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Winter 1991/2

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118, Bolton Road,

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

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

EDITORIAL

VOLUME 14 Number 3

Winter 1991/2

WELCOME to yet another issue of Folk North-Westl

It has been a sad time for Folk Music recently, with the unexpected deaths of a number of people prominent both locally and nationally on the folk scene. I note particularily Peter Bellamy, David Jones, Keith Marsden and Tom Hewlett. Appreciations will be found elsewhere in this issue. As we look towards 1992 let us hope for a better year all roundl

How do you like our new logo? I intend to try one or two different logos over the next few issues, so please let me know which one you prefered a gastrager

As part of our attempt to improve our image, we can no longer accept typed, written or grey photocopies. as "camera ready" artwork. Any such submissions will be in future be computer set and treated as non-camera ready.

For once I'll let the contents page speak for itself, and we shall see you all again in March!

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DON'T FORGET:

Sr.

St.

CLOSING DATE for our next issue which covers MARCH/ APRIL/ MAY is APRIL 25th. avielyofi av

Amberne, Cellidh, Herry Boardan Meneral Con-

Editorial Address:

118, Bolton Road,

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OUT & ABOUT

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HALLOWEEN (10.05.9)

00.83

Freddy Krueger dons his mac BOSH OFF with razor claws he stalks his foes but the joke's on him when he picks his nose!" 51

A fairly feeble attempt at seasonal topicality, I agreed, but those of us given to poetry (and let's face it, the only way I can get rid of it, is to give it) feel inspired by the myriad traditional celebrations at the time of Winter's turning. In fact, I feel a folk poem coming in as I write..... edvertising, (Campra Ready)

BANGERS IN MY LETTERBOX 101 ygoo neey brief

Bangers in my letterbox my mail is all on fire-o

I'm not worried about the bills

but they've burned my Christmas Giro.

THE GREEN MAN STRIKES BACK

Spent a very pleasant evening recently listening t the poetry and erstwhile folk-wisdom of that grand master of the Bardic tradition, ex-Incredible String Bander Robin Williamson. and many other tlems. Send Conv

If you enjoy oral folk tales told in a magical and masterful way accompanied by the Celtic harp or some of the most articulate, lyrical and wonderfully poetic original songs drawn from 30 years of prolific song writing, then do yourself a favour and go to see Robin the next time that he appears in the area.

The Arts Centre, though lacking in atmosphere slightly on this occasion, is a most pleasant venue and it is nice to see sensible provision for wheelchair users. Also, I am informed by the knowledgeable Henry Peacock, that the mailing service from the centre is excellent.

Next time I will try to get Robin to sign my copy of The Incredible String Band's first L.P. and retire in comfort to Southern Ireland on the proceeds.

Speaking of Robin brings to mind a somewhat pertinent joke currently doing the rounds of the music

Q. What were Jackie Mann's first words upon being released from captivity?

A. Is Brian Adams still at Number One?

NEW AGE FOLK

My recent travels out and about brought me to that little gem of a club, The Star Inn, Salford. I had attempted to locate this club once or twice before but as a great believer in that adage "If at first your don't succeed - packin!" I have given up riving around the back streets of Lowry-land and returned home believing that the venue might be the result of a collective folk hallucination caused by eating ergot-contaminated black pudding or a gig that Brigadoon-like rises from the mists of the river Irwell once every Spinners reunion.

This time, however, I persevered mainly because those excellent musicians, sensitive and thoughtful souls - and good friends - Hundredth Monkey were performing and weaving their therapeutic and engrossing spell.

Once part of "The Manchester Acoustic Roadshow" with ex-factory recording artistes To Hell with Burgundy, Hundredth Monkey are currently maintaining a very high profile and I strongly recommend that you catch one of their gigs if you like your music pure, sweet, original and intelligent. I recommend it particularly since Craig and Viv will soon be leaving, what is rapidly becoming the Wild North West for the much more inspiring and unpolluted climes of South West Cork.

Alternatively, you can find their latest release "Crystal" - which just happens to be the name of one of giant St. Bernard dogs - at Decov Records in Manchester; a virtual cornucopia for the folkster.

Oh and had you been there that magical and thoroughly enjoyable night, you would have witnessed one of my semi-legendary floor spots (bearing in mind that it is difficult to descend any lower than the floor). Whadya mean you'ld rather try the psychedelic black pudding?

RECORD BREAKERS?

This, unfortunately, does not refer to a fanatical band of militants, committed to good taste in music, who go rampaging round trampling on Jason Donovan and "Right said Fred" discs but to an equally fanatical band of American guitarists who have recently broken the record for mass guitar playing at the annual Walnut Valley Bluegrass Festival in Winfield, Kansas.

Do not tell Roy Castle just in case he uses it as an excuse to sing, dance or play the trumpet, or, heaven forbid, all three at once but the record was set by 770 players, which makes my 11-part harmony rendition of "The Wild Mountain Thyme" with a motley crew of assorted folk singers, well-oiled clog dancers, misplaced Bingo players, and several seriously-deranged total strangers at the end of a memorable folk club evening, seem entirely pathetic; which, in fact, it was.

WIGGIN CEILIDHS

Not that I'm much of a dancer myself these days since the heel fell off one of my "Stylo" Cuban-heeled boots whilst I attempted to twist the night away at Bury Palais after drinking too many glasses of Drambuie (with the emphasis distinctly on the "Hughie..ee.."!). I did twist somethingaway but it certainly was not the night!

But for the ceilidh-lovers out there (that do not get that funny pain at the back of both ears after a couple of dances - perhaps it is just me?) the good news is that not only are "Wiggin Ceilidhs" going from strength to strength, providing the type of atmosphere usually found only at folk festivals, but next May, there will be a rare opportunity to dance to The Albion Band, who will be doing a short tour just as a dance band.

Long before that, however, you can make your clog-irons spark, your Cuban heels crack or your platform soles smoulder by attending the first dance of 1992 on January 17th with Caught on the Hop followed in February by Horses Brawl and in March Wiggin Ceilidh's first birthday party featuring Gas Mark 5. For more details watch the ads in future issues.

FIND-A-FOLKIE

Men with big beer bellies, nicotine-stained dentures and smelly underwear - have you been turned down by a South Pacific dating agency for being too boring. unpopular, or just plain plug-ugly? Good! Because apart from engaging in the chauvinistic exploitation of a third world country, both genders alike an now join a "dating" service for musicians - thankfully not the sort to promise you a partner for a Mills-and Boonin-June-for-ever-and-a-day romance (or even a quick snog behind Macdonalds) but a much more ideologically-sound contact service for musicians and bands.

"Mail Order Musicians", the computerised search service set up to solve communication difficulties between bands looking for musicians and vice-versa is going national. So, if you

need a pipe player from Preston, a bodhran banger from Bolton or a sword swirler from Southport, you can contact M.O.M. on 061-973-0224 or write to Box 75, Sale, Cheshire M33 2DN.

MICK JAGGER FOR PRESIDENT

At last, the demented and demonic Midnight Rambler, terror of the sixties establishment, shows his true colours and joins the Tory Partyl

Well, not quite - yet anyway - but it does seem that our Mick has agreed to be Joint President of Britain's First National Music Day scheduled for Sunday 8th June, 1992, recently announced by Arts Minister, Tim Renton.

making.

Anybody interested in participating in the celebration can contact Patricia Greenwood, 4th Floor, Avon House, 360 Oxford Street, London W1.

Also on the panel is amiable Jim Lloyd, so we can rest assured that the voice of Folk will be well represented.

NO SEX PLEASE - WE'RE FOLK SINGERS

Folk enthusiasts are often also known for their interests in such manifest wonders as Real Ale, organic and vegetarian food, acoustic music, pure water and in fact all things natural. Agree? Sound like you? OK now is the time to put your money where your mouth is!

Next August, you are invited to spend nine idyllic days camping in the Pyrenees, enjoying workshops and ceilidhs featuring music and dance from round the world. There will also be mountain walks, barbecues, good food and plenty of wine.

Now for the interesting and unusual bit this is no ordinary folk camp with a difference. It is not a commercial operation, just a group of unclad folkies getting together to share their music song and dance.

Spot the difference? I thought so. That is right, just what I wore a baggy Arran jumper all the time to hide, would be hanging out like next week's washing for all to see, if I were brave enough to attend this naturist folk holiday. The first one, held earlier this year, was deemed to be a great success and is to be repeated in 1992. Clothes are worn for workshops and dances for reasons of Health and Safety, I suppose, but not, of course, at other times on the site.

I can almost here the caller's cries of "Be careful how you close that concertinal". British holiday makers have done such a lot of nasty things to the Spanish in the past, perhaps it is time we let them have a few laughs at our expense. I dare you to ring Huw and Anne Francis for more details on 0962-854775.

PEDALLING THEIR WARES..

The Portway Pedlars (Len & Barbara Berry) are now resident in this area (Clwyd actually) and are looking to establish themselves with some regular bookings. They can be contacted on 0691 772903.

ROY HARRIS

It has come to my attention that Roy Harris suffered a heart attack during the summer. I'm pleased to be able to report he is making good progress and hopes to be singing again from around February 1992.

FOLK MUSIC ON LOCAL RADIO

BBC Radio Lancashire FM 103.9/104.5 MW 855/1551kHz

LANCASHIRE DRIFT presented by NIC DOW

Sunday 5.30-7.00pm

GMR (Manchester) FM 95.1 MW 1458kHz

WORLD SERVICE presented by Leslie Osborne

Saturday 12 midnight -1.00am

BBC Radio Merseyside FM95.8 MW 1485kHz

FOLKSCENE presented by Stan Ambrose and Geoff Speed

Tuesdays 6.00-7.00pm

On most local BBC Stations:

FOLK ON THE NIGHT NETWORK presented by Henry Ayrton

Thursdays 7.05-8.30pm

None of the programmes are repeated at any time, and there are no folk music programmes on any of the Independent Stations. (In fact there is almost no specialist music now on any of these stations, no Jazz, no Classical and very little Country Music). Write to their respective programme controllers and complain.

TENES DIARY CHAT

with Linda Wright

Here we go again with the section that mentions all the bits that could not fit on the diary pages.

There are some not-to-be-missed events on over the next few months. December is Stanley Accrington month - he is on all over the place! January provides us with the opportunity to see lots of local "fed" artists-Derek Gifford, Steve Higham & Tony Gibbons, Jean Wrigley, Joan Blackburn, Quartz, Sara Grey - they can all be seen in the area. February brings the Portway Pedlars to the Potteries FC - its rare to see them up here. More often seen on the Irish "circuit". Donal MacGuire & Liam Webster are appearing at Preston FC in February. Look out in February for appearances by Isaac Guillory, Roy Bailey, Allan Taylor, Fairport Convention, Kathryn Tickell, Leon Rosselson, The Lizards and lots more besides. Our revered chairman, Dave Day, is attempting once again to book all known folk artists in one concert (at least, that is what it looks like). There are Liverpool specials, Cajun specials, Under-25 specials. It is good to see that there are so many out there helping to keep folk music alive.

"We have moved":

Leigh Folk Club can now be found at St Joseph's Sodality Club, Chapel St, Leigh.

Special note:

Sat 21st December - Tidings Concert organised by Gregsons Lane FC, with Ken Nicol, at the Preston Polytechnic Arts Centre. Contact Graham Dixon 0254 853929.

Sat 18th January - Potteries FC Post Christmas Ceilidh with Jason Hill & guest callers, at Chesterton Community Centre, Chesterton, Newcastle-under-Lyme

Tues 11th February - Black Eyed Biddy (Potteries FC) at Leopard Hotel, Burslem

Concerts at The Melling Tithebarn (contact Dave Day 051 546 6661):

Sat 18th January - Liverpool Special with Hughie Jones & Count John McCormack, Peter McGovern, Jack Owen, Jacqui McDonald, The Sisters and Stormalong John.

Sat February 15th - Concert including Johnny Handle, Melanie Harrold & Ollie Blanchflower, Peter Edgerton & Chris Layhe and The High Level Ranters.

