

# FOLK *North West*

Spring 1996

80p



**Kathryn Tickell talks to  
The HUDSON SWAN BAND**

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Andrews reviews  
and reviewed***

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**Carrying It On 7!  
Maghull Day of  
Folk**

**plus:**

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CALENDAR**

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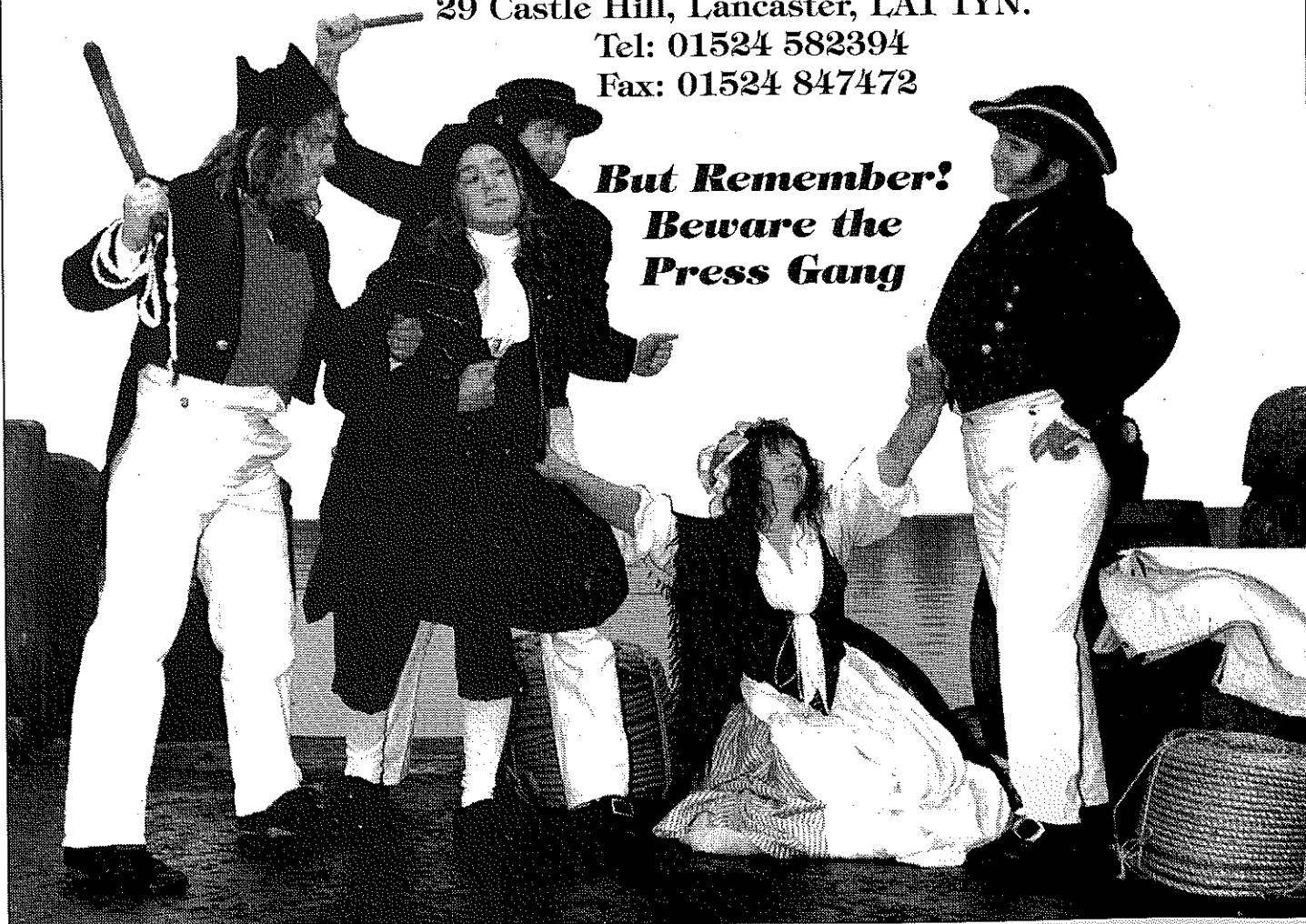
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#### Editorial Address:

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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

## Chairman's Ramblings

**WELCOME** to another issue of **Folk North-West**.

A lot of people have been asking "When will the merger with BUZZ and SCANS take place?". The answer is that we don't know yet. There is a lot of consultation to take place before everything can be finally resolved, so I can't say when it will take place. Most of the feedback was positive, although there are reservations, especially in respect of clubs being members of the Federation to be included in the magazine. BUZZ and SCANS have already agreed to merge and this will take place in their summer issue. All I can say is "Watch this space!"

In this issue, Kathryn Tickell is in conversation with the new group The Hudson Swan Band (Hudson Swan himself is ex-Tannahill Weavers). Jenny Shottliff supplies her usual interesting and informative Youthquake on page 10, while we also review the last Youth Concert "Carrying It On 7".

In record reviews (of which there are a lot this time), Harvey Andrews is both reviewer and reviewed with the release of his new album. There is of course a comprehensive club calendar, and check carefully in Diary Chat, as there are several well-known clubs on the move.

That's all for now, and we will see you all as usual at the end of May with hopefully some news on the merger front

*Migel Firth*

Editor

OUR NEXT ISSUE COVERS  
JUNE 1996 TO AUGUST 1996  
THE CLOSING DATE FOR ALL  
SUBMISSIONS IS APRIL 20th,  
NOTHING WILL BE ACCEPTED  
AFTER THIS DATE

### Editorial Address:

118, Bolton Road,  
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Wigan  
WN2 1XF

Telephone : 01942 833293

A belated "Happy New Year" to one and all! Missed the last edition due to a bit of ill health, which has so far, shown no sign of improvement. Thanks to all those who have sent "Get Well" messages - They are much appreciated.

So - Anyone feeling enthusiastic about folk music's market penetration in 1996?? It's a bit odd that these last few years have seen a proliferation of successful festivals while the poor old clubs continue to cling on by the skin of their teeth. Why should that be? Any ideas - send them to our Editor- The amazing Mr Firth.

Are artists fees getting a bit silly? We've just been quoted £500 for a solo artist for a club event. How is one supposed to afford that? Then there's the two that did one of our local clubs for £150, yet quoted me £450 to do the same 2 x 40 minute spots at our Day of Music in November this year. Neither got booked!!!

If you've any examples of similar experiences why not drop "Folk North West" a line and share them with us all!!

I exempt our local "Semi-Pro" acts from any criticism as I've always found them flexible and realistic in price negotiations but we do seem to be breeding a tribe of "National Act" carpet baggers.

Why is "folk" so expensive compared to other forms of music locally. Each night the Liverpool Echo has strings of pubs with live music on offer - free to go in.

Over the years wearing other hats, I've had occasion to book this type of act, via agents as a rule. You can book a say 5 Piece Country or "Pop" act who can all play well, sing harmonies, have good instruments and arrive with their own, multi thousand P.A. system, and charge about £150 or less.

Strange isn't it??

Good Luck for 1996. Take a friend with you next time you visit a club!

Dave Day



## NewsReel

*Latest News from around the region and further afield*

Welcome to the Spring NewsReel. Loads to get through this issue, so I propose to kick off without my usual ramble. In no particular order, here goes.....

First off, some news of dance events in our area. Interruption to gas supplies! The popular London-based dance band **Gas Mark 5** are soon to be no more, but are, however, honouring all their existing bookings. Your last chance to dance to them in the North-West will be at the Wiggin Ceilidh, Ince Public Hall on the 8th March. You'd better act quickly if you want tickets. (01942) 816569

The **New Friezland Barn Dances** are taking place each month at Friezland Church Hall, Greenfield, Oldham. Resident musicians are The Band of the Rising Sun who plan to have a different caller for each dance. On Friday, 22nd March the caller will be Pete Coe and admission is £4.50. If you want to know more speak to Linda Cullen on (01457) 871600.

Monthly ceilidhs are also taking place at the **St Michael and St John Social Centre**, Lowergate, Clitheroe. Most dances feature Shake-a-Leg, but with a variety of callers and admission is a very reasonable £3.00/3.50. For more details speak to Phil on (01254) 397623.

The **Bothy Ceilidhs** seem to go from strength to strength, with some excellent dances being held at the St John's Ambulance Hall, Wright Street, Southport. On Friday, 26th April you can dance to the Old Triumph Band with caller Sue Spencer and on Friday, 28th June it's Shake the Dice with Roger Newton. For ticket details speak to Roger Downing on (01704) 29118

**Magull Folk Club** are presenting a concert on Saturday, 16th March at Crosby Civic Hall. Artistes include Garva, Poltog, the George Ferguson Dancers and a special surprise. For ticket information ring (0151) 426 2846.

**Folkworks'** largest scale event to date will take place over the Bank Holiday weekend of May 3rd-6th, in both Newcastle and London. Called **Vocal Chords**, the weekend takes as its theme Harmony and Acapella song from around the world, and will present some of the most exciting performers in this field, both from the UK and internationally. The headline act is the superb black American song ensemble Sweet Honey in the Rock and other artistes include Voice Union with Sandra Kerr and Northern Harmony from Vermont.

Also from **Folkworks** comes the annual Spring Workout. An exciting day of workshops with an emphasis on step dance of various kinds, plus a range of instrumental workshops. Amongst those taking part are Ira Bernstein, Newcastle Cloggies, Alistair Anderson and David Oliver. The day will be brought to a close with a grand ceilidh with Zumzeaux and Martyn Harvey. You can speak to Folkworks on (0191) 222 1717.

The **Lancaster Maritime Festival** is set to take place over the Easter weekend (5th - 8th April). All the usual attractions including Sid Kipper, Damien Barber, Hughie Jones, Cyril Tawney, the Lancaster Pace Egg play, story telling, puppet shows, talks, walks and ships in bottles. For information ring (01524) 582394.

Some very interesting folk events are taking place at **Bury Met** over the next couple of months. Friday, 15th March there's a St Patrick's night double bill with Sin E and Nomos, two bands playing traditional Irish music (£7.00), Saturday, 6th April it's **Bury Folk Club's Easter Ceilidh with the Riot Band** (£3.50), Saturday, 13th April Andy Irvine is in concert (£6.00), and on Saturday, 27th April the very wonderful John Kirkpatrick Band (£6.50). Bury Met's Box Office is on (0161) 761 2216.

A central Manchester pub, the **Briton's Protection** on Great Bridgewater Street is holding Old Time Music Hall evenings on the first Tuesday of each month. The pub is a traditional Victorian hostelry apparently well-known for its excellent selection of whiskies and beers. I realise this isn't strictly a folk event, but I'm sure someone out there will be interested and so thought I'd give it a mention. If you want to know more phone (0161) 236 5895.

### A little bit of early festival news....

12th to 14th April sees the **National Folk Music Festival** taking place at the Sutton Bonington Campus, near Loughborough in Leicestershire. Lots of goodies at this one including Norma Waterson, Hugh Ripon, Johnny Handle, the McPeake Family and ubiquitous Fred Jordan. Weekend tickets are £29.00 before the 22nd March and the Box Office can be contacted on (01926) 415333.



The **Reddich Folk Festival** is taking place 28th to 30th June and the weekend will feature Isla St Clair, The Wilsons, Jez Lowe, Les Barker and many more. Apparently the guest list is still growing. Prices for weekend tickets are 23.00 until the 31st May and you can get more information on (01527) 576605.

