

FOLK *North West*

Spring 1994

70p



**DAVE SUMMERS ON TOUR
NEW ALBUM OUT NOW!**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

A Song for the Month:

The Last Leviathan

PACE-EGGING

NewsReel

**iN With a chance!
Youthful Perspective**

LIVE REVIEWS:

Maghull Day of Music

STEELEYE SPAN

SIDMOUTH

ENNISTYMON

plus:

**FULL CLUB
CALENDAR**

AND MUCH, MUCH MORE

**Biggest-ever
40 page Issue**

THE MOST DATES - THE BEST REVIEWS

THE SIXTH LANCASTER EASTER MARITIME FESTIVAL

1st to 4th April 1994

A four day celebration of the City's Golden Age of Maritime Trade featuring a unique gathering of the finest sea-song singers and shantymen. Performances in the Maritime Museum, St George's Quay and quayside pubs

with other entertainments including:

Illustrated Talks & Guided Walks

Fawkes the Conjuror's Maritime Puppet Show

Ships in Bottles Demonstrations

'Treasure Island'

Mr Tranter's Pusser's Rum Promotion

& The Traditional Lancaster Pace Egg Play

THE ANCHORMEN

DAMIEN BARBER

JOHNNY COLLINS

DEREK GIFFORD

RICHARD GRAINGER

ROY HARRIS

GEOFF HIGGINBOTTOM

SHANTY JACK

HUGHIE JONES

TIM LAYCOCK

TOM LEWIS

THE KEELERS

SID KIPPER

JIM MAGEEAN

DICK MILES

THE SHANTY CREW

PAUL SIRMAN

STORMALONG JOHN

Th' ANTIQUE ROADSHOW

For further information, or to be placed on the Festival Newsletter mailing list contact:

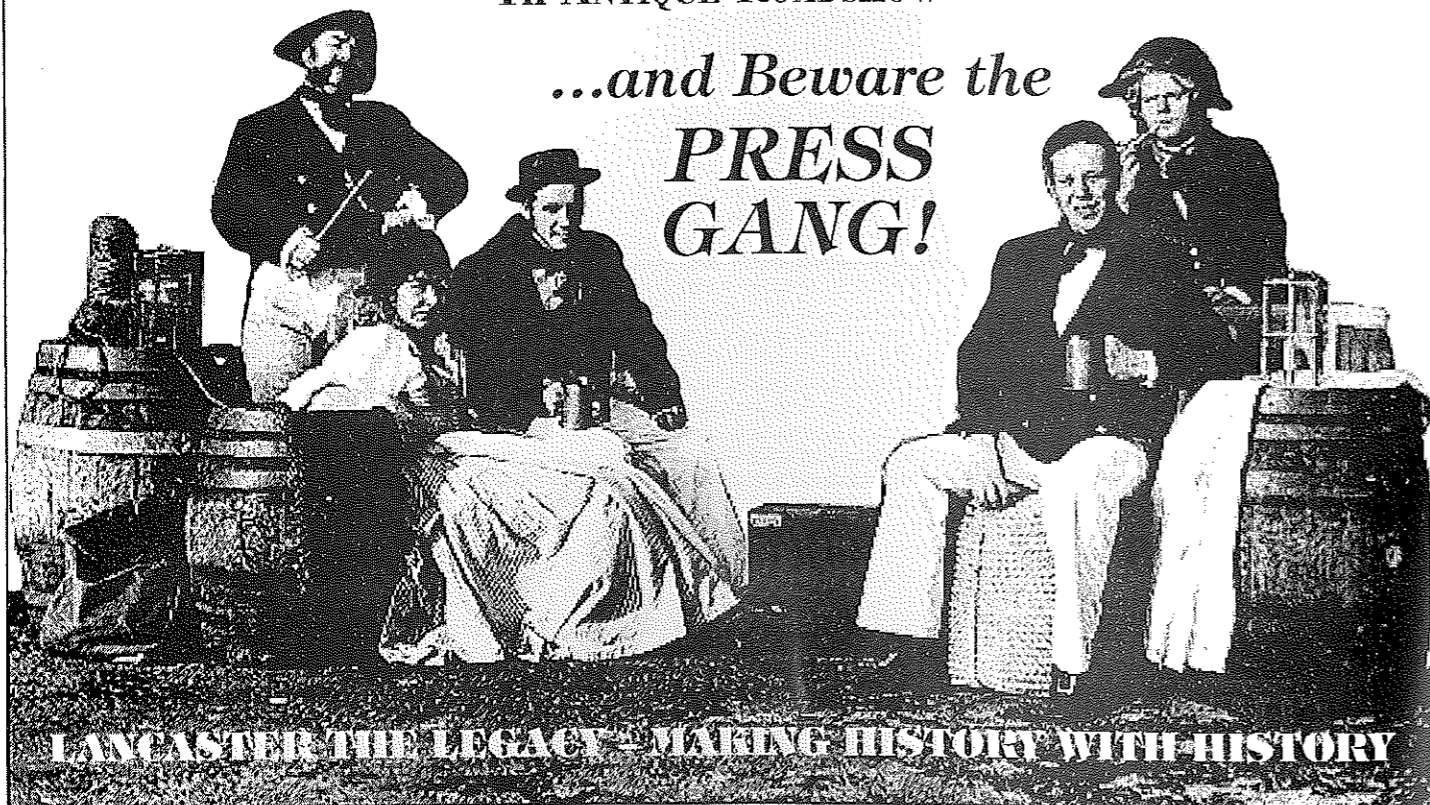
David Wright
Lancaster Tourism
29 Castle Hill
Lancaster
LA1 1YN

Tel: 0524 582394 or
582395 (answerphone)



Easter
1st to 4th April
1994

...and Beware the
**PRESS
GANG!**



DISPLAY ADVERTISING IS ACCEPTED AT THE FOLLOWING RATES:

	CAMERA READY	OTHER
1/16 page	£3.75	£4.50
1/8 page	£7.50	£9.00
1/4 page	£15.00	£18.00
1/2 page	£30.00	£36.00
1 page	£60.00	£72.00

SIZE (Height x Width, mm)

1/16 page	65 x 44
1/8 page	65 x 92 or 135 x 44
1/4 page	135 x 92 or 65 x 185
1/2 page	135 x 185 or 275 x 92
1 page	275 x 185

Discounts are available for adverts booked in several issues. There is a discount for member clubs' advertising. (Camera Ready)

Send your copy to:

Paul Holden (Advertising)
7, Sunleigh Road,
Hindley, Nr. WIGAN WN2 2RE

MINI MARKET

Only £2.00 per 1/16 page
Maximum of 2/16 per advert

For Private sales & wants, club adverts, artists cards and many other items.

Send Copy to:

Paul Holden (Advertising)
7, Sunleigh Road,
Hindley, Nr. WIGAN WN2 2RE

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Are available to the Magazine The price is just £5.00 for a year. This covers four issues. To subscribe, please send your cheque (payable to N.W.F.F.C. please) to:

Newsletter Subscriptions,
7, Sunleigh Road,
Hindley, Nr. WIGAN WN2 2RE

Editorial Address:

118, Bolton Road,
Aspull,
WIGAN
WN2 1XF

ISSN 1350-8083

CONTENTS

Volume 16 Number 4
Spring 1994

Chairman's Ramblings	...4
NewsReel - Latest News from around the region and further afield	...5
Diary Chat	...7
List of Club Residents	...8
Club Reporters: <i>Rafters Roar, Swinton</i>	...9
ClubScene: <i>White Swan, Fallowfield</i>	...9
A Youthful Perspective: <i>with Jenny Shotliffe & others</i>	...10
Bookshelf: <i>Latest Folk books</i>	...11
Hiring Fair	...11
Letters to the Editor	...12
iN With a chance: <i>What's it all about?</i>	...14
Crafts & Customs: <i>Pace-Egging</i>	...16
A Song for the Month: <i>The Last Leviathan</i>	...17
Mini Market	...18
Club Calendar (March To June 1994)	...20
List of Clubs	...23
Live Reviews: <i>Maghull Day Of Music, Steeleye Span, Sidmouth, Ennistymon</i>	...24
Record Reviews	...28

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

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

EDITORIAL

WELCOME to another issue of FOLK NORTH WEST!

You may notice one or two changes to the format this time, all to provide YOU the reader with a better service. Nat Clare's humorous feature, Out & About is continuing (although it was too late for inclusion this time), but placed later in the magazine. Chairman's Ramblings will now be in the first few pages of the magazine, together with a new feature, News-Reel which gives you the latest news from the region and further afield. Diary Chat this issue is briefer than usual because we have a new contributor for Diary Dates, Chris McIlveen; make sure you send your dates and other information to him to ensure it is included.

Two more new features are A Song for The Month, this issue featuring "The Last of The Great Whales", while Jenny Coxon (editor of BUZZ) tells us all about "IN With a chance", a new regular article about music and dance in the Manchester area.

I've been struck recently by the great diversity of the folk scene here in the North-West. I went to Westhoughton Folk Club, which runs as a concert-type club to packed houses; I also visited Aspull Folk Club which runs on mainly singers' night format, also to packed houses. Some would criticise one or other format, but I would say they both need to exist for the folk scene to thrive! What do YOU think?

All for now & we'll see you again at the end of May!

Nigel Kirk
EDITOR

OUR NEXT ISSUE COVERS JUNE TO AUGUST 1994 .

THE CLOSING DATE FOR ALL SUBMISSIONS IS APRIL 20th, NOTHING WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THIS DATE

Editorial Address:

118, Bolton Road,
Aspull,
Wigan
WN2 1XF

FAX / Telephone : 0942 833293

Chairman's Ramblings

So - Yet Another Year! How the time flies! Phil Boardman summed it up wonderfully well when he said that all our Annual events seem to be coming round every 6 months nowadays!!

Are you ready for 1994? How many festivals will you be going to? Our little folk clubs will be running sessions at three so far so if you see Maghull advertised anywhere, pop in and say "Hello".

Our first effort at running a one day event last October went very well; the local paper the following week had a front page banner headline saying "Maghull A Huge Musical Success" - very heartening!. There was the odd hiccup as was inevitable, but by and large things went as planned, thanks to an enthusiastic and very hard working committee.

I'll never look at another festival in the same way again - On the surface it may look as serene as a swan but underneath, the feet are working very hard to keep things moving. Organisers like Alan Bell and Bernie Forkin must have nerves of steel!!

One of the best things about our "Day" was the co-operation we got from other federation clubs and folkies - Don't let anyone tell you clubs can't co-operate - they just need to put their minds to it!

The five hour Youth Concert was superb and what a job Jenny Shottliffe made of running it - A great effort with youngsters of all abilities getting stuck in together. If you've never seen "Fosbrooks" you've never lived. Seek 'em out and treat yourself.

March 26 sees our fifth Annual Young Musicians Concert at Melling Tithebarn and Jenny is in charge - There should be details elsewhere in the magazine - come and have a real night out!

We are repeating our "Day" again this year in November at Maghull Town Hall. More details later.

Congratulations to Alan Bell who celebrates 30 years of singing and writing fine songs in March, to GARVA on their debut album and on becoming such a force for good Folk here in our area, and to Peter Edgerton for his debut album of self-penned songs on Fellside.

We're a right talented lot hereabout are we not.

So - have a good spring - see you again in summer!

Dave Day

FOLK MUSIC PROGRAMMES ON LOCAL RADIO

BBC Radio Lancashire FM 95.5/103.9/104.5
LANCASHIRE DRIFT presented by NIC DOW
Thursday 9.00 -10.00pm

BBC Radio Merseyside FM 95.8 / MW 1485kHz

FOLKSCENE presented by Stan Ambrose and Geoff Speed
Tuesdays 6.00-7.00pm

Apart from Folk on the Night Network which is still on Radio Cumbria on Sundays 8.30-10.00pm, there are no other Folk programmes that we know of. Write & let us know if we are wrong!



NewsReel

Latest News from around the region and further afield

Welcome to **NewsReel** a new page in Folk North West, the object of which is to give you information on all kinds of odds 'n' sods ranging from small local events to large national festivals and concerts. There will also be various snippets on album releases, new books to look out for and who knows, maybe a little folk gossip as well.

First mention goes to the **Inter Varsity Folk Dance Festival** which will be taking place at Manchester University from the 4th to the 6th of March. Lots and lots of workshops are scheduled including Cajun Dance, North-west Morris, Rock & Roll and even a spot of early morning Iyengar Yoga for anyone needing the kind of spiritual uplift that four pints of Pendle Witch just cannot provide. There's also a ceilidh with Cock & Bull, a concert with Les Barker and a Dancer's Dance for all those who have moved on from the basic stomp-step beloved of many a ceilidh goer. I'm told that Manchester Uni's version of the 'Dorset Four Hand Reel' is er... different, so watch out for that one. Contact Max Barfield on 061 368 4535.

The **Dubliners** kick off their 1994 'Full Circle' tour in March and are playing three dates in the North West:

Thursday, 3rd March - Queen Elizabeth Hall, Oldham - 061 678 4072

Monday, 7th March - Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool - 051 709 3789

Thursday, 10th March - King George's Hall, Blackburn - 0254 582582

Thirty years on they are still one of the finest bands on the folk scene. The magic is still there, the sound is still exciting and Ronnie Drew is just as charismatic as he always was. Go to see them, you'll understand what I mean.

Dave Summers is playing a few local club dates in March to promote his new cassette 'Arrowing Episodes'. He's at Leigh on the 6th, Cocker mouth on the 17th, Arnside on the 19th, Aspull on the 23rd and Fleetwood on the 24th. The Arnside date is a 'Saturday Night Special' for the club, which will have it's monthly singaround as normal. Look out for the review of Dave's cassette in this very issue.

Easter sees the annual **Camping and Caravanning Club Folk Section Meet** which this year takes place in Hartford, Cheshire. Spread over five days the meet offers craft, dance, music and song workshops as well as ceilidhs, concerts and singarounds, all the usual festival fayre in fact. For more information contact the co-ordinators Harry and Beryl Caine on 061 973 5288.

Also over the Easter weekend is the **Lancaster Maritime Festival**, again offering a feast of entertainment. Just to whet your appetite... Damien Barber, Johnny Collins, Sid Kipper, Derek Gifford, Hughie Jones, talks, walks, ships in bottles and the Abram Pace Eggers performing the traditional Lancaster Pace Egg play. What more could you ask? Information, accommodation guides, camping site lists, etc. etc. can be obtained by 'phoning 0524 32878.

Feet First Festival takes place 22-24 April in Matlock, Derbyshire. A superb line-up including Steafan Hannigan Band, Debbie McClatchy, Show of Hands and of course Feet First. All the usual workshops and dances are scheduled including Cajun dance with the Crayfish Five. Weekend tickets are £20.00 in advance and more information can be had from Meg Ridley on 0246 434789.

By the time you read this **Alan Bell's** new tape and CD should have been released by Dragon Records. Entitled 'With Bread and Fishes' it contains 14 songs including some re-recordings of Alan's finest and most famous compositions. Again, look out for a review in Folk North West, but meanwhile Dragon Records are on 0296 415333.

Another album to look out for is the Fellside release of a long awaited **A L Lloyd** album. They have not seen fit to put any other details on their press release, so I can't tell you anything I'm afraid. However, I am sure they will provide details if you pester them on 0900 61556.

Ever heard of the **English Dance Company**? No, neither had I until I saw their press release. Apparently, they are a nationally based network with meetings and workshops spread around the country. They welcome all who are energetic and enthusiastic and ask for a minimum of commitment (it says here!). To find out more speak to Mike Ruff on 0753 840886.

"**The British Folk Scene**" is the latest publication in the 'Popular Music in Britain' series from the Open University Press. It "examines the musical and ideological development of the folk scene and relates the distinctive identity of folk music to its wider society". Its author Niall MacKinnon shows that "the folk scene has a powerful structuring ethos, but with variations - not just of sound - but in the patterning of events and in the nature of musical and social interaction". Now I'm no book critic and I'm certainly no intellectual, so maybe that's why I feel that anyone wanting to really understand the folk scene would do much better getting involved in the things that matter (singing, playing, dancing, listening, learning, sharing and above all enjoying) rather than wasting valuable time reading academic gubbins like this. I could be

wrong however, so if you fancy proving the fact by reviewing this book, just let me know.

