

FOLK *North West*

Summer 1992

60p



WHIPPERSNAPPER AT WIGAN Folk Festival!

GOLDEN WEDDING CELEBRATIONS

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CLUBSCENE : RED LION & BURY

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Editorial Address:

118, Bolton Road,
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WIGAN
WN2 1XF

WERNETH FOLK WEEKEND

WERNETH PARK, FREDERICK ST.,
OLDHAM

27th-28th June

SATURDAY

Traditional Hot Pot Lunch from 12 noon accompanied by music in the Conservatory, followed by workshops from 1 p.m.

Songs of Lancashire and the North West with
Brian Peters

North West Music Workshops for any instrument and musicians of any age and ability with
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Guest Spot by **Fosbrook Clog Dancers**

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· Refreshments available

SUNDAY

Free Open Air Concert (indoor if bad weather) commencing 1.00 p.m.

featuring
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Jim Schofield,
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Circus Workshops · Refreshments · Bar

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061-678 4072

OLDHAM 
Leisure Services 

EDITORIAL

WELCOME to yet another issue of Folk North-West, which I hope should get to you sooner than it usually does!

Since last issue, the Magazine Subcommittee has had its first full meeting, at which it was decided to appoint sub-editors to cover certain specific parts of the magazine. Copy for those features should therefore normally be sent to these individuals (their addresses are on page 31)

Record Reviews - Len Quinn

Club Dates/ News/ Gossip etc - Linda Wright

Live Reviews/ Festivals/ events etc - Phil Capper

Letters/ articles /other items - Nigel Firth

This should reduce the burden falling on me as Editor and also allow us to produce the magazine that much quicker. Advertising should be sent to Paul Holden as it is at present.

That is about all for this issue, I will let the contents speak for themselves, and we will see you again at the end of August, in good time for Fylde Folk Festival!

Nigel Firth
EDITOR

CLOSING DATE for our next issue which covers SEPTEMBER/ OCTOBER/ NOVEMBER is JULY 15th. Please note this new (earlier) date

Editorial Address:

118, Bolton Road,

Aspull,

Wigan

WN2 1XF

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

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

OUT & ABOUT with Nat Clare

BACK IN THE PLAYGROUND BLUES

Remember those happy playground rhymes we used to chant together as we frolicked as innocent rosy-cheeked young schoolchildren? No? nor do I. (Well not any that are repeatable, anyway!) What I do remember, however, is being beaten seven bells short of a Westminster chime by some pre-pubescent primary school gangster, who believed that nicking my Wagon Wheel (and weren't they big in those days?) in return for leaving me in possession of my milk teeth, was the height of humanitarian generosity.

Nevertheless, I have been amusing myself of late by composing some typically infantile verses based on the endlessly fascinating language and folklore of schoolchildren. Children are excellent at capturing the essence of topical events. Here are a couple of my latest playground rhymes to get us in the mood for summer. Trouble is, none of the kids will even attempt to sing them - they are much too busy Ninja-ing each other in eye-wateringly painful parts of their anatomy behind the mountain bike sheds!

Inky-Pinky Ponky
Daddy bought a donkey
Neighbours blinked - Donkeys stink
.... but at least its quicker than Metro-Link!

O.K., I know, what about

Wigs are finished! Wigs are out!
Judges wigs are gone!
Wigs are banned throughout the land
Someone tell Elton John!

Excuse me a moment there are two men in white coats knocking at the door and I am sure I have paid the milk....

THE NEXT BUZZ?

I don't know about you but I suffer quite badly from G.M.T., which is that depressing feeling of waiting for a Manchester bus that is always late. Consequently I saved up the train fare and made the Lowryesque journey to that Mecca of the North, the rainy city itself.

After vainly trying to locate a café or bar that wasn't owned by famous media person and big suit wearer Tony Wilson, I ran in to my old mater Agraman - the human anagram - and he was telling me, as is his wont, of the rip-roaring storming Richter scale-bending nights down at "the Buzz".

The bill is varied, eclectic, exciting and unusual and every Thursday you can see the best in world music and top comedy. The club is currently packed out, as

Chorlton boasts (if that is the right word!) a large student population.

The Buzz is closed during the months of July and August as this is traditionally the time when, if you walk past your friendly neighbourhood Social Security Office, you hear the pathetic sounds of a thousand impoverished students collectively crying poverty, as they are unceremoniously told to naff off or, worse still, take out another student loan. (personally I would never dream of loaning a student - I think I would rather go down to the video shop and borrow a copy of "I Spit on your Grant Cheque")

But when the season begins again in September - when in fact I am hoping to be a student myself - you can join me at The Southern Hotel, Nell Lane, Chorlton on Thursday nights. Just ask for N.t Cl.e, the human join-the-dot.

GRUELLING BANJOS

I don't know about you, but sometimes I feel like one of those pompous and patronising pub quiz team captains who get incredibly irritated and begin to tut and blow when fellow members fail to respond correctly to simple questions like "Who wore the widest flares on the cover of The Watsons first L.P.". What transports me to a similar state of apoplexy is when people refer to George Formby and his BANJO! Can you just imagine the Earl Scruggs' version of "Mi little stick of Blackpool Rock"?

Now for those partial to a spot of Bluegrass - apparently grass in some parts of Kentucky has a bluish tinge to it - hence the name. You could do no better than to saddle to saddle up and mosey on down to the "4th North Wales Bluegrass Pickers festival" (Perhaps that should be "nosey" on down!) to be held on July 3rd to 5th in the beautiful Conwy Valley in the village of Trefriw.

From the information I have seen so far this looks like an absolutely cracking event. Do not confuse this amazing musical form with the middle of the road country and western claptrap belted out in the boozier by a redundant musician, do yourself a favour and contact John Les for latest details on 0492 480454.

BOOMER'S STORY?

Nice to see the offer of a free folk club I made in the last issue taken up. Arkwright's Alehouse in Vallet's Lane, Bolton, now has a weekly club on Tuesday evenings. If the organisers contact me I will be only too pleased to publish more details. If not, I will have to come down and check it out for myself - you have been warned!

THE BEST FOLK GROUP IN THE WHOLE WORLD, THE UNIVERSE AND EVERYTHING

Ever dreamt about appearing on Top of the pops or winning the Eurovision Song Contest? No? good because if you are an exceptionally talented musician in the folk tradition your very own Nat Clare is thinking seriously - and this does not happen very often - of putting a folk group together as a diversion to my more bizarre forays into the musical world.

The group would be a sort of Wassailers/ Jolly Jack/ Steeleye Span/ Planxty/ Watsons type of thing and given enough interest would require:

A Concertina/ Accordion Player/ Singer

A fiddle player/ Singer

A guitarist/ Mandolin/ Banjo/ Singer

It is important that the musicians can also sing harmony, although exceptions can be made for exceptionally talented musicians.

At this stage, if you are interested, drop me a line, a demonstration tape or Fifty used five pound notes c/o Folk North-West and we will see what happens.

TRADITION

Sitting apprehensively in the dentist's waiting room trying to stifle inner screams of panic and attempting to look ever-so-unconcerned so as to provide a suitable role model for five-year-olds. I thumbed through a few thousand of the redundant "women's" magazines and -as you do - turned directly to the problem pages at the back when the thought struck me. Why not supply a few dentists with back numbers of Folk North-West?

Whilst not purporting to offer advice to the sexually hung up (or down, as the case may be) it might just tempt a few members of the currently folkless to sample the delights so well bekown to us.

Similarly if you, as many of us are, into keeping traditions and customs alive, you could do much worse than subscribe to the quarterly magazine published by the E.F.D.S.S., "Tradition".

One year's subscription costs a mere £4.50; cheques/ postal orders made payable to the editor: Paul Salmon, Tradition, P.O. Box 57, Hornchurch, Essex, RM11 1DU.

Judging by my dentists periodicals, it is likely to be a long time before we see Tradition in the waiting rooms - have you tried reading Women's Realm in Latin? And you can forget about the sweaty palms, shaking hands, knocking knees and trembling voice ... I am sure all dentists can't be like that!

GRIS GRIS, GUMBO, YA YA

From Louisiana's 'gator-infested swamps you can don your finest Honky-Tonk gear, hang loose as Spanish Moss at the side of bayou and go see three of the

living legends of the Cajun music scene, D.L. Menard, guitar; Ken Smith, fiddle and Eddie Lejeune, accordion. 5

Early booking is advised to see what is probably Louisiana's finest Cajun Band due to play at Southport Arts Centre on Friday June 9th at 8pm. The box office can be contacted on 0704 54011. "Son of a gun we're gonna have big fun..." an' all that. Guaranteed!

FEELING GRIMM?

Here is a novelty, news has just reached me of what is, as far as I am aware, the first attempt of its kind to organise a weekend festival of Storytelling and related arts on folk festival lines.

The event brings together the best storytellers in the British Isles with representatives from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Unfortunately, I save all my best stories for when I stagger home from the Wine Lodge five or six hours late and very imaginative they are too! So much so that I have never yet convinced anyone that they bear any resemblance at all to the truth. It seems such a pity that I can never remember them the following day!

As well as wallowing in the delights of the oral tradition there will be ceilidhs, concerts, walks, workshops, children's entertainment and much more. The event takes place over the weekend of July 17th to 19th at Stokes Barn, Newton House Farm, Much Wenlock, Shropshire, which is on the beautiful Wenlock Edge. Help spread the word!

FESTIVAL FROLICS PART 103

Restraining your Sitar, dust off your exercise sandals, finish knitting the headband, slip into your psychedelic flares and Afghan coat and, when you get back from work, sit down and plan which folk festivals you are going to grace with your presence this season.