I may have mentioned this last time, but seeing as I'm not sure I'll mention it now. After sixteen years of starting on the first weekend of August, the **Warwick Folk Festival** has been obliged to change dates for 1996. The reason - the World Bowls Championships are being held in nearby Leamington Spa for the first three weeks in August - and eighteen months in advance the hotels in the surrounding area (including Warwick) were booked to accommodate visiting teams from all over the globe. Time will tell if this date change will prove popular, but as always the festival has a strong line-up of acts including The Doonan Family Band, Cockersdale, Les Barker and Dave Burland to name but a few. New dates for the festival are July 26th to 28th and further information can be had by phoning (01203) 678738.

Sunday, 18th August sees the **15th Annual Hiring Fair** taking place as part of **Whitby Folk Week**. The Fair is a unique opportunity for aspiring acts on the folk scene to place themselves before a discerning audience in a professional setting. The Hiring Fair was first launched by Whitby Folk Week in 1982. It comes entirely free of charge and is part of a packed week of activities organised by Whitby Folk Week covering all aspects of folk music, dance and song. For full details of the Hiring Fair contact Mike Soar on (01757) 701915.

It's starting to get embarrassing, but this is the part of **NewsReel** where I normally give a mention to my favourite Morris side, **Horwich Prize Medal Morris Men**. Horwich will be hosting 'A Day for St George' on Saturday 20th April. A celebration of North-West Morris, the day will begin and end at the Toll Bar Inn and will consist of a procession through the town as well as dance displays at various pubs en route. A number of Morris sides from the North-West and beyond will be taking part and the day promises to be well up to its usual standard. For more information speak to Bob Bradley on (01204) 840949.

Well, that's about it for this time. To prevent further embarrassment on my part, could I say that I'd be more than happy to give a mention to any other Morris sides who would like to use **NewsReel** to publicise what they are up to.

See you in the Summer

Stephen Morris

#### EDITOR'S NOTE:

I'm grateful to **Henry Peacock** for the updated RTE Radio information in the next column. Please keep us up to date; we can't listen to everything!

## 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

(also broadcasts via the ASTRA Satellite)

Monday & Thursday:

9.15 - 10.00pm Sounds Traditional - Folk songs and Music

Saturday:

6.37 - 7.25am Mora Dibh - Folk Music and Song

9.15 - 10.00pm Ceilidh House - Dance Music

Sunday:

8.10 - 8.55am Mo Cheol Thu - Folk Music, song and verse and other field recordings from the eminent collector Ciaran MacMathuna

### 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 programmes with a strong folk music flavour)

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

## DIARY CHAT

Please note that all correspondence concerning Diary Chat, Club Diary dates and Club Residents should be sent to Chris McIlveen at:

51 Moorfield

Turton

Bolton

BL7 0DH

Phone/Fax: 01204 852627

### General Club News

#### The Levellers Folk Club

The organisers of the club have asked us to extend apologies to all the people who have been inconvenienced by the recent refurbishment of The Flying Picket. This will, however, result in a much improved venue when complete. The club continues to work hard towards the Liverpool Folk and Arts Festival which starts on 6th July.

#### The Bothy Folk Club

Clive Pounceby has pulled off something of a scoop by booking The Polly Bolton Band on 28th April. Polly Bolton first came to prominence in Dando Shaft, a group which included Kevin Dempsey and Martin Jenkins, who went on to play with Dave Swarbrick and Chris Leslie in Whippersnapper. Polly has had a varied career, both here and in America, singing all styles of music, including a spell with Bert Jansch. She retired to a herb garden high above Ludlow, but Ashley Hutchings persuaded her to return to singing with The Albion Band, where she met John Shepherd.

Although not as well known as Maddy Prior or June Tabor, Polly has the same stature in folk music. She also has the enormous benefit of John Shepherd and Steve Dunachie in her band. Both are eminent musicians, currently teaching at Kidderminster College and Keele University. Both have their own interests in music (early English and Jazz), but are prepared to set these aside to provide a magical setting for Polly's breathtaking singing. John plays keyboard - often programmed to harpsichord, while Steve plays violin and viola, although he is rumoured to be a concert pianist too! If they behave, then Polly may allow them the opportunity to play a number on their own! They perform in art centres and theatres in Shropshire but rarely venture so far North. Clive is very excited to have booked them for The Bothy and is eagerly awaiting April 28th. Tickets are now on sale for what is sure to be a wonderful evening. Contact Clive on 0151 924 5078 for further details.

### Clubs on the Move

#### White Swan/Swan at The Lloyds/The Gateway

This club is now in its third incarnation. From 29th February the club has become The Gateway Folk Club, based at The Gateway Hotel, 882, Wilmslow Road, East Didsbury Manchester. The club still meets every Thursday night at 8:30 pm, with the same residents, format and policy.

This latest move has been necessary due to an ever increasingly loud Karaoke night being held on the same night at the previous location in Chorlton. Contact Annie Morris on 0161 881 8294 for further details.

#### Dalton Folk Club

Also on the move is Dalton Folk Club, which now takes place at The Brown Cow, Goose Green, Dalton-in-Furness.

#### The Wooden Horse Folk Club

Rumours about the Residents and Members of the Club shuffling around the exercise yard - sorry, car park - dumping soil from their trouser legs have proved to be true!

An escape tunnel was found after the last singers night in January. All members are reported to have made it safely to a new home - The Junction, News Lane, Rainford, St Helens.

The vaulting Horse (from which the club took its name) sadly had to be left behind, but club resident Andy Anderson, well known boat and harp maker, has promised to provide us with a new one - just in case!

The club will be running its published schedule of events from its new home.

The Members, Residents and Organisers would like to thank the owners and staff at the Stanley Arms for their hospitality and kindness during our year long stay.

Contact Jim and Pauline on 01772 452782 for further details and directions.

#### Liverpool Singaround

The weekly singaround now takes place at The Ship & Mitre in Dale Street Liverpool.

## ☐ Poynton Folk Club

For more than 26 years Poynton Folk Club, based at The Centre on Park Lane, has been one of the premier folk music and dance venues in the country, booking the best national and, indeed, international artistes and bands together with a good sprinkling of less well known - but nonetheless considerable - talent.

The Folk Club has always been part of The Centre, pouring thousands of pounds of very necessary revenue into the upkeep and restoration of the building over the last year and, in return has reaped benefits which have enabled it to continue when so many other clubs have faded into obscurity. However, changes in the management committee of The Centre culminated in a meeting on Dec 12th, held without the knowledge, prior input or presence of the Folk Club organisers, which severed that link and, therefore, effectively ended the Club's existence. This was conveyed to the organisers by letter, arriving only 24 hours before the Christmas Party Night, a ceilidh with The Ashley Hutchings Dance Band, deservedly one of the country's foremost ceilidh bands. The organisers, who have given freely of their time and own resources, both financial and otherwise, in order to keep the Club afloat and profitable, were given tersely 7 days only to decide whether to provide full financial support in the future, including hire of the premises, otherwise the running of the club would be put out to tender.

It was therefore decided that the Christmas Party should become a wake - and an excellent time was had by all - none better! With the support of the membership and the many groups, bands and artistes already booked, the organisers have decided that 26 years of tradition cannot end here! A new venue is being sought and the phoenix will rise once again - so watch this space!

## PLEASE NOTE:

All dates, club news etc to:

Chris McIlveen  
51, Moorfield  
Turton  
BOLTON  
BL7 0DH

Tel: 01204 852627

## CLUB RESIDENTS:

**ARNSIDE** - Steve Black, John Harper, John & Angela Cowell, Frank Lewis, John Storer, Dave Summers, Roy Wilcock and Bridget Guest

**ASPULL** - Paul Wordsworth, John Dawson, Les Rolf  
**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** - Dave Wetherall, Shelia Harty, Alan & Jean Seymour, Chris Nash, Ian Fell, Colin Clayton

**CASTLE** - Wild Rover

**CHORLEY** - Frank Wilson, Wolfman Jack, George Harvey, Steve Nelson

**COCKERMOUTH** - Terry Haworth, Linda Lockney

**FLEETWOOD** - Spitting on a Roast

**GREGSON LANE** - Lammergeier

**LEVELLERS** - George Strattan, Ken & Christina Roberts, Graham Casey, Mike Cunningham

**LLANDUDNO** - Highly Strung (Gill Williams & John Les)

**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

**OSBALDESTON** - Trouble At Mill

**PORKIES** - Dave & Helen Howard, Dave Walmisley

**POYNTON** - The Timekeepers, The Real Time Bandits, Pete Shirley, Pete Hood, Phil & Clare Allen, Steve Finn, Geoff Higginbottom

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

**RAILWAY** - Sylvia and Graham Sowerby, Heather and Don Davies, Trevor Morton and Geoff Smith

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

**TILSTON** - Geoff Edwin-Scott

**URMSTON ACOUSTICS** - Keith Northover

**WESTHOUGHTON** - Auld Triangle

**WOODEN HORSE** - Quartz, Whole Hog, Andy Anderson, LocTup Together

## More Diary Chat!

### ☐ Formby Folk Club

The club enjoyed a variety of guests during 1995 including Trick or Treat, Dai Thomas, Sara Grey, Risky Business, Steve Tilston & Maggie Boyle, Gary & Vera Aspey, Demure, Th'Antiques Roadshow, Jim James & Pam Taylor, Mark Atherton & Simon Cohen, Elaine Samuels and Anne Gregson, Three charity nights were also held in which over £100 was raised for The Peter Heeny Fund for Belfast Children; £60 for Oxfam, with thanks to Pete Rimmer and Bill Hackney for giving their services free, and £117 for Amnesty International with thanks to Loctup Together for giving their services free.

### Changes Afoot

**Bury Folk Club** is now being organised by Alan and Jean Seymour. It is still located at The Napier in Bury and currently runs on alternate Saturdays. Contact Alan or Jean on 0161 761 1544 for further details.

**Tilston Folk Club** also has a new organiser, Alison Parkes, who can be contacted on 01829 250331.

Jack King is the new man at the helm of **Cockermouth Folk Club**. He can be contacted on 01900 828226.

*It is sometimes a bit of a struggle keeping up with changes out there. Please let Chris McIlveen know of any changes to organisers or locations that you know about.*

### ACCESS FOR DISABLED:

8.45 at the Lane Ends

Levellers

Llandudno

Mechanics

Open Door

Swinton

New Seven Stars

*EDITOR'S NOTE: I'm especially pleased to see the disabled access list growing each issue. Have we missed you off? - please let Chris McIlveen know in time for next issue*

### NON SMOKING CLUBS:

Cockermouth

Formby

Llandudno

Maghull (First Tuesday - Non smoking night)

### Extra Dates for June and beyond:

SN = Singers Night

#### 8:45 at Lane Ends

June 5 Ben & Joe Broughton, June 12 Hobson & Lees, June 19 SN, June 26 Chris White & Julie Mathews. Then closed until September

#### Bury

June 8 Closet Sailors (Bernard Wrigley & Wilf Darlington), June 22 SN

#### Chorley

June 11 Frank McLoughlin & Gillian McDonald, June 25 John Poole,

#### Dalton

June 4 Singaround, June 18 Roy Wilcock & Bridget Guest

#### Formby

June 1 Ian Bruce, July 6 Fiddlestone

#### Gateway

June 6 Derek Brimstone (tbc), June 11 SN, June 20 Cockersdale

#### Northwich

June 4 Sara Grey, June 28 Tony Mannion, July 5 Eddie Walker

#### Railway

June 13 Mal Brown, July 11 Alan Taylor, Sept 5 Debbie McClachie, Sept 19 Janet Russell

#### Wooden Horse

June 2 Ian Bruce, June 9 SN, June 16 SN



# A Youthful Perspective

## with Jenny Shotliff

Since the last issue we have launched Youthquake newsletter and things are going well. We have an ever growing list of subscribers and advertisers but we need more! In the same way that the workshops are my baby the newsletter is Joe's and he is producing an excellent magazine which is generating an exciting response from the teenagers we hope to encourage through it. The launch at Maghull's Day of Music was great fun and also introduced us to some young performers we hadn't met before.

