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Spring 1992

60p



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

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

EDITORIAL

WELCOME to another issue of Folk North-West!

At the AGM we agreed to set up an Editorial sub-committee to try to improve all aspects of the Magazine from appearance to distribution to content to timing. Hopefully this will lead to a better magazine, published sooner.

The members of the sub-committee are :

Nigel Firth	EDITOR
Phil Capper	Deputy Editor
Len Quinn	Tap & Spile Folk Club
Linda Wright	Diary Chat
Agraman	The Buzz Folk Club

Please contact any members of the subcommittee if there are any ideas you have for the magazine, or if there are any aspects you are prepared to help with.

This issue has all our regular features, but I would particularly draw your attention to Jenny Shotliffe's Youthful Perspective on page 12, after all this is where the future lies!

There are quite a number of club changes in this issue, so please check carefully before attending that your club hasn't moved.

That is all for this month, see you all again in three months with our Summer Issue!

Nigel Firth
EDITOR

DON'T FORGET:

CLOSING DATE for our next issue which covers **JUNE/JULY/AUGUST** is **APRIL 15th** (note **new closing date**)

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OUT & ABOUT

with Nat Clare

WHEN I WAS ON HORSEBACK ...

Bolton Town Hall may not sound like the most exciting folk music venue in the North - O.K., it does not sound like the most exiting anything - but it was I kid you not, the scene of one of the best evenings of acoustic music it has been my pleasure to experience in many a month. What was this veritable folk-feast I hear you gasp with baited breath?

It was none other than that Northern guitar virtuoso and folk superstar, now exiled in the good ole U.S. of A., Martin Simpson, whom you will no doubt best remember for his original and imaginative accompaniment of June Tabor.

As well as being one of the best acoustic guitarists in the world performing in the folk tradition (reflected in his latest release "When I was on Horseback"), Martin has a fine singing voice, unfortunately absent from his latest recording. So, do yourself a favour and drop everything to go and see Martin the next time he graces Lowry-Land. The recordings are no substitute for the real thing and if you are disappointed I will give you your money back ... or at least, one of my Houghton Weavers' L.P.'s instead.

FANCY A FOLK CLUB?

In the current climate of recession-related doom and Gloom, when many pub landlords are seriously wondering whether it is worth opening the doors and cleaning out the gents (which is admittedly uncommon in the type of pubs that I tend to frequent) it is most heartening to hear of persons in the licensed trade who are enthusiastic, confident and prepared to offer their premises for use as a folk club.

Yes ... that is right, I have been contacted by the landlady of a fine Bolton hostelry who will offer a large room, with bar, free, gratis and for nothing, to a resident group or solo performer who wishes to run a regular folk club.

If you are an experienced resident or maybe just a capable and confident organiser and fancy the challenge and excitement of creating what, who knows, could one day rank as highly in folklore as Bolton's "Heaton Village", Manchester's "M.S.G.", Westhoughton's "Red Lion" or Poynton Folk Centre, then ring the landlady of "Arkwright's Ale House", Vallets Lane, Bolton on (0204) 45941.

I promise to come along and do a floor spot on your first night that should guarantee to pull the punters in, but to where I am not really sure.

FOLK-WORLD TRIBAL ELDERS

Despite my obvious charm and boyish good looks (!), I have recently begun to feel like one of the above myself. Gone are the days, alas, of trying to cultivate a belly as big as those of my folk heroes. Although I never did fill an Arran sweater, I did manage to smoke a foul-smelling pipe which merely succeeded in turning my teeth brown and the most alarming paralysis of the right side of my face from clenching my jaw too tightly!

The C.D. buying, Filofax-in-the-ear, yuppie young folksters of today were probably still knee-high to a set of Northumbrian pipes when one of the most popular and enduring folk groups were, not exactly formed, more distilled in the back room of O'Donoghue's pub in Dublin.

In 1992, The Dubliners will celebrate thirty years together and they mark the occasion with the release of a new album "Thirty Years A-Greying" (Sid Kipper watch out!). Their busy schedule sees them throughout Europe and even in Blackpool!

So if you are nostalgic for the smell of a smoky Dublin pub and can endure the smell of Blackpool sea water, you can do no better than join me at the Grand Theatre on Saturday March 14th.

STAND UP MIKE

While we are at the Blackpool Grand, why not go to laugh yourself daft at the local folk-clown Mike Harding, who when he is not pedalling furiously through the Appalachians or half way up the Himalayas, has devoted some time to the less dangerous art of stand-up comedy and ballad singing. (Less dangerous for some, that is!)

As the programme notes promise, "The sheer screaming despair of modern urban culture is given sickening clarity in terms that Dante would have skirted.... Ice Creams will be served at the interval" You have been warned!

MARQUEE MANIA

Some of you may immediately associate the above with auto-erotic memories of mad midsummer folk festival frolics when things happen under canvas that would have Baden-Powell turning in his sleeping bag. Others, like me, of a more spiritual and clapped-out nature, will remember The Marquee as one of the most influential and vibrant clubs in London during the "Swinging sixties" (which, unfortunately, some of us will be entering all too soon!)

As one of my most prized L.P.'s is "R 'n' B at the Marquee", featuring the late Alexis Korner and the excellent virtuoso blues harmonica player Cyril Davies, it is with great pleasure that I am able to inform you that the club that helped launch The

Rolling Stones and The Who is currently being revamped. I am also relieved to learn that the club will not become some ubiquitous fun pub, but is to be relaunched in the spirit of the original Marquee.

Even better news is that there will be live music every night with a 3 o'clock license. Also if you fancy a jam session (mine always turned out like lumpy Marmalade), all musicians are welcome to play at any time from 3pm to 9pm on the large stage. It is permanently equipped with a professional backline and a variety of instruments. Admission to the club is free and it looks great on your C.V.! You can find The Marquee in Greek Street, W1.

MISTER SONGWRITER

If you have no fork in your knife drawer, why not take the advice of Vic Reeves and write an earth-shattering song? If like me you are a haunter of flea markets and grotty old bookshops you may come across a copy of that seminal periodical from many moons ago, "Singout!". This magazine, which contained some cracking songs from Britain and America, was regularly scoured by singers looking for good new material, as elusive then as now. Time was when folk club audiences became a wee bit bored with "Whisky in the Jar" and "Wild Mountain Thyme" (My entire repertoire at the time!)

Now "Songsmith", Bill Caddick's magazine from the 70's, is being relaunched by Pete Coe in booklet and cassette form. The aims remain the same - to enable both established and new songwriters to get their songs into circulation and to provide a resource for singers looking for new material. Editions will be published quarterly in a package that promises to be well-designed, printed and recorded.

The booklet will contain the lyrics, notes and recording details of each song. A club discount will be available on the £7.70 price. More details from Pete at 103, Oldham Road, Ripponden, West Yorks. HEX 4EB or telephone 0422 822569.

"AND IS THERE SCRUMPY STILL FOR TEA?"

Summer is a-cumin' in, but do not sing "cuckoo" too loudly or you might frighten it away. Nevertheless, as I sit warming my thermal boxer shorts on my Vimto-filled hot-water bottle, sterner folk are already making plans for those joy-filled folk festival days and what better way to plan than letting your fingers do the staggering and obtaining your 1992 copy of the definitive "Folk Festival Guide"?

Available in early March, the guide will feature many of the folk festivals in Britain, Ireland and Europe as well as sections on artists, agents and folk magazines. Ring Pete Fyfe on 081 680 4302 for more details.

For those who enjoy a more active holiday (!), there will be a six-day course in Traditional Music in the Yorkshire Dales to be held at Buckden House, a large 18th Century manor house in Upper Wharfedale, one of the most beautiful areas of the national park.

Skilled tutors will be available for most singing and playing styles. Visiting artists include Martin Carthy and Dave Swarbrick and Tom McConville. Full details from "Yorkshire Dales Summer School", 14, Oakburn Road, Ilkley, LS29 9NN

Over at Beverley, from the 19th to 25th June, there will be a rare old time to be had as the festival celebrates its 10th anniversary. The action-packed weekend for all ages and interests will this year have a distinctly European feel to it and promises a feast of international Bagpipe players (Luckily I'm a vegetarian)

Don't forget to enter your song on the theme of Northern living as the winner gets to perform at the festival. As this festival usually sells out weeks in advance, you are advised to book now. Write to: The Festival Office, 2, Star Row, N. Dalton, Driffield, N. Humberside YO25 9UR (ADVERT p. 16)

Or you could try the "11th Whitby Annual Hiring Fair" (which I trust is totally unlike the "114th Bolton Redundancy Extravaganza") providing a unique opportunity for aspiring acts on the folk scene to place themselves before a discerning audience in a professional setting, with the hope of impressing club organisers enough to secure a few choice gigs. If you are an aspirant then contact Mike Soar, 56A, Gowthorpe, Serlby, N. Yorks, YO8 0ET or tel: 0757 701915

Meanwhile, nearer to home, there are some local folk festivals due over the next few months. The ones we have details of at present are:

POYNTON 20th Easter Folk Festival, April 17/18/19; artists include **Toss the Feathers, The Barely Works, Martin Carthy and Dave Swarbrick, Caught on the Hop** and many others. There are concerts, ceilidhs, singarounds etc and even a Cajun night. Tickets are from around £4.50 per session up to £15 for the weekend. More details from: Poynton Folk Centre, Park Lane, Poynton, Nr. Stockport SK12 1RB (SAE please) or telephone 0625 875555. (ADVERT P. 36)

LANCASTER MARITIME Festival over the same weekend has **Cyril Tawney, The Shanty Crew, Stormalong John** and many others. More details from David Wright, Lancaster Tourism, White Cross, Lancaster (Tel: 0524 841249) (ADVERT P. 2)

The Seventh (yes Seventh!) **WIGAN Folk Festival** takes place on June 12-14 at Lowton Civic Hall. Guests include **Roy Bailey, Whippersnapper, Four Men and A Dog, Archie, Ray and Cilla Fisher** and many, many others. Weekend tickets £18.50 before 1st May. More details from Bernie Forkin, 38, Bramcote Ave., St. Helens, WA11 9JQ (SAE please) (ADVERT p. 34)

FYLDE is also celebrating its 20th Anniversary over the weekend of 4/5/6 September. Before then you can join the festival crew at a spring Ceilidh to be held at the Marine Hall, Fleetwood on Friday April 3rd at 7.45pm. Dance all night to **Caught on the Hop** ... which reminds me of the last festival I attended

Further afield, if you are really ambitious and were too wimpish to apply for the folk-nudist festival outlined in last issue (Back issues still available -ED), then you could wing your way to the 1992 Alpine Music Festival in the Austrian Tyrol. Contact them by international telephone on Innsbruck 0512 584157.

FOLK AWARD

I am mightily peeved that the judges in this year's BBC Young Tradition Award saw through my disguise as a seven year oldhammer dulcimer player and disqualified me before I was able to perform my poignant rendition of "Knees Up Mother Brown". Still as the competition was won by a talented 13 year-old Harpist from Fort William, Ingrid Henderson, I must admit I lost to a worthy rival, and ultimately the best person was victorious.

Ingrid hopes to make a career out of playing and teaching traditional music, despite being heckled by her 14-year old brother, who, when she left for the finals called out: "You're rubbish, you won't win!"

STILL WICK?

No, not a Bernard Manning type joke about impotence, but Lancashire Dialect for "still alive"! What is more the vast majority of poems to be found "In Lancashire Language" are written by living Lancashire folk in fine fettle. This new collection of seventy poems contain all the humour, resilience and affection we all know Lanky Fowk possess. Celebrate it by ordering a copy: ISBN 1 872895 08 5. Great value at £4.

"ACROSS THE DIVIDE...."

