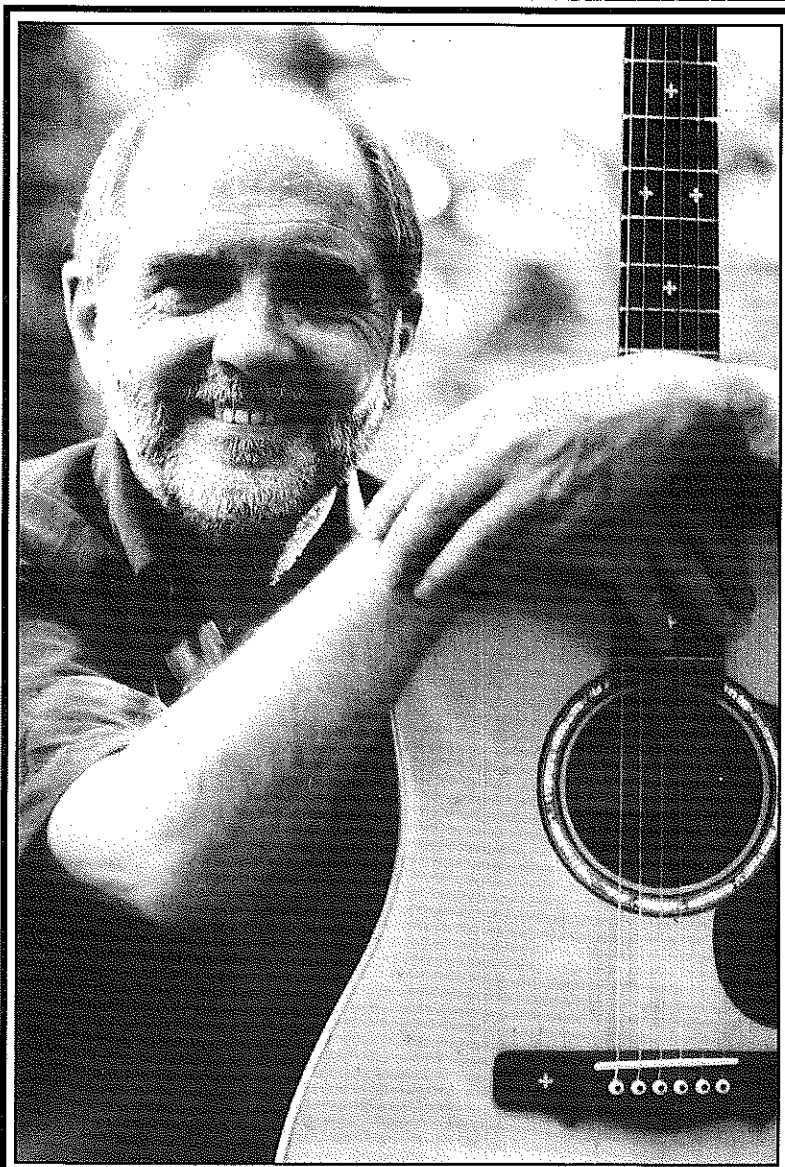


FOLK *North West*

Autumn 1997

80p



**ROY BAILEY
AT FEDERATION MEETING!**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Carolyn Hester:
An appreciation

NewsReel

**Youthful
Perspective**

Record Reviews: *All the
latest folk releases*

LIVE REVIEWS:

**Kamikaze Ceilidh
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November

Tue 25th Purcell Room, Sth Bank Centre, London - 0171 960 4242

Wed 26th The Junction, Cambridge - 01223 511 511

Thu 27th Lib & Working Men's Club, Sileby, Leicester -
0116 264 0671

Fri 28th Darlington Arts Centre - 01325 483 168

Sat 29th Wesham Community Centre - 01772 683 027

Sun 30th Museum Theatre, Stoke on Trent - 01782 232 323

info: 01452 760648. Mail-order: 01296 623501

<http://www.showofhands.co.uk>

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December

Mon 1st The Vale Centre, Todmorden - 01706 817 539

Tues 2nd Regal Centre, Worksop - 01909 482 896

Wed 3rd The Mill, Banbury - 01295 279 002

Thur 4th Merlin Theatre, Frome - 01373 465 949

Fri 5th Salisbury Arts Centre - 01722 321 744

Sat 6th The New Hall, Pulborough - 01798 812 661

Sun 7th Broadstairs Pavilion - 01227 455 600

Mon 8th Norwich Assembly House - 01603 660 352

Tues 9th High Wycombe Town Hall - 01494 512 000

Wed 10th Huntingdon Hall, Worcester - 01905 611 427

Thur 11th Beaminstor School - 01308 862990/633

Fri 12th Exmouth Pavilion (Greenpeace) - 01395 222 477

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N.B.: All subscribers automatically become Associate Members of the North-West Federation of Folk Clubs. This

does not confer voting rights at Federation meetings.

Editorial Address:

118, Bolton Road,
Aspull,
WIGAN

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

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

EDITORIAL

WELCOME to another issue of Folk North-West!

As you will see, we are back again despite the dire warnings last issue, and this is mainly due to a lot more assistance being forthcoming from a number of people.

I must make particular mention of KEN BLADEN, who runs the FOUR FOOLS folk festival who is going to take over as magazine editor, most likely from next issue. I hope to be able to continue to contribute articles, reviews etc. from time to time, so you don't get rid of me quite that easily!

I'm grateful to all those who rang or wrote and offered their support, even if they couldn't actually do much to help directly. Just to know there are people out there who do care about the magazine is a benefit in itself.

I've enjoyed editing the magazine (well mostly anyway), but as I have been doing this for twenty years now and finding it increasingly difficult to find the time to produce it, I thought it was time to give someone else a chance.

At our meeting, we also agreed a split of duties, which means you should only send information to the person listed to the right of this box.

This issue is packed as always with a wide variety of articles and news about the North-West folk scene, but for once I'll let the contents speak for itself.



Newsletter Editor

FOLK North-West INFORMATION PAGE

Who do I send information to?

Addresses for the next issue of Folk North-West:

Club Dates, information on forthcoming events, changes of venue/organiser:

Chris McIlveen
35 Glenshiels Avenue
Huddlesden
Darwen
BB3 3LS
Tel: 01254 704726

Articles for possible inclusion, letters, CDs or tapes for review to:

Ken Bladen
36, The Oaks,
Eaves Green,
Chorley
PR7 3QU
01257 263678

Advertising, subscriptions, club membership enquiries:

Paul & Kath Holden
7, Sunleigh Road,
Hindley,
Wigan
WN2 2RE
01942 258459

Please note, these are for next issue only; please check the next issue for any possible changes for future editions.



NewsReel

Latest News from around the region and further afield

Having just moved into the area, I suddenly find myself writing this NewsReel as well as looking forward to getting involved with folk activities in the North West. There are many activities listed in the diary dates and detailed in adverts to look forward to between now and Christmas (too early in the year to mention that word - though I have noticed that The RNLI have got their Christmas cards on sale already).

For the past two years I have spent a most enjoyable day at **Maghull's Day of Music** and I am therefore looking forward to this year's event (their 5th) which takes place at Maghull Town Hall on Saturday 8th November 1997 from noon till midnight. The guest line up provides something for everyone and ranges from Vin Garbutt to The New Bushbury Mountain Daredevils; (no they are not mountain bike stunt performers but excellent and exciting musicians) via Cosmotheka, Debby McClatchy and a variety of talented local performers. No doubt there will be 'something' from the assembled multitudes of the Maghull Club members to entertain us. Don't miss it - they have a rolling folk club - so jump aboard carefully and be carried away by the music. (see advert for more details).

The Wooden Horse Folk Club (do they have an escape committee?) are busy tunnelling beneath "The Junction", News Lane, Rainford, Lancashire. To muffle the sound of this activity they run a folk club every Sunday evening with guests once a month.