Phil Hare is currently in the process of recording a new album which he hopes will be released in April - May. The album will be made up of almost entirely original material and Phil tells us he hopes to have both John Kirkpatrick and Tom McConville amongst the guest artists. Sounds like one to watch out for.

Repairer **Paul Flannery** has moved his tuning business for melodeons and accordions back to his old place at 89 Moorside, Cleckheaton, West Yorkshire BD19 6LE. Contact him on 0274 876258.

A couple of events taking place later in the year seem well worth a mention. **Sidmouth Festival** is set to take place from 29th July to 5th August and it looks like being a cracker. Brass Monkey are getting together specially for the festival's 40th anniversary celebration and amongst other artists booked so far are The Poozies, Dave Burland, Si Khan and Coope, Boyes & Simpson. These few names alone could coax me into shelling out the necessary £74.00 for a season ticket. The box office is on 0296 393293.

The sixth **Folkworks Youth Summer School** takes place over the weekend of 15th-18th August at the University of Durham. Tutors include Chris Wood, Pauline Cato and Brian Finnegan the superb flute and whistle player from Upstairs in a Tent. Price for three nights residential (including meals) is £120.00 but there are concessions. Closing date for enrolment is July 29th; Contact Folkworks on 091 222 1717.

Harvey Andrews has two new albums out. The first is a compilation of popular songs, called "**25... Years On The Road**" (Hypertension HYMC 200105). It is recently recorded by Harvey with no backing musicians, just as you would see him in a folk club. The second is a brand new album entitled "**Spring Again**" containing all new songs including the very clever "One Machine" about shortages in the NHS, and the brilliant Trilogy "Spring Again/ Liberation/ Song for Anne Frank". Watch for a full review in the next issue. Both should be available from your local record shop or direct from Harvey at any of his gigs.

And finally.... **Horwich Prize Medal Morris Men** will be hosting 'A Day for St George' on Saturday, 23rd April. A celebration of North West Morris danced by sides from within the old Lancashire boundaries, the day will begin with a procession from The Toll Bar Inn, Horwich and will end with a grand 'Gladnosh Ceilidh' for all those with enough energy left to continue dancing. Details on 0204 840949.

Gill Burns has asked me to point out that the tape of the **PAINFUL PLOUGH** reviewed last issue is available from her at £8.50 including a free copy of a Roy Palmer book courtesy of Hereford & Worcester Folk Arts Trust. Contact Gill at St. Clements School, Henwick Road, Worcester WR2 5NS.

That's about it for this issue. If you have anything that you would like to be considered for inclusion in NewsReel be sure to send it in well in advance of the final copy date.

Steve Morris

Beverley Folk Festival

17th-19th June 1994

ROBIN WILLIAMSON & JOHN RENBOURN
JOHN TAMS & THE QUESTIONNAIRES
DOONAN FAMILY BAND
THE HOUSE BAND
SAVOURNA STEVENSON TRIO
ARABESQUE (Morocco) ● CHRIS WOOD & ANDY CUTTING ● KLEZMER FESTIVAL BAND ● MYRDHIN (Brittany) INTUITION ● OLD ROPE STRING BAND OLD HAT BAND ● TIM LYONS & FINTAN VALLELY (Eire) ● MARK ROBERTS & SANDOL ASTRASKY (U.S.A.)
TIM LAYCOCK ● BRENDAN POWER
THE WALTZER ● EDDIE UPTON ● LUKE DANIELS & FRANK KILKELLY ● JANET HARBISON ● ROBIN HUW BOWEN
DAVE HILL ● THE WHITE HORSE CEILIDH BAND ● STEVE GARDHAM'S ALL STARS
FAIRLY FAMOUS FAMILY ● MOGSY & CO. ESCAFELD MORRIS MEN ● BRADSHAW MUMMERS ● BRISINGAMEN ● CARLISLE SWORD MORRIS & CLOG ● GREEN GINGER CLOG, GARLAND, MORRIS & SWORD DANCERS ● HARTHILL MORRIS MEN ● HARTSHEAD MORRIS
KETTLEBRIDGE CLOG ● KIRKBURTON RAPIER DANCERS ● RYKNILD RABBLE

Season Tickets £24.00 (£22.00 before April 1st) including camping (camping only available to ticket holders).

Reductions for Children

TICKETS & INFORMATION:
The Festival Office, 2 Star Row, North Dalton, Driffield, YO25 9UR
Telephone: 0377 217662

Supported by Yorkshire and Humberside Arts, Humberside Leisure Services, The East Yorkshire Borough of Beverley Borough Council

ORGANISED BY
THE WHITE HORSE FOLK CLUB, BEVERLEY

DIARY CHAT

Please Note: All future correspondence concerning Diary Chat, Club Residents and Diary Dates should be addressed to Chris McIlveen on 0204 852627.

Welcome to New Clubs:

We bid a warm welcome to two new clubs this edition:-

Swinton Folk Club meet at the White Lion, 242, Manchester Road, Swinton, every Monday evening at 8:30 pm. For further information contact the Organiser Ged Todd on 0942 816512 (daytime) or 0942 811527 (home).

Liverpool Singaround meet at the Pig & Whistle, Chapel Street, Liverpool, every Tuesday evening at 8:30 pm. Contact the Organiser Helen Hebden on 051 727 0088 for further details.

Goodbye:

Regrettably, two clubs have been forced to close due to inadequate attendance:-

The Black Horse in West Kirkby and The Two Ships in Rochdale.

The Folk at the Gate Club in Wigan is temporarily closed whilst a new venue is found, hopefully before too long.

A New Name:

The Boddie Shop Folk Club in Lymm have decided to rename the club after their current venue, and is henceforth to be known as "The Railway Folk Club".

Moves Afoot:

Rhyl Folk Club have moved to The Bee & Station Hotel, Bodfor Street, Rhyl. Contact Jeff Blythin on 0745 336052 for further details.

Access for Disabled

Bacup
Hesketh Bank
Levellers
Mechanics
Open Door

No Smoking Clubs

Leigh ("Refrain from Smoking" Policy)
Bacup
Darwen
Maghull (First Tuesday - Non Smoking night)
Formby
Cockermouth

Special Events:

Open Door - 1st Medlock Music Day on May 1st, featuring sessions from residents of local clubs, singarounds in the Pub and Bernard Wrigley In Concert in the evening. There is no charge for entry and further details are available from Sharon & Andy Broadbent on 061 652 4227.

Hebden Bridge - This club has been struggling to maintain weekly sessions recently, and so will be meeting monthly for the time being. One particular event to note is the return of the Breton folk group "Krampouezh Lipous Orchestra", who made many friends on their first visit some three years ago. Amongst several venues in early March they will be appearing at the Stubbing Wharf on 9 March. Contact Derek Edwards on 0422 885249 for more details.

Levellers - Advance notice of the third Liverpool Folk & Art Festival on 9 July, featuring a wide range of events and concerts. Further details from Dave Cox on 051 489 7895.

Poynton Easter Festival, 1st-3rd April. More details from David Brock 061 483 6521

Music Sessions

Liverpool Irish Centre, Monday

Appelton Village Social Club, Widnes, Wednesday

Jolly Anchor, Waterfoot, Rossendale, Thursday

Parkgate Hotel, Wirral, Thursday

St. Chad's Club, Wheelton, Chorley, Sunday

Extra Dates: (

SN = Singers Night, (T) = Ticket only)

Bothy - June 5 SN, 12 Jeff Gillett & Ron Taylor, 19 SN, 24 Ceilidh with Black Thorne, 26 Johnny Handle, July 3 Martin hall, 10 SN, 17 Strawhead

Hesketh Bank - July 6 Hughie Jones, August 3 Cracked Flag

8:45 at Lane Ends - June 8 Parcel of Rogues, 15 Bernard Wrigley, 22 Pat Shaw & Julie Matthews, 29 SN, July 6 Stanley Accrington, 13 Garva.

White Swan - June 9 SN, 16 Harvey Andrews, 23 Jon Harvison, 30 SN, July 7 Chris White, 28 Marilyn Middleton Pollock.

Railway Folk Club - June 2 Spike Island, 30 Bram Taylor, August 18 Marilyn Middleton-Pollock. Rest are SN.

STOP PRESS:

Maghull Folk Club - Two date changes from those listed in the centre pages:

March 22nd - Les Barker, April 5th - Alan Bell Band

North-West Federation of Folk Clubs

Open Meeting

Tuesday, March 15th 1994

at BACUP FOLK CLUB

Information from

Dave Day/ or Linda Wright

CLUB RESIDENTS:

ARNSIDE - Steve Black, John Harper, John & Angela Cowell, Frank Lewis, John Storer, Dave Summer

ASPULL - Paul Wordsworth, John Dawson, Frank Wilson

8.45 at the LANE ENDS - Scold's Bridle, Rebecca Green

BACUP - Linda Wright, Len Quinn, Judith & Sue

BLACKBURN - Flatbroke

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

BURNLEY - Steve Cook, Roy Kelly, John Harrison, Liz Brown, Ray Ashworth, Shelia Hill.

BURY - Malcolm Bowden, Shelia Carruthers, Alan & Jean Seymour, Charles Fyson, Chris Nash, Dave Weatherall

CASTLE - Wild Rover

COCKERMOUTH - Terry Haworth, Linda Lockney

FLEETWOOD - Spitting on a Roast

GREGSON'S LANE - Lammergeier

HASKYANE - LocTup Together, Lynn Thompson

HESKETH BANK - Chris Hornby

HORWICH - Joyce Riding, Tom Ferber

LEIGH - Theresa Tooley, Mike Dermody, Steve Andrews, Jim Moden etc.

LLANDUDNO - Highly Strung

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

LEVELLERS - George Strattan, John Murphy, Ken Roberts, Mark Butterworth

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

POYNTON - Geoff Higginbottom, Holly Burton, Steve Finn, Pete Hughes, One Two Many, Andy Kinnerton, The Timekeepers, Dave & Helen Howard

PRESTON - Jane Trelfall & Carl Hogsden, Rob Malaney, John MacAlister, Simon Booth, Ian Brownwood

TILSTON - Geoff Edwin-Scott

TRITON - Sue Howard, Bob Davies, Len Nolan, Demure, Colin Wilson, Bob Tyrer

WESTHOUGHTON - Auld Triangle

WHITE SWAN - Maggie Billington, Patrick Gallagher, Phil Dunne, Carl & Jane, Maureen Hothan, Dave & Helen Howard, Anna Bearne

CLUB REPORTERS

Jack Coutts writes ...

Readers of the Liverpool Daily Post will have noticed that my weekly folk column ceased to appear not so long ago. Nothing against me or folk, I'm assured, just the unfortunate result of a general reshuffle.

I'm still able to publicise dates and brief details of folk appearances and events in a dedicated section of the What's On listings every Friday, which probably gets more readers than the specialist column. But I can only include news that I hear about. Organisers, send your programmes, press releases and unwanted fivers (ever hopeful!) to me at Meadow Cottage, 7 Thomas Lane, Liverpool L14 5NR, to arrive at least a week before the relevant publication date. I might be allowed to do the occasional review/preview feature now and then, space and editorial policy permitting.

THE RAFTERS RAISING THE ROOF

The Rafters' not just roarin' it's blown the flippin' roof off, but hey! the pessimists had pecked the successful year at the Green Barn was just a flash in the pan, but I think we've got back to the basics of a singers Folk gathering here at the Moorgate, and the revival has happened in Aspull, and why shouldn't it, with the host of talent that graces our Wednesday nights. We have acquired a family and what a family it is from the old to the young, the middle aged and the in between and they're as regular as a dose of laxatives. I've never known such loyalty. Talk about the gospel spreading, we're overwhelmed with musicians and singers and they keep on coming back, bringing others with them, the word is on the wind as the Rafters Roar gets louder. So don't forget all you folks out there "Come up and See us Sometime"

Paul Wordsworth

Swinton Folk Club

Swinton Folk Club meet every Monday in the newly-refurbished back room at the White Lion, Manchester Road, Swinton. The residents are "Staff Folk" (Ged Todd & Dave Wynn). The club also has a good friend in that fine close-harmony trio Hands in Pockets, and their partners in crime Feet in Mouths.

The highlight of the club is of course The Swinton Folk Festival which has now been running for 10 years and goes from strength to strength each year. The club extends a very warm and open welcome to all, whether musicians, singers, poets, storytellers, dancers. The most important thing to all of us is keeping the tradition of folk music alive, so that those that follow will be able to love and cherish the music which has meant so much to us over many years.

Mike Dermody

CLUBSCENE with Tony Gibbons

THE WHITE SWAN, FALLOWFIELD, MANCHESTER

This very popular club has been going strong for well over 20 years. Up until recently it was a Wednesday night club, but now meets every Thursday. My first visit a few years back was as a member of Sara Grey's "Lost Nation Band" - that night it was more a case of the "Lost Lost Nation Band", as it's not the easiest place to find (even with a map!). Anyway, when you do manage to find the pub, it's well worth the effort. The club room is upstairs (one flight) and the first thing that hits you is the sense of history - a sort of late 60's, early 70's feel to it with posters of guests from bygone days adorning the walls. The furniture is pretty basic, which is how I like it as it tends to lend a "feel" to the place.

The night itself would have started on time only for the guests being late (they said Mark Thatcher had given them directions!). I particularly enjoyed the two residents who performed on the night - Pauline Jones and Patrick Gallagher. Both did separate sets and were obviously popular with the capacity audience. There was both respect and good banter between performers and audience - this continued when the guests performed. It was a bit smokey in the room - yours truly being one of the main culprits. The bar is downstairs, but you didn't have to wait too long to be served. Special mention must be made of Anne Morris who has kept this club going through thick and thin, even when she herself has not been in the best of health.

All in all a good club which will assure you of a warm welcome. Don't forget the map, plenty of patience (if, like me, you're an impatient driver) and oil your tonsils - you will be expected to join in! Highly recommended.

Tony Gibbons

note to all clubs

If you have some club news, why not send a report in? There is no charge for the inclusion.

Send your report to:

Chris McIlveen,
51, Moorfield,
Turton,
BOLTON,
BL7 0DH

A Youthful Perspective

with Jenny Shottliffe

I spent part of the last Youthquake trying to find someone who wanted to write a youthful perspective. We have copies of all the past youth pages to help anyone who wants some guidance and it was while looking at these we began to talk about sessions. This page has never looked at the youthful perspective on one of the most enjoyable ways of playing music; indeed it is only recently we have begun to use the idea and form of the informal music session in our workshops and events.

What you will perhaps be able to see in this article is how new and exciting the chance to play music for the sake of it is to some of the young people who contributed to this article (7 were inspired to the point where they sat down in the lunch break and wrote) It has taken us the best part of two years for many of the young people in Youthquake to develop the confidence and skills, such as playing by ear, that anyone wanting to join in with sessions would need. For many of them their first experience of this was the session after the youth concert at Maghull's Day of Folk.

When I chatted to them as a group they were obviously intrigued by their experience at Maghull. It is wonderful to see it click in each individual as they suddenly reach the point where they play for the love of it. At the end of the January day four of the girls were sat with me saying "what about this one, do you know... I worked out a harmony for that one". The ability to share music with their contemporaries is obviously very important.

Some of the pieces written for this issue covered the same points so I have combined them to make one.

Sessions as most people know are where we all get together and play tunes, everybody enjoys it. They are fun because everyone can join in and learn new things with any instrument, including voices!, it's BRILL REALLY!! It would be nice to have a whole session to ourselves, or a session of just young players. This way more people and children would hear and be interested and they would be encouraged to join groups and improve their playing skills.