Finally, if your club is one of those taking part in the **ACROSS THE DIVIDE** artist exchange tour, organised in conjunction with the Southern Counties Folk Federation, please go along and give both your club and the visiting artists your support. If this first tour works well, there will be others, with even more quality performers for you to see. In particular, try to get to the special Concert being put on by NWFFC at **The Douglas Gate, Wigan on Saturday 16th May**. A healthy Federation can do a lot more for you if you give it your backing!

DIARY CHAT

with Linda Wright

As we approach the start of the festival season, there is a good selection of artists to see at your local clubs. If you are in search of the "big names", then you will find the likes of Vin Garbutt, The Albion Band, Melanie Harrold & Ollie Blanchflower, Roy Bailey, Stockton's Wing and lots of others at clubs throughout the North-West. Searching for the cream of the local folk scene? Ken Nicol & Chris White, GARVA, Dave Summers, Caught On The Hop, are all appearing around the area. Watch out for the up-and-coming "Jane & Carl" - they are rapidly becoming very popular, and I expect to see them taken up by the festival organisers this summer. There are music sessions and singers nights galore, ceilidhs, theme nights, singarounds, even a Dialect Verse competition (at Leigh). Young musicians are catered for by another "Youthquake" gathering, plus, of course, the Federation's own youth concert in March.

Club Changes

Whitworth folk club has moved to a Monday night - but is still to be found at the Red Lion. (Turn down the road next to "The Dog & Partridge").

Charles Fyson's phone number may be wrong. Any problems, phone Ann Nash 0204 593224.

The music session held at the Red Lion in Rawtenstall has moved to the Jolly Sailor in Waterfoot, still on Thursdays.

Residents:

Leigh FC say goodbye to "Influx", and welcome instead "GEMINI" (Theresa Tooley and Ann Clancy), "CALICO", Carole Jones & Mike Dermody, "Jim, Martin & Angela" and Jean Wrigley.

Special Note:

Concerts at The Melling Tithebarn (see Dave Day):

Sat March 14th - North West Federation Under-25's concert "Carrying it on - 3". With Catriona MacDonald & Ian Lothian, Pota Portac, Kellie While, Richard Woods and Timothy Van Eyken.

Sat April 11th - "Palace of Varieties". With Cosmotheka, Marilyn Middleton-Pollock, Stravaig and Bill Zorn.

Cajun at The Mons, Bootle, nr Liverpool.(see Dave Day):

Saturday March 21st - Bon Ton Roulez.

Sadly, we see the demise of "Folk at the Engine" in Wigan, but "Folk at the Gate" is doing well, and the pub (The Douglas Gate) will also be holding the occasional "Irish Night". See Joan Blackburn for details.

Saturday March 7th The Middlewich Paddies, April 4th Irish band tba, May 2nd Blarneystone, June 6th GARVA.

Ceilidhs:

Bury FC's Easter Ceilidh, normally held at the Derby Hall, has had to be moved, but they are not sure of the new venue, so either check with Bury Metro Arts, or ring Chris & Ann Nash -0204 593224 or Jean & Alan Seymour - 061 761 1544.

On Friday, April 24th, the Bothy presents a Ceilidh with the Pandemonium Band at St. John's Hall, Wright St., Southport.

After the success of the first Youthquake, using "word-of-mouth" advertising only, another is to be held at the same venue, on Saturday, April 4th, at the Double Seven club, Patricroft Rd, off Ince Green Lane, Ince-In-Makerfield. If you know any young musicians, who would like to get together with others who share their interests, then get in touch with Jenny Shotliffe (0695 623641) for the details. It is a great opportunity for young musicians to meet up with others, make friends and contacts, improve their music and to have a good time.

Also on March 28th is the 2nd Nantwich Fiddle Day, with guests Pete Cooper (UK & East Europe music), Des Herlihy (Irish), and violin maker Brian Batey, who will talk about making and restoring violins. There will be workshops, sessions and an evening concert. It will start at about 12.30 and go on until 11pm or thereabouts. It is to be held at the Parish Rooms, ChurchYard Side (opposite the church in the centre of Nantwich), but there will be lots of opportunity to go to the Frog & Ferret for glasses of lemonade. Contact Ann Cross 0270 780042 for more information.

Extra Dates:**Dates in June -**

Boddie Shop 4th Leon Rosselson

Bothy FC 14th Syncopace, 26th Ceilidh (St John's Hall, Southport), 28th Chris White

Burnley FC 25th Derek Brimstone.

Bury FC 20th Bram Taylor

Potteries FC Closed throughout June, July & August, but a programme of alternative summer events in a variety of venues is being organised - watch the next issue for details.

Poynton FC 13th Ceilidh with Bilbo Baggins, 20th Johnny Silvo, 27th Ceilidh with Shake The Dice

Preston FC 8th Quartz.

Southport Arts 4th Dave Swarbrick, 13th Bob Brozman

St Albans FC 20th Guest tba (a monthly club).

Dates for July -

Boddie Shop 2nd Huw & Tony Williams.

Bothy FC 5th GARVA, 19th Allan Taylor. Closed throughout August.

Poynton FC 4th Junior drama production, 11th ceilidh with Caught on the Hop, 18th Guest plus Geoff Higginbottom.

Tilston FC 7th Carolina Shout, 28th Guest tbc

CLUB RESIDENTS:

BEE - The Beez Knees

BLACK HORSE - Brian Jones

BLACKBURN - Flatbroke

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 Caruthers, 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

TILSTON - Geoff Edwin-Scott & Rose Beasley

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, Gemini, Carole Jones & Mike Dermody, Jim, Martin & Angela, Jean Wrigley

LLANDUDNO - Highly Strung, Arthur Bowman

MAGAZINE - Cormac McCluskey, Pat Wilson, Roger Wright, Jack Coutts, Frank & Helen McCall, Adrienne Coutts

MAGHULL - Dave Day, Tony Gibbons, Steve Higham, Peter Egerton, Chris Lock, Phil Boardman, Sue Howard, etc.

NORTHWICH - Sandy & Sean Boyle, Sarah Burdon, Ian 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

RUNCORN - Irish Rover (Bob, Robert & Dave)



ON TOUR: Stockton's Wing,
(See Club Dates for details)

CLUB REPORTERS**FOLK IN CUMBRIA**

Most folk clubs in the North West have a period when turnouts are low, even for the guest nights, and it is easy to conclude that the scene is shrinking. This is no exception in the Cumbrian scene, so much so that **FOLK AT THE FLEECE** in Kendal have a break from Christmas until the end of January, and **Cockermouth Folk Club** sticks to singers nights in the weeks up to Christmas. However, what is peculiar to Cumbria, compared with the rest of the North West, is that we are very much dependent upon tourism, and the visitors who normally swell our ranks in the summer months and without whom we would be in a mess, are a welcome bonus. Unfortunately the recession is biting deeper than many people realise, and our summer bonus in 1991 did not occur.

But what about the quality of the music? Well, the local talent is still there, the increasing number of younger punters is very encouraging and there is a latent optimism that 1992 is going to be a wonderful year for folk music in Cumbria.

Exciting new ventures, such as Jenny Wilson and Martyn Harvey's 'Calling all Folk', coordinating artists, dance teams and venues can only be a good thing. Carlisle Folk and Blues Club are now settled in at their wonderful new venue at Tullie House (Carlisle also boasts a thriving Cajun and World music scene). If you have never been to a folk night in the Lakes, come and check us out in 1992. The natives are friendly and the music is great!

Graham Devlin Co-organiser Folk at the Fleece

EAST LANCASHIRE FOLK

After my plea for more folk music in Rossendale, I am pleased to say that the message is getting through, with Len Quinn's new Monday club in **Whitworth**, plus an occasional Saturday night, and the music sessions at yet another Red Lion, this time in Rawtenstall, on a Thursday night. Greg Stephens, of 'The Boat Band', tells me that they occasionally play in Rossendale at a pub called the Robin Hood, in Helmshore, on a Saturday night. Mid-Pennine Arts, together with Rossendale Borough Council and Burnley Folk Club, gave a concert featuring Alias Ron Kavana, supported by Tony Gibbons & Steve Higham, at the Astoria in Rawtenstall. So music in Rossendale is on the increase. Let us hope it continues!

Linda Wright

NORTH-WEST LANCASHIRE

There have been a few changes round this part of the Federation since I last wrote. Fortunately, most have been for the better, with enthusiasm for the music being maintained and even expanded in a few cases.

Firstly, **THE SWAN** at Kirkham has appeared, replacing Rock 'n' Roots. Starting at 8:45 pm each Wednesday, this new venue will be presenting a wide range of music, from Folk to Cajun, from Blues to Irish and more. The Swan runs its live music "in the pub" and alternate Wednesdays will see an "open house" policy, with spots available for anyone! Once a month, local and up-and-coming artists will feature, with a major name appearing, also monthly. More importantly, the landlord is helping out with **HARD CASH** up front! Being in the pub, there is no admission charge, but there will be the usual raffle. The first weeks have been successful, with a packed "house" for **KEN NICOL & CHRIS WHILE**. Details are available from Yours Truly on (0772) 684537.

Gregson Lane Folk Club is on the move! Not very far, as they are moving just up the road to St. Joseph's Club. The big change is that they are going fortnightly. Graham Dixon is planning other events, including Worden and Preston Poly Arts Centres, not to mention this year's Folk Festival!

Mick and Elena Read's plan to close **Blackpool Folk Club** with a bang on its 30th birthday at the end of February no longer seems to be quite so final. "Big" Pete Rodger has been back to **THE RAIKES** and has secured the use of their upstairs room once again. Blackpool Folk Club is dead - long live Blackpool Folk Club!

Fleetwood continues to defy geographical isolation and is currently thriving, with a fine mixture of artists and singers' nights, many of which carry a theme. You had to be there to believe the "60's night", all the old 60's chestnuts were out on display and no-one minded! Flower Power Rules (for one night anyway) OK!

Preston Folk Club made a bold decision to provide some respite from the banalities of Christmas TV programming, by booking **PAUL DOWNES** on 30th December. Paul was in wonderful form but, unfortunately, too few people turned up. I hope this does not mean that future Christmases will revert to being folk deserts, with people like me left tearing their hair out in frustration and boredom. Get out and support the music!

Phil Capper

CLUBSCENE

with Tony Gibbons

THE IRISH CENTRE, LIVERPOOL

You may wonder why I am writing about a venue that (a) is not in the Federation (yet!) and (b) is not a "Folk Club" as such. Well I make no apologies for this. There is so much going on there in the way of live music that it simply cannot be ignored. Anyone who has not yet visited this magnificent building is in for a treat. There is a superb ballroom, accommodating about 450, the "Kennedy Bar" which holds about 100 and has been used recently for the Liverpool Folk Club, and the "All-Ireland Bar", scene of a superb weekly music and song session (more of that later).

The building has been extensively renovated throughout. The ballroom has recently hosted such acts as Mary Black and her band; The Barely Works; Four Men and a Dog, etc. Future guests include Arcady (Frances Black, Jackie Daly, Ringo McDonagh, etc), Richard Thompson, Stocktons Wing, and many more. The "Kennedy Bar" has had some great nights with the likes of Dick Gaughan (a superb night!), Andy Irvine, After Hours, etc. Bernie Forkin has now taken over the running of the Folk and Roots Concerts, and I am sure he will be glad to fill you in on what is going on (0744-53058).

The "All-Ireland Bar" hosts a weekly Monday night free session. From the very first night, the place has been packed out every Monday and its popularity has to be seen to be believed. Members of "GARVA" are in regular attendance, running the sessions - trying to fit everyone in! This is not just another "Irish" session - anyone is welcome to come along and sing or play whatever they want. There are established musicians mixing with beginners and youngsters, all there simply for "the crack". Singers are not ignored - a conscious effort is made to give everyone a fair crack of the whip. The third Monday in each month is run under the auspices of the Liverpool branch of Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann, the society dedicated to preserving the musical and cultural heritage of Ireland.