On October 12th they are playing host to the **North West Folk Federation AGM** - please attend to support the folk federation, air your views and offer your help. As a great incentive they have Roy Bailey as the guest that evening (details from 01772 452782).

Having relocated the **Four Fools Folk Festival** from Redditch to Lowton Civic Hall we have now decided to run a monthly concert at the same venue (not November so that we can go off and enjoy Maghull's Day of Music).

We begin on Friday 5th September with **Huw & Tony Williams** ably supported by our very own Quartz. Huw & Tony are a multi-talented singer songwriting duo. Their concerts feature beautifully crafted songs interwoven with irrepressible and zany humour.

Friday 10th of October features **Partners in Crime** (who are Dave Burland who used to lock people up and Sid Kipper whose Uncle George is frequently locked up) together with LocTup Together.

On Saturday 6th December **Keith Kendrick and Jo Freya** present their Calendar Tour (a mixture of seasonal songs and tunes) Also appearing will be John O'Hagan & Paul Tebbutt (well someone has to hand round the mince pies).

Stoke Folk in the tradition is a new folk club which commenced recently on Friday 25th July with Tom McConville as the guest. The club meets monthly, on the last Friday of the month at the Milton Bowling and Recreation Club, Millrise Road, Milton, Stoke-on-Trent.

The club aims to present the very best of traditional singers and instrumentalists, supported by the best local performers they can find, within a club atmosphere rather than a series of isolated concerts. Forthcoming guests are Roy Harris (Fri 26th Sept); Mick Ryan & Pete Harris (Fri 31st Oct) and John Kirkpatrick (Fri 28th Nov). The starting time is 8 for 8.30pm. For further details contact Liz Holland & Jeff Parton on 01782 266 821.

Don't forget the festivals coming up in the near future:- Crewe & Nantwich 5/7th September (01270 663 120); Bromyard (01531 670 593) or Otley (01943 464 858) 19/21st Sept; Amber (01773 836 209) 14/15th Nov; Bedworth (01203 328 261) 29th Nov.

The Poozies will be at The Met, Bury on Sept 17th (ring 0161 761 2216 for more details), Capercaille are appearing at Manchester Academy (contact numbers M.U.S.U. 0161 275 2930 or 0161 832 1111) on Fri 19th of September and at The Liverpool Philharmonic Hall (0151 709 3789) on Fri 26th September.

SULLY'S BANJO CATALOGUE is out now, and can be obtained from Halshaw Music, 37, Catherine Street, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 6ET (tel: 01625 610849).

If you send £1 in stamps, they will send the new BANJO catalogue, plus their own music catalogue and price list as well as colour photos of banjos.

**OUR NEXT ISSUE COVERS
DECEMBER 1997 TO FEBRUARY 1998
THE CLOSING DATE FOR ALL
SUBMISSIONS IS OCTOBER 20th,
NOTHING WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER
THIS DATE**

Editorial Address:

**118, Bolton Road,
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Wigan
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Telephone : 01942 833293

A new radio station should by now have begun broadcasting. Yorkshire Dales radio is on 936kHz from Hawes and 1436kHz from Skipton, both on Medium Wave. Their new folk show (no name yet) is being presented by Andrew Ingle on Thursdays from 7-8pm. He would particularly like to feature live studio guests etc. If you are likely to be in the area, please give him a call on 01756 799991 or write to him c/o Yorkshire Dales Radio, YDR House, Gargrave Road, Skipton, N. Yorks.

Ken Bladen.

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 - 9.00pm

BBC Radio Merseyside

FM 95.8/ MW 1485kHz

FOLKSCENE presented by Stan Ambrose and Geoff Speed Thursdays 8.00 - 9.00pm

(Note the new time & day - exactly the same as Lancashire Drift!)

