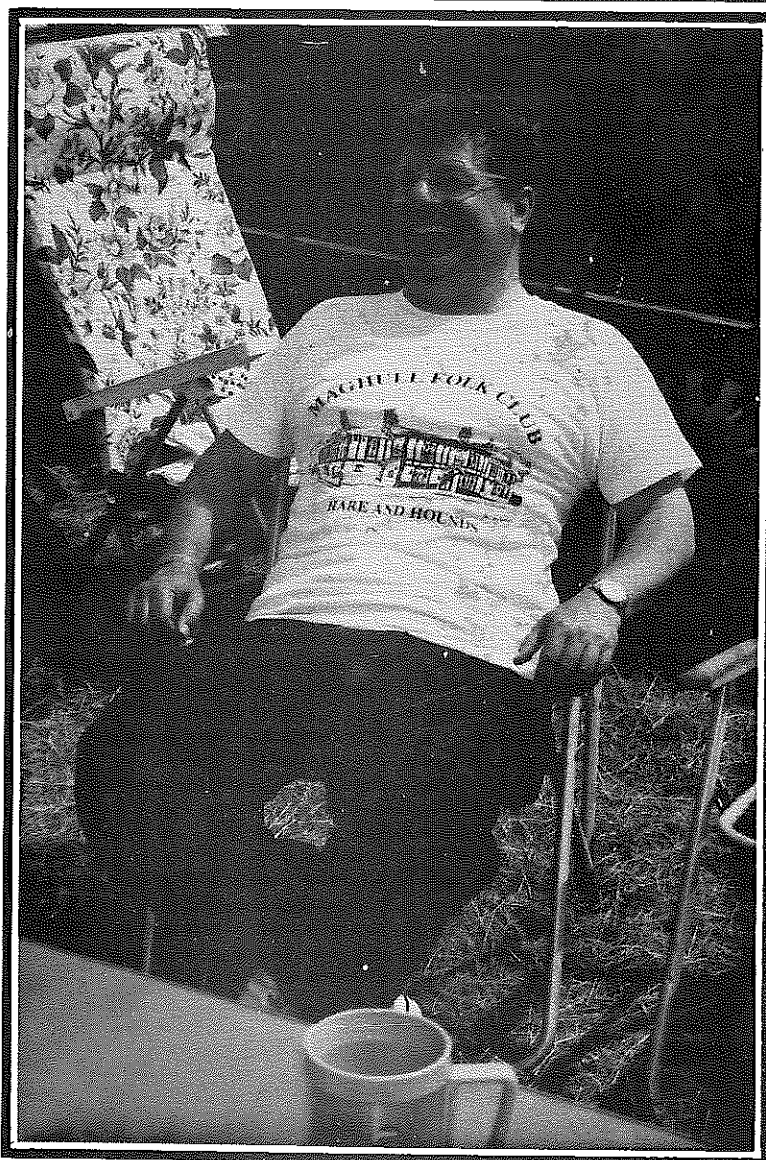


FOLK *North West*

Summer 1996

80p



DAVE DAY died 14.03.96
Special Tribute Issue

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Whiskey Priests

**Mark Atherton &
Simon Cohen**

NewsReel

Youthful Perspective

**Record Reviews: *Harvey
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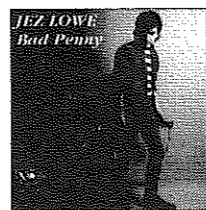
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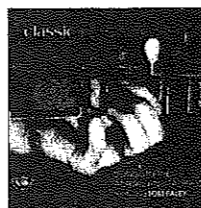


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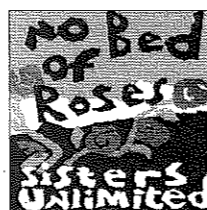


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The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of either the Editor or of The Federation

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

EDITORIAL

I make no apologies for devoting a large part of this issue to Dave Day who died on March 14th, as many of will already know. He devoted much of his life to folk music in its many forms, and to helping other people in all kinds of ways, but often behind the scenes without any publicity.

Since we closed for press, I've also heard of the death of "Big" Pete Rodger, long time member of the Taverners, and stalwart of the Blackpool Folk Scene. Rather than rush in and also let him be overshadowed by Dave's death, I thought it much more appropriate to let our next issue (our "Fylde" issue) be dedicated to him. Suffice it to say for now that I'm sure he will be sadly missed by his many friends on the folk scene. (died 23rd April 1996)

In this issue, Tony Gibbons provides a tribute to Dave Day, although in typical fashion, Dave has written his own obituary in the form of an article "Rambling Away". Ian Tupling has also contributed a poem that sums him up perfectly.

Also in this issue, there are interviews with the Wiskey Priests and a local duo, as well as all the latest news and dates from across the region.

See you all at Fylde.



Nigel Firth, Editor

OUR NEXT ISSUE COVERS
SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER 1996
THE CLOSING DATE FOR ALL
SUBMISSIONS IS JULY 20th,
NOTHING WILL BE ACCEPTED
AFTER THIS DATE

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FOLLOWING IN 1996**

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NewsReel

**Latest News from around the
region and further afield**

Out of necessity, the NewsReel for this issue is about to be quick and simple. In no particular order, here goes.....

First mention goes to **Folkworks** who have a couple of events coming up in the summer. The Youth Summer School takes place over five days from the 29th July to the 2nd August. Lots of superb tutors including Luke Daniels, Karen Tweed and Kathryn Tickell. A new event is the Adults (age 20+) Summer School which is taking place in Durham on the same dates. Tutors for this school include Alistair Anderson, Martin Dunn and Andy Cutting. The fees and other details are too complex to go into here, so if you want to know more you can send an SAE to Folkworks, 69 Westgate Rd, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 1SG or contact Chris Pentney on (0191) 222 1717.

On Saturday 24th August 1996, **In Tandem** is promoting a concert at the Carnegie Hall, Westhoughton featuring 'LE GOP!' from France. The band have toured Britain on a number of occasions over recent years, they played at the concert for the opening of the Channel Tunnel and have attracted much critical acclaim. In addition to LE GOP! the concert will also feature one of the best melodeon players in the country today, Martin Ellison. It was Martin's style of playing that gave the now disbanded (and much lamented) Ran Tan Band such a distinctive style. Can you afford to miss a concert such as this? No, of course you can't. Ring In Tandem on (01942) 816569 and get your tickets booked.

The summer is almost here, so some festival news.....

This year will see the end of an era in the musical history of Beverley, as lovers of the **Beverley Folk Festival** are given the last chance to experience this annual event which has become one of the main weekends in the music festival calendar of the UK and of the town itself. After 14 years of dedication and hard work by the Committee in organising the festival, increasing pressures on their time due to business and domestic issues, have forced them to 'call it a day' after this year's event. With demand likely to be great from the festival's fans during it's 14 years existence, it is advised that anyone intending to book tickets - gets in early!!! The dates are 21st to 23rd June. Information from the Festival Office on (01377) 217662/839.

Bracknell Festival takes place on 28th to 30th of June and features over 50 international, national and local bands in an outstanding mix of live entertainment from rock, indie, dance and hip hop to folk and world music and jazz and contemporary sounds. This year's line-up includes Ian Dury and the Blockheads, Mary Coughlan, Guy Barker Quintet, Chumbawamba, Luke Daniels and Ian Lowthian and Kieran Halpin. Weekend tickets are £27 (in advance) with free parking and camping for weekend ticket holders. For further information contact Viv Micklefield, on (01344) 427272 or fax (01344) 411472.

2nd to the 9th August sees **Sidmouth International Festival of Folk Arts**, Devon featuring Loudon Wainwright III, Stockton's Wing, a seasonal spectacle Frost & Fire, Aly Bain and Phil Cunningham, Natalie MacMaster, Dick Gaughan, The John Kirkpatrick Band, Chris Smither and loads of others! Festival Box Office (01296) 433669.

16th to the 23rd August sees the **South Bank Folk Festival** at the South Bank Centre, London. Call Mrs Casey Music on (01296) 394411 for further information.

23rd to the 26th August - **Towersey Village Festival**, near Thame, Oxfordshire featuring The Poozies, Roy Bailey, Le Gop!, Chris Wood and Andy Cutting, Coope, Boyes & Simpson and many more. Festival Box Office (01296) 433669.

Cambridge Folk Festival is taking place on 26th to the 28th August at Cherry Hinton Hall, Cambridge. As usual an outstanding line-up of guests including Ray Davies, Oysterband, The Rankin Family, Altan, Eliza Carthy, Barry Dransfield and The John Kirkpatrick Band. Tickets aren't cheap at £38 plus camping charges, but the weekend does have great promise. Box Office (0181) 542 8101 or fax (0181) 540 0691.