Paltog from Lydiate impressed me so much I booked them again for the Carrying It On concert in January. This group of teenagers play Irish music but they find their own material and arrangements, they virtually teach each other and I think they should be proud of what they achieve. After the concert I found out that 3 of the older members play in a trio called Anam who I'm hoping to book for our next event.

Chris Sherburn and Denny Bartley worked with us for the first time at Maghull and ran a brilliant session to finish the day. I couldn't have asked for anything better to introduce the young people there to the concept of a session - Chris and Denny's personality, sense of fun and superb musicianship were spot on.

Many of the young people we have met through running Youthquake are now performing in their own right and I am increasingly astounded by the speed of their development. It's a great privilege to know them well enough to appreciate this - and to see them reach a stage where they can was the whole point of setting up Youthquake. At Maghull and at the Carrying It On concert this was more evident than ever.

Damon Holland is a fine singer who has developed a mature performance; Benjamin Errington is an incredibly talented fiddler who again is a natural performer; Anna Corcoran, Anna Davies and Ruth Mackie as L37 played on their own for the first time at Carrying It On and produced a short but great set which I hadn't actually heard until the concert; Chris Coutts is developing a good style of MCing and with his sister Hannah has a promising band - to see them getting out there and doing things for themselves is the whole point of everything we do at Youthquake but I'm not sure that we ever dared hope that they'd be doing it so well!!! A review of the Carrying It On concert should appear either in this issue or the next.

There are a growing number of events over the summer which are ideal for teenagers, these are often good for adults who want some help in developing their skills too.

March 9th/10th sees a festival for those aged 8 - 19 at Eyam in Derbyshire with Luke Daniels, Tamsin Austin and Youthquake - details from Cathy Burke - 01433 631 907

The Barbican in London will feature the launch of the CD Evolving Traditions II April 5 - 8th

The last Bank Holiday in May sees Folkworks Youth Festival in Hexham, details from Folkworks -



0191 222 1717

**The photos on this page show:**  
 (Top) Damon Holland with Linda McIlveen, Anna Corcoran & Ruth Mackie  
 (Bottom) Chris Sherburn & Denny Bartley

Youthquake is running a workshop for Middlewich Festival on June 16th.

The Wernerth event this year is June 22 - 23rd. Youthquake is organising a series of workshops on the Saturday and an evening ceilidh. Sunday will have a free open air concert with the Famous Five and others.

In July we are again running a day of events at Redcar Festival on July 13th. I understand Stainsby Festival has some interesting ideas and the Living Tradition magazine is running 2 week long summer schools with tutors that include Boys of the Lough in Scotland.

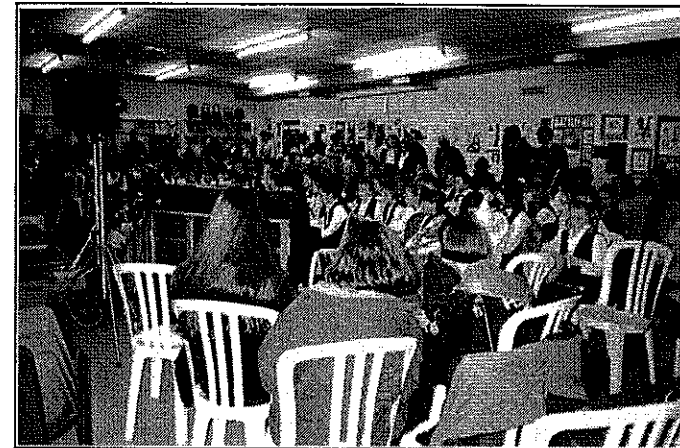
In August if anyone is planning their holidays Sidmouth Festival, August 2-9th has a superb series of events for teenagers and also has good events for children and for families. As Shooting Roots Tim Van Eyken (a founder of Acoustic Youth) works with myself, Tanya Mansi and others to run a series of workshops leading to a showcase concert. The standard of the

young people who took part in the event last year was breathtaking and we all had a wonderful time, it was great fun to work with such able young musicians. Also in August in Liverpool (a bit nearer home!) there is a free Summer School for the young and old alike run by the Adult Education Service, contact 0151 2073890. This includes folk music.

In September Fylde has its usual high standard of youth events thanks to Rusty and Stu Wright and in November I believe Bedworth is looking to develop its current pro-

vision further.

If you want further details for any of these events please feel free to contact me.



**The photo on this page shows:**  
 The audience at the Youthquake magazine launch at Maghull

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## INTERVIEW: Kathryn Tickell in conversation

with

## The Hudson Swan Band

**Hudson Swan**, exiled Scot and ex long serving member of The Tannahill Weavers, moved to the North West of England some seven years ago. About five months ago he started pulling together some of the finest musicians in the area to form what now has become The Hudson Swan Band.

Even before the band had performed live in front of an audience, Glasgow based record company Lochshore Records had signed them up to record their first album which is due for release in April/May 1996.

The Hudson Swan Band are;

**Hudson Swan** Bouzouki, fiddle, guitar, vocals

**Jenny Shotliff** Fiddle, concertina, vocals

**Stevie Lawrence** Percussion, bouzouki, cittern, small pipes, guitar, whistles.

**Lindsey Hunt** Piano, cello, flute, whistles, vocals

**Sue Swan** Vocals.

**Tony Howard** Guitar, bouzouki, vocals

**Kathryn Tickell** recently caught up with the band and the following interview is the result of that meeting.

**Kathryn:** What made you decide to get back into playing music again?

**Hudson:** I've not done much performing since I left the Tannahill Weavers back in 1980. When Sue and I moved down to Cheshire about seven years ago I started going to a lot of sessions and played with a few ceilidh bands and really enjoyed the buzz of playing again. A few years ago I got together with a brilliant piper from Scotland called Gordon Duncan and we recorded an instrumental album which also involved a guy called Ian Sherwood. We did a few live gigs around this period but I never really felt comfortable and as a consequence the whole project rocketed into oblivion.

About a year ago, Sue and I started working on material that we could take round the clubs as a duo and from this came the idea of putting a band together which would be a good platform for doing larger gigs and festivals.

**Kathryn:** Tell me who's in the band and what they play

**Hudson:** It's a six piece band comprised of Stevie Lawrence on percussion, bouzouki, cittern, small pipes, half long pipes and acoustic bass, Jenny Shotliff on fiddle, concertina and vocals, Tony Howard on guitar, bouzouki and vocals, Lindsey Hunt on piano, cello, flute, whistles and vocals, Sue Swan on vocals and myself on bouzouki, fiddle and guitar.

**Kathryn:** How would you describe the music? Is it all traditional or are there some contemporary pieces? Do you use entirely acoustic instruments?

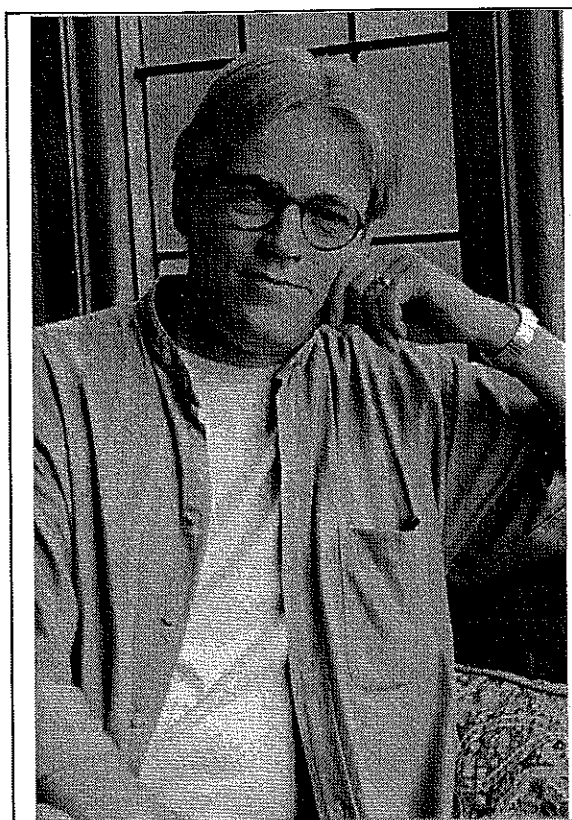
**Sue:** The majority of the material is either traditional or in a traditional style. We're very keen on songs with strong melodies and with four vocalists in the band there is a bias towards the songs. Hudson is writing a lot of instrumental material as well, but we all feel it's important that any tunes are integrated with the songs as far as possible. The overall sound is very definitely acoustic but with a six piece band we'll be using plenty of modern technology to make

sure the arrangements work well.

**Kathryn:** Is this going to be a full-time gigging and recording band?

**Lindsey:** We all have other commitments outside the band which place certain restrictions on the amount of live work we can do.

**Tony:** I think we all reached the decision very early on that we were not going to slog our guts out trailing round the country in the back of a transit van so I suppose we're not what you would call a full-time gigging band.



"It's great to be playing music again...."

**Stevie:** The recording side of things is very important to us. There are a vast amount of instruments at our disposal which means that a lot of very careful planning is needed when it comes to arranging the material.

**Hudson:** Yeah, we want to do as much live work as we can bearing in mind our other commitments.

**Kathryn:** So you've got a recording deal with Lochshore Records which is a Scottish label. I know you're Scottish Hudson, but isn't this a Manchester based band - are they all exiled Scots?

**Hudson:** I'm the only exiled Scot in the band. Stevie is Scottish but still lives in Glasgow. Sue and Lindsey originally come from the North East and Jenny and Tony are both from the North West of England.

**Kathryn:** Are you playing mostly Scottish music?

**Tony:** When Hudson played with the Tannahill's they were doing 100% Scottish material which was fine as they had a really strong Scottish identity. With this band we are doing material from Scotland, England and Ireland although I would say there are strong regional influences, particularly Scottish and the North East borders area. If we like a piece of music, regardless of it's origin and think we can do something with it, we will.

**Kathryn:** Are you all into the same type of music or is there a mixture of styles and influences?

**Jenny:** I was brought up on traditional Irish music and was very influenced by Peggy Peakin and Eamon Coyne who taught me how to play the fiddle as well as teaching me about the music itself. So I suppose Irish music is my main influence but I know there are a lot of other types of music in the background which all, to a greater or lesser extent, influence the band.

**Lindsey:** I was trained as a classical musician but became hooked on traditional music, particularly on hearing very early Maddy Prior and Steeleye Span.

**Tony:** When I first started playing guitar I was heavily influenced by jazz and swing music and Chet Atkins turned me into finger style guitar. My first introduction to traditional music was via a friend of mine who had a vast collection of folk albums. I remember being particularly knocked out the first time I heard Planxty. I loved their stringy sound.

**Kathryn:** Do you think that's a good thing Hudson?

**Hudson:** Certainly! I think the more types of music you listen to helps you keep an open mind, particularly when it comes to arranging material.

