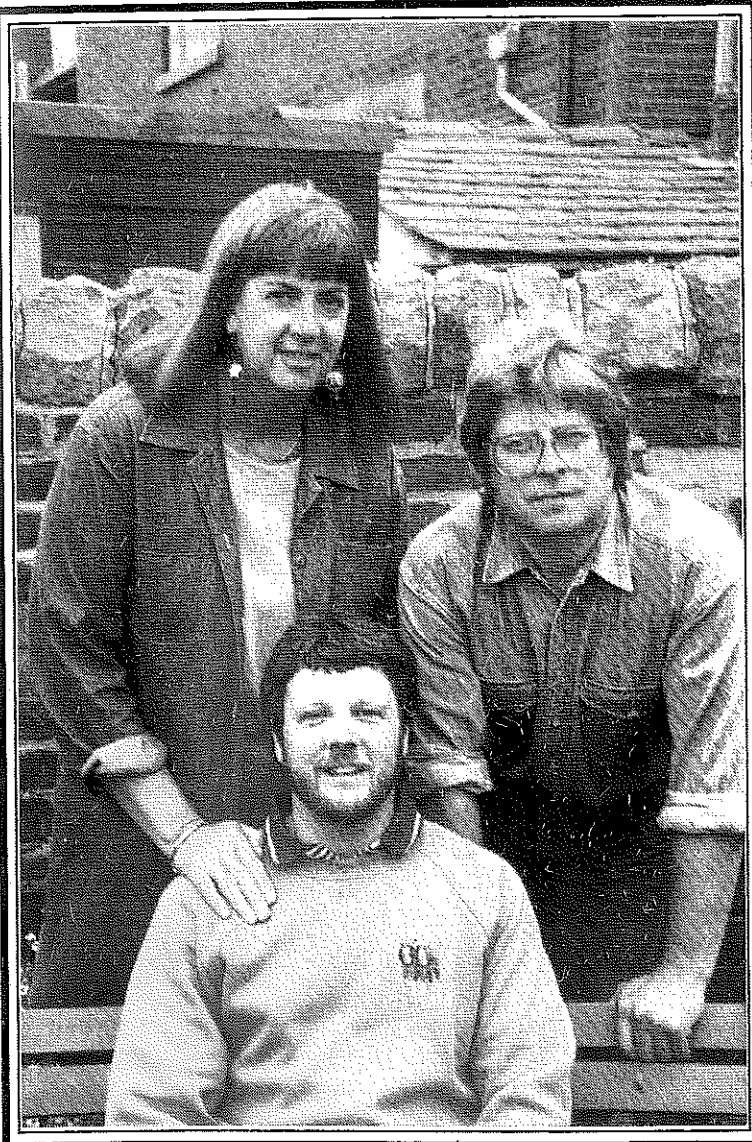


FOLK *North West*

Winter 1994/5

75p



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**Rushcarts &
Rushbearing**

NewsReel

Youthful Perspective

**Record Reviews: *Harvey
Andrews reviews***

LIVE REVIEWS:

**Capercallie
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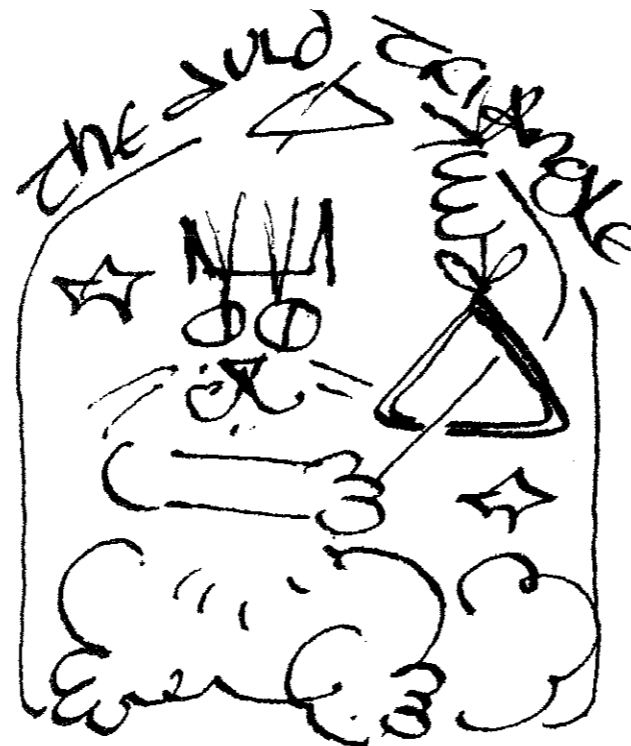
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ISSN 1350-8083

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

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

EDITORIAL

WELCOME to the latest FOLK NORTH WEST!

In an issue packed with articles, we have some new features this issue, as well as all our regular & familiar ones. We also have some guest contributors again this issue. Our cover artists, Tall Stories are interviewed by Bernard Wrigley, whilst Harvey Andrews turns his attention to some new CD releases on page 24.

Our occasional series on crafts and customs continues with Rushcarts & Rushbearing which you can find on page 21. An accidental new feature is Oops, or the bits that should be elsewhere, containing important news about some of our local clubs.

You will find Jenny Shotliff's Youthful Perspective on page 10, which I hope you will read whether you are a "Youth" or not. A much extended Diary Chat can be found on page 7; I hope you like this new format, which gives us more opportunity to give information about your local club.

Talking of clubs, you will find mixed news on the club front, with several clubs closing, most notably Haskayne & Hesketh Bank, whilst others such as the Bothy & Blackpool are celebrating long-running anniversaries.

Don't forget to write and tell us what you think of the magazine - do you want more interviews, fewer record reviews, other different features? We don't know if you don't tell us!

All for now and we'll see again in early Spring!

Nigel Firth
EDITOR

OUR NEXT ISSUE COVERS
MARCH TO MAY 1995 .
THE CLOSING DATE FOR ALL
SUBMISSIONS IS JANUARY 25th,
NOTHING WILL BE ACCEPTED
AFTER THIS DATE

Editorial Address:

118, Bolton Road,

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Chairman's Ramblings

So 1994 is almost over - where on earth did it go? I'm not sure I've unwrapped last Christmas's presents yet! (both of them!!) It has been a funny old year really with lots of ups & downs, but perhaps that's what they call "Life's rich texture". Now here we are almost in December again and I'm still desperately trying to plan August - a bit like the bosses at work!

Sad to see the Triton club without a home after its glory years at "Gregson's Well" when The Spinners were in their prime! (and yes, I enjoyed The Spinners and the Houghton Weavers - they both entertain and involve audiences).

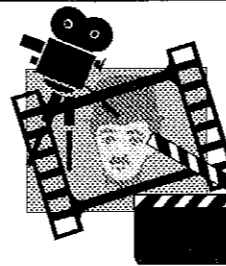
Also sad to see Haskayne close its doors, and the virtual demise of folk on the Wirral, where there were half a dozen clubs not so long ago. Did it all collapse just because Tom Topping retired?

But the "HIGHS"?! Well the safari in Kenya was pretty good, as was our club's annual holiday - this time at Clifden in Connemara - just beautiful! I also attended a festival on the banks of the Ohio at Owensboro in Kentucky!

But the greatest high was finding folk in the safe hands of a number of very talented young people like Cythara, The Lakeman Brothers, Luke Daniels, The Hall Brothers, Kate Rusby & Katherine Roberts, our own Jenny Shotliff's YOUTHQUAKE and last but not least the incredible FOSBROOKS. There are many others I could add to the list, but where are they on the club guest lists?? Why are clubs so wary of booking anyone new, and why are audiences so unwilling to turn out for anyone new? When I started going to clubs, half the fun was looking for someone we hadn't seen before! Where has the sense of adventure gone!

I'm just coming down from another high; Maghull's second "Day of Music" - a complete sell-out and great fun. Thanks to all who came and to all the federation clubs who helped us fill the venue. Last but not least - best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Dave Day



NewsReel

Latest News from around the region and further afield

Welcome once again to NewsReel, a lot to get through this time so no long waffling intro, just straight into the first piece of information.....

The Folkworks Ceilidh Circus is about to hit the road and will bring together some of the world's most exciting dance musicians. The tour is specially designed for 'flat-floor' venues such as Town Halls and assembly rooms nationwide which will be transformed with lights and banners into atmospheric dance halls. Three groups from overseas will be appearing, Cajun band Tasso from Louisiana, New England dance fiddler Rod Miller and French band Dedale. Each night one of these bands will be paired with one of the UK's finest, too numerous to list but including Peeping Tom, Tickled Pink and All Blacked Up. Callers such as Hugh Rippon and Dave Hunt are set to appear along with a whole range of dance display items, including Appalachian, Morris, Rapper and Clog.

Dates in this area are: Queens Hall, Widnes - 24 November with Rod Miller, the Castlemore Band, Hugh Rippon and King Academy Irish Dancers. Tickets are 5.50 and 4.50. More information on 051 424 2339.

Civic Hall, Winsford - 25 November with Rod Miller, All Blacked Up, Dave Hunt, Fosbrook Clog Dancers. Telephone 0606 862862 for tickets which are a rather pricey 7.50.

Rock 'n' Reel is a music magazine covering the very best in folk, blues, rock and beyond. Having just spent a few hours with the latest issue, I can vouch for it's folkie wonderfulness. Interviews with Joan Baez, BB King, Nanci Griffith, Lindisfarne and Roy Bailey as well as news, information and TONS of music reviews are included in it's 64 tabloid size pages. My one regret is that Rock 'n' Reel has reached issue 19 before I discovered it. The magazine can be ordered at any newsagent, but if you fancy a FREE sample copy, send a first class stamp to: Rock 'n' Reel, 8 Dent Place, Cleator Moor, Cumbria, CA25 5EE.

Fellside are about to release their 1000th album and it sounds pretty good. It will consist of 23 tracks

called from LPs FE0001 to FE077 none of which have appeared on CD. With music from Jez Lowe, Cockersdale, Houghton Band, Brian Peters, Swan Arcade, Bram Taylor, Marilyn Middleton Pollock and others the CD has to be an absolute steal at 7.99. All profits are going to the National Deaf Children's Society and the CD should be available now. Fellside can be contacted on 0900 61556.

By the way, Fellside have now stopped issuing albums on vinyl. Releasing material in three different formats isn't very practical for a small outfit like

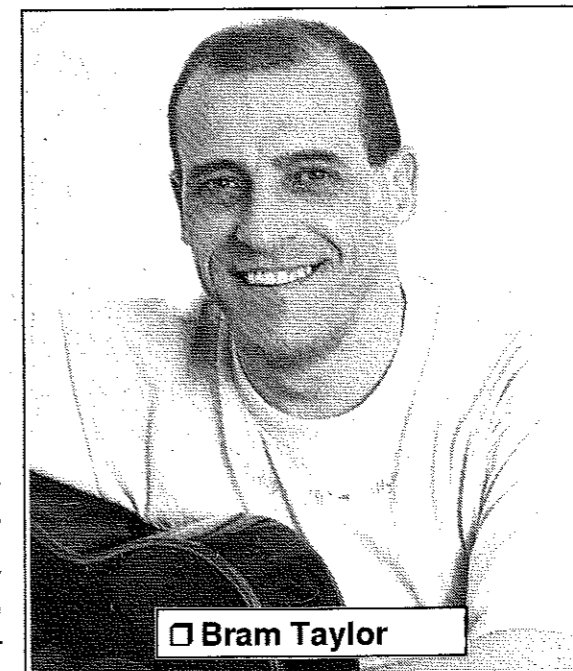
Fellside apparently and so existing stocks are being allowed to run out with only a possibility of the best sellers being re-pressed. Every cloud has a silver lining however, and the company is now making some special offers on catalogue vinyl to club organisers. I have no details as to just how special the offers are, but if you contact Fellside I'm sure they'll tell you all you want to know.