Rock, Salt and Nails are a young quintet playing fiddle, drums, bass, keyboards and guitar. To date the band have played all the major Scottish festivals and will be performing at the Citadel Arts Centre, Waterloo St, St Helens on Thursday the 27th June. If you would like to see them phone (01744) 735436 for more details.

If, like me, you've been a **Martin Carthy** fan for more years than you care to remember, you'll be glad to know that two of Martin's classic albums have been

re-released on CD. 'Landfall' (TSCD 345) and 'Sweet Wivelsfield' (TSCD 418) are the albums, Topic Records is the label and (0171) 281 3465 is the 'phone number for more information. It would seem that the entire Martin Carthy catalogue is now available on CD, well done Topic!

On Sunday 14th July there is **A World Of Music Day** from 11am to 5pm at Grosvenor Park Chester. Entrance is free for all the family. To quote from the press release "Bring the whole family to this free event and experience a procession of Sizzling Samba, the lively rhythms of Cajun music and the angelic voices of the St Petersburg ladies choir. The Grand Finale will be provided by the spectacular Scottish Pipe Band."

Legs Bistro are apparently a "Worldabilly Music" band offering joyous music from the heart. "Building on a diverse selection of world folk roots, the band creates a unique sound that is both pioneering and accessible." ... or at least that's what their press release says. Don't take my word for it, go and see them in June at Brewery Arts, Kendal (1st), Richmond Hall, Carlisle (8th) and Hebden Trades Club, Hebden Bridge (15th). More info 0113 2636197.

On Friday 26th July, **The Kathryn Tickell Band** are at Chester Town Hall At 8Pm. Tickets are £6,£5. Traditional Northumbrian music is brought to Chester by superb pipes and folk fiddler Kathryn Tickell and her band who have been touring and recording to great acclaim. Named as Top Instrumentalist in the Folk Roots Poll of 1998, Kathryn has been a consistent hit on the national and international folk circuit. She has appeared most recently on the BBC Christmas Eve concert at York Minster in December. Not to be missed!!!

Peter Gleeve from Quartz tells us that there is to be a meeting at Lowton called "**A Big Sing**" on June 8th, where there is a chance to meet the organisers of the Four Fools Folk Festival. Free entry & runs from 8pm to 12pm.

Not strictly a folk event, but worth a mention anyway, is the **Kirkby Lonsdale Victorian Weekend** which takes place from the 6th to the 8th of September. Lots of Victorian costume, quite a few Morris sides and a very pretty location make the weekend one of colour and spectacle and one that is most worthy of noting in your diary. Normally the Victorian Weekend clashes with the Fylde Festival, but this year it takes place the week after Fylde. Why not go to both? No tickets to buy for this event, just turn up and enjoy.

That's it for this issue, have a lovely summer and enjoy the festivals.

Stephen Morris

FOLK MUSIC PROGRAMMES ON LOCAL RADIO

BBC Radio Lancashire

FM 95.5/103.9/104.5

LANCASHIRE DRIFT presented by NIC DOW Thursday 8.00 -10.00pm

BBC Radio Merseyside

FM 95.8/ MW 1485kHz

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

MANX RADIO

FM 89/97.2/103.7 - MW 1368kHz

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

BBC Radio Stoke

FM 94.6/MW 1503kHz

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

Radio Telifis Eirann Radio 1

MW 567kHz

(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 offer 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 Levellers Folk Club is still closed due to the refurbishment at The Picket, and so there are no real dates for the diary. Members of the club are very busy visiting other folk clubs in the area and drumming up support for Liverpool's 5th Free Folk and Arts Festival to be held at the Liverpool Irish Centre, Mount Pleasant, on 6th July 1996. Confirmation is awaited of an appearance by Tom Paxton and many others, see the advert in the magazine for further details.

The New Seven Stars

The New Seven Stars Folk Club has moved, and is now the Alison Arms Folk Club, at The Alison Arms, Preston Road, Coppull Moor, Nr Chorley. Contact Hilda Foy on 01257 792246 for further details.

Preston Folk Club

Preston Folk Club has had a change of organiser and venue. The club now meets at The Rat & Raven Hotel, 148 Moor Lane, Preston. Admission is free and singers and musicians are welcome. Hugh O'Donnell has been the club organiser for the last ten years, and has decided to take a well earned rest, but will continue to be a member of the resident musicians. The club members and the new organisers would like to thank Hugh for all his hard work in the past, and will be most grateful for his experience and advice in the future. The new organisers are Nick

Caffrey (01254 264407), Rob Malaney (01257 231463) and Brian Preston (01254 51324). Brian was the organiser of Preston Folk Club for ten years in the late sixties and early seventies, whilst Nick and Rob were residents at the club for a number of years in the early nineties.

Railway Folk Club

The Railway Folk Club continues its revival with good attendances for both Singers and Guest Nights, and has decided to launch a new series of "Saturday Railway Specials". These have started with The new Hudson Swan band on 27 April and are intended to take place monthly.

Raphael Callaghan and Christine Purnell

Following their appearances together at last year's Fylde Folk Festival, Merseyside-based blues duo Raphael Callaghan (vocal, slide guitar) and Christine Purnell (bass guitar) are teaming up with boogie pianist Bob Hall and his bass playing partner Hilary Blythe to form a dynamic two-bass "double duo". Under the title Two Bass Hit, they will be available for selected concert and festival gigs in 1997. For bookings, contact Hilary on 0114 236 3309.

Meanwhile, Raphael and Christine can be seen at Potteries Folk Club, Old Swan Inn, Stoke (Sunday 9 June), Llandudno Folk Club, Old Victoria Pub (Sunday 30 June), Liverpool Folk and Arts Festival, Irish Centre (Saturday 6 July), Max's Blues Club at the Farmer's Arms, Lancaster (Friday 12 July), Chorley Folk Club, Prince of Wales Hotel (Tuesday 30 July), Edinburgh Blues Festival (Sat/Sun 10/11 August) and Kendal Folk Festival, Brewery Arts Centre (Sunday 25 August). They can be contacted on 0151 709 5484.

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)



A FOLK CHOIR IN SOUTHPORT

Bev Saunders writes to say she is just about to set up a folk choir in Southport. The choir is open to anyone, whether they have experience or not, and the participants don't need to be able to read music or have sung in public before. Enthusiasm is more important than talent!

The sessions will consist of relaxation, confidence building and various vocal exercises, as well as a lot of singing of folk music. Anything fitting the term "folk music" will be the repertoire: traditional, contemporary, carols, Irish etc.

Anyone interested please contact Bev Saunders on 01772 813842

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 Rolph

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

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 Hardy, 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 - Tony Gibbons, Sue Howard, Loctup Together, Bob Tyrer, Clover, Paul Robinson, George and Joan Galimore

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, Brian Preston

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!

CEILIDHS RE-START AT THE FOLK CENTRE, PARK LANE, POYNTON

After 26 years the organisers of the Folk Nights and Ceilidhs at Poynton Folk Centre said in December 1995 that they no longer wished to carry on organising the ceilidhs. They informed the members present at the ceilidh that the management committee were insisting on conditions when hiring the centre and that they could not agree with these conditions.

Three Ceilidh dancing enthusiasts namely Sue James, Mike Lally and Joy Bridle were not prepared to see this popular venue fail and arranged a meeting with the committee running the centre. At this meeting held on 9 January 1996 the committee welcomed the enthusiasts and said that they would like the ceilidhs to continue.

The committee stated that a fee would be payable for the hire of the hall, the enthusiasts agreed that this was normal practice for any committee to charge for the hire of a hall and committed themselves to organising ceilidhs on a trial basis for a period of three months.

The first ceilidh was held on 10 February 1996 and due to the success and enthusiasm from people attending the centre - both new and old members - it has been decided to continue with the ceilidhs on the second and fourth Saturday's in the month. Many new bands as well as old favourites have been booked until the end of the year with a break for the month of August.

Dancing is from 8pm to 12 midnight with old members and new welcome.

The organisers would like it to be known that they have undertaken that after expenses have been met any profit made will be invested in improvements to the centre. This has been welcomed by the Committee who have attended all the ceilidhs arranged so far and have been very supportive of the new management.

For further details phone either the centre on 01625 574897 or Sue on 01270 766975.

Sue Mike & Joy



5th. Yorkshire Dales Bluegrass Festival
19th. -21st. July 1996

Dales Bank Farm Silsden, Nr Keighley, West Yorks

The Best of British Bluegrass
invited bands so far include

The Ken Tardley Playboys	Next Generation
The Bill Smarme Experience	Down County Boys
ACME Bluegrass Band	Missing Strings
Grass Roots	Hickory Swing
A Band Like Alice	Hired Hands
Wrekin Havoc Mountain Boys	White Lightning
Feet First Appalachian Dance Team	

Saturday afternoon Band Competition Prize £100

Weekend Tickets available in advance £20 from
158 Town St. Rodley, Leeds, LS13 1HW.
Cheques payable to Yorkshire Dales Bluegrass Festival



Restaurant and Real Ale Bar
admission to site by ticket only

For information about this years event phone
(01484 307424) (0113 255 4676) (0113 267 7040)



RED MOSS BENEFIT CONCERT

featuring...