WIGAN kicks off the summer season early with their Seventh Festival. It is at Lowton Civic Hall from June 12th to 14th, and guests include Roy Bailey, Whip-persnapper, Four Men and a Dog, Archie, Ray & Cilla Fisher, Brian McNeill, Caught on the Hop and many others. Weekend tickets are £21, and session and day tickets are also available. More details from Bernie Forkin, 38, Bramcote Ave., St. Helens, WA11 9JQ (Please enclose SAE) or tel. 0744 53058.

Over the Pennines (no booing, please) between June 19th and July 5th is Bradford Festival which covers Theatre, Dance, Opera, World Music etc etc. Among those featured are Kozatsky Zabavy, a 32-strong troupe of Ukrainian dancers, singers and musicians who perform (and I quote) "the contemporary and folk tradition of the various regions of the Ukraine from the Carpathians to the Black Sea", Richard Thompson and even Ken Dodd! For a free Colour Festival Programme telephone 0274 309199.

6 It is also festival time at DOLGELLAU - the festival will be known as Sesiwn Fawr Dolgellau (Dolgellau's Mighty Festival) and will be a sort of Welsh Fleadh if you see what I mean. It takes place on July 17th and 18th and you can get more details on 0341 422959.

Nearer to home, on July 18th, is a Community Arts & Folk Festival organised by the New Levellers Folk Club based at 24, Hardman St., Liverpool. Contact Pat Murphy on 051 480 6579 for more details on either the club or the festival.

Further afield is WARWICK on 7-9 August in and around the town centre. Among the artists are Andy Irvine, Lewis Pint & Dale (from Canada), Maire Ni Chathasaigh & Chris Newman, The Voice Squad (from Ireland); this a small selection out of 40 acts. More information from Frances Dixon, 13, Styvechale Ave., Coventry CV5 6DW (or telephone 0203 678738)

FYLDE celebrates its 20th Anniversary this year and takes place in Fleetwood as always over the weekend of 4th-6th of September. There is a full and varied program of events (can they beat last years record of over 100 events!) and among the artist featured this year are Stockton's Wing, Dick Gaughan, Albion Band, Dick Gaughan, Roy Bailey, Debbie McClatchy (U.S.A.), Strawhead and many, many more too numerous to mention. More information from Alan Bell, 55, The Strand, Rossall, Fleetwood, FY7 8NP; telephone 0253 872317.

The Crewe & Nantwich Folk Festival takes place on September 11th, 12th & 13th where you can experience the excellent line-up of international artists, singarounds, workshops, sessions and ceilidhs. There will be a camp & caravan site, a creche and free parking. More details 0270 780042.

CAUGHT ON THE HOP - NEW LINE-UP

New member TERRI replaces Steve Jackman, who is leaving for S. Korea to take up a teaching post.



AND FINALLY

Dance away the heartache or in my case the bellyache by attending the finals of the "Wiggin Ceilidhs" dance competition which will be held on Friday 9th October. The competition is open to anyone who has written a new dance in 1992. First prize is £75, and the closing date is 31st August. More details ring 0942 816569/814404.

Until next time, keep your hobby-horse well watered and your clogs sparking.

See ya, Nat Clare

FOLK MUSIC PROGRAMMES ON LOCAL RADIO

BBC Radio Lancashire
FM 95.5/103.9/104.5
MW 855/1551kHz

LANCASHIRE DRIFT presented by NIC DOW

Sunday 5.30-7.00pm

GMR (Manchester)
FM 95.1 MW 1458kHz

No Programme other than Broadcasting "Folk on the Night Network"

BBC Radio Merseyside FM95.8
MW 1485kHz

FOLKSCENE presented by Stan Ambrose and Geoff Speed

Tuesdays 6.00-7.00pm

On most local BBC Stations:

FOLK ON THE NIGHT NETWORK presented by Henry Ayrton

Thursdays 7.05-8.30pm

The Editor Comments:

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

Even as I write this, Radio 2 is under pressure to become a National "Gold"-type station - no room there for specialist music programmes. Write NOW and support FOLK ON TWO!

DIARY CHAT

7

New Clubs!!

Arkwright's Folk Club, at Arkwright's Alehouse, Vallets Lane, Chorley Old Rd, takes place every Tuesday night at 8.30pm. Residents Charles Fyson (0204 887970) & Rob Malaney aim to concentrate on singer/songwriters, with the emphasis on contemporary material. They are hoping to run workshops on all sorts of themes.

The New Levellers Folk Club is based in the Merseyside Trade Union Community and Unemployed Resource Centre, 24 Hardman St, Liverpool. Styled as "Radical Folk", it will provide a forum for those amongst you who enjoy political folk music (but just to be safe, better stick to left-wing politics!). It is on alternate Thursdays, and guests you've missed include Roy Bailey, Shay Black and Maria Tolly. Contact Pat Murphy on 051 480 6579.

Club Changes

Mick and Sue Darling have taken over the running of Whitworth Folk Club, which is on Monday nights at the Red Lion. Unfortunately, being real-life travellers, they don't have a phone, so you'll just have to hope they haven't moved on.

Beaumaris Folk and Blues Club has changed its name, its night and its venue. But apart from that, it is the same club. Now on a Monday, it has returned to the old name of "Monday Music" and is now held at the Bulkeley Hotel, Castle St, Beaumaris. It will still be referred to as "Beaumaris" on the Diary pages.

Tilston Folk Club is at the Carden Arms, not the Garden Arms.

Jan Phillips is now the contact for the Frog & Ferret club.

Gregson Lane Folk Club has moved to St Joseph's Social Centre, Gregson Lane, and is held on the Second and Fourth Thursday in each month.

Blackburn FC is now at the Foundry Arms, Birley St, Blackburn, on Wednesday nights, and the person to contact is C Clayton 0254 201930, although the club organiser is still Brian Kirkham.

The Eagle & Child Folk Club in Billinge has moved to The Pavilion, still in Billinge, and is now called (you'll never guess!) - The Pavilion Folk Club. Same time, same night, nicer venue.

The Potteries Folk Club moves to a new venue from September 4th 1992. The Albion Hotel, Old Hall St, Hanley, Stoke-On-Trent.

Gregson Lane Folk Club has moved to St. Joseph's Social Centre, Gregson Lane, Hoghton.

Residents:

Runcorn residents are Bob, Dave and Albert.

Arkwright's residents are Charles Fyson and Rob Malaney.

Special Note:

Following the success of the second "Youthquake", the next one is planned to take place at Wigan Festival, on the Sunday afternoon. There will also be one sometime in July - more details from Jenny Shottliff (0695 623641). Based on the idea of music for under-21's by under-21's, only under-21's are allowed to attend. That way, they've no problem with well-intentioned interference. So if you are attending Wigan Festival, and poke your head round the door to find a group of young musicians deeply involved with their music, be prepared to be chased (unless you are under 21, of course).

Further Dates:

Arkwright's FC Reopens Sept 8th

Bee Sep 25th Graham & Eileen Pratt, Oct 23rd Phil Hare, Nov 20th Allan Moller & Chris Knowles

Bothy Re-opens Sept 13th Lewis Pint & Dale, 27th Artisan, Oct 11th John Pearson, 18th Bob Fox & Stu Luckley, 25th Bill Prince, Nov 8th Annie Williamson & Hamish Whiteley, 22nd Mabsant.

Cockermouth Sept 24th Allan Taylor, Oct 8th Andy Caven, Nov 5th The House Band, 26th Stephen Quigg.

Frog & Ferret Sept 15th, Oct 20th, Nov 17th all Folk Nights (don't know if this means no music sessions any more)

Preston Sept 21st Mark Roberts & Sandol Astrausky (USA), Oct 5th Swarbrick, Nov 16th Dave Summers,

Potteries Sept 4th Jez Lowe & The Bad Pennies, 18th Mark Roberts & Sandol Astrausky, Sept 29th Carthy & Swarbrick, Oct 2nd Rhythm Rascals, 16th Graham & Eileen Pratt, 30th Pete Castle, Nov 13th Artisan, 27th Brian Peters

Red Lion Re-open Sept 11th Judy Small, 18th Julie Matthews & Pat Shaw, 25th John Leonard & John Squire, Oct 9th Tripping Upstairs

Southport Arts Oct 21st Tom Paxton, 29th Garry Hall, 30th Gordon Giltrap.

Tap & Spile Sept 22nd Tom McConville, Oct 6th Bernard Wrigley

Tilston Sept 15th Wizz Jones, Oct 13th John Pearson, 27th Jack Orion, Nov 10th Red Ciel

Festivals

July 18th The New Levellers Folk club are having a major folk & arts Festival - phone Pat Murphy (051 480 6579)

21st Nov Gregson Lane Festival Day 3 - in association with Preston Folk Club. With Jez Lowe and the Bad Pennies, Strawhead, Ken Nicol, Stanley Accrington, Carl Hogsden & Jane Threfall, and Cats In The Village.

BITS'N'PIECES

Tony Gibbons the Fifth (vocals, percussion and cittern tuning) will be available for bookings this summer. Contact Tony Gibbons the Fourth for details.

Watch out! Those well-known antediluvian delinquents, George & Joan, will be at a festival near you - soon. Lock all your doors!

Is it true that the next "Across the Divide" will be with Riyad Folk club? (As in Saudia Arabia, of course).

Anyone going to see Cat's Whiskers had better take a magnifying glass - Chris Lock is becoming Maghull's answer to the invisible man.

Yes folks, it is true - Tony Gibbons went without folk music for one whole day after his son was born! Irene, we just hope you appreciate the sacrifice he made.

Arkwright's Folk Club in Bolton is concentrating on singer/songwriters, with the emphasis on contemporary material. They're hoping to run workshops on all sorts of themes. Don't miss Rod Malaney's talk on the differences between Queen Anne and Regency guitars.

Query from Youthquake - is Richard Wood a figment of their imagination?

Well done to The New Levellers Folk Club - they advertise the availability of disabled access. If only more clubs could do the same.