As one whose patronage of the Irish Centre goes back over 20 years, through the heady days of the late '60's right through the 70's into the 80's when, in my opinion the "live" sessions almost ceased to exist, it is great to see so many musicians and singers filling the place again. Some of the old faces are still there (no - I am not naming names!) and are all in agreement that it is just like the old days again. As

well as the session and the concerts already mentioned, there is traditional jazz on Wednesday, "Cream of the Barley" on Thursdays, and more middle-of-the-road entertainment at the weekends. Add to all this a restaurant, a superb gift shop selling tapes, records, C.D.'s, glass and china, videos, books, magazines, regional and national Irish papers, plus a travel agency, and you can see why the place is so popular!

If you want any more information on the Irish Centre as a whole, phone John Coyne on 051-709-4120. If you want to join or listen to the session on Monday nights you are - as they say - "as welcome as the flowers in May". See you there.

Tony Gibbons

THE GARDEN ARMS TILSTON

This beautiful pub, situated in the centre of the village of Tilston, is my idea of a typical English country pub - real fires, a domino table, real beer and an atmosphere and feeling that exudes a smell of history. It also boasts a landlady and landlord who encourage live music, and locals who always seem to extend the hand of hospitality. The pub is on about three different levels - the folk club being held in the end room. The night I was there the place was packed - a good friendly crowd who love to join in and generally enjoy the night, giving encouragement to whoever got up to perform. The room itself is a bit of a strange shape - a bit difficult to explain here exactly what I mean - and a bit cool in winter. However, that should not put anyone off going. Any kind of music seems to be accepted - they even put up with me!

The club runs on Tuesday nights. The village of Tilston is just off the A41, about 10 miles south of Chester and 6 miles east of Wrexham. Martin Green would be only too glad to give you more details and directions - call him on 0829 250516.

Well worth the journey, especially if you like dominoes!

Tony Gibbons

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"ACROSS THE DIVIDE"

THE FEDERATION CONCERT

GEORGE WILSON - CHRIS WHILE
KEN NICOL - PETE WATKINSON
at The Douglas Gate, Wigan (by Wigan Little Theatre)
Saturday, 16th May, 1992
ADMISSION £3.00 (£2.00 concessions)

for information, contact the venue organisers, or Phil Capper (0772) 684537

by Jenny Shottliffe

EDITOR'S NOTE: The first "YOUTH QUAKE", an event specially for young people was organised by Jenny Shottliffe on Saturday January 11th with the support of the Federation. Rather than ask just one person to review it, Jenny asked several people to offer their comments on the event, and these are reproduced below:

(Ages taking part 12-19 years)

Even on such a small scale this "fogie free" day set the ball rolling for what promises to be the long awaited platform for launching youthful folkies from front rooms to sessions, to stages and stars.

JOE BROUGHTON

This workshop is a great idea, it will encourage more youngsters who have been influenced by folk music to come down and get involved. It is good because, when you're at a folk club, you feel reluctant to experiment with new material, but there you could play the wrong notes and no-one is too bothered. The only drawback with the workshop is that a few more people should come and join in to make it a more relaxed atmosphere.

NEIL COWIN.

Young people find it difficult to get together to play folk music - at school if you want to play it has to be classical music. Folk sessions are usually late at night in pubs so people of my age (12) can't go. Most festivals don't cater for our age group. I really enjoyed "Youth quake" because it was different and you could practice playing with other people.

LUCY ATKINSON

"Youth Quake" was very good. I liked the way the emphasis was on session playing and not solos. The atmosphere was friendly and you weren't made to do things you didn't want to. No-one laughed when you made mistakes (except for Jenny!!) and I liked the idea that everyone - even the teachers were under twenty one. I don't think there is enough provision for young people in the folk world. We tend to be dismissed as not interested or unable to participate. Many of us are eager to learn or listen to folk music, singing and dancing, so please can we have more.

HEATHER CHARLTON

It is a good idea that youngsters without much experience or confidence can meet together. A bigger turnout is all that is needed! The folk scene tends to exclude youngsters and leave you to spectate. Many young people don't stand a chance of joining in with adults and can only leave their instruments gathering dust in their cases. Some are more than capable of joining in a session, but don't have the confidence within them to take part so the youngsters workshop is important for young developing musicians.

LIAM MURPHY

Better than expected even though small in numbers. It did help that the majority had some experience. The proportion of experienced players outweighed the beginners. It would have been better with a wider variety of instruments, however a brilliant idea - it is good to see something organised for young people - it keeps their interest going - Well done!!

HELENA NICHOLLS

If you like folk music come to Youth Quake. It is a good way to learn session tunes and it is important for young people to join in and be taken notice of. If you make any mistakes, it doesn't matter. You learn from them and it is only you that notices them.

NICOLA DAVIES

Folk is one of the most sociable and welcoming forms of music around. Despite this, from the feedback I have received, it would seem there is a gap. Lucy's comment, that the age group which covers 12-16 year olds is not well catered for, is very relevant. Considering this is the time when many children lose interest, how many future Aly Bain's and Maddy Prior's have been lost? It is not just producing such stars, an up and coming generation would surely bolster the general health of folk music.

To encourage this age group seems to me to be natural, given my upbringing within the folk scene and its enormous extended family. Everyone at the workshop felt the same about being included - they felt they were not. I know from my own experience there is a great deal of support and warmth to be found, but not all young people have the same affinity and without it the encouragement and practical help you need at that age is not reaching them.

Our thanks go to the Federation for their support.

JENNY SHOTLIFF

HIGH PRAISE INDEED...

(From the Ormskirk Folk Club)

Due to changes in circumstances and commitments, the organisers have been forced to close the Folk Club.

We are grateful for the support we have enjoyed over the years from the Federation, and our fellow clubs and musicians.

Please find enclosed our remittance for your invoice for magazines, and also a donation to the work of the Federation for £50.

Residual funds have been donated to our hosts, the Ormskirk Cricket Club in gratitude for past services.

Should the club resume at some time in the future we are sure that it would value your support

A.R. Hesford, M. Lennon, and others on behalf of Ormskirk Folk Club

EDITOR'S NOTE:

It is nice to have something positive for once to publish, and someone at least who appreciates what we are trying to do. Dave Day informs me that this money will be passed on to help arrange further events in the YOUTHQUAKE series, which I am sure we would all agree is a most worthwhile cause.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES & FEDERATION DEVELOPMENT

I do not know what I did to Dave Day, but in revenge he nominated me at the last Fed AGM to be Youth Activities Coordinator. Until now, I have not had anything to do with youth activities in the area, apart from chatting to Jenny Shottliffe last summer at Warwick Festival about her plans for Youthquake. So I am at a bit of a loss, really. What is going on out there? What sort of things do our young musicians want? If you can think of any way to help me, please, drop me a line (my address should be on the inside

back page), or give me a ring. The more information you pass to me, the more I can try to get the Federation involved.

At the same AGM, I also became Development officer. (No, it is not a takeover bid - I just did not run fast enough). Again, if you have any ideas on how to develop and strengthen the Federation, then please let me know. Club organisers, be prepared, I will be in touch with you in the not-too-distant future!

Linda Wright

BOOKSHELF

Latest Folk Books

1992/3 EFDSS Folk Directory
£5.95 (£4.95 EFDSS Members) from Cecil Sharp House, ", Regent's Park Road London NW1 7AY

This "book" published by the EFDSS is the "Who's Who" of folk music. I would find it easier to describe who it is not useful for, rather than the reverse.

If you have no interest in folk song, other than your local club, if you are not interested in Morris Dancing or Social Dancing, if you are not a club organiser and if you never visit a folk club while on holiday; if you never do any of these things, then this book will be of no possible use to you.

On the other hand if you do want to do any any of these, then this book is an invaluable reference guide. I have certainly made much use of it whilst on holiday or away on a course and looking for entertainment in the evening.

If it has a weakness, it is perhaps that it does not provide a comprehensive list of artists for the use of club organisers, although it does list around 100 artists and contact numbers.

All in all, I should say it is a vital reference work for anyone interested in the wider aspects of the folk revival.

Nigel Firth

DANCEABOUT

News on Social, Morris, Sword and Clog Dance

So what is new? Well, quite a lot, but part of this issue's space will be taken up with reminders; I hope you do not mind! Coming up soon is the spate of ceilidhs at Wigan: 13th March with Gas Mark V, 10th April with Melandra and 8th May with The Albion Band (Wow!!). Meanwhile Bats in the Barn at Leyland offer Red House, on 14th March and Old Pequiar, on 9th May, while The Bothy at Southport have the Pandemonium Band on 14th April.

The Assembly Rooms at Bath may seem a long way to travel to an evening's dance, but that is just what a number of locals will be doing on 4th April for a Dancing Masters Ball. The first part features Tom Cook, Jonathan Cohen (remember him from the telly?) and David Fleming-Williams; the second part of the evening has Mike Wilson-Jones and a nine piece "orchestra" featuring a number of well-known folk personalities. Tom Cook is set to appear locally too, at Folk North West's Second Sunday Club (held at the Salmesbury Mem. Hall) on 8th March. Aficionados of John Lagden can meet up with him at the Neston Day of Dance on 14th March or at the Lancs. District Day of Dance, Lancaster on 15th April. Advance notice for those who like to travel concerns the second Lichfield Fold Prom. on 18th October. Last year's was sold out months in advance, so be warned (telephone Julie Dewhurst on 0543 252120). Halsway Manor will again benefit, as will the Hobby Horse Club.

For anyone who fancies American Square Dancing a new club has started up at St Walburge's Parish Centre, Weston Street, Preston on Monday nights at 7.30 pm. Contact those refugees from the Gasworkers Social Club, Bob and Vivienne Hayes for further details or telephone 0772 724412. Meanwhile for anyone wanting to get some down-to-earth advice/practical help on MC'ing with beginners/PTA Hoedowns and the like, then turn up at Fulwood Methodist Church, Preston on Saturday, 7th March; morning and afternoon sessions. Telephone 0257 482928 if you would like to know more.

Instruction is also being offered on 28th March by Preston Royal Morris Dancers at Corpus Christi H.S., St. Vincent's Road, Fulwood, Preston. Again, morning and afternoon sessions; workshop on NW Morris and for accordion players. Bob Alty can tell you more about it all; contact him on 0772 612445. PRMD are also set up to visit Hungary in late May, so they are busy fund raising, as are Leyland MM for their French Visitors from the Loire Valley who appear in August.

BBC TV is set to be rather busy in this area in the near future: from Cardiff they are coming to film the Britannia Coconut Dancers in Bacup on their annual perambulation, and hoping to film other types of dance too - North West, Cotswold, Rapper and Longsword - on an extended visit. It is all material for

a series of programs on traditions that they are planning. Their Bristol counterparts intending to be at this year's Knutsford Royal May Day, so the half dozen regular teams will all be polishing up their best smiles ready for the day. Same time of year, same area, an official opening of a clogmaker's workshop. Jo Horrocks, Leyland MM, has set up at the back of the village pub (The White Lion, I think) in Barthomley, near Crewe very close to Junction 16 of the M6 - for all prospective clients. A number of Morris teams are scheduled to be there. Saturday, 25th April is the day.

Meanwhile the appearance of Morris teams on TV programmes is becoming almost commonplace, with sightings in the aftermath of the Rugby World Cup (Gordon Brown working off his losing bet, with Steve Smith, by dancing with Westminster MM), through "Waiting for God" and "Top of the Pops", to "Moon and Son". The ladies of Lancashire Rose also smile out at you from the October page of the current "Lancashire Life" calendar.