**Kathryn:** What sort of audience do you think you'll appeal to?

**Lindsey:** I would like to think that there's stuff in our set that will appeal to young and old alike. Although I wouldn't advise any Take That fans to rush out and buy the album! I think people will make up their own minds when they hear us.

**Kathryn:** Hudson, I've heard lots of stories about your time with the Tannahill Weavers? Are there any similarities between the Tannahills' and your new band. Can we look forward to more stories?

**Hudson:** Yeah, the Tannahills' did have a reputation, didn't they! It certainly was a crazy time. When you get five young guys thrown into the hectic touring schedule the Tannahills' had, you need some form of release valve; really it was all just harmless fun.

I suppose there are certain similarities with the Tannahills' although in general we sound a little bit more restrained. I was heavily involved in arranging the Tannahills' material so it's inevitable that some of their sound comes through in this band. Every band has a story to tell. I'm sure we'll have plenty available in a few years time.

I'm really enjoying what were doing with the band at the moment and it's just great playing music again.

**Kathryn:** Well Hudson, thanks for your time and I'd like to wish you lots of success with the band and look forward to hearing the album when it's released.

*N.B. Any enquiries about the band should be made on telephone number 0161 775 7773*

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

Since this interview was submitted, I have received the following short note from the band:

Unfortunately, since this interview took place, Jenny Shotliff has had to pull out of the band due to other commitments. We would all like to thank her for her time, energy and input into the band.

The Hudson Swan Band

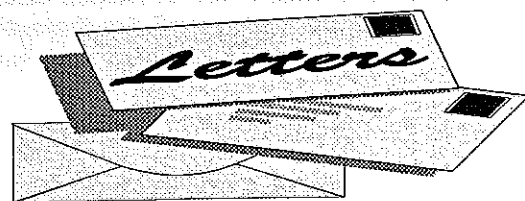
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## to the EDITOR

### To merger or not to merger.....

I write regarding the proposed merger with Buzz and Scans Folk. I say why not go the whole hog and merge with a national mag like Folk Roots? I'm sure they'd allow you to publish a letter every month containing all the news of local significance.

Quite seriously, bigger is not necessarily better. Folk music above all other forms needs to keep hold of a local base, needs to stay close to its roots, bringing in from outside, yes, but ensuring that these influences enhance without diluting! Why don't all three mags build closer ties with one another, supporting one another etc etc but still retaining all three separate identities?

Perhaps there could be specials e.g. "Buy one mag & get discount on the other two", for instance.

Don't forget, keep up the good work, everyone involved, and above all KEEP YOUR OWN IDENTITY!

Lawrence Hoy

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

*Thank you very much to all those of you who responded to our survey last month; we had a very good response. Most of the surveys seemed to take an opposite view to the letter above, although many had some misgivings about the result of the merger. We are still assessing the responses, and we'll give you a full update in the next issue.*

# garva

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23rd DARLINGTON SPRING FESTIVAL

24th HALIFAX FOLK CLUB

APRIL 11th WHITE SWAN FOLK  
CLUB, MANCHESTER

APRIL 19th BAG O' SHODDY FOLK  
CLUB, CLECKHEATON

MAY 3-5th BELGIUM

MAY 12th HOLMFIRTH FOLK  
FESTIVAL

MAY 31-2 JUNE HOLLAND

JUNE 22nd LICHFIELD FOLK FESTIVAL

JUNE 27th PARKGATE HOTEL,  
WIRRAL

JULY 5th RHYL FOLK CLUB

JULY 13/14th REDCAR FOLK  
FESTIVAL

JULY 20th BIDDULPH FOLK DAY

JULY 26/27th WARWICK FOLK  
FESTIVAL

AUGUST 24/25th FOUR FOOLS  
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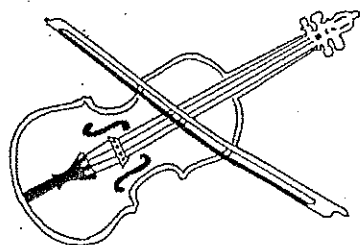
Please do not send Camping Money when applying for Festival Tickets.



For further details and information, please telephone: 01947-840928

or write to Folk Festival Office, Fern Cottage, Dalehouse, Stalthes, Cleveland TS13 5DT enclosing an A5 size S.A.E (36p) please.

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### STEVE TILSTON & MAGGIE BOYLE

Sincerely and unreservedly apologise to the organisers and residents of the **Railway Folk Club, Lymm** and to all visitors to the club on 1st February who braved the adverse weather conditions for our conspicuous non-appearance. The embarrassing fact is that we failed to enter the details in our diary; the first time (and hopefully the last) time that we have made such a major clerical error.

We WILL return to the Railway on Thursday,  
25th April.

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## MARCH DATES

SUNDAY		03 March	10 March	17 March	24 March
ARNSIDE		Singers Night		Singers Night	
BOTHY		Artisan	Singers Night	Roisin White & Rosie Stewart	Singers Night
LLANDUDNO		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
POTTERIES		Junction 13	Dave Pierce	The Glass St Girls	Bob Cockburn
WOODEN HORSE		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
MONDAY		04 March	11 March	18 March	25 March
SWINTON					
TUESDAY		05 March	12 March	19 March	26 March
CHORLEY		Pete Ryder	Singers Night	Derek Gifford	Singers Night
DALTON			Singaround		Tom McConville
LIVERPOOL		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
MAGHULL		Singers Night	Hands & Feet Roadshow	Singers Night	Singers Night
OSBALDESTON		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
TILSTON		The Boat Band	Singers Night	Fiddlestone	Singers Night
URMSTON ACOUSTICS		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
WEDNESDAY		06 March	13 March	20 March	27 March
ASPULL		Singers Night	St Patrick's Night Shebang	Singers Night	Singers Night
8:45 at LANE ENDS		Dave Summers	Old Rope String Band	Tom McConville & Pauline Cato	Thistle
BLACKBURN		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
BURNLEY		Singaround	Alchemy	Singaround	Singaround
CASTLE		Singers Night	Singers Night	Fiddlestone	Singers Night
NEW SEVEN STARS		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
THURSDAY		07 March	14 March	21 March	28 March
COCKERMOUTH		Singers Night	Terry Docherty & Robin Dunn	Singers Night	Singers Night
FLEETWOOD		Singers Night	Singers Night	Artisan	Singers Night
GREGSON LANE		Singers Night		Singers Night	
LEVELLERS		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
RAILWAY		George Faux	Singers Night	Pete Coe	Singers Night
GATEWAY		Barry Dransfield	Les Barker	Singers Night	Keith Hancock
FRIDAY	01 March	08 March	15 March	22 March	29 March
*BREWERY ARTS		Martin Stephenson	Tracy Schwarz Cajun Trio		
NORTHWICH	Singers Night	Sid Kipper	Singers Night	Heather Heywood	Singers Night
PORKIES					
PRESTON					
RHYL					
WESTHOUGHTON	Bernard Wrigley	Ian Bruce	Plainsong	Oldham Tinkers	Closed
*WOODEN HORSE			Blundells Hill Golf Club		
SATURDAY	02 March	09 March	16 March	23 March	30 March
BREWERY ARTS	Climax Blues Band				John Kirkpatrick Band
BURY		Will Noble & John Cocking		Singers Night	
FORMBY	Dave Burland	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
NEW BEGINNINGS	Singers & Musicians				
POYNTON	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed

## APRIL DATES

SUNDAY	31 March	07 April	14 April	21 April	28 April
ARNSIDE		Singers Night		Singers Night	
BOTHY	Robb Johnson	Singers Night	Keith Hancock	Singers Night	Polly Bolton Band
LLANDUDNO	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
*MAGHULL			Les Ms		
POTTERIES	Penni McLaren-Walker			Jenny Coxon	Roger Pugh & Chris Conway
WOODEN HORSE	Davey Arthur	Closed	Singers Night	Singers Night	Roy Wilcock & Bridget Guest
MONDAY	01 April	08 April	15 April	22 April	29 April
SWINTON					
TUESDAY	02 April	09 April	16 April	23 April	30 April
CHORLEY	Penni McLaren-Walker	Singers Night	Mystery Guest	Singers Night	Guest tba
DALTON		Robber's Dog		Singaround	
LIVERPOOL	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
MAGHULL	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
OSBALDESTON	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
TILSTON	Singers Night	Sid Kipper	Singers Night	Pig Tail Crooks	Singers Night
URMSTON ACOUSTICS	Singers Night	Singers Night	Michael McGoldrick & Friends	Singers Night	Singers Night
WEDNESDAY	03 April	10 April	17 April	24 April	
ASPULL	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
8:45 at LANE ENDS	Rough Mix	Kevin Dempsey & Chris Leslie	Kelly White	Barry Dramsfield	
BLACKBURN	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
BURNLEY	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	
CASTLE	Singers Night	Lynn & Barry Hardman	Singers Night	Singers Night	
NEW SEVEN STARS	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
PADIHAM TOWN HALL					
THURSDAY	04 April	11 April	18 April	25 April	
COCKERMOUTH	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Bram Taylor	
FLEETWOOD	Phil Hare	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
GREGSON LANE	Singers Night		Singers Night		
LEVELLERS	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
RAILWAY	Singers Night	Ian & Sarah Sherwood	Singers Night	Steve Tilston & Maggie Boyle	
GATEWAY	Closed	Garva	Risky Business	Dave Webber & Anni Fentiman	
FRIDAY	05 April	12 April	19 April	26 April	
*BOTHY				Ceilidh with Old Triumph Band	
*BREWERY ARTS	Iron Horse		R. Cajun		
NORTHWICH	*Singers Night at Davenham Players	Pete Ryder	Singers Night	Frank McLoughlin & Gillian McDonald	
PORKIES					
PRESTON					
RHYL					
WESTHOUGHTON	Closed	Johnny Silvo	Huw & Tony Williams	Albion Band (Ticket only)	
SATURDAY	06 April	13 April	20 April	27 April	
BREWERY ARTS		Jean Toussaint	The Bearcats	The Brasshoppers	
BURY	*Easter Ceilidh with The Riot Band at Bury Met	Jim Eldon		Singers Night	
FORMBY	Phil Hare	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
NEW BEGINNINGS		Singers & Musicians			
POYNTON	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	

# MAY DATES

SUNDAY	05 May	12 May	19 May	26 May	
ARNSIDE	Singers Night		Singers Night		
BOTHY					
LLANDUDNO	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
POTTERIES		Bill Caddick	Ian Bruce		
WOODEN HORSE	Closed	Singers Night	Singers Night	Closed	
MONDAY	06 May	13 May	20 May	27 May	
SWINTON					
TUESDAY	07 May	14 May	21 May	28 May	
CHORLEY	Singers Night	Geoff Higginbottom	Singers Night	Ken Pearson	
DALTON	Singaround		Singaround		
LIVERPOOL	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
MAGHULL	Singers Night	Brian McNeil	Singers Night	Singers Night	
OSBALDESTON	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
TILSTON	Grace Notes	Singers Night	Arthur Edeling	Roger Gillespie	
URMSTON ACOUSTICS	Singers Night	Steve Tilston & Maggie Boyle	Singers Night	Singers Night	
WEDNESDAY	01 May	08 May	15 May	22 May	29 May
ASPULL		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
8:45 at LANE ENDS	Huw & Tony Williams	Christine Olsen	Brian McNeill	Guest tbc	Cathy Winter
BLACKBURN	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
BURNLEY	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
CASTLE	Davie Baird	Singers Night	Singers Night	Quartz	Singers Night
NEW SEVEN STARS	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
THURSDAY	02 May	09 May	16 May	23 May	30 May
COCKERMOUTH	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Ian Bruce	Singers Night
FLEETWOOD	Penni McLaren-Walker	Singers Night	Singers Night	Pete Ryder	Singers Night
GREGSON LANE	Singers Night		Singers Night		Singers Night
LEVELLERS	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
RAILWAY	Singers Night	Risky Business	Singers Night	Martin Wyndham-Read	Singers Night
GATEWAY	Fluke	Geoff Higginbottom	Damien Barber	Big Jig	Ian Bruce
FRIDAY	03 May	10 May	17 May	24 May	31 May
NORTHWICH	Singers Night	Jez Lowe	Singers Night	Brian McNeil	Singers Night
PORKIES					
PRESTON					
RHYL					
WESTHOUGHTON	Allan Taylor (Ticket only)	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
SATURDAY	04 May	11 May	18 May	25 May	
BURY		Stanley Accrington		Singers Night	
FORMBY	Guest - tba	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
NEW BEGINNINGS		Singers & Musicians			
POYNTON	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	
<b>Notes:</b>	* 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)				