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)

The Folk & Roots show is now broadcast on Thursdays from 9.05-10.00pm; Radio Cumbria (FM 96.1, South Lakes; FM 95.2, Kendal; FM 104.2, Windermere) is the only local station to broadcast it. *There are no other Folk programmes that we know of. Let us know if we are wrong!*

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DIARY CHAT

Diary Chat

Please note - Change of Address

Please note that all input for Club dates and Diary Chat should in future be sent to Chris McIlveen at:-

35 Glenshiels Avenue
Huddlesden
Darwen
BB3 3LS
Tel: 01254 704726

The Gateway Folk Club

The Gateway Folk Club which meets at The Gateway Hotel, 882 Wilmslow Road, East Didsbury is changing from its usual Thursday evening to Wednesday evenings starting from Wednesday 1st October (still meeting on Thursdays during September). For further details contact Annie Morris on 0161 881 8294.

Blackburn Folk Club

Blackburn Folk Club are hosting a Folk Night in aid of the British Dyslexia Association at The Church of The Redeemer in Blackburn, on Saturday 27th September at 7:30 PM. Entry is free and includes a buffet supper, donations will be welcome. Further details are available from Jan Talbot at 9 Whitendale Crescent, Blackburn (no phone).

ACCESS FOR DISABLED:

8.45 at the Lane Ends

Llandudno

Mechanics

Swinton

Alison Arms

Chorley

Triton



NON SMOKING CLUBS:

Cockermouth

Maghull (Following a vote, this is now every week!)

Potteries



Hudson Swan Band

The band will be performing at a concert at Melling Tithebarn, on Saturday 15th November. Tickets are £4:00 and are available from Pauline Tyrer on 0151 289 6653.

The concert is to help promote their 3rd album, eagerly awaited following the success of "Prospect Lane".

Chorley Folk Club

Are changing their venue to the Waggon & Horses, Bolton Street, Chorley (near KwikSave). They still meet on Tuesdays, but are now only meeting on the 1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesdays of the month. There will be a special guest, singers and musicians every week. More details from Frank Wilson, 01257 230047

Arnside Folk Club

Arnside Folk Club meets for a Singers Night on the first and third Sunday of every month, all the year round. That means that all you lucky people who travel north to visit the scenic Lake District have an opportunity to join our merry bunch of folkies, either during your stay or en route homewards. We already have a number of holiday caravanners who have become regulars.

So, instead of suffering road rage on the slow moving M6, why not take the A6, stopping off at Milnethorpe, where you will find the Bull's Head at the traffic lights with easy parking. Pub grub is available locally and then, whether group, singer, musician or listener, you will have a cracking time with a matey crowd. If you need to be persuaded to perform, we will oblige, but no-one is pressed.

We welcome both traditional and contemporary music, and we invite also dancers, bands and fire-eaters, to a willing audience. Our upstairs room is away from the noise of the bar, our residents are accomplished and will offer you the warmest of welcomes.

Whilst we are primarily a singers club we have this year presented Tim Laycock, Mal Brown and Robin Laing, and our guest on 27th September will be the renowned Donal Maguire. Our club birthday celebrations are due on 8th November. For information ring Steve Black on 01524 761823 or Frank Lewis on 01524 734440.

7

The North-West Federation of Folk Clubs

Annual General Meeting

WANTED: Volunteers for Chairman, Secretary, Youth Organiser etc.

Please form an orderly queue!

Sunday, October 12th
at the Wooden Horse Folk Club, "the Junction", News Lane, Rainford.

Meeting begins 7pm

plus concert featuring

**ROY
BAILEY**

More Diary Chat

The Howcroft Inn Acoustic Evenings

The Howcroft Acoustic Evenings meet twice each month on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at The Howcroft Inn, Pool Street (off Vernon Street) Bolton and admission is FREE. It helps a little if people understand that it cannot be earlier than the 8th of each month!