On then to folk events at Preston Guild: there is the Folk Fiesta on 30th May, with guest teams on the Flag Market from mid-morning through to teatime; a morning session for children in the Guild Hall, followed by an afternoon dance workshop for all with Pat Wilkinson. In the evening the ceilidh begins at 6.30 pm. General dancing, interspersed with displays from the invited teams who are expected to show North West and Cotswold Morris, Rapper and Longsword, Clog Dancing as well as Irish, Scottish, Welsh and even American dancing. The 15th August is the Day of Morris Dancing in the town centre; Royal Lancs. MM have a day of dance on 29th August in and around the town; some of the local teams are set to take part in various processions during the actual Guild Week 30th August - 5th September. On Sunday evening, 30th August, in the Charter Theatre, there is "The Old Lamb and Flag" - the story and songs of Preston and its Guilds. Preston Folk Heritage are the presenters (Strawhead and others, I suspect!) and the intention is to take it on the road to several Lancashire towns as a warm-up for the Charter Theatre.

One sidelight on the Guild: there is a noticeable absence of bands, dance groups, choirs, etc., etc., from Preston's much publicised twin towns!!

Another thought, has anyone else, besides me, bought a copy of Rob Elliott's "Don't Blame Me - I'm Only the Triangle Player", re. the Silurian Morris Team? Now there is an epitaph to Dave Jones, if ever there was one. I'm watching out for the sequel now: "The Drummer's Tale".

Keep dancing everyone and "Szekesfehervar to you", as Preston Royal might say!!

Roy Smith

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16 CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS

Well, I expected this to be a farewell piece, having finally managed to resign after three years in the hotseat, but it has not quite worked out that way! However - we have now got a Vice Chairman who has promised to take over at the next A.G.M.

This year's A.G.M. was held in one of Manchester's premier "watering holes" (why does Manchester have such pretty pubs??) and was, as usual, poorly attended - but those who were there were enthusiastic and we actually had VOLUNTEERS!! Hooray. (When you have read the piece, go up to your Club Organiser and ask if they attended. If they say "NO" - ask why not!)

Since the last edition Jenny Shottliffe and friends organised the first Federation "Youth Quake" and it was apparently (I am too old to go!) excellent, though, as usual, they could have done with more young people attending. Look out for the next one and send your youngsters.

Also, since last time, we (at Maghull) have started our monthly CAJUN CLUB at the "Mons" in Bootle. Both have been sellouts and the second one, on 31st January, was filmed by BBC 1 for transmission as part of "People Today". From what I hear the Manchester Cajun Club is also packing them in, so perhaps we have a new craze on our hands. At the "Mons" we have been treated to Barbara and Phil Hodson's Dance Workshop, where they spend an hour at the start of the evening showing people all the authentic Louisiana steps. Then what happens? Everyone jumps on the floor to dance; the crowds have been from all age groups - it is good fun even for "crumbles" like me.

I have been to see the "BARELY WORKS" again (the group we featured on the cover last edition). They must be the best band I have seen; if they are appearing nearby go and see them live!

I suppose like me you have started looking at which Festivals will be blessed with your presence this year? WIGAN, BURNLEY, KENDAL and FYLDE so you do not have to travel too far to see the very best artists. Support your local ones where you can, and give yourself a treat into the bargain.

Do not forget the Federations Third Youth (under 25) Concert at Melling Tithe Barn on 14th March - the VERY best of the country's young talent will be there for you to appraise.

Cheers, Dave

Beverley Folk Festival

19th-21st June 1992

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McPEAKE (Ireland) ● ROY

BAILEY ● JOHN KIRKPATRICK

MARTIN CARTHY ● HAMISH

MOORE & DICK LEE

MICHAELANNJILLO

(Mike Waterson, Ann Waterson & Gill Pidd)

DEAD SEA SURFERS ● MARTIN CARTHY,

NORMA WATERSON & ELIZA CARTHY

STANLEY ACCRINGTON ● SID KIPPER

PEEPING TOM ● TOKEN WOMEN ● PAT

RYAN ● THE SALAMI BROTHERS ● EDDIE

UPTON ● THE BOAT BAND ● DAVE SHAW

THE GOODACRE BROTHERS ● JAGO

DR SUNSHINE'S PAVEMENT SHOW ● EDDIE

LENAHAN ● SEVEN CHAMPIONS ● BETTY

LUPTON'S LADLE LAKERS ● THE WHITE

HORSE CEILIDH BAND ● THE GREEN

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STOP PRESS:

Northwich Club Dates -

March 6 Rod Sinclair
March 13 Old Rope String Band
March 27 John Moncur
April 10 Iain MacIntosh
April 24 Graham & Eileen Pratt
May 8 Brooke Williams
May 22 Pete Watkinson
June 5 Kieran Goss

8:45 AT THE SWAN - extra dates

April 1st HOBSON AND LEES
April 15th NICK UNLIMITED
May 6th "BIG PETE" RODGER
June 10th DAVE SUMMERS
June 24th GARVA (tbc)

BURY CLUB DATES:

May 9th Eddie Upton
May 16th Hands in Pockets

BLACKURN HOMELESS!

Blackburn Folk Club is temporarily without a home! They have to move from The Bank Hotel, Hope Street and so far have no alternative venue. Latest information from Brian Kirkham on 0254 201390

	Sunday	1-Mar	8-Mar	15-Mar	22-Mar	29-Mar
BOTHY	Singers Night	Rod Sinclair	'The Old Lamb & Flag'	Janet Russell	Singers Night	
EAGLE & CHILD	Singers Night	The Millfield Band	GARVA	Singers Night	Singers Night	
FLEECE FOLK	Ken Nicol	Ian Bruce	Huw & Tony Williams	Residents Night	Eddie Walker	
LEIGH	Tony Martin	Singers Night	Keith Kendrick	Fiona Simpson	Singers Night	
LLANDUDNO	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
MECHANICS		The Albion Band				
THE ALBION	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
WHEELTON	Music Session	Music Session	Music Session	Music Session	Music Session	
Monday	2-Mar	9-Mar	16-Mar	23-Mar	30-Mar	
HORWICH	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
PRESTON	Tom McConville	Singers Night	Brian Robertson	John Leonard & John Squire	Melanie Harrold & Ollie Blanchflower	
PUNCHBOWL	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
TRITON	Singers Night	Mal Waite	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
WHITWORTH	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
*MECHANICS	Dick Gaughan					
Tuesday	3-Mar	10-Mar	17-Mar	24-Mar	31-Mar	
BLACK HORSE	Jungr & Parker	GARVA	Guest tba	Charlie Landsborough	Guest tba	
BREWERY ARTS		Family Ceilidh	Sheena Na Gig			
FROG & FERRET	Music Session	Music Session	Jigs'n'Squeals	Music Session	Music Session	
MAGHULL	Roy Bailey	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
TAP & SPILE	Singers Night	Bram Taylor	Singers Night	Ken Nicol	Singers Night	
TILSTON	Full House	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Mark T.	
WHITWORTH	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
YARROW VALLEY	Singers Night	(Closed)	(Closed)	(Closed)	(Closed)	
Wednesday	4-Mar	11-Mar	18-Mar	25-Mar		
BROMBOROUGH	Singers night	Singers night	Singers night	Singers night		
8.45 AT THE SWAN	Derek Boak	Open house	The Deighton Sisters	Open house		
RUNCORN	Guest t.b.a	Singers Night	Guest t.b.a	Singers Night		
WHITE SWAN	10th Birthday Party with Sid Kipper	Rod Sinclair	Singers Night	Brian Robertson		
Thursday	5-Mar	12-Mar	19-Mar	26-Mar		
BEAUMARIS	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night		
BURNLEY	GARVA	Singers Night	Featured Singers	Singaround		
COCKERMOUTH	Jungr & Parker	Huw & Tony Williams	Singers Night	Mike Whellans		
DARWEN	Closed	Singers Night	Closed	Singers Night		
FLEETWOOD	Keith Kendrick	Singers Night	Colin Wilson	Singers Night		
FOLK AT THE GATE	Singers Night	Vin Garbutt	Natural Cord Brothers	Full House		
GREGSON'S LANE	Singers Night	Singers Night	Bram Taylor	Singers Night		
HASKAYNE	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night		
MAGAZINE	Singers Night	Jack Couits	Sandra Kerr	Singers Night		
THE BODDIE SHOP	Dave Goulder	Singers Night	Singers Night	Jim Eldon		
THE BUZZ	The Ragin' Cajuns	Richard Morton (Panic Bros)	The New Cranes	The Brasshoppers		
Friday	6-Mar	13-Mar	20-Mar	27-Mar		
BEE	Singers Night	Geoff Higginbottom	Singers Night	Singers Night		
BLACKBURN	Singers Night	Singers Night	Jane & Carl	Singers Night		
BREWERY ARTS	Backroom Boys	Dick Gaughan				
POTTERIES	Jim Couza	Singers Night	Tom McConville	Dan Ar Bras		
RED LION	The Albion Band	Huw & Tony Williams	Vin Garbutt (ticket only)	Melanie Harrold & Ollie Blanchflower		
LIVE at the ENGINE	Tansads					
Saturday	7-Mar	14-Mar	21-Mar	28-Mar		
BREWERY ARTS			Frank White Blues	Inner Sense Orch.		
BURY	Theresa Tooley	Tom McConville	Tony Gibbons	Singers Night		
POYNTON	Liam O'Flynn plus Banshee	Ceilidh - Quiet Man	Caravanserai (tbc)	Ceilidh - Caught on the Hop		
ST ALBANS		Singers Night				
FOLK AT THE GATE	The Middlewich Paddies					
LIVE at the ENGINE				Stocktons Wing		
*MAGHULL		Federation Under-25s concert (3) *	Bon Ton Roulez *			

	Sunday	5-Apr	12-Apr	19-Apr	26-Apr
BOTHY		Show of Hands	Singers Night	Singers Night	Raphael Callaghan
EAGLE & CHILD		Derek Brimstone	Singers Night	Closed	Guest tba
FLEECE FOLK		Phil Hare	Jet Martin	Guest tba	Les Barker
LEIGH		Kath Reade	Geoff Gillett & Ron Taylor	Closed	Dialect Verse Competition
LLANDUDNO		Singers Night	Singers Night	Tom McConville	Singers Night
THE ALBION		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
WHEELTON		Music Session	Music Session	Music Session	Music Session
Monday	6-Apr	13-Apr	20-Apr	27-Apr	
HORWICH		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
PRESTON		Singers Night	Ron Taylor & Geoff Gillot	Singers Night	Dick Miles
PUNCHBOWL		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
TRITON		Colin Wilson	Singers Night	Closed	Singers Night
WHITWORTH		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Tuesday	7-Apr	14-Apr	21-Apr	28-Apr	
BLACK HORSE		Guest tba	Closed	Closed	Guest tba
BREWERY ARTS			Family Ceilidh	Bob Brozman (USA)	
FROG & FERRET		Music Session	Music Session	Music Session	Music Session
MAGHULL		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
TAP & SPILE		Hometowners	Singers Night	Fiona Simpson	Singers Night
TILSTON		Chris Smither (USA)	Steve Tilston & Maggie Boyle	Singers Night	Singers Night
YARROW VALLEY		Annie Williamson	(Closed)	(Closed)	(Closed)
Wednesday	1-Apr	8-Apr	15-Apr	22-Apr	29-Apr
BROMBOROUGH	Singers night	Singers night	Singers night	Singers night	Singers night
8.45 AT THE SWAN	Guest tba	Open house	Guest tba	Show of Hands	Open house
RUNCORN	Guest t.b.a	Singers Night	Guest t.b.a	Singers Night	Guest t.b.a
WHITE SWAN	Singers Night	Stephen Quigg	Roger Wilson	Beggars Velvet	Guest tba
Thursday	2-Apr	9-Apr	16-Apr	23-Apr	30-Apr
BEAUMARIS	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
BURNLEY	Marle Little	Singers Night	Featured Singers	Singaround	Singers Night
COCKERMOUTH	Phil Hare	Singers Night	Bram Taylor	Pete Morton	Dick Miles
DARWEN	Closed	Singers Night	Closed	Singers Night	???
FLEETWOOD	50s & 60s theme night	Phil Hare	Singers Night	Singers Night	Paul Jones
FOLK AT THE GATE	Singers Night	Guest tba	Singers Night	Guest tba	Singers Night
GREGSON'S LANE	Singers Night	Jon Harvison	Singers Night	Singers Night	
HASKAYNE	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
MAGAZINE	Singers Night	Raphael Callaghan	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
ORMSKIRK	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
THE BODDIE SHOP	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
THE BUZZ	The Boat Band	Something in the Bag	Companions of the Rosy Hours	The Fast Bullet Band	Splinter
Friday	3-Apr	10-Apr	17-Apr	24-Apr	
BEE	Singers Night	Singers Night	Brian Peters	Singers Night	
BLACKBURN	Singers Night	Kath Reade	Singers Night	Singers Night	
BREWERY ARTS	Afterhours		You Slush	Barbara Thompson	
NORTHWICH	No dates				
POTTERIES	Singers Night	Guest tba	Singers Night	Guest tba	
RED LION	Brian McNeill	Jeze Lowe & The Bad Pennies	Closed	Maddy Prior & Rick Kemp (tk)	
*BOTHY				*Ceilidh (See chat)	
Saturday	4-Apr	11-Apr	18-Apr	25-Apr	
BREWERY ARTS			Ralph McTell		
BURY	Rob Malaney	Ron Taylor & Geoff Gillatt	Easter ceilidh: See Diary Chat	Joan Blackburn	
POYNTON	Derek Brimstone	Ceilidh - Shake the Dice	Folk Festival - Day 2	Ceilidh - Bilbo Baggins	
SOUTHPORT ARTS				Quimantu	
ST ALBANS		Singers Night			
FOLK AT THE GATE	Irish band tba				
*MAGHULL		'Palace of Varieties' *			