Sat March 14th - North West Federation Under-25's concert "Carrying it on - 3". With Catriona MacDonald & Ian Lothian, Pota Portac, Gareth Turner. (If you have any talented under-25 year olds at your club, why not suggest them to Dave?)

7

The April special will include Stravaig, Bill Zorn, Marilyn Middleton Pollock and Vin Garbutt.

Cajun at The Mons, Bootle, nr Liverpool. (contact Dave Day 051 546 6661).

Friday January 31st - The Lizards.

Saturday February 29th - Old Joe Zydeco.

Saturday March 21st - Bon Ton Roulez.

Extra dates:

Preston FC: March 2nd Tom McConville, 9th Singers, 16th Brian Robertson, 23rd John Leonard & John Squire, 30th Melanie Harrold & Ollie Blanchflower;, April 6th Singers, 13th RonTaylor & Geoff Gillot, 27th Dick Miles; May 11th Johnny Handle.

Gregsons Lane FC: March 19th Bram Taylor, April 9th Jon Harvison, May 28th Richard Grainger. Rest Singers Nights.

Mechanics FC: March 8th The Albion Band.

Burnley FC: March 5th Garva, April 2nd Marie Little, May 7th Bernard Wrigley. Rest Singers nights / singarounds.

White Swan FC: March 4th 10th Birthday Party with Sid Kipper, 11th Rod Sinclair, 18th Singers.

Bury FC: March 7th Theresa Tooley, 14th Tom McConville, 21st Tony Gibbons, 28th Singers, April 4th Rod Malaney, May 16th Bram Taylor, May 23rd Th'Antiques Roadshow

Potteries FC: Mar 20th Tom McConville, 27th Dan Ar Bras; May 8th Bram Taylor.

Cockermouth FC: March 5th Jungr & Parker, 12th Singers, 19th Pete Morton, 26th Huw & Tony Williams; April 2nd Phil Hare, 30th Dick Miles.

Tilston FC: March 3rd Full House, 31st Mark T., April 14th Steve Tilston & Maggie Boyle, May 5th Kimberley MCarver. Rest Singers.

Tap & Spile FC: March 10th Bram Taylor, April 21st Fiona Simpson.

Cross Keys FC: March 18th Fiona Simpson, April 8th Phil Hare, May 6th Geoff Higginbottom.

Blackburn FC - Flatbroke

Black Horse - Brian Jones

Burnley - Paul Bromley is added to the list.

New Clubs:

Tap & Spile Folk Club, Tap & Spile, Hope St, Rochdale.

Organisers: Bill Tucker 0706 23038 (Guests)

Pat Kearney 0706 358437 (Singers Nights)

Haskayne Folk Club, The Ship Inn, Haskayne, West Lancashire

I could have used the headline "Landlord supports New Folk Club" for this one, but I didn't think anyone would beleive it. The club opened on the 17th October due to the enthusiasm of a number of Maghull Folk Club regulars and the encouragement and backing of the landlord. With the help of sponsorship, it has been possible to have guests including Tony Gibbons & Steve Higham and Quartz. More info from the Organisers: Ian Tupling 0695 579545 or Lynn Thompson 0744 883173.

Residents: Ian Tupling, Lynn Thompson, Chris Wilson.

Directions - on the A5147 between Maghull & Southport.

Whitworth Folk Club, The Red Lion, Whitworth,

Organiser; Len Quinn

Directions - on the A671 between Rochdale & Bacup.

The Famous Frog & Ferret is a musicians session meeting every Tuesday at the pub of the same name on Oat Market in Nantwich. The evening is hosted by Tony Sullivan and all are welcome whether performers or audience.

Contact Bob Butler on 0270 629324 for more information.

New Organisers/Contact Numbers:

Tilston FC - Martin Green

Black Horse - Brian Jones 051-648-5117

Triton FC - Doreen Rickart 051 256 6180

A plea from the heart:

Please, if you know of something happening out there that we might be interested in, let us know. I wonder how many missed the Mary Black concerts in the area because nobody told us. I know I missed them.

The contact number for dates is 0706 877090.

CLUB RESIDENTS:

BEE -The Beez Knees

BLACK HORSE -Brian Jones

BLACKBURN -Flat Broke

BOTHY -Clive Pownceby, Pete Rimmer, Ray Rooney, Bev Saunders, Neville Grundy, Keith Mandle

BURNLEY -Liz Brown, Dave Cook, Steve Cook, Rod Finlayson, Roy Kelly, Linda Wright, Paul Bromley

BURY -Jean Seymour, Alan Seymour, Shelia Carruthers, Charles Fyson, Malcolm Bowden, Chris Whiting, Chris Nash

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

FLEETWOOD -Spitting on a Roast

GREGSON'S LANE -

Lammergeier

HORWICH -Joyce Riding, Tom Ferber

LEIGH -Calico, Influx

LLANDUDNO -Highly Strung, Arthur Bowman

MAGAZINE -Dave Locke, Ranting Sleazos, Jack Coutts, Frank & Helen McCall, Adrienne Coutts

MAGHULL -

Gordon Mackenzie, Harry Forsythe, Dave Day, Tony Hughes, Mike LennonLen Nolan, Pete Jackson & Cathy, Phil Boardman & Harry Hayes, Chris Kelly, Neal Higgins, Alan & Steve.

NORTHWICH -Sandy & Sean Boyle, Sarah Burdon, lan Sherwood, Alan Carpenter & Jamie Anderson

RED LION -Auld Triangle

PRESTON -Th' Antiques Roadshow

ST. ALBANS -Heirloom

TRITON -

Chris Lock, Sue Howard, Bob Davies, Len Nolan, Demure, Colin Wilson & Jean Wrigley

YARROW VALLEY -Derek Gifford, Mark Dowding. Nothing Yet

WHITE SWAN -Dave & Helen Howard, Plan B. Maggie Billington, Graham Shaw, Dave Vaughan, Maureen Hotham

CLUB REPORTERS

NORTH-WEST LANCASHIRE

Here we go again to keep you in touch with what is happening around the North-West, from Leyland to Lancaster, from Fleetwood to Wheelton and beyond!

I have been getting out and about quite a bit over the last few months and have seen conflicting signs. Folk music is not enjoying its most successful era and this has been borne out by attendances at various clubs I have been to. However, there is also much to be optimistic about.

Fleetwood is stuck at the end of something of a cul-de-sac. Hugely popular when Fylde Folk Festival is on, but sadly ignored at other times. I took time off from my pool league and made the trip over to the club, held at the Steamer Hotel, to see MIKE SILVER. I found a friendly atmosphere, helpful organisers and, of course, a superb artist. The club allows floor spots on guest nights and has a deserved reputation for encouraging the newer talent appearing in the region. Go on, make the effort!

Heading inland, at Wrea Green Institute, their "Rock 'n' Roots" music programme gathers pace. At present, the theme is mainly rock or blues based, but such notables as ISAAC GUILLORY keep popping up (appearing next on Friday Jan.31st) and the last year has seen the likes of BERT JANSCH, DAN AR BRAS and TONIGHT AT NOON amongst others. It is now even easier to get to, with the opening of the new Kirkham bypass near Junction 3 of the M55.

At Preston, things are rather healthier than at most clubs. The move to The Unicorn, Garstang Rd. (on the A6) is proving to have been worthwhile, with healthy turn-outs for guests and singarounds alike. The recent guest list is impressive and TH' ANTIQUE ROAD-SHOW are excellent residents.

Over at The Castle, on Gregson Lane, Higher Walton, the regular Thursday nights, with hosts LAMMERGEIER, continue to provide a mixture of local acts, singers' nights and unusual guests that do not seem to appear anywhere else. If you do not believe me, tell me who else has booked Robb Johnson?

So, what else is happening? I have not been able to get to the Music Session at Higher Wheelton, but I am informed that things look good there, so get down there yourselves! Numerous other "folk" events take place each week. At the Bull And Royal, Longridge, there are two regular "singers & musicians" nights. On Tuesdays, Ken Nicol is host, while on Thursdays, Ron Flanagan's revived HORDEN RAIKES run the show. At the Railway Hotel in Kirkham on Wednes-

days, singers and musicians are always welcome at an open session. The Unicorn also features on Wednesdays, with a contemporary night hosted by Keith Mitchell

Further afield, I have been up to the Fleece at Kendal a couple of times recently. They are fighting apathy, as most of us are, but they keep high standards of quest and resident, with the likes of BRIAN ROBERT-SON playing host to the likes of SHOW OF HANDS. That was a marvellous night and it is only just up the

Yes, there is much to be optimistic about, with the open nights encouraging new faces to enjoy live music and the clubs looking to these same to give them early bookings. Get out there and see for

Phil Capper

EAST LANCS FOLK

The Manchester Arts and Music Festival, designed apparently to be the North-West's equivalent to the more established Edinburgh Festival, took place over August and September. Sponsored by Granada Television, it covered a wide range of interests, including a lot of folk music. Fed member club The Buzz was prominent in the advertising, putting on lots of different bands. Watch out for it next year.

A new club has come into existence, at the Red Lion in Whitworth. Len Quinn, having moved from the Tap and Spile in Rochdale, has started a new Thursday night club, with occasional Saturdays as well. I have also heard rumours of a folk night at the Sourhall Country Club, Todmorden, again on a Thursday night.

Linda Wright

As you read this, no doubt you will have reached the stage of inspecting the old finances and wondering how on earth you are going to afford the looming festive season. Join the club as they say - Why is there always more month than money!! Still I would like to start by wishing everyone a very merry one! It is a good time to reflect on the year gone by and to gird the old loins ready for next year.

There are signs that the folk recession may be ending and that with some effort, audiences may increase in 1992. Now is the time to get in there, badger your club residents/organisers for improvements and volunteer to do something to help. Anything must be an improvement on the apathy of recent years. I have always been a firm believer in clubs having a few bob in the kitty. So why not work out ways to raise money for your club - sale of unwanted records, old paperback books etc. - go on - you can do it! Let me know how you get on.

Musically I have had an interesting time - my long suffering 'life partner' (33 years in January!!) says it is too interesting. With great help from an interested licensee (Gerry) a new club has been set up in an old venue - "The Ship" at Haskayne, near Ormskirk. It is being run by Lyn Thompson, Ian Tupling and Chris Wilson and they need help to get it established so any Thursday why not make an effort, miss the telly for a night and give a hand.

We have also been involved in setting up "The Bayou" club at the Mons in Bootle, where we aim to have a Cajun club once a month with the best bands. We have booked through to April 92 at present - if the support is there, we will continue thereafter. Perhaps the most encouraging aspect of this is the help (financial!) we have received from "Merseyside Arts" and Sefton Council via their Cultural Fund. There is money, folks, but you have to spend a lot of time and effort learning how to ask for it.

We have had a bluegrass club start at the "Priory" in Litherland on a monthly basis run by the "Back Porch Boys" - A great friendly night out it is tool! (50p). They are also getting help from Sefton's Cultural Fund.

On top of that we have had four Melling Tithebarn concerts to organise. Perhaps you can understand why you may not have spotted me at your local club sorry! There are threats however, that we may be visiting some in the new year as part of a Tony Gibbons style "floorsingers tour" by "Starve the Barber" - four rather hirsute gentlemen of indeterminate years!! If you bump into us do come and say hello

I was up in Bury for the "Second National Cajun and Zydeco Festival" (They hold it in very exotic locations) but had to miss Sunday night as we had tickets for

"Humphrey Littleton and Helen Shapiro". Anyhow I was sitting there when I heard two ladies behind me chatting - well one was, she was explaining to the younger lass that for several years she had been organiser of a folk club but had just given up. The young ingenue asked what sort of music the club had "Ohtraditional, none of that contemporary stuff contemporary folk is a contradiction in terms". At one fell swoop, the likes of Ewan McColl, Bob Dylan, Tom Paxton, the late Keith Marsden, Billy Bragg, Peter Bellamy's "Transports", even our clubs Bella Tweedale, Jean Wrigley and Peter Egerton (all fine songsmiths) were consigned to the dustbin!!.

