

FOLK *North West*

Winter 1992/3

60p



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**INTERVIEW with
GEOFF SPEED**

**FESTIVAL
REVIEWS:**

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EDITORIAL

WELCOME to another issue of Folk North-West!

I must first of all apologise that a number of regular features are not present this issue, due to an unfortunate combination of circumstances. In particular I must apologise for the lack of festival reviews, but Phil Capper who normally collects these together is working away from home at present and has been unable to solicit any reviews. Normal service will be resumed next issue. There is also no Youth Page, which is due to a lack of youths prepared to contribute such a page this time. I hope this will return next issue; it is up to YOU to ensure that it is.

Two new features this month. First, there is a series of interviews with local radio folk presenters. The first is with Geoff Speed who presents Radio Merseyside's FOLK SCENE with Stan Ambrose. Geoff has some interesting stories to relate, including the time that Paul Simon did a booking at the club he ran for just £12!

The second is the Gallivanting Gallimores, George & Joan, who have been good enough to send me reviews from festivals they have attended (with the free tickets you remember they were given for their Golden Wedding).

All for now, except to say that if you wish to contribute, please ensure you send it to me by the date below. This ensures that the magazine gets to YOU on time!

Nigel Firth
EDITOR

OUR NEXT ISSUE COVERS
MARCH '93 to MAY '93.
**THE CLOSING DATE FOR ALL
SUBMISSIONS IS JANUARY 15th,
NOTHING WILL BE ACCEPTED
AFTER THIS DATE**

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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 AND ABOUT

with Nat Clare

LIVE AT LEIGH

Anxious faces at Leigh Folk Club t'other week when guest **Nic Dow** arrived late - especially when we knew that Sunday night was "Lancashire Drift" night.

Still, due to the wonders of modern technology - personally, I'm still trying to work out how to make my torch shine three different colours (remember those!) - Nic managed to appear at Leigh and broadcast his show at the same time.

Next thing you know, you will be telling me that the man who reads out the time for the speaking clock doesn't really sit there for 24 hours a day twiddling his digits and waiting for someone to ring!

Nic made up for his rather breathless start by turning in an excellent set, demonstrating that the art of English Folk guitar is alive and well in the North of England. Personally, I think he is a brilliant singer/player and this comes over excellently on disc.

I remember buying his first L.P. "Burd Margaret" very cheaply from Manchester and being disappointed that I couldn't play one single song on guitar and therefore extend my miserable repertoire.

Now, I'm pleased to say, not only did Nic "Knock Out" his vinyl L.P. for three measly quid - excellent value folks! - but he also has a few guitar tuition tapes available. I will definitely buy one of these, just as soon as I can work out how to operate my new stereo system - maybe I'm using the wrong tuning!

IT'S GOOD FOR YOU!

Speaking of Nic Dow puts me in mind of that jolly little ditty "The Crockeryware" - rewarded also by Martin Carthy and Millions more - and I hereby send out an impassioned plea to Les Barker (upon his return from Mega-Butlin-East-Fantasy-World or whatever they call Bognor now!) to pen an opus entitled "The Tupperware" to carry on this erstwhile tradition.

WIGGLE IT!

Who hit the pop charts with "Wiggle it" in 1991? Which song with 45 letters in its title is the longest titled number one? How many members of The Houghton Weavers are called Norman Prince?

If like me, you can only answer the last of these mega-brain teasers, then what you need in your Christmas Stocking is a copy of "Guinness Hits Quiz 2".

When you have had your fill of Christmas Pud, Turkey - or substitute Nut Cutlets and Buckfast Abbey Tonic Wine, then before you pass out under the imitation Christmas Tree, you can brush up on your pop (or pop up on your brush, if like me, you still haven't recovered from Halloween).

It is a great way to impress the local pub quiz team. All you need to do is to have a photographic memory, remember millions of incredibly obscure facts and like to bore your friends and neighbours - it is a bit like floorsinging one of the lengthier "Child Ballads", really.

Oh by the way, the answers are:-

1. *Two in a Room.*
2. *San Francisco (Be sure to wear some flowers in your hair)*
3. *All of them.*

COSTA DEL FISHERMANS FRIEND

No, a new Folk Song isn't a contradiction in terms and to prove it you can enter your latest 'opus' for the "Soar" Song Writing Trophy to be held as part of next years Fylde Folk Festival.

It has long been felt that the one thing missing from Fylde - apart from guaranteed sun, sangria and assorted topless holidaymakers (not counting those who occasionally remove the knotted handkerchiefs from their heads) is a songwriting competition.

All entries should consist of:

1. *a copy of the words.*
2. *a cassette recording.*
3. *a transcript of the music, if available.*

Only 2 songs per competitor, please, (which rules out my 100 hour Folk-opera 'The Clogs of War'), the songs must have been composed after the 1st June 1992 and must be received by 1st June 1993.

Completed entries should be sent to:-

David Ryan
9 Fir Close
Larkholme
Fleetwood
FY7 8QS

Maybe, I will steal the idea from the Guinness Hits Question and compose "Fleetwood (Be Sure to Wear a Hanky on Your Head)" or is that a 'Soar' point? (Ouch!).

Stop Press:

Dates for **WHITE SWAN FOLK CLUB**

December 2nd - Harvey Andrews, 16th - Xmas Party (Bob Greenwood's Rhythm Rascals) 23rd/30th - CLOSED

January 13th - Artisan, 20th - Pat Ryan, 27th - Steve Tilston & Maggie Boyle

February 3rd - Ray Fisher, 17th - Wizz Jones

SEX IN THE SAND DUNES?

Do you mind! After all this is sedate St. Annes we are talking about here. Anyway, too many folks are still using the dunes as dog loos, and consequently, the newly established "Sand Dunes Folk Club" will have to tread carefully as it shakes St. Annes to its foundations at their regular folk dance meetings on the first and third Thursdays of every month.

I used to ogle with envy those American Teen Beach Movies, where people would go to a "Clambake" (whatever one of those is!), light bonfires, play guitars, snog in dark corners and kick sand in the faces of seven stone weaklings.

The trouble is when we tried to replicate the experience by hosting a "Blackpudding Ball" on the rusty, shopping trolley laden banks of the black river Croal; where we burned old Skoda cars and played Lonnie Donnegan 78 RPM discs by holding a pin to the vinyl, it didn't somehow have the same magic to it. In fact it had about as much chance as opening a drive-in movie house in Wigan. Eh..... wait a minute, I might have something here.... it's O.K., it's probably pre-senile dementia.

Anyway - If you're in the St Anne's area on a Thursday and feel like a change from the disco, then don't hesitate to ring Peter on 0253-723796.

HARE AND HOUNDS?

I always thought that it would be a nice idea for folkie Phil Hare to team up with a likely lad or lass with the surname "Hounds", so that if Folk Music ever goes the way of variety theatre (which reminds me of the adage "Do you know why the music Hall died?" the retort to which query is "Yes, it was cr*p!") then he would have the opportunity of earning a crust as one half of a comedy double act.

Speaking of which, isn't it amazing how people manage to connect with other halves of double acts with an entirely appropriate surname!! Witness Cannon and Ball and Little and Large! If fate had not been kind to these people then they could still be engaged in pathetic, unfunny attempts to entertain rather than being the giants of comedy that they are. If you have legs shaped like mine - then this also will fit comfortably in the old Christmas Stocking and you can get it from Phil at 63, Irby Road, Heswall, Wirral, L61 6UY.

UP THE WALL

Some of the happiest times I've had - whilst still wearing my Arran sweater, of course! - have been spent listening to the ever-excellent and brilliantly eclectic music offered by that exciting live music venue, Manchester's Band on The Wall.

From Robin Williamson to Dick Gaughan to Roy Harper to various Dub, Dance, Reggae, Folk Rave and assorted Weirdos and deviants, I've never had a less than illuminating, uplifting and deeply spiritual experience, and that is only at the bar!



Now, no less a pop star than ex-drop out, Phil Collins - now the only thing that drops out is his hair! - has written personally to the club, welcoming its vital role in keeping music live.

After extensive research - and much quaffing of ale - the Band on The Wall is one of only 28 venues nationwide to be a part of a new joint venture, developed by the Musicians Union and the Arts Council, called "Gig Right UK". It is designed to create a national circuit which will further develop live music.

Although there are no working Manchester Folk bands to my knowledge - I'm sure you will let me know otherwise - there are moves afoot to drag folk music kicking and screaming into the 90's. Rumour has it that a local dialect, techno-dance band is about to hit the clubs - watch out for "The Houghton Ravens".

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 now 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

Non-Smoking Clubs

Worth a special mention this issue is the increase in non-smoking clubs around the region. New club Formby, under the influence of organiser Janet Kemp began life as a non-smoking club, while Cockermouth have been a Non-Smoking club since spring. The Tap & Spile in Rochdale has also been since February, as the landlady decided to make the room Non-Smoking. Attendances fell for a while, but they're back up now, so if you're thinking of trying it at your club - it works! It's good to know that there are at least 3 clubs where breathing isn't an optional extra!

New Clubs

Formby Folk Club at The Royal in Formby, Merseyside. Organiser Janet Kemp. It's a no-smoking club.

Residents:

Folk at the Fleece hosts 'Travel by Steam' are now called 'Muddy Fox'.

Northwich : Sarah & Ian Sherwood, Sue Swan, Jamie Anderson, Alan Carpenter, Sean Boyle, John Moncur, Sue Coles and Brenda Yates.

Black Horse residency now shared by Brian Jones & Eddie Morris.

8.45 at the Swan residents : Phil Capper, Rebecca Green, Eddie Green, Mike Evans.

Club Changes:

Christine Britton, organiser of **Folk at The Fleece**, has moved house. Her new address is North Lodge, Patton, Kendal LA8 9DT. She hasn't got a new phone number yet, so please write to her at this address if you want to find out more about Folk at the Fleece.

The **Bee folk club** is now Rhyl Folk Club and is at the Glanglasfor in Rhyl. Residents still Beeze Kneeze

Northwich Folk Club now have a new organiser, **Sue Swan**, who you can contact on 061 775 4612.

Burnley - Rod Finlayson is no longer organiser. (he does remain as resident, though). Replaced (hopefully on a temporary basis) by Linda Wright 0706 877090.

Fleetwood - The Steamer is soon to be refurbished, and they do not know yet whether they can continue at the pub during alterations. Best to ring if you are travelling far.

Who?

Ceol Cait : Tony Gibbons, John Murphy, Kevin Webster and Matt Fahey.

Demure : Derek & Muriel Hayes

Carolina Shout : Eddie Walker & John James

Special Events:

Bothy Ceilidhs at St John's Hall, Wright St, Southport :

Oct 30th Florida, Dec 18th Shake A Leg, Feb 26th Peeping Tom, Apr 30th Polka Billy, June 25th Wet Rake.

Extra Dates:

Arkwrights Mar 9th Adrian Spenlow & Jane Edwards, 23rd Charles Fyson, 30th Fiona Simpson; Apr 20th Viv & Angeline, May 4th Sara Grey

Brewery Arts Mar 26th Roy Harper; Apr 3rd Battlefield Band, 9th Mike Heron, 16th Vin Garbutt, 17th Sonny Rhodes

Bothy Mar 14th The Rhythm Rascals, 28th Eddie Upton; Apr 4th Quartz, 18th David Campbell, 30th Ceilidh at St John's Hall; May 2nd Melanie Harrold & Ollie Blanchflower, 16th Johnny Coppin 30th closed.

Burnley Mar 4th Eddie Klimek & Bruce Hogg; Apr 1st Th'Antiques Roadshow.

Bury Mar 6th Brian Peters, 13th Pete Ryder, 20th Tom McConville, Apr 3rd Recycled, 10th Easter Ceilidh, 24th Sara Grey; May 8th Richard Grainger.

Cockermouth Mar 11th Keith Hancock, 18th Melanie Harrold & Ollie Blanchflower, 25th Lee Collinson; Apr 8th Fiona Simpson 15th Huw & Tony Williams, 29th Bernard Wrigley; May 6th Dave Goulder

Fleece Mar 7th Chris White & Ken Nicol. 20th Melanie Harrold & Ollie Blanchflower, 28th Damien Barber (tbc); Apr 4th Chris Newman & Maire ni Chathasaigh, 18th Allan Taylor; May 9th Tom McConville, 16th Gill Bowman, 23rd Ian Bruce.