Playing in sessions can be very enjoyable but there are hardly any sessions for young people. It can be very off-putting to be much younger than all the other players. The other problem is that many "adult" sessions are too fast for younger people to join in but the "junior" sessions tend to be very slow, basic tunes which can be patronising to more experienced players. A happy medium needs to be reached somewhere between the "adult" and the "junior" sessions in which tunes are played slightly faster than in the "junior" sessions. Also more sessions for younger people need to be arranged. This is why it is

important to have youth sessions in clubs, festivals and anywhere else!

As we all know, session playing can be very enjoyable, but have you thought how nerve-wracking it can be for a youngster to attempt to join in with an "adult" session. Us Youthquakers are keen to get involved in every level possible of session playing but we need the encouragement the "Youth" sessions, like the one we had at Maghull Folk Day gives us. This session made me feel as though I was contributing to an enjoyable semi-performance and it was wonderful to see so many older people and established performers who were keen to join in with us. I would like to see more of these sessions that are specifically for youngsters but open to anyone because it would really help to increase the confidence of young folkies until they felt able to join in "Adult" sessions without feeling shy or embarrassed.

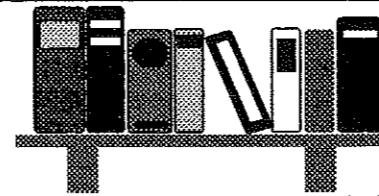
BY: Lizzi Owen, Caroline Heaton, Benjamin Errington, Nicki Davies, Damon Holland, Heather Charlton And April Forkin

OTHER YOUTH NEWS

The next project we hope to develop is the production of a newsletter written by young people about folk. Any contributions such as cartoons, puzzles, jokes, stories, reviews, tunes or songs should be sent to Youthquake, 100 Vicars Cross Road, Chester, Cheshire CH3 5NW. This idea went down very well when we suggested it to Youthquake, but we don't just want this to be for them, we would like it to be a way for numerous young people to make contact with each other.

In the last issue I included a reference to Summer Music. The open summer school will take place from 8-12 August followed by a fiddle master class from the 13-16 August by George Faux on a residential basis at Burton Manor. The project is run by the Liverpool Adult Education Centre who also have workshops in African music and South American pan-pipe classes. Details from 051 207 3870.

Finally this years Youth Concert will be held on Saturday 26 March at Melling Tithebarn. The concert will run from 7.30 - 11pm, tickets are 3, for details ring 0695 623641. On the same day from 2-4pm there will be a workshop for young musicians and singers, hopefully also to be held in the Melling Tithebarn. Artists booked include Joe & Ben Broughton, Kate Rusby & Kathryn Roberts, Hester Woods and Richard Woods & Kevin Byrne. Please support this event, it is both an effective way of promoting relatively local, young talent and an excellent evenings entertainment. All the artistes are local enough to book for your Folk Club or event, why not come along and see for yourself. ➔P.11



BOOKSHELF

ALY BAIN, FIDDLER ON THE LOOSE by ALASTAIR CLARK

Mainstream Publishing, 14.95 ISBN 1 85159 431 5

Biographies aren't normally the kind of thing I'd read but I'm glad I was asked to review this one because otherwise I would have missed out on a fascinating story. I read this book from cover to cover travelling back to Newcastle after Maghull's Day of Folk, I only wish my text books held my attention so easily!

It is very interesting to see the career and development of someone who has been so consistently successful. The rare insight into the life of "a Folk Star" is something I don't think we've seen before, and that alone makes this a very interesting book. It raises the thought of who else this format would suit, any ideas?

By far the most charming section is the one written by his friends including Billy Connolly, Phil Cunningham, Dave Richardson and Violet Tulloch. This book is nicely written, well presented, full of photos, snippets, lots of background - this is the kind of book that has something in it for everyone although I have to say personally I'd wait and see if there was a paperback version!

Jenny Shottliffe

Youthful Perspective (from P.10)

Youthquake is next at the Melling Tithebarn youth concert (see Advert).

After that we're planning a summer party (Videos & Pizza) probably for July and then taking "The Roadshow" to Werneth, Redcar and Whitby.

HIRING FAIR

A new service for artists only to advertise yourself very cheaply for a twelve month period.

BRAM TAYLOR

"Taylor Made" for your Folk Clubs and Festivals
Established & Popular Artist
Bookings/Info. 0942 602864

★ GYPSY ROVER ★

FOLK ENTERTAINERS
- IRISH/ENGLISH DUO -

Up to five-piece band available
PUBS, CLUBS, WEDDINGS, PARTIES
EVEN FOLK CLUBS
Ring GRAHAM DUNN on 0744 25211

PARCEL O' ROUGES

Scottish Traditional/
Contemporary
Contact: Dave Livingstone
0539 727371

Nat Clare

Folk Singer and Nice Guy
Support your local poet!

Cheap rates
0204 847025

The Riot Band

Music for Folk Dancing

Telephone:
Bob Duckworth Peter Lewis
0204 884297 or 061 705 1933
15, Sunny Bower, Tottington, Bury BL8 3HL
Fax: 0204 884101

Peter Piwczuk

Blues 'n' stuff
19, Walverden Terrace
Nelson, Lancs
0282 696238

Put your card in one of
these boxes for only

£7
for four issues
11

WAITES II

Any combination of:
Folk song, country dance,
poems and stories
Preston (0772) 37337
Nelson (0282) 698915

Alchemy

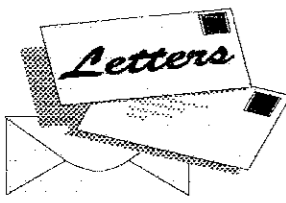
*In which music & poetry
are magically woven together*
Folk songs - traditional & contemporary
complemented by poetry - something different
Contact: Sandra Roberts
0282 871991

Cakes & Ale

Acapella Harmony Singing
Carol: 0524 410606
Glenda: 0524 421071
Pam: 0524 734171/844909

BLUES and ROOTS

RAPHAEL CALLAGHAN
and
CHRISTINE PURNELL
Inquiries and bookings:
051-709 5484



**to the
EDITOR**

A Reviewers Reply - (to Mr John C Fletcher)

It's always nice to know someone actually reads your reviews and takes the time to put pen to paper, so when I read the two pages of reply (P13-14 Winter's issue), I was quite encouraged. However, I feel I must answer one or two of your points.

1 I asked around a number of Folk Clubs in the "Northern Darkness" and only met two people who had heard of Anna.

2 Being booked for Sidmouth Festival does not necessarily mean you are a household name. I too have been booked for Sidmouth, appeared at a full Radway Cinema, but I'm sure they were not all there to see me.

3 If artists don't send any information with their recordings, it's the reviewer who has to try and piece the details together.

4 I was booked at several festivals up and down the country last summer but I didn't see Anna at any.

5 I did not say that the banjo was a South African instrument but the style of playing gave it that "feel".

6 I too can find reviews that agree with my comments (see "The Living Tradition").

7 Unfortunately it was a typing error that produced the incorrect song title.

After spending 20 years running and performing in Folk Clubs,

I feel I can, at least, give an informed opinion. If an artist sends a tape for review, there is also the risk that the reviewer will not like it. I defend my right to do so.

Perhaps I'm wrong, but perhaps you are too.

Ken Howard

THE EDITOR COMMENTS: As I noted last time, everyone is entitled to their opinion, and I'm sure it would be a bland magazine indeed if no-one dared to say they didn't like a particular recording. As Ken says, if you send a record or tape in for review, there is always a risk that the reviewer will not like it. I stand by all my reviewers, whatever they may say about a recording (as long as it isn't actually libellous!) A final point is that we now have a proof reader, so mistakes like the genuine error that occurred above should be extremely unlikely.



new releases

A stunning new album from
**Jez Lowe
& the Bad Pennies**
BEDE WEEPS
(CD: FECD94 CASS: FE094/c)
Britain's premier songwriter!

plus
Debut Albums from
The Ragtime Millionaires
MAKING A MILLION
(CD: FECD95 CASS: FE095/c)
Fancy picking and blues from this popular guitar duo

EDGERTON LAYHE
Rough & Tumble
(CD: FECD96 CASS: FE096/c)
Introducing the songwriting talents of Peter Edgerton

Available from
good record shops or
direct from us at
CD: £11.00 CASS: £6.50
(both inc p+p)

FELLSIDE RECORDINGS,
15 BANKLANDS,
WORKINGTON, CUMBRIA,
CA 14 3EW

**FREE ADMISSION TO ALL
SINGERS AND GUEST NIGHTS AT**



**THE
PAVILLION
FOLK CLUB**

THE PAVILION, MAIN STREET, BILLINGE. - 0744 895 704

Come along and enjoy yourself every Sunday evening for free at the Pavillion. You are probably thinking that there must be a catch - well there isn't, everyone is welcome and there is no admission charge whatsoever.

March 6th - Martyn Wyndham-Read	April 17th - Singers Night
March 13th - Singers Night	April 24th - Les Barker
March 20th - Garva	May 1st - Singers Night
March 27th - Singers Night	May 8th - Guest (T.B.A.)
April 3rd - Singers Night	May 15th - Singers Night
April 10th - Artisan	May 22nd - Dave Goulder

8:30 PM Start in the 'Old Barn' Restaurant adjoining The Pavillion pub.
Be early to get the best seats!

Further information from: Jim and Pauline Coan - Tel: 0772 452 782

iNW With a chance

What's it all about?

Early in 1991, melodeon ace Ralph Smethurst (with the support of his Plain Brown Wrapper Band), established a session at the Rising Sun Inn in Mossley. This was, from its outset, a session for north country music; here you had plenty of **CHANCE** to play and pick up tunes from Lancashire, Cheshire, Yorkshire, and throughout the North.

In June 1991, a small committee chaired by Jamie Knowles, met at the Rising Sun to discuss Jamie's long-held intention to set up a championship for the performance of the dance music of North West England. Having unearthed many tunes and performed them with Tom Shepley's Band in the 70's, Jamie hoped to bring them back to life. In the 17th and 18th centuries the pipers and fiddlers of Cheshire and Lancashire were famed for their virtuosity and respected by musicians all over the country.

The name and the logo for the new venture were devised within a week of the first meeting. Cash prizes for the winners were to provide the incentive. The first contest took place only 5 months later, at Friezland Church Hall near Oldham; Three prizes were awarded and the day was rounded off with a ceilidh dancing to Hooke's Law. With lots of voluntary help and very generous donations, the event was an outstanding success.

Planning began the following week for the 1992 event! For the second contest it was decided to have extra classes - duet as well as solo, and also a North West song category. Prizes monies totalling £550 would be needed. During the year workshops were held to give potential entrants a **CHANCE** to learn some of the repertoire. The policy was specifically to encourage young people to discover, play and learn the music which is part of the North West's traditional heritage. The second contest took place only 11 months after the first. The musicians from the Rising Sun session formed themselves into a band and went playing at ceilidhs, putting their fees into the competition funds. For In With a Chance 2, the venue was again Friezland Church Hall (plus a marquee), but this time there were workshops for Melodeon, Fiddle, and the Joshua Jackson dances. This time there were five prizes awarded and Hooke's Law again played to a capacity crowd for the ceilidh.

By **CHANCE**, committee member Jenny Coxon had become involved in Oldham Leisure Services first folk weekend in June 1992. The weekend format was workshops and a ceilidh on the Saturday and a Free Open Air Concert on the Sunday, all held in the delightful surroundings of Oldham's Wernerth Park and its Music Rooms.

After the 1992 In With a Chance, the committee approached Oldham Leisure Services with a proposal to join forces for 1993. As a result the 1993 Wernerth 14 Folk Weekend was jointly organised - In With a

Chance funded and organised the Saturday workshop and ceilidh day, and Oldham Leisure Services funded the free Sunday concert and provided the venue for the whole weekend. Folk North West readers will have seen reviews of the Sunday event in the Autumn issue of this magazine. On the Saturday, only 9 months after the 1992 competition, the contests were held at Wernerth and judged by a panel which included Pete Coe, Wilf Darlington and Dave Mallinson among others. The winners: Ralph Smethurst (adult solo), Michael Turner (junior solo), Rebecca Dean and Alison Hinds (adult duet), Daniel Pixton and Katie Hutchinson (junior duet), Teresa Tooley (North West song). Workshops included Hammer Dulcimer and Harp with Cythara and Song Writing with Pete Coe. The Ran Tan Band attracted dancers from a wide area to a high energy ceilidh.

Somehow between September 1992 and June 1993, the In With a Chance committee firmed up the line-up of the Band of the Rising Sun, recorded an album of North West music produced by Brian Peters and published the 19th century manuscript of Joseph Kershaw, a fiddler from Saddleworth. They continued to provide workshops in the North West music at Friezland. Anyone who saw the Fosbrooks at Maghull's Day of Music will have heard about the impact of these workshops on the Fosbrook's repertoire!

So on to 1994, when for the first time there will be a complete year in which to plan the event! Once again it is being jointly planned and organised with Oldham Leisure Services. The workshops and ceilidh are already booked (see advert elsewhere in this issue), but the championships will no longer be held. This is to enable In With a Chance to reach and encourage many more people to have a go - especially young people. So the prize money is being used to put on a whole variety of top class workshops with a strong North West content. The Late Night Band play music from a wide selection of North West manuscript sources; caller Gordon Potts called for the Ran Tan Band at last year's event. It is hoped that funding for the Sunday concert will come from a variety of sponsors in order to put on a great free programme.

Meanwhile all you organisers out there can help the ongoing fund raising by booking the Band of the Rising Sun for club nights, ceilidhs, workshops and festivals - North West music for all occasions!

Jenny Coxon

The session at Rising Sun has moved to the Waggon Inn, High Street, Uppermill - Wednesdays 9pm.

For more information about the session and the work of In With a Chance phone either Jenny Coxon (0457) 876731 or Jamie Knowles (0457) 871600.

26th
Redcar International Folk Music, Dance & Song Festival
8 - 9 - 10 July 1994

Guests booked so far include:-

Hugh Rippon, Peeping Tom, Steve Gardham's Allstars, Nebular, Dave Hardy, Pete Flemming, Brocade, Pete Betts, Cleveland Bays, Vin Garbutt, The Dobnan Family, The Wilsons, Carolina Shout, The Deighton Family, Jay Turner, Kings Ransom, Robb Johnson & Pip Collins, Old Rope String Band, Liam Duffy, Jane Edwards & Adrian Spendlow, Cockersdale, Punch & Judy, Robin Williamson & John Renbourn, Derek Elliott, Richard Grainger, Chris Newman & Maire Ni Chathasaigh, The Alan Bell Band, Isaac Guillory, South Bank Grunters, Sharon Fountain, Tom McConville, Maxie & Mitch, Band of Soap, Marie Little, Fred Jordan, Chaz, Cythara, Newkirk & Bell (Canada), Bocna Cara (Norway), Olge (Ireland) Salami Bros (Ilkley), Spring Chickens, Feet First, Loctup Together, Jon Harvison, Brian Peters, Garva, Mogsy, Pearl & The Prairie Dawgs, Irish Traditional Dancers, Bayou Gumbo, Phil & Barbara, Ben & Joe Broughton, Chipolatoes, Clowns and lots of Morris, Sword & Clog Dancers.

Concerts, Ceilidhs, Cajun, Swing, Blue Grass & Appalachian Sessions, Workshops, Singarounds, The First Cleveland Youth Quake, Chance to Meet, Kite Flying Demonstration, Dance Displays & Street Entertainment. Full Programme for children and those in their early teens. Gurning, Shanty, Northumbrian Piping & Singer/Songwriting Competitions. Superb Camping and Caravan Facilities. Full 24hr Security etc. etc.

And the usual line-up of Top Artists that make this Festival Unique.

FESTIVAL WEEKEND TICKETS £20 - after June 1st £24
SATURDAY TICKETS £14 - SUNDAY TICKETS £12

ALL CHEQUES TO BE MADE PAYABLE TO - LANGBAURGH BOROUGH COUNCIL
Reductions for O.A.P.'s, unwaged & groups of 10 or more before 1st June if available
Special Family Rates, Children aged 10 - 16 Half Price, Children under 10 FREE
Souvenir Festival Magazine & Programme of Events - £1.00.
Camping Tickets can only be purchased at the Camp Site on the Festival Weekend.
Please do not send Camping Money when applying for Festival Tickets

Langbaugh on Tees
NORTH WEST
The Association of Festival Organisers

For further details and information, please telephone 0947 - 840928 or write to Folk Festival Office, Fern Cottage, Dalehouse, Staithes, Saltburn, Cleveland TS13 5DT, enclosing S.A.E. please.