Salford Folk Dance Club is keen to attract even more people to it's Monday night meetings. A nice warm church hall, a very modestly priced bar, friendly club members and a couple of excellent callers are the attractions,

so what's holding you back? You can't dance? That isn't a problem, get yourself down to Salford on a Monday evening and learn. Whether you're an absolute beginner or an experienced dancer, Fred Lloyd would love to hear from you. Speak to him on 061 789 3476.

Now I may have mentioned this before, so forgive me if it's twice. 'Tradition' is a quarterly magazine devoted to traditional song and dance, folklore, myths and legends, British customs, heritage and traditional ways of life. Past issues have included articles on Green Man, Bagpipes, Standing Stones, Corn Dollies and lots more weird 'n' wonderful items of interest to folkie persons such as yourself. Paul Salmon on 0277 633865 will tell you more and no doubt try to flog you a subscription.

A couple or four interesting (and reasonably local) tour dates for December that you may not have



□ Bram Taylor

noticed..... June Tabor is at the Stanwix Arts Theatre, Carlisle on Saturday the 10th, Steeleye Span at the Burnley Mechanics on Monday the 12th, Roy Harper appears at the Winter Gardens, Blackpool on Friday the 2nd (more rock than folk, but what the hell he's good!) and on the very same evening Show Of Hands perform at Westhoughton Folk Club.

The question on everyone's lips at the moment seems to be 'just when will Feadog produce a new streamlined head for their green topped Irish whistle?' Well question no longer friend, 'cos it's here. It may not have featured on Tomorrow's World, but this technological miracle could set the world of the penny whistle alight. Joking apart, the new head gives the whistle added wallop by making it louder in the bottom register whilst still maintaining a lovely sweet tone in the top octave. Up until now the Feadog has only been available in brass 'D' tuning, but a nickel version is being manufactured along with both brass and nickel in 'C' tuning. This wonderful product makes traditional music one of the cheapest pastimes on the planet. What other instrument can provide such fun and versatility for well under three quid? Feadog whistles are distributed by Soar Valley Music who can be contacted on 0509 269296.

Cooking Vinyl have released some CDs at the ridiculously cheap price of 5.99. Not all of them will be of interest to the likes of you and I, but I'm sure that four Oysterband CDs along with 'The Texas Campfire Tapes' from Michelle Shocked and 'Naming Of Names' from Ewan MacColl should go down very well with folkie persons everywhere. No real details about availability, but I'm sure Decoy Records in Manchester will know all about them.

Hot off the presses comes the result of the Wiggin Ceidhs Dance Writing Competition. Third prize of 10 pounds went to Marjorie Knight for a dance called 'Cassville Capers', second prize of 25 pounds went to Martyn Harvey for a dance called 'The Big Horn', a lovely long set dance reminiscent of 'The Nottingham Swing' and first prize of 75 pounds and the Jimmy's Records Trophy went to Fred Lloyd of Salford. Fred's dance, imaginatively titled 'John Willie Cockbobbin's Jig' was a real cracker that went down a storm with the dancers as well as the judges. A well deserved and popular winner.

And finally..... another plea for information.

Lots of people out there must have an item they would like to appear in the next NewsReel. Whether it's a concert, a church hall dance, a session, a competition, a workshop, a week long festival or just a Sunday afternoon walk around Rivvi, let us know about it well in advance of the final copy date and you can be sure of a mention.

This is where I finish. See you when spring is on it's way.

Steve Morris

FOLK MUSIC PROGRAMMES ON LOCAL RADIO

BBC Radio Lancashire
FM 95.5/103.9/104.5

LANCASHIRE DRIFT presented by NIC
DOW Thursday 8.00 -10.00pm

BBC Radio Merseyside
FM 95.8/ MW 1485kHz

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

MANX RADIO
FM 89/97.2/103.7 - MW 1368kHz

MANX FOLK presented by John Kaneen,
Sunday 6.00-7.30pm.

BBC Radio Stoke
FM 94.6/MW 1503kHz

Richard Walker's Folk Show, Thursdays
7.00-8.00pm

Radio Telifis Eirann Radio 1
MW 567kHz

Both Sides Now, Thursdays 9.15-10.45pm
(Irish music & song)

BBC Radio 2
FM 88.0-90.2

Folk on Two presented by Jim Lloyd,
Wednesdays 7.00-8.00pm

*(Usually followed by an hour of pro-
grammes with a strong folk music flavour)*

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!

DIARY CHAT

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

GENERAL NEWS:

☐ Christmas at Tilston

Tilston Folk Club is looking forward to a great Christmas Party this year on 20th December. You are all welcome to join them either for a floor spot, or just to soak up the atmosphere. As well as floor guests they will be joined by Turkey Rhubarb (How's that for being seasonal!) Graham Bellinger and the new local band, One Eye'd Ed, which was formed this year by three ex-members of Mercer's Daughter. As well as good ale, provided by the new landlord and landlady Billy and Barbara Horan, they will be offering great food to go with it. Entry on the night will be £3.00/£2.50 concessions and this will cover food and entertainment.

☐ Poynton Folk Centre 25th Anniversary

Poynton Folk Centre announce that their 25th Anniversary CD/Tape will be available for Christmas. Copies ordered and paid for in advance are available at a reduced price of £7.50 for CD and £5.00 for Tape.

The tape was recorded on Sunday October 9th at the Centre, with a good turnout of folkies in the audience, by Plutonium Records of Cheadle. Six groups and solo singers gave their services free of charge to support the Centre. The plan was to combine three newly associated groups with three long associated groups. Those who played were: Joe Beard, The Folk Devils, Geoff Higginbottom, The (three) Hughes Brothers (Tom coming down from the NE especially for the night), The Major Clangers and The Timekeepers. There was a wonderful atmosphere on the night!

The "Final Mix" is now awaited, and the organisers would like to thank all those who played, for their contribution towards this project, which will hopefully bring in some greatly needed funds for building repairs.

☐ And Backpool 33rd Anniversary...

February 28th marks the 33rd Anniversary of Blackpool Folk Club. One of the founder members of the club, 'Big' Pete Rodger, still attends every week, although he has now passed on the running of the club to some of the marginally younger members for them to have a go! Their party promises to be a big one, starting at 8:30 pm, with a set from Traditional Edge, followed by King's Ransom, who have promised that Blackpool Rock won't only be seen on the Promenade that night! With party hats, balloons and butties included in the price of £3.00 per head, the organisers Ken and Beryl hope that lots of you will be going for a grand night out.

☐ Castle Surprise!

A great night out was held at the Castle Folk Club on September 21st, when many old friends and club regulars gathered to give Albert Roscoe a surprise 80th Birthday Party. Albert is a well-loved character of the resident group 'Wild Rover' and is affectionately known by the other two members, Dave Dunne and Bob O'Callaghan as 'Ratbag Roscoe'. Albert plays fiddle and whistle with the group and has been involved with music all his life, mainly playing saxophone with various bands. For many years he was very popular in the Widnes area alongside his late wife Freda, a fine pianist, and indeed Albert's youngest son Martin is an international concert pianist.

Any clubs interested in swapping club nights with the Castle should contact Bob O'Callaghan on 051 424 5367.

☐ Aspull unmoved by rumours

A message from Paul Wordsworth, organiser of Aspull Folk Club (The Rafters Roar) at the Moorgate Inn, Aspull -

"Hello all you Folkies and Musicians out there, friends old and new, if any of you are under the misunderstanding that we have moved to a new venue, the answer is a big NO! We're still here at the Moorgate Inn, alive and kicking harder than ever, and raising the roof even higher. So, if you've never been, we wanna see you now! Come up and see us sometime, we'll always make you very welcome."

□ Bothy now 30 years old!

The **Bothy Folk Club** in Southport will be 30 years old in April 1995, which makes it one of the longest running clubs in the country. Plans are afoot to mark the occasion, although the Bothy has never been a club to over-blow its own trumpet, preferring instead to just get on with business.

"Every Sunday is a celebration" says supremo Clive Pownceby, "and we may just go all out for the big 40th birthday", although Clive has recently been observed scanning merchandising catalogues, which could mean that Bothy Pearl Anniversary cut glass decanters may soon be on the horizon! Rumours that Paul Simon is finally likely to get that elusive gig are probably unfounded though!

The club meets every Sunday at the Blundell Arms in Birkdale, Southport. Phone Clive on 051 924 5078 for information.

□ Organiser wanted:

At the time of going to press, Joyce Riding had not found a new organiser for Horwich Folk Club. The club has been running on Monday nights at the Toll Bar in Horwich. If anyone is interested, please contact Joyce Riding on 0257 792304.

□ Hesketh Bank closes..

Chris Hornby, organiser of **Hesketh Bank Folk Club**, has regretfully announced that the club has been forced to close, due to falling attendances and the unforeseen introduction of a high room charge.

Chris wishes to thank everyone who has supported the club over the last 12 months.

□ New format at Preston

Finally, **Preston Folk Club** have decided to make a few changes to its nightly format in an effort to attract a wider audience. The first change is to scrap the old policy of allowing floor singers only on Singers Nights. This was thought to be unfair on people who turned up to see a guest and hoped to do a spot, not knowing the current policy. It is also believed that this change will help to provide further welcome variety to a night.

However, the biggest change will be to transform singers nights themselves into a new "Singers and Sessions Night", providing a forum for musicians to "jam", but making sure that singers also get a fair crack of the whip. In addition, it has been decided to abolish the 50p entrance fee on such nights, and hope to generate some more income from the raffle.

CLUB RESIDENTS:

ARNSIDE - Steve Back, John Harper, John & Angela Cowell, Frank Lewis, John Storer, Dave Summers

ASPULL - Paul Wordsworth, John Dawson, Geoff Hilton

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, Bill Hackney

BURNLEY - Brillig, Steve Cook, Roy Kelly, Liz Brown

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.

LEVELLERS - George Strattan, Ken Roberts, Graham Casey, Mike Cunningham

LLANDUDNO - Highly Strung

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

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

PAVILION - Quartz, Whole Hog, Andy Anderson, Bernie Forkin, Hilary Hornby

PORKIES - Dave & Helen Howard, Dave Walmisley

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

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

WIGAN - Joan Blackburn

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

More Diary Chat!

Dates for March & beyond

EXTRA DATES:

SN = Singers Night, (T) = Ticket only

Bury - Mar 11 Eddie Upton, Mar 18 Dick Miles, Apr 8 Carl & Jane, Apr 15 Easter Ceilidh

Castle - Mar 8 SN, Mar 15 Jez Lowe, Mar 22 SN, Mar 29 Betty & Norman McDonald

Cockermouth - Mar 16 Kristina Olsen, Mar 23 Pete Morton, Mar 30 Stephen Quigg, Apr 13 Brian Peters, Apr 20 Huw & Tony Williams, Apr 27 Phil Hare, May 4 Kathy Winter, July 27 Artisan

Formby - May 6 Roy Harris

Leigh - Mar 12 Mal Brown

Levellers - Mar 9 SN, Mar 23 Raphael Callaghan & Christine Purnell

Westhoughton - Mar 10 Huw & Tony Williams, Mar 17 The Albion Band, Mar 24 Johnny Silvo

White Swan - Mar 16 Keith Morton, Mar 23 Rythym Rascals, Apr 6 Wizz Jones, Apr 27 Vital Spark

ACCESS FOR DISABLED:

Bacup

Hesketh Bank

Levellers

Mechanics

Open Door

Swinton

Wigan



NON SMOKING CLUBS:

Bacup

Cockermouth

Darwen

Formby

Leigh ("Refrain from smoking" Policy)

Llandudno

Maghull (First Tuesday - Non smoking night)



Club Scene with Tony Gibbons

PORKIES 2, THE LADYBROOK HOTEL, FIR ROAD, BRAMHALL, STOCKPORT

This fortnightly club is run by those well known and respected stalwarts of the Manchester Folk and music scene, Dave and Helen Howard. The Ladybrook is a huge pub, the folk club being held in a large room upstairs. It's a rather plush room complete with panelled walls and paintings and comfortably seating about 80. No need to worry about acoustics - Dave has his P A in attendance (no better person to use it!).