I wonder how the particular club is doing without her guiding hand, and I wonder if that young lass will now ever visit a folk club.

"Here's to you - in '92".



Mucky Mountains Morris

Present Another

Grand Christmas Ceilidh

with

Cogglers Brew

Calle

Chris Whiting

Saturday 11th. January, 1992, 8:00pm - 12:00pm St. Julie's Church Hall, Eccleston, St. Helens.

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DANCEABOUT

News on Social, Morris, Sword & Clog Dance

Just when you thought I'd disappeared from the scene, I'm back again! Hopefully to stir up a few thoughts, and maybe a bit of action. Looking forward first of all: don't forget the Wiggin Ceilidhs in December and January (17th). Now a hurry-up to all clog dancers: if you were thinking about applying for the Lancashire Wallopers Clog Weekend (of instruction - from raw beginner to advanced) in February then you'd be wise to quickly translate thought into action. Contact Duggie and Fiona Smith on 0942-832911; there are only a few places left.

Some outdoor action to be seen in December (brrrrrl) will be in Garstang where for a couple of nights, they're holding a Victorian event. Spots by Leyland Morris Men on Monday 16th and by Garstang Morris Men the following night. Remember too The Southport Swords. More details of their perambulations from Dave Lamb on 051-356-3750.

Still on the subject of Morris: I'm sad to report the death of Tommy Hewitt - a founder member of the present day Horwich team If you've ever seen the Horwich team you can't fail to have spotted Tommy! Teams and spectators everywhere will remember him with great affection. He had the face and the droll repartee to launch a thousand laughs. Maybe past generations of Wigan Folk Clubbers will remember his songs and his poems too. Bill Cross - a mainstay of the Lytham Club Day - also died very recently, and it's been thanks to Bill that Morris teams have always played an important part in the event, and that an open air Family Barn Dance came to be a regular feature too.

Now a glance back: How many of you telly addicts watched the dance teams of the city of Sheffield perform during the opening ceremony of the 16th World Student Games in July? Or thrilled to the American "Fiddle Puppets" on one of Aly Bain's "Push The Boat Out" programmes in July, with their Appalachian Clogging and English Rapper Sword Dancing? For those interested, Melanie Barber still runs her Appalachian session at Leyland; contact her on 0772 742690.

Now to dance music on tape: In March this year, at Neston on the Wirral, the Ranchers were brought together again after a nine year gap for a one night stand, and the whole event was recorded for the BBC archives. "The Ranchers - 38 Years On (Warts and All)" is a selection from this truly dynamic evening and will lift you out of your shoes! Fain Music, 8 Pensall Drive, Heswall, Wirrall, L61 6XP, is the address. Buy it! you won't be disappointed.

One thought has crossed my mind regarding dance music on tape, and speed: what about those involved in the learning process? How many schools, teams, dance clubs, schools of dancing (whatever type) own a tape recorder/player with a variable speed control? And are they obtainable nowadays? My 'Marantz' soldiering on though somewhat the worse for wear goes from minus 20% to plus 20% of normal speed and it's an excellent teaching aid. A clog dance group in the area saw it and immediately made enquiries. So-called specialist shops produced a crop of blank looks, mumbled excuses and customerbrush-offs. Perhaps manufacturers and stockists (non-stockists) somewhere need a prod - or need a prod somewhere!!

I was gratified to see that my comments regarding "Come Dancing" and the Ballroom Dancing Championships on the telly weren't too far wrong: a number of the Daily newspapers were bandying about such phrases such as "stiff, jerky", "waxwork dummies, and "ice cold". And those were some of the kinder comments! I wish then that I could have seen the sensational "Tango Argentino" show at London's Aldwych Theatre, with its "precision and raw passion" and its "irresistible sexiness" of the tango in all its forms!!

Keep dancing!

Roy Smith



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

This is a very short Broadfolk - just the highlights - as your correspondent has been working weird hours and has missed most of the superb series of programmes in Radio 2's Folk season. However, he was seen to be singing "All Around My Hat" at the top of his voice while driving home one night to the end of the Steeleye Concert and was most annoyed to have missed the Collecting series.

Have those of you who are luckier to heard more written your Thank You letters yet to Francis Line at Radio 2? When you do, do not make the mistake of one irate correspondent to a local Jazz Journal who addressed the excellent Ms Line as Mr - in private life she's Mrs Jim Lloyd - and she does need the support of those of us who like what she is doing.

You might also like to write to Chris van Schaick at radio Lancashire and congratulate him on retaining the Folk programme, even at a shorter time. He is getting a lot of brickbats at the moment so it would be good tactics to thank him for something! The new time is 6.00 to 7.00pm on Sunday evenings and it preserves the existing team of Nick and Nick.

FOLKEAR

A YOUTHFUL PERSPECTIVE by Hester Woods

What is the attitude of most of the older generation of folkies to the up and coming young musicians and singers?

In my experience, the majority of people are very welcoming. Some, however do not appear to realise that, just because I am not dressed like a folkie, I can sing like "ye traditional olde folkie" due to a background of traditional folk songs and singers.

Just because I wear Megadeth T-shirts and choose unusual songs to sing, it does not follow that I like to sit through a singaround which goes round the room 5 or 6 times, without even being asked whether I would like to sing. I am not accusing every singaround runner of being ignorant of young talent (especially in the musical department - fiddlers, pipers etc.) but at

crammed festivals we are often skipped over as being "unlikely to participate". I love singing but feel so excluded at some festivals that I have decided not to bother going again. I go to festivals mainly to sing, and try out new material, not to sit in a corner thinking, "stop worrying, your time will come". I thought at first that it was just me, but after talking to other young singers and musicians, I realised that our age is setting us back in performance practice, in the normally friendly area of singarounds.

I hope that this article will bring the problem to the attention of the culprits. Hopefully in the future singarounds will become as easy for a new face to join in as for older established ones.

Hester Woods

Saturday March 14th 1992 at Melling Tithebarn

North West Federation

Under-25's concert

"Carrying it on - 3"

Featuring:

Catriona MacDonald & Ian Lothian, Pota Portac, Gareth Turner

Are there any talented under-25 year olds at your club? If so why not suggest them to Dave Day?

More information from Dave Day on 051 526 6661

TyPING? Errors and Pruf redding....

After reading the comments by Paul Adams of Fellside (FNW Autumn '91) with regard to my reviews of Jez Lowe's (FNW Spring '91) and the late Peter Bellamy's albums (FNW Summer '91) and also noting the large number of misprints, edited highlights and plain poor copies of some of my other submissions to this magazine, I am compelled to put pen to paper in order to both reply to criticism and complaint!

Let's take the Jez Lowe review first - I phoned Paul to discuss what he meant by "strange". It transpired that he'd had a number of phone calls from readers whose inferential reading skills are obviously non-existent. My apologies to Jez and the Bad Pennies for not realising that some readers are still at the literal level of reading ability and that my "tongue-in-cheek" approach would backfire.

For those of you who obviously didn't get the message:

"mediocre" = the best thing since sliced bread

"really average" = exceptionally good

"average" = you'll do for me!

Get it? It's called the art of understatement. I might also add that it must be frustrating to record producers to receive phone calls criticising a reviewer's work: i.e. if you want to complain, discuss or give your reply then write or phone the reviewer.

As far as the audience applause sentence is concerned in the review of Peter Bellamy's "Songs & Rummy Conjurin' Tricks" this was a clear case of poor typing or bad_editing. Just for the record it should read MUCH of the audience applause, etc. Indeed, as Paul quite rightly points out, applause does follow each track (though I would dispute a good length of).

Now to other misprints, etc. In my article on the Thornaby Folk Workshop (FNW Summer '91) the Collingwood Arms was translated as the "Colby". Obviously the typist was an American TV soap fan or perhaps had limited logical skills; (We don't pay our typists enough to expect them to apply any logic to the typingl -ED) i.e. how on earth can you get Collingwood to become Colby? and Kal Colby (what?) should read Real Colly !!! O.K. I accept that my hand written scripts may be a contributory factor (They most certainly are - ED) but I would have thought common sense would indicate it didn't make sense as transcribed.

The Wilsons come in for more sheer bad typing/ editing in the latest issue (Autumn '91) where I've reviewed their new album. The last sentence of the third paragraph reads as utter garbage. The reason for this is quite easily explained - THREE paragraphs of the original manuscript have been omitted in between ! Doesn't anybody PROOF READ this magazine???! (Er.. No - ED) No wonder there's always a search for contributors - people are frightened they may be branded semi-literate. I know, the magazine is produced voluntarily and always in a rush because some contributors send in their work at the last minute; but itdoesn't take long just to run a quick check, surely?

Well, there it is, now I've had my say too. I feel quite mediocre for that. This letter has been sent in ready word processed - now I wonder if it will be printed correctly? One lives in hope!

Annoyed, Roby Mill (Alas (sic) Derek Gifford).

The Editor replies:

It is almost impossible with the imposed timescales to carry out any proof reading, and what little I do is without the benefit of the original article, so I can only check if it makes approximate sense and is spelt correctly. Errors that occur due to a complete loss of sentences or even paragraphs at the typing stage cannot be recovered.

In the Wilsons' review, it seems that a complete page of Derek's handwritten copy was missed. Consequently I've repeated the review in full in the record reviews section.

REVIEWER REVILED.....

I write to express my shock and horror after reading the review of Sara Grey's new album - "Promises to Keep" - by Mike Billington (Folk North West, Spring 1991). In it, Mike says "... the only survivor from 1986 is the very talented Shav Black". Mike was referring to Sara's previous album (with Ellie Ellis) - "You Gave me a Song". I can assure Mike and anybody else that I did contribute some things to that album - only 8 tracks, I admit, but still a significant contribution. If my memory serves me right, I spent 3 days in the wilds of Mid-Wales in the company of Sara and Ellie, Barry Coope, Shay, Keith Kendrick, Harry Lowrey, Keith Price, and Paul Downes. I even remember having to step over the rotting carcass of a dead sheep every time I went to use the bog (no joke, honest) I think they called it a ewe-rinall Then there was my picture on the album sleeve. Admittedly, it does bear a remarkable likeness to Robert Redford, and maybe that's confused Mike even more.

The repercussions of all this have been remarkable. Whenever "Garva" do a gig, Shay insists on taking a cardboard cut out of me on stage. Freddie Mercury now insists I had nothing to do with the harmonies on "Bohemian Rhapsody"! it's

bad enough having to live with the fact that I wasn't credited on "Sergeant Pepper" (I was one of the flowers on the sleevel). If further proof need to be provided that I did survive, I can be seen (or someone resembling me) at Maghull every Tuesday, Billinge on the occasional Sundays, at Wigan, Fylde and Guernsey festivals with "Garva, at Burnley on the 6 June (Solo), at the Rave-on Chester 9 June (solo), or with "Blarneystone" at Flamagamis Apple in Liverpool every Thursday night.

Mike could even come and touch me on any of those nights - he could buy me a drink and watch me drink it! Seriously though, to a sensitive artist like myself who takes such pride in his work and turning up, Mike's research leaves a lot to be desired. Does he work for the Government? It has been suggested that maybe the review was simply worded wrong - that it should have read "the only very talented survivor from 1986 is Shay Black". If that's the case, I'm with him all the way.

Yours In Anonymity

Tony Gibbons

ANOTHER REVIEWER REVILED....

Burnley folk club would like to mention that the 'live review' of Sue Asquith's performance there, published in the autumn '91 edition of folk North-West was inaccurate in one point that was made. Paul Bromley, a regular at Burnley, was invited to join Sue in a number of songs. They make a fine duo, with Paul's strong, melodic voice providing an excellent accompaniment to Sue's talented singing and playing.

Although Burnley Folk Club didn't write the review, we feel that we ought to apologise to Paul and Sue, as the evening was much more enjoyable than was implied.