Cogglers Music

The Folk Specialists

THE choice for new and used folk instruments, books, accessories and repairs.

Accordions, Bodhrans, Bouzoukis, Concertinas, Fiddles, Guitars, Harmonicas, Mandolas, Mandolins, Melodeons, Huge selection of Music Books

Comprehensive repair service, including Concertina / Accordion / Melodeon tuning and fiddle repairs

New 1993 Mail Order Catalogue Now Available!

Shop & Repair Workshop : 90 Lugemore Lane, St. Helens, Lancs. WA10 3DL Tel : 0744 32628

Business Hours : Monday - Saturday, 9:30 - 5:00

7th Cleckheaton Folk Festival

1st - 3rd July 1994

Festival Office: 7 Listerdale, LIVERSEDEGE, West Yorks WF15 6EN. Tel/Fax 0924 404346


Singarounds
Children's events
Camping
Ceilidh Sessions
Meets
Craft fair

Only £10 in advance

Stanley Acerrington * Alchemy *
Artisan * Les Barker * Bill
Caddick * Caravanserai *
Steve Chatterley & John Cartain *
* Vikki Clayton * Feet in
Mouths * Dave & Alison Fenner
* Vin Garbutt * Gemini * Bob
Greenwood's Rhythm Rascals *
Hands in Pockets * Jon
Harvison * King's Ransom *
Marie Little * Jez Lowe * Tony
Martin * Medicine Hat * Tony
O'Neill * Peeping Tom * Port
& Brandy * Prism * Oldham
Tinkers * Sharon * Martin
Wyndham Road * * * * *

Redcar Folk Festival Silver Jubilee Cassette

To celebrate our Silver Jubilee Year, Redcar Folk Festival, BBC Radio Cleveland and Teesbeat Recording Studios are producing a cassette.



Tom Paxton



The Dubliners

On one side will be the artists from the Saturday Concert in the Redcar Bowl, Tom Paxton, Steve Tilston and Maggie Boyle, Huw and Tony Williams, Bob Greenwood's Rhythm Rascals and After Hours the artists from the Sunday Concert in the Redcar Bowl, The Barley Works, Jez Lowe and The Bad Pennies, Marske Fishermens Choir, The Doonan Family, The Wilsons, Vin Garbutt and The Dubliners. All proceeds from the sale of the Cassette will be put towards financing future festivals in the hope that we can continue to be one of the Main Festivals in the U.K.

The cost of the cassette will be £7.00. This includes postage and packing, which we feel is very good value for money.

For further information regarding this cassette please contact the festival offices at :-

Redcar Folk Festival Office
Fern Cottage, Dalehouse, Staithes, Saltburn, Cleveland TS13 5DT
Tel: (0947) 840928

CRAFTS & CUSTOMS

from the North-West of England

In the second of our occasional series, here is a description of "Pace-Egging" as it was practised in Blackburn in the last century.

(Article Courtesy Lancashire Wakes)

The old custom of "Pace-egging" is still observed in Blackburn. At the present day, pace-egging commences on the Monday and finishes on the Thursday before the Easter week. Young men in groups varying in number from three to twenty dressed in various fantastic garbs, and wearing masks - some of the groups accompanied by a player or two on the violin - go from house to house singing, dancing and capering.

At most places they are liberally treated with wine, punch or ale dealt out to them by the host or hostess. The young men strive to disguise their walk and voice; and the persons whom they visit use their efforts on the other hand to discover who they are; in which mutual endeavour many and ludicrous mistakes are made.

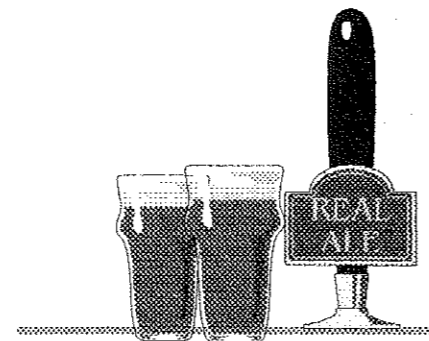
A few years ago parties of this description were much subject to annoyance from a gang of feckless fellows styled the "Carr-laners", armed with bludgeons who endeavoured to despoil the pace-eggers. This lawless gang of ruffians is now broken up and the serious affrays between different gangs of pace-eggers have become of comparative rare occurrence.

Besides parties of the sort we have attempted to describe, children, both males and females, with little baskets in their hands, dressed in all the tinsel, coloured paper, ribbons and "doll-rags" which they can command, go up and down from house to house; at some receiving pence, at other eggs, at others gingerbread, some of which is called hot gingerbread, having a mixture of ginger and some of cayenne, causing the most ridiculous contortions of feature on the unfortunate being who partakes of it.

Houses are literally besieged by these juvenile troops from morn till night. "God's sake a pace-egg!" is the continual cry. There is no particular tune, but various versions of pace-egging and other songs are sung. The eggs obtained by the juveniles are frequently boiled and dyed in logwood and other dyes on the Easter Sunday and rolled in the fields one egg at another till broken.

Another Easter custom is termed "Playing the old ball". It is thus:- A huge and rude representation of a horse's head is made; the eyes are formed of the bottoms of old broken wine or other "black bottles"; the lower and higher jaws have large nails put in them to serve as teeth; The lower jaw is made to move by a contrivance fixed at its back end to be operated by the man who "plays the ball". Fixed to the whole is a sheet of rough sacking cloth, under which the operator puts himself and at the end of which is a tail. The operator opens the mouth by means of the contrivance before spoken of.

Through the opening he can see the crowd and then runs at first one and another, neighing like a horse, kicking, rising on his hind legs, performing all descriptions of gambols, and running after the crowd. The idea of this rude game may have been taken from the "hobby-horse" in the ancient Christmas mumblings.



Can YOU tell us about a visit to see a local traditional custom, such as that described above?

Have you been to any traditional craft shops, fairs or museums?

If so, why not write in and tell us about it?

Write to: The Editor,
Folk North-West
118, Bolton Road,
Aspull,
Wigan WN2 1XF

A Song for the Month: The Last Leviathan

Here is the first of new regular series, which will feature a well-known song (words & music) for you all to sing. There are more than 28 different recordings of this particular song, properly called "The Last of the Great Whales"

Is there a particular song you would like included? If so, write to the editor & we'll do our best to oblige.

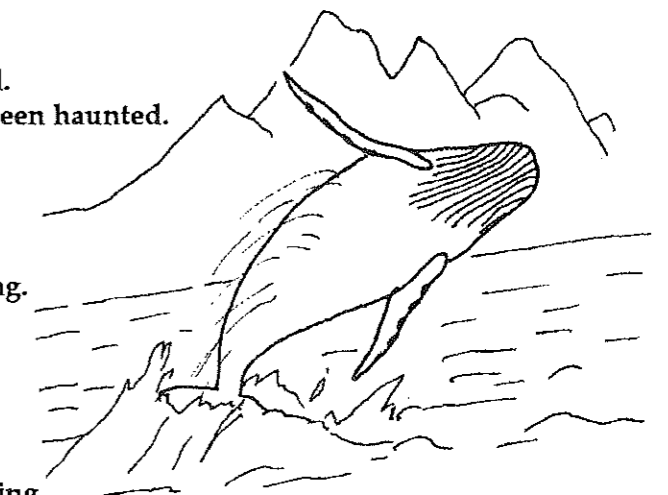
Last night I heard the cry of my last companion.
The roar of the harpoon gun, then I was alone.
I reflected on days gone by, when we were thousands,
But I know I soon will die,
The last Leviathan.

This morning the Sun did rise, crimson in the North Sky.
The ice was the colour of blood and the wind did sigh.
I rose to take a breath, it was my last one.
From the gun came the roar of death
And now I am gone.

And so, since time began, we have been hunted.
Through oceans that were our home, we have been haunted.
From Eskimos in canoes, to mighty whalers,
Still you ignore our plea,
None came to save us.

Now that we're all gone, there's no more hunting.
The Big Feller is no more, no use lamenting.
What race is next in line, all for the slaughter?
The Elephant or the Seal
Or your Sons and Daughters?

My soul has been torn from me and I am bleeding.
My heart it has been rent and I am crying.
Oh the beauty around me fades and I am screaming.
I am the last of the great Whales
And I am dying.



ANDY BARNES

(c) Friendly Overtures Limited 1986

MINI MARKET
 Only £2.00 per 1/16 page
 Maximum of 2/16 per advert
 For Private sales & wants, club
 adverts, artists cards and many
 other items. Send Copy to:
 Paul Holden (Advertising)
 7, Sunleigh Road,
 Hindley, Nr. WIGAN WN2 2RE

ORB Music
 "The Home of the Fiddle and The Banjo"
 Old & New Instruments available from stock
 Repairs * Restoration * Bow repairs
 Strings & Accesories
 Part exchange welcome
 Please ring for an appointment
 0433 631907
 7, Windses Estate, Grindleford, Sheffield, S30 1HY

FYFE'S FESTIVAL GUIDE
 1994
 formerly The Folk Festival Guide
 More festivals and information than ever!
 Available March 1994
 Cheques/PO'S for £2.50 payable to: FFG
 26 Cumberland Court
 Cross Road
 Croydon
 CR0 6TE
 Tel: 081 680 4302

The Bodhran
 Can You Beat It?
 is a cassette &
 booklet covering:
 how to play
 drumming examples
 playing skills & styles
 choosing/making
 a bodhran
 and much more...
 £8.00 post paid
 Cheque/P.O. to Frank Lewis
 9 Leapers View, Over Kellet
 Carnforth Lancs LA6 1HL
 TEL: 0524 734440
Bodhrans Hand-made
 to order

ANDY SMITH
 SINGER
 SONGWRITER
 PERFORMER
 Original Songs & covers
 and Traditional material
 New Tape:
 "FRAGILE WORLD"
 Available now
 For bookings & information
 Tel: 0772 863783

FOR SALE:
 IBANEZ 'F5' STYLE MANDOLIN,
 PLUSH CASE
 £575
 WINDSOR 5 STRING BANJO
 £185
WANTED: QUALITY BANJO
 Tel: 0663 743610



auld triangle music
 folk & roots instruments -
 recorded music - supplies
 Anchor Courtyard, Albert Dock
 Liverpool. 051 - 708 7546

DAVE SUMMERS
 "enchants with his dry humour" *The Guardian*
 Latest cassette:
 'Arrowing Episodes'
 Other albums still available
 Lancaster (0524) 32681

CYTHARA
 BBC Young Tradition Award
 Finalists 1993
 MACLAINE COLSTON -
 Hammered Dulcimer
 JENNY CROOK -
 Celtic Harp
 BOOKINGS:
 0761 470925

CASTLE HOTEL
 China Street, Lancaster
 Singers & Musicians Night
 Every Tuesday from 9pm
**ALL STYLES OF
 MUSIC WELCOME**
 Tel: 0524 32136



WHAT A BAND
 Phil Brown
 0254 397623

POCKETSTONE
 A contemporary folk duo
 combining the clear,
 powerful and in turn
 delicate vocals of
 Ingrid Brown with
 the subtle and melodic
 guitar playing of
 Adrian Norris.
 Many excellent
 self penned songs
 waiting to be heard.
 For enquiries
 or bookings
 ring 021-730 1549

RAPHAEL CALLAGHAN
 What they're saying about
 'BLUE C'
 "... beautiful recording ... a
 superb contemporary blues
 album" — Acoustic Blues
 "... songs resonate with the
 authenticity of early blues
 pioneers ... excellent live
 performer" — Daily Post
 "... among the covers is a
 striking acappella version of the
 traditional The Storm Is Passing
 Over" — Liverpool Echo
 Don't miss the original styles of
 RAPHAEL CALLAGHAN and
 CHRISTINE PURNELL
 Enquiries and bookings: 051-709 5484

ANTHONY JOHN CLARKE
 SINGER/SONGWRITER/PERFORMER
 For an evening of beautiful music, why not eavesdrop
 on the relaxed style and humour of ANTHONY JOHN
 CLARKE.
 Everyone has recognised themselves in
 Anthony's songs.
 Contact Sheelagh M. for
 Bookings/info
 PROMOTIONS
 051-427-9039

BLACKROD FOLK CLUB
 have moved to
"THE RAFTERS ROAR"
 MOORGATE INN
 SCOT LANE, ASPULL
 (North Bolton, off A6 - 1 mile from old venue)
 Every Wednesday - 8.30pm
 With Paul - John - Frank
 SINGERS AND MUSICIANS
 TEL: 061 790 7153



FREE REED BAND
 LANCASTER-BASED
 DANCE BAND & CALLER
 FOR BARN DANCES & OTHER EVENTS
 CONTACT: ANDY HORNBY 0524-30671
 MARK DAVIES 0524-30745

**In the picture with
 music for
 DANCE:**
Olio
 061 485 3554

March Dates

SUNDAY		6-Mar	13-Mar	20-Mar	27-Mar	
ARNSIDE		Closed	Closed	Singers Night	Closed	
BOTHY		George Saux & Patrick Walker	Singers Night	Keith Hendrick	Singers Night	
LEIGH		Dave Summers	Singers Night	Dave Webber & Annie Fentiman	Singers Night	
LLANDUDNO		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
OPEN DOOR		Singers Night	Singers Night	Ruth, David & Ken	Singers Night	
PAVILION		Martin Wyndham-Read	Singers Night	Garva	Singers Night	
MONDAY		7-Mar	14-Mar	21-Mar	28-Mar	
MONDAY MUSIC		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
HORWICH		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
PRESTON		Singers Night	Jez Lowe & The Bad Pennies	Singers Night	Dick Miles	
SWINTON		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
TRITON		Singers Night	Bram Taylor	Singers Night	Singers Night	
TRAVELLERS' REST		Antony John Clarke	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
TUESDAY		1-Mar	8-Mar	15-Mar	22-Mar	29-Mar
BACUP	Singers Night		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
DARWEN	>Alternate Tuesdays					
LIVERPOOL	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
MAGHULL	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
TILSTON	Singers Night	New Hokum Boys	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Fiddlestone
WEDNESDAY		2-Mar	9-Mar	16-Mar	23-Mar	30-Mar
ASPULL	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Dave Summers	Singers Night
8:45 at LANE ENDS	Old Rope String Band	Derek Boak	Bayou Gumbo	Steve Jinski	Singers Night	
BLACKBURN	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
BURNLEY						
CASTLE	Singers Night	Guest tba	Singers Night	Guest tba	Singers Night	Singers Night
HESKETH BANK	Gary & Vera Aspey	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
NEW SEVEN STARS	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
* HEBDEN BRIDGE		Benefit Concert				
THURSDAY		3-Mar	10-Mar	17-Mar	24-Mar	31-Mar
COCKERMOUTH	Carlene Anglim & Simon Haworth	Singers Night	Singers Night	Dave Summers	Stravaig	Pint & Dale
FLEETWOOD	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Dave Summers	Singers Night
FOLK at the GATE	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
GREGSON'S LANE	Closed	Singers Night	Closed	Singers Night	Closed	Closed
HASKAYNE	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
HEBDEN BRIDGE	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
LEVELLERS		Jon Harvison		Keith Hinchliffe		
RAILWAY	Singers Night	Singers Night	Tom McConville	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
WHITE SWAN	Les Barker - White Swan Birthday Party	Tony Nyland & The Bilious Bros.	Singers Night	Damien Barber	Jay Turner	
FRIDAY		4-Mar	11-Mar	18-Mar	25-Mar	
NORTHWICH	Kieran Halpin	Makvirag	* Singers Night	Anna Ryder		
POTTERIES	Singers Night	Boat Band	Singers Night	Mabsant		
RHYL	Singers Night	Singers Night	Travaig	Singers Night		
WESTHOUGHTON	Garva	The Albion Band	Jez Lowe and The Bad Pennies	Stephen Quigg		
SATURDAY		5-Mar	12-Mar	19-Mar	26-Mar	
BURY	Graham & Eileen Pratt	Singers Night	Dick Miles	Pete Castle		
FORMBY	Betty & Norman MacDonald	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night		
MECHANICS		La Cucina (Padiham Town Hall)	Joe Le Taxi & Zybuco (Padiham Town Hall)			
POYNTON	Guest tba	Ceilidh - Shake A Leg	The Albion Band + Close to the Bone	Ceilidh - Bilbo Baggins		

