SOLD OUT IN 1990.