At the top of the stairs before you enter the club room, there's an area rather like a large landing with a few seats and chairs which is ideal to congregate during the interval. There is a bar in this area, though on the night I was there it wasn't in use - a pity as it's quite a trek to the main bars in the body of the pub. These were both packed solid!

The night itself was a cracker, starting on time at 8.30. Dave and Helen sang a few (clubs could do a lot worse than to book these two!) followed by a cracking set from Dave Walmsley (ex Plan B). It's many years since I saw Dave perform - his songs just get better and better. After the interval we were treated to a surprise set from members of the Tom Travis Band (who surely must have gained a lot of fans from their appearance at the recent Maghull Day of Music). Superb stuff! The guests finished off the evening to the very appreciative audience. I found them (the audience) to be warm and not lacking in humour.

I believe the club is packed most of the time, with a good cross section of guests booked. Floor singers are welcome. Although it is predominantly a fortnightly club, it is advisable to check first. The only grouse I had was a long trek to the bar. However, that's not always going to be the case. Superbly organised - a pleasure to visit. It's a bit difficult to find - I'm sure Dave or Helen will give you directions or may be even send you a map. Give them a ring on 061-789-1395.

Tony Gibbons

A Youthful Perspective

with Jenny Shottliff

Last issue I asked for ideas on developing Youthquake. Since then some of our regular members have put together an initial set of conclusions which are quite interesting.

Briefly they want to meet more regularly, work towards performance (though retaining their group identity not in smaller groups as I might have been inclined to have encouraged them) and to bring in other people to run workshops in things they might not otherwise try. Ideas ranged from liltling and singing to clog dancing and the bagpipes. They also requested a keyboard, T-shirts and a newsletter (something Joe is keen to develop in association with Acoustic Youth, a group from the South West who run on similar lines to Youthquake).

This is some of what they had to say:-

"It's easier to speak out and tell others your ideas and opinions if there are people your age or if you know a few people quite well so it would be a good idea to meet more often and introduce more young people to groups like Youthquake."

"More young people should be able to get an idea of folk music. I enjoy performing very much and I would like it if more people my age would play or just go to clubs and festivals but that is impossible if we don't do more things so lets get some performances together and show everyone how good we are!!!"

"At the moment Youthquake is quite a manageable size (Jenny says for who?). It would be good to have a session every fortnight or so and learn tunes from each other or have someone different every session to teach us, for example dancing or liltling."

"We could have T-shirts or badges, though T-shirts would be more fun... Brightly coloured T-shirts and design them ourselves."

"I would prefer to go to a folk festival with someone my age that I know rather than an adult. It would be

easier to try things or make friends if you saw other people your age."

And finally, remembering that the majority of the group plays melody instruments I think this is best described as our Christmas list. "The instruments which I would like to hear more often would be more guitars and maybe a harp or something more deep like for instance the cello, or a bit of double bass, also keyboards and some percussion might be useful and drums and boxes and maybe a few clarinets!"

This gives me quite a good set of guidelines to work from.

I found it interesting that a group came up with a set of conclusions that comfortably accommodated everyone's wishes. They all want to develop performance skills alongside experimenting with new and different ideas within the concept of Youthquake. It was notable that song, dance and music was treated as inherently one and the same thing. GIVEN SUITABLE OPPORTUNITIES they'll take an active interest in all of them without categorising or differentiating.

Many thanks to the group who produced this; Lucinda and Richard McIlveen, Chris and Hannah Coutts, Lizzi Owen, Laura McLaughlin and Nicki Davies.

I'm still open to further suggestions although for the time being I'm going to use these comments

as guidelines.

Any young people who would like to try and instrument can come along to Youthquake. I have two 1/4, one 1/2 and two 3/4 size fiddles and a 120 bass accordion to loan, I also have an English concertina currently in use. Affording an instrument you may not

The photos on this page show:

Top - Youthquake workshop at Whitby
Lower - Kelly White & Sarah Howard & others at Redcar performing Steve Knightly's Tall Ships.



take to is a major stumbling block, while none of these instruments is very good they provide a vital initial opportunity. If you have any unwanted instrument, tutor books or music books, or a discarded pair of clogs then maybe we know someone that would be grateful for the chance to try something they might not otherwise have had access to. If you would like to make use of one of these instruments please contact me.

ACOUSTIC YOUTH AND YOUTHQUAKE

Acoustic Youth is the name given to the youth initiative in Southern England headed by Kerensa Wragg (Hammer Dulcimer, Whistle) and Tim Van Eyken (Melodion, Whistle, Guitar, Vocals). At 15 and 16 they're similar age to myself and Joe when we founded Youthquake and are working to broadly similar criteria.

Both are organisations run by and for young people. By working as sister organisations we intend to help each other achieve our aim of helping, supporting & encouraging youth to develop & extend an interest in singing, dancing and playing traditional music.



Local workshops will run separately but there will be close co-operation for major events. We're planning a joint festival package (workshops and performance) along with a joint newsletter. We're looking for names and addresses for a mailing list for the newsletter, sponsorship and advice. We would all be over the moon if similar groups came about in other areas, anyone who might like to start such a project need only to contact us, we will shower you with all the help and advice we can think of! We believe that by working together and sharing our experiences and skills we can achieve a great deal more than the sum of the parts.

Jenny Shottliff

The photo on this page shows Tim Van Eyken (Acoustic Youth) & Ben Broughton at Whitby

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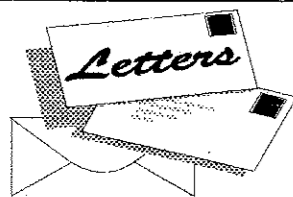
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to the EDITOR

Correspondents required...

I am a guitarist in California and have always loved the different kinds of folk music that come out of England. I am interested in corresponding with musicians in England about this and other kinds of music.

Daniel Wasik
Phoenix Highway 1
Big Sur, CA
93920 USA

Resignation matters...

After some consideration, I feel I really cannot tolerate Dave Day's comments about the members of the Federation Committee, which you unwisely in my view, published in the last issue of Folk North West. We are all implicitly labelled as uninterested in the Federation, with no enthusiasm for promoting the folk scene. No doubt like the other volunteer members of the Federation Committee, I have given what time I could to its affairs, principally to the magazine, during my short time as a member.

As you know, at the time of the meeting to which Dave Day refers, I had recently returned home from hospital. While I am not looking for sympathy, his comments seem particularly insensitive under the circumstances.

I do not wish to see myself vilified in public again, particularly in a magazine sold through my own family's shop. Accordingly I have no choice but to resign from the committee. I wish you and Dave Day every success in finding a more suitable replacement.

Yours sincerely
Dr Phillip Page

The Editor replies:

Whilst I reserve the right not to publish, or to cut articles containing offensive remarks, I try to publish most articles exactly as written, which I did do in this case.

Apologies....

Maghull Folk Club would like to say "sorry" to all those people who had to be refused entrance to our Town Hall "Day of Music" on Saturday 12th November.

This was because we were restricted by fire regulation maximum numbers for the building, and all tickets had been sold - the last one at 8.30am on the morning of the event itself, much too late to try to let anyone know.

We have already booked the venue for the second weekend in November 1995, so order your ticket NOW & make sure you get in next year!

Dave Day
(on behalf of Maghull Folk Club)

The Editor Writes:

Do you agree or disagree strongly with an opinion offered in this magazine?

Would you like to see more of a particular kind of article or fewer record reviews, for example?

Then write in and tell us what you think, after all, it is YOUR magazine. If you don't tell us, we don't know if we are producing the kind of magazine you want or not.

Write to:

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

BERNARD WRIGLEY Talks to new trio TALL STORIES ...

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tall Stories are Pat Ryan, Malcolm Gibbons and Ken Howard.

Bernard: How long have you been together as Tall Stories?

Ken: It started at Whitby Festival about 3 or 4 years ago. We got together with fiddler John Squire, to do a couple of spots there.

Bernard: But did you do that with a view to doing bookings under that name?

Pat: No really it was just for fun.

Bernard: So really the three of you got together since then.

Malc: Yes we did, we always wanted to work together and it was just over a year ago when we got off our backsides and did something.

Bernard: You'd worked together on other things before that hadn't you?

Ken: Malc had sung on one of Pat's cassettes.

Malc: She actually asked me to do it on the next one! We also worked together as part of the CD and show "The Old Lamb and Flag". The voices just seemed to fit well together.

Bernard: What instruments are used in the band?

Pat: Malc and I both sing and play guitar and Ken plays guitar, mandolin and cittern.

Bernard: Where does all your material come from?

Pat: It comes from all of us. It's nice to be able to look for songs we like, it doesn't matter if they're traditional or contemporary.

Malc: I really enjoy doing this material because it's totally different than the songs I do with Strawhead. We like the songs to be slightly unusual, songs that other people tend not to do.

We went into this to sing some good chorus songs and to get the audience singing.

Pat: I suppose it's a style that's evolved as we've gone along.

Bernard: It's not an evening of "Wild Rovers" then?

Malc: No a bit more unusual than that.

Bernard: Are there any particular artists that have influenced you?

Malc: We've got lots of favourites between us. I really like Brian McNeill as a songwriter and a musician.

Ken: Pat and I listen to all types of music. On the folky side, writers like Dougie Maclean, Eric Bogle and Keiran Halpin and away from that, people like Nanci Griffith and Mary-Chapin Carpenter. There are lots of writers we admire but we find that their songs tend to be individual to them. Jez Lowe is a good example, brilliant songs but difficult to arrange and make them your own.

Bernard: Do you hear a song and think, that will work with three voices

or.....

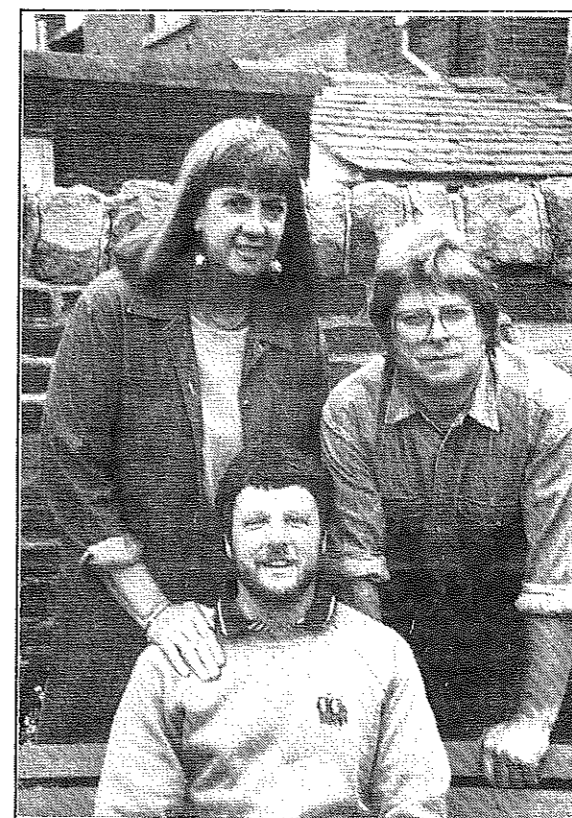
Pat: It helps that we've known each other for a long time and we tend to listen to the same sorts of music.