Sunday	31-May	3-May	10-May	17-May	24-May
BOTHY	Th'Antiques Roadshow	Tony Rose	Singers Night	Chris Newman & Maire Ni Chatsaigh	Closed
EAGLE & CHILD	Guest tba	Closed	Singers Night	*Double Measure*	Singers Night
FLEECE FOLK	Jez Lowe	Guest tba	Guest tba	Guest tba	*Double Measure*
LEIGH	Guest tba	Singers Night	**George Wilson**	Brian Peters	Guest tba
LLANDUDNO	Singers Night	Singers Night	Dean Johnson	Singers Night	Maire ni Chatsaigh & Chris Newman
THE ALBION		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
WHEELTON	Music Session	Music Session	Music Session	Music Session	Music Session
Monday	4-May	11-May	18-May	25-May	
HORWICH		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
PRESTON		Singers Night	Johnny Handle	Pete Watkinson	Singers Night
PUNCHBOWL		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
TRITON		Closed	Eddie Morris	Singers Night	Closed
WHITWORTH		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Tuesday	5-May	12-May	19-May	26-May	
BLACK HORSE		Guest tba	Guest tba	Guest tba	Guest tba
FROG & FERRET		Music Session	Music Session	Music Session	Music Session
MAGHULL		Singers Night	*Double Measure* or Singers Night	*Double Measure* or Singers Night	Singers Night
TAP & SPILE		Dave Summers	Singers Night	Chris Waldron	Singers Night
TILSTON		Kimberley McCarver	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
WHITWORTH		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
YARROW VALLEY		Fiona Simpson	(Closed)	(Closed)	(Closed)
Wednesday	6-May	13-May	20-May	27-May	
BREWERY ARTS			Hank Wangford Trio		
BROMBOROUGH		Singers night	Singers night	Singers night	Singers night
8.45 AT THE SWAN		Local Guest	*George Wilson*	Pete Watkinson	The Joyce Gang tbc
RUNCORN		Singers Night	Guest t.b.a	Singers Night	Guest t.b.a
WHITE SWAN		Roy Harris	Dave Burland	Geoff Higginbottom	Singers Night
Thursday	7-May	14-May	21-May	28-May	
BEAUMARIS		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
BURNLEY		Bernard Wrigley	*George Wilson*	Open house	Singaround
COCKERMOUTH		Brooks Williams	Singers Night	Pete Coe	Cherrington & Ward
DARWEN		Singers Night	Closed	Singers Night	Closed
FLEETWOOD		Geoff Higginbottom	Singers Night	Guest t.b.a	Singers Night
FOLK AT THE GATE		Guest tba	Singers Night	Johnny Handle	Singers Night
GREGSON'S LANE		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Richard Grainger
HASKAYNE		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
MAGAZINE		Singers Night?	Singers Night?	Singers Night?	Singers Night?
THE BODDIE SHOP		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
THE BUZZ		Skint Video	Toss The Feathers	Sweatmouth	Red Moon Joe
Friday	1-May	8-May	15-May	22-May	29-May
BEE	Singers Night	Singers Night	Steve Tilston & Maggie Boyle	Singers Night	Singers Night
BLACKBURN	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
BREWERY ARTS				Innes Sibbun Band	
NORTHWICH	No dates				
POTTERIES	Singers Night	Bram Taylor	Singers Night	American Theme Night	Guest tba
RED LION	Rogues Gallery	Ian Walker	Guest tba	Allan Taylor (tkr)	Closed
*SOUTHPORT ARTS			Keith Hancock		
Saturday	2-May	9-May	16-May	23-May	30-May
BREWERY ARTS			Gregson & Collister		Terry Lightfoot
BURY	Singers Night	Hands In Pockets	t.b.a	t.b.a	t.b.a
POYNTON	Alan Stivell	Ceilidh - Caught on the Hop	June Tabor	Ceilidh Dance	Lonnie Donegan
FOLK AT THE GATE	Blarneystone				
ST ALBANS			Singers Night		

MAGHULL FOLK CLUB

- presents -

"CARRYING IT ON - 3"
MELLING TITHEBARN
Saturday, 14th March at 7:15 pm

CATRIONA MACDONALD and IAIN LOWTHIAN

Catriona's Shetland fiddle won Radio 2's "Young Tradition Award". Here, with Iain's accordion to assist.

TIMOTHY VAN EYKEN

Timothy won the 1991 Fylde Folk Festival "Young Musician" contest. A 14 year old "box player" from Somerset.

RICHARD WOODS

Richard, from the Wirral, won the Fylde contest a couple of years ago, with his songs, mandolin and guitar.

POTA PORTAC

Their third appearance with us. A fine young Irish band, full of young ladies and one young man with a permanent smile!

KELLIE WHILE

Fine 15 year old singer, keyboard player and guitarist from Churchtown, following Mum's appearance in our February concert

"THE WORKSHOP"

Steve Higham holds a guitar workshop before the Folk Club. Now they are going to show us how well they've done!

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THE HARE AND HOUNDS, MAGHULL

Every Tuesday at 8:30 pm

Our March Guest is:

ROY BAILEY

Find out which week - come to our weekly singers' nights!

Our April Guest will be yet another irresistible delight. As usual, you will find out when, by coming to our regular singers' nights!

Our May Guest:

GEORGE WILSON

is appearing as part of the "ACROSS THE DIVIDE" tour, in association with N.W.F.F.C. and The Southern Counties Folk Federation

Guitar workshop every Tuesday at 7:30 pm
ADMISSION ONLY 50p FOR MEMBERS!

"PALACE OF VARIETIES"

MELLING TITHEBARN

Saturday, 11th April at 7:15 pm

COSMOTHEKA

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"ACROSS THE DIVIDE"

The Inter-Federation Artist Exchange
10th to 24th May 1992

Well, it has taken seven months to move from an idea, being discussed in a Salisbury café, to an actual event, but the Artist Exchange is finally happening! Clubs around the North-West have stuck their necks out and taken a chance, although the link between our own Federation and The Southern Counties Folk Federation should mean that the element of doubt has been removed. We will all know soon enough, eh?

Clubs taking part include Leigh, Maghull, The Swan (Kirkham), Burnley, Marble Arch (Manchester - being run by Helen & Dave Howard), the Eagle & Child (Billinge), Preston, Blackpool, Fleetwood and Northwich. Lawrence Hoy had offered The Beer Engine (Wigan) but its closing only prompted him to offer The Douglas Gate (Wigan) as the venue for our Federation "Fundraising Concert" instead. A magnificent response all round, which I could only have hoped for last July.

Last time I was in Hampshire, I saw Pete Watkinson do a full night (Titchfield Folk Club) and he was excellent. A very personable chap, he soon had his audience at ease and took them through a fine mixture of traditional and First World War songs. I

also had the pleasure to meet George Wilson. In fact, Lyn Colbeck, the editor of Folk On Tap, had "organised" the two of us, plus a double-bass player to do a floor spot together! I might say, that the three of us managed it rather well. I can recommend George's singing of "A Tolpuddle Man" to you and fully expect to hear it in many people's repertoire before long.

I know that a lot of clubs and indeed, other Federations, are looking at the success of this Exchange. Please go out and support the clubs who are taking part in this venture. Make these nights into stunning successes and we can go on to arrange many more, with Federations all over the country. Finally, make sure you keep Saturday, 16th May free in your diaries and then get your tickets for the Fundraiser. The artists are playing this one for nothing, as their thankyou to the Federation, so any money raised will go straight back to the NWFFC. We can then use it to continue to promote our favourite music and to help our member clubs.

See you at most of the gigs!

PHIL CAPPER

FOLK NIGHT

in Aid of the
Teachers' Benevolent Fund
held at
CARLTON HOTEL
North Promenade, Blackpool
Good Friday, 17th April
at 8.00pm

Admission £2.50
Floor singers welcome
Details from Nick Male
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Nr. Central Stn.
All Welcome
Every Thursday - 8.30 pm.

Spring 1992 Guest List

March 5th **Garva**
'Liverpool's Premier Traditional Irish Band' - with a lineup of Kevin Webster, John Murphy, Tony Gibbons and Shay Black, who's arguing?

April 2nd **Marie Little**
Effervescent, sparkling, witty, this 'Salford via Tyneside' lass brings freshness and originality to every song she sings

May 5th **Bernard Wrigley**
'The Bolton Bullfrog', with a droll sense of humour and hysterically funny insights into human nature.

Plus singers nights and singarounds

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0282 39784

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		Advance ticket prices Waged/Unwaged	
FRIDAY, MARCH 13th	1st Birthday Party with 'GAS MARK V' Caller: MIKE BETTISON	£4.50	£4.00
FRIDAY, APRIL 10th	From Manchester University 'MELANDRA' Caller: RHODRI DAVIES	£3.00	£2.50
FRIDAY, MAY 8th	A rare opportunity to dance to 'THE ALBION BAND' Caller: ASHLEY HUTCHINGS	£4.50	£4.00
FRIDAY, JUNE 12th	'RAN TAN BAND' with one of their favourite callers, GORDON POTTS	£4.00	£3.50
FRIDAY JULY 10th	WAKES WEEK with 'CINQ WITHOUT TRACE' Caller: FRANCIS ROE	£3.00	£2.50

* All prices are for advance ticket sales - 50p extra on the door *

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BROADFOLK

by Folkear

There is a school of thought that folk music should not be shown on Television because that medium is entirely inappropriate. One person who thought this said, in a letter to Folk Roots, "TV needs a finely polished finish, we're looking at creosoted wood". Well, I do not think that good folk music is like creosote - a well sung ballad is as polished as high class furniture - but he had a point. Television is so complex a process itself that unprocessed, spontaneous, relaxed music styles do badly on it. That man must be very happy at the moment - there is nothing on Television! The Channel 4 series on improvised music has carefully avoided the English tradition, though including Gaelic psalms and European traditional styles.