Claire Mooney

"...really knows how to work an audience. The Mooney charm is fairly irresistible" Manchester Evening News. "...a real talent" NME.

Pete Ryder

Renowned guitarist and songwriter recently making a comeback with his new album marking a return to national radio.

Mark Atherton & Simon Cohen

Songwriter and multi-instrumentalist, reviewers describe as "brilliantful of ideas" "evocative, touching and compelling" with "brilliant fiddle and guitar work."

Nat Clare

Poet and songwriter who has written material for "Spitting Image," appeared on "The Word" and co-hosted the Octagon's "Live Friday's."

Helen Lake & Palmer

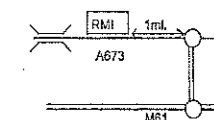
The superb voice, guitar and songs of Helen Lagoo with percussionist Wobster "palming" the bongos.

Harry Brennan

Recent finalists in Irish national songwriting competition and resident performer at "The Pitch."

Comper - Frank Wilson

Horwich RMI Club,
8.00p.m. - 12.00pm.
FRIDAY JUNE 21ST.
£5/£4 Conc. on the door.



FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT MARK (01204) 698205

Proceeds go to the Red Moss Action Committee - campaigning to stop this ancient peat bog (SSSI) becoming the site of a new "supertip."

A Youthful Perspective

with Jenny Shotliff

I'm hoping to get contributions from young people for this page again so if there are any volunteers please give me a ring but for the time being you'll have to put up with me!

I thought as we go into the summer festival season an update on events for teenagers might be useful.

JUNE:16th - Youthquake with Chris Sherburn & Denny Bartley at Middlewich Folk & Boat Festival. **22-23rd** - Youthquake, In With A Chance and others at Werneth, workshops, youth concert, ceilidh, session/singaround and open air Sunday concert. **28-30th** - Redditch Folk Festival "Young Folk 1996" competition winners presentation and concert.



NOVEMBER:

Maghull's Day of Music will include a youth concert and a Youthquake/Shooting Roots drawn "team" will be at Bedworth on the 30th.

These are the events we know are doing something specifically for teenagers, if you want more details call me on 01695 623641. If you know of or see any more please let me know.

If you want to keep in touch with news and events for teenagers its worth subscribing to the Youthquake Newsletter being run by our "Chester Branch"! Send £3 for 6 issues to Youthquake, P.O. Box 23, Chester, CH1 4WW. Send any news or articles you'd like us to include to this address too. The newsletter features a selection of news, tunes, interviews, poems, folk articles, soapbox, puzzle page, musical problem page, pre-

views and more.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Jenny Shotliffe is moving house about the middle of June, but doesn't yet know what her new 'phone number will be. If you need to contact her during July & August, please contact me.

JULY:

Stainsby have a young performers stage, ring David Davidson of you want to play on it.

The Living Tradition are running a Summer School as is Folkworks.

Youthquake are running a day of events at Redcar using various performers on the 13th.

27-28th music in the Albert Dock in Liverpool 12noon - 5pm featuring various performers.



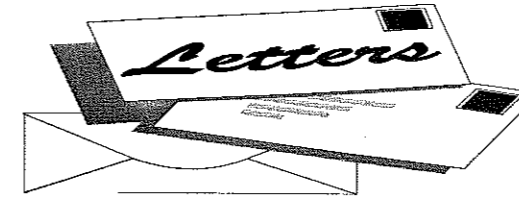
AUGUST:

2-10th Shooting Roots are running a series of events at Sidmouth. Summer Music summer school in Liverpool. **31-1 Sept Youthquake**, Acoustic Youth and Tallyman at Fylde.

SEPTEMBER:

20-22 Youthquake at Bromyard.

The photos on this page show:
(Top) Carlene Anglini & Simon Hayworth at Whitby
(Bottom) Jennifer & Hazel Wrigley (20 year old Orkney twins) at Whitby



to the EDITOR

From The Centre, Poynton

A report has been drawn to my attention in the Spring 1996 edition of "Folk Northwest" concerning the "demise" of Poynton Folk Club. The report was not signed, but it is an exact copy of one which appeared in Folk Buzz no 49 so I am aware of the source.

This report is essentially incorrect, biased and is prejudicial to the present organisers of the twice monthly Ceilidh meetings. The Poynton Folk Club was not closed by the Management Committee of the PYCC: Linda Boyle walked out, and cancelled all future bookings that she had made.

Fortunately several members present at that Ceilidh "Wake" were prepared to continue arranging concerts in her stead, which have proven to successful that they are booked all through the year.

Neither the Ceilidhs, nor the Monday Night singing, nor the Bar have been closed, and anyone wishing to return to see for themselves will be made most welcome. The Centre is now being properly managed as a professional concern, and those who do not wish to obey the new rules can leave voluntarily and have done so.

The various press releases sent out by the previous Folk and Ceilidh organisers were a vindictive attempt to damage the Centre Management Committee; judging from the reaction received this as back-fired.

Yours sincerely

Carol Reeve
Chairman, PYCC Management Committee

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DAVE DAY : A Tribute

by Tony Gibbons

Dave (David) Day passed away on the 14th March 1996. On the 1 February he (and his wife Jane) had been given the shattering news that he had inoperable cancer. For the last six weeks of his life he went on to confirm what some of us already knew - here was a truly remarkable man. As part of this tribute I had planned to give a history of his involvement in the north west folk world but, as was typical of him, he beat me to it!! Overleaf you will read, in his own words, how he first became involved in the folk scene and his involvement since. He wrote all this in the few weeks leading up to his death, that in itself shows what a methodical, organised person he was.

As he says in his article, we first met about 1973 at the folk club in Ormskirk. My first impression was that here was a man with a lovely sense of humour, straight-talking and someone who liked the simple, uncomplicated things in life. During those first few years I witnessed at first hand his phenomenal organisational ability. He had the attitude that anything was possible, if you pushed hard enough. I remember in particular when he booked "The Mulligan Roadshow" at Crosby Folk Club in November 1978. Here were four giants of the Irish traditional music scene - Paul Brady, Matt Molloy, Kevin Burke and Michael O'Dohmaill. The Agent in London sent Dave a huge contract that contained demands for a large fee, a certain amount and variety of sandwiches plus crates of beer for the artists' consumption. Dave showed me the contract and smiled as he crossed everything out and sent it back with the message - "They can have the door money, take it or leave it". They took it!! What a magical night it was - Paul Brady said it was the best night he'd had in years. Another time he booked "Clannad" for St George's Folk Club in Maghull. All the tickets were sold but they cancelled at the last minute. I think he was a bit suspicious of "superstars" after that.

From the day he started at the Hare and Hounds Folk Club in April 1982, it became obvious that here was something special. His criteria was that everyone was welcome to get up and play, sing or whatever - standards never entered the frame. It was more important, he said, that people actually did something. He wanted a true "peoples" club where you could go and have a good night out, socialise and make friends. The club was packed every week. Many a person who had never performed in front of an audience before were persuaded (or bullied) into getting up. The number of people who now perform regularly, emanating from his policy, must run into dozens. To Dave, everything started at grass roots level. Having said that, he respected those guest artists who entertained and gave value for money.

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Many's the agent or potential guest who were given short shrift on the phone - "we're only a little folk club" he would say. In June 1985 I told him to persuade Mary Black to be the guest for £150.00. He was worried about having to charge £1.50 per ticket!! That was the last folk club appearance Mary made.

As time passed by he became more and more involved, taking the folk club out into the community, and applying for (and obtaining) grants from Sefton Council. As well as being Chairman of the folk club, he became Chairman of the North West Federation of Folk Clubs and then his finest achievement - the Maghull Day of Music (now a week long event). He wanted the local community to see what the folk club had to offer; to encourage the local community, schools, scout groups, businesses etc, to take part and to benefit from it. His idea also was to involve the other local folk clubs to participate, thereby creating one big "family" and attracting visitors from far and wide.

To say that it has been a resounding success would be an understatement. It has all been down to his vision and commitment. The creation of "Youthquake" was indirectly down to him, obtaining grants to make it all possible. He organised charity nights (with Jane) surprise parties for anniversaries etc. He once organised for some of our funds to be sent to another club following the news that the club was in danger of folding, due to having no music licence. Many's the person or club who benefited from his generous nature - a fact not always recognised.