But don't take our word for it - see for yourselves - Paul sings regularly at Burnley on Thursdays, while Sue can be seen at Skipton Folk club on Tuesdays. Occasionally, the 2 clubs are lucky enough to hear the two sing together. As further proof of Burnley's confidence in Paul, he has been invited to become a club resident. Welcome, Paul.

(From the organisers of Burnley Folk Club)



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ebruary 6th Ken Nico

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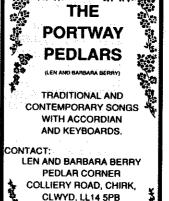
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Featuring:

Catriona MacDonald & Ian Lothian, Pota Portac, Gareth Turner

Are there any talented under-25 year olds at your club? If so why not suggest them to Dave Day?

More information from Dave Day on 051 526 6661

SUNDAY	erre de l'agravagnesse, et l'	Programme to the second of the	17. W		
	15T	8ТН	15TH	22ND	29TH
BOTHY EAGLE & CHILD LEIGH LLANDUDNO	Singers' Night DEREK BRIMSTONE Singers' Night E	CHRIS WOOD (h) Singers' Night HAND ON HEART	THE LOST NATION BAI JIM COUZA BUNTING & FROLICS	ND:Christmas Party Christmas Party Christmas Party	; Singers' Night End of Year Party
THE ALBION WHEELTON FLEECE FOLK	Singers' Night Music Session ARTISAN CHRISTMAS	Singers' Night Music Session Singers' night	Music Session	Singers' Night Music Session CUCKOO OAK	Singers' Night Music Session Closed
MONDAY	2ND	9TH	16ТН	23RD	зотн
HORWICH POYNTON PRESTON TRITON FOLK AT THE VIC PUNCHBOWL		Singers' Night Singers' Night BERNARD WRIGLEY Singaround Singers' Night	MARTIN CARTHY PARTY	Singers' Night Singers' Night Christmas Party CLOSED Singers' Night	Singers' Night Singers' Night PAUL DOWNES CLOSED Singers' Night
TUESDAY	3RD		† : 17TH	 24TH	+
BLACK HORSE FOLK AT GATE MAGHULL (a) TAP & SPILE TILSTON YARROW VALLEY	JACK HUDSON JON HARVISON MAXIE & MITCH or STANLEY ACCRINGTON MIKE SILVER Christmas Party	CREAM OF BARLEY Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night		Closed CLOSED Singers' Night Closed Closed	CLOSED CLOSED CLOSED CLOSED CLOSED
WEDNESDAY	4TH	11TH	18TH	25TH	
BROMBOROUGH RUNCORN WHITE SWAN	Singers' night Guest t.b.a THE WILSONS	Singers' night Singers' Night MARTIN CARTHY		CLOSED CLOSED CLOSED	
THURSDAY	5ТН	12TH	19TH	26ТН	1 1 1
BEAUMARIS BURNLEY COCKERMOUTH DARWEN FLEETWOOD FOLK AT ENGINE GREGSON'S LANE MAGAZINE THE BODDIE SHOP THE BUZZ *BREWERY ARTS	Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night CHARLIE Singers' Night Singers' Night No dates JEZ LOWE EDWARD II BLUES'N'TROUBLE	Singers' Night STANLEY ACCRINGTON Singers' Night Closed SUE ARROW NEW HOKUM BOYS Singers' Night Singers' Night RAILTOWN BOTTLERS	Christmas Party Singers' Night Christmas Singarou BERNARD WRIGLEY PAUL & GREN	CLOSED Closed Closed Closed CLOSED t.b.a Singers' Night	
FRIDAY	6ТН	13ТН \	20TH	27TH	
BEE BLACKBURN NORTHWICH POTTERIES RED LION *BOTHY *BREWERY ARTS	1	PETE MORTON HARVEY ANDREWS (c) 'Moorsiders' - Cei	Singers' Night CLOSED Christmas Party CLOSED	Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night CLOSED	
LIVE BEER	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	
SATURDAY	- 			28ТН	
BURY POYNTON		CHRISTMAS CEILIDH CEILIDH with B (e)	Carol Festival KATHRYN TICKEL (f)	Christmas Party TOSS THE FEATH (g)	ſ
ST ALBANS *BREWERY ARTS *MAGHULL		Cream of the Barley KATHRYN TICKELL BAN	71 ND:THE BARELY WORKS		

NOTES FOR DECEMBER

- a. CHRIS NEWMAN & MAIRE NI CHATASAIGH
 b. CHRIS WOOD & ANDY CUTTING
 c. HARVEY ANDREWS (Ticket Only)
 d. JUNIOR DRAMA PRODUCTION
 e. CEILIDH with BILBO BAGGINS
 f. KATHRYN TICKELL BAND
 g. TOSS THE FEATHERS (Sunday 29th)
 h. CHRIS WOOD & ANDY CUTTING
 i. Christmas Party with Fudge
 j. Christmas Party Lammergeier

WEDNESDAY	1ST	8TH	15TH	22ND	29TH
BROMBOROUGH RUNCORN WHITE SWAN	Closed	Singers' night Closed SARA GREY	Singers night Singers Night Singers Night	Singers' night Guest t.b.a GORDON TYRRALL	Singers' Night Singers' Night MIKE SILVER
THURSDAY	2ND	9TH	16ТН	: 23RD	зотн
BEAUMARIS BURNLEY COCKERMOUTH DARWEN FLEETWOOD FOLK at the GAT GREGSON'S LANE MAGAZINE ORMSKIRK THE BODDIE SHOP THE BUZZ	t.b.a No dates Singers' Night	Singers' Night Singers' Night SARA GREY Closed Concept Night (f) 'Singers' Night CHRIS WHILE Singers' Night Singers' Night RATTLE'N' REEL	Singers' Night Featured Singers' Singers' Night Singers' Night RICHARD GRAINGER 'ROUGH MIX Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night THE WILD TURKEYS	Singers' Night Singers' Night	Singers' Night Singers' Night Guest t.b.a Singers' Night JEAN WRIGLEY 'JEZ LOWE Singers' Night Singers' Night
FRIDAY	3RD	10TH	17TH	24TH	31ST
BEE BLACKBURN NORTHWICH POTTERIES RED LION *BREWERY ARTS LIVE at BEER	Singers' Night Singers' Night No dates JOHN MORRIS (g) ARTISAN Guest TBA	Singers' Night Singers' Night HARVEY ANDREWS DAVE BURLAND	Singers' Night JOAN BLACKBURN Singers' Night ROY BAILEY TOSS THE FEATH (d)	Singers' Night Singers' Night QUARTZ STRAWHEAD THE RHYTHM SHO (e)	DEREK GIFFORD Singers' Night Guest t.b.a KEITH HANCOCK RUTHLESS BLUES Guest TBA
SATURDAY	4TH	11TH	18TH	25TH	
BURY POYNTON ST ALBANS *BREWERY ARTS *POTTERIES	AGM & Singers Nigh Guest TBA	t:DEREK GIFFORD CEILIDH with Q (b) Guest t.b.a		CEILDH (Band TBA) R. CAJUN	
SUNDAY	5TH	 12TH	 19TH	 26TH	
BOTHY EAGLE & CHILD FLEECE FOLK LEIGH LLANDUDNO THE ALBION WHEELTON MECHANICS	No dates Closed DAVE HARDY No dates Singers' Night		Closed BETTY & NORMAN (h) Singers' Night	STRAWHEAD Residents Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Music Session	
MONDAY	6ТН	13TH	20TH	27TH	
HORWICH POYNTON PRESTON TRITON FOLK AT THE VIC PUNCHBOWL	Singers' Night Singers' Night Closed No dates	Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night	Singers' Night DEREK GIFFORD Singers' Night	Singers' Night Singers' Night STEVE HIGHAM (k) Singers' Night Singers' Night	
TUESDAY	7TH	14TH	21ST	28TH	
BLACK HORSE TAP & SPILE MAGHULL		GEOFF HIGGINBOTTOM Singers' Night	_	BOB ASHWORTH (1) Singers' Night	
FOLK AT ENGINE FILSTON YARROW VALLEY				Singers' Night Singers' Night	

NOTES FOR JANUARY

- a. NATURAL CHORD BROTHERS
 b. CEILIDH with QUIET MAN
 c. THE LIZARDS (Cajun Band)
 d. TOSS THE FEATHERS with support THE RYAN BROTHERS
 e. THE RHYTHM SHOTS with THE METHOD
 f. Concept Night Ageing Hippies
 g. JOHN MORRIS & EDDIE MURPHY
 h. BETTY & NORMAN MCDONALD
 i. Potteries All-Star Ceilidh Band
 j. IAN MATTHEWS & ANDY ROBERTS (T.B.C)
 k. STEVE HIGHAM & TONY GIBBONS
 l. BOB ASHWORTH & MARTIN GITTINS

February Dates

			<u> </u>	2230	<u> </u>
SATURDAY	1ST	8TH	15TH	22ND	
BURY POYNTON SOUTHPORT ARTS ST ALBANS *MECHANICS	GORDON TYRRALL Singers' Night THE LIZARDS (f)	BUNTING & FROLICS Singers' Night KATHRYN TICKELL PETE MCGOVERN tbc	NICK DOW Singers' Night	Singers' Night Singers' Night	
SUNDAY	2ND	9ТН .	16TH	23RD	
BOTHY EAGLE & CHILD LEIGH LLANDUDNO THE ALBION WHEELTON FLEECE FOLK MECHANICS	Singers' Night No dates Guest TBA No dates Singers' Night Music Session ISAAC GUILLORY LEON ROSSELSON	ANNE BRIGGS Singers' Night Singers' Night Music Session Guest t.b.a KATHRYN TICKELL	Singers' Night DEREK GIFFORD Singers' Night Music Session TOM McCONVILLE	MELANIE HARROLD(g) LYNNE & BARRY (d) Singers' Night Music Session Singers' Night SHOW OF HANDS	1
MONDAY	3RD	10TH	17TH	24TH	
HORWICH POYNTON PRESTON TRITON FOLK AT THE VIC PUNCHBOWL MECHANICS		Singers' Night Singers' Night ROY BAILEY Singers' Night Singers' Night EDDIE READER tbc	Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night FAIRPORT CONVENTION	Singers' Night Singers' Night BREAD & ROSES Singers' Night Singers' Night	
TUESDAY	4TH	11TH	18TH -	25TH	
BLACK HORSE MAGHULL YARROW VALLEY FOLK AT ENGINE TILSTON *POTTERIES	MIKE SILVER HOKUM HOTSHOTS (a) TH' ANTIQUE RO (b) PETE RYDER Guest t.b.a		ALLAN TAYLOR Singers' Night JOHN CAREY & M (e) Guest TBA	Singers' Night Singers' Night Guest TBA	The state of the s
WEDNESDAY	5TH	12TH	19TH	26TH	
BROMBOROUGH RUNCORN WHITE SWAN *SOUTHPORT ARTS	Singers' night Guest t.b.a BRIAN PETERS	Singers' night Singers' Night Singers' Night	Singers' night Guest t.b.a WIZZ JONES FAIRPORT CONVENTION	Singers' Night Singers' Night STEVE TILSTON (i)	1
THURSDAY	6ТН	13ТН	20ТН	27ТН	
1	Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night E'Singers' Night No dates Singers' Night JACK ALLEY & R (c)	Singers' Night Featured Singers CHRIS NEWMAN (j) Closed Singers' Night 'WHOLE HOG MIKE FAIRCLOUGH Singers' Night OLD JOE ZYDECO	Singers' Night Singers' Night	Singers' Night Guest TBA Singers' Night Closed Singers' Night :KEN PEARSON Singers' Night Singers' Night Guest TBA	
FRIDAY	7TH	14TH	†	† 128TH	
BEE BLACKBURN NORTHWICH	Singers' Night Singers' Night No dates	Singers' Night Singers' Night	1	Singers' Night Singers' Night	
POTTERIES RED LION *BREWERY ARTS LIVE at BEER	Singers' Night MAXI & MITCH Guest TBA	PORTWAY PEDLARS WHIPPERSNAPPER HAMSTERS Guest TBA	Guest TBA	Singers' Night BERNARD WRIGLEY Guest TBA	

NOTES FOR FEBRUARY

- a. HOKUM HOTSHOTS or Singers' Night (Date ONLY AT Club) b. TH' ANTIQUE ROADSHOW
- JACK ALLEY & RORY MOTION
- LYNNE & BARRY HARDMAN
 JOHN CAREY & MAIREAD O'DONNELL
 THE LIZARDS (At Padiham)
- MELANIE HARROLD & OLLIE BLANCHFLOWER DONAL MacGUIRE & LIAM WEBSTER STEVE TILSTON & MAGGIE BOYLE CHRIS NEWMAN & MAIRE NI CHATHASAIGH

- ROBB JOHNSON & PIP COLLINGS

Personal View:

CD's - GOOD VALUE FOR MONEY?

by Bernie Forkin

I had no intention, when I made my comment about CD running times, of becoming embroiled in a forum on the subject, but certain aspects of Paul Adams' response simply beg to be questioned.