April Dates

SUNDAY		3-Apr	10-Apr	17-Apr	24-Apr	
ARNSIDE		Closed	Closed	Singers Night	Closed	
BOTHY		Sara Grey	Singers Night	Pete Morton	Singers Night	
LEIGH		Jim Couza	Singers Night	Ann Dodson	Singers Night & Leigh Festival	
LLANDUDNO		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
OPEN DOOR		Nightshift	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
PAVILION		Closed	Artisan	Singers Night	Les Barker	
MONDAY		4-Apr	11-Apr	18-Apr	26-Apr	
MONDAY MUSIC		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
HORWICH		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
PRESTON		Singers Night	tba	Pigtowne Fling	tba	
SWINTON		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
TRITON		Closed	Singers Night	Quartz	Singers Night	
TRAVELLERS' REST		Closed	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
TUESDAY		5-Apr	12-Apr	19-Apr	26-Apr	
BACUP		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
DARWEN		>Alternate Tuesdays				
LIVERPOOL		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
MAGHULL		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
TILSTON		Singers Night	Dave Goulder	Singers Night	Rick Christian	
WEDNESDAY		6-Apr	13-Apr	20-Apr	27-Apr	
ASPULL		Phil Hare	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
8:45 at LANE ENDS		Steve Tilson & Maggie Boyle	Anna Ryder	Blarney Stone	Singers Night	
BLACKBURN		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
BURNLEY						
CASTLE		Guest tba	Singers Night	Guest tba	Singers Night	
HESKETH BANK		Lawrence Hoy & Steve Higgins	Closed	Closed	Closed	
NEW SEVEN STARS		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
THURSDAY		7-Apr	14-Apr	21-Apr	28-Apr	
COCKERMOUTH		Singers Night	Garva	Singers Night	Ann Dodson	
FLEETWOOD		Phil Hare	Pint & Dale	Singers Night	Singers Night	
FOLK at the GATE		Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	
GREGSON'S LANE		Singers Night	Closed	Singers Night	Closed	
HASKAYNE		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
HEBDEN BRIDGE		Closed	Pipers Galore	Closed	Closed	
LEVELLERS		Singers Night		Phil Hare		
RAILWAY		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Rick Christian	
WHITE SWAN		Jez Lowe	Vin Garbutt	Geoff Higginbottom	Roger Wilson	
FRIDAY		1-Apr	8-Apr	15-Apr	22-Apr	29-Apr
NORTHWICH	* Singers Night		Singers Night	Dave Goulder	Singers Night	Roger Wilson
POTTERIES	Singers Night		Anna Ryder	Singers Night	Spike Island	Singers Night
RHYL	30th Anniversary Singers Night		Singers Night	Singers Night	Antony John Clarke	Singers Night
WESTHOUGHTON	Closed		Eric Bogle (Ticket only)	Vin Garbutt (Ticket only)	Johnny Silvo	Maddy Prior (Ticket only)
* BOTHY						* CEILIDH - Blue Moon Band
SATURDAY		2-Apr	9-Apr	16-Apr	23-Apr	30-Apr
BURY	* Ceilidh at the Met	Martin Hall	Singers Night	Singers Night	Brian Peters	Joe Kerrins
FORMBY	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Greyeres	Singers Night	Singers Night
MECHANICS		The Happy Ramblers (Padiham Town Hall)				Rory McCloud (Padiham Town Hall)
POYNTON	Guest tba	Ceilidh	Guest tba	Guest tba	Ceilidh - Shake The Dice	Guest tba
* HESKETH BANK		Eric Bogle (Ticket only)				
Notes:	* If Club name has "*" in front, it's not the usual club night. * If entry has "*" in front, it's being held at a different venue (unless venue is named)					

LIVE REVIEWS

MAGHULL DAY OF MUSIC: YOUTH CONCERT - A WRINKLIES VIEW

The afternoon concert which had been left to the organisation of the "young and talented" (makes ya sick doesn't it?) was an occasion to appreciate and applaud the level of ability and potential that exists in the North West.

The sessions started with a massed meeting of all these 'ere youngster's and teenagers etc. under the watchful eye of those smarties at the forefront of the now well established Youthquake. It's so good to see young people showing other young people how to play and perform. This was then followed by Jenny Shottliffe, Joe Broughton and young Ben Errington doing a concert set together.

The middle part of the afternoon was then taken up by various local schools and music groups from around Maghull who made various contributions:-

Maricourt High School - Irish Band who performed with marvellous competence.

Maghull Handbells - A wholly different type of music producing superb melodies

Maghull High School - Solo performances by Ilona Bamber (Cello), Richard Follett (Baritone Brass) and James Stacey (Ragtime Piano).

Deyes High School - A very competent jazz ensemble completed local groups contributions.

Youthquake as a group and various offshoots of it gave concert performances throughout the afternoon.

The formal activities of the session were concluded by the multi talented all singing, dancing and playing group from Stockport - Fosbrook Clog Dancers. If you've never seen this group of "Tots to Teenagers" your life is incomplete. All you smuggies who plink the strings, tickle the ivories and plastic or blow your own horn, want to try playing the fiddle and clog dancing at the same time without giving the body a nasty turn. Seriously, the discipline, musicianship, timing and dancing is a joy to absorb - they'll be back!!

The whole session was completed with a mass jam session in which us wrinklies were allowed to participate, a great way to finish a wonderful showcase.

I can't finish without saying a big thanks to Joe Broughton, for willingness to step in and fill when gaps occurred, as did Ben Errington, but special thanks and admiration must go to Jenny Shottliffe who, faced with a difficult afternoon, showed tremendous maturity and capability in running the programme.

We'll be carrying it all on in 1994!!

Ian Tupling

MAGHULLS DAY OF MUSIC

EDITOR'S NOTE: Ian Tupling has done a good job covering the Youth Concert, so I have not included Joan's glowing remarks in this review.

November 6th, George and I set off for the Maghull day of music. When we got there everyone had started their jobs and we moved to our places on the door. Jenny Shottliffe was a little trouper, she had all the group well in hand, it did my heart good to see and hear them.

Something for every taste filled the day, Christine Collister, Maxi & Mitch "Now there's a couple of likely lads", Carolina Shout and Marie Little. Not forgetting the local artists, Blameystone, Hobson & Lees, Caught on the Hop, Th'antiques Road Show, Tom Travis Band, Lennon and Higham and many more. If you missed the day "serves you right", because it was super. The icing on the cake was the "All Day Folk Club", run by various folk clubs of the area. Believe you me I was up and down the stairs like a bottle cork doing my stint of stewarding and trying to catch certain artists.

Now for my little gripe. It was the stewarding but, I will whisper in Dave's ear rather than write it down in this epistle. Finally most of the people I spoke to, spoke in glowing terms about the day of music. "It's been a great day, Joan, I enjoyed it all very much". Even the local Maghull people said that it all was what Maghull needed. Here's to next year!

J Gallimore

STEELEYE SPAN

SOUTHPORT ARTS CENTRE 7 DECEMBER 1993

Mixed. Such were my feelings as I left the theatre after the Steeleye Span performance. I had been particularly keen to see them, since I didn't ever see them when I was a big fan and bought their records 20 years ago, but I left disappointed. Of course there were high points; the old favourites were well enough performed and received, and still produced the same feelings as ever, but I felt that the newer material, with a few exceptions, lacked the musical innovation and excitement of earlier times. In addition to the older numbers however, I did enjoy a new English air and a vigorous reel, both performed on the violin. Touring with Steeleye is founder member Tim Hart, and to hear him sing with Maddy Prior was a real highlight; together their voices still complement each other magically. Unfortunately, despite an enthusiastic and loyal audience, the evening was irretrievably marred by poor sound engineering. Had the performance at the mixing desk met usual standards perhaps I would have had less reservations about the band's own performance - it's hard to say.

24 Philip Page

SIDMOUTH '93

Well, we weren't half proud to be asked to display NW Morris at this prestigious event. We were even more proud by the end of a busy week to have received so many plaudits - and to have become the first Morris team ever to win the Bill Rutter Trophy, awarded for the highest daily total on street collections.

We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves; we feel that we made a good job of presenting NW Morris, and of representing our 'home' area of Lancashire. I have to admit that we probably most enjoyed the dancing in the streets with the crowd hemming us in, the banter between team and audience - and occasionally involving some of them in the show - Great!!

On a stage you're in splendid isolation, and you have to project yourself across the chasm. We still enjoyed that aspect of the visit, and the audience certainly seemed to enjoy what we had to offer. It was simplyvery different. Mind you, the audiences were very receptive and if we couldn't have 'turned it on' for them, then we'd have been in a lot of trouble!

The members of the stage crew reckon that every team has an off day during the week; that day seemed to be Monday for most of them. One of the Jordanians (was he a late replacement, I wonder?) repeatedly started on the wrong foot and stamped his size 12 boot down on his neighbour's foot each time (wonder what he said afterwards?). The Feet First young lady flat on her backside, legs in the air and looking most undignified (bury me in a Y-shaped coffin please!) and even a (professional) Russian getting it all wrong. Monday was our off day - but don't worry, Tuesday is just as good a day to make a mess of things! Re-living it all again as I watched the video recording I begin to wonder just what we were so worried about; it doesn't look at all bad! I guess it's just that we had been absolutely buzzing over the first few days and we knew within ourselves that Tuesday's performance lacked that little bit of indefinable 'zing'. So what do you do after that? - grit your teeth and make sure you 'turn it on' again at the next opportunity.

Highlights? - so many of them. The guest teams presented such a variety of dances and such a feast of colour, but the Chinese girls were absolutely delightful. I know they came up to Lancashire from Sidmouth, then on to Manchester, but some of the LMM had designs on taking them home with them - for keeps!

The Russians provided a super all-playing, all-singing, all-dancing spectacle - and their "Meet the Team" session was a pure delight.

The weather was generally very kind and only one Arena show had to be moved into the marquee (provided for inclement weather) throughout the whole week - amazing!

Some of the less obvious delights? The car boot sale put on mainly by the Russians, with some help from the Bulgarians, the Columbians and the Chinese; the 25 cartoons of each team drawn by one of the stage

crew; the support and encouragement we had from the members of other NW type teams, from people from all over the North West and friends from further afield; and the outstanding value (and facilities) provided by "The Blue Ball" at Sidford for the team's own barbecue evening. To these we should perhaps add the joys of finding parking space in Sidmouth; getting changed in the middle of local car parks; hiking uphill three quarters of a mile to the Arena car park after just exhausting yourself on the stage; trying to find suitable accommodation in or near Sidmouth; and trying to get to some of the other events and workshops when you are part of an invited team with a strictly defined timetable!

It all added up to a marvellous experience. It was a treat to mingle with the other invited teams, both foreign and home-based, and it was a privilege to dance for such receptive audiences, both at the Arena and in the street. We were very impressed by the detailed organisation of the whole event too. My only regret? - that the Hula team from Hawaii didn't appear - I was quite looking forward to that!

Roy Smith, Leyland Morris Men

Ennistymon: A Traditional Singing Festival..

As an occasional reader of Folk North West I wonder whether your readers are aware of the Ennistymon Festival of Traditional Singing held at the end of May each year. The aim of the Festival is to promote an appreciation of unaccompanied traditional singing.

The Ennistymon Festival is very loosely structured and there is no expensive weekend ticket to put people off coming. There is a small charge for attending each event. The Festival Office is Ennistymon Library. Tel: 065-71245 and 065-84365.

1993's events opened on the Friday night, the Official opening was by none other than Dr Michaela Sulleabhain of the Music Department University College Cork, followed by the launch of a new CD by Tim Dennehy called "A Winter's Tear". To round off the evening there was a Clare Singer's Session.

Saturday's official events began with a noontime lecture entitled "Songs and More: Clare and Galway" given by an academic and featuring film archiving material from Clare and Galway. I would have to say that it didn't really inspire, and the lure of the bar and a session soon triumphed. The next lecture in the late afternoon more than made up for this disappointment, being entitled "The Common Ground" and given by the Ulster singer Len Graham and his wife Padraigin Ni Uallachain. They had everybody enthralled with their observations and more importantly with their singing. Len told the tale of his competing in a local singing competition, as a boy, in a local court house. After the competition his father asked him why he had faltered during his song recital. Unbeknown to everybody else a tinker boy had wandered into the court house and as Len performed in the Witness Box, out of sight of everybody else, the small boy piddled down Len's leg!

The weekends official events finish on the Sunday morning with an open air singing session on the steps of the local library. The rule of the Festival is that no singer, once a guest, will be invited back as an official guest for at least three years thereby guaranteeing new faces and new songs each year.

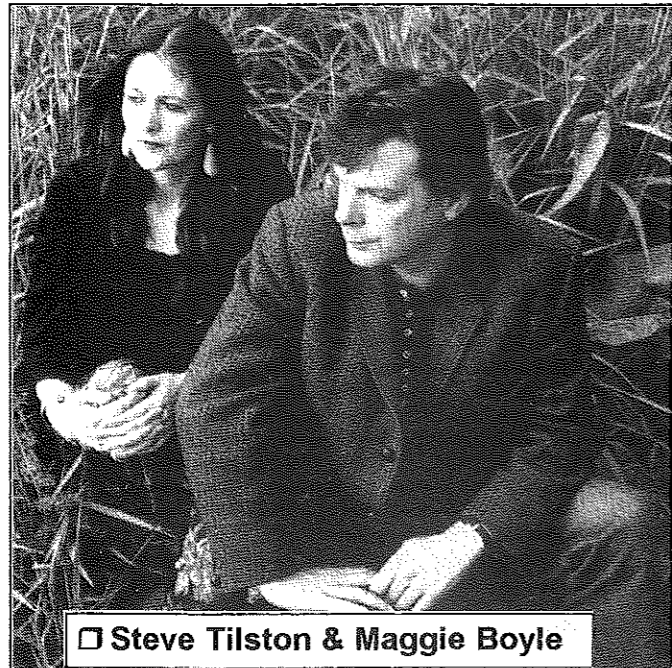
Having said this Con Grainey from East Limerick appeared again in this year's concert having appeared last year and not only that, but sang three songs to everyone else's two. You have to be quick to stop Con from singing, he's well into his seventies and was 1991's "discovery". To listen to Con's singing is to step back in time and listen to the past.

It would be easy to mention just about everybody who sang in the official events, and in the sessions, but that would take forever. However I will mention one name Peggy McMahon, a guest in 1991 and still singing well into her seventies, a lovely singer.

A personal note of thanks to one of the committee, George Handerson, for his annual welcome, encouragement and good company.

George, a very powerful singer, comes from Newcastle-upon-Tyne and went to Ireland in the early seventies. When he found the tradition was still alive and singing he never came back. On this showing who can blame him.

Andrew Longworth-Dames



□ Steve Tilston & Maggie Boyle

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is not quite a festival review and not quite a straight record review either, but because it celebrates a popular festival, I've settled on putting it in the "live" reviews

REDCAR FOLK FESTIVAL SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS TAPE

The arrival of something pleasant through the post these days is a rare occurrence, so to receive this tape with a request to review it for Folk North West was something to brighten up the day.

The variety promised by the cover was like scanning a well thought out menu of varied and appetizing foods, which included The Dubliners, The Doonans, Jez Lowe and the Bad Pennies, The Rhythm Rascals, Vin Garbutt, and many more. All in all, a fairly complete picture of the extent to which Folk Music has travelled in the 25 years that Redcar has hosted a festival, and with the certain knowledge that the future is in good hands.