He loved "winding people up". He once boasted there were 52 residents at Maghull - "more residents than most clubs have audience", he would say. All the things he did were good, positive things. In time, hopefully, people will appreciate the things he did and what he was all about. He had a great sense of humour, was one of the worlds best hecklers and was no mean carrier of a song. He never looked for plaudits, was never on an ego trip - rather he kept a relatively low profile. Sometimes he could rub people up the wrong way (as we all can), but was never malicious or vindictive.

Mention must be made of his wife, Jane. He probably could not have done half of this without her love and support. Between them they achieved so much. Indeed, during the last few weeks leading up to his death they arranged a "Maghull Day of Music" meeting at their house. On 4th March, Dave arranged a folk club meeting at the Hare and Hounds. Very seriously ill, he turned up with a five-page set of proposals for the future of the club. It was to be the last time he set foot in his beloved "second home". He never once complained about his illness - never

Rambling Away by Dave Day

EDITOR'S NOTE: This was written by Dave himself during his last few weeks

Back about 1971, I acquired an LP "The Spinners Are in Town". Till then it had been the likes of Frankie Lane, Doris Day, Johnny Ray etc. Now I had some "Home Made" music that took me back to when I got a £12 guitar for my 21st birthday and we formed Englands worst skiffle group.

Anyway, my mam decided I should have another "folk" records and sent my sister for one - she came back with a John Denver Album!!

In 1973, our local parish (of which I never did manage to become a "Pillar") knocked down its old Parish Hall and erected the St Georges Social Centre. "Dead Posh!!". At the same time, two mates and I discovered the "Queens Head" (The "Peoples" Folk Club) - It was held in a large walk in refrigerator!! (Here I first met Tony Gibbons - Guitar player!!). We saw our first "guest" - Brian Jacques and "Brigantine". I laughed so much my ribs hurt. So next week we went again (with extra clothing) and saw Cyril Tawney when he was still a warm, humorous performer. He mentioned "The Yetties" and, in the "Echo they were advertised the following week at Jacqui & Bridies" club - off we went again.

While this was going on "The Committee" of St Georges Social Centre decided they needed a member representative on the "Folk" Sub-Committee. Ted Manley (a management committee member) said "My Mate Dave, has got a folk LP - Will he do??"

So thats how I came to be part of St Georges Folk Club in Maghull, which opened on 4 Feb 1974! The residents were "Old Rope" (Ted Barwise, Ken Dunlop and Keith Price) plus Paul Wright. I was assistant Doorman!!

From that a whole new life flowed - Keith Price embarrassed me into singing "The Holmfirth Anthem" one week

From there we re-opened the Crosby Folk Club at St Peter and Paul's. Then I spent two years living in a caravan 1000 feet up the Pennines and working in Halifax. here I met the amazing Tim Moon and became a member of "Whistling Gerkin and the Breadknives" (I was a blunt Breadknife!!) We opened a club at the "Puzzle Hall Inn" in Sowerby Bridge which became a cult in Yorkshire.

Then I moved back to Liverpool to work for a Brewery! Lo and Behold, I found my local the "Hare and Hounds", had an upstairs room I'd never known existed. Soon after in 1982, the "Hare and Hounds" Folk Club was born and what a wealth of talent it has spawned - it's been just wonderful (It was the place Mary Black made her last Folk Club appearance). The club has developed by social events, dinners, trips etc; by running concerts at Melling Tithe Barn

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and Crosby Civic Hall and by starting a "Day of Folk" which has developed into a week long festival (God Bless the "Sefton Council Cultural Fund") The main ingredient has always been the people.

Jane and I have acquired a great big "family" who have been magnificent during our "troubles", encouraging and supporting us right through. Offers of help, expressions of affection from all over the country and all obviously genuine.

As our children both live away from home you can imagine how amazing the size of our "other" family has been in helping to get us both through what we had to go through.

Thanks to one and all - don't forget Jane - after 37 years of marriage she will no doubt be very lonely. So give 0151 526 6661 a ring and have a chat, or call in at 170 Liverpool Road South and say "Hello".

Thats All - Folks!!

See you hopefully in the celestial Folk Club.

(from p.12)

said "why me?", and he retained his sense of humour to the very end, even making jokes about Andy Anderson's b****y harp.

I, and everyone who witnessed what he went through in those final traumatic weeks have nothing but the deepest admiration and love for him - and Jane. We at Maghull Folk Club have lost a leader, a friend, a companion and our inspiration. We are all the poorer for his passing but the richer for having known him.

His funeral at St George's Church was a magnificent affair. I have never seen a church so full. The demonstration of love and emotion was overwhelming. (I must pay tribute to all those people from the folk world who attended, sent cards and donations etc. It showed just what esteem he was held in). Of course, he planned the whole funeral, along with his wife Jane, by telling (yes, telling!) the priest exactly what he wanted. The singing was wonderful - even the priest and the funeral directors joined in "The Wild Mountain Thyme" and "Rolling Home". He would have loved it!!

Our thoughts are now with Jane, Catherine, Mattie, Mike and grand-daughter, Jessica. I think his first family saw how much he also meant to his second family.

I was proud to call him my best friend - he was Godfather to our son, and he relished that. He was "Godfather" to all of us at Maghull, and he is irreplaceable.

Tony Gibbons

A POETIC TRIBUTE to DAVE DAY

Dave Day left many legacies and lasting memories for us all, which I'm sure you will have gathered from the tribute Tony has written and those who knew him will have their own memories to hold on to. He had a great influence on many people in many different ways, but the one lasting impression was his sense of humour. Anyone who visited Maghull whether as a member of the audience, singer or National guest could never forget the wicked humour that used to emanate from the "Little Fella" at the back of the room.

The following poem is felt by his family and friends to sum him up to a tee.....

THE LITTLE PLONKER.....

From the back of a smoky, dim lit room
came a derisory whine....
To some balding chap and a grey haired bird
who are chanting some Aussie rhyme.
"Stand up", said the chap to the scorning voice.
"He is", said the crowd as one,
"It's just that the table's bigger than him
and the box that he's stood upon".
But the bugger was always there.

They've written ditties and written songs
to thwart the hecklers lot.
But his Duracell just goes on and on.
How can we cause him to stop?
"Throw him out", came a cry, "right out of the door,
and make sure that you bolt it and lock it".
"We can't", came the voice of Treasurer Joe.
"Cause he's got the damned keys in his pocket".
And the bugger was always there.

He makes rude noises through George and Joan's songs
And through Beryl's "Woodstock" he jokes
He wails at Gibbons tuning that's wrong
And fun at Paul's "Formby" he pokes
The ribbing continues, will he not cease?
"Bill Hunt is a martyr", he yells
"All of them women under one roof,
A domestic vision of hell".
But the bugger was always there

But all has gone quiet, peace hits the room
The singers rest without fear
"The swine's disappeared", the whisper goes round
"The words to each chanson we'll hear!"
Then he bursts through the door full of abuse
pretending to block up his ears
"You'll not get rid of me that bloody quick,
I've only been down for a beer".
Yes the bugger was always there

So much drive for such a small bloke
A brain that ne'er missed a trick
We've all been whipped by his humour and jokes
For the bastard was always too quick
"A right little plonker", it's often been said
All the time in his mind action stirred
But I expect, on the quiet, we're all rather glad
That he proved not to be SELDOM HEARD
And the bugger will always be there.

Ian Tupling

Written during Dave's illness by Ian Tupling, who fell prey to the wit many times.....Thanks for the laughs!!