I am probably more aware than many readers about the costs of producing an album. Indeed, having helped make three tapes and one album with Caught On the Hop, as well as two charity compilations, there would be something very much amiss if I did not. I am aware that the independent labels have tighter budgets than the majors, though it might be mentioned that the independents probably don't have to shell out advances in the region of £50,000 as Vertigo recently had to do for the new Dire Straits album.

I took a recent and totally random trawl through my CD collection to see just what kind of value the Folkie gets for his twelve and a half guid. The results are as

ARTISTE	TITLE	LABEL	TIME	,
Altan	The Red Crow	Green Linnet	45.04	ı
Tom McConv	ville Cross the River	Old Bridge	44.24	
Fairport Con	vn. Expletive Delighted	Woodworm	35.0	
Martin Carthy	y Right of Passage	Topic	46.32	
Eric Bogle Vo	oices in the Wilderness	Greentrax	39.15	
Ron Kavana	Home Fire	Special Del.	48.12	
De Dannan	Half Set In Harlem	Celtic Music	51.50	
Various Brin	iging It All Back Home	BBC Records*	151.0	
June Tabor	Aq'aba	Topic	44.33	
Mary Coughl	an Tired & Emotional	WEA	34.04	
* Double Alb	um			

Take a good look at those times. Best of them all is the BBC double set from the series of the same name with both CDs running at over 70 minutes each. Then comes the De Dannan with more than 50 minutes plus while most of the others are giving their fans over three quarters of an hour of music. Bottom of the heap is Mary Coughlan with a miserly 34 minutes and Fairport only a minute better off.

Now let's scan the other types of music and see how Folk compares.

ARTIST	TITLE	LABEL	TIME
Peter Gabriel	Shaking The Tree	Virgin	77.22
CBSO/Rattle	Elgar/Dream of Geron	tius EMI*	95.17
ECO/Pinnock	Back/Handel/Vivaldi	Deutche Gra	m. 73.19
Kate Bush	The Sensual World	EMI	46.00
The Beatles	Hard Days Night	EMI	30.32
Eric Clapton	Journeyman	Reprise	57.02
Paul Simon	Graceland	Warner	43.11
Madonna	Immaculate Collection	Sire/Warner	73.34

* Double CD

Well, what do you see? Apart from The Beatles, the next poorest are Paul Simon and Kate Bush with 43 and 46 mins respectively. Those scores would have made them good value in the Folk section.

Let's get contentious. I'd say fair value for your twelve guid was forty minutes plus, while anything in excess of 50 is generous. Below forty is less than fair and under thirty five is daylight robbery. On that basis only De Dannan and the BBC are being generous while the rest are giving good value, apart from Fairport and Coughlan which fall short of the mark.

Over the tracks, though, it's good deals all round for the rock fans with phenomenal value from Madonna and Gabriel and only Beatles fans getting fleeced while classical fans can't go wrong. Over seventy minutes from Pinnock, and forty-five minutes per CD from Rattle.

Let's finally lay that old canard about running times. In ve olde vinyl days it as possible that distortion and drag would appear if you pushed your luck too far not that that ever stopped the likes of Genesis and Pink Floyd from getting up to an hour on their albums even using seventies technology. With CD those problems are virtually non-existent. Of all musics, the most likely to suffer from extraneous noise is classical. And which music regularly lays most minutes before

An Idea from Phil Capper

On my way down to Guernsey Folk Festival, I took time out to have a long chat with Lyn Colbeck, the vice-Chair of the Southern Counties Folk Federation (SCoFF) and also the editor of "Folk On Tap" (the SCoFF magazine). As is usual at these sort of meetings, we put the whole folk world to rights, but decided that there were things we could do to actually help the process.

We came up with a scheme, designed to benefit everybody. "An impossible Utopia" I hear you cry. Well, I suppose you have the right to be cautious, but we both feel that we have got the balance right.

Basically, the plan involves each Federation arranging one week of bookings for each of two artists from the other Federation and holding a fundraising concert featuring the two visiting artists and two local acts. A good proportion of each Federation's member clubs would need to commit themselves to taking part, but, apart from that, the scheme is simple. So, how would it work? Well, using our area as an example, we see it like this:

Week OneFirst artist(s) from SCoFF plays 4 or 5 gigs in NWFFC area.

WeekendNWFFC holds a fundraising concert, featuring the first SCoFF act at the end of their week, two local acts and the second SCoFF act at the beginning of their week.

Week TwoSecond artist(s) from SCoFF plays 4 or 5 gigs in NWFFC area.

Each gig would pay the visiting artist(s) approximately £60 to £70. This could be increased on occasion to cover a visiting group, for instance.

The potential benefits of this scheme are fairly obvious. First, between £240 and £350 for a week's work in a "strange" area is worthwhile for most solo artists and duos. Second, many clubs are looking for quality artists at around the £60 mark. Third, the clubs taking part get to see some new quality talent. Fourth, the clubs would have some guarantee of the artists' quality, as they would, in effect, be "Federation Approved". Fifth, the Federations raise their profiles and become active, whilst raising some extra cash from the Fundraising Concerts and, finally, the artists get new and wider exposure, thereby enhancing their reputations. The local artists who play the fundraising concerts could find their own reputations being carried

back to the SCoFF area by the visiting artists!

Naturally, this could mean booking in advance, but would also mean clubs which book well in advance keeping a few dates per year reserved for SCoFF "exchanges". However, even the regular "singers" clubs could take a chance on these events, without hurting the bank balances too much!

If you, or your club, want to take part in this scheme, let me know as soon as possible. I already have enough clubs interested to make it work, but I need more. If your club contacts me now, I can set the first exchange up for March or April.

A CHARLES AND THE SECOND ASSESSMENT

Phil Capper (0772) 684537

CD's - Good Value for Money ? (from P.19)

And if you thought that seventy was the limit, you might care to know that there is a classical CD, currently available, which crams a massive NINETY minutes into its length. (It's Mahler's 2nd symphony, The Resurrection). You could get three Fairport albums onto that one.

Let's get one thing straight before I leave this discussion to others. If you produce CDs and sell them at the going market rate, then you are fair game for comparison with all the other musics. If I think you are not delivering fair value, then let the album be ever so good, my review will always carry that caveat. Nobody is going to buy that specious tripe about getting Van Gogh to paint bigger canvases. Nobody wants Jez Lowe's next release to contain twenty minutes of padding: We do want twenty more minutes of what he and others like him do best.

The technology will take it but if there are many more thirty-five minute CDs palmed off on the punter at twelve quid a throw, I'll lay odds that the public won't.

BERNIE FORKIN

LIVE REVIEWS

19th FYLDE FESTIVAL

Aug 30th to Sept 1st '91

Definitely one of the "Greats" on the current folk scene, Fylde festival is a hectic panoply of organised chaos, lasting for between 3 days and a week, depending on your level of dedication and stamina. Newcomers to Fylde actually believe that the advertised 3-day event lasts for three days. Arriving to find the festival in full swing, they do not make the same mistake again. The "Pre-Festival concert", held on the Thursday night at the North Euston hotel, together with a singaround at the Mount, usually herald the start of the festival for the enthusiasts.

Fylde is a festival for campers, caravanners and B&B types, as there are facilities for all. The caravanners suffered, though, as the council had prevented caravan access to one of the car parks normally used, while allowing a road maintenance gang to occupy 25% of the remaining car park. As more caravans than ever turned up this year, it was full by the Thursday night. Pity the poor "late-comers", arriving on Friday and trying to find somewhere to park. I think that the vision of a frantic Alan Bell, wringing his hands in frustration, racing up and down the car park, will remain with me always. He did eventually sort out an alternative, so everyone found somewhere to park. I imagine that more people will be arriving on the Thursday next year, "just in case".



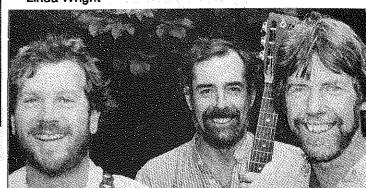
There were more than 100 events at Fylde this year. ONE HUNDRED! The selection available is immense, and the town is filled with odd-looking people, reading bits of paper as they wander through the streets, trying to work out where they are going, where they should have been, who they cannot miss, when they are going to eat, etc, etc. The number of events is increasing every year, and there are getting to be too many choices.

But what a choicel For me, the discovery of the weekend was the superbly talented Melanie Harrold. accompanied by Ollie Blanchflower on double bass. What a voice! And her guitar playing! An extra bonus was at the late-night concert, where Melanie and Ollie formed an impromptu group with Ken Nicol, Isaac Guillory and Jim Couza. A never to be repeated, and a never to be forgotten experience. For a great many others, the discovery was The Barely Works even the most staid "folkies" were enthusing about them all weekend. Altan, the headliners, were better during their afternoon performance, lacking that little bit extra required to finish off the festival. Garva developed quite a following over the weekend expect to see them at lots of festivals next year. The McCalmans were there, with a much healthier Nick Keir returning to their midst. Understandably a little rusty, they were still well worth seeing.

Sitting in the Marine Hall bar on the Sunday evening, I overheard the remark "Oh, look, the bar is filling up - Carthy and Swarbrick must be on!" - and they were. They may be legends on the folk scene, but their audience seems to be losing interest.

I could spend the next 3 pages listing all that I missed - TheDeighton Family, The Fisher Family, Johnny Handle...the list goes on and on. I even missed The Wilsons!! Too much to do, too little time. Singarounds, concerts, music sessions, ceilidhs, drinking in the Marine Hall bar, making new friends, meeting friends from last year's festival, having a great time. I left, very reluctantly, on the Monday afternoon, waving farewell to those who were staying on longer, and resolving to get there even earlier next year.

Linda Wright



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CREWE & NANTWICH FESTIVAL

6th,7th,8th June '91

The sun shone brightly on the weekend which lay ahead as I set off on the drive down to Nantwich, but by the time I got there, it was almost dark and there were no signs to tell me where the festival was. After 20 minutes of looking and then asking, I finally found the Civic Hall, where the weekend's events were based. Not even a sign at the end of the street saying "Festival This Way". Apparently, I was not the first to mention it, so maybe someone will take note.

Friday's opening ceilidh was under way when I got there, but I headed for the singaround. Not many festival guests seem to make the effort to attend these, so it was good to see **Dave Goulder** taking his turn and enjoying a varied evening. At around 11.30, I headed back down to the main hall for the late-night bop with **Bon Ton Roulez!** Not much waltzing from the audience, but lots of high energy bopping, with the dance floor alive with swirling bodies.

Singarounds at festivals tend to throw up at least a few pleasant surprises. Saturday at The Railway was no exception; it was good to see lan Woods in action after a long gap, his vocal chords seem to get deeper and richer - marvellous! Then two of Northwich's residents, Sarah Burdon and lan Sherwood, had my skin creeping with their rendition of Ann Lister's "The Moth". Haunting vocals and an excellent arrangement, which had me nipping back to the Civic Hall for their spot at the Concert.