What do you like?

TRADITIONAL: Its here in the safe hands of The Wilsons. A couple of super tracks including "Shores of old Blighty" from the pen of Greame Miles.

CELTIC TRADITION: Its here with the Afterhours - superb arrangements of Carmin Fair and Derry Jail, and a solid performance from The Doonan Family whose set included that well known traditional folk song, Sweet Georgia Brown!! Wonderful Stuff.

BLUES: Give Bob Greenwood's Rhythm Rascals a chance to drive you through two energetic numbers by Hambone Willie Newborn and Blind Boy Fuller!

FOLK REVIVAL: Two names synonymous with the 60's/70's, Tom Paxton and The Dubliners, each still producing their own inimitable styles and sounding better than ever. Tom comes over well on this tape with Whose Garden Was This and The First Song is For You. In comparison the driving force of The

Dubliners see the tape out with Whiskey in the Jar. In case you weren't at the concert, let me tell you that it had 'em dancing in the aisles.

CONTEMPORARY: Jez Lowe's unique voice alerts the listener to what will certainly be well-conjured lyrics and an easy-on-the-ear arrangement. His song on this cassette was a new one to us and was certainly up to Jez's usual standard of excellence. Huw & Tony Williams' contribution hits at the heart with I Can Jump Puddles, as does Vin Garbutt with If I Had a Son, and Absent

Friends.

But for our money the high spots were firstly the use of Steve Tilston & Maggie Boyle to open side 1. Probably not seen as 'headliners' but their offerings of Silver Dagger and Slip Jigs and Reels are superb, showing powerful musicianship and vocal work. And secondly, the Marske Fishermen's Choir opening up side 2 with a beautifully worked track called "Yorkshire Pride". We thought the only down side was the Barely Works track. They are a band who are extremely visual and do not seem to easily translate onto recorded work.

Whether you were at Redcar in 1993 or not, this live recording is certainly something special and well worth owning. You'll love it.

Chris Lock & Ian Tupling

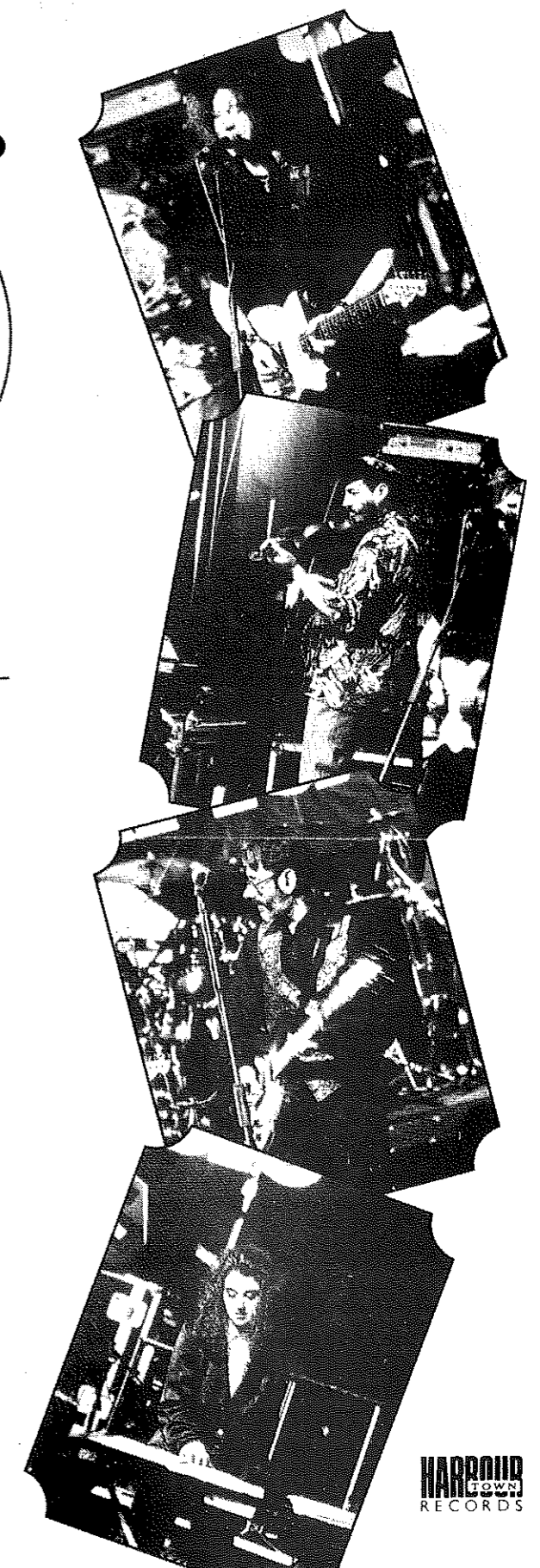
Caught on the Hop



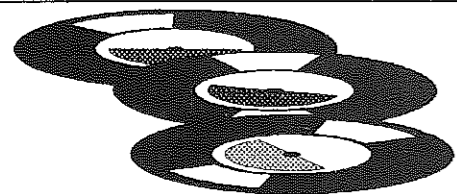
A Nation of Hop Keepers

- Drill ye Tarriers, Drill!*
- The Jolly Thresherman*
- The Floating Bloater*
- The Last of the Dancing Bears*
- The Diamantina Drover*
- Da Slockit Light*
- The Banks of the Nile*
- Honey in the Rock*
- The Watford Explosion*
- Donahoe Downs*
- The Bonny Ship The Diamond*
- Sinner Man*

Available on CD (HARCD 024) and Cassette (HARC 024)
Harbourtown Records, PO Box 25, Ulverston, Cumbria, LA12 7UN



HARBOUR
TOWN
RECORDS



RECORD REVIEWS

JEZ LOWE AND THE BAD PENNIES - "Bede Weeps"

Fellside FECD 94

I never cease to be amazed by the consistent quality of Jez Lowe's songwriting. This new offering with the Bad Pennies just goes to strengthen this view. There are so many self pitying social comment songs written which are so depressing, but you listen to Jez and think "that's spot on or yes that's a great injustice and yes perhaps we can do something about it". The awareness is there, the comment is there but more importantly the hope and often the humour is there.

As for the C.D. to which all this preamble relates, well I think it's superb. The Bad Pennies of course are Bev Sanders, Bob Surgeoner and Billy Surgeoner who lend both their vocal support and multi instrumental talents to the excellent song arrangements. I love the contrasting styles of song. For example there are two songs dealing with the latest round of Pit closures. On one hand "These coal town days" is an unaccompanied song with an African feel, whilst it's contemporary is a tongue in cheek "Mike Neville said it". Still on the coal theme I am delighted that "Last of the Widows of the Duck Bill seam" has been included, which Bev Sanders performs so well. "Greek Lightning" though dealing with poverty and drink and their effects still to me has a gentle humour running through it and the tune and arrangement are excellent. There must be a little of "Kid Canute" in every one of us - the guy who doesn't want to leave his lost youth behind. "She'll always be freedom" is a poignant song dedicated to the children in areas of conflict in the world, whilst "Just like Moses" is much closer to home.

There are thirteen tracks in all and in the Jez Lowe tradition all the words are included. The final reflective song "Bede Weeps" is also the title of the C.D. and I hope inspired the art work on the cover. If not Jez certainly had a long hard writing session!

KATH HOLDEN



☐ Jez Lowe & the Bad Pennies

CHRIS WHILE - "Look at Me Now"

Water on the Wall Music - WOW 015

I must confess that this is the first review I have ever done, and should mention that I have been quite a fan of Chris While since catching her live at Kendal Folk Festival in 1993, so I hope I am not guilty of being unduly biased! Anyway - here goes.....

At the Kendal Festival, Chris's rendition of 'Look at Me Now', the title track of this album, was particularly memorable, and this song is just one of the many really excellent tracks on this album. Chris has penned most of the tracks herself, whilst three were joint efforts with Joe While and Nigel Stonier (who also does a great job of producing the album). This collection - mainly of love songs - has a variety of interesting styles, but whereas with most albums a few tracks stick in the mind, all these tracks seem to stand out in their own right. My particular favourites are "100 miles" which Chris delivers in her inimitable relaxed style, "No Matter How", which has a definite country feel to it and a beautiful ballad entitled "I Can't Stay" (with superb fiddle from Tom McConville), which can have you reaching for the tissues if you are in the

right frame of mind.

Chris's soulful performance is ably supported on this album by Nigel Stonier, Ken Nicol, Paul Burgess, Ian Wilson, Roger Keay, Howard Lees, Phil Beer, Steve Conway, Joe and Kellie While, Pete Zorn, Tom McConville, Roger Boden, Duncan Cheslett and Martin Scott.

In conclusion, although I may be accused of the odd cliché, this album constitutes a magical performance by one of the most talented female singer/songwriters around at the moment. It exemplifies the sheer expressiveness and sensitivity of her vocals, combined with some excellent guitar playing. But - don't just take my word for it, go out and buy the album - you won't regret it!

Helen McIlveen

CAUGHT ON THE HOP "A Nation of Hopkeepers" -

Harbourtown Records HARCD 024

It is never an easy task - reviewing an album by a group who I've known for many years. Do you (a) be over-critical and upset people you rather wouldn't or (b) just say nice things about it and take the easy way out? Fortunately I didn't have to consider either option. This is an excellent piece of work from Caught on the Hop, containing many fine songs and arrangements. They breathe new life into old "standards" like "Drill Ye Tarriers, Drill" and "The Bonny Ship The Diamond" - yes, these were and are great songs, given a new lease of life on this album. "The Diamantina Drover" is as good a version as any I've heard of this fine song.

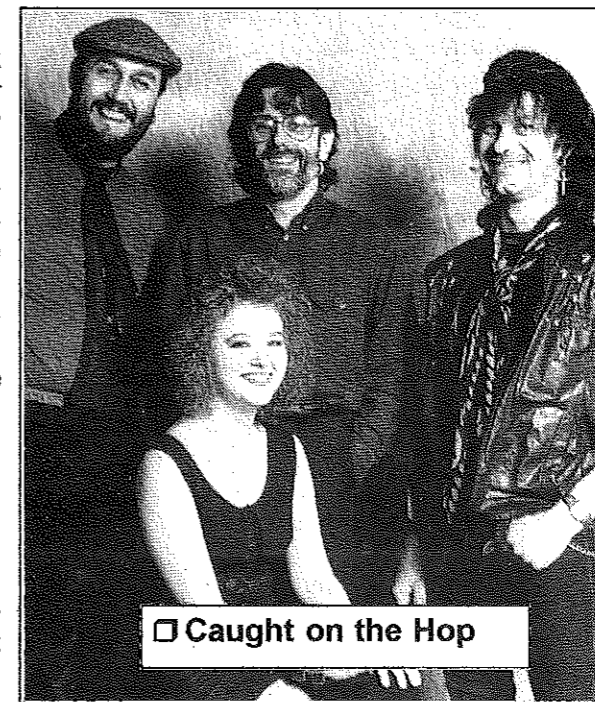
Incidentally, the sleeve notes state that Mick (Burrows) picked this song up from a tape (sic) "Third Rate Folk Music Performed By a Third Rate Folk Band!" Well Mick are you gonna tell me or do I have to sweat it out? The remainder of the songs are all quite appealing, especially Mick's own composition "The Last of the Dancing Bears" and Bernie Forkin's "Donahoe Downs". There's a commendable undercurrent of social comment in all the songs - some obvious others not quite so.

The three tune sets - "The Floating Bloater", "The Waterford Explosion", and "Da Slockit Light" are all performed competently enough, though personally I think I appreciate these more in a "live" performance rather than on disc.

The whole album is superbly produced - Mick Burrow's voice especially is clear and concise throughout. The packaging is also a credit to whomever was responsible - informative notes on each track, full lyrics to each song, and excellent black-and-white photo's, both individually and collectively.

If you would like to purchase this fine piece of work, and can put up with five!!! photos of Bernie, I'm sure they'd be pleased to let you have one. Recommended.

Tony Gibbons



☐ Caught on the Hop

STAN HUGILL - "Sailing Days" with Stormalong John

Veteran Tapes VT127

A few weeks before last Christmas Stan Ambrose broadcast a programme on Radio Merseyside's "Folkscene" to celebrate the late Stan Hugill's singing and the production of this cassette. Unfortunately I was unable to tape record it (illegally - but for my own use only!) due to the fact I was listening in the car at the time! I was therefore delighted to be asked to review this cassette for FNW.

Stan Hugill is legendary amongst those of us who enjoy singing or listening to shanties and sea songs. The songs in his book "Shanties of the Seven Seas" have been sung in many a folk club and at folk and maritime festivals ever since it was published in 1961, and in paperback in 1984.

On this cassette, excellently engineered and produced by Stan Ambrose, we hear 85 year old Hugill leading, in his customary whooping and yelping style, 13 shanties and sea songs ably backed by his regular chorus - Stormalong John.

There are many old favourites here including Shenandoah, Bosun's Alphabet, Sacramento and two versions of Ratcliffe Highway. Stan, in spite of his mature years, still manages to lead the songs with the energy and gusto that those who have seen him will affectionately remember. This is truly authentic shanty singing from a real-life shantyman who spent much of the 1930's singing aboard the last of the sailing ships.

After the War he became Bosun of the Outward Bound Sea School at Aberdovey, which became his home village and where this recording was made. After retirement he travelled extensively to become recognised worldwide as an authority on sea songs and shanties as well as the ships he worked on.

I can write no better tribute than to paraphrase Tony Molyneux's excellent sleeve notes from the cassette:

"Sadly in Britain he never received quite the recognition he deserved. We can only hope that the widespread distribution of this, Stan's last recording....will give even more people an insight into a native genius without whom the shanty scene would have been much the poorer, if indeed it had existed at all."

This "insight" is available from Veteran Tapes, 44 Old Street, Haughley, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP1 43NX or from Stormalong John who will be appearing at this year's Lancaster Maritime Festival at Easter.

Derek Gifford

**DAVE SUMMERS -
"Arrowing Episodes"**

Fluff 003

This is Dave's third tape to date and a very welcome arrival through my letter box. The two previous tapes were recorded live, this one in the studio. What it loses in the "live" feel is compensated for by the quality of production and the musical versatility of the arrangements. A lot of recordings I listen to give me the impression that the artist, having persuaded talented musicians to aid and abet, insists on using everyone on almost every track as if afraid of offending someone. This is certainly not the case with this cassette. The accompanying musicians are Phil Brown, Chris Harvey and Phil Newton with a guest appearance of HRH on cello! They are all used individually to supreme effect.

All the songs bar one are written by Dave. The lyrics are the clever and comprehensive use of our descriptive language that we have come to expect of Dave - with an odd "groan pun" thrown in for good measure. I am obviously not going to tell you the content of the songs, but if I tell you they deal with the subjects of love, travel, ties, politics, deadly sins, vasectomy and Camilla (the last three not necessarily connected) I'm sure you'll get the picture.

I would like to pay tribute to the "Gluttony and Sloth Male Voice Choir" - I was bowled over. All this combined with Dave's own varied and more than competent guitar work makes this one of the most enjoyable cassettes I have heard in ages. The ability to make people laugh is a wonderful talent and Dave uses it well. Highly recommended. Available from Dave at his club appearances or tel. 0524 32681.

Kath Holden

EILIDH MACKENZIE

"Eideah Sgeulachd (The Raiment Of The Tale)"

Temple Records COMD 2048

Tony Gibbons has asked me to review this CD which is sung in Scottish Gaelic. I am by no means a fluent Gaelic speaker, but decided to give it a try.

Eilidh MacKenzie was born and lived on the Isle of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides and coming from a strong musical family she has been provided with a good source of musical influence and inspiration. Both she and one of her sisters have won gold medals at the National Gaelic Mods. She has a degree in Celtic Studies and music from Glasgow University, spending her time teaching & performing.