The Bothy regret that they can't contribute any gossip, as they can't afford any libel actions. Cowards! Where's your sense of adventure?

Cockermouth folk club had a full house for the singers night on 27th February, (groans of envy from organisers everywhere!). Club policy on singers nights is anything goes (take that as you will!). Make a point of visiting the club if you're in the Lake District.

Is it true that Haskayne Folk Club is run by the Lemon Drop Kid?

The New Levellers Folk Club, with its bias towards Radical Folk, is having a Major Folk and Arts Festival on July 18th. Will "Since Maggie went away" be the theme song, I wonder?

CLUB RESIDENTS:

ARKWRIGHT'S - Charles Fyson & Rob Malaney

BEE - The Beez Knees

BLACK HORSE - Brian Jones

BLACKBURN - Flat Broke

BOTHY - Clive Pownceby, Pete Rimmer, Ray Rooney, Bev Sanders, Neville Grundy, Keith Mandie

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.

PAVILION - Caught on the Hop, Quartz, Andy Anderson, Pota Portac

FOX & HOUNDS - 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

RUNCORN - Irish Rover (Bob, Dave & Albert)

PRESTON - Th' Antiques Roadshow

ST. ALBANS - Heirloom

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

YARROW VALLEY - Derek Gifford, Mark Dowding, Nothing Yet

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

CLUB REPORTERS

NORTH-WEST LANCASHIRE

Little has changed in this part of the world since the last issue of Folk North West hit the shelves, so look forward to a fairly brief report this time. Basically, none of the existing clubs have closed and no new ones have opened. There have been no changes of resident or organiser and all the normal festivals are busily being planned.

Talking of which, everyone is quite naturally looking forward to the main local event of the year in Fylde Folk Festival, while quite a few of us from The Swan are heading over to Guernsey Folk Festival.

Looking back, there have been some superb nights in the area. Graham Dixon held an excellent concert with Ken Nicol and Chris While, which also featured Carl and Jane, who are rapidly gaining an enviable reputation and will be "one to watch" over the next 12 months. At The Swan, Rosalie and Kath Deighton (from The Deighton Family) gave us a superb evening, with Rosalie's singing pointing towards a successful solo career. Definitely another one to watch out for. A good turn-out witnessed The Taverners' reunion to welcome Blackpool Folk Club's move back to The Raikes Hotel and Phil Hare nearly died laughing at Fleetwood Folk Club, when the club residents fell apart at the seams in hysterical manner - the names have been withheld to protect the guilty!

You should just have time to catch the "Break-through" concert. Ken Nicol has put together a concert, for Breast Cancer research, featuring Chris While, Isaac Guillory, Jez Lowe & The Bad Pennies, Mike Silver, Plan "B" and more at Preston Poly Arts Centre on May 30th. Tickets are £5 in advance, available from Gregson Lane Folk Club, Preston Folk Club and The Music Cellar, Fox St., Preston, or call 0772 454593.

All in all, things are looking pretty healthy for folk music. Let's keep working to make sure of it.

PHIL CAPPER

FEDERATION DEVELOPMENT.

We're looking for clubs who are willing to help us build up some funds for use in federation special projects. Could you hold a fund-raising night? Have a special raffle? Projects such as "Youthquake" were helped at the start by the Fed, so any help you can give will go to a good cause. Try persuading your club organiser to do something to help. Don't just read this - do something!! Contact Dave Day or Linda Wright for more info. (See page 31 for phone numbers)

Linda Wright

FOLK MUSIC AT THE 1992 BRADFORD⁹



JUNE 19th - JULY 5th

Direct from Kiev, KOZATSKY ZABAVY return to the Bradford Festival. This 32-strong troupe of highly popular dancers & musicians, famous on stage & television, will perform both contemporary & folk traditions from the Carpathians to Black Sea. Don't miss them at St. George's Hall on JUNE 28th

WOOL EXCHANGE

Richard Thompson (folk/rock) June 24
Ivo Papisov & orchestra (Bulgarian jazz/folk music) June 29
Altan (Irish Folk)
Bradford Irish Music Association & St. Malichy's Ceili Band June 20

TOPIC FOLK CLUB

(The Peel Hotel, Longside Lane, Bradford)

Dick Gaughan June 19
Bram Taylor June 26
Tom McConville July 3

QUEEN'S HALL

Irish Ceilidh June 20

Street Entertainers appearing at the Festival include:
Caravanserai (June 20/27), Monn de Lune (June 29/July 4), Quicksilver (June 22/23), Knaresborough Mummers (June 27), Raitown Bottlers (July 4), Persephone (June 27)
For a FREE colour Festival programme, tel 0274 309199 in June
General Enquiries 0274 309199 Ticket Bookings 0274 757575

LIVERPOOL FOLK & ARTS FESTIVAL

At "The Flying Picket"
24, Hardman Street
Saturday July 18th 1992

with

**THE ALAN BELL BAND
JIM WOODLAND**

**STANLEY ACCRINGTON
HUGHIE JONES JACQUI McDONALD
TONY GIBBONS BRUCE SCOTT
PETE McGOVERN TONY MURPHY
JACK OWEN RAFAEL CALLAGHAN**
Hank Walters & the Dusty Road Ramblers
Groundpig Arcadian Ladies
Plus Many Others

THEATRE CLOG DANCING
BARBER SHOP POETRY
AMERICAN COUNTRY DANCING
WORKSHOPS STALLS

Tickets:

	Before 27th June	After 27th June
Day & Evening	£9	£11
Day Only	£6.50	£8
Evening Only	£4	£5

CLUBSCENE with Tony Gibbons

THE WHITE LION, BURY

Situated in Bolton Street, Bury Town Centre, the White Lion is what I would term an "old-style" Folk Club, based on a pretty small room, seating about 25-30 people. It takes me back to the days when a folk club was there for the sole intent of presenting good folk music and encouraging people to participate either by performing or just joining in. The banter, between performers and the audience, was good-humoured and made the whole night very informal. I was pleasantly surprised when a small music session started up during the interval - I know this used to be the case at Preston, but I cannot recall any others. It is not a bad idea if you have the musicians available.

The night could have started earlier, although the weather was atrocious. Various residents were on hand to perform and even though there was a guest booked, time was afforded to a couple of floor singers. There was no disturbance from the bar as that is outside the room. No stairs to climb - the room is on the ground floor! The musical policy of the club is definitely on the traditional side, though yours truly sang a Beatles song and got away with it!

I quite enjoyed my trip to Bury, especially to hear an audience join in with everything. Charles Fyson and Co., are doing a grand job and should be supported by any local with nothing to do on a Saturday night. They will even let you sing if you want to!

Tony Gibbons

THE RED LION, WESTHOUGHTON

Well, I finally made it! After many years to resisting the temptation to visit this club (for reasons which I will clarify later), I was persuaded by our esteemed Chairman to give it a try. He assured me that I would have a good time. Here is what I found:

The Red Lion is a fine old pub set in the heart of Westhoughton. The pub is full of character. To reach the Folk Club Room there are a number of stairs to negotiate - but this is a complaint I have with most clubs! The room itself is one of the best I have seen - well set out, no obstructions, good acoustics, a small bar at the back that does not interfere with the night, a more than adequate stage, and a P.A. system engineered from the back of the room (superbly handled, may I add). The Resident group - "Auld Triangle" are as good as you would get anywhere. They ran the night efficiently, starting spot on time (a lesson to most other clubs I have visited!) and kept

things running smoothly. The audience received the guest well and gave good order. There was also a pre-booked "floor spot" for "Carl and Jane" who, I am sure, you will hear a lot more of in the near future. All in all, an enjoyable evening. You would have thought, I suppose, that I came away from there feeling completely satisfied?

Sorry to disappoint you, but I was not. The one thing missing that I expect to find in any folk club was the presence of floor-singers, i.e. people who turn up "on spec" to perform. It is a personal thing with me, I know, but I have always maintained that a "true" folk club is one that is open to all, regardless of standards. Were folk clubs intended to be just a shop window for those with a special talent or were they meant to be for anyone who wanted to participate and contribute to the proceedings? I prefer to think of the latter. Where will the so-called "stars" of the future come from if not given the chance to perform, or anyone who just wants to sing/play/dance, etc., just for the hell of it? Most of the best nights I have enjoyed in Folk Clubs have been singers' nights, or nights with a booked guest, only to be pleasantly surprised when someone gets up and does something you might not have been prepared for.

I do not want to criticise too much - I have already pointed out what I think are the positive aspects of this club (and there are many) and anyone looking for a perfect night out could do worse than to try this club. However, perfection is not everything.

Tony Gibbons

YOUTHQUAKE!



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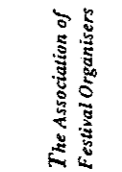
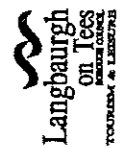
Guests so far booked include:

Hugh Rippon, Peeping Tom, The Doonan Family Band,
Dab Hand, Gibb Todd, Pete Betts, Derek Elliott, Jim Sharpe,
Th' Antiques Road Show, Bob Greenwoods Rhythm Rascals,
Dave Summers, Stockton's Wing, Vin Garbutt, The Watsons,
Chaz, Little Green Monkeys, Jim & Lynette Eldon,
Martyn Harvey, Steve Gardhams All Stars Band, The Wilsons,
Mrs Ackroyd's Band, Artisan, Jenny Bashford, Bread & Roses,
Strawhead, Dougie Maclean Band, The Lizards, Fred Jordan,
South Bank Grunter's, Ollie Blanchflower and Melonie Harrold,
Beggars Velvet, Pete Fleming, Marie Little, Cleveland Bays,
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YOUTHFUL PERSPECTIVE:

"Catch 22" by Joe Broughton

Due to the single handed efforts of Jenny Shottliffe, you should have heard the rumblings of a Youthquake. If you have always been a head nodder but never known where to start, relax because Jenny has done it for you! The young folkies are getting it together. Two successful workshops have already taken place and the numbers are growing, slowly but surely. There must be more of you out there, wanting to join in sessions, meet other young musicians, extend your repertoire, build your confidence and have a laugh too! All you need is to be under 21. Of course, being over 21 does not excuse you from giving support. Any ideas will always be welcomed and your ears at concerts are essential.