OFFICER	NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Chairman	Dave Day	170, Liverpool Road South, Maghull, Liverpool	0151 526 6661
Treasurer	Kath Holden	7, Sunleigh Road, Hindley, Wigan	01942 58459
Editor	Nigel Firth	118, Bolton Road, Aspull, Wigan	01942 833293
Proof Reader	Steve Morris	85, Sydney Ave., Leigh	01942 746552
Publicity	Frank Wilson		01257 230047
Advertising	Paul Holden	7, Sunleigh Road, Hindley, Wigan	01942 58459
Club reviewer	Tony Gibbons	2a, Moss Lane, Maghull, Liverpool	0151 526 6522
Membership Secretary	Contact	Treasurer (see Above)	
Federation Secretary	Linda Wright	266, Todmorden Rd., Sharneyford, Bacup	01706 877090
Youth Activities	Jenny Shottliff	1, Bardsey Close, Upholland, Lancs	01695 623641
Club Dates	Chris McIlveen	51, Moorfield, Turton, Bolton	01204 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
<b>SUNDAY</b>				
ARNSIDE	08:30 PM	The Bulls Head, Milnthorpe	Steve Black	01524 761823
BOTHY	08:00 PM	Blundell Arms, Upper Aughton Rd, Birkdale	Clive Pownceby	0151 924 5078
LLANDUDNO	08:30 PM	The Old Victoria Pub, Church Walks, Llandudno	John Les	01492 580454
OPEN DOOR	08:30 PM	Star Inn, Church Street, Failsworth	Mike Riley	0161 366 7326
POTTERIES	08:00 PM	The Old Swan Inn, Hartshill Rd, Stoke	John McGettigan	01782 625036
WOODEN HORSE	08:30 PM	The Junction, Rainford	Jim Coan	01772 452782
<b>MONDAY</b>				
SWINTON	08:30 PM	White Lion, 242 Manchester Rd, Swinton	Ged Todd	01942 811527
<b>TUESDAY</b>				
CHORLEY	08:30 PM	The Prince of Wales, Cowling Brow, Chorley	Frank Wilson	01257 230047
DALTON	08:30 PM	The Brown Cow, Goose Green, Dalton-in-Furness	Graham Atkinson	01229 832354
LIVERPOOL	08:30 PM	The Ship & Mitre, Dale St, Liverpool	Helen Hebden	0151 727 0088
MAGHULL	08:30 PM	Hare & Hounds, Maghull	Dave Day	0151 526 6661
OSBALDESTON	08:30 PM	Bay Horse Inn, Longsight Rd, Osbaldeston, Blackburn	Bernadette Dixon	01254 853929
TILSTON	08:30 PM	The Carden Arms, Tilston, Cheshire	Alison Parkes	01829 250331
URMSTON ACOUSTICS	08:30 PM	The Nag's Head, Davyhulme Circle, Urmston	Martin Kavanagh	0161 748 5497
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>				
8:45 AT LANE ENDS	08:45 PM	Lane Ends Hotel, Weeton Rd, Wesham	Ann Green	01772 683027
ASPULL	08:30 PM	Moorgate Inn, Scot Lane, Aspull, Wigan	Paul Wordsworth	011 790 7153
BLACKBURN	08:30 PM	Veteran Hotel, Eanam, Blackburn	Brian Kirkham	01254 826661
BURNLEY	08:30 PM	Waggon & Horses Inn, Colne Rd, Brierfield	Phyl Watson	01282 774077
CASTLE	08:30 PM	Castle Hotel, Halton Village, Runcorn	Bob O'Callaghan	0151 424 5367
NEW SEVEN STARS	08:30 PM	New Seven Stars, Preston Rd, Standish	Hilda Foy	01257 792246
<b>THURSDAY</b>				
COCKERMOUTH	08:30 PM	Tithe Barn Hotel, Station St, Cockermouth	Jack King	01900 828226
FLEETWOOD	08:30 PM	Steamer Hotel, Queens Terrace, Fleetwood	Dave Ryan	01253 876351
GATEWAY	08:30 PM	The Gateway Hotel, 882 Wilmslow Rd, East Didsbury	Annie Morris	0161 881 8294
GREGSON LANE	08:30 PM	St. Joseph's Social Centre, Gregson Lane, Hoghton	Graham Dixon	01254 853929
LEVELLERS	08:00 PM	The Flying Picket, 24 Hardman St, Liverpool	Christina Roberts	0151 284 5458
RAILWAY	08:30 PM	Railway Hotel, Heatley, Lymm	Graham Sowerby	01925 755645
<b>FRIDAY</b>				
NORTHWICH	08:30 PM	Harlequin Theatre, Queen St, Northwich	Sarah Sherwood	01606 48577
PORKIES	08:30 PM	Ladybrook Hotel, Fir Road, Bramhall, Cheshire	?????	
PRESTON	08:30 PM	The Unicorn, North Rd, Preston	Hugh O'Donnell	01772 745498
RHYL	08:30 PM	Bee & Station Hotel, Bodfor St, Rhyl	Jeff Blythin	01745 336052
WESTHOUGHTON	08:15 PM	Westhoughton Golf Club, Long Island, Westhoughton	Pat Batty	01942 812301
<b>SATURDAY</b>				
BREWERY ARTS	08:30 PM	Brewery Arts Centre, 122a Highgate, Kendal	John Smyth	01539 725133
BURY	08:00 PM	The Napier, Bolton St, Bury	Alan Seymour	0161 761 1544
FORMBY	08:30 PM	The Royal, Liverpool Rd, Formby	Janet Kemp	01704 876745
MECHANICS	08:30 PM	Burnley Mechanics, Manchester Rd, Burnley	Ian Wells	01282 30005
NEW BEGINNINGS	08:00 PM	The Village Hall, Aughton	Phil Knight	01704 568277
POYNTON	08:30 PM	Poynton Folk Centre, Park Lane, Poynton	Lynda Boyle	01663 743310
SOUTHPORT ARTS	08:30 PM	Southport Arts Centre, Lord St, Southport	Lesley Wilson	01704 540004



## LIVE REVIEWS:

### Carrying It On 7! - Melling Tithebarn

#### 20th January 1996

Another year on the calendar, another few square inches of exposed scalp on this weary old head, another visit to Melling Tithebarn for the annual showcase of young folk performers from the local and national scenes.

Regular audience members have seen the event grow in confidence and assurance as a well thought out and professionally managed occasion but never afraid to take chances or to explore new directions. Bossperson **Jenny Shottliff** put together for us another evening of fine entertainment with the underlying message that the folk tradition is not just safe but thriving in the young hands that will carry it into the next century.

To begin at the end, just for a change, the bill was topped by a blistering set of Irish based tunes and songs, courtesy of Manchester trio **From The Water** featuring the inspired playing of Paul Farrell on fiddle plus slightly less youthful (oh all right, I mean older) companions on guitar and banjo completing the line-up. Excellent stuff, faultless in execution and inventive in arrangement, a name to watch out for.

**Paltog** is the name of the 16 (ish) musicians from

Lydiat who had the unenviable task of launching the concert but it was a job they took on with spirit and energy. In fact their name translates from the Gaelic into something like 'with a bit of wellie'. The soaring, flowing melodies of their (predominantly) flutes and whistles were given a rhythmic turbo-boost by some driving guitar work and bodhran playing but for outstanding courage and composure I have to pay tribute to their solo vocalist whose emotive song was one of the special moments of the evening.

Previous headliners here have included past Young Tradition Award winners (like Catriona McDonald, Luke Daniels) and some who have gone on to scoop the prize (Rusby & Roberts, Michael McGoldrick). A former semi-finalist **Robert Harbron** showed championship form on concertina (and a brief excursion onto guitar) accompanied superbly by fellow Cumbrian **Tim Digings** on bodhran. Robert has several festival appearances lined up this summer and I recommend you catch him if you can.

He had spent part of the afternoon heroically assisting Jenny with the Youthquake workshop, teaching tunes and arrangements to the assembled wide range of ages, instruments and abilities - the remarkable fruits of their (and his) labours were heard later. Their Norwegian Hornpipe was a joy to hear but the real measure of their achievement was that a group of relatively inexperienced young musicians had come together from all over the region and within a few hours become a creditable folk orchestra, complete with arranged parts and harmonies, performing with considerable skill and artistry.

Over its 5 years Youthquake has both spawned and encompassed a growing number of independent acts, a clutch of whom were in evidence.

Multi-instrumentalist **Lyndsey Hunt** from Waterloo has been a YQ regular from the early days. She's

been out and about as one half of Sarkey Ratbag and these days she plays in the soon-to-be-recorded **Hudson Swan Band**. Tonight she played keyboards and sang powerfully, her rendition of the Sandy Denny classic "Who Knows Where The Time Goes" was particularly impressive.

**L37** sound like they might be a Merseyside version of East 17 but no, they're a Formby trio of Anna, Ruth and Anna playing

whistle/ keyboards, flute & fiddle and singing delightfully. The audience lapped up "Harvest Home" and a nicely harmonised "Fields of Athenrye".

Chris and Hannah Coutts (now where have I heard that name before?) have brought three mates - Ben, Gawain and Peter - to folk for the first time, forming a band called **Trees Not Tarmac**, especially relevant in the week that saw the Newbury Bypass protests hitting a peak. Gawain was missing due to a bad dose of GCSE-itis, forcing a radical re-arrangement of their multi-instrumental set. Then news arrived that Peter had been felled by an epileptic attack. **Damon Holland** stepped in nobly as improptu substitute to save the day, then seconds before they were due on stage Peter burst in dramatically, determined not to let the team down (hooray!).

Even under these strained and stressful circumstances the band gave a confident and skilful delivery of traditional, Levellers and self-penned numbers, soft



Paltog (at the Maghull Day of Music)

## LIVE REVIEWS (continued)

and sensitive as well as brisk and brash. Combining electric and acoustic guitars, 3 fiddles, flute, clarinet, whistle and vocals took a bit of advanced stage choreography - a performance art in itself - as did coping with the trials of PA feedback and a recalcitrant wah-wah pedal but this fledgling folk-rock outfit met all challenges with commendable panache and bare-faced cheek.

Southportian Damon's contribution to TNT was an added bonus and he followed it up with a cracking set of his own. Singing up a storm, unaccompanied and with some demon mandolin playing, he held the audience spellbound which is a considerable achievement for a solo performer of any age.