Poynton Mar 6th Oldham Tinkers, 20th Liam O'Flynn.; Apr 9th-11th Easter Folk Festival; 17th Lonnie Donegan & Johnny Silvo; May 1st concert, 15th The House Band, 29th Isaac Guillory & John Renbourn. Rest Ceilidhs.

Northwich Mar 26th Jez Lowe; Apr 23rd Marilyn Middleton-Pollock; May 14th Jim Couza

Rhyl Mar 12th Geoff Higginbottom, 26th Tom McConville.

Southport Arts Apr 2nd Vin Garbutt.

Tap & Spile Mar 9th Bram Taylor, 23rd Fiona Simpson; Apr 6th Phil Hare; May 4th Dave Goulder.

Tilston Mar 26th Bram Taylor; Apr 13th Mercers Daughter, May 4th Fiona Simpson; June 8th Steve Tiston & Maggie Boyle.

Triton Mar 15th Dave Summer; Apr 12th closed, 19th Bram Taylor, May 3rd closed, 31st closed.

Yarrow Valley Mar 2nd Singers' Night; Apr 6th Cherrington & Ward; May 4th Singers' Night. Rest closed.

Festivals

April 9th-11th Poynton.

This September sees Fylde's 21st Anniversary, and we shall be having a special feature to mark this momentous occasion. Watch this space!

Don't Forget:

Club Dates and other information should all be sent to:

Linda Wright
266 Todmorden Rd
Sharneyford
Bacup
Lancs
OL13 9UR
Telephone : 0706 877090

LOOK OUT FOR:

Next issue we propose to put special symbols next to those clubs in the club listings who can cater for the disabled or who operate a No Smoking policy.

Please write & let us know if you agree with this, and if any other symbols could usefully be introduced. Also write to us if you are a club operating a No Smoking policy, or who can cater for the disabled, and we can tell everyone!

STOP PRESS:

Bolton Club Dates (see Club Reporters)

Nov 3rd Lynn & Barry Hardman 10th Recycled 17th Monologue John 24th To be confirmed

Dec 1st Dick Miles 8th Mary Asquith 22nd Xmas with les barker

Jan 12th Annie Williamson & Hamish Whitely 26th Tom Mcconville; remainder Singers' Nights

CLUB RESIDENTS:

8.45 at the SWAN - Phil Capper, Rebecca Green, Eddie Green, Mike Evans

BOLTON - Charles Fyson & Rob Malaney

BLACK HORSE - Brian Jones, Eddie Morris

BLACKBURN - Flat Broke

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

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

BURY - Jean Seymour, Alan Seymour, Shelia Carruthers, Charles Fyson, Malcolm Bowden, Chris 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 - Muddy Fox, 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.

NEW LEVELLERS - Tony Murphy, John Murphy, George Stratton

NORTHWICH - Sarah & Ian Sherwood, Sue Swan, Jamie Anderson, Alan Carpenter, Sean Boyle, John Moncor, Sue Coles, Brenda Yates

RED LION - Auld Triangle

RHYL - The Beez Knees

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

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

YARROW VALLEY - Derek Gifford, Mark Dowding, Nothing Yet

CLUB REPORTERS

Cumbrian Report

The Cumbrian festivals are past and Cumbrian folkies are setting into their winter routines - and that means gigs, ceilidhs, sessions and dance classes as well as going to their local club. Mind you, the clubs are important and all of the Cumbrian clubs have excellent line-ups for the winter. I know that a lot of people tend to go out less as Christmas approaches, presumably to save cash, but this is not necessarily the case in Cumbria. The slack time tends to be after Christmas (hence, for example, the close-down of 'Folk at the Fleece' in Kendal in January - many people who are paid before Christmas don't get paid again until the end of January (a problem if you have an extravagant festive season)). Keep supporting your local clubs this winter, please don't hibernate until the spring - you'll miss some great music if you do!

GREM DEVLIN.

Blackburn Folk Club

Puzzled by the disappearance of Blackburn folk club? All has been explained. Organiser Brian Kirkham tells us that the Foundry Arms changed landlords and was refurbished. A closure of two weeks became five, which became seven! They expect to have returned by October 14th.

Linda Wright

To All Club Organisers

This is wasted space! Why is your club report or regional report not here? There is enough room now in the magazine for every club or grouping of clubs to submit a short paragraph for inclusion. DO IT NOW! Please send your submissions either to Linda Wright with your dates, or you can send them direct to the Editor.

DO IT NOW!

Nigel Firth

BOLTON FOLK CLUB REBORN!

Bolton Folk Club has left Arkwrights Ale House and has now re-opened at:-

The Rawson Arms
Peel Street
Farnworth

Lynn & Barry Hardman opened our New Venue on 3 November 1992.

We will also be running a Folk Day on 5 December 1992. Artists include:-

Nick and Mally Dow
Gemini
Dave Vermond
John Fitzgerrald
Carl & Jane
Recycled
Stan Accrington

"Caught on the Hop" are the Ceilidh Band bringing the day to a rousing dancing climax. There will be a Poems & Pints session by Mally Dow and all day singarounds with Dave and Steve Cook from Burnley.

We have a turn of the century Fiddle which will be raffled and a Hiring Fair.

Charles Fyson

Burnley Folk club

After a summer of singarounds, Burnley relaunched into the Autumn with Carl & Jane. In addition to the normal folk club activities, plans had been put together for bigger concerts, where we could involve people who don't normally go to a folk club. A special concert with Garva was very successful and was followed in November by the McCalmans and Stephen Quigg, at a concert held at Edge End High School in Nelson. More about that next issue. Another plan we've got is to do a few small concerts round Pendle for local villagers, to introduce them to folk music. Wish us luck. Our Christmas party is on December 17th, with Stanley Accrington, while for the New Year we've booked Sharon from Barnsley, Pat Shaw & Julie Matthews from South Yorkshire, Bruce Hogg & Eddie Klimek from Edinburgh and Th'Antiques Roadshow. We're also trying to do something with bluegrass music as there are a number of bluegrass musicians who go to the club, and there's no other bluegrass music around in the area.

9 Linda Wright

CLUBSCENE

with Tony Gibbons

THE NEW LEVELLERS

Thursdays

This fortnightly club is held at the "Flying Picket", Part of the Merseyside Trade Union Community and Unemployed Resource Centre, Hardman Street, Liverpool. As the name suggests, this is a Radical Folk Club and Advertises itself as such. past guests have included Roy Bailey, Leon Rosselsson, Kevin Seisay, Garva, Stanley Accrington, Shay Black, etc. Not many fox-hunting or songs of "The Empire" there!! For a committed Socialist like myself it is good to know there is still somewhere to go to listen to the kind of songs that actually mean something - in this age of selfish, middle-class smugness it makes a refreshing change.

Residents include Pat and Tony Murphy, George Stratton, and John Murphy. The venue itself is split into three - "The Tolpuddle bar" for mainly singers' nights, "The conference Room" which allows more space when a guest is likely to attract more, and "The Theatre" which holds about 120 (this is used for special nights). The latter two have a full P.A. system with an engineer provided. It is also a "User Friendly" club, with a lift to all floors for wheelchair users or anyone with mobility problems. There are two bars - The main one downstairs and a small one upstairs.

I must admit - the nights I have been there were all mixed experiences. One night there was a packed house, the next about 25 people, and the last time about a dozen (Guess who was the guest?). The club does need people to survive - during the term time it is quite popular with students, but the rest of the time it "Ticks over".

The organisers and residents are always friendly, never "preaching" to the audience. It wouldn't be a bad place to go for any liberal democrats who are unsure what politics are!!! Phone Pat Murphy on 051-480-6579 for information on forthcoming events.

Tony Gibbons

SOUTHPORT ARTS CENTRE

Various Nights

Not a "club" in the accepted sense, but an important venue as regards Folk & Roots music. Set in a magnificent building on Lord Street, Right in the middle of Southport, this is a multi-use venue. There is the main theatre which holds about 450 and is used for the Big Concerts (Fairport, Battlefield, Ralph McTell etc). The "studio", which is a tremendous new addition to the building that can be used for concerts, ceildhs, "Club Style" evening etc. (The Studio has its own P.A., light system, and bar).

Finally there is the theatre bar where, on Monday nights you can see either Folk/Roots Music or Jazz on alternate weeks -There is no admission for this. Not surprisingly they are growing in popularity. During the year, especially in the summer, there is the odd "Open Day" when national and local performers are booked to play to the public. I have been to a couple of these and they go down really well with the general public. The building itself, as in the "Flying Picket", is "User Friendly" i.e. lifts to all floors.

I have always found the staff most helpful and informed. The Bar sells tea and coffee as well as alcohol - my only criticism being the price of a pint! Still, Sefton Council Arts deserve a pat on the back for having the commitment to Folk, Roots, Jazz, Cajun etc. So the price of a drink does seem a small matter to complain about. Forthcoming attractions include a ceildh in the Studio on December 19th with "The Waterloo Ceildh Band" (which is "Garva" plus members of the Liverpool Ceildh Band): In the Theatre Bar on December 14th there is Steve Higham and Yours Truly: In the Theatre itself on February 13th the Kathryn Tickell Band: February 17th Fairport Convention: April 2nd Vin Garbutt.

Keep an eye on the local press for details, or phone the Arts Centre for a comprehensive handout of forthcoming events. Venues like these need all the support they can get - they belong to you, so use them!!

Tony Gibbons

LIVE CONCERT REVIEWS

"THE NORTHERN SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR" 1992

ADELPHI HOTEL, LIVERPOOL 30TH AUGUST

Paul McCartney was not actually present at the first "Northern Songwriter of the Year" show at the Adelphi Hotel but he was very much there in spirit. Through the good offices of the Performing Rights Society officer, Christian Ulf-Hansen, the Northern Song Project was able to present to each and every one of the finalists a copy of "Paul McCartney - Composer/Artist" signed by the great man himself. All concerned were overjoyed that he should have recognised them as writers and honoured the occasion with such a great gesture.

The six artists were all graduates of the "Northern Songwriters' Showcases" which have been taking place throughout the year, and it was probably the most well-established of them all on Merseyside. **Dean Johnson** who got the show rolling with a stirring set of protest songs and a wonderful rendition of Lennon's "Cold Turkey", the latter being a gesture to the Beatles Convention whose stage the Northern Song Project was "borrowing" for the show.

Dean was followed by **Andrew Bowers**, whose style of songwriting is the equivalent of Jackson Pollock in his "Action Painting" phase. He impressed the judges led by Keith Birch of Liverpool University to the extent that they placed him second overall. Next up was **Marcus Wright**, a local session guitarist with his memorable "Limbo" and accompanied by bass and conga drums. The fourth contestant, **Steve Mason** broke the all time record for a single song, his "Paper Blankets" lasted all of twelve minutes! He was followed by the eventual winner, **Dave Wylie** from Scotland who charmed the judges enough to be voted virtually unanimously the songwriter of the year. **Christine Acoustic**, the most nervous of all at barely nineteen years old, wrapped up the show with her astonishingly mature songs and a wonderful rendition of "Dear Prudence"; she got third overall.

The other judges were: Steve Baxter of P.R.S., Mark Featherstone-Whitney of L.I.P.A., Phil Flaherty of Hussy's and Karen Bates, up from London for the day and who performed a first-rate version of "Paperback Writer" during the judging. They were

ably assisted by Simon Catherall of the Music Project in Wallasey which presented the "Cavern Trophy" to Dave Wylie as the first Northern Songwriter of the Year. Hussy's Music Centre, where Lennon's Auntie Mimi bought the young lad his first guitar provided a BC Rich electro acoustic guitar.