Although things are going well, we could still do with a few more Dave Day's. His youth concerts at Melling Tithebarn prove that the talent amongst young performers is forever flourishing. It has already been reported that the young peoples' music can be exciting, inspiring, moving and comprehensively entertaining. In the Autumn 91 issue of Folk North West, Jack Coutts wrote that he was inspired and captivated by Kate Rusby, mesmerised by Ceri Ann Huws, knocked out by yours truly and my brother, Ben, breathtaken by Pota Por Tac (Jenny Shottliffe and Co.) and amazed by Ingrid Henderson. What more can one say!

Do you run a folk club or festival? Are you an influential artist or do you like to hear young musicians? We really do need your help. With so

many brilliant young musicians around - and I do not mean they are brilliant for their age, they are stunning by anyone's standards - it is unbelievable how few there are performing. In many cases, including my own, we are desperately trying to find places to play. So many people rant and rave about the dying folk scene and the ageing audiences, when one of the main problems is quite obvious. If you do not encourage, accept and promote the younger generation, who will continue it? We can only do so much, after all we can't book ourselves into clubs and festivals. I appreciate it is a risk to book unknown artists, however good they are but someone has got to do it. We will not go away if you ignore us! I think the main problem is that nobody will book us till they have seen us and nobody will be able to see us till they book us Catch 22!

There are people who encourage us and I am really grateful to them. Things are definitely going in the right direction (slowly). Workshops are running, organisers are encouraging and most important of all - the music is making. So the message is: KEEP GOING!!

If you are going to Wigan festival this year, watch out for the Under 21's workshop (if you are under 21) and if you have any ideas or criticisms, or you want some young folkies for your festival or club, then get in touch with me, (0224 318750) or Jenny Shottliffe (0695 623641) and if there is a new or young act on at your folk club, go and see for yourself. I think you will be surprised!

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

by Jenny Shottliffe

Do you remember a while ago I asked if there were more than 3 youths in the whole of the Fed area? There are, at present count, 14, and I can name all of them! I know just how much confidence/guts it takes to join in with something new/strange but Youthquake has a very friendly and down to earth atmosphere and is run by your contemporaries. There is very little specifically for U21's, and you never know, you might enjoy it.

If you decide I'm a bad-tempered harridan and never want to see me again then fair enough, you can compare notes with our secretary Richard, but at least you'll have tried.

Wigan Folk Festival is a fairly painless chance to see what we're like (a session ticket for this workshop will be available). We aren't trying to produce amazing soloists, just to give other young people the same chances we have had to take part and not just spectate.

What do we do? Well, we play by ear (not as painful as it sounds), look at rhythm in terms of alcohols and whiskys (that bit always goes down well) and after that, ideas to liven things up. On good days you'll even get a nickname from Joe... I don't want to know what they all call me!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Monday Music...

Beaumaris folk & blues has changed venue and nights to Mondays, at the Bulkeley Hotel (right opposite our old venue of the "Bull", which became too small to house us). We are going back to our old title of "Monday Music", which is how we started. We now meet in the Ballroom, which has a great atmosphere, with candlelit tables, subtle lights and a good P.A. Singers nights are free admission, and in May we will run workshops for beginners in the hour before the club starts (7.30 - 8.30). The workshops, which will feature different instruments - guitar, flute, mandolin etc - will deal with basic skills like tuning, simple arrangements, how to get the best out of the P.A., use of capos (could be interesting on flute night), and all the other stuff you pick up over the years and forget to tell people who are starting out. Hopefully it will prove popular and a lot of fun.

There are now full facilities for a good "live" recording should anybody want it, as we can do a separate mix for the tape and the room.

We are open for all types of acoustic music and we seem to get quite a wide age range, so nobody is too old or too young to play. At present you have to be younger than 7 years or older than 70 years to get in the record.

If anyone wants any any more information they are welcome to write, either direct to me (at Bo Dawel, Llanfaes, Beaumaris, Isle of Anglesey) or c/o the Bulkeley Hotel, Castle St, Beaumaris.

John Harley.

Thanks to all...

Just a few words to say thank you to all the folk clubs that supported the benefit party in celebration of our Golden Wedding Anniversary. How it was kept a secret for so long "God above knows"; you see we were always turning up at various Folk Clubs. Dave Day did a magnificent job in organising the whole thing. "Dave you are a little belter". Both of us were overwhelmed by the good wishes, gifts and cards, also the gorgeous anniversary cake. Even up to now we are still on cloud nine.

Once again a big thank you to Maghull, Billinge, Haskayne, Leigh, Bodyshop, Triton, Runcorn and Warrington Folk Clubs.

Yours always in friendship

George and Joan Gallimore

... and Praise, not Brickbats

I obtained a courtesy copy of "Folk North West" from one of last year's festivals and have since become a subscriber.

I would like to say what good value it is in respect of its contents, consistency and particularly readability. It's great not to have got out the magnifying glass to read an article as is the case with many other folk magazines.

I look forward to many more editions and am amazed how you produce such a quality item for the price without any apparent sponsorship from Arts Councils or the like.

May you long continue.

C. Grange, Northants

THE EDITOR COMMENTS:

It is nice to receive some praise for once; I hope that it might stir others to write and tell us what you think about the magazine; after all it is YOUR magazine as much as it is the Federation's. (Oh and by the way, it is done without ANY sponsorship from "Arts Councils and the like".

Help wanted....

Dear Editor,

Can anybody shed some light on the rules about Performing Rights payments? Should the landlord pay? Who to? What for? Does anybody currently pay the PRS for material used at their folk club?

S. Ford.

WHY NOT CONTRIBUTE?

Perhaps you agree or disagree with some or all of these letters; perhaps you can help solve someone's problem; perhaps there is a burning issue you want to raise?

Whatever it is, why not write to FOLK NORTH-WEST and we will publish it in our letters column.

Write to :

The Editor (Nigel Firth),

Folk North-West,

118, Bolton Road,

Aspull,

WIGAN WN2 1XF

DANCEABOUT

News on Social, Morris, Sword and Clog Dance

This time I will begin by answering one of my own questions: Yes! You can still obtain tape recorder/player machines with variable speed control. Just consult with The Electra Centre, 50 Lancaster Road, Preston, telephone (0772) 58488 - about 50 yards from the front entrance to the Guild Hall complex.

On then to the unflagging ceilidh scene: starting off with the Ran Tan Band's appearance at the Wiggin Ceilidh on 12th June; Steve Burgess's "Horse's Brawl" are at the Bothy Ceilidh on 26th June; its "Cinq Without Trace" on 10th July - Wiggin again, and Leyland's "Bats in the Barn" Ceilidhs have a Cajun Night on 11th July with "Flatville Aces". The International Folklore Fiesta at Lancaster and Morecambe always features a barn dance: this year it will be on Monday 24th August, at the Lancaster Town Hall with Hoghton Band and Pat Wilkinson.

There is little information to hand concerning the local Morris & Sword teams activities over the next few months but, if you turn up at Leyland Festival on 6th June, you will see quite a number of them in action and there is also a Music Tent featuring local folk singers and musicians. The following weekend Leyland Morris Men are dashing about to Ribchester, Longridge Field Day, and the Viking Extravaganza on Preston's Avenham Park (going to kick them to death, are they!)

On the last Saturday in June you will have to choose between the Abram Morris Dancers, doing their annual perambulation around the area, and taking the sea air at Lytham where you can see several teams in the local Club Day festivities (both morning and afternoon).

Rochdale's Rushbearing takes place in early August (7th - 9th) which is organised by the Lancashire Folly team; this event also includes its own mini-festival. The following Saturday features the Preston Guild Day of Morris Dancing - likely to involve some twenty teams or more dancing in the town centre throughout the day. There is an evening ceilidh too, with provision for both wet and dry conditions, on the Flag Market or under the old covered market. The evening will be shared between the Old School Band and the Hoghton Band - both local.

To round off the month of August the Royal Lancashire team have their own Weekend of Dance in Preston town centre (Saturday 29th). Then on Saturday, 5th September it is the Preston Guild Torchlight Procession which will feature many of the local teams. Preston Royal Morris Dancers are also involved in the Fylde Folk Festival at Fleetwood that same weekend - so will have a bit of dashing about to do!

I must say that all the bits of information which have come my way recently, THE most intriguing upcoming event appears to be the Grand Ball of Europe, 15th - 19th July, to be held near Moulins in the heart of France. There are three Workshop Sessions daily, with up to nine different types of dance on offer at each session; from Alsace to Walloon, and from Oriental to Swedish to Quebecois. Wow! (you can even do English, Scottish, Irish and Clog). Evening dances go from 9.30 pm to dawn, with a change of band about once an hour; two indoor and one open-air dance floors. Special event on the Sunday is The Night of the Bouree - 100 bourrees on the programme. The mind boggles!

If all that is not sufficient, why not book for the pre-event, running from 11th - 14th July at St. Chartier, AND for the Grand Ball Extension, 20th - 27th July???? I felt quite tired just reading about it all! Anyway, the person to contact for information and travel advice is Jessica Abrahams, Low Greendale, Wasdale, Cumbria, CA20 1EU, Telephone (09467) 26325, or you could go direct to Bernard Coclet, Telephone (010 33) 70 42 13 33; or Answerphone information is on (010 33) 70 42 14 42. You can even obtain tickets which include meals as well as the workshops and dances. Choose between modern (and free!) camping facilities adjacent to the festival site, the municipal campsite, Bed & Breakfast, or an Hotel. See if you can come up with a name to equal that of a German band scheduled to take part: 'Folklore Dick'!