Bernard: Who does all the arranging then?

Malc: Everybody chips in. We try songs and if they don't work or someone doesn't like it, we drop it. We're quite tactful really, it's usually "Perhaps we could try that a different way".

Ken: Usually we know fairly quickly if a song is going to work or not. There are songs we put on the back-burner and return to, some work straight away and arrange themselves.

Bernard: What about the name Tall Stories, where did that come from?



Ken: I own up to that. I was in the working men's club in Whitby and thought of it on the spur of the moment. We wanted a name that didn't really imply anything. If you have a daft name, people expect you to be funny, with a traditional sounding name, they expect traditional songs.

Bernard: What about getting the name known?

Pat: We've done some floor spots and a few club bookings and a festival. We've sent out the usual publicity but it's early days yet.

Ken: It's difficult, people know us individually but not as Tall Stories.

Malc: Tall Stories is a lot less writing than three names, better scope for graphics too.

Bernard: Are you still paying separately as well?

Malc: Oh yes we still do that; it's all different material. When I first started singing, I used to do songs by Ramblin' Jack Elliot, then when I started singing with Strawhead, all my American influences disappeared. Now I'm coming back to it all with some of the newer songwriters, people like James Keelaghan.

Bernard: Are you aiming just to do folk clubs?

Pat: Anywhere that's a listening audience really, although you've got to think about the material that you do. We try hard to strike a balance between contemporary songs and traditional songs. In the clubs we've done so far the materials gone down very well. We've had the audiences singing; it's about having fun. Alan Bell gave us our first booking at a festival this year - Fylde.

Bernard: I thought you were going to say Cleethorpes!! Any favourite festivals?

Ken: It's got to be Fylde, it's so well organised. He works hard Alan Bell. It's a bit like doing a royal command performance.

Bernard: I did the first ten and then he rang me to say he wasn't booking me for the next one!! Are you doing any recordings?

Malc: We've got about eight tracks done, so we are looking towards early next year.

Bernard: Where can people see you as Tall Stories?

Pat: Locally, next year at Swinton Folk Club; further afield, Cleckheaton Festival, Knaresborough, Kingswinford and Leigh on Sea. Give us ring to find out.

Bernard: Thanks very much for that, I'll just turn the tape off, sod it it's still on pause!!

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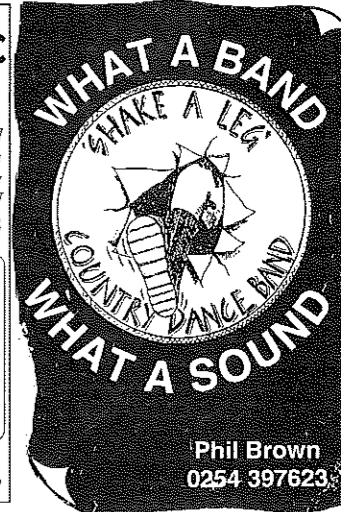
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December Dates

SUNDAY	4-Dec	11-Dec	18-Dec	25-Dec	
ARNSIDE	No dates received				
BOTHY	Show of Hands	Robb Johnson & Pip Collings	The Office Party	Closed	
HESKETH BANK	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	
LEIGH	John Brindley	Singers Night	Xmas Party	Closed	
LLANDUDNO	No dates received				
OPEN DOOR	No dates received				
PAVILION	Singers Night	Pete Coe	Xmas Party	Closed	
*POYNTON	Skellig & Geoff Higginbottom		Xmas Show with Houghton Weavers		
MONDAY	5-Dec	12-Dec	19-Dec	26-Dec	
BURNLEY MECHANICS		Steeleye Span 25th Ann Tour	John Martyn + Support		
HORWICH	Closed until further notice				
POTTERIES (Old Swan)	Singers Night	Singers Night	Xmas Party	Closed	
PRESTON	Tom McConville	Sessions & Singers	Xmas Party	Closed	
SWINTON	Ken Pearson	Singers Night	Xmas Party	Closed	
TRAVELLERS' REST	No dates received				
TRITON	No dates received				
TUESDAY	6-Dec	13-Dec	20-Dec	27-Dec	
BACUP	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	
BLACKPOOL	Singaround	Thistle	Singaround	Closed	
DALTON	Pete Coe		Xmas Meet - Tara		
LIVERPOOL	No dates received				
MAGHULL	No dates received				
TILSTON	Singaround	Singaround	Xmas Party	Singaround	
WIGAN	No dates received				
WEDNESDAY	7-Dec	14-Dec	21-Dec	28-Dec	
ASPULL	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Xmas Party	
8:45 at LANE ENDS	Martin Carthy	Show of Hands	Ken Nicol & Chris White	*Xmas Ceilidh with Mind The Step	
BLACKBURN	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
BURNLEY	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
CASTLE	Singers Night	Singers Night	Xmas Party	Closed	
NEW SEVEN STARS	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
THURSDAY	1-Dec	8-Dec	15-Dec	22-Dec	29-Dec
COCKERMOUTH	Residents Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Xmas Party	Closed
FLEETWOOD		Dai Thomas	Singers Night	Singers Night	Closed
GREGSON LANE	Singers Night		Singers Night		Singers Night
HASKAYNE	No dates received				
HEBDEN BRIDGE	No dates received				
LEVELLERS	Joe Stead		Xmas Party		
RAILWAY	Kate Rusby & Kathryn Roberts	Singers Night	Singers Night	Geol Cait	Closed
WHITE SWAN	David Campbell	Ian Carr & Karen Tweed	Xmas Party	Closed	Closed
FRIDAY	2-Dec	9-Dec	16-Dec	23-Dec	30-Dec
*BOTHY			*Ceilidh with Band of Rising Sun		
NORTHWICH	No dates received				
PORKIES	No dates received				
POTTERIES (Albion)		Partners in Crime		Closed	
*POYNTON					New Year Ceilidh - Five Barred Gate
RHYL	No dates received				
WESTHOUGHTON	Show of Hands	Chris White	Closed	Closed	Closed
SATURDAY	3-Dec	10-Dec	17-Dec	24-Dec	31-Dec
BREWERY ARTS	No dates received				
BURY	Michael Raven & Joan Mills	*Xmas Ceilidh with The Riot Band	Xmas Party - Singers	Closed	Closed
FORMBY	Dave Summers	Singers Night	Singers Night	Closed	Closed
MECHANICS (Padiham Town Hall)			Cajun Xmas Party with Flatville Aces		Cajun New Year's Eve Special with Bon Temps Playboys
POYNTON	Closed	Ceilidh - Olio	Toss the Feathers		

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January Dates

SUNDAY	1-Jan	8-Jan	15-Jan	22-Jan	29-Jan
ARNSIDE	No dates received				
BOTHY	Closed	Pete Rimmer	Martin Pleass	Singers Night	Dave Burland
HESKETH BANK	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
LEIGH	Closed	Singers Night	Hilary Hornby	Singers Night	Singers Night
LLANDUDNO	No dates received				
OPEN DOOR	No dates received				
PAVILION	Closed	Singers Night	Bernard Wrigley	Singers Night	Leon Rosselson
MONDAY	2-Jan	9-Jan	16-Jan	23-Jan	30-Jan
HORWICH	Closed until further notice				
POTTERIES (Old Swan)	Closed	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
PRESTON	Sessions & Singers	John Scaife & Bob Bray	Sessions & Singers	Red Headed League	Sessions & Singers
SWINTON	Singers Night	Bunting & Frolics + Panto	Singers Night	Hilary Hornby	Singers Night
TRAVELLERS' REST	No dates received				
TRITON	No dates received				
TUESDAY	3-Jan	10-Jan	17-Jan	24-Jan	31-Jan
BACUP	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
BLACKPOOL	Singaround	Loctup Together	Singaround	Singaround	Kieran Halpin
DALTON	Singers Night		Singers Night		Leon Rosselson
LIVERPOOL	No dates received				
MAGHULL	No dates received				
TILSTON	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
WIGAN	No dates received				
WEDNESDAY	4-Jan	11-Jan	18-Jan	25-Jan	
ASPULL	Singers Hogmanay Hoots Mon Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Burn's Night	
8:45 at LANE ENDS	Steve Tilson & Maggie Boyle	Les Barker	Tom McConville	Scolds Bridle	
BLACKBURN	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
BURNLEY	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
CASTLE	Closed	Singers Night	Guest tba	Singers Night	
NEW SEVEN STARS	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
THURSDAY	5-Jan	12-Jan	19-Jan	26-Jan	
COCKERMOUTH	Singers Night	Jon Harvison	Singers Night	Kate Rusby & Kathryn Roberts	
FLEETWOOD	Singers Night	Amadan	Singers Night	Singers Night	
GREGSON LANE		Singers Night		Singers Night	
HASKAYNE	No dates received				
HEBDEN BRIDGE	No dates received				
LEVELLERS		Singers Night		Jack Owen	
RAILWAY	Singers Night	Singers Night	Derek Gifford	Singers Night	
WHITE SWAN	Singers Night	Keith Hancock	Singers Night	Tom McConville	
FRIDAY	6-Jan	13-Jan	20-Jan	27-Jan	
NORTHWICH	No dates received				
PORKIES	No dates received				
POTTERIES (Albion)		Kieran Halpin + Support (tba)		Stravaig + Support (tba)	
RHYL	No dates received				
WESTHOUGHTON	Closed	Jez Lowe	Garva	The New Bushbury Mountain Daredevils	
SATURDAY	7-Jan	14-Jan	21-Jan	28-Jan	
BURY	Popeluc	Marilyn Middleton Pollock	AGM + Singers	Cythara	
FORMBY	Quartz	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
*POTTERIES (Albion)				*Annual Ceilidh with Alf Alfa & The Wild Oats	
POYNTON	Folk Night (tbc)	Ceilidh - Bilbo Baggins	Gary & Vera Aspey + Geoff Higginbottom	Ceilidh - Hobson's Choice	