Each and every one of the artists performed outstandingly, it has to be mentioned that Dean Johnson sacrificed his place at the end of the show to allow Christine Acoustic time to overcome her nervousness. They swapped places in the order which was arrived at by literally "Drawing Straws". Similarly should a gesture like the one by Andrew Bowers, who gave £15 worth of vouchers for use in a major Liverpool Music store to Dean Johnson after the

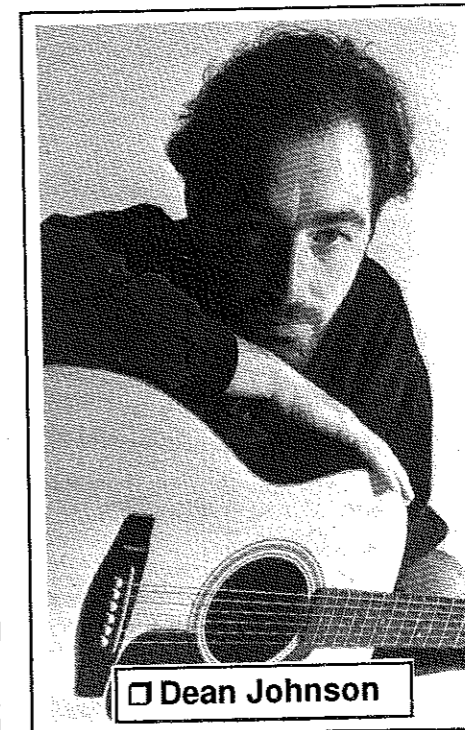
show in appreciation of his performance. These gestures and the overall attitude of judges, sponsors and performers alike far outweighed any feelings of "sour grapes" which might have been felt by any individual.

A great time was had by all, and a deserved winner took the prize. It is something of an understatement to say that he needed it. It was most marked that the original writers were far and away the most impecunious members of the five hundred people that attended the "Northern Songwriter of the Year" show. Dave Wylie's borrowed guitar was covered in a black plastic bin-bag.

Later on there were countless Beatles cover bands arriving with all the opulent trimmings of cabaret stardom. Brilliant as these bands are, it is easy to see how

difficult it is even now to make your way in music as an original writer. Perhaps that is why Paul McCartney, the P.R.S., Hussy's, the Music Project, The North West Arts Board and the Musicians' Union have shown faith in the Northern Song Project. Certainly the audience at the Beatles Convention were most generous in their support and applause for the artists. They, deep-down know how hard it is for the writers. They were rewarded with a great show and a clear winner of distinction, a true leader of the next generation. Thanks to all the artists and sponsors, and thank you Paul.

Gerry Murphy



□ Dean Johnson

WiggIN CEilidhs workshop day with Rosbif

Saturday 11th October 1992 at the Beer Engine, Wigan

A fiddler in a beret and stripy T-Shirt strikes up a bouree. Other musicians around the fire join in - hurdy-gurdies, bagpipes, button accordions, flutes. Evening in the Auvergne? No, lunchtime in Wigan, at the start of the WiggIN CEilidhs' day with Anglo-French dance band Rosbif.

Friday night saw the judging of the WiggIN CEilidhs dance competition; after trying all the dances to the music of Sarabande, the winner was Caroline Nowall's "The Premises Hop", a fine winner and the first dance she has ever written!

Saturday started with a tune session in the bar, then Rosbif's Trevor Upham - the man in the beret - taught us major tune-types played for French dance, from the more familiar bourrees to the 11-step waltz, and finishing with a scottische from the French Quarter Stevenage.

Then Keith Phillips took over for a workshop on the dances. "This isn't disco dancing, you're dancing with other people" he said, emphasising that French dance really is social dancing. After several couple dances we formed a longways set for "La Montagnarde", a splendid dance with everyone moving all the time, either bourree-stepping up the set with your partner, or weaving down dodging the oncoming traffic!

After the meal break, the opening bars of the ceilidh took us straight back to the Massif Central. Ceilidh? Grand Bal, rather, or Fest-Noz, a gentle Breton circle dance following an exuberant scottische, then a mazurka, dance after dance with barely pause for breath; feet stepping and dancers flowing around the room, driven by Mel Sterland's expressive piping.

Rosbif's sound is closer to the 'traditional' French dance band than the wild european jazz of Blowzabella/Scarp, but no less danceable for that.

The day ended with two of Rosbif sitting on the stage edge, playing a slow waltz as couples took their final dance; as a friend said "you really can imagine yourself in France, on a cafe terrace another pernod garçon!"

Congratulations to Rosbif and the WiggIN CEilidhs for such a successful and enjoyable day; here's hoping this was only the first of many such ventures.

Steve Mansfield

TOURS NEWS

Sorry to start on a sour note - I have just had a call from Carolyn Sheppard of "Shave The Monkey", who I plugged in the last edition of "Folk North West".

They were looking for work in this part of the country and had managed to get a couple of dates fixed up.

However, due to the usual combination of apathy and/or the Old Chestnut "Never heard of them" they are now forced to cancel these two gigs because they are just not viable.

It is a shame when you consider that a 5-Piece Band were prepared to come 200 miles, rent a house in our area and perform at local clubs for as little as £100 a night!

As Carolyn said, maybe the clubs in our area don't want to see anything new. I cannot help but agree with her - maybe one day we will all disappear up our own backsides and blame someone else for our demise!



I have quite a bit of news of different acts looking for work in this area, but I honestly cannot see the point in wasting space.

(Editor's Note: If you are a club organiser who is genuinely interested in expanding your horizons, please give Tony a ring on 051 526 6522 - He will be pleased (and surprised!) to hear from you)

Maybe we could build a wall around the North-West and shoot anyone who tries to get in or out!! I could think of a few club organisers who could man the Gun Turrets! Any ideas, Anyone?

Tony Gibbons

CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS

Has anyone spotted the Greater Uncrested Blackburn?? A very rare species, our favourite Federation Secretary has disappeared like snow off a ditch! Any sightings should be reported to yours truly, as I would love to have a Federation Meeting!!!

Well, did you watch the "Shetland Sessions"? A better Mini-Series than those imported from America! It was good to see some real old Folk Music on the "Box" for once.

Then there was the "Barely Works" Programme - Great Stuff! I am a "Works" fan - tremendous driving music, plenty of showmanship - and those two frontline ladies! AAH! I may be an old chauvinist but at least I am consistent!

So - What has your club been up to? Did your organisers return for the winter session full of ideas and enthusiasm???? Well - did they???

If not - insert a stick of ginger in the relevant orifice and see what happens!

Maghull ploughs on its merry way - last month we had a meal/boat trip from Burscough in company with the loyal regulars of the "Triton" who battle on against all odds. An enjoyable evening but the "Hot Pot" was more like "Blind Scouse".

At the end of October a goodly sprinkling of us went off on our Annual Club Holiday Week. This year we went to some modern cottages in Dungarven, County Waterford, a corner of Ireland we hadn't visited as a club before - poor old locals - God Bless 'em.

In January we have our pantomime outing. We are off to Southport to see "Maxi & Mitch" as two of Robin's Gay Band (ooer!). We went last year to see them as ugly sisters - but I suppose that was just type casting!!

It was a great night out last year (Oh no it wasn't - Oh yes it was!). Why not organise a coach and join us - I think it is the 9th we are going.

November 28 sees our latest thespian concert - "East Meets West" with "Skaz", a four piece on tour from Russia, and the "Sally Van Meter Band" on tour from the U.S.A. with their brand of genuine Bluegrass Music.

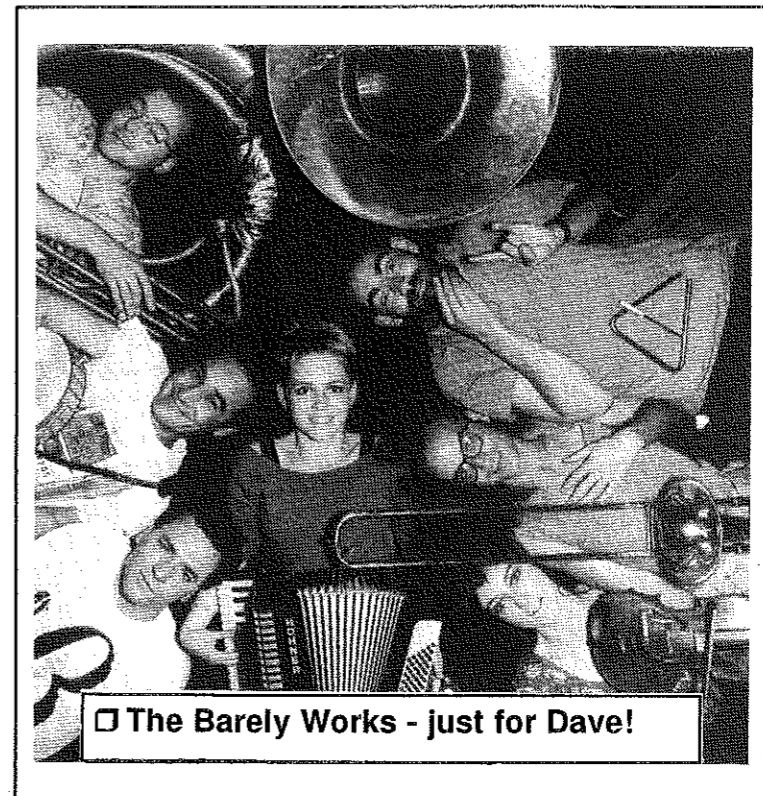
January also sees our Annual Christmas Dinner (We make a fetish of being idiosyncratic!!) so we have plenty a foot. The secret is to have different people prepared to organise the different activities.

Now here is a date for your brand new diaries! - November 6th 1993 - Maghull's first "Day of Folk" at Maghull Town Hall, noon to midnight.

That should be fair test of our ability! Already the Town Council have agreed to give us the whole Town Hall complex free of charge, so that is a brilliant start.

Have a great Holiday Season and generate loads of Activity and enthusiasm.

Dave Day



□ The Barely Works - just for Dave!

The Folk North-West Interview: **NIGEL FIRTH** talks to

GEOFF SPEED

about his experiences in helping to present Radio Merseyside's folk programme FOLK SCENE over many years

Nigel Firth: *Geoff, perhaps you could begin by telling us how you first got involved in the radio programme?*

Geoff Speed: Well I suppose it was in 1967 that Radio Merseyside first opened. At that time I was running the HOWFF Folk Club in Widnes with some friends of mine (Incidentally Howff was supposed to be North of the border term for a friendly meeting place). It was a very successful club, attracting regular audiences of 150, but then along came the breathalyser and halved our audience overnight. We were paying £5 a night for the room then, so suddenly it became difficult to make it pay.

I had known Stan for some years, and it was at meeting of the Folk Clubs Federation (*ED - No relation to NWFFC!*) in Liverpool that Stan said he had heard that Radio Merseyside were to start a folk programme. Initially there were different presenters each week, but it was difficult to get continuity so Stan presented the programme every week.

NF: *So how did you get involved yourself; have you always alternated with Stan?*

GS: No, originally Stan presented the programme, and I used to record the "outside broadcasts", armed only with a heavy tape recorder and a two microphones! Later on, I started doing one week and Stan did two weeks and it is some years ago that we started to alternated. I prefer it, it gives just a little bit of space to think about the next programme.

NF: *Do you have problems deciding what to put in the programme?*

GS: That's a question I am often asked, but I can honestly say that it has never been a problem. The programme I always say has to have local content, but should never be parochial.

NF: *But not ignoring what is going on nationally*

GS: Yes that's right. National artists coming into the area are always of interest, and there is a local context, because they are appearing at the local folk clubs. I like to think that I am helping, enabling people to appear on the air. I spend hours with the razor blade cutting, not the content of interviews (that would be wrong), but attempting to improve the presentation. I know that Stan does too. FOLKSCENE is not a vehicle for our own opinions.

NF: *Is it true Paul Simon wrote "Homeward Bound" in your living room?*

GS: I think so, I haven't spoken to Paul in 20 years, but he stayed with me for about a week while he did bookings in the area. He wasn't well known in those days, it was before he hit the big time with Art Garfunkel. He went off one day from Widnes station to do recordings for Granada Television, and I do know he was working on a song while he was staying with me, but I never saw what he was writing. It was only some months later when a song called "Homeward Bound" came into the hit parade that it was obvious what the connection was. He gave an interview to Melody Maker at the time which said it was written on Widnes station.

NF: *What did he charge for bookings in those days?*

GS: Twelve pounds! I have a receipt here, dated 13th September 1965 with Paul's signature on it.