**Benjamin Errington** plays classical viola to an exceptionally high standard. He is also a folk fiddler of real quality and rare talent. He treated us to a varied selection of Scots and Irish tunes, not flash or over-arching but wildly exciting and passionately moving. I fully expect to see Ben on many and bigger stages in the future and one day I wouldn't be at all surprised to find him on the Melling/ Young Tradition Award roll of honour.

And before his blushes subside I'd like to mention Ben's other contribution to the proceedings. As if TNT hadn't had enough troubles, Chris's fiddle suffered a major accident just before the band went on. Ben saw his predicament and without hesitation offered the loan of his own prized instrument. That's true comradeship, a scarce commodity amongst grown-ups these days but happily something that comes easier to those of less advanced years.

The final going-home set was an all-in jam session. The tune had been picked beforehand but otherwise it was every-musician-for-themselves and the finest, most practised busked along with the rawest, least experienced. The result, pure magic and a totally fitting end to a concert programme that exemplified all that's good about the folk tradition.

Carrying It On isn't an annual outing for budding folkettes, it's a major musical undertaking of importance to the whole region and massive appreciation is due to Maghull Folk Club for its assistance and in particular to the unflagging dedication and support of **Dave Day**. This year Jenny turned over the introductions to apprentice MC Chris Coutts who did sterling service keeping both audience and performers informed, amused and confused (sometimes all three at the same time), freeing Ms Shottliffe to get on with directing and managing the night which she did with commendable coolness and efficiency. Which could just be the outward manifestation of blind panic but I prefer to think that she's just a hard-working, well-sorted individual and I'm looking forward to her 1997 production.

Jack Coutts

### MAGHULL DAY OF MUSIC

There's not much cheer on a wet November day, not that is, unless you attend Maghull's day of music. The atmosphere is homely and friendly and the venue compact and functional.

There was a good line up of artists the more "well known" appearing only in the evening. From twelve noon to late evening for those with the stamina and vocal chords was the Folk Club ably run by a host of local and not quite so local clubs (almost all of whom I am delighted to say are Federation members). Well done to the usually unsung heroes and heroines.

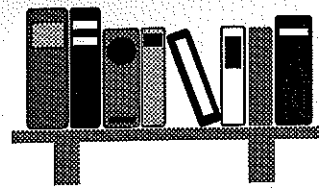
In the upstairs room with the comfy seats the afternoon concert ran from noon to teatime. I must admit that I found this a little heavy going at times and conversation with quite a few festival goers proved that they were of the same opinion. Although I agree in principal with Dave Day's sterling efforts to give everyone a chance, at times there was a lack of quality in what is the general expectation of the average punter.

To be honest I found the alternative which was the Youthquake and local schools' big bash a whole lot more entertaining. There was so much enthusiasm, blatant enjoyment and talent which culminated in the mahemic launch of Youthquake's new magazine for young musicians and a great session.

The evening concerts took place in tandem with artists doing spots in each. There was a magical performance from Maire ni Chathasaigh and Chris Newman and an hilarious set from Les Barker and the band. There were two acts that I haven't seen before. Lightning and Rainbows treated us to good music, song and energetic dance - thoroughly enjoyable. Two lads I believe from Hull, Chris Sherburn and Denny Bartley were for me the find of the day. Both are talented musicians with a great sense of humour and stage presence. Garva brought my particular concert to a wonderful Garva conclusion.

If you haven't been to Maghull look out for next year's festival but book your tickets in good time, they are inclined to sell out. A small note, the catering on site is rather limited but over the field behind the venue there is a large pub which does better than average pub food at lunchtime and a Chinese Restaurant which opens at teatime.

Kath Holden



# BOOKSHELF

## Latest Folk Books

### PLOUGH MONDAY TO HOCKTIDE ENGLISH FOLK DANCE AND SONG SOCIETY

This is an educational resource pack for the Spring term on British traditions. Although it has been submitted for review this is report is really just for information as I have passed the book on to my local Primary School where a "hands on" review may be of more use.

Extract from the book's Preface

"This pack has been designed to provide cross-curricular teaching activities primarily for Key Stage 2 to cover a term's work. It also contains related information to enlarge the projects if desired.

The pack comprises 16 activity cards with related Folk Facts, folk dances, song sheets, a plough play and information on the season's customs. The aim is to increase awareness on traditional folk culture of Britain and provide practical ideas for schools to use elements of past traditions for dance, drama, music, art, English, maths, history, geography, biology and technology. An attainment target chart is included."

As a "non educationalist" I personally found the book fascinating. I mean we all know about Pancake Tuesday or do we really? OK but what about Hare Pie Scramble and Bottle Kicking or Hocktide traditions? There are pages of interesting customs and a Folk Facts Calendar of where it's all happening. There are traditional songs and dances and even a playlet.

The activity sheets at least from a laypersons point of view look most useful and great fun. As a mum of four overdrafts I wish this sort of thing had been used or available when ours were at Primary school.

The pack costs £9.95 plus £1.50 p&p but is free to schools from EFDSS, Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Rd, London NW1 7AY. Cheques payable to EFDSS.

There are also similar packs for the summer and winter terms.

Kath Holden

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History, Folk-lore, music, dialect....  
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MARTIN WYNDDHAM READ.

Tim Hall, Colin Rose, Johnny Inghide, Duncan Barber,  
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FRIDAY 3RD - SUNDAY 5TH MAY 1996  
WEEKEND TICKETS £21 (CONC-£16)  
DAY TICKETS £10 (CONC-£8)

Isla St Clair  
The Wilsons  
Janet Russell  
Tim Laycock  
Les Barker  
Jez Lowe  
Tom  
McConville  
Calennig  
Johnny Collins  
The Antique Roadshow

Mal Waite, Eddie Murphy, John  
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Pitts, Mal Brown, Argosie Folk  
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Graham, Jeff Dennison,  
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Whytehead, 19 Ivor Road, Redditch B97  
4PF. Tel: Sally on 01527 401040 or Mick  
on 01527 541476.

## The North-West Federation of Folk Clubs Invite YOU to an Open Meeting

on  
Wednesday, 13th March  
from 8.00pm

at The Owl, Upholland

Main Topic is proposed merger  
with Buzz & SCANS - come &  
have your say

(on the main A577 from M6 junction 26  
and end of M58)

More Information from

Kath Holden 01942 258459

Nigel Firth 01942 833293

## Come on Young Folkies...

lets do something for ourselves

It's here - the official  
folk newsletter for  
young people



We need you to send articles,  
poems, issues about folk,  
letters, tunes.....



Or what about a picture,  
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Admission £3.50

MARCH 8th.

THE BLACKTHORN BAND  
Admission £3.00

OCTOBER 4th.

CALLER: GWYNNDON BOARDMAN  
WITH SHAKE-A-LEG  
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APRIL 12th.

CALLER: ROY ATKINSON  
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DECEMBER 6th.

DAVE HUNT  
WITH SHAKE-A-LEG  
Admission £3.50

ALL ENQUIRIES TO PHIL 01254 397623

## Risky Business



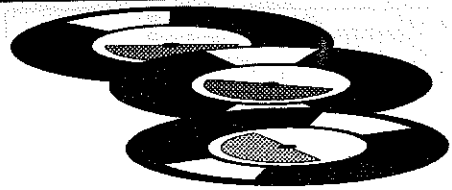
### Forthcoming Gigs

- 10 Jan The Star Inn, Salford, Manchester
- 14 Jan Bradshaw Folk Club, Halifax
- 1 Feb Topic Folk Club, Bradford
- 29 Feb Parkgate Hotel, Deeside, Wirral
- 13 Mar Otley Folk Club, W. Yorks
- 15 Mar Blundells Hill G.C., Merseyside
- 27 Mar Willenhall Folk Club, Birmingham
- 18 April The Swan, Lloyds Hotel, Chorlton, Manchester
- 9 May Lymm Folk Club, Heatley, Cheshire
- 15 May Cottingham Folk Club, Nr Hull, E. Yorks
- 18 Sept Willenhall Folk Club, Birmingham

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# RECORD REVIEWS

## HARVEY ANDREWS "Snaps - The Family Album"

*Hypertension HYCD 295 159*

This is a very personal collection from Harvey Andrews, featuring songs about memories of growing up in Birmingham and various members of his family (illustrated with photos) covering the late 1800's to the present day. It is as though we are allowed to peep into his photo album and find out about his family. Not just the good guys, there are a few skeletons here as well.

The album (so it says in the little booklet) has been several years in preparation, and has been produced with the musical assistance of the Bushbury Mountain Daredevils.

There is a wide variety of music here, from those with a music hall style like "Man from Brum-magen town" and "The Old Tin Bath" to one based on Rogers & Hart's "Blue Moon", so I really can say there should be something for everyone here.

They are all good songs, but one or two really stand out and which I could listen to all day. "Grain of Sand (Tiny little Sister)" is about two sisters who live on opposite sides of the globe and somehow haven't quite kept in touch. Social comment is never very far away on any Harvey Andrews' album, and two of those are my other favourites "Ghost Town" is about the effect of out of town shopping centres on town centres and the corner shops. The strongest song however is kept until last "Fifty years on", about those heroes and heroines at the war's end who found the promises betrayed. listen to part of this:

"Fifty years on, fifty years gone

And they've lost a war they could have  
sworn they'd won

Fifty years on, fifty years gone

And the kids say please to the Japanese  
Can we work for the new Nippon

Fifty years On."

What more can I say? Go out & buy it, or go and see Harvey when he's next in the area, insist he plays "Fifty Years On" and buy the album from him!

Nigel Firth

## MADDY PRIOR AND THE CARNIVAL BAND "Hang Up Sorrow And Care"

*Park Records PRK CD31*

This is the best CD I've heard in ages. It really is Hang up Sorrow and Care or to quote the CD insert 'a cure for all melancholy being a collection of the wit and philosophie of Old Simon the King'. Maddy Prior is perfect as ever and complements the multi instrumental genius of the Carnival Band.



Harvey Andrews

The 'play' is in three parts. Part one finds Simon in the alehouse in jovial company discussing the strangeness of their time.

'The Prodigal's resolution' starts off in a real carnival atmosphere followed by a rousing set of tunes. 'The world's turned upside down' is a reflection on puritanical times all of which leads Simon to think it's simpler being 'The Jovial Beggar' rather than a King.

As 'The Leathern Bottel' takes over (wonderful double bass and handclap intro) Simon becomes enamoured of but scorned by the alehouse hostess and muses

upon the sweet torments of love. 'lantha' is a smooth cello solo.

Two of my most favourite tracks are in this section. 'An thou were my ain thing' has Maddy's velvet voice most sensitively accompanied on guitar and 'Now O Now I needs must part' has Rick Kemps 'Somewhere along the Road' (tune) cleverly falling into place in the middle. In utter contrast we have Henry Purcell's 'Man is for the Woman made' and a flamboyant tango arrangement of 'O that I had but a fine man'. This section is completed by 'A Northern Catch', the whole song sung as a round to great effect fading and in turn leading into 'The Little Barleycorn'.

Finally his fellow drinkers entertain Simon with songs and dances recalling the rustic pleasures of his youth with 'Granny's Delight' and 'My Lady Foster's delight' which are a true delight played on curtal. 'A Round of three Country Dances' sung exactly as the title implies precedes two extracts from the Beggars Opera 'Youth's the season made for Joy' - a thoroughly joyful rendition - and 'In the days of my Youth' a

reflective piece accompanied by violin and I think a bass recorder. 'Never weatherbeaten saile' is another of my favourites and 'Old Simon the King' literally winds the whole thing up with a few philosophical observations and we finish as we started in a carnival atmosphere.