Just to round off, I mention several items from the previous issue of "Folk North West" which caught my eye - starting off with the articles on "Fancy a Folk Club?", and of going where you are welcomed. Leyland Morris Men did a charity spot in early March for a local children's home, held at the Blue Anchor, Bretherton: having volunteered to go for free they were then given free beer, free food and "something for the hat". They were absolutely Gobsmailed! It made rather a change from the "Can't-you-come-for-nothing-it-IS-for charity" approach of some organisers.

Mention of the Liverpool Irish Centre made me wonder if they still have the Liverpool Ceilidh Band. I have fond memories of MC'ing a lively evening with them.

Finally, the note about the Under 25's "Carrying it on - 3" concert: were there any clog dancers or such in the line-up? We have still to cross our own divides!!

Keep dancing everyone!

Roy Smith

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Editorial Address

Sunday	7-Jun	14-Jun	21-Jun	28-Jun	
BOTHY	Singers Night	Syncopace	Singers Night	Chris While & Ken Nicol	
FLEECE FOLK					
LEIGH	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	
LLANDUDNO	Geoff Higginbottom	Singers Night	Singers Night	Hands In Pockets	
PAVILION	Singers Night	FOLK FESTIVAL	Singers Night	The Old Lamb & Flag	
THE ALBION	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
WHEELTON	Music Session	Music Session	Music Session	Music Session	
Monday	1-Jun	8-Jun	15-Jun	22-Jun	29-Jun
HORWICH	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
BEAUMARIS	Singers Night	Singers Night	Full House	Singers Night	Singers Night
PRESTON	Singers Night	Quartz	Fleetwood Players	Singers Night	Singers Night
PUNCHBOWL	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
TRITON	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
WHITWORTH	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Tuesday	2-Jun	9-Jun	16-Jun	23-Jun	30-Jun
ARKWRIGHT'S	Jon Harvison	Singers Night	Workshop	Hands In Pockets	Derek Gifford
BLACK HORSE					
FROG & FERRET	Music Session	Music Session	Folk Night	Music Session	Music Session
MAGHULL	Guest or	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
TAP & SPILE	Night Shift	Singers Night	Les Barker	Singers Night	Hankey Park
TILSTON	Singers Night	John McCormick (USA)	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
WHITWORTH	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
YARROW VALLEY	Singers Night & Morris Team	(Closed)	(Closed)	(Closed)	(Closed)
Wednesday	3-Jun	10-Jun	17-Jun	24-Jun	
BROMBOROUGH	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
BLACKBURN	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
8.45 AT THE SWAN	Alternate	'Open house'	or guest		
RUNCORN	Singers Night	Guest t.b.a	Singers Night	Guest t.b.a	
WHITE SWAN	Leon Rosselson	Singers Night	Pete Coe	Julie Felix	
Thursday	4-Jun	11-Jun	18-Jun	25-Jun	
BURNLEY	Marie Little	'Open House'	Featured Singers	Derek Brimstone	
COCKERMOUTH	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Julie Felix	
DARWEN	Closed	Singers Night	Closed	Singers Night	
FLEETWOOD	Jean Wrigley	Singers Night	Singers Night	Eddie Upton	
FOLK AT THE GATE	Nick Dow & Dave Molloy	Singers Night			
GREGSON LANE	Closed	Singers Night	Closed	Singers Night	
HASKAYNE	Singers Night	Singers Night	Sara Grey	Singers Night	
MAGAZINE					
NEW LEVELLERS	Groundpig	Closed	Garva	Closed	
THE BODDIE SHOP	Leon Rosselson				
THE BUZZ	Como No?	Jeremy Hardy	Whiskey Priests	Closed	
*MECHANICS		Jimmy Witherspoon			
*SOUTHPORT ARTS	Dave Swarbrick				
Friday	5-Jun	12-Jun	19-Jun	26-Jun	
BEE	Singers Night	Singers Night	Brian Peters	Singers Night	
POTTERIES	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	
RED LION	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	
*BOTHY				Horses Brawl - Cellidh	
Saturday	6-Jun	13-Jun	20-Jun	27-Jun	
BURY	David Campbell	Singers night	Bram Taylor	Mary Asquith	
POYNTON	Guest tbc	Bilbo Baggins - Cellidh	Johnny Silvo	Shake The Dice - Cellidh	
ST ALBANS		Once a month=>	Singers Night		
*FOLK AT THE GATE	Garva				
SOUTHPORT ARTS		Bob Brozman			

Sunday	5-Jul	12-Jul	19-Jul	26-Jul	
BOTHY	Garva	Singers Night	Allan Taylor	Closed	
FLEECE FOLK					
LEIGH	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	
LLANDUDNO	Singers Night	Singers Night	Guest tba	Singers Night	
PAVILION	Singers' Night	Singers' Night	Singaround	CLOSED	
THE ALBION	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
WHEELTON	Music Session	Music Session	Music Session	Music Session	
Monday	6-Jul	13-Jul	20-Jul	27-Jul	
BEAUMARIS	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
HORWICH	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
PRESTON	Kalinka	Singers Night	Singers Night	Damien Barber	
PUNCHBOWL	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
TRITON	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
WHITWORTH	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
Tuesday	7-Jul	14-Jul	21-Jul	28-Jul	
ARKWRIGHT'S	Jean Wrigley	Singers Night	Gemini	Plan B	
BLACK HORSE					
FROG & FERRET	Music Session	Music Session	Folk Night	Music Session	
MAGHULL	Guest or	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
TAP & SPILE	Singers Night	Bob Williamson	Singers Night	Guest tba	
TILSTON	Carolina Shout	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
WHITWORTH	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
YARROW VALLEY	Singers Night & Morris Team	(Closed)	(Closed)	(Closed)	
Wednesday	1-Jul	8-Jul	15-Jul	22-Jul	29-Jul
BROMBOROUGH	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
BLACKBURN	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
8.45 AT THE SWAN	Alternate	'Open house'	or guest		
RUNCORN	Singers Night	Guest t.b.a	Singers Night	Guest t.b.a	Singers Night
WHITE SWAN	Pete Morton	Singers' Night	Eddie Upton	Stanley Accrington	Guest (TBC)
Thursday	2-Jul	9-Jul	16-Jul	23-Jul	30-Jul
BURNLEY	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
COCKERMOUTH	Gordon Tyrall	Brian Peters	Mick Sheenan & the Weasel Brothers	Singers Night	Gloria Hays & Heather Innes
DARWEN	Closed	Singers Night	Closed	Singers Night	Closed
FLEETWOOD	'Ballads, Booze & Blues'	Night In Gaol	Singaround	Pete Castle	Singers Night
FOLK AT THE GATE					
GREGSON LANE	Closed	Singers Night	Closed	Singers Night	Closed
HASKAYNE	Singers Night	Singers Night	Th'Antique Roadshow (tbc)	Closed	Closed
NEW LEVELLERS	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
MAGAZINE					
THE BODDIE SHOP	Huw & Tony Williams				
THE BUZZ	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Friday	3-Jul	10-Jul	17-Jul	24-Jul	31-Jul
BEE	Singers Night	Singers Night	Derek Gifford	Singers Night	Singers Night
POTTERIES	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
RED LION	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Saturday	4-Jul	11-Jul	18-Jul	25-Jul	
BURY	Graham & Eileen Pratt	Closed	Closed	Closed	
POYNTON	Junior Drama Prod'n	Caught on the Hop - Cellidh	Guest tbc & Geoff Higginbottom		
SOUTHPORT ARTS	McCauley, Reed & Vidrine				
ST ALBANS		Once a month=>	only		
*FOLK AT THE GATE	Irish Guest tba				

Sunday	30-Aug	2-Aug	9-Aug	16-Aug	23-Aug
BOTHY	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
FLEECE FOLK					
LEIGH	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
LLANDUDNO	Ian Walker (tbc)	Singers Night	Hughie Jones	Singers Night	Singers Night
PAVILION	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
THE ALBION	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
WHEELTON	Music Sesssion	Music Session	Music Session	Music Session	Music Session
Monday	31-Aug	3-Aug	10-Aug	17-Aug	24-Aug
BEAUMARIS	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
HORWICH	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
PRESTON	Singers Night	Singers Night	Lennon & Higham	Singers Night	Singers Night
PUNCHBOWL	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
TRITON	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
WHITWORTH	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Tuesday		4-Aug	11-Aug	18-Aug	25-Aug
ARKWRIGHT'S		Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
BLACK HORSE					
FROG & FERRET		Music Session	Music Session	Folk Night	Music Session
MAGHULL		Guest or	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
TAP & SPILE		Singers Night	Plan B	Singers Night	Guest tba
TILSTON		Mark T.	Singers Night	Singers Night	New Hokum Boys
WHITWORTH		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
YARROW VALLEY		Closed	(Closed)	(Closed)	(Closed)
Wednesday		5-Aug	12-Aug	19-Aug	26-Aug
BROMBOROUGH		Singers night	Singers night	Singers night	Singers night
BLACKBURN		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
8.45 AT THE SWAN		Alternate	'Open House'	or guest	
RUNCORN		Guest t.b.a	Singers Night	Guest t.b.a	Singers Night
WHITE SWAN		Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
*SOUTHPORT ARTS		Steve Riley & The Manao Playboys			
Thursday		6-Aug	13-Aug	20-Aug	27-Aug
BURNLEY		Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
COCKERMOUTH		Full House	Singers Night	Artisan	Ken Nicol & Chris While
DARWEN		Singers Night	Closed	Singers Night	Singers Night
FLEETWOOD		Singaround	Jane Threlfall & Carl Hodgson	Singers Night	Singers Night
FOLK AT THE GATE					
GREGSON LANE		Closed	Singers Night	Closed	Singers Night
HASKAYNE		Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
NEW LEVELLERS	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
MAGAZINE					
THE BODDIE SHOP					
THE BUZZ		Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Friday		7-Aug	14-Aug	21-Aug	28-Aug
BEE		tba	tba	tba	tba
POTTERIES		Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
RED LION		Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Saturday		1-Aug	8-Aug	15-Aug	22-Aug
BURY	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	
POYNTON					
ST ALBANS		Once a month==>	only		

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The Pot At The End Of The Rainbow

The tables were set, the food laid out, the guests had arrived. Melling Tithebarn had never looked more grand - banners, balloons, flower arrangements and the most exquisitely hand-decorated cake you have ever seen. It was 8.15pm on Saturday, April 4th, 1992, and the culmination of over 6 months planning was at hand. Never before had so many folkies worked together to preserve a common secret. The planning had started the summer before - whispered conversations, letters to be written, people to be contacted. Make sure you note the date in your diary - will your club be sending a representative? - don't forget, will you? The occasion was called "A Spectacular", and it was said that for various reasons, the names of the guest artists could not be revealed. Tickets were distributed, and everyone was told to be there by 8.