NF: *Back to more mundane matter, do you feel secure in the programme, given the uncertain state of local broadcasting?*

GS: I don't think that local broadcasting has ever been a safe place! Going back more 20 years I can remember when the actual funding of local radio was called into question. Some local councils were actually subscribing to local radio and the BBC thought this wasn't right. I can't remember a time when it seemed totally safe. One just carries on despite the external pres-

NF: *Any funny incidents you can recall over the many years you have done the programme?*

GS: *One of the first interviews I did was with Ralph McTell at a folk club in Chester. When I got home I found that only 3 of the 4 batteries were in the tape recorder, so the interview sounded like Mickey Mouse played at normal speed. It was never broadcast.*

I also remember going to Liverpool boxing Stadium to record a concert and went back to the studios to listen to what we had recorded. We managed somehow to put the top 20 programme off the air for about twenty minutes and in its place play this live recording complete with the chat between songs. It was a couple of weeks before I dared show my face again at Radio Merseyside!

NF: *Do you ever get the chance to listen to the "competition", I mean other folk programmes on radio.*

GS: I do occasionally listen, but I don't set out to do so; I don't deliberately avoid them either. I usually listen to Stan's programme of course to make sure I don't duplicate what he's done.

NF comments: *We have moved from his "recording studio" to the garage where there is a rack absolutely groaning with tapes of previous programmes, and yet he tells me he doesn't keep them all!*

NF: *Can you recall some of the famous names you have interviewed or recorded over the years?*

GS: I remember a marvellous interview with Stan Hugill, the shantyman, who is sadly no longer with us. I can see a tape of Alan Bell talking about Fylde Folk Festival in January 1975. Therapy, recorded in November 1972. A Woody Guthrie feature in 1977 for the 10th Anniversary of his death. A Bob Roberts interview from the National Folk Music Festival at Loughborough. I also notice a Martin Carthy interview from the late 60's that was never broadcast; that would be interesting some day!

NF: *I'm sure it would. Thank you Geoff for letting us have some insights behind the scenes of FOLKSCENE, Radio Merseyside's folk music programme.*

FREE



COMPETITION!

Would you like to win a free copy of Tartan Video's new release, **HONEYSUCKLE ROSE?** This is now on sale at £15.99, and we have 5 copies to give away free!

The film stars Willie Nelson as Buck Bonham as a Country star, able to fill raucous night spots, but fame on a national level eludes him. He has a nice home & wife (played by Dyan Cannon) in Texas, but she suspects that he is not always faithful to her while on the road. Lily Ramsey (played by Amy Irving) joins the band and her & buck become lovers. The scene is set for a showdown with his jealous wife!

The competition:

(Answers to all these questions will be found in the pages of this issue)

1. Where is it said that Paul Simon wrote his hit song "Homeward Bound" ?

- Was it a) New York
- b) Widnes
- c) Clacton-on-Sea

2. Who is appearing in Pantomime at Southport this year (in January)?

- Is it a) Ken Nicol & Chris White
- b) Mike Lennon & Steve Higham
- c) Maxi & Mitch

3. Where is the New Levellers' Folk Club in Liverpool held?

- Is it a) The Flying Picket
- b) The Fox & Hounds
- c) The Queen Victoria

Send your answers, on a postcard please together with your name & address to:

**Folk North-West Competition,
118, Bolton Road,
Aspull,
Wigan
WN2 1XF**

Closing date for entries will be 25th January 1992, and winners will be published in the next edition

December Dates

Sunday	(29-Nov)	6-Dec	13-Dec	20-Dec	27-Dec
ARNSIDE		(Closed)	(Closed)	Singers Night	(Closed)
BOTHY	Singers Night	Keith Hinchcliffe	Steve Tilston & Maggie Boyle	The Office Party!	Closed
FLEECE FOLK	Christine Kydd	Sileas	Residents Night	Alistair Russell & Friends	Closed
LEIGH	Singers Night	Parsons Hog		Christmas Party	
LLANDUDNO	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
PAVILION	Guest tba				
THE ALBION	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Monday	(30-Nov)	7-Dec	14-Dec	21-Dec	28-Dec
HORWICH	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
BEAUMARIS	Isaac Guillory	The Herbs	Tudur Morgan	Winter Solstice Pub Crawl	
PRESTON	Singers Night	Stanley Accrington	Brian Peters	Christmas Party	Singers Night
PUNCHBOWL	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
TRITON	Singers Night	Singers Night	Bob Davies	Christmas Party	Closed
Tuesday	1-Dec	8-Dec	15-Dec	22-Dec	29-Dec
ARKWRIGHT'S	Dick Miles	Mary Asquith	Singers Night	Les Barker	Singers Night
BLACK HORSE	Club Night	Deighton Family	Jacqueline McDonald	Christmas Night - Tom Topping Band	Closed
FROG & FERRET	Music Session	Music Session	Music Session	Music Session	Music Session
MAGHULL	Guest or	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
TAP & SPILE	Stanley Accrington	Singers Night	Bonz etc	Singers Night	Pantomime
TILSTON	Singers Night	The Boat Band (Cajun)	Singers Night	Closed	Singers Night
YARROW VALLEY	Christmas Party	(Closed)	(Closed)	(Closed)	(Closed)
Wednesday	2-Dec	9-Dec	16-Dec	23-Dec	30-Dec
BLACKBURN	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
8.45 AT THE SWAN	Allan Taylor	3 song session	Carl & Jane	Ken Nicol & Chris While	Party - Bispham Barnstormers
RUNCORN	Singers Night	Guest tba	Christmas Party	Closed	Closed
WHITE SWAN	No dates				
*BODDIE SHOP				Christmas Night	
*BREWERY ARTS	Sid Kipper & Dave Burland	Alias Ron Kavana			
Thursday	3-Dec	10-Dec	17-Dec	24-Dec	31-Dec
BURNLEY	Rod & Sheila	Singers Night	Stanley Accrington	*	*
COCKERMOUTH	Artisan's Christmas Show	Tom McConville	Christmas Party	*	*
DARWEN	Closed	Singers Night	Closed	Closed	Closed
FLEETWOOD	Dick Miles	Singers Night	Jet Martin	for	for
FOLK AT THE GATE	No dates			Christmas	New
GREGSON LANE	Lennon & Higham	Closed	Christmas Special	*	Year
HASKAYNE	No dates			*	*
MAGAZINE	Ring for details	Ring for details	Ring for details	*	*
NEW LEVELLERS		'Murphy's Night' Christmas Party		*	*
THE BODDIE SHOP			Ceol Cait	*	*
Friday	4-Dec	11-Dec	18-Dec	25-Dec	
NORTHWICH	New Hokum Boys	*Chris Newman & Maire	Christmas Party	*	
POTTERIES	Singers Night	Dave Goulder	Christmas Party	Closed	
RED LION	Carolina Shout	Jeze Lowe	Closed	for	
RHYL	Pete Coe	Singers Night	Singers Night	Christmas	
*BOTHY			*Ceilidh	*	
*BREWERY ARTS		Christmas Ceilidh		*	
Saturday	5-Dec	12-Dec	19-Dec	26-Dec	
BURY	Dick Miles	Christmas Ceilidh	Wassailers	*	
FORMBY	Raphael Callaghan	Singers Night	Singers Night	Closed	
POYNTON	Junior Drama Panto	Ceilidh - Bilbo Baggins	Kathryn Tickell & Ian Carr	for	
ST ALBANS		Once a month=>	Singers Night	Christmas	
*BLACK HORSE	*Harvey Andrews & Allan Taylor			*	
*BREWERY ARTS		John Martyn (tbc)		*	
*SOUTHPORT ARTS		Julie Felix	Waterloo Ceilidh Band		

January Dates

Sunday	31-Jan	3-Jan	10-Jan	17-Jan	24-Jan
ARNSIDE	(Closed)	(Closed)	(Closed)	Singers Night	(Closed)
BOTHY	Brian Peters	Cynthia May	Singers Night	Mike Silver	Singers Night
FLEECE FOLK	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
LEIGH		Stanley Accrington			
LLANDUDNO	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
PAVILION					
THE ALBION	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Monday		4-Jan	11-Jan	18-Jan	25-Jan
HORWICH		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
BEAUMARIS					
PRESTON		Singers Night	Tom Walsh	Singers Night	Ben & Joe Broughton
PUNCHBOWL		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
TRITON		Closed	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Tuesday		5-Jan	12-Jan	19-Jan	26-Jan
ARKWRIGHT'S		Singers Night	Annie Williamson & Hamish Whately	Singers Night	Tom McConville
BLACK HORSE		Closed	Guest tbc	Guest tbc	Guest tbc
FROG & FERRET		Music Session	Music Session	Music Session	Music Session
MAGHULL		Guest or	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
TAP & SPILE		Singers Night	Geoff Higginbottom	Singers Night	Jackie Finney
TILSTON		Singers Night	Singers Night	Sara Gray	Singers Night
YARROW VALLEY		Singers Night	(Closed)	(Closed)	(Closed)
Wednesday		6-Jan	13-Jan	20-Jan	27-Jan
BLACKBURN		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
8.45 AT THE SWAN		Quartz	Jenny Shottliffe	Bayou Gumbo	Jeze Lowe & The Bad Pennies
RUNCORN		Closed	Singers Night	Guest tba	Singers Night
WHITE SWAN					
*POTTERIES			*Ceilidh		
Thursday		7-Jan	14-Jan	21-Jan	28-Jan
BURNLEY		Singers Night	Sharon	Singers Night	Singaround
COCKERMOUTH		Eddie Walker	Singers Night	Marie Little	Singers Night
DARWEN		Singers Night	Closed	Singers Night	Closed
FLEETWOOD		tba	Singaround	Guest tba	Singers Night
FOLK AT THE GATE					
GREGSON LANE		Singers Night	Closed	Singers Night	Closed
HASKAYNE					
MAGAZINE		Ring for details	Ring for details	Ring for details	Ring for details
NEW LEVELLERS					
THE BODDIE SHOP					
Friday	1-Jan	8-Jan	15-Jan	22-Jan	29-Jan
NORTHWICH	*	Singers Night	Steve Tilston & Maggie Boyle	Singers Night	Guest tba
POTTERIES	Closed	Caught On The Hop	Singers Night	Guest tba	Singers Night
RED LION	for	Artisan	Pete Coe	Roy Bailey	Huw & Tony Williams
RHYL	New Year	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
*BREWERY ARTS	*			R. Cajun	
Saturday	2-Jan	9-Jan	16-Jan	23-Jan	30-Jan
BURY	AGM & Party	Pete Castle	Singers Night	Derek Gifford	Nick Dow
FORMBY	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Jane & Carl
POYNTON	Closed	Ceilidh: Hobson's Choice	Cajun Night	Ceilidh: Olio	Strawhead & Geoff Higginbottom
ST ALBANS		Once a month=>	Singers Night		
*BREWERY ARTS			The Storm (tbc)	R. Cajun	

Notes:

* If club name has an "*" in front, it's not the usual club night.