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February Dates					
SUNDAY	5-Feb	12-Feb	19-Feb	26-Feb	
ARNSIDE	No dates received				
BOTHY		Dave Summers	Singers Night	John James	Singers Night
HESKETH BANK	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	
LEIGH		Risky Business	Singers Night	Derek Gifford	Singers Night
LLANDUDNO	No dates received				
OPEN DOOR	No dates received				
PAVILION		Singers Night	Martin Long	Singers Night	Risky Business
POYNTON			Maddy Prior & The Carnival Band		
MONDAY	6-Feb	13-Feb	20-Feb	27-Feb	
HORWICH	Closed until further notice				
POTTERIES (Old Swan)		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
PRESTON		Martin Long	Sessions & Singers	Sessions & Singers	Dave Summers
SWINTON		Phil Seddon	Singers Night	Alyson Waterhouse	Singers Night
TRAVELLERS' REST	No dates received				
TRITON	No dates received				
TUESDAY	7-Feb	14-Feb	21-Feb	28-Feb	
BACUP		Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
BLACKPOOL		Singaround	Jon Harvison	Singaround	Kings Ransom
DALTON			Dave Summers		Singers Night
LIVERPOOL	No dates received				
MAGHULL	No dates received				
TILSTON		Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
WIGAN	No dates received				
WEDNESDAY	1-Feb	8-Feb	15-Feb	22-Feb	1-Mar
ASPULL	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
8:45 at LANE ENDS	Tania Opland (tbc)	Mike Silver	Old Rope String Band	Bob Fox	Keith Donnelly
BLACKBURN	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
BURNLEY	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
BURNLEY MECHANICS		Fairport Convention with Huw & Tony Williams			
CASTLE	Guest tba	Singers Night	Guest tba	Singers Night	Guest tba
NEW SEVEN STARS	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
THURSDAY	2-Feb	9-Feb	16-Feb	23-Feb	2-Mar
COCKERMOUTH	Singers Night	Pete Coe	Singers Night	Gordon Tyrall	Keith Hancock & Lee Collinson
FLEETWOOD	Derek Gifford	Singers Night	Martin Long	Singers Night	Rough Mix
GREGSON LANE		Singers Night		Singers Night	
HASKAYNE	No dates received				
HEBDEN BRIDGE	No dates received				Hughie Jones
LEVELLERS		Singers Night			Steve Tilson & Maggie Boyle
RAILWAY	Brian Peters	Singers Night	Singers Night	Kieran Halpin	Singers Night
WHITE SWAN	Irish Guest - tbc	Singers Night	Michael Raven & Joan Mills		Birthday Party Guest tba
FRIDAY	3-Feb	10-Feb	17-Feb	24-Feb	3-Mar
MECHANICS (Padiham Town Hall)			Andy Irvine	Ray Fisher, Jo Freya & Siswann George	
NORTHWICH	No dates received				
PORKIES	No dates received				
POTTERIES (Albion)		Leon Rosselson & Martin Long		Keith Hancock & Lee Collinson	
RHYL	No dates received				
WESTHOUGHTON	Dave Burland	Roy Bailey	Keith Hancock & Lee Collinson	Harvey Andrews (ticket only)	Doonan Family Band
SATURDAY	4-Feb	11-Feb	18-Feb	25-Feb	4-Mar
BURY	Ron Taylor & Geoff Gillett	Filigrée	Roy Harris	Singers Night	Derek Gifford
FORMBY	Demure	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Th'Antique Roadshow
BURNLEY MECHANICS		Four Men & A Dog			
MECHANICS (Padiham Town Hall)		T-Zee's Acadians			
POYNTON	Jim Couza	Ceilidh - Five Barred Gate	Folk Night (tbc)	Ceilidh - Olio	
Notes: * If Club name has "tbc" in front, it's not the usual club night. * If entry has "tbc" in front, it's being held at a different venue (unless venue is named)					

OFFICER	NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Chairman	Dave Day	170; Liverpool Road South, Maghull, Liverpool	051 526 6661
Treasurer	Kath Holden	7, Sunleigh Road, Hindley, Wigan	0942 58459
Editor	Nigel Firth	118, Bolton Road, Aspull, Wigan	0942 833293
Proof Reader	Steve Morris	85, Sydney Ave., Leigh	0942 675848
Publicity		Position Vacant	
Advertising	Paul Holden	7, Sunleigh Road, Hindley, Wigan	0942 58459
Club reviewer	Tony Gibbons	2a, Moss Lane, Maghull, Liverpool	051 526 6522
Membership Secretary	Contact	Treasurer (see Above)	
Federation Secretary	Linda Wright	266, Todmorden Rd., Sharneyford, Bacup	0706 877090
Youth Activities	Jenny Shottliffe	1, Bardsey Close, Upholland, Lancs	0695 623641
Club Dates	Chris McIlveen	51, Moorfield, Turton, Bolton	0204 852627

THE AIMS OF THE FEDERATION SHALL BE

- ✓ The promotion of Folk Music in the North-West by:-
- ✓ 1. The 'block booking of artists for tours.
- ✓ 2. Joint publicity of the Member Clubs
- ✓ 3. The general support of the Member Clubs
- ✓ 4. Joint organisation of Concerts & Ceilidhs in the area.
- ✓ 5. The support of Festival Organisers in the area.
- ✓ 6. The organisation of events to attract the 'under 18s'.

DAY/CLUB	TIME	CLUB ADDRESS	ORGANISER	PHONE
SUNDAY				
ARNSIDE	8:30 PM	Fighting Cocks Hotel, Promenade, Arnsdale	Steve Black	0524 761823
BOTHY	8:00 PM	Blundell Arms, Upper Aughton Rd, Birkdale	Clive Pownceby	051 924 5078
HESKETH BANK	8:30 PM	Hesketh Bowling Club, Station Rd, Hesketh Bank	Chris Hornby	0772 813746
LEIGH	8:00 PM	St. Joseph's Sodality Club, Chapel St, Leigh	Theresa Tooley	0942 892226
LLANDUDNO	8:30 PM	The Clarence Hotel, Gladdaeth Ave, Llandudno	John Les	0492 580454
OPEN DOOR	8:30 PM	Medlock Tavern, Cutlers Hill Rd, Failsworth	Andy Broadbent	061 652 4227
PAVILION	8:30 PM	Pavilion, Main St, Billinge	Jim Coan	0772 452782
MONDAY				
HORWICH	8:30 PM	The Toll Bar, Horwich	Joyce Riding	0257 792304
POTTERIES (OLD SWAN)	8:00 PM	The Old Swan Inn, Hartshill Rd, Stoke	Jason Hill	0782 813401
PRESTON	8:30 PM	The Unicorn, North Rd, Preston	Hugh O'Donnell	0772 745498
SWINTON	8:30 PM	White Lion, 242 Manchester Rd, Swinton	Ged Todd	0942 811527
TRAVELLERS' REST	8:30 PM	Travellers' Rest, Crab St, St Helens	Graham Dunne	0744 25211
TRITON	8:30 PM	The Liverpool, James St, Liverpool	Doreen Rickart	051 256 6180
TUESDAY				
BACUP	8:30 PM	Market Hotel, Station Rd, Bacup	Linda Wright	0706 877090
BLACKPOOL	8:30 PM	George Social Club, 75 George St, Blackpool	Ken Adams	0253 397622
DALTON	8:30 PM	Cavendish Arms, Dalton-in-Furness, Cumbria	Graham Atkinson	0229 832354
LIVERPOOL	8:30 PM	Pig & Whistle, Chapel St, Liverpool	Helen Hebden	051 727 0088
MAGHULL	8:30 PM	Hare & Hounds, Maghull	Dave Day	051 526 6661
TILSTON	8:30 PM	The Carden Arms, Tilston, Cheshire	Penny Hughes	0829 271436
WIGAN	8:30 PM	Upper Morris Street Club, Greenough St, Wigan	Joan Blackburn	0942 321223
WEDNESDAY				
8:45 AT LANE ENDS	8:45 PM	Lane Ends Hotel, Weeton Rd, Wesham	Ann Green	0772 683027
ASPULL	8:30 PM	Moorgate Inn, Scot Lane, Aspull, Wigan	Paul Wordsworth	061 790 7153
BLACKBURN	8:30 PM	Veteran Hotel, Eanam, Blackburn	Brian Kirkham	0254 201930
BURNLEY	8:15 PM	Waggon & Horses Inn, Colne Rd, Brierfield	Rod Finlayson	0282 39784
CASTLE	8:30 PM	Castle Hotel, Halton Village, Runcorn	Bob O'Callaghan	051 424 5367
NEW SEVEN STARS	8:30 PM	New Seven Stars, Preston Rd, Standish	Hilda Foy	0257 792246
THURSDAY				
COCKERMOUTH	8:45 PM	Tithe Barn Hotel, Station St, Cocker mouth	Terry Haworth	0900 604765
FLEETWOOD	8:30 PM	Steamer Hotel, Queens Terrace, Fleetwood	Dave Ryan	0253 876351
GREGSON'S LANE	8:30 PM	St. Joseph's Social Centre, Gregson Lane, Hoghton	Graham Dixon	0254 853929
HASKAYNE	8:30 PM	The Ship Inn, Haskayne, Nr. Ormskirk	Ian Tupling	0695 579545
HEBDEN BRIDGE	8:30 PM	Trades Club, Holme St, Hebden Bridge	Erik Williams	0422 845265
LEVELLERS	8:00 PM	The Flying Picket, 24 Hardman St, Liverpool	Dave Cox	051 489 7895
RAILWAY	8:30 PM	Railway Hotel, Heatley, Lymm	Ann Clancy	0925 267667
WHITE SWAN	8:00 PM	White Swan, Green St, Fallowfield	Annie Morris	061 881 8294
FRIDAY				
NORTHWICH	8:30 PM	Harlequin Theatre, Queen St, Northwich	Sue Swan	061 775 4612
PORKIES	8:30 PM	Ladybrook Hotel, Fir Road, Bramhall, Cheshire	Helen Howard	061 789 1395
POTTERIES (ALBION)	8:00 PM	The Albion Hotel, Old Hall St, Hanley, Stoke	Jason Hill	0782 813401
RHYL	8:30 PM	Bee & Station Hotel, Bodfor St, Rhyl	Jeff Blythin	0745 336052
WESTHOUGHTON	8:15 PM	Westhoughton Golf Club, Long Island, Westhoughton	Pat Batty	0942 812301
SATURDAY				
BREWERY ARTS	8:30 PM	Brewery Arts Centre, 122a Highgate, Kendal	John Smyth	0539 725133
BURY	8:00 PM	The Napier, Bolton St, Bury	Dave Wetherall	061 761 7708
FORMBY	8:30 PM	The Royal, Liverpool Rd, Formby	Janet Kemp	0704 876745
MECHANICS	8:30 PM	Burnley Mechanics, Manchester Rd, Burnley	Ian Wells	0282 30005
POYNTON	8:30 PM	Poynton Folk Centre, Park Lane, Poynton	Lynda Boyle	0663 743310
SOUTHPORT ARTS	8:30 PM	Southport Arts Centre, Lord St, Southport	John Taylor	0704 40004

No Smoking club

OOPS.... or the bits that should be elsewhere!

MODERN AMERICAN SQUARE DANCING

HASKAYNE FOLK CLUB CLOSES

The organisers/residents of the Haskayne Folk Club, at a meeting held during the summer recess, took the decision not to re-open for the 1994/95 season. There were a number of factors which helped us to reach this decision.

The club has been enjoyable to run, with a reputation for a relaxed atmosphere, and the residents, Lynn Thompson, Chris Lock and Ian Tupling, would like to say a big thank you to the small band of regulars who supported and encouraged the club along.

A decision was made to donate the residue of funds from the club's account to the supply of basic instruments and books for teaching music to children with learning difficulties.

Apologies to anyone who visited the Ship Inn during September/October/November, only to find that the club no longer existed. The decision to close was taken after the closing date for inclusion in the last North West Federation Magazine.

Lynn Thompson, Chris Lock & Ian Tupling

BLACKBURN CHANGE

Blackburn Folk Club have a new telephone number (but **not** a new organiser); tel: 0254 773086

ARNSIDE HOMELESS!

Frank Lewis from Carnforth has written to tell us that Arnside Folk club will be deprived of its room at the Fighting Cocks for the first three months of 1995. The club will therefore be closed during January, February & March.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Most of these items should have been in the clubs section, but were unfortunately omitted. We will correct the list of clubs next issue.*

Whilst we continue to enjoy English Folk Dancing, we have also been American Square Dancing for the last four years and would like to tell you something about the fun and friendship of square dancing and, hopefully, encourage some of you to give it a try.

In Modern American Square Dancing you learn a large number of individual movements, each with its own distinctive name like Cloverleaf, Ocean Wave and Spin the Top. The caller then strings these together in his chosen sequence and the dancers follow his commands, without always knowing what is next - unlike English Folk Dancing where you are able to memorise a dance, such as Newcastle. There are 49 different moves to learn at basic level, many familiar to English Folk Dancers, and a further 18 to Mainstream, a total of 67.

At this level you graduate and receive a club badge, which entitles you to dance at any Club dancing Mainstream level. American Square Dancing is always called in English and the moves are always the same worldwide.

There is World Directory listing all the Clubs. Some people are content to stay at Mainstream Level, but most enjoy learning another 30 moves to become a Plus dancer. If you enjoy a challenge you can then learn further moves to become an A1 dancer and then A2, but no-one is pressured into moving to a higher level.