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JUNE DATES

SUNDAY	02 June	09 June	16 June	23 June	
ARNSIDE	Singers Night		Singers Night		
BOTHY	Tom Lewis	Singers Night	Heather Heywood	Singers Night	
LLANDUDNO	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
POTTERIES		Raphael Callaghan & Christine Purnell			
WOODEN HORSE	Ian Bruce	Singers Night	Singers Night		
MONDAY	03 June	10 June	17 June	24 June	
SWINTON					
TUESDAY	04 June	11 June	18 June	25 June	
CHORLEY	Singers Night	Frank McLoughlin & Gillian McDonald	Singers Night	John Poole	
DALTON	Singaround		Roy Wilcock & Bridget Guest		
LIVERPOOL	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
MAGHULL	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
OSBALDESTON	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
TILSTON					
URMSTON ACOUSTICS	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
WEDNESDAY	05 June	12 June	19 June	26 June	
ASPULL	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
8:45 at LANE ENDS	Ben & Joe Broughton	Hobson & Lees	Singers Night	Chris While & Julie Mathews	
BLACKBURN	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
BURNLEY	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	
CASTLE	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
ALISON ARMS	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
THURSDAY	06 June	13 June	20 June	27 June	
COCKERMOUTH	Singers Night	Singers Night	Step Aside	Singers Night	
FLEETWOOD	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
GREGSON LANE		Singers Night		Singers Night	
LEVELLERS	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	
RAILWAY	Singers Night	Mal Brown	Singers Night	Singers Night	
GATEWAY	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
FRIDAY	07 June	14 June	21 June	28 June	
*BOTHY				Cellidh with Shake The Dice	
NORTHWICH	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Tony Mannion	
PORKIES					
PRESTON	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
RHYL					
WESTHOUGHTON	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	
SATURDAY	01 June	08 June	15 June	22 June	29 June
BREWERY ARTS	Legs Bisto	Fapy Lafertin			
BURY		Closet Sailors	Singers Night		
FORMBY	Ian Bruce	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
NEW BEGINNINGS					
POYNTON	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed

JULY DATES

SUNDAY	30 June	07 July	14 July	21 July	28 July
ARNSIDE		Singers Night		Singers Night	
BOTHY	Mike Willoughby	Jez Lowe & The Bad Pennies	Singers Night	Dave Burland	Closed
LLANDUDNO	Raphael Callaghan & Christine Purnell	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
POTTERIES					
WOODEN HORSE					
MONDAY	01 July	08 July	15 July	22 July	29 July
SWINTON					
TUESDAY	02 July	09 July	16 July	23 July	30 July
CHORLEY	Singers Night	Simon Cohen & Mark Atherton	Singers Night	Mystery Guest	Raphael Callaghan & Christine Purnell
DALTON	Singaround		Singaround		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		Singers Night		Singers Night
URMSTON ACOUSTICS	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
WEDNESDAY	03 July	10 July	17 July	24 July	31 July
ASPULL	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
8:45 at LANE ENDS	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
BLACKBURN	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
BURNLEY	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
CASTLE	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
ALISON ARMS	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
PADIHAM TOWN HALL					
THURSDAY	04 July	11 July	18 July	25 July	
COCKERMOUTH	Ken Perlman	Singers Night	Singers Night	Artisan	
FLEETWOOD	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
GREGSON LANE		Singers Night		Singers Night	
LEVELLERS	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	
RAILWAY	Singers Night	Alan Taylor	Singers Night	Singers Night	
GATEWAY	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
FRIDAY	05 July	12 July	19 July	26 July	
NORTHWICH	Eddie Walker	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
PORKIES					
PRESTON	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
RHYL					
WESTHOUGHTON	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	
SATURDAY	06 July	13 July	20 July	27 July	
BREWERY ARTS					
BURY					
FORMBY	Fiddlestone				
NEW BEGINNINGS					
POYNTON	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	
*RAILWAY	Jez Lowe & The Bad Pennies				

AUGUST DATES

SUNDAY	04 August	11 August	18 August	25 August	
ARNSIDE	Singers Night		Singers Night		
BOTHY	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	
LLANDUDNO	Siners Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
POTTERIES					
WOODEN HORSE					
MONDAY	05 August	12 August	19 August	26 August	
SWINTON					
TUESDAY	06 August	13 August	20 August	27 August	
CHORLEY	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	
DALTON		Singaround		Singaround	
LIVERPOOL	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
MAGHULL	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
OSBALDESTON	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
TILSTON					
URMSTON ACOUSTICS	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
WEDNESDAY	07 August	14 August	21 August	28 August	
ASPULL	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
8:45 at LANE ENDS	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	
BLACKBURN	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
BURNLEY	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	
CASTLE	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
ALISON ARMS	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
THURSDAY	01 August	08 August	15 August	22 August	29 August
COCKERMOUTH	Singers Night	Singers Night	Jim Eldon	Singers Night	Singers Night
FLEETWOOD	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
GREGSON LANE		Singers Night		Singers Night	
LEVELLERS	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
RAILWAY	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
GATEWAY	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
FRIDAY	02 August	09 August	16 August	23 August	30 August
NORTHWICH	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
PORKIES					
PRESTON	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
RHYL					
WESTHOUGHTON	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
SATURDAY	03 August	10 August	17 August	24 August	31 August
BURY					
FORMBY					
NEW BEGINNINGS					
POYNTON	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Notes:	* If Club name has "*" in front, it's not the usual club night.				
	* If entry has "*" in front, it's being held at a different venue (unless venue is named)				

OFFICER	NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Chairman	Kath Holden	7, Sunleigh Road, Hindley, Wigan	01942 258459
Treasurer	Nigel Firth	118, Bolton Road, Aspull, Wigan	01942 833293
Editor	Steve Morris	85, Sydney Ave., Leigh	01942 746552
Proof Reader	Frank Wilson		01257 230047
Publicity	Paul Holden	7, Sunleigh Road, Hindley, Wigan	01942 258459
Advertising	Tony Gibbons	2a, Moss Lane, Maghull, Liverpool	0151 526 6522
Club reviewer	Contact	Treasurer (see Above)	
Membership Secretary	Linda Wright	266, Todmorden Rd., Sharneyford, Bacup	01706 877090
Federation Secretary	Jenny Shottliff	1, Bardsey Close, Upholland, Lancs	01695 623641
Youth Activities	Chris McIveen	51, Moorfield, Turton, Bolton	01204 852627
Club Dates			

THE AIMS OF THE FEDERATION SHALL BE

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



Day/Club	Time	Club Address	Organiser	Phone
SUNDAY				
ARNSIDE	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
MONDAY				
SWINTON	08:30 pm	White Lion, 242 Manchester Rd, Swinton	Ged Todd	01942 811527
TUESDAY				
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	Chris Lock	0151 526 4379
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 ACOUSTIC	08:30 pm	The Nag's Head, Davyhulme Circle, Urmston	Martin Kavanagh	0161 748 5497
WEDNESDAY				
8:45 AT LANE ENDS	08:45 pm	Lane Ends Hotel, Weeton Rd, Wesham	Ann Green	01772 683027
ALISON ARMS	08:30 pm	The Alison Arms, Preston Rd, Coppull Moor, Nr Chorley	Hilda Foy	01257 792246
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
THURSDAY				
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
FRIDAY				
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	Rat & Raven Hotel, 148 Moor Lane, Preston	Nick Caffrey	01254 264407
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
SATURDAY				
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

Interview 1: Martin Holden talks to The Whiskey Priests

I have been involved in reviewing the various releases from the Whiskey Priests for the last 12 months or so and naturally have become interested in not only the music but the general views and thoughts of the lads themselves. It was this interest which prompted me to try and get a more in depth feel for the group and the following is an interview with the main drive force of the group Gary Miller whilst he was travelling on a train from Durham to London.

Martin With 1995 now behind us and the New Year well under way, have the band made any new year resolutions?

Gary My own resolution for the band has been to approach things from a fresh perspective and it's really been paying off. I'm enjoying the band a lot more than I have for a long time and I feel confident about our new material, our new line-up and our new sound. I'm approaching 1996 from a very positive perspective.

Martin Going back to 1995 what for you was the highlight?

Gary Putting together a brilliant new line-up in a single month (September) after a lot of stress and hard work and then taking that line-up on tour for 3 solid months with great success.

It restored my enthusiasm for the band.

Martin And what was the lowest point of 1995?

Gary Having everyone but myself and twin brother (Glenn) walk out on the band (each for their own separate individual reasons) within 2 months (July-September) and wondering how we would replace everyone for the next tour (see above!)

Martin I myself have listened to all the albums produced so far, and have my own thoughts on which one is the best. Which do you consider to be the best, whether it be for personal or professional reasons?

Gary I always consider our latest album at the time to be our best because it is closer to my current vision of the band. I find it difficult to listen with pleasure to our early recordings.

Martin You have a large repertoire of songs, but is there one that is your favourite and is there a track that you would like to be remembered for?

Gary My best song that I've written is always my latest one but I will always feel that there is a better

one in me. I still feel I am a long way from reaching my full song writing potential. To name one particular song as my best would not I believe be appropriate. Each one should stand or fall on its own merit, although I think the majority of our strongest material to date will appear on our next album which we are recording in May. I would not like to be remembered for anything at all I would like to think it was for something more relevant than a single song.

Martin Amongst the many artists around the scene at the moment who do you like the best and why?

Gary I must admit I have very little knowledge of the current music scene. It's very difficult for me to keep in touch with it. The only band I can mention from the UK is "Blyth Power" because I see them as kindred spirits of The Whiskey Priests. They have existed for a similar length of time to us and are completely independent plus their music is highly original and exceptionally inspiring.

Martin Personally speaking I find some music very "same sounding" and completely without that drive or oomph! Is there any type of music that you find hard to listen to or enjoy?

Gary I wouldn't say it was any particular type of music. I have, I believe, very broad musical tastes. It's more of the approach of certain bands, performers etc that puts me off. There is so much that is totally false and worthless and that can often annoy me.