Radio is friendlier - and radio arts programmes do not ban folk music as is still the case with The Late Show. Kaleidoscope has included some folk artists quite naturally. In an edition from Newcastle (something else The Late Show does not even think of doing, though frequently goes to the USA), one young harpist was asked about a piece of mouth music shield also done. After shield explained about it, the interviewer said "And did you get this from the tradition?" "Yes" she replied "From my mother who learnt from Ewan MacColl who used it as a vocal exercise"! The regional editions of the Radio 2 Arts Show (Friday Nights from 10 to midnight) also feature folk and related artists.

Folkear

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STOP PRESS

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14th March - Guest TBA

4th April - Middlewich Paddies

6th June Garva

Thursday Guest Nights at the Gate -

9th April Pete Ryder

23rd April Steve Woolley and John Tunally

7th May Marilyn Middleton-Pollock

4th June Nick Dow & Dave Molloy

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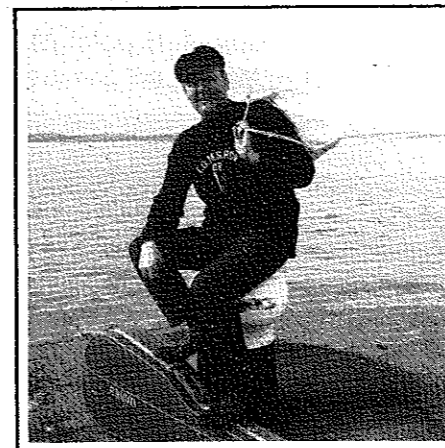
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All are based at Ingleborough Community Centre, Ingleton for North Yorkshire County Council's Further Education Dept.. Tuition, July Courses £60, August Courses £50.

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Ingleborough Community Centre, Ingleton,
Via Carnforth, LA6 3HG (SAE please)

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Hughie Jones

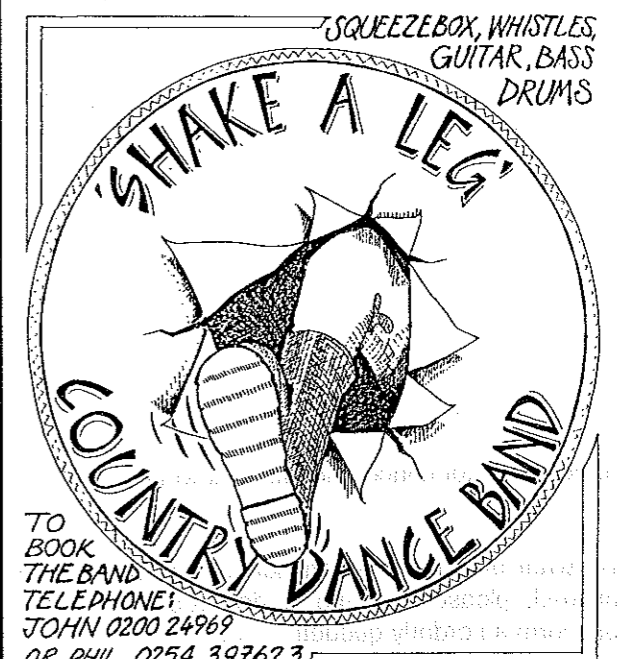
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4th, 5th and 6th SEPTEMBER 1992

30th
FOLK
FESTIVAL

Lots of tapes and stuff dropping through my letter-box still! I had one tape passed to me by Rod Finlayson of Burnley Folk Club. He had already told me about this singer from the Lake District. I conjured up pictures of some mountain shepherd singing songs about the fells and gathering sheep - how wrong can you be? This man sings politics - not much good to you if you are a Liberal/non-political, I suppose, but he writes all his own stuff, accompanies himself on bazouki, melodeon, and harmonica, and I can guess from just listening to the tape that he puts on a pretty visual performance. Go on - I dare someone to book him. Maybe we will eventually get the folk clubs back to what they were years ago when you could come away at the end of the night having learned something.

I also got a tape sent to me by **Betty and Norman McDonald**. These two fine singers from Tyneside, now based in Gloucestershire, paid a welcome surprise visit recently to Maghull Folk Club, where they went down a treat. Nothing spectacular or fancy, they put their songs across with consummate ease. Their lovely laid-back approach endeared them to all and encouraged the audience to join in with each song. I know they have just done a few bookings in the north and are interested in coming back anytime. Give me a ring if you want to listen to the tape or need any more information.

Other tapes I have received include "Hung up & Dry" by **After Hours**, also from the Gloucester area - a fantastic Irish band. I have seen them about 5 or 6 times and have always been impressed by their musicianship and originality. I know they are interested mainly in concert work - maybe someone out there looking for something special for a large event would keep them in mind. That is also the case for a band from Scotland - **CEOLBEG**. This 6-piece band is fronted by Davy Steel, a fine musician, singer and songwriter. Many of you may be familiar with his work. The lineup also includes Wendy Stewart on clarsach and concertina. Wendy was based for many years in Lancaster and was a member of that fine outfit "The Donal Maguire Occasional Band". As I said, they are more designed for concert and festival work.

If you want any more information on anyone I have mentioned, please give me a ring (051-526-6522). Please form an orderly queue!!

Tony Gibbons

1992

HOLMFIRTH *folk* FESTIVAL

The Pennine Festival of Music and Dance
Friday 8th - Sunday 10th May

Stanley Accrington * The Albion Band
Th' Antique Roadshow * Artisan
Roy Bailey * Blackadder Rapper & Step
Phil Cunningham * Colonel Custard
Drops of Brandy * Ernest Dyson
Steve Gardham & Chris Sherburn
Robin Garside * Good Egg Band
Holme Valley Choir * Holme Valley Tradition
Jago * The Jabularni Sisters
Lancashire Wallowers
The Marske Fishermen's Choir
Michaelannjill'o' * Mikron Theatre Company
Mogsy * Ring Heye Morris of Mobberley
Kathryn Roberts * Kate Rusby
Keith Scrowcroft * Snark Rapper
Tatterfoals Morris * The Walking Ones
White Rose Morris Men * Brooks Williams
The Yetties



Weekend Tickets £20 (in advance)

For further details, contact:
Julia & Tony Sturdy
16 Booth House
Holmfirth West Yorkshire
HD7 1QA
Tel (0484) 683908

BEDWORTH FOLK DAY 30 November 1991

Bedworth, near Nuneaton in Warwickshire, hosts a welcome festival on the last Saturday of November. The dismal winter gap in the festival season is bridged by this well established and well organised event which contains a bit of something for every folk fan. The package is right (perhaps even a bit too full) and, happening when it does, it provides a good opportunity to buy crafts instruments or music as Christmas presents.

The day started strongly with several workshops: keen dancers were appreciative of those dealing with Playford and Appalachian and children were similarly well catered for. A short display entertained the citizens of Bedworth in the Town Square at lunchtime before the keen Morris dancers went off to study the Border and North west varieties in more workshops.

Those, like myself, who enjoy both song and dance were in something of a quandary having to choose from a strong concert list including **Huw and Tony Williams, Toni Bunnell, Derek Gifford** and others in one hall and dance displays in another hall. In addition, at tea time, there was the traditional and very sociable Tea Dance with **Wild Thyme**. Children had puppet shows and juggling workshops to keep them occupied during the afternoon.

As well as very good home-baked cakes to eat at tea time there were other dishes to tempt one before the serious work of the evening began. The big problem was finding the time to eat at all, so packed was the musical menu. Something of an innovation this year was the Early, Early Show which filled that awkward spot between 5.30 & 7.30. The star of this was, of course, **Les Barker**, not with his Band but his Stanley Holloway type monologues. Les now seems to be a notable fixture at most festivals and if you like a laugh between Morris displays Les is your man.

The evening song programme as long and continuous but the standard of performance was variable and, I cannot help saying, not as good as last year. Perhaps this was because the dance side of the festival was particularly strong with three good evening venues to choose from. Particularly rich fare was on hand in the form of a Cajun Party which was, if anything, over subscribed. Cajun dancing has definitely caught on in the Midlands as one can see from the crowded dance floor. Those who preferred something less tropical were able to choose between a small Playford Ball and the Grand Ceilidh in the Main Hall.

It was a pity to see the dancing space reduced from

last year in the Main Hall but it did make for a very friendly atmosphere. The high spots were the interval displays: the first by **Huw and Tony Williams** showed us a wonderful step dance routine which culminated in the amazing feat of extinguishing a candle with his clogs. In addition we were treated to the sensational display of Appalachian step dancing from the **Feet First** team which is deservedly attracting a large following throughout the Midlands.

In such a crowded hall the atmosphere was cordial and everybody enjoyed a good knees up to the loud band **Peeping Tom** (alias Gas Mark V) but as on similar occasions I was left with a question: is dance calling a branch of Higher Geometry?

All in all Bedworth is a sensible small festival, lacking many of the superstars but also many of the disadvantages of the summer festivals. It is above all a friendly festival and, prices permitting, I look forward to returning in 1992.

Peter R Meldrum

22nd — 28th
August
1992

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CONFERENCE REPORT:

The Association of Festival Organisers

It is easy to organise a festival, is it not? Get a building or a marquee, hire a few Morris teams, book three or four decent artists, fill the concerts up with your friends and local club residents - no problem.

No problem? Well, it may have been that way once upon a time, but now? Consider: Fire Regulations (does your marquee have battery powered EMERGENCY EXIT signs?); new, tighter Food Hygiene regulations; Foreign Entertainers Tax (try explaining to a Bulgarian you are withholding 25% of their fee because their agent has not filled in the right forms and you are not risking being asked to pay it yourself later); the Children Act (are your creche helpers registered Child Minders?). Then there is PA, Lighting, litter (dispose or re-cycle?). What do you offer your visiting Morris teams? Do you have dances for dancers or ceilidhs for merry song enthusiasts? When do you switch to properly printed publicity and when go on again to colour? What do sponsors want and how do you find them?

Sill want to run a festival? Then help is at hand - the AFO. No, it is not an intergalactic bodhran (Anomalous Flying Object) - it is the Association of Festival Organisers. They held their annual conference in Warwick in early February - just like most festivals it was a packed weekend. About half the 50 member festivals were represented, mostly folk festivals but including bluegrass and Cajun, a Dance festival, not forgetting Burnley's double hat as Blues and Folk.

Everything mentioned above and much more was discussed vigorously in full session, over meals, in the bar (Ruddles County on draught!), at the back of the Showcase Concert in the evening ... used to saying it themselves, several organisers found they were on the receiving end of "Please shut up by the bar"!

The AFO is not a pompous organisation - well, there are not many pompous folkies. Whatever your problem, someone has already faced it and will tell what they did. But neither are the members proud - there were visiting speakers on PA, Lighting, and recycling rubbish, and a fascinating discussion led by the Director of Warwick Festival (which is an arts festival, specialising in chamber music).

While EFDSS alienates the Arts Minister by trying to remove the listed mural in C Sharp House, AFO has established good relations with the Arts Council and is

involved with the National Day of Music (June 28th).

So if you run a festival and are not a member - think again. Program into your budget the £25 membership fee, and note how cheap the conference was: just £12, with a special cheap B&B rate at the conference hotel (£18 when bargain breaks are usually £36!) or possible free beds with local folkies for the terminally broke. Next year's conference will be there again in February 6/7th but there could be an autumn one-day special if anyone expresses interest. Maybe we could hold that in the NW? For information, ring me or go direct to coordinator Steve Heap on 084 421 2231.

I hope the festival visitor now realises just how professional even unpaid organisers now have to be. Relax and enjoy the music, while others worry!