Square dance campouts are organised, and square dance holidays in England and abroad, are very enjoyable as you soon make friends with other people whilst dancing. Part of the fun of square dancing is to see everybody in their lovely outfits, co-ordinated with their partners, and it is hard to put into words the terrific atmosphere at a square dance with one of the top callers.

At the Preston Club we have a different caller on each Monday of the month; one of them actually drives all the way from Sheffield to call for us. Unfortunately there are only three clubs in Lancashire, at Preston, Fleetwood and Morecambe. We travelled to Fleetwood to learn, as that was then the only club, and are certainly glad that we made the effort.

There's a possibility of starting a new beginners class. Give me a ring on Preston 724412 if you would like further details.

Vivienne and Bob Hayes

Crafts & Customs from the North-West

No. 4: Rushcarts And Rushbearing

In the fourth of our occasional series, Roy Smith looks at Rushcarts & Rush bearing:

Mention Rushbearing to Joe and Josephine Public and they often think of the rather "twee", Ruskin-esque affairs held at such places as Grasmere and Ambleside. However, there is another side to the story.

Rushes have been used as a floor covering for many centuries and it was the custom, at a certain time of year, to strew a fresh supply on the earthen floors of churches. There are references to Rushcarts from at least the seventeenth century onwards, and with the coming of the Industrial Revolution - the annual wakes often became the time for rushbearing.

Here in the North West a special festival surrounding this custom grew up, and special rushcarts pulled by teams of men or horses (or sometimes both) were used. In many instances - though by no means all - a team of Morris dancers would accompany the cart. Great rivalry grew up between the builders and supporters of different carts, and when two or more of them came together brawling was a fairly common occurrence! This resulted in much antagonism towards the rushbearers.

As churches became "posh", and the earthen floors were replaced by stone flags or wooden boards, the need for fresh rushes each year died out. In many areas this seems to have been around the middle of the nineteenth century. With the need gone, the annual festival often died too - although significant events of local and national importance were often celebrated with the reappearance of a rushcart. The last such event was probably in 1919, to mark the end of the Great War.

To complement the fourth Saddleworth Festival of Arts in 1971, a rushcart was built - but using a four wheeled cart as opposed to the traditional two wheeled variety. In the early 1970's a Morris team grew out of a folk song club at Uppermill, and they took it upon themselves to keep the custom alive - the first one appearing in 1975, and known as the Uppermill or 'Longwood Thump' cart.

In the following year they invited a number of other teams to share in the event, including Garstang, Leyland and Thelwall, and thus the pattern was set. In 1977 - the year of the Queen's Silver Jubilee - carts appeared at Sowerby Bridge and at Whitworth (which is a heather cart, actually). Others to follow were Gorton (1980), Rochdale (1986), and Shaw &

Crompton (1992). There were hopes to revive one at Didsbury in 1989 but that didn't seem to come about.

There's no doubt that a rushcart generated an air of excitement, both for those taking part and those watching. If you're not a member of a team invited to one of the events, then you can still share in the magic by simply being there! If you can't find the dates in any published information, then pick up the phone to check. In order of occurrence, Shaw & Crompton is first - around the fourth weekend in July; check with Beryl Cosgrove (0706 846475). Then comes Rochdale - usually the second weekend in August; Wendy Binns (0706 31204) is the contact there. Saddleworth is traditionally fixed as being the third Saturday and Sunday after 5th August - but do please check with Richard Hankinson (0457 834871). The first weekend in September is the turn of Sowerby Bridge - Fred Knights (0422 831896) should be able to help you there - and Whitworth may or may not be that same first September weekend! That's because it is held on the Friday evening nearest 7th September, so check with Alan Prest (0706 42262). Finally there's Gorton on the second weekend in September, and the contact there is Roger Newton (061 448 1619).

To see one of these two-wheeled carts piled with rushes perhaps fifteen feet, sometimes with a rider atop, and being hauled up hill and down is some sight. If you haven't had the experience, now's the time to make your resolution to visit one! The dancing and the music can be great fun too, and some events, such as Saddleworth, have a whole host of peripheral activities going on.

Roy Smith

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

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

LIVE REVIEWS

CAPERCAILLIE

LIVERPOOL IRISH CENTRE 6TH OCTOBER 1994

Several of my current favourite bands are Scottish - Ceolbeg, Wolfstone, Runrig, Capercaillie - and I am clearly not alone. Liverpool Irish Centre was full for Capercaillie's October gig. Any more in the audience and the big room would have been uncomfortably packed. Capercaillie were very enthusiastically received by the audience, and all those people had a



great evening. Following an unusually good support act (The Dear Janes), Capercaillie were on fine form, treating us to one long set full of modern folk rock at its finest. They gave us a very broad mix of material, some songs from the bands recent release Capercaillie, some earlier. At their most ethereal they were strikingly reminiscent of Clannad, but with plenty of their own folk rock material a la Wolfstone. They were extremely disciplined, but in no way too controlled, still able to go for it and to knock out convincing sets of tunes in Four Men & a Dog souped up trad style, aided by a true piano accordion/keyboard wizard. The songs were beautifully sung, and the playing throughout the entire set was so good that it was hard to tell the sequenced material from the live. The sound was good though not over loud; indeed, as I was standing right at the front and could still hear myself talk, it was probably even a little quiet at the back of the room.

As good a seven quid as I ever spent. Capercaillie and the bands earlier albums, including Sidewalk, Delirium, Crosswinds and Secret People are available from all good record shops, including Auld Triangle Music at Albert Dock Liverpool.

Phil Page

ODDMENTS

A STEP BACK IN TIME TO DANCING YEARS

An Ormskirk man opened a door into the past when he discovered an old copy of the Advertiser stuffed in the frame of his porch.

The Thursday afternoon edition of October 31st 1929, catalogues the success of Aughton Street Boy's School and their teacher, Mr George Harrison, from Altys Lane, who has recently been featured in the Advertiser for his dancing prowess.

"Although Morris dancing has been taught at the Aughton Street Boys School for a year only, a team which was taken to the Folk Dance Festival in Liverpool on Saturday was successful in gaining a proficiency certificate.

The boys presented so smart an appearance and danced so well together that they obtained 78 marks out of 100.

The training of the team has been in the capable hands of Mr George E Harrison who is member of the Preston Team, which obtained a distinction certificate in the senior divisions."

The advertising of the year is just as illuminating as the editorial, with the exclusive Barrel Back overcoat on sale for 50/- or the Columbia Radio in its polished oak cabinet for a bargain £10/10/-.

Taken from The Ormskirk Advertiser, July 22nd, 1993.

M McFarlane

(Coutesy Lancashire Wakes)

Naturist Folk Camp

One minute you're working hard at a dance and the next you're skinny-dipping in a lovely cool pool up in the mountains - Magic! All this and more, with a mixture of folk dance workshops, band sessions, singing and ceilidhs, held at a naturist campsite high up in the French Pyrenees from 15th to 23rd August 1995. Other attractions include mountain walks, a ceilidh in the local village, barbecues, good food and wine and convivial company! All in all a superb holiday. For more details call Huw and Anne on 01962 854775.

FESTIVAL REVIEWS

COOMBE ABBEY PARK FOLK FESTIVAL, COVENTRY

9 - 11 SEPTEMBER 1994

Tom Paxton and Pentangle headlined this, the first CAP Festival, with admirable support from Harvey Andrews, The Vin Garbutt Band, The High Level Ranters and Oige, amongst others. I was particularly keen to see Tom Paxton on his only UK visit 8this year, and to see Pentangle for the first time (I'm just too young to remember them the first time around!).

Tom Paxton was a delight as ever, with his relaxed style, and hearing him three times on the Saturday (in a song writers' workshop and two concert appearances) didn't diminish his appeal.

As for Pentangle - well, three songs were more than enough. I have spoken with older folkies since, who assure me that this wasn't the "real" Pentangle. Bert Jansch and Jacqui McShee, the originals, were joined by three other musicians and I came away with the feeling that (a) they weren't sufficiently rehearsed as a band and (b) they were relying on volume to cover this up.

A number of occurrences during the weekend served to demonstrate the diversity and quality of performers:

On Saturday morning at the song writers' workshop Colin Pitts was singing and playing one of his own (excellent) compositions accompanied by Tom Paxton's skilful guitar work.

Throughout the weekend Benny Graham delighted with his fund of industrial (and

other) songs - why don't we see him more often? On Saturday afternoon he turned a song spot into a short history of NE industry which educated and enthralled all of us - and he sang some wonderful songs in the process.

The third highlight of the weekend, for me, was the spectacle of the New Bushbury Mountain Daredevils joining Tom Paxton on

centre stage for a spirited rendition on "Bottle of Wine" - a song Tom first recorded probably before they were born!

Finally on Sunday afternoon Oige gave a brilliant performance in the main event tent and then had to rush off home to Dungiven - and school! They demonstrated admirably that youth in folk has a place on the main stage, not relegated to youth events which can end up attended only by family and friends.

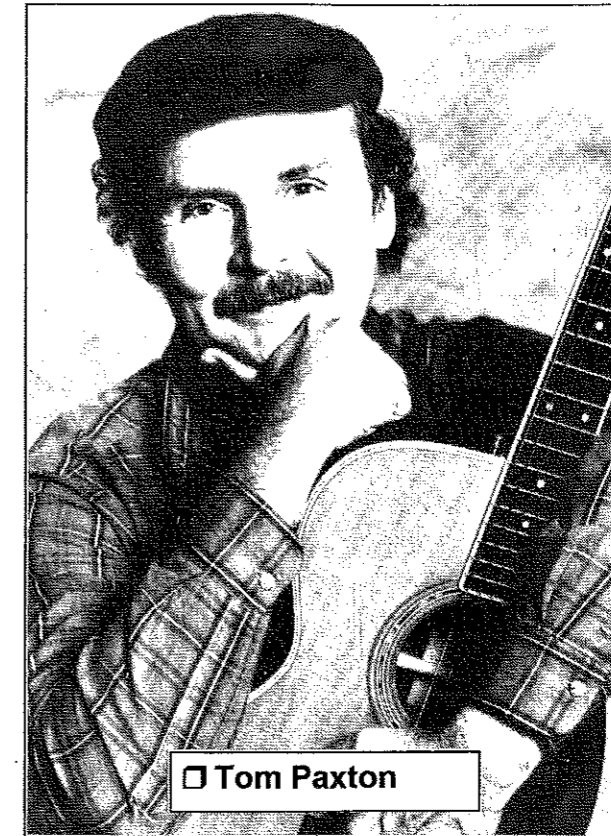
Northern artists (and adopted northerners) were well represented. Apart from those already mentioned there were Geoff Higginbottom, Dave Summers, Jon

Harvison, Derek Gifford and finally, Mark Krinjulac of the blues duo, Final Fling.

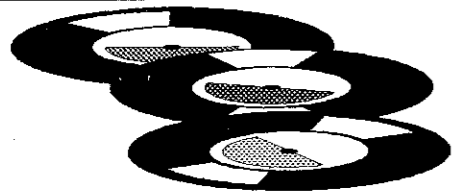
If I have a quibble (or two) I would bemoan the dearth of vegetarian food on site, and the cunning way the real ale tent was unadvertised and tucked away in a corner, but otherwise the site was well laid out, stewards and security staff were very helpful. It has the makings of a great festival.

Next year's CAP Festival is scheduled for 8-10 September - don't miss out.