The format of the Acoustic Nights is very simple in that, primarily, it is a Players' Club and guests are not booked as such. However, people are invited to come and play for half an hour or so; for which they receive the proceeds of a raffle held on the night and the contents of a pint pot which is passed among those present to register their appreciation. It will be apparent that any amount accruing may vary from night to night but this does not seem to have prevented singers such as Anthony John Clarke, Jon Harvison, Phil Hare and Dai Thomas to name but a few from coming to play there. The tremendous support that Pete Ryder has lent to the club has undoubtedly influenced many of the players to appear although Pete has steadfastly refused to be considered the club resident.

The Howcroft has gained the reputation of being a very friendly club to play at for both the accomplished musician and the raw beginner. All are welcomed with whatever they choose to bring along, be it accompanied or voice only; song or prose. Perhaps the consistently high quality of the beers on sale at the Howcroft may also have something to do with any success the Acoustic Nights have achieved.

The Howcroft operates from around 8:30 pm until 11:30 pm or thereabouts and forthcoming friends include Jon Harvison, John Cartain and Lynne and Barry Hardman.

Further information can be obtained from Ron Callow on 01204 381956.

Triton Folk Club

The Triton Folk Club have advised us of the sad death in June of Doreen Rickart, the organiser of the club for many years. An appreciation from the club will be found on a later page of the magazine.

Future Deadlines for Diary Dates/ Diary Chat/Club News

It would help Chris McIlveen considerably if Club Organisers could ensure that all input for future issues is sent to me, in writing, no later than the following dates:-

Winter 1997/98 (Dec 97, Jan & Feb 98)

Deadline - 31st October 1997

Spring 1998 (March, April, May 1998)

Deadline - 31st January 1998

Summer 1998 (June, July, August 1998)

Deadline - 31st April 1998

Please let Chris McIlveen know of any changes to organisers or locations that you know about.

PLEASE NOTE:

All dates, club news etc.
to:

**Chris McIlveen
35 Glenshiels Avenue
Huddlesden
Darwen
BB3 3LS**

Tel: 01254 704726

Extra Dates for December 1997 & beyond

SN = Singers Night

Bothy

Dec 5th Ceilidh with Blue Billy String Band
Dec 7th Coope Boyes & Simpson Christmas Show
Dec 14th SN,
Dec 21st Office Party
Dec 28th Closed

Bury

Dec 13th Tom McConville
Dec 27th Closed
Jan 10th Gordon Tyrall

Dalton

Dec 9th Xmas Bash with Bernard Wrigley

8:45 at Lane Ends

Dec 10th Jez Lowe,
Dec 17th Box Fox & Stu Luckley
Dec 20th Ken Nicol & Chris White

Howcroft Inn

Dec 9th The Renovators
Dec 23rd Staff Folk

Poynton

Dec 13th Jack at a Pinch
Dec 27th Bilbo Baggins
Jan 10th Mr Beveridge Maggot Band
Jan 24th Plain Brown Wrapper Band
Feb 14th Village Band
Feb 28th Twisted Flax

Westhoughton

Dec 5th The McCalmans (ticket only)

Wooden Horse

Dec 7th SN
Dec 14th Cuckoo Oak
Dec 21st Xmas Party
Dec 28th Closed

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

BLACKBURN - Flatbroke

BOTHY - Clive Pownceby, Pete Rimmer, Ray Rooney, Bev Sanders, Neville Grundy, Bill Hackney

BRIDGE - Peter Hood, Phil and Claire Allen

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

GATEWAY - Pauline Jones, Lynda Edwards, Maggie Billington, Tony Mannion, Pete Hood, Dave Walmisley, Mary & Kieran Hartley, Tom Travis, Anna Bearnew

GREGSON LANE - Lammergeier

LLANDUDNO - Highly Strung (Gill Williams & John Les)

MAGHULL - Tony Gibbons, Sue Howard, Loctup Together, Bob Tyrer, Clover, Paul Robinson, Joan Galimore, Maria & Harry Forsythe

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

OSBALDESTON - Trouble At Mill

PORKIES - Sad Pig Band, 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, Hugh O'Donnell

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

TRITON - Bob Tyrer

URMSTON ACOUSTICS - Keith Northover

WESTHOUGHTON - Auld Triangle

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

Obituary

Doreen Rickart - died 4th June 1997

Doreen Rickart

It is with deep regret that we have to inform you of the death of Doreen Rickart. The following tributes and acknowledgements are from members and friends of Triton Folk Club.