Sshhh! They're here! Keep the doors closed! Be quiet! The unsuspecting guests of honour entered through the main doors, to a rendition of "It's good to see you", by over 100 voices, and to banners proclaiming:

**Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary,
George and Joan!**

A full evening's entertainment had been organised by friends of the bemused couple. Many folk clubs, were represented - Maghull, Haskayne, Leigh, Billinge, the Triton, Burnley, Preston, and others besides. George & Joan Gallimore are known all over the North-West, and the folk clubs took a great delight in helping to keep the secret. White Hart, a trio from Barnsley way, re-formed especially to sing for them. Ian Tupling and Chris Lock sang a song written for the occasion. Almost every club there that night was represented on the stage, and George & Joan were entertained by some of the best folk artists in the North West.

Towards the end of the evening, the couple were beckoned on to the stage. One by one, friends came towards them with gifts from all over the British Folk World. "Two tickets for Poynton Festival",... "Two tickets for Holmfirth",... "2 tickets for Wigan" (and how they managed to persuade BF to part with them is puzzling us all),... "2 tickets for Redditch",... "2 tickets for Stainsby",... "2 tickets for Crewe and Nantwich",... "2 tickets for Fylde",... "2 tickets for Warwick Festival, plus accommodation for the weekend at the Lord Leicester Hotel, courtesy of the festival organisers". The list seemed endless, and during the course of the presentations, Joan was heard to say "All the festivals we go to if we can afford it" and "If you could see us working our finances out...". Martin Wyndham-Reed, Brian MacNeill and The Wilsons, favourites of George & Joan, had all sent tapes recorded especially for the duo. Martin W-R would have been there in person but for the fact that he was in Australia! The money collected at the door (we all

George & Joan Gallimore



paid for our "tickets" to the event) and in the raffle totalled £250. This was provided for expenses money to the festivals.

At the end of the presentation, Joan, never to be outdone, turned to her husband and said "It's a good job I gave you 2 tablets at a quarter to eight!".

Three events took place "around and about" that evening. The second was Phil Boardman's birthday, for which he received a selection of whiskies. A running joke of "Has she had it yet, Tony?" developed into the third. Irene Gibbons decided that she had waited long enough to have her baby, and after beating a hasty retreat from the party, gave birth to Anthony Gibbons The Fifth in the early hours of the following morning.

This time, the rainbow had a pot of gold at both ends. Who says the folk world is withering? When so many can work together on such a project, and give so much pleasure, then have no fears - the folk community is going from strength to strength.

Linda Wright

POYNTON EASTER FOLK FESTIVAL

Poynton Easter Folk Festival. What shall I say, "Just the same" is rather an understatement. The building is still an old school in a rather run down condition. The singarounds are still up in the attic with all the trappings on the walls and ceiling, with me having kittens in case any fell off.

The singarounds were quite good but people made very noisy entrances and exits at various times even when someone was singing. One thing that really pleased me at one of the singarounds, a couple of children sang songs, one in particular was "Little Fishes", many memories of few years ago and Hester Woods singing the same song. Alan Bond agreed with me, as I said "not a dry eye".

Colin Wilson tried his best to keep a tight ship over the "Fringe Concert" but again the noisy comings and goings of other festival guests and some of the other artists made for a disappointing concert. One lady called Holly Barlow from the U.S.A. I thought had a good tone to her voice while Frank Baldwin recited a good monologue about "Old Dun Cow and McIntyre", who set fire to the pub and I thought it was great.

"Doom gloom and Daft Ditties" with Alan Bond was poorly attended and though we both enjoyed it, with some good laughs and songs. Unfortunately our enjoyment was marred again by the comings and goings during the session.

Brenda Baldwin ran a puppet workshop for children; I was quite taken with her puppet that was fastened to a stick pushed into a belt around her waist and worked by strings, etc., I certainly wished I was a girl again, and could try it out!

Later we went into the main hall where the P.A. had not been well set up. Gary, of Gary and Vera fame, sounded just as if he had the hiccups. Gary did mention it but nothing was done. We stayed to see a group called "Unsung Sinners". I thought they could be good as I had seen a couple of them carrying cellos. Unfortunately they were more like a rock group to me, bringing back memories of the days of shouting "Turn that Down" to my son. For all that many festival goers went wild with delight as they also did with a group called The Tansads. But for me my head and ears were in a bad way.

We kept mainly to singarounds on Sunday, when I had a pleasant surprise a group called "FTUME-HONARGOT" (Yes! it is true). We had heard them in main hall but were not impressed. They came up to the attic to host the singaround and without a P.A. they were very good. A young man on the bones was excellent; there was a very good girl whistle player; the only one really that needed a "mike" was the (male) lead singer. Guess what? - a young girl played a "Tea Chest, Brush Steel and long piece of string", memories of "Lonnie Donnigan", some young girl played a good tin whistle, but again we were unfortunately put out by the comings and goings during the singing. By this time I was beginning to feel

rather angry. There seemed to be people at the festival who couldn't sing or play anything, 21 they didn't want to listen or join in with us and yet we had to listen to their senseless noisy chatter.

As you may guess, I don't think I will visit Poynton again, not until there are some changes to help to make it more enjoyable for those who really go for the folk music.

Joan Gallimore

EDITOR'S NOTE: This review was done by Joan Gallimore as a result of the free tickets they were provided with on their 50th Wedding Anniversary (see previous page), and should be seen in that context, rather than that of a conventional review.

MELANIE HARROLD & OLLIE BLANCHFLOWER

It is often difficult to convince the unconverted that the variety of music heard in a folk club is such that there is something for everyone's taste and every so often you hear artists who are different and imaginative.

To me, these two artists combine to produce a sound which is varied, imaginative and different. Their completely different personalities give a pleasant mix, I found Melanie's bubbly and electric, supported by a not over intrusive sense of humour, whereas Ollie is quiet and introverted, leaving all the exuberance and extrovert tendencies to be conveyed through his ability to conjure the double bass into life.

I have seen this duo twice this Spring: once during one of Maghull Folk Club's successful multi artist concerts at the Melling Tithebarn, where each artist does a 30 to 40 minute programme, giving the audience a taste of their talent, and on a second occasion during a full booking at the Red Lion, Westhoughton. On both occasions they made me feel that they had given the audience the respect that some artists lack. They came out to entertain, excite and satisfy with few faults and flaws showing. We all experience the problems mentioned in the words of Melanie Harrold's "Jigsaw", the song says -

"The way that you learn to laugh at yourself in the middle of a song as the pick falls from nervous fingers and you get the words all wrong".

This might have happened to Melanie but she has the ability and personality to overcome such a minor hiccup easily. The only off putting trait is the intense way in which Melanie stares at Ollie during instrumentals, and the smoke from Ollie's flying fingertips!

I am sure that they will give most people something to enjoy whether it is the interesting lyrics used in songs such as "Jigsaw", "Blind Alley" or the jazz inspired bass on most of the songs, especially such things as "Satin Doll" or the haunting unaccompanied rendition of "The Last Leviathan".

Try to see this duo and "feel the value"!

Ian Tupling

CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS

I always believed we could do it if we tried - eventually we did! Yes - Folk Clubs can co-operate - a blinding flash at least on a par with Saint Paul's on the road to Damascus.

All it took was a Golden Wedding of a very popular couple.

My personal thanks to everyone involved in making George and Joan's surprise "Do" such a wonderful evening. Co-operating clubs included Billinge, The Boddie Shop, Haskayne, Leigh, Maghull, Runcorn, Triton and Warrington. Everything went like clockwork thanks to hard work and effort from many, many people. They know who they are so I will not embarrass them by naming them publicly.

The lesson to be learnt is that we are able to do it - so if we can come up with another good reason we could do other things together as well - now that would be revolutionary!!!

Thanks are also due to all who came to perform - a special word for "White Hart" who re-formed (or should it be reformed!!) for the evening, then, due to travel problems etc., from Barnsley did not have chance to rehearse before going on, but sounded just as good as ever!

So who is going to come up with a good idea for the next corporate effort??

I managed to get over to the "Red Lion" at Westhoughton again after a gap of a year or so and I took Tony Gibbons with me for his first visit ever. I always enjoy my trips there, "Auld Triangle" are consistently excellent and this time their new sound system would put many a concert hall to shame. I have never heard better, and as Brian McNeill sang, played fiddle, guitar, mandocello, concertina, etc., it had opportunities to really shine - and it did! Tremendous.