Janet Hale



□ Tom Paxton



RECORD REVIEWS

THE WHISKY PRIESTS - "When the Wind Blows, Billy Boy"

Whippet Records. WPTCD S9. 5 Tracks

TOM HALL - "Watering the Spirits"

Sore Head Music. 0604 713870

CYRIL TAWNEY - "Down the Hatch"

Neptune NGL 101 CD

So me and my mate Dave and his son Steve, home from college, decided to make a night of it. Three different acts in town in three different pubs sounded like a good crawl to me. Steve said "The Whisky Priests" were on in what used to be The Black Lion, but is now a themed Bierkeller, so we said "Okay".

Blimey music to spit lager by!

Gary Miller's the lead singer and songwriter and he sounded like a sheep on speed in a shouting contest. There were words in there somewhere I swear it, but...well, you know, what with everybody po-going up and down and all the instruments thrashing away ten to the dozen it wasn't quite me and Dave's thing. Steve loved it though and said would we mind if he stayed...No, we said...great...enjoy we said...Right on for the North East...we said...music Gazza and Sheryl would love...night Steve!

Well, I took my ear plugs out and we headed off to hear Tom Hall a British singer/songwriter at what used to be "The Cricketers Arms" but is now a themed Paris Bistro, all Left Bank, cobwebs and nets and thick melted candles.

"Tom Hall" said Dave "I've seen him in the Celebrated Ratcliffe Stout Band". So we ordered a Calvados each and sat down. Now I wasn't too sure at first, but Tom Hall grew on me. He sang in the traditional pissed style of Dean Martin, and the band he had were great, lovely arrangements by Mark Griffiths, but I couldn't quite see where he was going at first until he sang "Somebody's coming to Tea" and then I knew...Dean Martin meets Tom Waits. Lovely song, all about Adolf and the Mitford sisters. Well, you don't hear that everyday!

Tom Hall's a bit of a misfit manic depressive. I don't think he likes England too much, or the times we're living in, but then who does? It got a bit hairy when his mate Alan Moore got up and recited a thing called "Madame October", all about France and Gauloises

and Piaf and goodness knows what, in a flat Midlands accent, but the crowd seemed to enjoy it. As Dave said "I bet they all love Leonard Cohen and Film Noir and read The Guardian. Well, he is a bit opinionated if Dave.

We left there in the interval and wandered down to "The George and Dragon" last of the real ale English pubs. No machines, no juke box, no crap. Cyril Tawney was on. As creamy as best bitter, and doing a whole evening of songs about booze.

Well, we ordered up a couple of pints of Old Peculiar and joined in the chorus. I like Cyril. He sang a lot of songs! 23 Actually! Not all written by himself; some trad others by Richard Thompson, Alex Glasgow, Miles Wooton etc, and all to his old nylon strung guitar or unaccompanied. Smashing night. Safe, English, and civilised, no problems....but I left Dave towards the end of the night and sneaked off back to see Tom Hall 'cause I like Piaf and Film Noir...can't stand Leonard Cohen or The Guardian though!

Harvey Andrews

BRIAN PETERS - "Squeezing out Sparks"

PUG CD001

I was surprised to see that this latest CD by Brian was not on the Fellside label. I was also intrigued to see that it had a similar title to one of my particular favourites, Feeling The Squeeze, by Chris Harvey (released 1993).

There is no disputing that Brian is a very fine exponent of the melodeon and anglo concertina. However, having listened to the CD a few times my general impression is that it sounded somewhat lack-lustre; it seemed to be missing a certain something - perhaps the guiding hand of Paul Adams. Nevertheless there were two tracks which, for me, stood out from the rest: "Daddy's Polka/Viva el West Side" and "Starry Night in Shetland/Fritz Schick's Waltz".

To sum up, although this CD undoubtedly demonstrates Brian's talent for the squeeze box, the choice of material, presentation and production left something to be desired and there was definitely room for improvement. Having said that, personal impressions are one thing, but the real litmus test comes with the buying public. Perhaps they will think differently to me!

Martin Whittell

CATRIONA MACDONALD and IAN LOWTHIAN - "Opus Blue"

Acoustic Radio ARAD CD103

Catriona MacDonald is a Shetland fiddler and past winner of Radio Two's Young Tradition Award. She has joined together with accordionist Ian Lowthian to produce this album, which consists of traditional tunes and tunes written in the traditional style. There is support from double bass on most tracks and a little percussion and piano on others. Although the playing is excellent some of the tracks seem a bit tame, this may be just the studio environment.

This to my knowledge is their first album and they are both quite young, so they have plenty of time to get that special ingredient that is needed in the studio onto an album.

Andy Spragg

JUNE TABOR - "Against the Streams"

Cooking Vinyl PO Box 1845, London W10 4BT
COOK CD 071

The particular amongst us probably wouldn't see this as folk but it is nevertheless a very pleasant collection including traditional pieces.

The accompaniments are imaginative; with not a guitar in sight it is Huw Warren's piano and Andy Cuttings accordion which provide the backbone of sound behind Tabor's voice (I have particular fondness for the sound of piano), lifted by violin, clarinet, sax and double bass. In all the tracks the accompaniments compliment the songs beautifully.

Contemporary pieces include songs written by Elvis Costello and Richard Thompson which if I'm being honest do nothing for me, but maybe they would for you. "Shameless Love" (Eric Taylor), "The Irish Girl" (Peter Bond) and "He Fades Away" (Alistair Hulett) are captivating, each in its own way. You'll also find songs from the pen of Les Barker, Ian Telfer and Bill Caddick along with a poem by Jane Yolen spoken to music (which I find a little self indulgent).

For me her real skill shines in the treatment given to traditional material. "False, False" collected from a traveller by MacColl and Seeger is stunning and the lilting in "Apples and Potatoes is impressively authen-

tic, combined with 2 verses again collected from travellers it makes an intriguing piece.

Overall a combination of well chosen songs, Tabor's distinctive voice and original approach to accompaniments make this both enjoyable and interesting; a CD I would happily buy myself, what better recommendation can I give!

Jenny Shotliff

ROY WILCOCK & BRIDGET GUEST - "Call and Answer"

Soundmaster 006

One glance through the list of titles on this cassette immediately suggests a wide choice of songs including some of the finest compositions of recent times both in and out of the folk world. The first track, Nanci Griffith's "I Would Change My Life" also suggests carefully rehearsed and thought out arrangements and a very professional production. In other words you

know that this cassette is going to make for good listening.

But who are Roy Wilcock and Bridget Guest? Well, unfortunately I am unable to enlighten one and all other than to say that they are based in West Yorkshire. I also know from listening to this album that Roy has a clear and easy to listen to voice, sometimes reminiscent tonally of Roy Bailey but without the expression, and that Bridget's voice is also nicely balanced and tonally pleasing and that they compliment one another very well, especially when harmonising. The guitar work and other, mainly synthesised accompaniments are also well performed.

I also know that their choice of songs is truly eclectic from the fine unac-

companied rendition of Dave Goulder's "January Man" and the much less well performed "Pull Down Lads" (John Tams) through to an excellent arrangement of Lennon and McCartney's "You Say You Will Love Me".

Other classics include Bruce Phillips "All Used Up", and Alan Taylors "Roll on the Day". The title track is one of Phil Colclough's songs.

The 36 minutes worth of songs are well sung and presented and the sleeve notes are clear in terms of songs and composers (although songs 3 and 4 are transposed on side two's list) but somewhat understated in terms of the artistes.



□ June Tabor

There is an interesting sign of the times note on the cover which says "We would ask you please DO NOT COPY THIS TAPE". Ask your friends to buy an original." Too bloody right! However, getting hold of an original may be difficult as only a phone number is given on the insert, viz 0924 262453 and each time I've tried it to elicit more information all I've got through to is an answerphone!

Derek Gifford

RICHARD GRAINGER - "Thunderwood"

Folksound(Roots Records) FSCD 27

This is Richard's fourth album and the songs are unmistakably Grainger, with the customary flavour of the North East, particularly Whitby, which hold a continuing fascination for him. It's definitely not a CD to play as background music. It has to be listened to in order to let the rich tapestry of words reveal itself. Richard is articulate and his lyrics "unclipped" if there is such a word. The diction on every song is superbly clear. He is aided and abetted by Chris Parkinson on melodeons, keyboard and harmonica who is there in the right places at the right volume so to speak. I love the haunting harmonica on the "Streets of Kings Cross".

I started by highlighting Richards love of Whitby and this is reflected in songs such as Old Whitby Town, The Ghost of Old Solem and the Grove Fishermen. But don't be misled into thinking that's all there is. There are strong social comment songs and as well as Richards own songs he draws upon the talents of Graham Miles for the foxhunting song, Rod Felton for The Mermaid and upon the tradition for Polly on the Shore. The CD is interspersed with some fine tunes from Richard and Chris. I particularly enjoyed the well balanced blend of melodeon and guitar on the contrasting partnership of Glasgow Wedding Far From Home.

The outstanding track for me is a love song "Mulgrave to Eskside". It is evocative and melodic. The CD takes its title from the final track "Thunderwood". Although it features some fine melodeon playing from Chris I'm afraid that I found the tune somewhat nondescript. I suppose I was looking forward to something special as the name implies. This of course is just me and certainly does not detract from the rest of what is a quality CD.

Kath Holden

GILLIE NICHOLS - "Spirit Talk"

SPIN CD152

This is Gillie Nichols' first release, a singer/songwriter of whom I know little apart from what I gleaned from the promotional sheet which came with the CD. I did scan the festival lists and a few magazines, even made some enquiries, all without success.

Inspired, apparently by the 70's folk group Dando Shaft, it was one of the founder members of this group, Kevin Dempsey (also of Whippersnapper fame) who discovered her talent and persuaded her to record some of her songs which led to the making of this album.

Gillie is joined on the CD by a host of musicians including Kevin Dempsey and Chris Leslie to name but two!

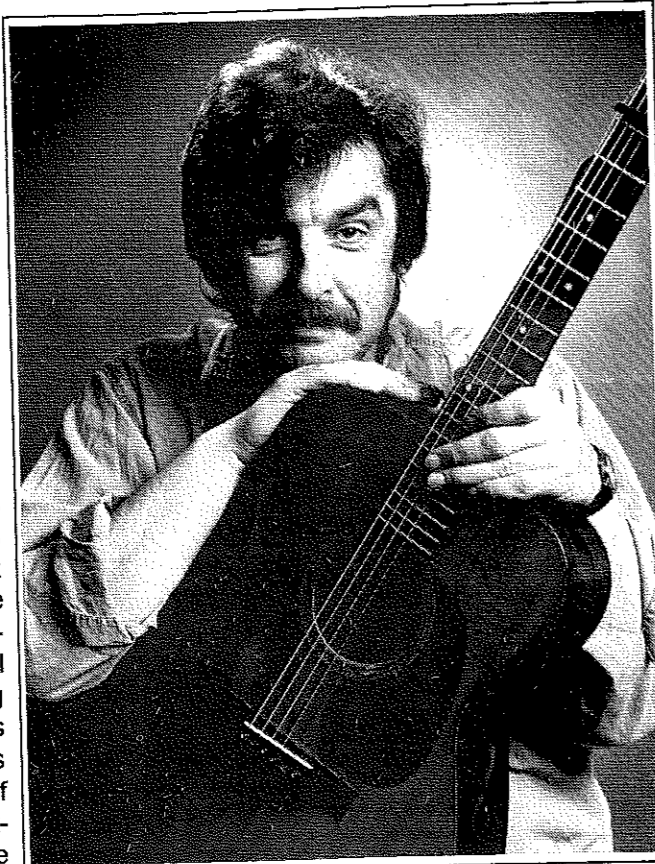
The first track "The Idle Whiles" starts off with some promise, an attractive song from which the CD gets

its title, with a very fitting accompaniment dominated by the superb guitar playing of Mr Dempsey. However, I found difficulty in deciphering some of the phrases, and had to refer to the words printed on the CD cover. The second track "Song for Sonia" was, for me, spoilt by slurred notes, massive changes in voice characteristics, and not helped by somewhat obscure lyrics.