The CD is made up from a mixture of traditional arrangements and new songs co-written by the artiste. Most of the songs are ballads and are sensitively accompanied by a wide variety of traditional instruments. There are also some spine tingling harmonies featured on a couple of tracks.

Here is a brief outline of my personal favourites:

CUIR CULAIBH RI ASAINTE

Featuring guest singers, it tells of the journeys made

by emigrants from Scotland to Canada - a very strong theme and is beautifully sung - one that I personally find moving.

ACHADH BHUNA (THE HARVEST FIELD)

A love poem by Ruaridh MacThomas, a retired professor of Celtic Studies, using rural symbolism to express his love. Eilidh has put her own tune to it. I closed my eyes and was transported to the wind-swept Machair!

LATHA CHUIL-LODAIR (CULLODEN)

As you may presume by the title, this is a Jacobite song composed shortly after the '45 rebellion. A lovely piece of harmony between Eilidh and her sister Gillian.

PUIRT-A-BEUL (MOUTH MUSIC)

One to get your feet tapping - a bit up tempo from the rest of the CD. Mouth music is traditionally sung for dancing both in Scottish and Irish Gaelic.

This CD makes very pleasant listening and although the tone of Eilidh's voice is a little too high for my personal taste, the songs are sung with a feeling that will bring the warmth of the Gael into your home on a stormy night. It's a must for any Gaelic tradition enthusiast and an integral part of the Gaelic revival.

There certainly isn't enough of it around and I thank Eilidh for this lovely collection of songs.

Jude McLoughlin

**JOHN WRIGHT -
RIDE THE ROLLING SKY**

Fellside FECD97

John who? I hear you ask; let me elucidate:

John Wright is a contract shepherd, originally from Manchester but now living in the Borders, where there are more sheep, who is very well known amongst the ridings in that part of the country. Common "ridings" are the Borders equivalent of England's "beating the bounds" where at the end of a long day in the countryside, the participants finish with a good supper, lots of booze and a belting good sing (a bit like hunt suppers except the preceding events are generally less harmful to wildlife!) and at which John often leads the singing.

In fact John is big (literally so - he's over 6 feet tall!) amongst the folk involved in these events and on this CD (he's made cassettes previously) it is not difficult to see why. The man has a cracker of a voice - it must be all that fresh air I suppose. We in the folk scene up to now have largely missed out on this talent but thanks to the foresight, not to mention the money (I didn't mention the money Paul!) of Paul Adams at Fellside this CD is being promoted in our closet world. John performs mainly as an unaccompanied singer and many of the tracks are just that. Of these I especially like his version of "Little Pot Stove" which breaks away from the run of the mill "Nic-Jones-cloned" arrangements.

There are other well known songs here too like 30 Dougie McLean's "Caledonia" and Stan Rodgers'



**ANTHONY
JOHN
CLARKE**

051-427-9039

"I GET LOST"

(Splash JP001)

A fascinating collection of beautiful songs from the pen of Belfast singer, songwriter Anthony John Clarke.

"A rich, smooth voice and he accompanies himself on acoustic guitar. The accompaniments are simple but effective - they draw you in to the lyrics.

Anthony is an experienced songwriter whose songs tell stories from his own experiences or imagination. Although intimate, they are not angst-ridden or twee, JUST DELIGHTFUL!"

Don Evans, THE MUSICIAN

"I understand he has over 100 songs to his credit and, if this selection is representative, he is a fine lyricist."

Phil Page, FOLK NORTH WEST

"They're a strong collection....."

Some of the best are about Ireland."

Penny Kiley, LIVERPOOL ECHO

Available on CD & Cassette:

H.M.V., OUR PRICE, BOOTS, W.H. SMITH, PROBE, BACKTRACK
AND

Auld Triangle Music, Albert Dock, Liverpool.
(Folk & Roots Specialist Shop)

**BRAM TAYLOR
"FURTHER HORIZONS"**

New release Fellside FECD 92
Bram's 6th Album with Fellside
now Fellside's best-selling artist

Available on CD & cassette
From Fellside 0900 61556
CD £11.00 incl. P&P
Cassette £7.50 incl. P&P

Other Albums -

"Flash Company" (various artists) FE 050
"Bide Awhile" FE 041
"Dreams & Songs to Sing" FE 057 Cassette
"Taylor Made" FE 075 Vinyl & Cassette
"Voices" (Various artists) FECD 87 CD & Cassette

For bookings telephone: 0942 602864

fellside recordings

"GARVA"

(the north of england's premier IRISH BAND)
STILL HAVE A FEW COPIES OF THEIR HIGHLY-ACCLAIMED DEBUT CASSETTE:

"SWEET LIBERTY"

FOR SALE

CATCH THEM "LIVE" AT:

WESTHOUGHTON FOLK CLUB - MARCH 4TH
BILLINGE FOLK CLUB - MARCH 20TH
COCKERMOUTH FOLK CLUB - APRIL 14TH
UPTON-ON-SEVERN FOLK FESTIVAL - APRIL 29TH - 1ST MAY
ORKNEY FOLK FESTIVAL - MAY 27TH - 29TH
WIGAN FOLK FESTIVAL - JUNE 3RD - 5TH
DROYLSDEN FOLK DAY - JULY 3RD
REDCAR FOLK FESTIVAL - JULY 9TH
KIRKHAM FOLK CLUB - JULY 13TH

OR PHONE TERRY COYNE ON 051-228-4172

FOR BOOKINGS PHONE:

TONY GIBBONS ON 051-526-6522

"The Lock Keeper". Traditional songs include "Sheep Crook, Black Dog" and "Dunbarton's Drums", the latter being a must at ridings' dos'

He is ably accompanied on some tracks by his "band" which includes fiddle and highland and lowland pipes giving them their quintessential Scottishness. His chorus line includes Paul and Linda Adams and Ellie Ellis - folkies to a woman!

Lets hope (once he's finished lambing or course) John finds some time to spread his net wider in the folk scene; he would be a welcome addition to our wonderful form of entertainment.

Derek Gifford.

GARVA - "Sweet Liberty"

RED 008

I'm responsible for Garva. At least that is what Tony Gibbons and John Murphy say because they put the band together in response to my request for an Irish traditional band for the 1990 Wigan Festival. Since then they have been steadily assuming the mantle of the North's finest interpreters of the Irish tradition and now they have produced this remarkable recording to underline their claim.

All five members of the band are virtuosi on their respective instruments. Kevin Webster's accordion playing and John Murphy's piping being worthy of particular praise and ample evidence of their dexterity is scattered throughout the many fine tune sets with Dance of The Rabbits being my especial favourite. The brisk reels "Trim the Velvet" rattle along with genuine elan and "The Eagle's Feather" is a veritable tour de force led by the Murphy's inimitable storming pipes.

Vocally, all five members can deliver with the main duties being divided between Shay Black and Terry Coyne to fine effect, both of whom sing with character and sensitivity. Shay's version of "Lullabye" is rapidly becoming as popular as that of his illustrious sister and Terry's rendition of Rita McNeill's rueful "My Old Man" is perfectly pitched between hope and desperation. Excellent.

The other rubies in this splendid collection, I will leave you to discover for yourselves and, please remember, that when you have sated yourselves on this cassette there are more riches to come when you discover Garva in concert. If I have been, in any way, responsible for this band then I am proud almost beyond reckoning. Good on yer, boys. Remember me when you're famous.

Bernie Forkin

JOHNNY COLLINS

"Pedlar of Songs" (SCM004) -

For what seems like forever Johnny Collins has been the ultimate singer's singer, that mighty and mellow voice shaking club, concert and festival venues to their foundations. But he is such a quintessentially live performer, surely no record can do him justice?

Pedlar of Songs is his first solo album since Free and Easy, all of 12 years ago. Again he is solidly supported by a richly textured harmony chorus which includes Tom & Barbara Brown, Anni Fentiman, Cathy & Charlie Yarwood and Dave Webber.

This time round the songs are nearly all contemporary with only a few traditional and the selection confirms Johnny's fine sensitivity for a well-crafted set of words and music.

First of the 16 tracks is an appropriate anthem to brotherhood in song. When All Men Sing, composed by occasional collaborators Keith Scowcroft and Derek Gifford. Two typically telling blasts from the pen of much missed Keith Marsden are included, eloquently damning the wastefulness of war and (persistently topical) the victimisation of the "underserving" poor.

There is also a brace from the compendious songbook of Alan Bell, his evergreen Minstrel's Song providing the album's title. Harvey Andrews and Si Khan are represented as is Richard Thompson with the wonderful We Sing Hallelujah. Johnny's rendition of Dave Webber's Watch and Chain (a modern folk classic surely) is superbly powerful.

This is his first excursion into CD format and it is a beauty, ably produced by the multi-talented Mr Webber with a relaxed, uncomplicated presentation that allows the songs to breathe and take life.

In the main this is a warm and passionate Collins rather than the glorious roar beloved of late night Bromyard or countless boozy sessions. Like a venerable single malt, smooth and aromatic with a subtle bite, it deserves to be lovingly savoured in peace and comfort.

Jack Coultts

JANET RUSSELL - "Bright Shining Morning"

Harbourtown 026

This is a work of great maturity from an extremely talented artist.

Janet is in wonderful voice and, along with partner Jim Woodland, has written some fine material which displays her singing to perfection.

I was taken with "St Peter's Fields", a paean to the victims of the Peterloo massacre, and also with Eileen Penman's "Soweto". Other fine efforts include "The Gartan Mother's Lullabye" and Jan Harmon's "Song for a Seafarer".

Janet's own guitar work is beautifully complemented by some sympathetic accompaniment from, among others, Mary McMaster of Sileas on clarsach and electroharp and Tom McConville on fiddle while Sara Grey lends some fine vocal support.

All in all, an album which will only serve to enhance Janet's reputation and to please her ever-growing coterie of admirers.

Bernie Forkin



Chester Folk Weekend

MAY 27th - 30th 1994

*Spring Bank Holiday Weekend
at*

**The Morris Dancer,
Kelsall, nr. Chester**

Concerts • Ceilidhs • Sessions
Workshops • Singarounds • Displays
Children's Events • Craft Fair

*Free Camping for
Weekend Ticket Holders*

**For further details 'phone
Chester (0244) 320424**

WHITBY 94 Folk Week

**20-26
August**

the
friendly
festival
with
plenty
for
all



Details from
Malcolm Storey
26 Marine Avenue
North Ferriby
East Yorkshire
HU14 3DR

Please enclose SAE with enquiry

Maghull Folk Club Presents:

Joe & Ben Broughton

Kate Rusby &
Kathryn Roberts

Carys Reckless &
Jane Pollit

Jenny Shotliff

Richard Woods &
Kevin Byrne

Hester Woods

Christian Hollerhead

The Workshop

AND.....Youthquake

"Carrying It On 5"

Saturday 26th March

Melling Tithebarn.
Concert starts 7.30pm
Tickets £ 3.

Workshop for young musicians and
singers 3 - 5 pm
Tickets £ 1.50.

.....on behalf of the NWFFC.

Details on (0695) 623641.

appearing in:-

33

PAT RYAN
"A House in the Country"

Rivington Records RIV 045

Pat's latest release marks her 25th anniversary as a semi-professional singer, and this must rate as the one with both the best production values and also choice of material.

The cassette features Pat on vocals, guitar and keyboards; Ken Howard playing guitar, cittern, mandolin as well as vocals; Malcolm Gibbons on twelve string guitar and vocals with Bernard Wrigley playing some good sequences on cello, trumpet, strings and pipes.

Of the 12 tracks on the tape, Kierran Halpin's "Farewell to Pride" stands out, as does Eric Bogles "Leaving The Land", the title track "House in the Country" and "Rolling Down the Ryburn" by Pete Coe; but as stated in the first paragraph, there are no bad tracks. If I did have to find fault with the album however, it would be that there are no notes on any of the songs and, I feel that someone with Pat's knowledge of the folk scene could find something of interest to write about each song.

Well recommended though and you could do no worse than to try and procure one from Pat at Westhoughton Folk Club where she appears most Friday's as one of the "Auld Triangle" or by writing to her at 45 Little Scotland, Blackrod, Bolton. BL6 5LW. (make her really happy, enclose a S.A.E.) or of course you could get it from Pat at one of her gigs.

Chris Hornby

CHRISTINE KYDD "Heading Home"

Fellside Recordings FECD93

This is 12 tracks, 45 minutes of professionalism. Christine has a clear, pure voice, singing, often difficult, melodies with warmth and feeling. The more I play it, the more I hear new things.

Christine plays guitar and is ably assisted by Steafan Hannigan on Bouzouki, banjo, pipes, bodhran and whistles, Fiona Larcombe on fiddle and Mary McLaughlin and Jackie Summers on backing vocals. The CD has a mixture of Scottish traditional songs and contemporary material.

I always feel its difficult to record unaccompanied songs and that they don't capture the feeling of a live performance. Not so with this, you can almost feel Christine smiling while she sings. The highlights for me are "The Sailor Laddie" which has some fine interplay between the instruments. Bill Caddick and Dave Cartwrights "Letter to Syracuse" and Hedy West's "Cotton Mill Girls" (I've been walking round singing it for days).

Its great to be able to review something that has obviously had so much care taken with it. Go out and buy it now!

Ken Howard

ARTISAN - "Breathing Space"

Festival 9

Prolific is the word for Hilary, Brian and Jacey and here is another new album to illustrate the point. This time, the material is entirely the work of Brian and makes for riveting listening. Drily humorous and trenchantly observant by turns, he has penned 20 songs here, several of which are quite remarkable. I particularly admire the title track and "This is the way the world ends" while "Put me through to heaven" and "I'll sail no more" also have much to commend them.

The singing is everything you have come to expect from Artisan. Powerful, thrilling and a thorough delight. The arrangements are also excellent with some dramatic use of percussion here and there and the production is first rate. It scores highly on the value for money front too.

State of the art close harmony from a very fine band indeed. Highly recommended.

Bernie Forkin

EDGERTON LAYHE - "Rough & Tumble"

Fellside FECD 96

I'd heard a great many songs on this one before, live since Pete's has been a familiar voice around the clubs of our area for some two years now at least since he moved back to his native Liverpool area from East Anglia. What I wasn't prepared for though was the sheer quality here that places this gleaming silver disc amongst the best albums I know I'm going to hear throughout 1994 - it is only January as I write!

The majority of the material is Pete's own plus a couple of collaborations with Chris Layhe who shares vocals, guitar and bass duties but the spotlight can fairly be said to be Pete's. It is his gritty, soulful but always appealing voice which dominates with some of the best writing I've heard in many a day, allied to what a lot of modern music seems to lack - melody.

Here are tapestries of tunes, instantly memorable with hooks of which Aimee Mann would be proud. Themes? you say? Well there is a sour-sweet quality to Edgerton's writing that can pitch a song such as "Why Would She Go?" where the voice is just achingly and disbelievingly spurned next to a track like "Billy Can" which is cynicism putting on its brave face and resignedly keeping on, keeping on.

The quiet despair of the lyric and the delicate guitar work on "Everybody Needs Something Nobody Knows" makes this one for me stand out where metaphors involving hard winds, rainbows and roses reflect the sorrows and sad acceptance of experience. Hey though, don't get the idea that this is far from easy listening for in spite of the sometime bleakness there is an optimism and resilience that can have Pete dancing down at the crossroads - all alone maybe, but still dreaming of that southern girl. Mixed in with the teardrops you can still reach for the

34 whisky and there is a good-time feel on some cuts, not considered voguish since McGuinness Flint!

EDGWORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL
 PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION
 PRESENTS

A FOLK EVENING
 WITH
BRAM TAYLOR
 AND
NEBULA

FRIDAY 11 MARCH AT 8:30 PM
 EDGWORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL
 BOLTON ROAD
 EDGWORTH
 BOLTON
 £4.50 INCL. SUPPER

CONTACT CHRIS MCILVEEN ON
 0204 852627
 FOR FURTHER DETAILS AND
 TICKETS

BOTHY
FOLK SONG
CLUB
CELLIDH
(Established 1965)

ST. JOHN'S HALL
 Wright St. Southport

Friday 29th October, 1993
"HOOKE'S LAW"

Friday 17th December, 1993
"BARKING SPIDERS"

Friday 25th February, 1994
"ALL BLACKED UP"

Friday 29th April 1994
"THE BLUE MOON BAND"

Friday 24th June 1994
"BLACK THORNE"

For details ring Roger on 0704 29118

The North-West Federation
 of Folk Clubs

Invite YOU to an
Open Meeting

on
Tuesday, March 15th 1994

from 8.00pm
at BACUP FOLK CLUB

Market Hotel, Station Road

Information from
Dave Day 051 526 6661
Linda Wright 0706 877090

WIGGINCELLIDHS

THE

MONTHLY BARN
 DANCES

8.00-11.30 p.m.

INCE PUBLIC HALL,
 INCE GREEN LANE,
 INCE-IN-MAKERFIELD,
 WIGAN.
(near Ince Railway Station)

N.B. Book in advance and save money. Concessions available. Tickets/details from Peter or Alison on 0942 816569

Advance
 ticket
 prices

Friday March 11th	3rd Birthday Party with TICKLED PINK Caller: Nick Walden	£4.50
Friday April 15th	Dance to tomorrow's big band today FIVE SPEED BOX Caller: Diane Morgan	£3.50
Friday May 13th	A "twmpath" with CALENNIG BIG BAND Welsh dances to Welsh music	£4.50
Friday June 10th	Headlining Festival Band TOKEN WOMEN Early booking advised	£4.50
Friday July 8th	Going down for the third time! CING WITHOUT TRACE Caller: Norman Bearon	£3.50
Friday Sept 9th	BLUE MOON BAND (l.b.c.)	£4.50
Friday Oct 10th	COCK AND BULL BAND Caller: Bob Adams	£4.50

The Adams Family (!) and the presence too of Tony Gibbons' cittern, Jez Lowe's harmonica and the subtle empathetic fiddle of Jamie McCarthy in varying combinations give a group feel to many of the tracks here. Ultimately though, and this is not to undermine the superb supporting contribution from Chris Layhe whose harmonies and guitar/bass are so seamlessly right, the accolades have to go to Edgerton for sheer passion and often, poignancy in his delivery.

Strong original songs with a sensibility and an ability to capture the imagination are becoming a rarity. I er, think we have an important figure in our midst.

Clive Pownceby

STEPPING IT OUT

Veteran Tapes VTC1 CD

I wonder if any more "mature" readers remember the Topic

Records' samplers of the late 60's - early 70's? These gave the listener and insight into particular singers' and musicians' styles before choosing a full album of their work. Well, although this isn't the reason for the production of this CD, it has very similar connotation to the "Sampler" style.

In fact this disc is a compilation of the first 25 releases from Veteran Tapes, who specialise in music, songs and dances from the English tradition. All of the 25 tracks are field recordings, the quality of the quality of which are a credit to both modern recording equipment and to John Howson's production team. It is quite amazing that John issued his first "Songs Sung in Sussex" cassette tape in 1985 and in the space of eight years has produced 25 cassettes on the Veteran label representing an impressive piece of collecting and researching, let alone the recording production.

There are some real gems amongst the selection including my good friend Jeff Wesley (a "young" man in terms of traditional singers) who sings "Brisk and Bonny Lad" and our own Lancashire man, Sam Sherry with the hilarious "I want to be a Sausage". The latter reminds me vividly of the time he sang at Lancaster Maritime Festival precariously perched on a stool in the bar of the George and Dragon!. Also among my favourites is Will Noble's "Swaledale".

Dancers and dance musicians will, I'm sure, appreciate the tunes of Sean McNamara and Peggy Peakin of Liverpool; Bob Cann's Pixie Band with a step dance; Lucy Farr's "Pat Burke's Jig" and Bampton Morris, bells and all, dancing to "Old Tom of Oxford".

This CD has also solved a minor mystery for me in that, some years ago I heard a traditional singer perform at the National Folk Festival at Sutton Bonnington, who had an idiosyncratic style but whose name I could not remember or retrace. As soon as track 14 "In Horsham Town" began I immediately recognised the style and the mystery was solved - it was Gordon Hall from Sussex!

There is something for everyone here - "music of the people" personified, and the extensive sleeve notes give full details of the original cassettes from which the tracks have been taken. Thus a particular performer's fuller repertoire can be obtained from Veteran.

This is our living tradition, we should cherish it.

Derek Gifford

(This review appears by courtesy of Lancashire Wakes)

MARK ATHERTON AND SIMON COHEN

(Private Production)

I know these lads, I have seen them around the clubs a number of times and very quickly took a liking to them. Mark has put some excellent lyrics together and for one so young has become quite prolific in the number of songs he has produced. Most of the 16 tracks on this album are credited to him, and along with Simon they developed original tunes to go with them.

Mark has obviously put a lot of deep thought into his songs using his own feelings, emotions and perceptions, compiling some evocative, touching and compelling lyrics. You definitely need to listen to them to really appreciate this album.

I'm quite struck by at least half a dozen of the tracks, my favourite being "I've Got All I Need".


In saying that my advice should you purchase this cassette is to rewind it to side two and start listening from there, as I did not care too much for the first two tracks on side one. To me they seemed to set a mournful tone to the album which is a shame because Simon, a multi-talented instrumentalist, has I am sure spent hundreds of hours in practice and developing his talent, but sounds much better in 'live' performance than on this album.

I did long to hear something a little bit brighter or lighter or possibly even humorous and that would be my only criticism. I did also think that if only Mark could be a little less vocally 'laid-back' and injected some heart, passion power, call it what you will, it would very much add to the quality of his songs.

Nevertheless I feel these lads are rising stars and would certainly recommend you give this album a listen, which with 16 tracks, a well produced sleeve with colour photograph, at the usual fiver represents value for money! I'm sure a number of other folk singers will very soon want to be singing some of their songs.

The lads are available for club booking, and for info and details of how to obtain a cassette telephone 0204 698208. Alternatively look out for them around the clubs, see them live and buy a cassette!!

Frank Wilson



GUITAR REPAIRS

FYLDE GUITARS

Unit 35
Progress Mill
Orders Lane
Kirkham
Lancs PR4 2TZ

Tel: (0772) 671010

Another tiny selection from Mallinson Music:

> **Strings:** for electric, acoustic, bass and classical guitar, for most other stringed instruments. The promise shown in the catalogue still stands. Whatever price you pay for your strings, **Mallinson Music** will beat that price.

> **Pauline Cato**, a highly-respected Northumbrian piper, has a tape (£7.95) and CD (£11.99) out, "The Wansbeck Piper". It's hot.

> **Garva:** their recently reviewed album "Sweet Liberty" is now available.

> **Karen Tweed's Irish Choice** is a book which consists of her selection of Irish session tunes, dozens of them. It has anecdotes and reminiscences and all the tunes are recorded by her on 2 tapes or CDs. No prices yet, but put your name down for copies (post-free) when they're back from the printers.

> **Repairs** are a major part of the business. Guitars, melodeons, accordions, banjos, fiddles, clarinets, tubas, whatever, all no problem, mail-order or personal visits. **Plus** all new and used instruments bought here have a full one year guarantee.

> **Battlefield Band:** All their current catalogue now in.

> **Do you make instruments?** Why not sell them? To us, that is. Let's get together and sell your instruments for you. Ring and discuss what you have with Steve Noon, the shop manager.

> **Boys of the Lough:** just about every recording of theirs in existence is now in stock, mainly tapes, CDs where possible.

> **Plenty of cheap bodhrán in:** they play fine and make brilliant presents.

EXTRA: The most comprehensive catalogue of traditional and folk instruments, recorded music, books and accessories in the world is **free:** simply ring, fax, write or visit for your copy of the latest edition. Thrice yearly. No postage required.

Mallinson Music

Tel: 0274 879768

Fax: 0274 852020

35, Bradford Road, Cleckheaton, West Yorkshire
England, BD19 3JN. Trade enquiries: 0274 876388

BRITAIN'S CENTRE FOR TRADITIONAL MUSIC

The National 28th
A Celebration of Traditional Music from the British Isles and beyond

Frank Harte, Kevin Mitchell,
Fred Jordan, Louie Fuller,
Peeping Tom, Jeff Wesley,
Martin Graebe, Ron Spicer,
Doc Rowe, Will Noble, Eamon McGivney,
Junior Crehan, Taffy Thomas,
Maude Coulthard, Norman House,
Katie's Quartet, Hugh Rippon,
Malcolm Taylor, John Kirkpatrick,
Roy Bailey, Martin Carthy,
Dave Swarbrick, Norma Waterson,
Jill Pidd, Mike Waterson, Eliza Carthy,
The Banjo Boys, Bob Copper,
Eddie Upton, Maighread Ni Dhomhnaill,
Ray Fisher, Carolyn Robson,
Jane Turriff, Bobby Casey,
Staithe's Fishermens' Choir,
Harry Bradshaw, Derek Schofield,
Packie Byrne, Dave Williams,
Keith Chandler, Chris Foster,
Tom McConville, Jinks' Stack,
Carlene Anglim
(1993 Young Tradition Award winner)

Weekend Tickets from £25 37
B & B available in School of Agriculture
Camping Facilities with showers adjacent to main venue

School of
Agriculture,
Sutton Bonington,
Near
LOUGHBOROUGH
Leicestershire

APRIL
22nd-24th
1994

Details from
National Folk
Music Festival
Booking Office,
5 Church Street,
Aylesbury,
Bucks HP20 2QP

Telephone
0296 415333
Fax 0296 397092

Please send s.a.e.

RAPHAEL CALLAGHAN AND CHRISTINE PURNELL - "BLUE C"

(Blue Cee BCR44 - tape release)

This one has been a long time coming. Raphael Callaghan has been a bluesman for more years than I care to remember, and has been involved in many recording projects with others since the late 60's but here at last is his first solo recording, incorporating his bass-playing partner, Christine Purnell. The blues has a high profile at present but this is no bandwagon-jumping exercise; here is sound musicianship allied to an inherent feel for the genre. You don't acquire overnight the sort of easy one-to-one with a musical form that communicates from the opening bars of "Keep On Knocking", one of 9 original songs from a total 12 tracks here. This is an immediacy born of years in clubs in various bands and groupings - he knows his stuff and "Blue C" proves it.

Raf's roots lie in an interest in country blues which begun in the early sixties - a local man, I used to wonder when reading the classified's in Blues Unlimited who the "R.F. Callaghan of Seaforth" could possibly be that wanted such obscurities as Percy Mayfield's "My Jug and I" and was willing to pay good prices! I thought I was the only blues fan in the area!

Sure enough it was our boy, soon to establish a partnership as harmonica player with singer/guitarist and globe-trotter Jim James that lasted until 1972. They recorded in 1969 and a whole album's worth of material from sessions in 1970 remains unreleased.

His first recorded composition was included amongst these takes and it wasn't until 1977's "Meet me on the Highway" LP with Breakdown that his songs got an official airing on disc. After an early 80's stab at solo work, Callaghan's membership of first, Jazz-Rock outfit "Part One" and then bar-band "Two Steps Forward" stood him in good stead to make a concerted thrust as a soloist in 1991. The duo work with Christine has grown progressively from that time too. His bag now is as a slide guitar/vocalist with occasional harp blowing and when Christine's bass guitar kicks in, we're talking impact here. Such style has no need to shout, it just flows from an emotional conviction and strong musical cohesion. The timeless themes are all here - heartache and regret, cars and girls and cheatin' men. "Someone Else's Blues" is typical of his original way with a lyric - a new spin on the old grass is greener routine, whilst the Tampa Red- influenced "Brand New Boogie" is a chugging, rubber band of a work out. The covers, which includes K.C. Douglas' "Mercury Boogie" are excellent too - he shows early influences by picking material of a non-everyday nature, that he moulds into his own by skilful arrangements.

This is impeccable stuff for a debut with much to invite repeated listening. The bluesome twosome (did I really write that?!) have folk and blues festival slots pencilled in for 1994 with an ever increasing club date-sheet spiralling out from Liverpool, so you should be able to check them out live near you fairly

soon. Meantime "Blue C" will do very nicely thank you - it is a considerable achievement.

Copies and enquiries from Raphael at Box 48, Old Hall Street, Liverpool. L69 3EB. Tel:- 051 709 5484.

Clive Pownceby

JOHNNY COPPIN - "Force of the River"

Johnny Coppin, as a writer, is heavily influenced by the English Countryside, where the rivers usually run slow and deep. Because of this, the songs on his album display gentle persuasion rather than force. The overall effect is soothing and peaceful, although lovers of more robust types of music will find it boring. Each to their own; as the saying goes, but there are some fine songs on this album. "Full Force of the River" and "Shining Stars (Song for the Airmen)" impressed me, although perhaps the last track, "Long Lost Love", is the best of the love songs. A song of love after adversity, it deserves a special mention. For a writer influenced by the countryside, Johnny makes little direct reference to it in his songs, except for "On A Hill In Shropshire", which contains some beautiful imagery.

I found "May Not Be Far Away" a little twee. It is a 'hang-on-in-there' song, better epitomised by "Say Not The Struggle Naught Availeth", by Arthur Hugh Clough. This work makes Johnny's song a bit feeble. "Border County Road" is an effective song about the mistreatment of New Age Travellers, but lacks impact because of the gentle style in which it is performed.

Overall, however, this is a fine, well-produced album to which you can turn, in search of tranquillity, and find it. It is an enhancer of life's quiet moments. Well done, Johnny Coppin.

Geoff Parry

TONY WINN "Between Venus and Mars"

Freefall Records FF03 C

Tony Winn describes himself as a failed ventriloquist, turned songwriter; he is definitely chosen the right course. While I was listening to this I kept thinking; the voice sounds like Al Stewart, the songwriting style is Clive Gregson and the guitar sounds a lot like Allan Taylor. Despite the comparisons, Tony definitely has his own style.

I must congratulate him on the excellent acoustic guitar sound on the tape. All too often fine singing is let down by the guitar sounding like a cardboard box. The tape has great variety, the blues-styled "Every Time We Dance"; the beautiful "Over the Rainbow" and the poetic haunting "The Dark Journey". Several of the tracks contain classical imagery; he is a writer who likes to paint pictures with his words.

Backing is kept to a minimum, usually Tony and his guitar, but also Cello, Fiddle and Wind Synth to add variety. The only song I wasn't sure about was "South Australia", not that it is a bad song, but it just doesn't seem to fit with the others as a whole package. Try and hunt this one out, it is well worth a listen.

Ken Howard

The 9th Wigan Folk Festival

3/4/5 June 1994

Lowton Civic Hall & Grounds

Artistes already confirmed include:

The very Big Mrs. Ackroyd Band

Upstairs in a Tent : Roy Bailey : Watersons

Fisher Family : Martin Carthy : Les Barker

Caught on the Hop : Old Rope String Band

Garva : Marilyn Middleton-Pollock : Quartz

Dave Summers : Owen Lewis : Andy Anderson

Derek Gifford : Pete and Stevie Geoghegan

Whole Hogg : Bric-a-Brac : Hilary Hornby

Ark : Geoff Higginbottom : Pigtowne Fling

Youth Concert - artistes to be confirmed

Concerts, Workshops, Singarounds, Youthquake, Kids Stuff

Weekend Tickets £21.00 before May 30th (£23 after)

Free camping, Under 12's free. Usual concessions apply

Details phone St. Helens (0744) 53058



22nd

RYLIDIE FOLK FESTIVAL

Marine Hall Fleetwood Lancs

2nd, 3rd & 4th SEPTEMBER 1994

Over 100 Events Music Song and Dance
Ceilidhs, Workshops Singarounds, Pub Sessions
Palace of Varieties, New Events and Venues for 1994

Simply the Most

**Book Early with Festival Director Alan Bell
55 The Strand, Rossall, Fleetwood FY7 8NP
Tel: (0253) 872317 Fax: (0253) 878382**