On 4th June 1997 Doreen Rickart passed away. An active member of the Liverpool folk scene for many years - a Spinners fan and long time organiser of Triton Folk Club, she was also a familiar figure at many English, Welsh and Scottish Folk Festivals.

Doreen was an avid collector of Folk Music records and her personal collection was in excess of 1500 albums.

Another of her hobbies was collecting owls. Over the years, aided and abetted by friends the length and breadth of the country, she amassed a total of several hundred.

Although a Liverpudlian by birth, and proud of it, she had a long standing and deep affection for Cornwall and its people. This was reflected in later years by her switch from collecting owls to collecting white roses.

Doreen had a well deserved reputation as a thoughtful and generous hostess. Many are the artists who were grateful for one of Doreen's full English breakfasts, which could set one up for the day. She could also always be relied upon, when late night hunger pangs bit hard and all the chippies were shut, to have a plentiful supply of buttered currant buns readily to hand.

A lady of strong opinions, sometimes somewhat forcibly expressed, she was none-the-less a loyal and true friend who will be sadly missed.

Johnny Collins

Our dear friend Doreen

Many years it seems since Doreen returned to Liverpool. Zena and I were first to welcome her at Gregsons Well Spinners Club (as a matter of fact she spoke to me and said, "I believe I am sitting in your chair Margaret," to which I replied, "Feel free.") So she came and sat by me - that was the start of our long friendship. We miss her empty seat in our little circle, because the only time she was missing was when she was away at a "festival". We have had some wonderful times out with the Spinners at TV concerts etc., loads of laughs too: We miss her.

Margaret Cheveaux.

Doreen Rickart June 4th 1997

Sleep peacefully. We share so many happy memories of outings, holidays, Padstow and friendship with 'folkies' from all over Britain and I'll always especially think of you when I hear your favourite song "I love the White Rose in its Splendour," and of course we must not forget a special mention of Cosmotheke who gave "Us 3" Maisie, Doreen and me so many laughs and fun.

Zena

From all the Members of the Triton Folk Club we would like to thank all those "Folkies" who attended Doreen's Funeral, it was a very moving service and in true tradition her love of Sea Shanties was remembered by the rendition of "The Farewell Shanty" by all present, led by Johnny Collins. For all those who stayed on for our meeting in the evening we were pleased to welcome some of Doreen's relatives. Our condolences were conveyed to them, thank you all for coming.

News from America: An Appreciation of Carolyn Hester:

During November, audiences will get a rare opportunity to see legendary Texan singer Carolyn Hester in the intimacy of club settings.

In the late nineteen fifties, at the age of 18, Carolyn travelled to Greenwich Village in New York before there were even any real folk venues to book her. She quickly became a major folk performer at a variety of music clubs. Buddy Holly was one of her friends, and the Crickets drummer played on her first LP. An unknown Bob Dylan asked if he could play harmonica on her third LP, and was immediately discovered by her producer. And the mother of a sixteen year old Joan Baez asked if her daughter might sing with Carolyn.

When Pete Seeger was blacklisted from a TV folk show by the notorious House of Representatives Committee on Un-American Activities, Carolyn refused to appear further, and came to sing in Britain, helping to launch the career of her then husband, the late Richard Farina. Arguably the best looking, most charismatic, and with the best voice of all the female singers, she left an indelible memory on those who saw her on BBC's Hullabaloo and ITV's Hootenanny shows in the early sixties, and she was a major influence and boost to the soon-to-emerge British folk revival.