* If entry has an "*" in front, it's being held at a different venue (unless venue is named)

February Dates

Sunday	7-Feb	14-Feb	21-Feb	28-Feb	
ARNSIDE	(Closed)	(Closed)	Singers Night	(Closed)	
BOTHY	Singers Night	Sisters Unlimited	Singers Night	Strawhead	
FLEECE FOLK	Residents Night	Shave The Monkey	Davy Steele	Singers Night	
LEIGH					
LLANDUDNO	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
PAVILION					
THE ALBION	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
Monday	1-Feb	8-Feb	15-Feb	22-Feb	(1-Mar)
HORWICH	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
BEAUMARIS					
PRESTON	Singers Night	Singers Night	Dave Goulder	Steve Tilston & Maggie Boyle	
PUNCHBOWL					
TRITON	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Tuesday	2-Feb	9-Feb	16-Feb	23-Feb	(2-Mar)
ARKWRIGHT'S	Ken Nicol	Singers Night	Richard Grainger	Carl & Jane	Singers Night
BLACK HORSE	Guest tba	Guest tba	Guest tba	Guest tba	Guest tba
FROG & FERRET	Music Session	Music Session	Music Session	Music Session	
MAGHULL	Guest or	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
TAP & SPILE	Singers Night	Ken Powell & Holly Burton	Singers Night	Guest tba	Singers Night
TILSTON	Singers Night	Singers Night	Shave The Monkey	Singers Night	
YARROW VALLEY	Keith Kendrick	(Closed)	(Closed)	(Closed)	
Wednesday	3-Feb	10-Feb	17-Feb	24-Feb	(3-Mar)
BLACKBURN	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
8.45 AT THE SWAN	Pat Shaw & Julie Matthews	'Open House'	Zephyrus	Bernard Wrigley	
RUNCORN	Guest t.b.a	Singers Night	Guest t.b.a	Singers Night	
WHITE SWAN	No dates				
*SOUTHPORT ARTS			Fairport Convention		
Thursday	4-Feb	11-Feb	18-Feb	25-Feb	(4-Mar)
BURNLEY	Pat Shaw & Julie Matthews	Singers Night	Demure	Singaround	Bruce Hogg & Eddie Klimek
COCKERMOUTH	Th'Antique Roadshow	Singers Night	Knotted Cord Retied	Martin Hall	Singers Night
DARWEN	Closed	Singers Night	Closed	Singers Night	
FLEETWOOD	Guest tba	Singers Night	Betty & Norman McDonald	Singaround	
FOLK AT THE GATE	No dates				
GREGSON LANE	Closed	Singers Night	Closed	Singers Night	
HASKAYNE					
MAGAZINE	Ring for details	Ring for details	Ring for details	Ring for details	
NEW LEVELLERS					
THE BODDIE SHOP					
Friday	5-Feb	12-Feb	19-Feb	26-Feb	(5-Mar)
NORTHWICH	Singers Night	Guest tba	Singers Night	Jeff Gillett and Ron Taylor	Singers Night
POTTERIES	Derek Brimstone	Singers Night	The Boat Band	Singers Night	
RED LION	Keith Hancock	Bill Caddick's Urban Legend	Vin Garbutt (ticket only)	Garva	Guest tba
RHYL	Chris Newman & Maire	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
*BREWERY ARTS				Sileas/Ceolbeg (tbc)	
*BOTHY				*Ceilidh	
*GREGSON LANE			Robb Johnson & Pip Collings		
Saturday	6-Feb	13-Feb	20-Feb	27-Feb	(6-Mar)
BURY	Mick & Susie Darling	Singers Night	Dave & Helen Howard	Geoff Higginbottom	Brian Peters
FORMBY	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	tba	
POYNTON	The Houghton Weavers	Ceilidh	Concert tbc	Ceilidh	The Oldham Tinkers
ST ALBANS		Once a month=>	Singers Night		
*SOUTHPORT ARTS		Kathryn Tickell			

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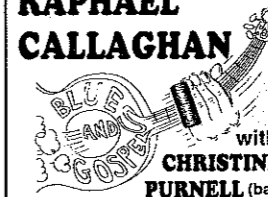
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FESTIVAL REVIEWS

The Editor Comments:

I thought I should apologise for the lack of coverage of festivals in this issue. We would normally review Kendal, Fylde Crewe & Nantwich and other local & National festivals in this issue. Unfortunately, Phil Capper, who organises the live reviews, is working away at present and neglected to tell me that he was unable to collect together any reviews for this issue. Normal service will be resumed next issue!

Stainsby Folk Festival

July 24th - 26th 1992

There is a magic about Stainsby festival - it increases in popularity each year, and the average festival goer there enjoys it immensely. What I cannot work out is why? Next year will be the 25th Stainsby festival, so it is well established and well-attended. Cost and attendance are about the same as Wigan or Warwick, but there are far fewer events. One concert marquee, one singaround tent, one beer tent with impromptu music sessions, one (clog) dance arena. No alternate concerts if you don't like the main guests. Difficult to find at 5pm on Friday, as no signs at all were in evidence until you reached the gates only to find that you had gone too far, while traffic queues in a narrow country lane cause aggravation.

Once there, it is a pleasant, relaxed atmosphere in an enclosed farmland setting, and if everything else in the garden was rosy, it would be a good little festival to go to. BUT: Bolsover council have insisted on so many campsite restrictions that it is being strangled.

Some of the rules included:

1. You cannot park next to your tent. All camping equipment must be lugged from the carpark to the camping area - you cannot drive on at any time.
2. All cars must be parked (at owners risk) in the designated carpark, which is unsecured at night.
3. Caravan spaces must be booked in advance.
4. All other caravans/motor caravans must park on the overflow site "in the village" (you can keep your car here, tho', and it is only a stone's throw away, so it is actually a better option.).
5. Tents cannot be erected on the caravan sites, but must be erected in the crowded campsite.

The tents are crammed together, which in my opinion is little more than a firetrap. They use 15 acres of land, but still need more space. Fifty (FIFTY!) stewards in teams seem to spend most of their time running round like headless chickens - although the festival organisation itself runs ok - and so it should,

with that many stewards and so few events.

A new innovation for this year was a tannoy. It was obviously the organisers' latest toy, and they used it all the time. 9am Saturday morning, they regaled us with "Good morning, campers". Sunday brought "Good morning Vietnam". They paged everyone they could think of, rather than go looking; they spoiled singarounds, interrupted the singing competition and generally disturbed the peace. Official stewards, instead of quietly reprimanding campers for breaking the rules, got quite loud about it (even without the tannoy) - at least one or two did in the early hours of the morning, waking a lot of resentful folkies from their well-earned slumber.

To be fair, Bolsover council have basically tightened the reins to strangulation point. Committee members have been made legally responsible for the behaviour at the festival. Any infringement of the rules could mean them facing heavy fines or a jail sentence. I only marvel at anyone being willing to organise it at all, given those conditions.

Plus points of the festival? There was a hot mulled cider stall - I could have drunk all night! **Anna Ryder**, a talented singer/songwriter on guitar and accordion - well worth booking at your club. **Pat Shaw** and **Julie Matthews**, the finest example of a contemporary female duo I have seen sang a selection consisting mainly of Julie's own material (including Mary Black's Irish hit "Thorn upon the Rose") - their talent is stunning. Our own **Dave Summers**, **Colin Wilson** and **Gemini** were there to keep the audiences and singarounds lively, while **Motley Crew** from South Wales gave some fine examples of harmony singing. Exhilarating Cajun music from the **Crayfish Five** fired the blood and encouraged dancing into the night. The singers/musicians competition was won by **Mark Hearne** with prize of a 15 minute spot on the Sunday night, plus a booked guest spot next year! Unannounced appearances by **Clann McPeake** (replacing Davy Spillane) and **Tony Capstick** (instead of Jake Walton) were a real treat. (Black mark against Davy Spillane, who pulled out due to a dispute between him and his management.)

My recommendation - try it for yourself, but see if you can find a proper campsite somewhere near, so that you can avoid the silly brigade. If not, try for the alternate caravan site (they say you cannot camp there - but just tell them you are sleeping in your car). Don't go expecting another Chester, Wigan or Warwick, as it is not as good as them, but in it is own way it is an enjoyable festival - just don't let the rulebook get you down.

Linda Wright

Warwick Folk Festival

August 7th - 9th 1992

An historical and beautiful setting for any folk festival is bound to make it an enjoyable occasion, but Warwick Folk Festival goes one better. The town is deeply involved in the festival proper - concerts are scattered throughout the town, Morris dancing can be found everywhere from Warwick Castle grounds, round the streets to the local parks, while Guy Nelson school provides camping and central festival activities.

On arrival, you are provided with tickets and a map of the campsite. The tickets could be improved - an oblong card with a hole at one end through which you thread a piece of string is a nuisance. Badges or wristbands would be better. The campsite is divided into sections, with the main division being "Dogs/ Quiet Area" and "everything else". As a dog-owner I would question the idea of putting dogs in a quiet area - the 2 things are diametrically opposed! Better perhaps to have a separate quiet area and put the dogs with the noisy crowd. But then again, it seems to work, so why change it? On-site there is a swimming pool and shower facilities, plus the normal run of craft stalls to be perused at a leisurely pace.

A 10 to 15 minute walk (or a busride for the less energetic) takes you into the town, where the choice of events is myriad. Larger concerts at the Lord Leicester hotel, singarounds/music sessions at a variety of pubs, with a chance to shop while racing between venues.

One of the best events for me was a great PA work-

shop., where we were told the relevance of the various bits of equipment that frighten most of us to death. How to communicate your requirements to the PA technician, why he needs to know certain things, the best way to sing or play into a mike etc. Hope they repeat it next year! A workshop on voice survival gave the answers to many of those vocal problems encountered by unaccompanied singers - breathing, posture, control - **Artisan** explained them all.

Acappella Irish traditional group **The Voice Squad** made the weekend for me. Three fine singers in their own right, they have created their own unique sound by combining traditional singing with strong yet subtle harmonies. To hear them in the Unitarian Hall, one of the best acoustic chambers I have ever encountered, was little short of heavenly!

Unusually for a folk festival, you will find plenty of bluegrass music around, as Warwick has a strong bluegrass contingent. On Friday nights, festival or no festival, you will find a bluegrass & roots session at the Rose & Crown.

Folk legend **Sid Kipper** appeared as a solo artist - many were nervous about this, as his Dad has always been seen as the talented one. But Sid proved himself a worthy disciple, and the Kipper tradition lives on.

Yet another hectic weekend, with many talented artists, covering the spectrum of folk music in all its guises. Definitely one of the greats.

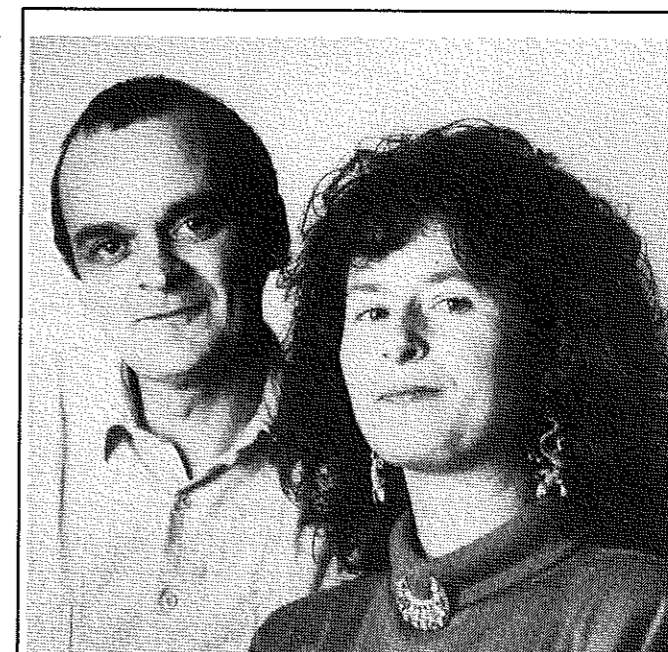
Linda Wright

Langdale 3rd Charity Folk Festival

September 18th - 20th 1992

This is a tiny festival held in one of the most beautiful valleys in England. The Old Dungeon Ghyll Hotel, weekend home for climbers and walkers the length and breadth of the country, hosts the perfect excuse for lots of good music and intoxicating brews.

This year **The Alan Bell Band**, **The Wassailers**, **Parcel O' Rogues** and **Nick Dow** headed an all-volunteer guest list as organiser **Mick Mead** raised funds for Footpath Erosion Control. Tickets were a modest £8. Officially, it began on the Friday evening, but many arrived the night before to great jollification, as was evident by the greyed faces of the noise-sensitive participants. That look became more prevalent as the weekend progressed. Sleep became a



□ Chris Newman & Maire Ni Chathasaigh

thing that other people did, late night sessions finished at 8 am for the stalwart, and I faced the ordeal of being told at 11.30 am that I was singing at 12 while I was still trying to make the top of my head stay fastened. A very informal festival, Langdale, with plenty of opportunity to view the local scenery, to walk and to relax, which makes it an ideal venue for the family.

It was due to finish at 4pm on Sunday. It didn't. A last minute appearance by **Pete Morton** on the Sunday evening allowed another impromptu concert to evolve. I dragged myself away on Monday afternoon, with singing still to be heard. What a great way to finish the festival season.