Unfortunately it did not get any better. Whilst I cannot fault the musicians, the accompaniments are some of the best I've heard, I was totally lost on the lyrics, and her voice is unconvincing to say the least. Maybe I'm missing

something, not having been weaned onto music in the 70's by Dando Shaft. Or maybe its just a ploy for a band of first rate musicians to wallow in a first rate ego trip. Out there in the cosmos of musical taste someone may enjoy this album, but definitely not me. It might be worth buying just to stack on your random CD player if only to impress friends with your truly eclectic taste in "Folk" music.

Eddie & Ann Green



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THE LAKEMAN BROTHERS - "3-Piece Suite"

CRM CD-01

This is the first recording from the three Lakeman brothers, being Seth (17) violin, Sam (18) piano, keyboards, percussion, and Sean (20) guitar, mandolin, bass. They are joined by the singing of Kathryn Roberts, the fine button accordion playing of Luke Danniels, Matt Butcher on melodeon and Rick Harris on drums.

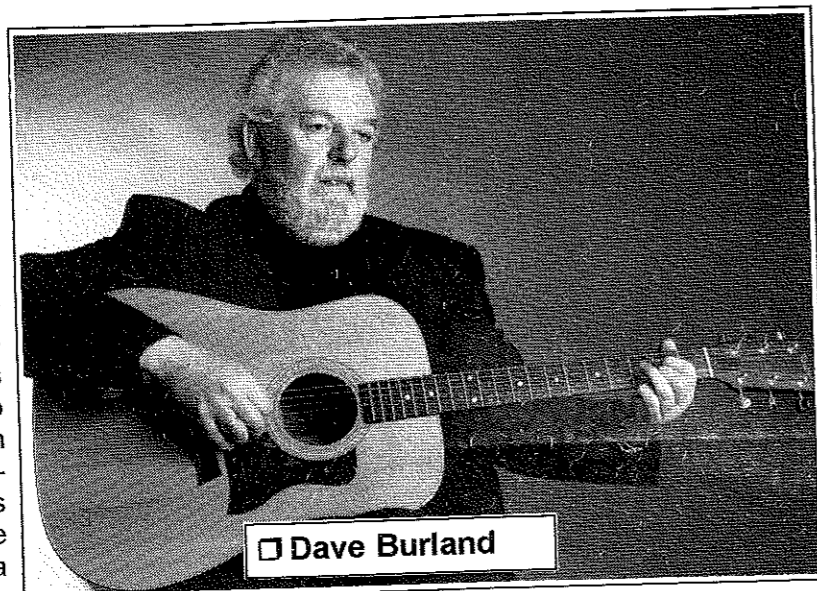
That's the line up, now for the review - the CD is a real treat. All too often a set of musicians like these churn out an endless set of jigs and reels, not these. The first track, two tunes written by Seth, introduces the trio as if to say "This is us, now hear the rest" - and you should. Most of the tunes are their own compositions, the guitar of Sean (at times bordering on jazz - but unobtrusively) carried the trio through intricate twists and turns as each piece forms a set of phrases bringing out their remarkable talents to the full. Kathryn Roberts adds her dusky voice to two tracks, a version of the "Seven Gypsies" and Billy Joel's "And so it goes", the brothers providing a sensitive and flowing accompaniment to each.

I particularly liked a set of French tunes, where Seth takes the lead with a flair which is downright uncanny for someone so young, and "Emonan" a lilting piece in waltz time which is reminiscent of chamber music, but with a difference!

There are ten tracks on the CD - the guest musicians filling in on only four of these - the last track only featuring Rick on drums - a tongue in cheek piece called "Cahoots", written by Sean, which appears to mirror the first track but is really saying "now hear everything" starting off from a simple guitar riff through to keyboard, synth and drums!!

A well engineered recording which is a credit to the trio and, for those of you who may wish to see them live, a WYHIWYG, sorry about the jargon - "what you hear is what you get", and you will not be disappointed.

Eddie & Ann Green



□ Dave Burland

DAVE BURLAND - "Benchmark"

Fat Cat Records FAT CD 004

After Dave's previous couple of albums where he used a fair amount of backing this is a very bare, stark album. With the exception of 2 songs the other 12 are traditional English or American songs.

The sleeve notes start with a dictionary definition, Benchmark: a criterion, standard, reference point. On the whole this recording is exactly what it says, a standard, a reference point, perhaps one by which you can judge others. If a newcomer came to me and asked about singing in folk clubs and the style and material they should use, I'd just give them a copy of Benchmark.

Dave's relaxed approach reminds me of the latter-day crooners, smooth; effortless and a joy to listen to.

Listen to Dave's phrasing, just when you think he's not going to fit the line to the melody, he alters the emphasis and gives it the Burland style. I've long been an admirer of Dave's guitar work. Watch him it looks easy. Try it, it's not. It's not what he puts into the tune, it's what he leaves out that matters. Some of the tracks feature Roger Wil-

son on fiddle and guitar.

The CD starts with 2 tracks linked together: "The Lancashire Lads" and "Going for a soldier Jenny", originally reworked by the group Halliard (Nic Jones was a member). The high spots on the CD for me are "The Blacksmith" a beautiful interpretation; "The Rambling Sailor", brilliant guitar work and "The Man from Kyandra", which Dave neatly dovetails with "It's all over now", pure inspiration.

The only track really I could find fault with is "Hot Asphalt", which I'm sure is slightly out of tune at the beginning.

Despite this, this is an excellent product. I suppose it's not so much the choice of songs that matters as how they've been done. To use a phrase from Dave himself, buy this it's "smart as a carrot".

Ken Howard

ASHLEY HUTCHINGS SON OF MORRIS ON

EMI/Harvest

This is a welcome re-release on CD of the legendary British folk-rock hero Ashley Hutchings and his Albion Band, together with the (then) newly formed Albion Morris Men and Martin Carthy.

The whole album I enjoyed immensely, some eighteen tracks making up the original album from 1976 plus two recorded this year as an added bonus.

From the first piece, "Winster Processional", one is immediately steeped in the evangelical zeal of Hutchings' quest for the authentic. This, together with snippets of dialogue from John Tams, songs from Shirley Collins, Carthy's fine guitar playing, the sound of bells and clashing sticks, fine musicians - Simon Nichol (guitar), Michael Gregory (drums), John Watcham (concertina), Phil Pickett (bagpipes, recorders), John Tams (vocals, concertina, melodeon), and the omnipresent bass of Ashley Hutchings, makes the album a must for anyone's collection.

The last two tracks "Y'Acre of Land" and "Cotswold Tune" complement the original album well, and include some of the newer musicians such as Rick Sanders on violin.

It would be difficult to pick out any one piece above the rest - the whole compilation stands alone as a fitting tribute to the English Morris tradition.

Eddie & Ann Green

LOVE, DEATH AND THE LADY - SHIRLEY AND DOLLY COLLINS

EMI/Harvest 829860

Being but a youth I don't really remember Shirley and Dolly Collins. This is a re-release, now in CD form, of an album first released in 1970. I suppose it's aimed at 2 markets. Firstly the person who bought this in vinyl format all those years ago and now has a copy that is covered in scratches and coffee and unplayable. Secondly, listeners who are keen to listen to and learn traditional material.

Having done some research, I've found that this was considered a classic of its time. Listening to it, you can tell they must have influenced a lot of artists at that time and were leaders of the folk revival.

On a personal note, I found the style of singing and the arrangements very dated. The CD includes standards such as "Polly on the Shore", "The Outlandish Knight" and the "Plains of Waterloo". They are backed by harpsichord, rebec, recorders, piano, organ, concertina and percussion. Borrow it and have a listen.

Ken Howard

POPELUC -

"Maramures Et Cetera"

Steel Carpet Music, 190 Burton Road, Derby, DE11TQ: 0332 346399

"Do you fancy reviewing this tape, looks like Breton Music" said Mr Editor. Well this is a tape of Romanian Music from one of this year's semi-finalists in the young tradition award, Lucy Castle, with her dad Pete Castle and Ioan Pop. Having listened to the radio program I can also tell you that Lucy has studied the traditions and travelled to develop authenticity.

Some tracks are very interesting but to my unaccustomed ear others are just too much. The inclusion of Mrs McLeods and the Masons Apron are understandable as a contrast but did the group no favours, this is not what they're good at.

An English translation of "The Handsome Girl I Fancy" was quite frankly twee as were the words of "Shepherd, Oh Shepherd" though at least this had an interesting tune.

Four tracks stood out from the rest of the tape. Nonesuch, a Playford tune, is delightful played in this style and fits well with the De Baut which follows it, a de baut being music for drinking or listening to. A song followed by a Barbatesc, a de baut from Maramures and "Mens Dances From Cluj Country" were also very enjoyable, the latter having an almost ragtime feel in places.

Not a bad tape but I have to say I think it's one for the enthusiast.

Jenny Shotliff

RICHARD ZYCA

"Are you for real?"

Cloud 20002

This three track single is truly dreadful. Awful songs badly sung, published by Cloud Cuckoo-land Music. An artist should never make himself a hostage to fortune with names like that!

Some of the best writing at the moment is happening in the New Country field and I can't wait for the British to soak it up and re-export it to America as we did with Rock and Roll in the sixties.

However Richard Zyca is not it. Save your pennies and buy the new Mary Chapin Carpenter CD. It's bound to be brilliant.

Harvey Andrews

**THE WHISKY PRIESTS -
"The Power And The Glory "**

Whippet Records WPT C8

This is 53 minutes of the most honest, earthy, raucous and emotional poetry about industry and war, and those exploited by industry and war.

Gary Miller is the voice of the Whisky Priests, both as the writer of most of their material and the embodiment of their vision, and as the harsh and distinctive lead vocalist for the band.

I have nearly worn this cassette out through non-stop playing in the car, and I still can't understand how songs which are so bleak in their subject matter can also be so uplifting - perhaps it's the generally energetic treatment of the material by the Whisky Priests.

My particular favourites (although I would defy anyone to find a poor track on this cassette) are "Three Rivers" which laments the passing of the steel, coal and shipbuilding industries and the exploitation and treatment of the workers in these industries (exceptionally, lyrics by Mick Tyas), "Brandon, Browney and Boyne" featuring Alistair Anderson on northumbrian pipes, Mike McGrother on fiddle, and members of Bearpark and Esh Colliery Band providing evocative brass "Like my past, the past's pulled down", and "Pitman Tom"



□ The Whisky Priests

about songwriter and balladeer Tommy Armstrong, well known to north easterners and industrial folklorists. The cassette also features guest artist Fred Purser on lap-steel and electric guitar.

The Whisky Priests are from Durham, an area affected particularly badly by the decimation of traditional industries, and this cassette reflects both this and the exploitation of civilian and service personnel in industrial and armed conflict; this is not a recording for the conservative.

Janet Hale

**ANAO ATAO -
"Esoteric Stones"**

Kesson KES CD 001

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My attention was kept throughout the twelve tracks wondering what the next one held in store. It was just a wonderful album from start to finish. I wish all traditionally based instrumental albums had such magic and inspiration as this one.

For further information contact Ti Anao, Withiel, Bodmin, Cornwall, PL30 5NN

Andy Spragg

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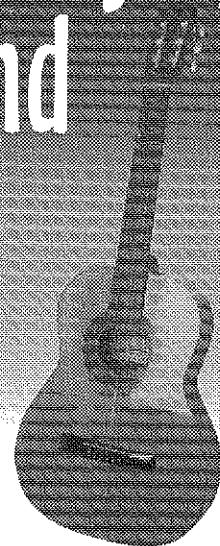
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