At the evening concert, Jez Lowe & The Bad Pennies brought the house down, after which I took a breather, ready for Wolfstone at the late night extra. Yet again, a dance floor full of heaving bodies. Their music is full of highly boppable rhythms and wonderful tunes, but the sound was not quite there.

The Frog & Ferret opened at 10ish on Sunday to serve breakfast! Excellent it was too, with copious amounts of coffee to revive the body. By this time, **Kicking Alice** were outside with their wonderful Appalachian clogging. This has got to be the dance form for the '90s. Marvellous to watch and obviously so much fun to do, it is infectious.

Back to the Civic, and problems. The concert was 20 minutes late starting and the audience was rather thin on the ground, which made it difficult for many of the artists. Brian Robertson played an excellent early set to about 35 people. By the time Aberjaber were due on, the concert was running 40 minutes late. An excellent spot from them though. Janet Russell delighted a thankfully enlarged audience, but had not expected an encore; when she got one, she picked out the best song of her entire set.

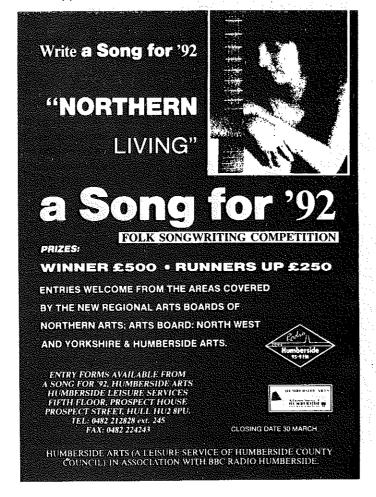
Fortunately, the hall had filled up by the time Chervonakalyna hit the stage and dance floor. This was Ukrainian music and dance with so much enthusiasm and sheer joy, that you could not help smiling with them and enjoying every second of it. Their biggest problem was waiting around for their sets, as, towardsthe end, the delay had grown to almost an hour, but they came on for the festival's finale and took the place apart!

Naturally, this does not cover everything! The whole weekend also carried a fiddle theme, with Pete Cooper, Bon Ton Roulez! and The Fiddle Band featuring strongly and hosting workshops on different styles. Would a festival be complete without a craft fair, the juggling etc. workshops, the kids' events? The dance tours took in Crewe, with Iron Men & Severn Gilders, Hellath Wen, Leopard Spot and many other Morris sides.

Admittedly, there were problems, but this is only to be expected from a first go at a full weekend. Posters around the town to let people know the festival is on would help. Allowing time for changeovers in the concert programme. Bring the singarounds in from the cold - The Railway is too far out of things. All minor stuff, which are a part of any festival's learning curve. Book your Bed & Breakfast early, as this is limited.

On the plus side, the venues are pretty good, the town is gorgeous and the atmosphere was excellent. The organisers are enthusiastic and the festival goers friendly. Book me in for next year's!

Phil Capper



WIMBORNE FESTIVAL

7th,8th,9th June '91

Why Wimborne? Well, for one thing, I'd never been before. In fact, I'd never heard of Wimborne Folk Festival until a courtesy copy of "Folk On Tap" arrived with an advert tucked in after the dates listings! OK, so that is not much of a reason. Well, how about the line-up? Looked pretty tasty, including Allan Taylor, Mike Silver, Show Of Hands, Les Barker, Artisan, Gas Mk V, Maxie and Mitch, Tripping Upstairs, Wolfstone (Scotland), Storm (Ireland) and Caliché.

First impressions were of a rather picturesque Dorset town being tortured by a new one-way system. However, a big plus here, large signs pointing you to both the festival venue and the campsite. The campsite was about 15 minutes walk from town, with mobile "facilities", a dubious water supply to washbasins etc. and no buses. Most noticeable was the fact that you could not move for morris dancers!

Yes, if you like plenty of dancing at a folk festival, Wimborne's for you. There were over 50 dance teams here, with such far-flung teams as our own Poynton Jemmers, Iron Men and Severn Guilders and Jersey Lilies. The town centre streets were closed on Saturday and Sunday as the place was awash with dance teams. I was surprised at the number of clog morris sides, particularly as most of them were Southerners! Still, colourful and entertaining they were.

The festival concerts were based at the town's Allendale Centre, which is an excellent venue, having both a main hall and other rooms for workshops and the like. The catering there was open early for breakfast and was clean, courteous and reasonably priced too. Other events took place around the town centre, with permanent singaround, music session, free "mini-concerts" plus a ceilidh at the Queen Elizabeth Centre. Nothing more than two or three minutes away, with a festival shuttle bus on Saturday night. It is a shame it did not extend to the campsite.

The artists then. Well, Les Barker had them in stitches as usual, Artisan's harmonies were as perfect as ever and Allan Taylor was every bit as smooth and professional as you expect him to be. Maxie and Mitch were, to be honest, disappointingly unfunny. It all seemed rather predictable somehow. The ceilidhs were very well attended (inevitable with so many dancers there!) and both the Geckoes and Gas Mk.V did the festival proud.

Caliché were quite astonishing. We don't get too many opportunities to hear Andean music up North, so it was really refreshing. Tripping Upstairs were getting rave reviews, so I had to go and see them. Two lilting female voices, flute, whistle, banjo and guitars and a nice line in original material and traditional tunes.

Sunday's final concert had a few eye"openers. Mike Silver has put together one of the best bands I've heard in a long time. If "Road Dog" ever get round your way, go and see them. Ireland's "Storm"

were great. The audience went absolutely potty. Acoustic guitar with voice, electric guitar and asound more like an orchestra; loud, driving and wild. Wolfstone are one of Scotland's newer discoveries and getting excellent reviews. Certainly they deserve them, as the aisles were thronged with people dancing to their many tune sets. Not too many songs, though, which is perhaps a failing.

Final impressions, then? A well-run festival, with a good line-up, plenty of dance, lots of good beer around, only one Indian restaurant (bool), good venues and a great atmosphere.

Would I go again? Subject to the line-up, I'm down for next year's. I definitely enjoyed it. Well done Jinny & co..

Phil Capper

Ceilidh at Manchester Town Hall, September 13th '91.

On September 13th, a Ceilidh was held at Manchester Town Hall, as part of the Festival, featuring (according to the ads) "The finest of Scottish and Irish ceilidh bands". The band was The Waterloo Ceilidh Band, which will be better known to you as GARVA, (Kevin Webster, John Murphy, Shay Black and Tony Gibbons) plus flautist Terry Coyne as Caller, and Eugene Hudson on percussion. I have no argument with the idea of them being the best Irish ceilidh band, but Scottish as well? Still, a good time was had by all, with the hall packed with enthusiastic dancers.

I'm not a great lover of ceilidhs, as I normally find myself totally confused by the caller's instructions. Terry Coyne altered all that - he organised, repeated directions, got off stage to move people around and generally cajoled and bullied everyone into getting it right. The dancers were pushed to the limit, then allowed a breather between each dance while the band played a song or a tune for them to listen to.

Then came the unexpected addition to the evening at 10.45, the fire alarm went off, and we all had to leave the building. It was a fine, warm evening, and everyone was waiting outside while the fire brigade arrived to deal with the problem. Not one to miss an opportunity, Terry, together with Kevin and Shay, climbed up on the top of the lighting engineer's van, and proceeded to carry on with the ceilidh in the side street. The crowd entusiastically took up the offer, and with great verve and vigour, danced alongside the town hall until the emergency was over. Once the dance was finished, (but not before), everyone returned to the main hall to continue with the ceilidh proper.

Linda Wright

HARRY BOARMAN MEMORIAL CONCERT

Thursday October 10th

at the Irish World Heritage Centre, Manchester

When you talk about folk music and Lancashire in the same breath, the one name that springs to mind is Harry Boardman who, together with his wife Lesley, revitalised interest in the music and tradition of the North West. They paved the way for the likes of Mike Harding, Bernard Wrigley, and the Oldham Tinkers to entertain audiences with Lancashire songs and humour.

Sadly and suddenly, late in December 1987, Harry Boardman died.

A trust fund has been set up in Harry's name to promote folk song and music in the North West at a grass roots level with the aim of helping school projects and workshops dealing with the subject of the North West tradition.

The "Harry Boardman Memorial Concert" was the first (hopefully) regular event to raise money for the trust, as well as an opportunity for everyone to remember the great man.

The evening opened with the raucous sound of Gorton Tank led by Chris Cole on Melodeon and vocals getting things off to a lively start. Harry's folk club at the Unicorn Hotel in Church Street, Manchester is still going strong every Saturday; the next three guests represented the residents. Mary Humphries beautifully sang "the Bonny Light Horseman" - a song Harry used to sing until he heard Mary, after which he said "You carry on lass - you do it far better than me" Joe Kerrins followed, a fine Irish singer who can have you in tears or laughter with his songs. The residents were completed with Dave Jones singing the jazz standard "Nobody knows you when you're down and out".

The High Level Ranters led by Johnny Handle played an excellent set of tunes with Jim Hall on pipes and Colin Ross on Fiddle and included two old favourites from the North East "Dance to your Daddy", and "Cushy Butterfield".

Co-organiser Brian Peters showed how his ability has grown over the years by singing a fine set of songs from his current repertoire to finish the first half including the self penned "Shelter from the Storm" and a music hall song collected from Tom Hurst of Glossop, singing the praises of "Chips and Fish".

After the break, MC Bernard Wrigley entertained us in his own inimitable style before introducing us to Ray Fisher; her set of traditional songs dealt with working in the mines and the mills - a reminder of the industrial links between Lancashire and her native Scotland.

Finally the Watersons - who shared their recording debut with Harry on the LP "New Voices" - gave a performance that was as professional as it was laid back, finishing off with their own version of "Coba-Calling".

Thanks must go to Brian Peters and his wife Margaret for organising the concert and to Lesley Boardman for giving her blessing to the concert and the trust. Because of thegenerosity of the artists who accepted only nominal expenses for appearing, the Harry Boardman Trust has benefited by at least £350.

Brian has also been instrumental in organising the re-issue in cassette form of what is regarded by many as Harry's finest solo album - "Golden Stream". First issued in 1978 it features a broad cross section of songs, poems and tunes from Lancashire.

The cassette can be obtained by post from:

11 York Street, Glossop, Derbyshire, SK13 8QW

Price £6.00 incl p & p) cheques payable to North West Folk Workshop.

On a personal note, I was disappointed that the passing of Lancashire's finest exponent of tradition was not noted in the pages of this publication at the time. However, as an ex-resident of Harry's club, I was honoured to be asked to write this review and I hope it goes some way to recognising the major contribution to the revival in folk music in the North West that was made by Harry and Lesley. Through the Harry Boardman Trust I hope the young folk of today and tomorrow can delve into their past and unearth the rich seams of tradition which will always exist in their native county.

Mark Dowding

RECORD REVIEWS

THE BARELY WORKS "Don't mind walking"

Cooking Vinyl COOK CD045

Definitely one of those albums that grows on you with subsequent spins and although the band are very much a "live experience" this album is in no way a disappointment; quite the contrary!

A hard act to describe adequately on paper, they are a seven piece set up comprising accordion, flutes, whistles, hammered dulcimer, fiddle, banjo and charango over a solid base of tuba, trombone and drums. The groups own song compositions are contrasted with traditional deuce set given the unique "b.w" treatment. Old favourites of the traddies are brought to life in the form of "Petronella" on fiddle, dulcimer and banjo with spluttering tuba and driving drums, while "Flowers of Edinburgh / Miss Mcleod's reel" sounds as unScottish as a plastic haggis! "Staten Island" starts conventionally enough with fiddle and banjo until the outrageous brass section joins in, followed by a layer of dulcimer and solid drum beat. Cracking stuff!



A good fun band are the "B.W" but check out the songwriting talents of Sarah Allen and Chris Thompson. "something "Il have to change" is a good lively opener (prophetic words for the next general election?) setting the scene for the varied textures of what is to follow.