Martin As a self styled working class band from the North of England it follows that you will all be football fans doesn't it? Maybe not, but if so which team do you follow?

Gary I am not a football fan really. In fact I don't follow sport at all. I used to be into a lot of sport at school but these days anything to do with sport really pisses me off.

Martin What do you enjoy most about being musical stars? Is it the recording, the touring or something else?

Gary The creative aspect of what we do is very rewarding, as well as having the control to do what we want but at the same time it destroys your social life and can harm your private life so you have to do it because you really want to. Touring can be enjoyable



because there is a certain sense of adventure and excitement which creates a great buzz but at the same level we operate it is always extremely exhausting and stressful and sometimes it can be a big relief to finally get home.

Martin From your many tours around Europe which is your favourite place and why?

Gary I've enjoyed different places for different reasons. For example when we tour Italy the food and wine is incredible and the people are so laid back it's like a holiday, there's no pressure at all. In Croatia, the hospitality is unbelievable. In Germany everything is usually so well organised and we play to our biggest crowds, but because it's such a big country we have lots of long journeys between gigs.

Martin If we were doing this interview in 10 years time where do you think you would be? And Where would you hope to be?

Gary We never plan more than a year ahead. You can't really look beyond that, you just hope that the band will survive another year and then you can look to the next. We're very conscious of the fact that we're living on borrowed time. I only hope at the moment that I will still be involved in writing and performing music in 10 years time, but things change and in 10 years I may feel different. I certainly see the band differently now than 10 years ago.

Martin At the forthcoming General Election where will your political allegiances lie?

Gary I don't really have a lot of faith in British politics anymore....

Martin If you were not musicians what would you like to be do and realistically what would you be doing?

Gary I would need to be doing something creative and something for myself. It would probably be writing of some kind. At the moment I have little time for projects outside the band but I have for a long time have very definite plans to write a book plus I have a strong desire to write stage plays. I will **NEVER** return to a 9 - 5 job whatever happens.

Martin Is there anyone in the world you have the utmost respect and admiration for? If so why?

Gary I respect and admire people who stay true to themselves and what they believe in, which is such a rare thing. It's important to me that Glenn and myself have in my opinion, been able to do just that ourselves so I can easily relate to anyone who has done that against all the odds.

Martin Have you ever won anything on the National Lottery!?

Gary I have never bought a lottery ticket and I have no plans to do so.

Mark Atherton and Simon Cohen, an acoustic combination of singer/songwriter and multi-instrumentalist, may not have been plodding the folk circuit for centuries but their reputation is growing by the gig.

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Interview 2: Mark Kneafsey talks to local duo

Mark Atherton And Simon Cohen

Free-lance journalist Mike Kneafsey caught up with the folk duo at a local cafe and quizzed them, over a mug of coffee, on their recent tour of Germany, new album and a forthcoming gathering of North west acoustic musicians - a benefit concert to protest against the proposed supertip at Red Moss, Horwich.

Mike So when did you first hit upon the North West folk scene?

Mark We did our first guest spot at the Church Inn, Millbrook, back in March 1994 and got a good response immediately. We sold a few tapes, we were offered a booking at another venue and one woman even asked us for our autographs. We haven't looked back since...from playing in front of a 200-strong audience at an all day acoustic event during the 1994 Manchester Festival of TV and the Arts to performing in a marquee full of friendly Germans in some of the most beautiful surroundings you could ever hope to play in, what's more they insisted on two encores - it was a night we'll never forget.

Mike For those who don't know you, how would you describe your music?

Mark Essentially I like melodic, lyrical songs - a catchy tune with words that convey an idea or feeling that I can relate to. And that's what I try to achieve in my own songs. We like to do our bit to contribute to the continued existence of folk clubs. Their supporting atmosphere and prevailing values are a healthy contrast to the short-sighted materialism of the 90's.

Mike But what does the music actually sound like?

Simon In some ways my formal training in classical music and my experience of Jazz, Indian and Klesmer influences my style of playing, for instance there are certain inflexions, particularly on the violin, which come out. The combination with Mark's acoustic guitar gives us a virtually unique sound.

I like being able to explore more musical avenues - it's lots more informal than the final gig I did last year with Stormy Weather, a jazz band, at Bolton's Albert Hall for instance...(laughs) it's ironic that the biggest fee I've had so far didn't involve playing a note. I was playing for an Indian band at the time, called Azaad, on Channel Four's Eastern Eye. We mimed the whole thing. It brings you down to earth when you play in the folk clubs.

Mike I know you're versatile Simon but how many instruments have you been playing on these songs?

Simon I started off playing the violin, whistle, accordion and flute but I've swapped the accordion for a slightly smaller melodeon. And I sold the flute to pay for a viola which I also play on a couple of songs.

Mark Simon also plays a piano but it's a bit difficult fitting it through the door.

Mike What made you decide to go on a tour of Germany?

Mark A German musician was visiting Manchester and he liked our music so much he offered to line-up some gigs for us back in his home area. It sounded good to us.

Simon We played mainly in tourist towns in Southern Germany such as Ulm, Tubingen and Konstanz on the Swiss border. It proved to be a great experience.

Mike And what's the new album "Between Two Worlds" like - are you pleased with it?

Mark We recorded it at Redwood Studios, Salford with Dave Howard so we were bound to get a high standard of recording. He also has a knack of making you feel at home which helped us get over any studio nerves. After demo-ing about 25 numbers on a four track we finally went for ten of my songs and two of Simon's tunes - all written since the last album. We're really pleased with the end result.

Mike What about this Red Moss benefit concert - What's it all about?

Mark As I work in conservation and music this seemed an ideal opportunity to combine my two vocations. Red Moss is an ancient peat bog which English Nature has designated as a site of Special Scientific Interest. There are plans to use the site as a supertip for the whole of Greater Manchester. You can understand, this has stirred up opposition in the local community, not only because Friends of the Earth has identified it as nationally one of the seven most important sites currently under threat; but also because of the local health issues it raises as the edge of the site leads directly onto a Primary School and a densely populated area.

It's going to be held at Horwich RMI club on Friday 21st June - that's the Summer Solstice. We've got a big list of well known performers lined up, the details are on our adverts, one of which is in this magazine. And the night's going to be rounded off by Claire Mooney, an artist with a good reputation for "serious entertainment".

Simon Although tickets are £5...

Mark (adding) £4 for concessions..

Simon We feel it's good value as all the proceeds are going to the Red Moss Action Committee.

Mike So after all this organising and recording what will you have the energy for next?

Mark Hopefully the album will be well received and help us gain further recognition. We're planning to do more gigs outside the North West and more festivals next year.

To contact Mark, phone: 01204 698208

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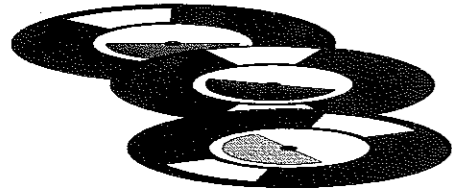
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RECORD REVIEWS

THE ALBION BAND "Demi Paradise"

HTD RECORDS HTD CD 54

Ashley Hutchings always manages to surround himself with the best. I thought the last Albion's line-up was good news but this one, Chris White, Jillie Matthews, Chris Leslie and Ashley really has some magic. Chris and Julie are writing some of the best songs around, are good musicians and both have powerful and sensitive voices. Chris Leslie has added another dimension with his tasteful fiddle backing and fine vocals. Link all this with Ashley's bass playing and song writing and you've got a winner. After having seen them live, its great to see a band enjoying themselves and despite all that talent, not taking themselves too seriously.

The CD has 12 tracks, 2 are sets of tunes written by Chris Leslie, 9 songs by the band and a song by another writer. This is a well recorded CD each track fitting together neatly as a whole. There are lots of the highlights but for me the tracks that stand out are: "Circle Round the Sun" and "Sea of Sorrow"; both having beautiful lyrics and melodies. Julies "White Water Running" and "Along the Pilgrims Way" from the TV series "Ridge Riders".

Criticisms, yes, just a couple. I think Julies keyboards could have been up a bit in the mix in places and I'm not sure the humour on "When she sings in the kitchen" comes through as well as it does live.

The Albions seem to go from strength to strength. A CD that shows off the excellent singing, musicianship and song writing of four very talented people.

Ken Howard

MARTIN CARTHY

"Landfall" Topic TSCD 345

"Sweet Wivelsfield" Topic TSCD 418

As a contemporary folk music lover, I wondered what I was doing reviewing these two CD's - but then again why not, for a more objective view.

They are in fact two re-releases which were originally recorded in 1971 and 1981 respectively and have transferred well from the crackly stuff to the silky clean CD.