Ian Wells



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JOHNNY COLLINS	JIM MAGEEAN
PETA WEBB	PETE COE
GRAHAM PIRT	JOHN O'HAGAN
RON TAYLOR & JEFF GILLETT	BOB BRAY & SUE BURGESS
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Watch this space for new of Richard Thompson ... late June/early July. Date still to be finalised. Enquiries: 0744 53058



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VIN GARBUTT "The By-Pass Syndrome"

Someone once said to me "If you book Vin Garbutt, you get a full club." I did and it was. That was almost 20 years ago and it still holds true. Vin is a one-off performer, on the one hand a serious songwriter and musician and, on the other, a man with a bizarre sense of humour. He realises it would be impossible to capture the magic of one of his live performances so, with his latest CD/cassette "The By-Pass Syndrome", he has produced a recording that oozes quality.

This, as most of Vin's recordings, cannot be described as easy listening. The title track warns of the danger of heavy traffic clogging Britain's arteries, "Dish of Glass" represents the rights of the unborn child, while "Page 3 girl" despises our throw away society. Vin includes two songs by other writers. "If I had a son" by Phil Millichip and "The Potash Song" by Graham Walker; both telling of the hard life of the miner. They are given Vin's own style and are well produced (as is the rest of the record) by Alan Whetton.

The highlights for me are "Nawa's Song", which mourns the plight of an eight year old Kurdish refugee and the beautiful "Bloom of the Broom"; probably one of the best arrangements of a song I have ever heard. A haunting love song and three sets of tunes (what a fine whistler he is) complete this fine album.

You might not agree with all Vin's ideas but he has an unnerving way of making you sit up and think.

Ken Howard



MARTYN WYNDHAM READ "Mussels on a Tree"

Fellside FECD84

This is an interesting collection of songs. Just over half

are traditional. Others are songs by well known writers - such as Cyril Tawney and Eric Bogle; in addition, he has set two poems to music. Several songs have Australian connections.

Support is given by well known artists. I enjoyed Vin Garbutt's contribution on the whistle on "Valley of Tees". Jez Lowe does sterling work on a variety of instruments. Other backing is skilfully given by Phil Beer, Iris Bishop, Maggie Goodall, the Wilsons and Linda Adams. This may seem to be a lot of musicians but essentially this CD is Martyn Wyndham Read singing and playing a selection of songs. As usual, he does it very well - easy on the ear and no need to struggle to catch the words.

My favourite tracks are "Bunch of Red Roses" (from the poem by Sean O'Casey) "Smokestack Land" (Graham Miles) The final song on the CD is "Shelter" by Eric Bogle - a superb song beautifully sung. The tune haunted me for hours.

The production is up to Fellside's usual high standard - clear, well balanced, with the voice well forward. A good job all the way round.

Joe Roberts

CHRIS WHILE "Still on Fire"

Redwood Records - RED 001

A notable first solo outing presents a collection of mainly self-penned and intimate songs, demonstrating an intelligent but emotional lyrical and melodic talent.

"Living Apart" and "Sneakin" are Side 1 high-spots with persistent, driving rhythm and fill support from co-conspirator Ken Nicol. "Sneakin" in particular is simply brilliant (especially live) and although not a While original (Nicol again!), her voice genuinely excels. "Someone to Love Me" maintains a love-gone-bad theme and concludes the side in the melancholy mode that predominates.

"Lonely Morning Blues" picks up with an infectious (if somewhat derivative) riff and displays another, harder vocal character. "Another Year, Another Day" and "Living with Strangers" fuse banner chord progressions with the, by now, reliably emotive lyrics and voice. "Empty Heart", however, provides a moment of indulgence with daughter Kellie's creditable vocal lead on a Michael McDonald cover that only emphasises Chris's writing talent. "Memories of You" completes, in fine poetic style, an assemblage of REAL songs with Chris's power and articulation dominating but not, unfortunately, complimented by a rather ungainly recording.

CHRIS IRELAND

GEORGE WILSON - "WHEN JENNY SMILES"

Mayfly Recordings - MFY 001 (Cassette)

This cassette came to me through the Inter-Federation Artist Exchange, as George is one of the two artists from "SCoFF", who will be here in May. A native Geordie, he spent many years in the Navy, before settling down with his family near Southampton. It is in this area, that his prowess as a performer has reached the dizzy heights of "man most likely to" - hence his inclusion in SCoFF's half of the Exchange.

Some of his material will be well-known to many, including "Farewell To Tarwathie", "They Don't Write Them Like That Any More", Jez Lowe's "Old Bones" and Richard Thompson's "I Want To See The Bright Lights Tonight". Other material includes a couple of Adrian Palmer's and one each from the pens of Lee Collinson, Dave Cousins and Dougie Maclean. Add a couple more and you've got a hefty 13 tracks - not bad for a cassette!

His voice comes through clearly - quite a powerful performer in fact. Occasionally, a slight hesitancy is apparent, which is common with artists, used to projecting their voices naturally and being faced with microphones! Throughout the tape, George makes much use of "open" guitar tunings, the guitar being his accompaniment, and he makes good use of them. The recording is clean, if a bit "dry", and the addition of a touch of reverb, to emulate natural acoustics would not have gone amiss.

All in all, a pretty good first cassette. The weakest number is probably Thompson's "Waltzing", with Jez's "Old Bones" coming over best. The rest of the collection is sound stuff, performed well. I look forward to seeing him live in May and so should you.

PHIL CAPPER

HUGHIE JONES "Hughie's Ditty Bag"

Fellside FECD81

Timeless gems or dated rubbish? These songs have been around for a very long time, but let us not be dismissive too soon. When first aired, more years ago than I care to remember, this material was very well received by large audiences. The Spinners, sadly, are no longer with us, but those who made up those large audiences still are, and they will be delighted by this resurrection.

It is quite possible that the deceptively simple style will, as it did in my case many years ago, appeal to today impressionable youth, and persuade some to investigate folk music as an interesting and social activity.

So, to be brief, Hughie's Ditty Bag should prove a very popular album, but as a source of inspiration to the serious collector or singer its appeal is somewhat limited.

Len Quinn

MAIRE NI CHATHASAIGH & CHRIS NEWMAN "Out of Court"

Old Bridge Music OBMCD03



Anyone who has seen Maire and Chris "live" will already be aware of their breathtaking musical ability. The combination of harp and acoustic guitar may not, on the face of it appear to offer anything exciting or unorthodox. How wrong you would be! From the very first track - "Out of Court" (which I can only describe as a sort of "Hot Club de Ireland") to the final track - "Stroll On", this recording weaves a magical spell on the ear of the listener. It contains everything from slip jigs, single jigs, reels, hornpipes, songs in English and Irish, Carolan tunes, Jazz numbers and a most beautiful solo version on the harp of "The Wild Geese" one of THE great slow airs. I have recordings on this tune by "The Chieftains" and also Seamus and Manus Maguire - Maire's version compares with any. There is also a great version of "The Lakes of Champlain", familiar to me via Sara Grey's singing.

Maire and Chris are joined on various tracks by a veritable connoisseur's choice of great musicians - The Master Piper Himself, Liam O'Flynn, Nollaig Casey on Fiddles, Danny Thompson on Double Bass, Simon Mayor on Mandolin and Mairead Casey on Fiddle. I cannot really find anything to fault this record - the choice of material is superb, the playing is an inspiration, and the interplay between harp and guitar on some tracks in particular defies belief. Go ahead and treat yourselves - buy this and, if they are playing "live" within 50 miles of you, go and see them. You will not be disappointed.

Tony Gibbons

32 **MICK BISIKER**
"HOME AGAIN"

Fellside FECD83 (49:21 running time)

One advantage of doing reviews is that you get to hear people you would not any other way. This is a case in point. I had never heard Mick before and can only assume that he is the same Bisiker that partnered Romanov some time ago.

This CD opens with the self-penned "Home Again" - a little self-indulgent at times, with a non-too-easy chorus and the song is probably a bit too personal for general performance. I was not quite convinced, although a few days on I find myself humming snatches.

Other original songs are "Katy Jane" and "Rainbow's End", which is about the fate of the Rainbow Warrior. Mick's writing is obviously emotional and intense. At times it becomes overly romantic (even schmaltzy), while at the other end of the scale, his downbeat numbers can become gloomier than Leonard Cohen! This particularly applies to the part traditional, part Bisiker/Patterson "Downhills Of Life"

Instrumentally, there is little to fault. I liked his treatment of all the tune sets and his guitar rework of "Sí Beag Sí Mór" led very nicely into "The Rose Of Allendale". The combination of violin and viola was effective and the oboe fitted well.

Most irritating was Mick's voice. No dynamics. Everything on one level, whether it be chorus or tender moment. He also suffers from a Mick Luckhurst/Jonathan Woss lack of the letter R, which unfortunately distracted my attention.

Overall, the material was fairly well chosen and the music was played very well indeed. I was impressed by his guitar and bouzouki work, but I do not suppose that "Home Again" will make it onto the CD player very often and I will not be making a copy for the car!

PHIL CAPPER

"SHANDYLAND" The Tansads

Wayward Records PROBE WAY 31

The Tansads are a young nine piece (yes nine!) outfit from deepest Wigan, who are currently enjoying an increasing degree of commercial success via their live performances throughout the North West supporting such chart people as **The Beautiful South** and **Echo and the Bunnymen**. If you do not know who they are, ask your offspring, who are quite likely to be already Tansads fans.

So, you may ask, young! Huge following! Commercial success! What has that got to do with folk music? Well, they happen to be one of the few sets of people who do not believe that folk music is meant exclusively

for Grandads and Grandmas, that it is only enjoyed by aging hippies or can be properly described as middle aged pop music. Not only do they not believe this myth, they have actually put their money where their mouths are. They have tried to join us with their own interpretation of FOLK. Now I suppose it is up to us. We can encourage or patronise or even do what our parents did in the sixties with the music then - dismiss it as crap. I decided to welcome their efforts as I would anybody else of any age. I said, "Come on in but you'd better be good! There'll be no favours, mates."

So, then to their debut album. I think it is great, full of energy and vibrant with enthusiasm. Their stated aim is to cut through shallow music trends and create something lasting. I cannot say that they are there yet but there is enough in this album to suggest that they will achieve their aim. Melody and songs which try to say something worthwhile without any bandwagon jumping, (a lá Eurovision Song Contest concern for humanity bull...t), it is all there.

If I may be permitted a minor gripe: they have a good vocal line throughout, but I would prefer a touch more subtlety. Angry songs are well and good but I would allow people only one "p...ing in the wind" per album. That said, it must be admitted that without angry songs we may as well all be dead, so perhaps I should not complain.

To sum up then. Could the Tansads possibly be the way forward for folk music? Could they represent the next great folk revival? They can for my money. I would recommend this album to anyone who feels folk music is going nowhere.... they are our future folks, and they are absolutely brilliant.

Lawrence Hoy.

"The Ranchers, 38 Years On (Warts and All)"

(Fain Music, 8 Pensall Drive, Heswall, Wirral, L61 6XP)

Well, I can tell you what this is - and what it is not! It is not a silky smooth studio recording with numerous re-takes or multi-tracking, or with any other embellishments - hence the "Warts and All" in the title. However, it is a record of an exceptional March evening at Neston on the Wirral in Cheshire.

After disbanding some nine years previously The Ranchers were brought together again for a one-off event. It came as a total surprise to the dancers there, to all but one of the organisers, and even to the MC! Arrangements had also been made for the whole occasion to be recorded for the BBC archives. This, then, is a selection from that material, with a wide variety of dances and some Ranchers' standards too, which fairly swings along. Like Max Boyce I can claim "I was there!" and I can assure you that some of the splendid atmosphere generated that night clearly comes through on the tape.

There had not been any prior rehearsals for the band members - they simply had to rely on innate skill and long memories! - but the music they produced certainly lifted us all out of our shoes. Infectious joy in the music, a thoroughly happy evening, and certainly one enhanced by the easy skills of Mike Wilson Jones as MC.