21 Linda Wright

The GALLAVANTING GALLIMORES

or, an everyday tale of not-so-ordinary festival-goers

THE EDITOR WRITES: For those of you who have been on the moon or who otherwise missed our Summer edition, George & Joan Gallimore recently celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Apart from a special celebration night at Melling Tithebarn, several local festivals donated tickets to them both. These reviews are as a result of those tickets.

7th WIGAN FOLK FESTIVAL

12th - 14th June 1992

Now then Bernie, you have done it again. George and I have been to them all, since it was just a day of folk at the old school in Billinge. Better and better over the years. Everything to us seemed to be going like clockwork, yet, now and again, we saw words on the notice board and realised that work was still going on behind the scenes.

All our favourites were there - Les Barker, Brian McNeil, Cilla and Ray Fisher (magic by the way), Whip-persnapper, Artisan and, best of all for me, Roy Bailey. I was over the moon when I saw the list of local talent. Nice one Bernie! Quartz, Brass Tacks, Derek Gifford, Colin Wilson and then our good friends Gemini who have helped us with our charity singing. Good luck girls!

Again, "Songs For Sunday" was another highlight. Lovely, lovely singing. One lady sang "The Lord's Prayer". It was electric in the small hall.

The weekend, for us, was full to the brim. Now and again we had time out to watch the Morris Dancers etc. also to go down to the "Maghull Community Tent" where the ladies were practising juggling like mad. They had promised at the workshop to be proficient at Fylde. Stewarding at the festival was very good, even to trying to quiet the chatterboxes around the main hall bar.

Anyway Bernie, two O.A.P. delinquents think the festival was A1 plus. Here's to 1993. God keep us well.

22nd CLEETHORPES FOLK FESTIVAL

Spring Bank Holiday, 1992

We arrived Saturday morning and those that knew George and I called "Greetings". We ambled into the main hall, where an Appalachian Dance team, Broken Ankles, were having a workshop. We spent an enjoyable hour with them, then it was away to our favourite, the first singaround of the week-end. Very good floor singers; I could have listened and listened. The concerts were well attended and stewarding excellent - cheerful, polite people but very firm on behaviour. Artists included a number of old favourites, Robin Garside, Dick Gaughan and Shave The Monkey. We missed Vin; stayed too long at "Willy's Bar".

Cosmotheka and Shanty Jack were on top form. New to me, Damien Barber played good concertina, sang with a strong clear voice, only a young man too!

Great. Two young lady singers Yvette Staelens and Michelle Hicks put over "Lanigans Ball" in lovely fashion. Then the icing on the cake, Old Rope String Band, two on fiddle, one on accordion; a comedy group, they certainly touched my funny bone so Dave take note. The Wilsons, five great lads all in good voice, had their usual football match. The tide went far out, the teams followed it. The Wilsons told me that they won, the other side said it was a draw.

All in all, a wonderful, magic festival. A festival for singers, for dancers, morris teams, children and musicians. Food in the main hall was very good value, prices competitive with the cafes in the town. Booze! Well that's the only thing a bit pricey, but sales seemed to be going well.

We both enjoyed ourselves.



□ George & Joan

REDDITCH FOLK FESTIVAL

June 1992

The sun was cracking the flags when we arrived at Headless Cross, Redditch. "Mad Dogs and Englishmen" wasn't in it! We did not "gently perspire", we sweated profusely! And yet, a good time was had with good singing from start to finish.

Friday's singaround started with just six of us but gradually increased until it took 1½ hours to get round. The concert was going great guns across in the Barleycorn Room. We listened to Jim Mageean and Johnny Collins outside (where it was cooler) and joined in the choruses, softly of course.

Saturday, another scorcher: tried the song session, packed to the doors, stood in the passage and listened to Graham and Eileen Pratt. We listened to Beggars Velvet in the Barleycorn Room; heard Portway Pedlars who we hadn't seen for years, but we both enjoyed the songs. Time out to watch the Morris Dancers and look at the craft stalls, which were on the "Green Triangle" and stood under a big shady tree. Bliss!

At the "Songsmith", we enjoyed Pete Coe and Colin Pitts. Colin sang a very good song about the sinking of the Titanic; if anyone knows it, please pass it on. "Songs of Graham Miles" was my favourite. Martin Wyndham-Read and the Wilsons boys did a great programme and we ended the night at the Folk Club again. Good singing, but it was still awfully hot.

Sunday dawned another scorcher and we started at the "Gospels". Very good singing, with a new song from Joyce Squires, which touched me rather. Peter and Judith Gleave sang "How Beautiful Upon The Mountains" with memories of my father and uncles singing it round the fire at Christmas. Dashed to see Ray Fisher but were late and only heard two songs. We stood in the club room passage in a bit of a breeze and listened to "Choruses Please", where they were trying to take the roof off and then finished on the singaround.

We both enjoyed the festival but Peter Bellamy and Keith Marsden had been talked about and I felt the sadness around me.

Before we left, Theresa Tooley joined us at "Gino's" for a pizza. The young people behind the counter remarked on our Northern accents, so we burst into "Lanky Spoken Here". They were mesmerised by it all, but they enjoyed it! A fitting end to a great weekend. Fingers crossed for 1993.

CREW AND NANTWICH FESTIVAL

September 1992

Crew and Nantwich was the last of our free festival tickets. Again we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. To top it all we were again included in the published programme (Talk about needing new hats).

Friday evening was the usual singaround, Fred Broad was the host. With Len and Barbara Berry (Portway Pedlars) there were only 6 of us to begin. By the way we hadn't seen each other for years so you can guess lots of oohs and ahhs. As the evening wore on the numbers increased to about 30. Barbara and myself at the close of the evening sang quite a number of the 30's and 40's songs, I really enjoyed myself. George and Len were rather taken aback.

At 10.45 on Saturday morning we watched the procession a number of Dance Teams, also Giant Puppets. Away to meet Marie Little a lovely lady. Plenty of good laughs and good songs, stayed for Steve Tilston and Maggie Boyle, to me they seemed rather stiff at first but settled down and became quite friendly.

Over to the song writing, two girls out of Gypsy Red - enjoyed their company very much. Stayed over to see a very good Irish Band called Craobh Rua (I cannot pronounce that at all).

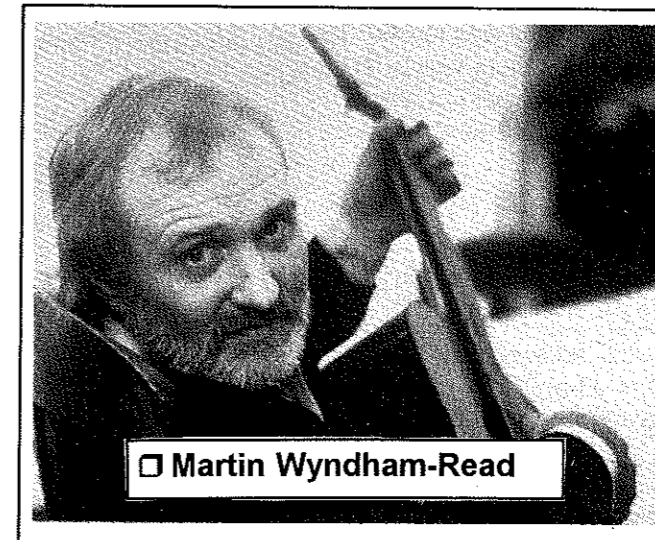
Pressed George to go to the French Dance (Oh for a dance partner! George doesn't) but the band, great! a ladies band called

Token Women. Hosted the evening singaround with Portway Pedlars, mixtures as Friday small numbers to start; increased to 25-30 then decreased towards the end of the night, (Like a knitting pattern). For all that we had some very good singers etc.

On Sunday we enjoyed the appalachian Dance Team "Mind the Step". Also the other Dance Teams out in the open. We were both impressed.

10'clock found us down in the Railway pub hosting the singaround, again with Portway Pedlars, also Marie Little. Marie stayed one and a half hours. We four stayed until 5.20. Some good songs, good fun. Barbara and myself had another go at the 30's and 40's songs. A good end to a lovely weekend.

Joan Gallimore



□ Martin Wyndham-Read

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks to all...

I write to tell you and all your readers the following. As an unknown singer/songwriter etc, I journeyed North to Redcar Festival, and had arranged also to visit Warwick, Fylde, and Crewe and Nantwich. This was an exploratory venture for me, Never having played or sung further north than Birmingham. I sat at Redcar Festival Campsite a day early, watching John Taylor and henchman erect the fence, thinking to myself "P*****K, what have you done, you don't know a soul", but that festival was absolutely brilliant. For me, everyone without exception gave this southerner a warm welcome, in the nicest possible way. I made, I hope, a lot of new friends there. I certainly left on the Monday with a buzz that lasted a week or more. The artists were Great and the singing in the singarounds was a knockout. Everybody was lovely, I mean it, I am not the only one to say there was a lot of love at that festival. If the promises of work materialize, it looks as though I shall be spending a lot of time in the North in general.

Warwick was next and of course there I renewed acquaintances with people from Redcar and made New ones, and Lo! I met the "Grunt Band" again after many years. Again more assurances of work.

Fylde and Crewe and Nantwich followed. By then I felt as though I had lived there all my life (The North that is). Again I felt I was well received and some people believed, because I phoned round before leaving Portsmouth, and was booked at various small clubs in the area, admittedly on an expenses only basis, but that helped a great deal.

It is really good to know that despite what one hears, it is small clubs that are prepared to take someone's word that a performer is good, of to trust the performer himself. So from me "The Ageing Hippy" to John Taylor, Alan Bell, Tim Halliday and Frances Dixon (unfortunately we never met) she and I and Gemini, Dave Day, Maghull Folk Club, Colin Wilson, Rod Felton and the Lovely Couple George and Joan (aren't they great), Doreen Rickart, Mal & Bill and the new but good friend Charles Fyson, and everybody else, my heartfelt thanks for a wet, windy but very warm summer. I do hope to see you all soon.

All the best

Jon Fitzgerald

P.S To Phil & Liz Capper, Also thank you kindly. I hope all goes well in your new job Phil.

And yet more thanks to all...

George and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking various people whilst we had our "Festival wanderings". First of all the organiser of the Holmfirth Festival. Owing to George and myself having a nasty flu virus we were unable to take up the free ticket. Through Tony Gibbons we understand that the Festival ticket has been carried through to 1993. Thank you. Holmfirth, I will get in touch with you early in 1993.

Now for John Taylor of Redcar Festival a lovely fellow, kindness itself to us. Especially when George took poorly and I had to have the medics out early Sunday morning. John pulled out all the stops as soon as I had got in touch with him. Chris Locke and Ian Tuplin and Dave Day were jet propelled, George and I were back home Sunday afternoon. Thank you folks!

Stainsby Festival - again much kindness, Ann Clancy and Theresa Tooley took us under their wing. But as the saying goes "the field was agin em an all" This time I had a nasty fall, no bones broken but badly shaken and bruised. So back home and bed for a few hours.

Onto Warwick; we were okay thank heaven. Sang our heads off, had a great time. Our accommodation was fabulous. Yes we were in the "Honeymoon Suite". Yes there were chandeliers, and the bed was four poster. All and sundry pulled our legs including the management of the Lord Leicester.

Now for Fylde - out of this world, George and I were even featured in the published programme. To Derek and Muriel we both say thank you for your lovely welcome.

George and I have had a lovely year, we will never forget those concerned, all of you are in our prayers.

Yours again in friendship

Joan and George Gallimore

□ THE EDITOR COMMENTS:

It is nice for once to get some positive letters to print; looks as though some people actually appreciate what you are doing out there!



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RECORD REVIEWS

THE BARELY WORKS "Glow"

It must be about a year since I last saw the Barely Works. Then I saw a band that were exciting and full of energy, had raw, rough edges and had everyone in the room on their feet dancing. I can't decide whether this CD is the new smoother, cleaner version of the band or they have lost their direction. It is difficult to capture the excitement of live performances on a recording but this all seems a bit tame.

I think the main fault is that the songs are not strong enough. The opening track "Riddle Me Wry" is catchy but really that is as far as it goes. The rest are a poor addition to the bands musical abilities. To compound this, they really could do with a good singer; one or two of the tracks contain some suspect vocals.