The ability of Martin Carthy is unquestionable, as is his passion for the tradition. Many of the tracks will be familiar to traditional fans, even with me - "The Skewball" and "Billy Boy" jogged the memory, (both on Sweet Wivelsfield).

Although I consider myself more inclined to listen to contemporary material I try not to discount other

styles of music, however, I did find the predominance of slow numbers performed in a very deliberate method did not encourage me to listen for any prolonged periods. To me "January Man" summed up my overall feelings for the two CD's, whereas I could listen to Mike Hardings treatment of the song more than once at a sitting, I found myself having to force myself to listen to the version on Land Fall. The experience did not persuade me to sway from my chosen preference in music, but I would say to Martin Carthy fans that these updated recordings are worth investing in as they demonstrate the art of projecting the traditional song.

Any hate mail should be sent to the magazine!!!! (as I'm bound to have upset his fans)

Ian Tupling

VIN GARBUTT "Plugged"

HOME ROOTS MUSIC HR CD 011

A night watching and listening to Vin Garbutt is a unique experience. He can make you think about serious issues and laugh until you hurt in the same sentence. Some of his one liners are so quick that you laugh half a minute later. Vin is a true entertainer and this live recording captures it. It's really difficult to produce a live album that is well recorded and you don't get bored with it after two or three playing's but Vin has managed it.

This is a typical Vin Garbutt evening. It contains a mixture of Vin's own songs and tunes and excellent material from other writers. It would also not be a Vin



Kate Rusby & Kathryn Roberts

evening without his introductions to songs. His interpretation of the story of "Endearing Young Charms" lasts longer than the song and is one of the best parts of the CD.

His percussive guitar playing and vocal style blend well particularly on Bernie Parry's "Man of the Earth" and Kieran Halpin's "Nothing to Show for it all". Vin's own songs particularly "When the oppressed becomes the oppressor" have the ability to make you think - yes perhaps he's right.

It must have been hard to chose what to put on the CD and what to leave off but most of all this is a typical Vin performance. If you've never seen him, go to see him and if you have, you'll want to buy this anyway.

Ken Howard

ELIZA CARTHY - "Heat Light & Sound"

TOPIC TSCD482

At 20 this lady already has 2 albums with Nancy Kerr and one with her Mum & Dad behind her and the experience shows. As a whole Heat Light & Sound is balanced, mature and enjoyable... and while it may be a solo album it features many of Eliza Carthy's friends who provide interesting and varied accompaniments.

All the tunes are English (some of them from Jamie Knowles "A Northern Lass") and its great to see someone shouting about how great English music is but its the strength and style of her singing which are truly impressive. This ranges from the unaccompanied Clark Saunders and a particularly good version of an American song, Blind Fiddler with fiddle accompaniment, through to a beautiful arrangement of 10,000 miles using fiddle and double bass for backing, through to more upbeat approaches to Cold Wet & Rainy Night and a very enjoyable Jacky Tar.

Jenny Shottliffe

JEZ LOWE "Bad Penny"

Fellside FECD70

Listening to this album again, was like saying "Hello" to an old friend. It was first issued in 1988 - before there was a Bad Pennies group even! Yes, you all know this is where the name came from! Or if you didn't you do now! I have always been a Jez Lowe fan so was familiar with this album. It has been - deservedly - re-issued on CD with an extra track not originally on vinyl. I have to admit I only play CDs these days so it is probably quite a few years since I

heard it. There are many of my favourite songs, Dandelion Clocks, London Danny, Nearer to Nettles. When you do a review, it makes you really listen, and this song I have to admit, really moved me, I hadn't taken in what it was about before. Jez is a master craftsman. He has a rare ability with words and a wry sense of humour. he can make me laugh and he can make me cry, his words can send a shudder down my back too. The Midnight Mail has always made me smile, although not that much as I remember days of childhood in Newchurch-in-Pendle when this actually took place. I can still see the men wearing leather waistcoats, carrying the bins on their backs!

Over the years loads of people have picked up on Jez's songs, so many are hard hitting and wonderful to sing. I once left a message on an answer phone in San Francisco, the brother of a well known singer, recorded a Jez Lowe song, and sings Midnight Mill all the way through AND lists it as Mill. Well, it was the only tape I had on a long journey once and it annoyed me so much i flung it in the bin!

If you haven't got Bad Penny already it is well worth having,cos, it doesn't need turning over!

Helen Howard

STOMPIN TOM...A Proud Canadian

CAPITOL EMI S2 0 7777

Way back in the early 70's my old mate Graham Cooper wrote a song called "Whiskey Jack". I added a middle eight and a few other lines. It told the story of a once was, now has been. In 1994 I was over in Canada and saw a poster advertising a songwriters show and who was the support act to the stars in

letters sharing the billing with the printer of the poster?...yes..."Whiskey Jack" himself! Is this life imitating art, or what? When no one was looking I removed the poster and sent it to Graham as a serendipity souvenir and also as a warning in case a writ suddenly appeared for defamation of character! The star of the show was one "Stompin Tom" and I've sometimes wondered since what he was like. Well...Now I know.

He has a sub Johnny Cash voice with a strong feel of Slim Dusty to his compositions and a touch of the William McGonagall's in his lyrics.

To be honest, there's a lot here for the people who take the micky out of Canada as a boring, dull old place full of second raters. With songs like "Sudbury Saturday Night" "Gumboot Cloggeroo" and the "Martin Hartwell Story" Tom produces songs that are the equivalent of primitive painting.

If you want the best Canada has to offer, the true impressionists of song, then you must go to James Keelaghan, Sylvia Tyson, Nancy White and a host of others.



Eliza Carthy

If you want the best Canada has to offer, the true impressionists of song, then you must go to James Keelaghan, Sylvia Tyson, Nancy White and a host of others.

Unless you fancy Tom's tribute to K D Lang with the immortal chorus

Little K Little D L.A.N.G

Her name was just plain K D Lang

But her main claim to fame

Was how she sang with a twang

And jumped around like a rang E tang

Lady K D Lang

Now here's a thing. Rhyming Twang with Orang u Tan, and singing it Rang E Tang. And have you ever seen an orang u tan jump around?

Me Neither.

McGonagall Lives!!!

Harvey Andrews

JOAN BAEZ "Diamonds"

2CD SET - A & M RECORDS 540 500-2

The stunningly pure voice of Joan Baez will be familiar to many who do not only admire her talent as a performer, but are also impressed by her championing of political causes to which she has devoted considerable energy.

Now in her fifties, she remains a living icon of both the sixties and seventies when she achieved her greatest successes. This collection features the cream of her recorded output between 1972 and 1977 when she was recording for A & M Records. The tracks divide easily into a CD of live work and a CD of studio recordings.

There's a wide range of material from the almost country and western sounding Fountain of Sorrow and The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down and traditional Swing Low Sweet Chariot. Naturally there are Dylan songs on here, including Blowin' in the Wind reflecting their close association in the late 1960's and her admiration of Dylan's compositions.

There are also a number of Leonard Cohen songs including Suzanne and she even manages a palatable rendition of Lennon's Imagine.

For myself, I like some of her less well known recordings the best, including Tumbleweed, Never Dreamed You'd Leave in Summer and one which reminds me of the good old days at the Dicconson Arms Folk Club, Jesse. Of the two CD's, which include 33 tracks altogether and over two hour listening, I find it difficult to say which I like the most. The studio recordings are certainly more lush with some wonderful backing arrangements while the live recordings engender the heady atmosphere of those day when folk music came of age in the contemporary world.

It is not difficult to enjoy the music found here, which, unlike me, shows little sign of age, despite having been recorded twenty years or more ago.

Derek Gifford

Double CD sets: NILS LOFGREN

"Steal Your Heart" A&M 540 411 2

FLYING BURRITO BROTHERS

"Out of the Blue" 540 408 2

Two compilations from A & M of American super-heroes from the sixties and seventies. I'll review them together as they are similar in content and style and both from the archives of A & M Records.

I wasn't given the selling price of these albums but even at full price they would be remarkably good value, each having a playing time well in excess of two hours. It's quite a lot to listen to at one sitting but nice to have as part of an archive collection, if this sort of music is your bag.

Nils Lofgren was born in Chicago, 45 years ago of Swedish-Italian parents and mastered guitar and keyboards at an early age, being particularly influenced by both the Beatles and Jimi Hendrix. He befriended Neil Young and was soon part of his Crazy Horse Band, later becoming side man to Bruce Springsteen. In 1975, he was offered a place in the Rolling Stones, but declined, to concentrate on his solo career.

This double CD is mainly his A & M work from 1975 - 80 when he was really flying, being bit both in the USA and the UK, where he toured successfully in 1976. By 1979, three of his albums had reached the Top 40 in the UK, many of the tracks being part of this classic track, well covered by many of our top singers. I suppose if you like Nils Lofgren and American 70's AOR rock, you'll love this collection, not everybody's cup of tea, but I like it.