"This Fire" displays the bands hardware with a drum and tuba rhythm overlaid by neat short solos from fiddle, flute and trombone with dulcimer and accordion fill ins.

"The Kindled Flame" has vague latin undertones and here Matt Fox has the opportunity to lay down some interesting dulcimer lines as does Richard Avison on Trombone.

I first saw the band some two years ago and it is refreshing to see such a large band surviving the rigours of writing, working, and touring together. May there be many more albums and gigs.

Mike Billington

EDITOR'S NOTE: This review is repeated from last issue where it was unfortunately mutilated.

THE WILSONS "THE WILSON FAMILY ALBUM"

HARBOUR TOWN HAR 020

This is the Wilson's second album - in eight years! How they have got away with it for so long is a mystery. However, many of the songs that form their live performance repertoire are at last recorded here for posterity - and for other performers to replicate.

The majority of the songs are traditional, as would be expected, including well known and well liked favourites such as "John Barleycorn", "Thyme", "Chimney Sweep", "Byker Hill" and that stalwart of the festival singaround "Young Banker". There are also less well known but interesting versions of "Mistress Health" and "Nelson's Death and Victory".

Apart from these mainly non-contentious songs the Wilsons have also recorded their well known and much liked arrangements of thought provokers such as lan Walker's "Hawks and Eagles", Martin Carter's "Somewhere in Japan", and perhaps less relevant now, the Cold War is over, but equally as stirring, Dick Gaughan's "Think Again". I have always found myself empathising with the sentiments of this song and Mike leads the singing with the same commitment as when I first heard them sing it some years ago.

The arrangements are typically Wilsonian with various individuals taking the lead and the rest lending their powerful voices in the choruses and verses. Sometimes there is so much harmony that the actual melody line is inaudible as is the case in the rendition of Kipling's "Big Steamers" to which the late Peter Bellamy set a tune.

Whilst the harmonies are well developed, I think the lads have let themselves down by not using other musical ploys such as syncopation or contrapuntal harmonies to enhance the presentation. The 'big sing' concept is fine at a concert, folk club or singaround, but listening to a recording at home is very different. However, there are glimpses of the possibilities in "Bay of Mexico" and "Nelson's Death and Victory". I also miss sister Pat's dulcet tones but as she seldom sings with her brothers at performances any appearance on this album would have been unrepresentative of the current line up. A pity but there it is.

The album finishes in appropriate style with Alex Glasgow's "Close the Coalhouse Door" of which the Wilson's version is gradually becoming the definitive.

I hope we will not have to wait another eight years for the next album!

Derek Gifford

RAN TAN BAND 26 "Rainy Day"

On Cassette - HUM002

From: Le Grand Fromage, 25, Church Road, Leyland PR51EJ

The music of Ran Tan Band for me has always been distinctive with each member of the band showing their prowess and complete command of instrument. The present line up of Ran Tan Band is Fiona Booth, Simon Booth, Martin Ellison, Martin Hazell and Peter Reeve.

The recording of band music must be every engineers nightmare, but has been easily overcome by Jim Hesketh bringing out the best of each member into a collective masterpiece of listening.

Tracks which stand out are Simon Booths complete mastery of the mouth organ on "OBEREK"(trad), "Le POBRE NoBio"(trad) "Louis First Tune"(trad). Martin Ellison on melodeon with "French Canadian Reel"(trad) and "Cirrus" - a brilliant percussion arrangement by Martin Hazell flowing into "Rainy Day".

Side A has 7 tracks and Side B has 8 tracks with not one being boring, each track leaving you waiting for the next in anticipation.

A truly balanced cassette, well thought out which will do Ran Tan Band no harm at all.

The only negative point is the presentation of the copious notes on the inside sleeve, although full of informative background data to the tunes I found very hard to read without a magnifying glass.

Score for listening and dancability 10 out of 10.

When is the next tape out?

Paul Holden

HAND ON HEART

"Hearts are Broken, Heads are Turned"

HOH Records HOH CD002

This album is a collection of songs and tunes - some modern and some with a Scottish flavour.

Hand on Heart have a nice blend of voices which makes for easy listening. Instrumentally they are very good. I have particulary enjoyed the fiddle playing especially on the quieter tracks. On this album they are supplemented by guest musicians. I enjoyed listening to the hammered dulcimer to see how it blended with other instruments. The result is a very professional album which I enjoyed.

Some of the tracks are arrangements by Hand on Heart of traditional songs and tunes. These arrangements are interesting and there is an effective use of several instruments. Other songs on the album which I particulary liked were "I can jump puddles" and "Rosemary's Sister"(both by Huw Williams). The instrumentation of the title track I particularly enjoyed "St Paul's Song" is based on the famous passage in St Paul's letter to the Corinthians - I think Paul would have approved of the result.

Guest musicians added to the overall effect without becoming too dominant.

Hand on Heart can be pleased with this album.

Joe Roberts

GORDON TYRRALL "Not Far from Land"

Celtic Music CM056

It is so good to hear a record with a blend of writer's own work and well arranged traditional music. "Not Far From Land" fits the bill admirably.

I read the sleeve and looked forward to a musical treat - George Faux, Dave Townsend and Will Jackson, not to mention (and it did not) the wonderful Guitar of the man himself. The flute was quite a surprise too. I presume this is also Gordon Tyrrall.

The traditional songs include "The Mermaid", with Dave Townsend incorporating most realistic seagull cries into his concertina accompaniment, and a beautiful setting of "The Faughan Side". I did enjoy Gordon's tune to "The Poor Labourers". The refrain is one of those you walk around humming.

As well as a mixture of jigs and reels there are two hornpipes by Gordon. The first, "Pointing at the Moon" played on guitar is superbly complemented by George Faux on fiddle, but for me the magic was broken by the intrusion of the concertina part way through. I would have preferred the contrast in the second "Meeting at the Grove".

There is some very sympathetic synthesising by Will Jackson particularly on "By the Waterside" and "Arise" both from Gordon's pen. The balanceof instruments is impeccable throughout with no one vying for position. Too many times a good performance is marred by overpowering backing, but this is definitely not one of those records. There is an air of pure enjoyment from all participants.

The only track I did not like was "The Pure Land". The words struck me as too many cliche's strung together and I found the Tune a anon-entity.

Please do not be put off by one poor track. The album is of excellent quality, very well produced by Will Jackson and Certainly one to add to your collection. It is available on Celtic Music CM 056

Kath Holden

JOHNNY COPPIN "Songs and Carols for a West Country Christmas"

Red Sky Records RSKCD 111

This album is a combination of West County traditional carols and new songs and carols from poems by West Country writers such as Thomas Hardy, Charles Causley and Leonard Clark.

Listening to this CD on a cold November morning turned out to be a delightful experience. My interest never flagged. I enjoyed hearing traditional carols which I have not heard before. Familiar carols became refreshed by interesting arrangements. The setting of poems to new music was guite beautifully done.

Vocally, this album is very easy on the ear. The lilting voice has flavours and flexibility. There are some beautifully judged harmonies. Top quality musicians provide the backing and there is great variety in the arrangements. It is lovely to hear recorders used so well - they seem suited to carols. The recording is of excellent quality - clear and well mixed.

I did think of listing the carols that I particularly liked but I found that I had written out almost the complete collection.

This undoubtedly seems to have been a labour of love for Johnny Coppin - and it shows in the recording. The research and thought involved was certainly worth it. It will appeal to anyone who loves carol and wassails. I found it a delight and it is just possible that one or two of these carols may be heard floating around a certain local church around Christmas time.

Joe Roberts

CARAVANserai "Panic"

(on Cassette Samizdat 001) from 7 Conway Avenue, LEEDS, LS8. England.

Caravanserai are a multi talented group offering a blend of World music consisting of traditional Thacian, Swedish/Hungarian, Israel, Irish, Yiddish superbly arranged by themselves. The present line up of Caravanserai consists of Jane Coker, Charly Hare, Gill Pearson, Kim Baston, Quentin Rawlings, Cluny Macpherson, Graham Jones and Sam Paechter.

On first reading of the sleeve I was a bit apprehensive of the blends of music put together, but on listening found that was totally ill founded. The musicianship is first class with blends of accordion, whistle, trombone fretless bass, tuba french horn and mellophone bringing traditional music alive to a level not previously heard. Jane Coker onvocals put an extra dimension to the overall presentation of the cassette, with her clear diction on songs "Pastures of Plenty" and "The Wind is Getting Stronger".

Particular favourites of mine were: "Ohrenschmaiz" (trad) Swedish/ Hungarian and "Sam Paechter's Number One" the latter being the best on the cassette of me.

What else can I say but it has been my companion on the car music box for the last week and it gets better. Go on, write off for your copy to the above address you will be pleasantly surprised.

Paul Holden

"Spring Breeze" Meta

ARC (EUCD.1106)

Best of East-European Songs and Dances - Various Artists

ARC (EUCD.1148)

The whole raison d'etre of the ARC record label is to provide "an arts scene on a high ethical or aesthetic level without invalidation, drugs or corruption". A laudable aim indeed and the label has now built up an impressive catalogue of artists from all over the globe and perhaps my favourite group of them all is the Hungarian band "Meta" who have just recorded their fourth album for them.

Like Britain, Hungary has also experienced a renaissance of its traditional music and at the forefront perhaps is the tauchaz - the dancehouse - roughly the equivalent of our ceilidh. Indeed "Meta", who were formed in 1983 hold weekly

"tauchaz" sessions in Budapest.

Like the better known "Muzsikas", "Meta" have a female vocalist in Beta Salman. Her voice is a trifle deeper than that of Marta Sebestyen yet none the worse for that. She also chips in on violin. Other instruments in the album

include Hungarian bagpipes, shepherd's pipe, bombarde, clarinet, cello, double bass and the more obscure taragato and tilinko and tamburica.

As the title suggests, this album comprises songs reflecting spring customs of Hungarian folklore and consequently the material is fresh and lively. "Meta" have gone to the Great Plain, Transylvania, the Carpathian mountains and to the river Moldva to research their songs and tunes which make up the ten tracks. And like the season of rebirth, there's definitely a freshness about the music; carnivals, Easter, shepherds looking for sheep and a girl from Walachia.

who has lost her goat! It's all here. Even the mocking of unmarried girls would you believe? A cracking album and a welcome addition to my expanding collection of Magyar records.

If however you want a more general view of the label's prolific East European catalogue then "Best of East European Songs and Dances" will serve to whet

That aside, this is a very entertaining album if the Croatian music is a little lightweight then this is more than made up for with the demonic cymbalom playing of Kalman Balogh and Meta from Hungary. The tracks from "Mioritza" of Romania are likewise examples of cymbalom playing at its best. The Israeli contributions from Elias and Klezmorim I found a little low key and knowing their previous albums, I would have chosen something more energetic. And to round off the album a rousing accordion led track from the wild London based Polish band "Karolinka".

An interesting album overall but a shade unrepresentative of East Europe. Perhaps scope here for a Vol.II to include sayBulgaria, Albania, Turkey and Czechoslovakia.

Mike Billington

FIRST PRINCIPLES "Thoughtstream"

CRM 075

I do not mind admitting that I had many reservations about First Principals or that they failed to entirely dispel them until this year's Wigan festival. Nor do I mind admitting that they then totally won me over with two very fine performances and that much of the material which so wowed me then is available on this splendid little cassette.

Chris, Alison and Mal have put together a fine selection of carefully chosen songs and performed them with great skill and much style. Kicking off with a bright and cheerful "Bonnie Lassies' Answer", they quickly progress to a very fine version of that marvellous ballad, "The Bonny Light Horseman", suitably topped and tailed by Chris's excerpts from Beethoven's "Emperor Concerto". (This idea could run and run ... how about a Mahlerian Matty Groves?)