On the positive side, the sets of tunes are lively, different and display the band's undoubted musical talent.

Ken Howard

VOICES - English Traditional Songs Various Artists

Fellside FECD87

To quote from the accompanying booklet "The collection of songs on this recording belongs to a group called English Traditional folk songs and they are presented (here) in their simplest form - unaccompanied by musical instruments." What can I say about this recording (available on CD & Cassette), except to say that it is quite brilliant.

One could always put up arguments as to whether other singers should have been included, or indeed that others should perhaps not have been included. Even more arguments could be put up about the choice of songs, but Paul Adams has largely avoided this problem by asking the singers to choose their own songs. The only comment I will offer about the selection is that while there are sea songs there is only one shanty (The Noah's Ark Shanty, sung by Swan Arcade), and I think a couple more would have made for a better balance.

The one common factor between the singers on this

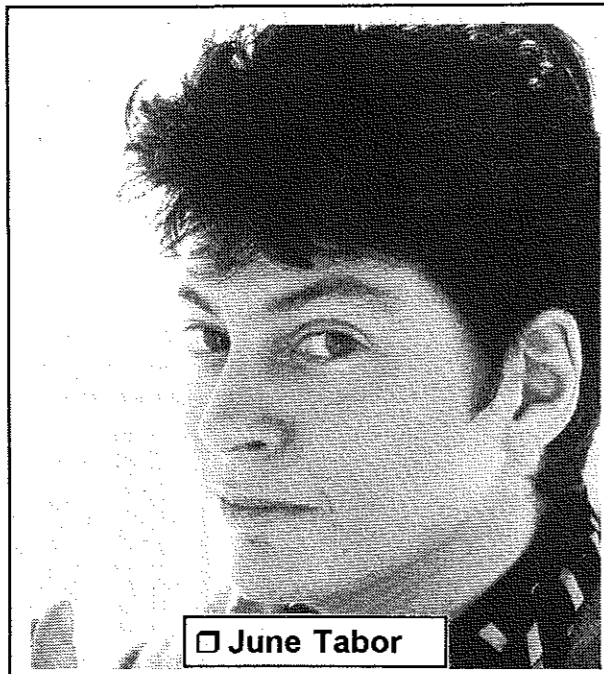
album is that they are all well-known for researching their songs, and if possible collecting them directly from traditional sources. This is also reflected in the excellent booklet with background notes for all the songs.

The songs chosen range from the well-known (June Tabor's "The Bonny Boy") through the humorous (Damien Barber's "Old Brown's Daughter") to the rather more obscure ("Young Emma", sung by Martin Carthy). My own favourites though are "King Jamie and the Tinkler" (previously unfamiliar to me) and sung by John Kirkpatrick, Peta Webb's "Go and leave me if you wish love" and Roy Bailey's "Four Loom Weaver".

No-one could possibly complain about value for money here. There are 25 tracks by some of the best-known names in the English tradition and the whole lasts over an hour. Well done Fellside!

Paul Adams has dedicated the album to the late and much-lamented Peter Bellamy, who was one of the inspirations behind the album. I am sure, like me, he would have been very pleased with the result. Go out and buy it at once!

Nigel Firth



MARILYN

MIDDLETON POLLOCK "A Doll's House"

Fellside FECD86

The first 30 seconds of this recording is enough to convince the listener that here is a voice that **has** to be listened to - whatever your musical tastes.

Marilyn is an eclectic song collector, so that the material is as widely chosen as is imaginable, though anonymous "Trad" to Rogers and Hart, with all stops in between. As Paul Adams has remarked on the sleeve notes, you cannot "pigeon-hole" Marilyn - she likes what she sings and she sings what she likes.

Marilyn's depth of delivery on all of the tracks gives each song a uniqueness, and the arrangements are all well thought out by a very talented Scotsman by the name of Sandy Stanage. Witness the haunting

26 harmonica of Dick Ellis (a blues player from South

Wales who ad-libbed - superbly! - most of his accompaniments) on "Waterboy", "My Man" and especially on the introduction to "The Buffalo/Joseph Cross", and the skilful up-tempo accompaniments to "Barrytown" and "The Heat of Bourbon Street".

Stanley Accrington's "Peace and Love and understanding" and "A Doll's House" help to illustrate Marilyn's vocal range. Stan Rodgers, without doubt one of the world's great songwriters, gets the Middleton Pollock treatment on "Tiny Fish for Japan" and "Last Watch on the Midland", but it is his "Harris and the Mare" which she sings unaccompanied, that exemplifies her expressiveness and sensitivity through deft use of those well controlled vocal chords.

The only traditional song "Bringing in the Sheaves" is for me one of the highlights of the album. The chorus lineup features the three members of Swan Arcade, Martin Hall and Dave Weatherall and Linda Adams. Paul Adams told me that it just "happened" that Swan Arcade and Martin and Dave were there to record their tracks for the "Voices" CD, and so they all went in and "did it"! Such coincidences rarely happen, but in this case the result is mind-blowing!

The 16 tracks are carefully programmed so that the whole disc never palls, although I have to be honest and say that the final track "Old Man River" left me a little disappointed. This is due to my "mature years" more than anything because the definite version of this fine old standard will always be Ray Charles's recording on his "Recipe for Soul" album of - 1963! Even so Marilyn's version is as individual as any I have ever heard. She is without doubt a major singing talent.

Derek Gifford

KEN NICOL & CHRIS WHILE "Face to Face"

Redwood records RED005 (cassette only)

This duo have had more than their fair share of superlatives levelled in their direction in recent months, and it has to be fair to say that they are two of the hottest properties on the North West folk scene, collectively and individually. It is appropriate that their first full album as a duo is a live album - although Ken Nicol was guest guitarist on the Chris While solo tape last year.

The eleven tracks were taken from four different gigs and are arranged on the tape not necessarily as they would be performed live - for example the second track is introduced as a song to "finish off" with.

However, the tracks which were chosen for the tape collectively demonstrate the diversity of influences and the chemistry between the two artists. I am sure that many punters who have seen the duo live will be disappointed that one of their most popular live

songs, "Living Apart", is not included here - was there not a good version at any of the four gigs?

The tape is very well produced by Dave Howard and bodes well for future joint efforts. Highlights for me, in no particular order, are "Shola", "The River" (yes, the old Joni Mitchell chestnut) and "Lonely Morning Blues". One track "Making Whoopee", mostly does not work for me - but ten out of eleven ain't bad for a first effort!

I am sure that many people will, in the coming months, be walking away from a Nicol and While gig with a copy of this tape as well as their memories of a pair of monumental talents - they will not be disappointed. Now, as for getting your local record shop to stock it - well that is another story!

Grem Devlin.

PAT RYAN "Until We Meet Again"

Rivington Records RIV091

This cassette album has been out for some time, but Pat, in her usual modest way, kept it fairly quite until she was exposed (!) on Nick Dow's "Lancashire Drift" on Radio Lancashire recently.

So now ace reporter "Giff" brings you the full story having purloined a copy while she wasn't looking, as she was doing a booking at our Yarrow Valley Folk Club in Croston.

"I got it off the McCalmans", she says - the song Isle of Eigg by Robin Laing that is - which she sings better than they do! To quote the sleeve notes "Pat Ryan performs with 'Ploughboy Lads' and three other men"; Ken Howard, Malcolm Gibbons and Bernard Wrigley who all support her with some very nice arrangements.

"Trouble in the Fields" by Nanci Griffiths and "Once in a Very Blue Moon" which Pat learned from Nanci's singing are equally tastefully presented and well sung.

My favourite tracks, though, are "Bewcastle" - a superb song by Maddy Prior and Rick Kemp, and Rick Kemp's "Somewhere Along the Road", on both of which Pat does a fine job. There are old favourites too, like "Curragh of Kildare" and "Black is the Colour". In fact, "Pat Ryan takes them all on" and very well she does it too, though next time I see her I'll probably have to duck!!

Get your copy from Pat at her gigs, or from Rivington Records, 45 Little Scotland, Blackrod, Bolton - now!

Derek Gifford

GOING DOWN TO LIVERPOOL..... TO DO SOMETHING!

DEAN JOHNSON "No More May Mornings"

Delta Recordings

STEVE TILSTON & MAGGIE BOYLE "Of Moor and Mesa"

Run River 0018

JOHN PEARSON "Busy Bootin"

(Last Days Recording LDR91)

Up first then is Dean Johnson and I simply cannot understand why the world is not yet aware of Dean. Is anyone doing his marketing? We must be told. On a less global level why don't I at least see his name in club listings throughout our area? Here is a major talent - a modern singer, based on the Wirral, writing most of his material which has an assurance and assertiveness I find quite staggering.

Dean here turns in his third collection of 9 songs each of which has a lyrical maturity that could hold its own with the output of, say a Clive Gregson or Martin Stephenson. I have quoted wedges of his writing before but cop this from "Difficult Times"

*'Freedom is flying on an ice cool wind,
through doors and windows,
touches your face, (it) freezes sight;
we all know which way this wind blows.'*

or

*'The years pass by like a stolen car,
screaming down the road,
and I grew up to be a number,
one by one my dreams were sold.'*

The latter is from "Walk on the left". Trenchant stuff huh? We get light as well as shade though with a cooking version of "Mad Dog On The Loose" The Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 has not had much of an

impact yet in downtown Birkenhead!!!

Johnson is accompanied on some items here by his regular bass player Martin Tetlow and backing vocals are provided by Gina, his wife. Both contribute perfectly to the overall full feel where necessary, nicely contrasted by the sparse, spikey guitar/vocal on the solo pieces.

Any organisers on the lookout for original, dynamic and yet still local talent (and which of us would own up to not being such?) could do worse than fix up a date right now. Ring Dean on 051 653 7541 or write to 23 Devonshire Place, Oxton, Wirral, Merseyside, L43 for a copy of this absolute gem of thinking persons music.

Originally from Liverpool is Steve Tilston who with his partner Maggie Boyle offers their first joint recording in "Of Moor and Mesa". They've had several solo releases and collaborations with the likes of the John Renbourn previously on the same label and 1992 has been the year of the big push for these two. I run out of superlatives when it comes to Tilston and Boyle; they've been bubbling under for some years and it has really been a pleasure to have had this tape in the Walkman on the X.8 Liverpool - Southport run for several days.



□ Steve Tilston
& Maggie Boyle

Steve's well-crafted songs mix seamlessly with Maggie's Irish-slanted traditional singing; the Tilston guitar style is essentially rhythmic and forceful - at its best on the stand-out opening cut

"Another Place to Hide", mellowing out on tracks best exemplified by "These Sea Dreams" and atmospheric on "The Night Owl Homeward Turns". This latter features Steve on Arepeggione (a bowed guitar lifted from obscurity by Steve, and his pride and joy.)

Besides exquisite vocals Maggie contributes flute, whistles and Bodhran and the hallmark of any music's accessibility is when one finds oneself involuntarily singing snatches (but not on the X.8!) I've always regarded "If I were A Blackbird" as trite but sure enough after being exposed to Maggie's version here, not only do I catch myself tumte-tumming, I concede the song has merit after all.

Her reading too of "Silver Dagger" and the Lamentation of Hugh Reynolds are goosepimplingly sensitive. If I have any criticisms here, I would have to say that perhaps "Banks Of The Sweet Primroses" and "Claudy" are too over used to warrant inclusion here.

Further, Steve's song "Coronado and The Turk" is both long and obscure for these ears too, but as with the entire content of this album it is well made and well performed and who am I to say that you won't love this tale of one Conquistador. This release can only add fuel to the fire of a growing and enviable reputation.

Before his death Peter Bellamy was including "The Ship Jigs And Reels" in his sets. Peter had impeccable taste. Here it is by its maker and Steve and Maggie dedicate "Of Moor And Mesa" to Peter. Their taste is similarly faultless.

Lastly here is another Merseysider, now resident in Dover whose fame, already national, threatens to become more European (Maastricht permitting) and could well be galactic by the time his next recording is unleashed! This is John Pearson whose current tape is a live one recorded at last year's International Guitar Festival of Great Britain - a grandiose title for what is, in fact a friendly, enthusiastic gathering held in November each year on the Wirral.