The songs obviously meticulously researched originate from the late 16th to the early 18th century and are wonderfully arranged by Andrew Watts of the Carnival Band. The music knows no boundaries. It is simply exquisite.

Kath Holden

## BIG JIG "BUG"

*HYCD 295 158*

If you've seen them live, you'll love this album. A unique combination of instruments, banjo, bass, drums, flute, accordion and guitar, with songs and instrumentals about 50/50. The opening track "It's All About Love" grabs you straight away and it's hard to

keep your feet still for most of the rest of the album, about 50 mins in all. I can't listen to them without thinking of Elfin Sarah Allen standing on one leg, delivering the most staggering flute breaks -- as she does here! Vocals from Chris Thompson, Ian Ross and Sarah Allen are well featured -- some good songs here -- nice harmonies and oh those rhythms!. (Miggy Barradas on drums and percussion)

It's a well produced and mixed album but unfortunately my copy started jumping after track 6 and it was a bit of a struggle to coherently listen to the end but I stuck with it -- well worth it. Let's hope it was a rogue copy (it could be my CD player I suppose). My advice is, try and catch them live if you can and certainly buy this album either before or after seeing them.

Dave Howard

## THE COMPLETE SONGS OF ROBERT BURNS. VOLUME 1

*Linn Records CKD 047*

I couldn't believe my luck, the first time I am ever asked to do an album review and it is Rabbie Burns! The first bar of music lifted me onto another plain, this is my kind of music! There are 23 songs sung by; Tony Cuffe, Rod Paterson, Billy Ross, Christine Kydd, Janet Russell, Ian F Benzie and Alan Reid, packaged in gold and what a treasure.

Some songs are old familiar favourites, others I have never heard before.

The album takes you from simple unaccompanied "O wha'll mow me now" beautifully sung by Janet, to a superb arrangement of "Ay Waukin O" sung by Tony on guitar with Billy Jackson on harp and the always tasteful playing of John McCusker on fiddle.

The songs are varied in style and tempo and I suppose if I have to be objective I have to admit the arrangement of "Duncan Fray" I like the least on the album but as I love the rest this doesn't matter much. Rod Paterson's voice is wonderful. He sings with a mellow richness, songs like "The Lea Rigg" and "O, Rattling Roaring Willie".

Billy Ross I liked too. He does more than justice to the old favourite "The Winter it is Past" and "Lady Mary Ann". Christine's voice is beautifully suited to "The Slave's Lament". I could go on and on about more of the tracks, but take my word for it, definitely well worth listening to. This was Volume 1 and there are 11 more to go. It has been beautifully recorded

and presented and no doubt some time in the future I will probably wish I had sent off for all 12. It would be any serious collector's prize possession.

Helen Howard.

## THE SAW DOCTORS "World Of Good EP"

*Shamtown  
Records SAW -  
007 - CD*



BIGJIG

The long awaited single has finally hit the streets of Britain and after listening to it I would strongly advise that you go out and buy it now! Whether you are a long-time fan or have never heard of the rockers from Tuam you will be foot tapping and generally feeling good after this varied collection of tracks.

"World Of Good" is the single and follows the tradition of Saw Doctors tracks, good solid lyrics with a really good tune behind it. It should get the credit it deserves by breaking into the mainstream Top 40 but as with most talent don't be surprised if it doesn't reach the dizzy heights of the Top 10 - You need a mixing deck, synth, the ability to mime and a pretty face to do that don't you?

The single is followed then by "Bless Me Father" which allows Davey Carton to really let rip and enjoy himself - It is a more raucous 'get em going' track which nevertheless is still just as enjoyable.

The EP is then balanced superbly by the wonderful 27 ballad "Letter From Louise" which attempts to express



the new beginning atmosphere currently operating in Northern Ireland and is an absolutely excellent creation.

We then finish off with a track close to the Saw Doctors hearts - it is a track written by Padraig Stevens (the original, performed by Padraig and Jimmy Higgins is available on a previous CD release). The track "Tuam Beat" is performed wonderfully by the Saw Doctors on this CD and is also done equally well live on one of their many tours.

Overall the CD is tremendous and keeps up the great reputation of the Saw Doctors. If you can get to see them live then I would highly recommend it. North West dates coming up shortly are:-

Preston (Guild Hall) Saturday 9th March

Manchester (Apollo) Sunday 10th March

Liverpool (Royal Court) Sunday 17th March

Martin Holden

## DAR WILLIAMS

"The Honesty Room"

Grapevine CD.GRA 10

## MATT DEIGHTON

"Villager"

Focus CD1

Here we have two young Singer/Songwriters, one British and one American; one male & one female; one firm & making a definite journey; one marsh-mallowy & rambling.

Dar Williams is on a journey that takes her to interesting places. Already she has visited Joni Mitchell & Phil Ochs

and said hello to Nancy White ("The Babysitter's here"). Occasionally she gets bogged down, but she is young and has time to develop the distinct style of storytelling that works so well on songs like "When I was a boy", "When Sal's burned down" and the chilling "Flinty kind of woman". I know the path she treads and I feel she is well equipped to equal the journey of others whilst writing her own distinctive and individual journey of life. I look forward to further chapters.

Matt Deighton is adrift in a boat on a stream. In his head echo the rambling songs of John Martyn and Nick Drake; he searches for melodies, but they elude him; his thoughts wander; he jots random lines in a notebook.

He is happy, but I am bored.



Dar Williams

A critic once said "It may be a way, but it's not my way", and that is fair comment. If you want to close your eyes, lay back and switch off, then Matt's your man and good luck to you. He will sit well next to your John Martyn & Nick Drake, and that will be "your way"; just as valid as any other.

However, I much prefer to stride out with Dar as she misses little and lives in the real world. I like her eye and her ear and her enthusiasm. And I like her stout boots. She'll need them. She's going a long way.

Harvey Andrews

## FULL HOUSE

"Spaciously Deceptive"

101 Records 101 RECCD3

I first saw Full House about 4 years ago at Fylde Festival. On the strength of what I saw, I persuaded our club organiser to book them. They've been twice now, giving excellent nights on both occasions. Normally a 3 piece outfit, Nick Mitchell, Dave Russell and Chris Lee they are joined by Mike Scott on drums. There are 14 tracks on the CD which are mainly traditional songs or sets of tunes but there are 4 original items.

I presume that they will sell this at bookings as a representative selection of what they do. On the whole I'm a bit disappointed with the CD. Live they do a mixture of contemporary, original and covers and the traditional stuff, giving a nice blend to the night. They have chosen very well known traditional songs, which really, unless you do

something new with them sound a bit "old hat". The tunes are played

will, they are all excellent musicians and they have produced some good arrangements.

The vocals, I feel, needed to be a bit more "up front" in the mix and reverb would have helped to lift the low notes on some of the tracks, it feels as though they have chosen a key that's a semi-tone too low for the vocalist.

The highlights on the CD are the original tracks, especially the unaccompanied "The Beggars Song '95" which shows just how well they can actually sing.

I'm sorry lads. I don't think this shows you at your talented best.

Ken Howard

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DAVE BURLAND \* COCKERSDALE  
TOM McCONVILLE & PAULINE CATO

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Chris White \* Kelly White

## RISKY BUSINESS "Harbour In The Storm"

RBCD1

Let me begin by saying I owe Risky Business an apology - I should have sent this review in time for the Christmas shopping period. What an ideal gift this would have made! I was actually on holiday in County Kerry, listening to this whilst driving around the Dingle Peninsula and the Ring of Kerry - what a companion it was! From the title track at the start to the final track "Southbound Train". The whole album is just a joy to listen to. Dave Walmisley is responsible for writing 6 of the 13 songs, and superbly crafted songs they are too. In fact "Harbour The Storm" and "Gone To Ground" should become folk club standards - the chorus' just demand audience involvement and you will find yourself singing them over and over again. "The Tree" is a great song also - I'm not going to tell you what it's about - you'll discover the beauty and message when you but the CD.

Of the tracks written by other writers, Angela Kaset's "Something In Red" makes even this die hard Evertonian sympathetic to that colour, while Steve Knightly's "Galway Farmer" is the 'Big One' of the album. If I have a couple of reservations about this one it's just that I feel Ruth is straining on the vocals a little bit and the tin whistle part could have been a bit stronger. On

all the tracks where all three are singing, the harmonies are superb without trying to be clever. Once or twice I thought Ken's harmony could have been done with a touch more volume, but the general blend is terrific. The guitars and mandolin accompaniments are spot on and nowhere has an attempt been made to overdo things.

General production is as good as you'll find anywhere - as far as I'm aware they recorded and mixed the whole album themselves. Indeed, the cover design, layout, etc is all their own work. All the lyrics of Dave's songs have been included and the packaging is first class.

All in all a stunner! I'd been looking forward to hearing this for so long, having seen them perform live from the inception of the group, and I was just knocked out by it. I recommend anyone who likes good music to buy it and for clubs and festival organisers to book them. Isn't it great to have talent like this on our doorstep? Dave, Ken and Ruth - You should be proud of yourselves - I'm just very, very glad you're not in an Irish Band!!

Tony Gibbons



Risky Business

## PENNI McLAREN WALKER "The Skippers Daughter"

CD 101RECCD2

12 songs, all but one by Penni, who has pulled out all the stops for this her first CD. A very professional looking package from "101 Studios". The songs are mainly of a "Traditional" bent - the opener being "Keeping Tradition Alive" which gives us some idea of what to expect over the next 49 mins or so. There is a fair variety of styles here, from the sparse single guitar of Phil Hare, to the full band sound on "Flying to Leeward" - bass, electric 12 string (Roger McGuinn style), twin mandolins - plus massed harmonies (Thank goodness for the multi-track!)

"Bonny Boy" is tastefully sung and played, Penni's own guitar this time and haunting whistle by Alun Rhys Jones, but I'm not sure if the world needs yet another version of this song! I like the simplicity of "Stand Up" written by Mal Brown - a thought provoking song, immaculate playing by Phil, who features fairly strongly on the album. We're almost in Nashville with the next track "Blond Girlie Music" a fun song complete with 5 string banjo and jazzy fiddle, from the amazing Joe Broughton.

Unfortunately, Penni's voice failed to invoke any emotion in me and although pleasant enough, never really grabbed me. Although technically excellent with some very good playing by the "Chester Mafia" including

Mike Johnson on drums/percussion, who also engineered the album, it left me a bit cold. I found nothing had made much of a lasting impression.

I've tried very hard to like it and given it several plays over the last few days. A lot of the songs are very derivative. Penni must have a large record collection. I can hear lines from Judy Small, Stan Rogers and miscellaneous tunes that all sound a bit familiar, slipping out of the songs, a lot of which are fairly simplistic in structure, partly due to the over use of open tunings on the obviously guitar based melodies. I know it's very difficult coming up with anything original these days, when you have got songwriters of the calibre of Jez Lowe, Chris While and Steve Knightly who are writing strong stuff along the same lines as Penni - ships in full sail and all that! I am not sure if this album from Penni is going to set the Folk World on fire just at the moment, but worth a listen.

Dave Howard

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## GEOFF PARRY "Walking On Stones"

An album of the songs and poems of Geoff Parry with all profits going to Amnesty International.