I won't do a trackalogue but I counsel you to particularly watch for a rousing "Honey In The Rock" and a haunting version of Dire Straits' "Why Worry" though my special favourite is the totally excellent "Rolling and Flowing", written by Dave Bustin and destined to have the hell sung out of it over the next

The cassette is available from the band at gigs or from Chris Harvey and Alison Younger at 8/9 Cock Robin Cottages. Highfield Road, Croston, Lancs. PR5 7HH.

Bernie Forkin

"Shakuhachi; the Japanese Richard Stagg Bamboo Flute." ARC (EUCD.1103)

Clive Bell "Shakuhachi;" ARC (EUCD.1135)

"The Japanese Koto" Ayako Lister ARC (EUCD.1105)

ARC music, in its quest to bring the very best of World Music here, presents us with the quiet mystique that is the music of Japan with these three haunting CDs.

Richard Stagg, you will notice is not quite a name of Japanese origin. He is actually a flautist with the BBC Symphony Orchestra in London who studies the Japanese bamboo flute or Shakuhachi under a Japanese master. The instrument itself came to Japan from China over a thousand years ago and much of the music on this LP is from the 15th and 16th centuries originally played by wandering monks as they scoured the countryside begging for alms. The instrument has five finger holes giving a six note scale DFGACD whose sixth note duplicates the overblown

On to Clive Bell now and the sleeve notes don't give much information apart from the fact that he studied Shakuhachi under Kohachiro Uiyata, one of Japan's most respected players. Clive, incidentally also plays with the group "CDs go Crazy".

Both albums are predominantly of traditional Japanese tunes and the peacefulness is matched only by the sleeve covers, photographs (possibly predictably) of Mount Fuil swathed in mist.

Staying in the land of the rising sun, we turn to the mesmerising music of the Koto here played by Ayako Lister. Unlike the previous two CDs, this performer is actually Japanese. Although Ayoko lives in London, she has played the Koto since childhood and has studied the instrument extensively.

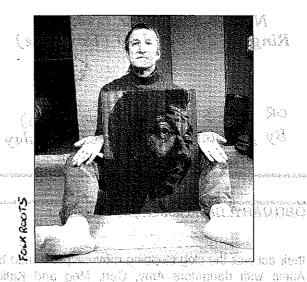
The Koto is a long wooden instrument about six feet in length of the zither family and can be traced back over twelve centuries in Japan. Over the slightly convex body are stretched thirteen strings of equal tension supported on individual bridges and these strings are plucked by three plectra.

The album is a combination of traditional and contemporary compositions and certainly one to relax to after a strenuous day at the office. Try putting your feet up with a cup of saki whilst listening to this one.

Mike Billington

OBITUARIES: 29

PETER BELLAMY



Peter Bellamy died on 24th September 1991 in Keighley where he had latterly made his home. Those are the bare facts, but why he should have chosen such a moment to take his own life will probably always remain a mystery. He had recently released a new record on Fellside (Songs & Rummy Conjurin' Tricks) which had received critical acclaim, and by all reports was singing better than ever.

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Peter was raised in Norfolk, so it is not surprising to learn that his early influences include Harry Cox & Sam Larner, as well as the almost inevitable Ewan McColl & A.L. "Bert" Lloyd. It is more surprising to learn that he only spent four years with Young Tradition, and the rest of his twenty plus years in a solo career. Even quite recently, I had heard him described as if he had only just left the group.

He was responsible in his tragically short life for so many wonderful achievements, any one of which is the sort someone is likely to be remembered for.

He "discovered" Walter Pardon and introduced many people to the songs of East Anglia, including those of Harry Cox & Sam Larner.

He wrote the ballad opera "The Transports", based on the true story of some of the first prisoners to be transported to Australia. Among the songs are "The Black & Bitter Night", one of the most moving songs I've ever heard, as well as several songs that easily be mistaken for traditional, including "The Green Fields of England" and the shanty "Roll Down". Not content with having written it, he then persuaded some of the best-known singers of traditional song to perform it on record including Martin Carthy, June Tabor, The Watersons and A.L. Lloyd. Since then it has been performed very successfully in its own right and at festivals.

More controversially, he arranged many of Rudyard Kipling's poems, especially the "Barrack Room Ballads", portraying the life of a soldier through the eyes of the common soldiers. Whose could fail to sympathise with "Tommy", despised in peace, but cheered in war; "Soldier, Soldier" could easily be mistaken for a traditional song, and it is difficult to imagine a more heart-rending song than "Danny Deever" in rending axion

Not content with all of this, he has introduced audiences to the delights of Victorian Music Hall Songs and persuaded a British audience that there are good American songs, especially those out of the Appalachian mountains not as new north to zone tuithfolia

Like I said a staggering set of achievements that will leave a gaping void in the folk scene, both here and in America where he was even more well-known and appreciated than here in his native land. We may never see the likes of Peter Bellamy again, but I am glad that I can say "I was there. I saw him many times". Jugas jawah kasa of Musikib was dolid

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DAVID JONES, 1940 - 1991 of enlothing

It is hard to write a friend's eulogy but if anyone deserved one then that man was Dave Jones.

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Many of you will have known him as the director of the excellent Bromyard festival which he helped start back in the late sixties and which grew into one of the finest events in the calendar. Dancers will remember him as the man who was most instrumental in reviving the Border Morris traditions and as the enthusiast who found time to write the definitive book on the subject as well as founding the "Old Wonder Not for Joes" Morris side to spread the word.

Even if you never strayed as far as Bromyard, the chances are high that you would have encountered Dave, along with his second wife Annie and their seven highly talented children at any one of a dozen other festivals under the group name "Doglogarum" or more recently as "Gavelkind". Always game for any kind of session, unfailingly friendly and with a huge repertoire of songs, tunes and stories, they were an organiser's dream.

I first met them under slightly trying circumstances about six years ago at Warwick festival. We were to share the stage at an event at the Unitarian Church, a stone building, perfectly square with no niches. beams or decoration to absorb the most "Live" acoustics I've ever heard. For the solo singers on the show, it must have been close to heaven ... for us with our synths, Fenders and drums it was grim. Depression reigned until Dave and Co arrived. Part of

30 BOOKSHELF

Latest Folk Books

AFTER THE CHORD by Julie Preston

It is by far the commonest practise to produce tune books either in alphabetic order, or by time signature only. Thus the would be musician making up his own sets has to flip from page to page, or rewrite the tunes in groups.

Julie Preston has broken the mould in presenting delightful sets of her own favourites tunes in the new book. It is a vital asset to both beginners and experienced players alike. The tunes arranged as they are in sets suitable for either dancing or listening provide just the right mixture of texture.

Bands and soloists alike will be saying "Why did nobody do it before?" The book contains many gems which are difficult to track down, ranging from Yorkshire Jigs to Shetland Reels, Scottish Marches to Irish Polkas. With the chords carefully noted beneath each bar of melody you have in one volume the repertoire to keep the average band going for years!

It is to be expected from Julie and her friends The Village Band, that they will bring something new and exciting to each session and dance where they perform, as their musicianship has long been the envy of musicians in the north. This new volume will enable far more folk artists to broaden their repertoire and improve their playing style.

Thank you, Julie, keep playing that accordion.

Johnny Handle

STOP PRESS:

It seems that **KEN NICOL** has organised a singaround on Tuesday Nights at the "Bull and (something)" at Longridge near Preston.

DARWEN Folk Club has a new landlord & landlady, so the organiser, Chris Young, asks that you ring before going to check that they are open

RUMOUR #2: A new folk club is to start on Sundays in Todmorden. No more details as yet.

For more information on the above, or to pass on information, ring Linda Wright on 0706 877090.

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OBITUARY: DAvid Jones (continued)

their act was the clog stepping routines performed by Annie with daughters Amy, Ceri, Meg and Katie, utilising a sounding board: Under those conditions their stepping echoed back from every point of the building, sounding like rapid machine gun fire. We made common cause and determined to have the best session in town afterwards to exorcise the memory. From there on in, we were mates.

We enjoyed Dave and Annie's bountiful hospitality several times thereafter: At the Putley ceilidhs, another of their long running institutions and at Bromyard. Most memorable was the Putley weekend, that superb anti festival event when friends would gather at their invitation to create a weekend's entertainment with no formalities in the loosest possible framework. Even the Saturday Night dance was performed by several scratch bands formed only that lunchtime. Marvellous.

The other great achievement of Dave's life was the restoration over many patient years, of the huge, ramshackle farmhouse and water mill where they made their home. Each year Putley visitors would marvel at the progress made since their last visit. Dave took early retirement last year to devote more time to the Mill and to turn it into a heritage centre. His year was crowned with the birth of Ceinwen, he and Annie's first child together. Then came the brain tumour which took him from his many friends.

Annie has declared that all the events will carry on in the future and a fund, in Dave's memory, has been set up to complete the restoration of Putley Mill and heritage centre. Contributions should be sent to Mill House, Putley, Ledbury, Herefordshire.

REPNIE FORKIN

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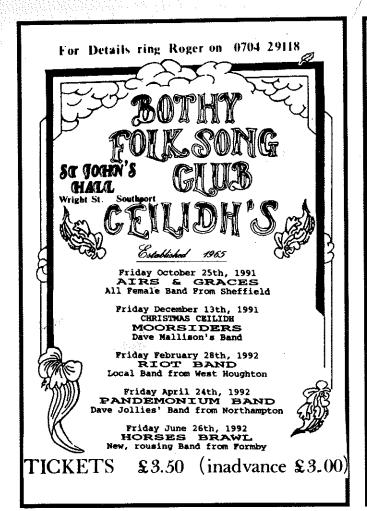
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- 1. The 'block booking of artists for tours.
- 2. Joint publicity of the Member Clubs3. The general support of the Member Clubs
- 4. Joint organisation of Concerts & Ceilidhs in the area.
- 5. The support of Festival Organisers in the area.
- 6. The organisation of events to attract the 'under 18s'



The Federation Clubs

DAY/CLUB	TIME	CLUB ADDRESS	ORGANISER	PHONE NO.
EAGLE & CHILD LEIGH LLANDUDNO THE ALBION WHEELTON	8.30 pm 8.00 pm 8.30 pm 8.30 pm 8.30 pm	Blundell Arms; Upper Aughton St.; Birkdale Eagle & Child; Main St.; Billinge St. Joseph's Sodality Club; Chapel St.; Leigh The London Hotel; Upper Mostyn Street; Llandudno Albion Hotel; Albion Street; New Brighton Withy Trees; Higher Wheelton; Lancs The Fleece Hotel; Highgate; Kendal	Mel Bowman A. Sims	051 924 5078 0744 53058 0942 892226 0492 622049 no phone 0254 830441 0539 732647
POYNTON PRESTON TRITON FOLK at the VIC	8.00 pm 8.15 pm 8.30 pm 8.30 pm	Poynton Folk Centre; Park Lane; Poynton The Unicorn; North Road; Preston The Liverpool; James Street; Liverpool	Hugh O'Donnell Doreen Rickart Geoff Dormand	0257 792304 061 483 6521 0772 745498 051 256 6180 051 639 7928 051 678 6713
YARROW VALLEY BLACK HORSE TILSTON FOLK at the ENGINE FROG & FERRET	8.30 pm 8.30 pm 8.30 pm 8.30 pm 8.30 pm	Hare & Hounds; Maghull; b Grapes Hotel; Croston; Nr. Preston Black Horse; Grange Rd. West; West Kirby; Wirral The Garden Arms; Tilston; Cheshire The Beer Engine; 69; Poolstock; Wigan The Frog & Ferret; 4; Oat Market; Nantwich The Tap & Spile; Hope Street; Rochdale	Mark Dowding Brian Jones Martin Green Lawrence Hoy Bob Butler	051 526 6661 0695 576215 051 648 5117 0829 250516 0942 492149 0270 629324 0706 23038
RUNCORN	8.30 pm	R.A.F.A. Club; Bromborough Road; Bebbington; Wirral Castle Hotel; Halton Village; Runcorn White Swan; Green Street; Fallowfield	John Coleman Bob O' Callaghan Anne Morris	051 334 8513 051 424 5367 061 881 8294
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