Similarly packaged is The Flying Burrito Brothers "Out of the Blue" from slightly earlier mid-sixties to mid-seventies. They were a huge influence on the music scene on both sides of the Atlantic. Their line up changed many times, but their most influential members were probably Gram Parsons and Chris Hillman, both of whom became part of the Byrds.

The main content is Country, tending later towards Country-Rock, a lot of real classics here - Sin City, Dark End Of The Street, Do Right Woman, Wold Horses (Rolling Stones), Money Honey - the list is endless. These songs have been covered a thousand times and you've probably heard many a floor-singer in your local club bash through these at one time or another.

Again, not exactly a "Folk" Album, but unless you've been living on Mars for the last thirty years, you'll be familiar with many of these tracks and it's nice to have such a lot of good material on one (Double) Album - go for it!

Dave Howard

Warwick Folk Festival

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ALLAN TAYLOR "Faded Light"

T RECORDS TCD 005

Allan Taylor is the professional you would expect him to be after so long in the business. I saw him recently at Westhoughton, he gets everything right. His guitar sound through a P.A. is probably the best around and his use of a vocal mike should be copied by all singers.

As you would expect his recordings are always of a superb quality; this CD is no different. If you close your eyes you would think he was in the same room. The CD has 10 tracks and runs for about 42 minutes. It has 8 Allan Taylor compositions and one each from Bob Dylan and Ry Cooder. For this recording Allan has used some first rate musicians: Mike Silver on

vocals and guitar, Martin Allcock on Brass and Bazouki, Chris Leslie on Violin, Dave Townsend on Accordion and his son Barnaby on piano.

On first listening I was slightly disappointed; many of the songs were of similar tempo and there were no melodies that stood out from the rest. Further plays have proved me wrong. The CD as a whole has a gentle feel about it, and like a good painting the more you look at it the more you see (or in this case hear). The great fretless-bass and bazouki playing of Mr Allcock linked with the piano and violin have given Allans songs a new "feel" to them.

Allans treatment of Ry Cooders "Across the Borderline" really works well. The best song on the CD for me is "Libertas Ragusa", an anthem for the rebirth of Dubrovnik.

I am sure this will become a much sung song around the clubs.

I think my only criticism would be that, for me, I would have liked a couple of Allans more up-tempo songs, just to break up the pace of the album.

Allan is definately a "Class Act". It's recordings of this quality we should all aspire to.

Ken Howard

CLASSIC PEGGY SEEGER "Sings in the American Tradition"

FELLSIDE FECD 105

The 25 tracks on this CD are a compilation by Paul Adams at Fellside from four original Topic LP's released between 1958 and 1964. They are therefore something of a chronological record of Peggy's development as a singer of traditional American folk songs in the days before her partnership with Ewan MacColl who, I feel, somewhat overshadowed her in later years.

The earliest tracks show an uncluttered approach to the music with Peggy's clear voice and instrumental accompaniments whether on banjo or guitar complementing each other superbly. Indeed, one might imagine that these tracks had been recorded in the Appalachian mountains on a sunny homestead verandah rather than in Bill Leader's London studios!

On 10 of the later tracks she is joined by Tom Paley who I have always rated highly as a guitar player but he also plays, like Peggy, banjo and auto-harp as well as dueting with voice on some tracks. His presence gives a welcome depth to these tracks without being intrusive. My only criticism is a personal dislike of the auto-harp although it is usually unobtrusive on most of the songs except The Heartless Lady where it definitely grates!

Whenever the word "classic" is applied to an album's title I tend to treat it with scepticism but in this case there are indeed many songs rendered in the classic Seeger style, including a number of less well known titles. I particularly liked Peggy's unaccompanied poignant version of The Fair Maid by the Shore, and in total contrast, the hilarious duet with Tom Paley on Kicking Mule.

Considering that Paul remastered the first 8 tracks from a vinyl copy then used a noise reduction system and that the other tracks were remastered from somewhat ageing analogue tapes, the sound quality is still first class as one would expect from the Fellside stable. The CD is accompanied by a comprehensive booklet of notes to the songs which are based on those from the original records.

All in all this is an essential album for all Peggy Seeger fans, those interested in traditional American folk songs and anyone who wants to gain an insight into the early days of the folk revival.

Super Stuff!

Derek Gifford

SHAVE THE MONKEY "Mad Arthur"

PERCHERON MUSIQUE APE 3003/CD

I must confess, I know nothing about this band at all so this review is solely on the merits of the CD.

Shave the Monkey are a 6 piece band who are: Bryan Causton, Steve Collins, Duncan Moss, Kevin Neaves, Guido Rincon and Carolyn Sheppard. Between them they play a variety of instruments too many list but including melodeon's, Hurdy Gurdy, Bagpipes, Keyboards and Percussion.

The CD has 11 tracks, 4 of which are songs and the rest tunes. The CD is produced by the band themselves and the recording, in general, is of a high quality. The playing is really good and often excellent.



Allan Taylor

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A lot of tracks have a very "Breton" feel to them but each tune manages to keep its own identity.

My only criticism is with the vocals. There are some notes that are definitely flat. Carolyn Sheppard has a fine voice and I can only think that this is a recording fault. If the vocals are recorded first and a variety of instruments added later, it only needs one instrument to be slightly out of tune to make some of the vocal notes to sound strange.

However, the musicianship more than makes up for it. Go and see them at Fylde this summer and make your own mind up.

Ken Howard.

THE AMAZING BLONDEL

"A Foreign Field that is forever England"

HTD.CD 56

For the uninitiated, The Amazing Blondel were (are!) a three piece acoustic band performing their own music in an Elizabethan style during the late 60s/early 70s. Their array of instruments included lutes, the-orbo, guitars, recorders, flute, crumhorns and harmonium with additional string and woodwind arrangements on albums.

I must confess to a little bias here as Amazing Blondel (they dropped the definitive article in 1970!) were, and still are my favourite band and I spent many a happy hour in my sixth form days listening to their four albums which comprised a debut album on Bell records (1969), followed by three LPs on the well respected Island label Evensong (1970), Fantasia Lindum (1971) and England (1972).

And now, would you believe it, the band are in the process of reissuing all their albums on CD and have reformed the original line up of John David Gladwin, Terence Alan Wincott and Edward Baird. They will be available for live work sometime in the near future and are currently putting the finishing touches to an album of new material for release soon. This album, however, is a selection of 10 songs crossing all four albums recorded live during the period 1972/73 just before their premature split.

A review of England in Melody Maker back in 1972 likened the band's music as having "the freshness of new mown grass" and there is undoubtedly a freshness and beauty about Gladwin's poetic lyrics and delicate vocal style that has stood the test of time which is accompanied by the clear lute and guitar accompaniment of himself and Eddie Baird. Terry Wincott's gutsy vocal and recorder technique add an effective foil and the whole effect has a quintessentially Englishness that is a sheer delight to listen to. As Gladwin once said in an interview in the magazine "Zigzag" some 20+ years ago, "we wanted to bring back the romanticism of the troubadour walking round strumming his lute".

The band completed their career in cosmopolitan

style with a tour of Europe taking in Belgium, Germany, France, Switzerland, Italy, Holland, Spain, Norway, Sweden and Denmark after which Gladwin left to leave the other two to pursue a career as a duo which took another four studio albums plus a live album and a solo platter by Baird.

This album, A Foreign Field that is Forever England is a selection from recordings made on this final tour and remarkable is the clarity and quality of the recordings which are over 20 years old and the songs are played to the same high standards as the studio recordings. (Not always the case on live albums!)

The introductions are somewhat basic bearing in mind the foreign audience which is understandable but nonetheless their wit and humour is evident in no uncertain terms and the jokes were well appreciated.

To pick out a few tracks, it is a delight to hear their magnum opus Fantasia Lindum performed in its entirety (this originally took up the whole of the first side of the aforementioned album of the same name.) a stunning pastoral piece inspired by the band's native Lincolnshire countryside.

Their "fun number" Shepherd's Song completed with bleating is also here, one they always used to arouse audience participation and here performed with great zest and gusto.

Three songs from their final album England are present Seascape, Landscape and Dolor Dulcis and old favourites Pavan and Willowood from the album Evensong. I was surprised though at the omission of Toye a popular song with fans and an ever present on live gigs and the duplication of Celestial Light which appears on its own and also as part of the Fantasia Lindum suite.

In conclusion, a delightful album that will send existing Blondel fans into nostalgic raptures and, hopefully introduce a whole new listenership to one of the most beautiful sounds ever to have graced a turntable and concert hall. The band are now happily reunited after over twenty years; watch out for the new album and live appearances.

For further details of the band, send SAE to

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