### Side A

- 1 The children of BoliviaJez Lowe & Bev Sanders (Jenny Shotliff on Fiddle)
- 2 By the Statute of The EnglishSue Howard & Bob Davies
- 3 My Dream Home Sue Howard & Bob Davies
- 4 Sally and Johnny Mr & Mrs Smith
- 5 Bloody Nasty People Benjamin Zephaniah
- 6 Someone Elses War Steve Tilson
- 7 Waiting For Tanks Geoff Parry
- 8 Igor Ivanovich Dave Hockley
- 9 Walking on Stones Frank Goulden & Bill Hackney
- 10 Go Dancing Away Eric Bradshaw & Tom Woodhouse

### Side B

- 1 The Year 2000 The Lunchtime Legends
- 2Why Can't We Fall In Love AnywayTrick or Treat
- 3Stand Up and Be CountedPete Rimmer
- 4The Blues are Right on TimeDai Thomas
- 5Walking on Stones Mix It Up
- 6The Sixties Kid Dave Hockley
- 7The False Messiah Dave Roberts
- 8The Man With A Tuba Dave Roberts
- 9Come Back To Me One AgainAndy Anderson
- 10 Think Of Me And SmileQuartz

There you are 20 tracks by local and national artists, with something for everyone - and all profits for Amnesty. Shake the moths from your wallet and treat yourself to a fine compilation. You can always get a copy direct from Geoff Parry c/o Formby Folk Club.

Dave Day

## PRESSGANG - "Fire!"

### Twah! 101

Pressgang are new to me and I suspect to some of you too, but on the evidence of this CD that won't be the case for long. They are a band who possess immense talent and I suppose I'm expected to use the obvious pun and say that they play with real fire. This is extremely true but since I hate obvious puns I won't say it!

Some interesting juxtapositions in evidence throughout - medieval style flute playing over rock drums, traditionally flavoured lyrics delivered "rap" - full credit for trying to be original. I'm told the band have quite a following on the continent and there does seem to be evidence of a wide range of cultural influences at work on this album, the strongest however being our own traditional music.

Although there's nowhere where it says so, with some exceptions, notably "Hard Times" (of Old England,) I presume the songs were written by Pressgang. I must say I'm impressed, they're no mean wordsmith's. Thoughtful and thought provoking throughout - very well crafted. However, despite being brilliantly played by four fine musicians they're a bit lacking in the tune department, i.e. great words, not so great melody lines. I'm not referring to instrumentals here, there are a couple of cracking instrumental medleys, "Sussex Medley" and "Sherrif's Ride" and I would like to exempt two songs in particular from that earlier minor criticism - "Flanders" and the absolutely wonderful "New South Wales" are two superb pieces of work in every department. It's well worth buying the album for these two songs alone. Well done lads.

P.S. Next time you're in the area, let Folk North West know and we an all come and see you.

For further information contact Press To Play 01353 668115

Lawrence Hoy

## GRAHAM SOWERBY "Mrs Sowerby's Little Lad"

### Cassette TAS 101

Graham Sowerby, for those of you who may not know, is one of the many talented residents of the Railway Folk Club, Heatley, Near Lymm. Having been a visitor to this club for many years - since the days it was based in Appleton Thorn - I've had the chance to listen to Graham's songs many times and for the past ten years, I, and no doubt many others, have been begging him to put his songs down on tape or records. Well, at last he's done it, and he hasn't let me down.

Side 1 begins with "The Lakes Song" and perfectly conveys his obvious love of walking in the Lake District. The voice is strong and clear, with economical accompaniment. As with every other song on the tape, the melody matches the fine lyrics. "When You and I Were Here" is a song about the warning signs in the break up of a relationship. "Dead Reckoning" (about submarines) pays tribute to those 'brave enough to serve in them', as Graham says. Next is "Little Bit of Rain" a song about acid rain and in particular the events and aftermath of Chernobyl. I'm sure Graham won't be offended by me comparing this to Tom Paxton or Pete Seeger - This should become a standard after just one listen. A powerful message, but presented in a caring, non-preaching way. A lovely melody to boot! "Wainwright" is a nice tribute to the man who inspired generations of Lakeland Ramblers - I never had the energy but I love listening about people who have!! "Shores of Evening" is a modern 'ghost' ballad. Side 1 ends with "Belle Helene", an interesting song about the evacuation from Dunkirk in World War 2. Accompanied only by a Dulcimer (though credit is not given to who the player is). Graham tells a fine story of a small boat in

32 particular and the special place it holds in one family's

history. I don't know if the song was taken from fact or if it is complete fiction but it certainly sounds like it should be true.

Side 2 begins with "Sailors Song", a conversation between a dying sailor and his shipmates. Very poignant. "Little Irish Girl" didn't do a great deal for me I'm afraid. I can understand the sentiment behind the song but I think the subject was covered much more powerfully in Vin Garbutt's "Caroline Kelly". "One Drop of Oil" pays tribute to those merchant seamen of world war 2 whose hardship and suffering were and still are generally ignored by successive British Governments. Lively song and tune "I Could Have Cried" is a compilation of anecdotes told by veterans of the Battle of the Somme. Another poignant thought-provoking song. "A Long Long Time Ago" is an imaginary set of circumstances based on a real relationship. "Country Child" is about the magnetic effect London has on teenagers and the problems that this can bring. The album ends appropriately with "Epi-logue", inspired by Leonard Cheshire's comparison of the dropping of the atom bomb on Hiroshima to "A Hundred Suns Dawning at Once". A powerful and moving song ending with the lines... 'and all the ancient planets, will watch their burning baby, and wonder how one so young dare play with fire.' I don't think anyone could have put it better.

All in all a terrific first effort by Graham.

Thoughtful lyrics giving an insight into his sincerity, concern and observation of the human spirit. Superbly accompanied by Tony Howard on guitar (who also engineered and produced the tape), Ian Sherwood (Keyboards, Violin and bass) and Sarah Sherwood (Flute and Piano Accordion). It is not a recording that will jump out at you and hit you between the eyes - You'll probably need, as I did, about 3 or 4 plays to take it in - but the more you play it, the more you'll appreciate it. Well done, Graham. Here's to the next one!

Tony Gibbons

## THE TANSADS "Drag Down The Moon"

### Transatlantic TRACD 118

The Tansads. Are they a rock band? Are they a pop group? What the hell are they doing in a folk magazine?

The Tansads could have taken the easy way out. However, unlike several rock/pop outfits who you just know have said, "We're getting nowhere, lads.... I know, let's get ourselves a fiddler and crack the folk market", the Tansads have refused the easy option 33

and thus we don't end up with pseudo-folkies engaged in some great pretence racket.

What we do get is vibrant, electrifying, loud, shocking, raw, hard and musically unclassifiable. So I won't label them, I'll just tell you that they're damn good. What I will say is that all the way down to their Lancashire accents, they've remained true to their roots and that's folk enough for me!

This live CD is taken from one of their sold out gigs at St Helens Citadel and you can fairly feel that the place is buzzin' and you actually do get the sense of a live recording; not one where the producer recorded cheers and applause and then stuck on it studio versions of the songs.

And so to the songs themselves. God knows what half of them are about and who cares anyway? But they seem to range from an anarchic attack on today's world to .... an anarchic attack on today's world! Listening to them one certainly does get the

urge to join in and stick two fingers up at society. I certainly did (sorry, I'll write that again.) I certainly did enjoy them. In general, I like my music loud and raw, but I must admit I particularly liked the few exceptions, especially the reflective "She's Not Gone" and "Spirit Moves" and also the stirring version of Pete Seeger's "Where Have All The Flowers Gone?", featuring Janet Anderton's fine voice. One



The Tansads

minus mark here for I feel she would do better to sing more and shout less - them as can sing should ... leave the shouting to them as can't (e.g, me!)

Only one other minus for me; in my view the lyrics need some polish before they match up to the fine music that goes with them.

All in all, a well produced, well recorded work. The Tansads are a fine band and this CD shows them off well... but a word of warning, it's not for you old fuddy-duddies out there. Chuck the Philosan in the bin before you but it!

For further information contact Press To Play 01353 668115

Lawrence Hoy

## JOEL FRANCISCO PERRI Master Of The Indian Flutes

### ARC MUSIC EUCD/MC1199

Joel is half Sicilian half French born in the Ardennes and encountered South American music and in particular the Andean flute in the Latin Quarter of Paris. He became so entranced that he worked five to eight hours a day to become a very talented exponent of both the flute and the panpipes. He has toured with



Los Paraguayos and joined Los Calchakis with whom he remained for four years until going solo. His great obsession extends to building and tuning his own instruments.

I have to admit that I know nothing of the technicalities of playing but the panpipes have long held a fascination for me. The music of the Andes is so vibrant yet evocative and this CD is no exception. It is music to relax with and get lost in, bringing sunshine and warmth into a cold winter.

Almost all the tracks are composed by Joel or his exceptionally talented son Cedric who has apparently inherited his father's passion for South American music.

You can obtain this CD from Arc Music. PO Box 111, East Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 4FZ, or from good stockists of world music. It is worth noting also that Arc Music have an amazing range of world music CDs available with comprehensive and informative insert notes.

Kath Holden

### **BAND FULL OF LEROYS "Between The Chairs"**

**TWAW-033-EFA-800-33-2**

This is the fifth album to be released by this multi-national combination and to be honest is the first one that I have listened to. First impressions are of a very professional outfit who have a product they can be justifiably proud of. There does appear to be the 'Seattle Sound' influence in a lot of the tracks but rather than sounding like any one in particular they seem to have created their own individual sound which is carried through the various tracks.

The main vocalist, K Nielsen expresses the feelings of the group in a very understandable way but at the same time incorporating his own distinctive Danish twang to give the songs that European feel to them.

The tracks themselves are full of strong percussion backed guitar riffs and well sung lyrics which are all complimented by the start and end solo's which make virtually every track a new experience.

One slight criticism is that a Band Full of Leroy's don't seem to have a wide scope with much of the songs having been constructed and then performed in a similar fashion. However having said that all the tracks on the CD ooze talent, with the music that is produced being of a very high standard.

Whether the band will become more successful depends on how they are received in the media. Judging by the style of music they are making, the product is in place, so it now looks to be up to how much airplay and marketing can be achieved.

My final thought on the CD is that it is a very enjoyable album which is aimed mainly at the folk-rockers but anyone with a good appreciation of musical talent will find it a good listen.

Martin Holden

### **Travel On - Julian Dawson**

**Hypertension Music HYCD 296 160**

I must confess until this CD arrived I'd never heard of Julian Dawson. The press release says that although reasonably known over here he has a "cult status" in the U.S.A. and Germany. His songs have been covered by the likes of Doloris Keane, Little Feat and Paul Young. The CD has 11 tracks and has backing from Curtis Stigers and the Roches to name but two.


I wasn't sure about this on the first listening but I've played it a lot in the car and it sort of drags you into it. All the arrangements are first-rate and the musicianship excellent, particularly the fretless bass playing of Mark Griffiths and the piano playing of, the late, Nicky Hopkins. I'd recommend this CD to any song writer as an example of how to show your songs at their best.

On the whole it's quite a rocky CD with plenty of backing on most of the tracks. Julian has an interesting voice that has the same whispery qualities to it that Gerry Rafferty has.

They are all strong songs. The highlights for me are "Uneasy Rider", the country style "Queen Of The Bayou" and the really beautiful "You're Listening Now".

Nice one Julian, a pleasure to review.

Ken Howard



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