John shares "Busy Bootin" with Rodger Hubbard. It is a double play and it is acoustic picking all the way, premiered for me whilst driving in the Cotswolds this spring. There is no better way to tune in and turn on to Country Blues than in the country!

John has a real feel for the genre, refusing to be side-tracked into flash electricrky and retaining a very pure style. It is exciting stuff though - the guitar playing is superb throughout, the repertory varied and well chosen where Robert Johnson rubs shoulders with Clarence Lofton. There is a nice rhythmic glide throughout and John has a vocal style that makes Dave Burland seem positively manic.

It is hard to enthuse more than I have in past reviews of Pearson's output - just sad to see that he gets the bulk of his work everywhere else in the country except his home place. Does he, I wonder, have to appear in a Levis ad. before universal acceptance arrives?

Last Days are based at P.O. Box 128, Dover, Kent CT16 2SX and a call to them on 0304 826119 will secure you a copy of "Busy Bootin".

Local boys made good without exception here and a case of good eggs making a good omelette. Tasty Stuff Indeed!

Clive Pownceby

PATTON AND KELLY "About Time"

DL PE Studios

This tape is a collection of tunes and songs - similar to those you might hear in the "singing pubs" of Ireland.

Vocally it is clear and strong with the words easy to follow. The instrumentation is violin and guitar. The playing is very good and varied. Nice to see that the temptation to let the violin do all the introductions has been avoided. The balance between the two instruments is achieved successfully. Both instruments are given opportunities to play freely. They combine well.

Having been in many pubs in Ireland in recent years, and listened to a great deal of music in the process I found this tape bringing back memories. "Star of the County Down" also nudged the brain cells. This was always my Uncle Bill's party piece in his repertoire.

The tape also contains one of my favourite Irish songs - "Song For Ireland". Each verse evokes memories of days spent by Galway Bay. Lovely song - sung simply, allowing the words and tune to sweep you along gently on fond memories.

Patton and Kelly are good instrumentalists and have produced a tape well worth a listen.

"Reviewer"

MARTIN HALL

"Ringing the Changes"

Fellside Recordings FSC7

You get good value from this cassette as Martin plays Guitar in various tunings, also the Accordion, English Concertina and Fiddle. Also he is ably assisted by Paul and Linda Adams, Jez Lowe and Bev Sanders, and Dave Weatherall - a not half bad backing group. Their contribution is always just right never intrusive and fitting the songs like a glove.

Martin's own songs, I think are outstanding. His sense of the right melody and rhythm compliments his powerful lyrics which fit his music beautifully. I could stand a complete tape devoted to Martin's songs. Here he gives us "It Changes", "Recruiting Sergeant", and my choice for the best on this tape "I Never Knew", which is a "You can't blame me for the world's problems" song. Martin has that happy knack of making the songs of others his own like Billy Bragg's "Between the Wars" or Al Stewart's "Nos-tradamus".

At six Pounds, this tape will grace any collection and can be obtained from Martin at his Gigs or from Fellside Recordings. As a lover of the tradition and a song smith in his own right Martin has a repertoire for any club or Festival and this tape reflects his stage performance superbly.

Thanks Martin
Charles Fyson

BOB HALL

"At The Window"

Lake Records - Lake LACD23

I approached the review of this compact disc with some trepidation. I thought that I liked some blues; but under no circumstances did I consider myself to be an expert or indeed even a devotee. I should not have feared. This was quite a delicious experience. The musicianship is superb. There is a great deal of variety. I thoroughly enjoyed this superb compact disc.

"At The Window" is labelled Blues and Boogie. It is a combination of classic pieces and original solos by Bob Hall.

An eminent critic on the cover of the CD makes reference to "a rock steady left hand". Certainly that is true. However, I found the left hand much more than that. It flavoured each piece beautifully - differentiating each piece from the others. I found it absorbing how the left hand coloured brilliantly.

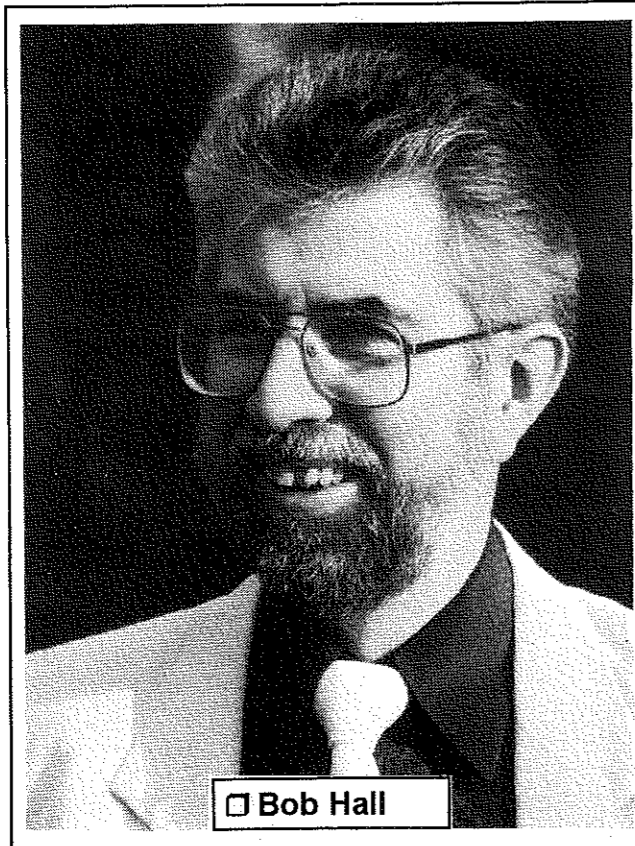
"Mr Freddie Blues". Mr Hall also has a superb right hand with some lovely original variations. His playing throughout is quite outstanding. Other musicians involved - Top Topham (on electric guitar), Dave Peabody (acoustic guitar) Robert Bond (Drums) - all are very accomplished players and contributed greatly to various tracks.

Vocally there is a lot to savour. The voice is flexible and full of feeling at times. I would have liked the voice a little further forward - but I'm not really complaining.

I found so many tracks I liked - "Beehive Blues", "Mr Freddie Blues", "How Long Blues". My favourite, undoubtedly is "Red River Boogie" I thought it was superbly imaginative.

I started off with trepidation, I finished wallowing in pleasure. Bob Hall must be one of the great Blues pianists.

"Reviewer"



□ Bob Hall

PARCEL O'ROGUES

"Parcel O' Rogues"

This album has been a long time coming. It has often been remarked in recent years that they have had no "product" to sell at their gigs. Parcel O' Rogues, namely Ken Johnston and Dave Livingstone, are a South Cumbria based duo familiar to many North West folkies.

Their material is predominantly of a Scottish theme, mostly traditional in origin and normally delivered at gigs with great panache, interspersed with Ken's particular brand of Dundee patter.

However, this is not a live album, and much of what makes the duo a memorable live act is consequently absent from this album. On the plus side, it is evident that a lot of time has been spent getting the instruments to sound right - and they do sound very crisp and clear, although perhaps a little clinical at times.

There are some sparks of magic and a couple of song arrangements which are very original and exciting. My main criticism of the album is of the vocal quality.

I have a lot of respect for Ken Johnston as a vocalist, but on this recording his range of timbre and strength of delivery are not sufficiently exploited. Indeed the first

few bars of "Buy Broom Besoms" owe more to Peter Sellers than to Hamish Imlach.

Also on the plus side, it is a great album to play in the car, since most of the songs are lively and of a tempo ideal for "cruising" to (particularly when driving north as I tend to most weekends). Definitely worth a listen - but try to catch their live act as well - in order to get a balanced view.

GREM DEVLIN

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- ✓ 2. Joint publicity of the Member Clubs
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- ✓ 4. Joint organisation of Concerts & Ceilidhs in the area.
- ✓ 5. The support of Festival Organisers in the area.
- ✓ 6. The organisation of events to attract the 'under 18s'.

DAY/CLUB	TIME	CLUB ADDRESS	ORGANISER	PHONE NO.
SUNDAY				
ARNSIDE	8.30 pm	Fighting Cocks Hotel, Promenade, Arnside	Steve Black	0524 761823
BOTHY	8.00 pm	Blundell Arms, Upper Aughton St., Birkdale	Clive Pownceby	051 924 5078
FLEECE FOLK	8.30 pm	The Fleece Hotel, Highgate, Kendal	Christine Britton	no phone
LLANDUDNO	8.30 pm	The London Hotel, Upper Mostyn Street, Llandudno	Mel Bowman	0492 622049
LEIGH	8.00 pm	St. Joseph's Sodality Club, Chapel St., Leigh	Theresa Tooley	0942 892226
THE ALBION PAVILION	8.30 pm	Albion Hotel, Albion Street, New Brighton	A. Sims	no phone
	8.30 pm	The Pavilion, Main St., Billinge	Bernie Forkin	0744 53058
MONDAY				
MONDAY MUSIC	8.00 pm	Bulkeley Hotel, Castle Street, Beaumaris	John Harley	no phone
HORWICH	8.30 pm	The Toll Bar, Horwich,	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
TUESDAY				
ARKWRIGHT'S	8.30 pm	Arwrights' Alehouse, Vallets Lane, Bolton	Charles Fyson	0204 887970
BLACK HORSE	8.30 pm	Black Horse, Grange Rd. West, West Kirby, Wirral	Brian Jones	051 648 5117
FROG & FERRET	8.30 pm	The Frog & Ferret, 4, Oat Market, Nantwich	Jan Phillips	0270 629324
MAGHULL	8.30 pm	Hare & Hounds, Maghull,	Dave Day	051 526 6661
TILSTON	8.30 pm	The Carden Arms, Tilston, Cheshire	Martin Green	0829 250516
TAP & SPILE	8.30 pm	The Tap & Spile, Hope Street, Rochdale	Bill Tucker	0706 33038
YARROW VALLEY	8.30 pm	Grapes Hotel, Croston, Nr. Preston	Mark Dowding	0695 576215
WEDNESDAY				
BLACKBURN	8.30 pm	Foundry Arms, Birley St, Blackburn	C Clayton	0254 201930
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 pm	The Swan Hotel, (by traffic lights), Kirkham	Phil Capper	0772 684537
THURSDAY				
BURNLEY	8.15 pm	The Queen's Head, Curzon St. (Near Station), Burnley	Linda Wright	0706 877090
COCKERMOUTH	8.30 pm	Tithe Barn Hotel, Station Street, Cocker mouth	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
FOLK at the GATE	8.30 pm	The Douglas Gate, Orchard Street, Wigan	Joan Blackburn	0942 321223
GREGSON'S LANE	8.30 pm	St. Joseph's Social Centre, Gregson Lane, Hoghton	Graham Dixon	0254 853929
HASKAYNE	8.30 pm	The Ship Inn, Haskayne, Nr. Ormskirk	Ian Tupling	0695 579545
NEWLEVELLERS	8.30 pm	The Flying Picket, 24, Hardman St., Liverpool	Pat Murphy	051 480 6579
MAGAZINE	8.30 pm	Magazine Hotel, Magazine Lane, Wallasey	Jack Coutts	051 220 0152
THE BUZZ	8.30 pm	Southern Hotel, Maudeth Rd. West, Manchester 21	Agraman	061 449 7482
THE BODDIE SHOP	8.30 pm	Railway Hotel, Heatley, Lymm	Graham Sowerby	0925 65503
FRIDAY				
NORTHWICH	8.30 pm	Harlequin Theatre, Queen Street, Northwich	Sue Swan	061 775 4612
POTTERIES	8.00 pm	The Albion Hotel, Old Hall Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent	Jason Hill	0782 813401
RHYL	8.30 pm	Gianglasfor, Rhyl,	Dave Costello	0745 332488
RED LION	8.15 pm	Red Lion Hotel, Wigan Road, Westhoughton	Pat Batty	0942 812301
SATURDAY				
BREWERYARTS	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
MECHANICS	8.30 pm	Burnley Mechanics, Manchester Road, Burnley	Ian Wells	0282 30005
POYNTON	8.30 pm	Poynton Folk Centre, Park Lane, Poynton	David Brock	061 483 6521
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