Now Tony and I have differing ideas of folk clubs. I accept that there are as many ways to run a weekly club as there are weekly clubs! Whether it is the "right" way or not is generally amply demonstrated by the number of bums on seats, and the number of return visitors.

The "Red Lion" is, whenever I have visited, full and over the years I recognise many of the same people there, so they must be well suited. I think the local scene needs clubs that present the best names on a regular basis every bit as much as it needs the singers clubs with occasional guests. The problem is how to get promising local artists accepted as guests at the "booking" type club. The night we were at the "Red Lion" we were treated to a super floor spot from "Carl and Jayne" a young couple who seem to be popping up all over the place recently. Now - if your club wants to be a bit adventurous why not book them

- they are "exceedingly good" just like Mr. Kipling's cakes. Go on - be daring. We booked them for our Christmas Dinner (on January 25th!!) with Stanley Accrington and they were excellent.

Encourage local talent (while they are still reasonably priced!!).

Have some good festivals - especially try and support the following seven who were kind enough to present free weekend tickets to George and Joan:

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Well done the organisers!


Cheers,

Dave Day

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Remember Barrie Roberts and Bill Caddick's "Songs-mith" books of the mid to late 1970s? Well the enterprising Pete Coe has used his influence to squeeze funding from the Arts Council and successfully persuaded songwriters and performers to send him their recordings of songs. He has then duplicated them on a cassette and accompanied it with an excellent lyrics booklet with information on the origins of the songs and their singers/writers, to produce the first of a new generation of "Songsmiths". (with the full approval of Barrie and Bill, too!)

The big difference between the original Songsmith and this new generation is that it is unnecessary for musically semi-literate singers (like myself!) to spend ages working out the "dots" from the page to get the tune! As long as you can play/sing by ear, the cassette does it all for you.

The word eclectic springs to mind when one reads the list of ten titles and their singers. From the "old hands" there is Dave Goulder's "Cold Kestrel", Cyril Tawney's very poignant "Reunion" and Pete Coe's highly amusing "Confessions of a Handyman". From the newer generation of songwriters there is Annie Williamson and Hamish Whiteley's joint composition "Boys Barge In" from her "Still the Distance" album, Pete Morton singing "Kurdistan" and the widely known Robb Johnson with his excellent anti-war tribute to "Vic Williams".

The prolific Jez Lowe provides one of his newest

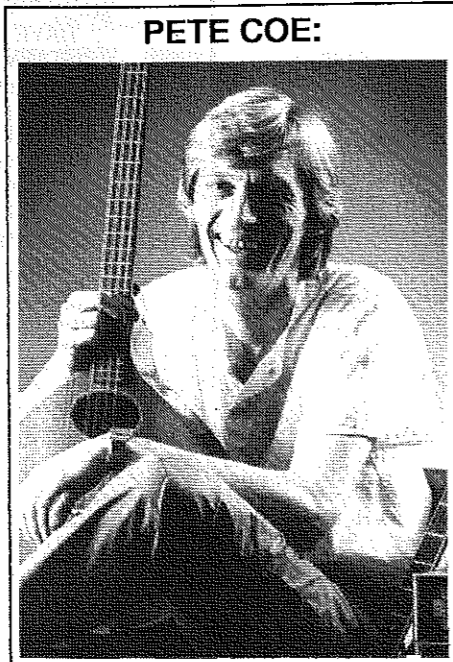
songs in "Dover, Delaware" (the first recorded version) which is well up to his usual high standard. Less well known is Mike Willoughby (of "Strange Folk") whose "Vim and Vitriol" is a cracking dig at bland commercial pop music and John Richards (remember "The Deserter" from Maurice and the Minors?) who has contributed "How do you Sleep?" a song worthy of wider recognition, especially among the judiciary at whom it is well aimed.

Finally to Nancy Nicolson, well known in Scottish circles but less familiar to audiences south of the border, who provides black humour with "I'm the Man that Muffed It".

Nitpicking - the printed words don't always match the singing, noted on Mike Willoughby's and Pete Coe's contributions - that is all! There is no doubt that with such excellent material Songsmith ONE is destined to reach a wider audience than just singers or songwriters, indeed this production will, I am sure, appeal to folkies everywhere, either in its own right or as a sampler. It is available by mail from 103 Oldham Road, Ripponden, W Yorks HX6 4EB, price £7.70, including p&p or (if your club organiser is on the ball) from your local folk club for £7. It is also being sold by the featured singers on their

gigs, and by Projection, Roots Records and Greentrax for the same price. Hopefully Songsmith Two (already in the pipeline) will follow shortly. If you have a song you would like to offer for future Songsmiths (previously recorded or not) contact Pete Coe on (0422) 822569.

Derek Gifford



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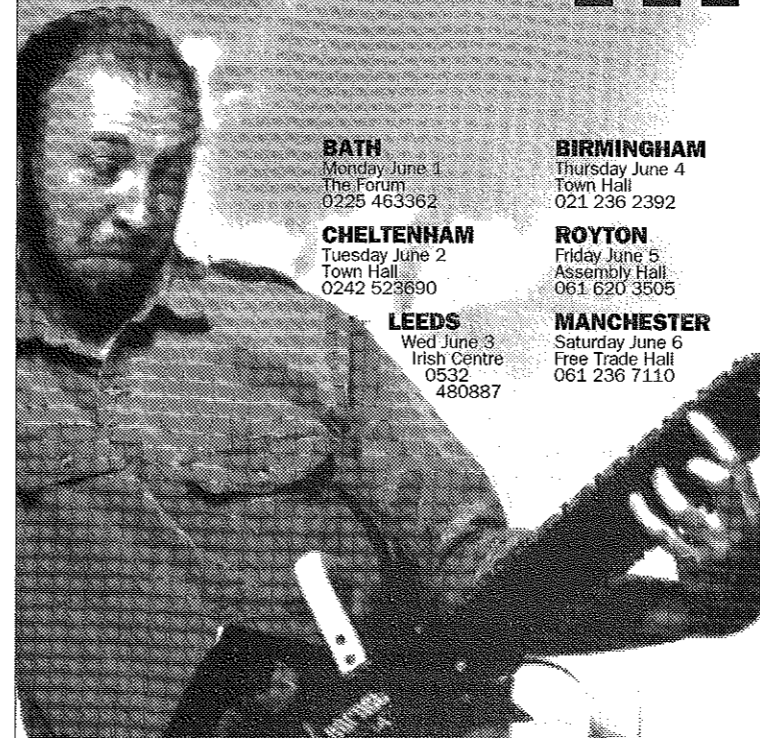
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BRIAN PETERS "The Seeds of Time"

Harbourtown HARC & HARCD021

This new recording by Brian Peters commends itself to me on several levels. Immediately the presentation and packaging is up there with that of any cassette version and, all in all, it is a package that says "take this seriously" as opposed to so many folk and roots releases which seem almost apologetic to have made it into the shops at all!

More importantly its pleasing to see Brian - a product of the North-West folk scene, progressing at a rate of knots, the lad's done well. His roots are my roots and unlike so many people who use "our" infrastructure as a climbing frame to the pop/rock world, Brian would never, I suspect, desert the Folk Clubs.

Not only that, I'd venture he would never disown us either, being proud to acknowledge his debt to Harry Boardman's Unicorn Club in Manchester where he began the interest he still retains in traditional song.

This third album improves upon its predecessors, there is more variety, more people are involved and more time I'd guess has been spent on post-production and it is also CD orientated - it runs for over an hour!

There is also a theme running through the recording though "concept album" would be overblown, "Seeds of Time" is more a peek through several windows into scenes of social history, with timeless topics ranging from the separation of lovers in time of war (Lowlands of Holland) to deflation of the male ego and more (Lovely Joan and The Oyster Girl).

These are realistic songs, they've stood the test of time and are not some rosy reflection from a cosy "folk" armchair, a point Brian addresses in his own song "Living In the Past That Never Was". The essence of real folk song has a contemporary reality, which "Seeds of Time" puts across so eloquently.

Similarly things that are get coverage in songs such as Jim Woodland's "Padlocks", while those that are yet to be are chillingly forecast in Nic Jones' "Ruins By The Shore". You want instrumentals too? You've got 'em with a full band sound on many cuts provided by such empathetic partners as Gordon Tyrrell, George Faux and Peadar Long. Brian's own instrumental playing are more self-assured here than I've ever heard on record, although his development becomes more and more apparent on live gigs.

I can't recommend this release too highly. The Harbourtown name is synonymous with quality and this album no exception. Folk music in the 1990's simply doesn't get any better than this.

Clive Pownceby

DAN AR BRAZ - "Borders of Salt"

Keltia Musique, KMCD 23

Dan Ar Braz has long been known for his superb guitar work and is one of my favourite live performers, but he is less well known for his singing. Here he has put together an album of songs, some from his own pen, some from others but all with a story to tell. His essential Breton soul comes through in the title track and in "Stand Up Becassine", which highlight the problems regions have when faced with central government and financial power by using the image of Becassine, a turn-of-the-century comic strip heroine who had to leave her native Brittany to find work in Paris (where have we heard this before?).

Maybe you would not expect to find Bryan Adams on here, but his music and Jim Vallance's lyrics on "Native Son" continue the theme, with thoughts on what it means to lose your homeland, and the somewhat melancholy vein continues with "Distress On Its Way", jointly written with Jane Cassidy.

Don't get me wrong, this is not a morbid album. It is passionate and well constructed. I particularly like "De la Lune à la Lune" even if it largely unintelligible (it is in French!) and "Few Words from You" comes over well. However, if you are looking for typical Braz guitar pyrotechnics, you will just have to make do with some superb accompaniment.