Nostalgia Rules OK. And why ever not? People there on the night will doubtlessly buy this tape; so too will fans of The Ranchers. However, this tape will surely have a much wider appeal - and use - to dancers than simply as easy listening, although it does help motorway journeys to pass incredibly quickly! I would also recommend it as compulsory listening for bands and MCs - and not only those just starting out! The ore one listens to it, the more there is to admire and to note.

Roy Smith

MAL BROWN
"Four Hearts Ache"
"City & Eastern"
"Full Frontal"

One Lorry Music OLM001, OLM005, OLM006

Recorded in 1988, "Four Hearts Ache" is a collection of traditional and self-penned songs that, sadly, suffers from some rather uninspired arrangements. This could be because Mal plays all the instruments on the album - guitar, mandolin, banjo and harmonium (or something that sounds a lot like one!), as well as taking on almost all vocals. At least one other musician could have provided that missing creative tension that so often produces inspiring music.

This is nowhere more evident than on tracks such as "Our Father's at the Helm" which is a mid nineteenth century revivalist hymn that should rouse and inspire! I am afraid that Mal's version is liable to force you into believing that the Devil does have all the best tunes. As for "The Maid of Llanwellyn" - there is no excuse for bum notes on a studio recording!

It is not all bad news, though. Mal's own compositions show plenty of potential - particularly "At It Again". More effort has been put into this one track than the whole of the album. From the humorous vocals to the guitar and mandolin playing, this is the one song that, for me, stands out and could become a club favourite. Mal's other compositions are all creditable attempts that do not quite reach the standard of "At It Again".

I am sorry I cannot be more enthusiastic about this recording, but I do not think I would be being fair to Mal if I was being economical with the truth. The verdict will have to be: 'could do better!' I will wait for the next one.

"City & Eastern" is a nicely balanced blend of self-written and traditional songs, with Mal playing all the instruments except on "Our House" when the kids step in.

He starts with a good strong version of "Will the circle be unbroken", moving on through another traditional song "The Bay of Biscay". The next track is "N.I.M.B.Y.", a self-penned observation of the sort of people who think dirty work is fine as long as someone else does it. On to the beautiful "For Ireland I'll tell not her name", my particular favourite, nice bit o' whistle there lad!

Son Daniel's short poem about Rumania "It snowed today" is given "no fuss" treatment by Dad. Another poem "I'm a Rover" by George Darley is set to music by Mal, managing to give a good traditional flavour to the piece. The guitar sound is of excellent quality on this one, unlike the solo instrument (I assume a mandolin) on "The Shropshire Militia Boys". Mal's Uncle Johnnie could well have used the instrument to kill the animals mentioned in "Johnnie Jones' Rabbit", which is a great anti-war song that tells us of an ordinary man's action in World War 2. The penultimate track is everyone's favourite "Lowlands", featuring some nice harmonies by John Brown.

All in all a pleasantly rounded set, good and honest folk singing with not a frill in sight.

"Full Frontal" is a "Live" tape consisting of 5 songs and 8 monologues, of roughly 34 minutes duration.

THE SONGS:

"No Option" written by Mal is one of those lamentation songs that grow on you, it voices all the thoughts that we go through on the ending of a close relationship. The other song written by Mal, "Shrewsbury Clock" is an amusing piece all about telling porky pies and I am sure it will soon find its way into one or two repertoires. The other 3 songs are Pete St Johns "Ringsend Rose" and two Traditional songs.

All the songs are sung and played well, in an appealing no-nonsense style.

THE MONOLOGUES:

As for these (all by Mal), they are all amusing and fairly brief and based upon the re-working of some very old puns and jokes - just the sort of thing to capture the audience and get 'em groaning. I particularly liked the compounded mistakes in "Naked Cowboy", which certainly added to the humour (and embarrassment factor) in its rendition.

Overall I enjoyed the tape, especially side 2 - and as I have never seen Mal perform, it stands as a good introduction to his club act. However, on the minus side, the tape is brief and side 1 would have benefitted by having at least one extra song on it.

Steve Garry, Dave Jones, John Green

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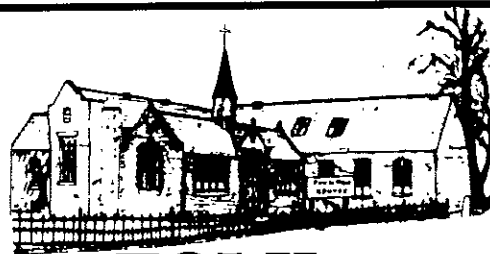
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DAY/CLUB	TIME	CLUB ADDRESS	ORGANISER	PHONE NO.
SUNDAY				
BOTHY	8.00 pm	Blundell Arms; Upper Aughton St.; Birkdale	Clive Pownceby	051 924 5078
EAGLE & CHILD	8.30 pm	Eagle & Child; Main St.; Billinge	Bernie Forkin	0744 53058
LEIGH	8.00 pm	St. Joseph's Sodality Club; Chapel St.; Leigh	Theresa Tooley	0942 892226
LLANDUDNO	8.30 pm	The London Hotel; Upper Mostyn Street; Llandudno	Mel Bowman	0492 622049
THE ALBION	8.30 pm	Albion Hotel; Albion Street; New Brighton	A. Sims	no phone
WHEELTON	8.30 pm	Withy Trees; Higher Wheelton; Lancs	Peter Kirby	0254 830441
FLEECE FOLK	8.30 pm	The Fleece Hotel; Highgate; Kendal	Christine Britton	0539 732647
MONDAY				
HORWICH	8.30 pm	The Toll Bar; Horwich; b	Joyce Riding	0257 792304
POYNTON	8.00 pm	Poynton Folk Centre; Park Lane; Poynton	David Brock	061 483 6521
PRESTON	8.15 pm	The Unicorn; North Road; Preston	Hugh O'Donnell	0772 745498
TRITON	8.30 pm	The Liverpool; James Street; Liverpool	Doreen Rickart	051 256 6180
FOLK at the VIC	8.30 pm	Hotel Victoria; Albion Street; New Brighton	Geoff Dorman	051 639 7928
PUNCH BOWL	8.30 pm	Punch Bowl Hotel; Hoylake; Wirral	'Buddy'	051 678 6713
WHITWORTH	8.30 pm	Red Lion; Whitworth; (on A671)	Len Quinn	0706 357822
TUESDAY				
MAGHULL	8.30 pm	Hare & Hounds; Maghull; b	Dave Day	051 526 6661
YARROW VALLEY	8.30 pm	Grapes Hotel; Croston; Nr. Preston	Mark Dowding	0695 576215
BLACK HORSE	8.30 pm	Black Horse; Grange Rd. West; West Kirby; Wirral	Brian Jones	051 648 5117
TILSTON	8.30 pm	The Garden Arms; Tilston; Cheshire	Martin Green	0829 250516
FROG & FERRET	8.30 pm	The Frog & Ferret; 4; Oat Market; Nantwich	Bob Butler	0270 629324
TAP & SPILE	8.30 pm	The Tap & Spile; Hope Street; Rochdale	Bill Tucker	0706 33038
WEDNESDAY				
BROMBOROUGH	8.30 pm	R.A.F.A. Club; Bromborough Road; Bebbington; Wirral	John Coleman	051 334 8513
RUNCORN	8.30 pm	Castle Hotel; Halton Village; Runcorn	Bob O' Callaghan	051 424 5367
WHITE SWAN	8.00 pm	White Swan; Green Street; Fallowfield	Anne Morris	061 881 8294
8.45 at the SWAN	8.45	The Swan Hotel; (by traffic lights); Kirkham	Phil Capper	0772 684537
THURSDAY				
BEAUMARIS	8.00 pm	Bull's Head Hotel; Beaumaris; Anglesey	John Harley	no phone
BURNLEY	8.15 pm	The Queen's Head; Curzon St. (Near Station); Burnley	Rod Finlayson	0282 39784
COCKERMOUTH	8.30 pm	Tithe Barn Hotel; Station Street; Cockermouth	Terry Haworth	0900 604765
DARWEN	8.30 pm	The Kiosk; Sunnyhurst Woods; Darwen	Chris	0254 706318
FLEETWOOD	8.30 pm	Steamer Hotel; Queens Terrace; Fleetwood	Dave Ryan	0253 876351
GREGSON'S LANE	8.30 pm	Castle Hotel; Gregson Lane; Hoghton	Graham Dixon	0254 853929
MAGAZINE	8.30 pm	Magazine Hotel; Magazine Lane; Wallasey	Jack Coutts	051 220 0152
THE BODDIE SHOP	8.30 pm	Railway Hotel; Heatley; Lymm	Graham Sowerby	0925 65503
THE BUZZ	8.30 pm	Southern Hotel; Mauldeth Rd. West; Manchester 21	Agraman	061 449 7482
FOLK at the GATE	8.30 pm	The Douglas Gate; Orchard Street; Wigan	Joan Blackburn	0942 321223
HASKAYNE	8.30 pm	The Ship Inn; Haskayne; Nr. Ormskirk	Ian Tupling	0695 579545
FRIDAY				
BEE	8.30 pm	Bee Hotel; Bodfer Street; Rhyl	Dave Costello	0745 332488
BLACKBURN	8.30 pm	Bank Hotel; Hope Street; Blackburn	Brian Kirkham	0254 201930
NORTHWICH	8.30 pm	Harlequin Theatre; Queen Street; Northwich	Sarah Burdon	0606 48577
POTTERIES	8.00 pm	Marquis of Granby; Market Place; Burslem; Stoke-on-Trent	Jason Hill	0782 813401
RED LION	8.30 pm	Red Lion Hotel; Wigan Road; Westhoughton	Pat Batty	0942 812301
SATURDAY				
BREWERY ARTS	8.30 pm	Brewery Arts Centre; 122a; Highgate	John Smyth	0539 25133
BURY	8.00 pm	White Lion; Bolton Street; Bury	Charles Fyson	0204 887970
POYNTON	8.30 pm	Poynton Folk Centre; Park Lane; Poynton	David Brock	061 483 6521
SOUTHPORT ARTS	8.30 pm	Southport Arts Centre; Lord Street; Southport	Neil Johnstone	0704 40004
ST. ALBANS	8.30 pm	St. Alban's Parish Hall; St. Alban's Rd; Liscard; Wirral	Steve Eyre	051 677 1430
MECHANICS	8.30 pm	Burnley Mechanics; Manchester Road; Burnley	Ian Wells	0282 30005

POYNTON



CENTRE

FOLK

20TH EASTER FOLK FESTIVAL

APRIL 17 18 19 1992

(Good Friday, Easter Sat & Sun)

ARTISTS BOOKED SO FAR INCLUDE

TOSS THE FEATHERS

THE BARELY WORKS

MARTIN CARTHY & DAVE SWARBRICK

CAUGHT ON THE HOP

GEORGE BOROWSKI DAN AR BRAS

Colin Wilson Banshee(Irish Band) One-Two-Many

Johnny Collins Holly Burton & Ken Powell Geoff Higginbottom

Frank & Brenda Baldwin "Ftumchanargot" Un-Sung Sinners

Tony & Zena Nyland Ann Gregson & Chris Simpson The Two Tones

Last Nickle Drifters Maureen McGuinness and Martin Banks

Compere - Owen Lewis PLUS MANY MORE

JOIN US FOR CONCERTS, CEILIDHS, MORRIS DANCING-
SINGAROUNDS, WORKSHOPS, JAM SESSIONS, CRAFT STALLS,
CAJUN NIGHT (Saturday)

GOOD FOOD, REAL ALE, CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT

TICKETS _____ ADVANCE _____ ON THE DOOR

WEEKEND £15.00 £17.00

FRIDAY £4.50 £5.00

SAT/SUN £9.00 £10.00

CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE

12-16 year olds HALF PRICE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE

CONTACT:- Pauline or Dave Brock on:

0625 875555(Morning) 061 483 6521(Evening)
or phone 0625 872626

OR send SAE to:

POYNTON FOLK CENTRE,

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Cheshire SK12 1RB