PHIL CAPPER

ROB MALANEY - "The Fair Maid of Ribblesdale"

Cassette and Booklet

Rob Malaney began writing during the 1960s (as did we all !?) but this cassette, nicely recorded and produced at Chris Pollington's Cock Robin Studios, and its accompanying booklet, mostly represent his later writings. One of these "Breathe with Me", has already been picked up by the folk world, having been recorded by First Principles and is being gradually absorbed into the folk tradition. The irony of this will be evident to those who were at the last Hindley Folk Song Contest in 1989, when the song failed to get a mention from the judges who did not see the potential. Maybe the reason for their lack of foresight is because they did not look beyond the actual performance. Rob, like so many singer/songwriters, does not actually perform his songs to the best advantage.

Although he is a competent performer, as shown by has part as one third of the excellent Th' Antique Roadshow, to review his songs you have to look beyond the writer's performance. "Breathe with Me" has potential popularity with the many "lefties" of the folk world while "Mother Earth" has a green message.

For those with a romantic soul "Driftwood" has instant appeal as a love song, and the melancholy of "The Rolling Sea" should appeal to the dreamers.

Rob is not afraid to experiment, and although politics and romance are fairly safe bets for songwriting, Rob tries his hand at blues/rock style numbers successfully in "Clayton Rock" and "Time Wasted" but not with "The Freeman", where the style does not match the song's lyrics about greed, religion and slavery.

For those who like a more traditional atmosphere to songs "The Fair Maid of Ribblesdale", translated from a 12th Century manuscript by Joanna Kublaki, and put into verse from by Rob, is a good example, as is "Her Eyes Were Blue" which has all the hallmarks of an Elizabethan serial killer's tale! "In Praise of Ale" is a 17th century poem to which Rob has put a simple, steady, rhythmic tune. Finally, Rob took up the challenge by Keith Scowcroft to write a "lanky" poem to a reggae rhythm - the result is "Talking Folk Rap" which really is as awful as the title suggests.

In his excellently produced booklet, Rob modestly writes of one song "I'm sure that someone else could perform it better than I do" and on that basis alone any singer who wants to increase their repertoire should not be without a copy of this package, available from Rob or from the publisher: Friendly Overtures, 345 West Wycombe Road, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP1 4AD

Derek Gifford

HAMISH BAYNE & MARTIN COLE - "Making Music"

Fellside FECD82

STEPHEN QUIGG - "All The Tunes In The World"

Lowland CD 001

THE McCALMANS - "Songs From Scotland"

Greentrax CDTRAX 045

Three albums sharing a common link - they all involve The McCalmans.

"Making Music" by Martin Cole and ex-McCalman Hamish Bayne, was produced by Ian McCalman, with cover photograph also by Ian. Long-term fans of The Macs will already know how talented Hamish Bayne is, but here he truly comes into his own. Whether singing, playing his own "Holmwood" concertina, on whistle or on mandolin, his talented musicianship is undeniable. The duo is well-matched, with Martin Cole displaying his skills on guitar, fiddle and vocally. The music is crisp and clear, every note stands on its own, the effect is sharply refreshing. Not being a great concertina aficionado, I was not expecting to enjoy listening to the album as much as I did - however, this is not an example of a multi-instrumentalist making a half-hearted attempt to muffle bronchial spasms issuing from a squeezebox, but a

talented exponent of the art, confident in his ability, and able to demonstrate just how good 27 a concertina is supposed to sound. Hamish on concertina, with Martin on guitar, makes an unbeatable combination. Their vocals are equally acute and melodic, their instrumentals delightfully precise. The album is well arranged, with traditional material interspersed with contemporary work by Martin and others. Well worth buying. The only bugbear is that they have not provided the lyrics for the songs, and in these days of CD booklets, it is very disappointing.

When Stephen Quigg decided to record "All The Tunes In The World", The McCalmans, who consider him to be one of the best "undiscovered" musicians in Scotland, went along to help on the backing. The result is an enjoyable snapshot of Stephen's talent and Scottish folk music in general. Stephen has a powerful tenor voice and his choice of material on the album allows him to display his ability with all sorts of music. He has managed to give new life to some well-worn favourites - his is the best rendition of "Rose of Allandale" that I've heard in a long time. "Westering Home" and "All The Tunes In The World" show his skill with both traditional and contemporary work. There is, of course, the compulsory "Bonnie Prince Charlie" song - every Scottish album has to have at least one! My favourite track is "The Farm Auction" a poignant song about the problems of today's farming community. The album does appear to be designed to appeal to visitors to Scotland, and will certainly succeed in that, but it also deserves a place in the collection of anyone who enjoys good folk music. Black marks go to whoever decided not to provide lyrics in the booklet. When I spend all that money on a CD, I expect the lyrics to be provided.

How do you follow the success of "Flames On The Water"? Simple answer - you do not even try. The Macs had enough unrecorded material in their repertoire to satisfy (for a time) the insatiable appetites of McCalman fanatics, so they pulled it together and recorded "Songs From Scotland". Some of their funniest work, by Ian and Nick, mixed with some strong, contemporary songs, a few shanties sung in The Macs' own distinctive style, a good selection of traditional material, but.... "I Will Go" looks suspiciously like the compulsory "Bonnie Prince Charlie" song to me. It certainly mentions the king's son and redcoats. They've recorded "Westering Home" and "All The Tunes In The World" - but have they not just recorded them on Stephen Quigg's album? Oh, yes - so they have - how embarrassing! Cover photograph by Ian, but no mention of who cut Nick's hair - was it a joke, I wonder?

The McCalmans have been going for 28 years now, and they can still find enough material, year after year, to put together a consistently good and entertaining album. This is no exception. Brownie points awarded for providing the lyrics - and am I glad! I'd never have worked out "Ye'll have plenty of troot fur tae pit in yir creel" from listening to the album!

Linda Wright

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Percheron Musique APE 3001 Cassette/CD

Shave the Monkey is a five piece band featuring Bryan Causton, Steve Collins, Duncan Moss, Guido Rincon and Carolyn Sheppard, and a host of musical instruments.

Unseelie - a mythical creature that flies a few feet above the ground, snatching unsuspecting people and subjecting them to unspeakable acts. As its namesake, this tape did snatch an unsuspecting person, but then transported me out of the mundane into an experience of musical delight.

It is not just the range of instruments that make it so, but the obviously well thought out blend of the same, used to excellent effect both in songs and tunes. Among the more unusual instruments are Octavious and Rauschpfefe, with a special mention of Duncan's Hurdy-gurdy made by Preston's Neil Brook. The musicianship is tight and everything perfectly balanced.

The tunes are a mixture of traditional and contemporary, with some old favourites like "Speed the Plough" and "Moll in the Wood" treated to a very acceptable facelift. Amongst others, there is a definite Breton influence which is very much to my taste.

"Witchfinder General" written by two of the band, Bryan and Carolyn, based on the 16th Century Matthew Hopkins is certainly an outstanding song, closely followed by one of my all time favourites "Bonny Light Horseman"

I have to admit that I easily get bored by repetitive and sameish tunes, but this is a tape I am happy to listen to over and over again, and I strongly recommend it, both for its quality of musicianship and total enjoyability. I hope I have whetted your appetite and if you want to know more go and buy it - £10.99 for CD, £6.99 for cassette, payable to Percheron Musique, 18, Hinton Road, Fulbourn, Cambridgeshire CB1 5DZ

Kath Holden

ROGUES & VILLAINS

Painful though it is for this dyed-in-the-wool, finger-in-the-ear traddy to admit, this tape is highly enjoyable. Grudgingly admiring the lad for his songwriting ability and varied repertoire, I played this album several times over on a long car journey, simply because it is a pleasure to do so. I then found myself humming one of the tracks (as one does) during a mind-numbingly boring lecture, and singing along to it on the drive back. Praise indeed from someone who doesn't have a lot of time for most contemporary music.

A couple of the tracks might have had more impact if they had been recorded in a club setting, or with some other singers to give body to the choruses, but that is a purely personal view with which anyone is entitled to disagree. Good playing, good lyrics, good delivery, good night!

Len Quinn

DAVY SPILLANE -
"PIPEDREAMS"

Tara Records, TARA CD 3026

The moment I set ears on this one, I was sold. Sometimes you come across one of those albums you were destined for and this one could well be the big one! CD players were designed for this. A bit gushing, do I hear you say? Well, if you are not inspired by the opening "Shifting Sands", excited by "Undertow", lulled by the almost soporific "Shorelines" and if you do not feel like you have been transported back eons by "Call Across The Canyon" need I go on?

What about the low points? Well, if you have always associated Spillane with Uilleann Pipes, you may be the slightest bit disappointed at the extent to which he uses the low whistle. Maybe you are used to him operating closer to the edge. You may feel that "Corcomroe" is somewhat boring and seemingly pointless, but you would not want to take this album off the player for weeks. I cannot say enough about it. As you would expect, he has brought together a line-up of superb musicians which produces an overall sound not unequivocally of Moving Hearts, yet remains distinctive.

I could go on, but I will not. Just go out and buy it!

Stunning!!!

PHIL CAPPER

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LLANDUDNO	8.30 pm	The London Hotel; Upper Mostyn Street; Llandudno	Mel Bowman	0492 622049
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MONDAY MUSIC	8.00 pm	Bulkeley Hotel; Castle Street; Beaumaris	John Harley	no phone
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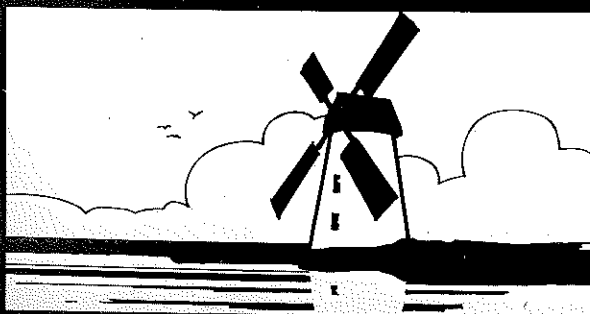
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