Perhaps not fully realizing the strong impression that she had made Carolyn returned to the USA and to a premature retirement in order to raise a family with her husband, pianist Dave Blume, and to run their ethnic dance centre Cafe Danssa, in California. Over the next three decades she did a mere three albums, recorded in their own studio. And so it might have stayed if one of her biggest fans - singer Nanci Griffiths - had not persuaded her to join her in the recording studio and for a few live performances. Bob Dylan also invited them both to sing at his tribute concert at which she was introduced as 'A great Folk singer'.

With her old enthusiasm rekindled, she has now re-embarked on her musical career, accompanied by husband Dave, and with additional support on her latest album (From These Hills) from their two grown-up daughters Karla and Amy. Carolyn has returned to Britain to sing during each of the last four years, one of them an exhaustive far-flung, month-long tour with old friend Tom Paxton.

Eight of her twelve previous albums have been reissued on Cd by 'Road Goes On Forever' and the outstanding 'Live At Town Hall' double LP, and three of her best on the double 'Dear Companion' CD which also includes some previously unreleased and experimental pop arrangements, a direction which her record company persuaded her to take, but which she felt was wrong for her.

Record Collector magazine recently placed 'The Traditional Album' (2nd LP) at number 72 in their 1996 listing of the top 75 reissue CD's - a fairly remarkable inclusion considering that it was just Carolyn and her guitar back in 1961, whilst all the rest were more recent pop

bands and singers accompanied by orchestral arrangements.

Happy with her life, and now a fine songwriter herself, Carolyn's music is less melancholy than of old, and reflects her feelings on subjects such as love, the Native American Indian lifestyle and other females who have contributed positively to society. Just as youthful as ever she was, both she and Dave are warm, friendly and very approachable and have retained a caring consciousness of the world around them throughout five decades of music.

MUNRO TEALE



A Youthful Perspective

with Jenny Shotliff

For those of you I haven't told, several times, I have a new job! I've moved to E. Yorkshire where I'm working as an agent at Adastral which I am really enjoying - it's nice to do something for a

job which makes use of my hobby. The distance and the new job mean that it would be unrealistic to try and continue with everything I have been doing and I have been wanting to step back from the Youth Activities for some time as I believe that they should be self-perpetuating i.e. as one lot of young people is helped they then take on the role of helping the next lot.

Youthquake and the role of Youth Activities Officer are two separate things. I'm hoping that someone will step into the Youth Activities role

and act as an information point but I still have a number of commitments with Youthquake. We have various festivals through the rest of 1997 & I've just heard that we've been awarded a grant from the Lottery's A4 Express Scheme; so my intention is to wind down over the next 18 months. Anyone who'd like to step forward and help me retire would be very welcome!

The Grant is to run a series of master classes prior to giving some of the young people in-

involved studio experience & helping them produce demo-tapes. I will have further details soon but the intention is to link this into the Werneth Folk Festival.

Jenny Shotliff.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The phot shows Anna Davies and Jenny Shotliff (Jenny on right)



Contributing Articles to the Magazine:

If you would like to write an article for the magazine, it would be helpful if you follow the following guidelines:

Not more than 500 words, and if a record review not more than 300 please (unless by prior arrangement). If by computer, please also supply a hard copy; we can accept most formats for example MS Word, Works, Wordperfect 5.0/5.1 etc. under either DOS or Windows 3.1. 3.5" disks preferred. If you are on the internet, I can give you an address to

E-mail an article to us.

If it is not done by word processor or typewriter, please write clearly; if it turns out wrongly, and you have not written clearly, don't blame us!

We also need some good black & white photos of our local artists. Did you know we have no photos of most of our resident groups or indeed most of the vast wealth of talent local to our area.

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SEPTEMBER DATES

SUNDAY	07 September	14 September	21 September	28 September	
ARNSIDE	Singers Night		Singers Night		
BOTHY		Sara Grey	Bob Greenwood's Rhythm Rascals	Singers Night	
LLANDUDNO	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
POTTERIES					
WOODEN HORSE	Singers Night	Scolds Bridle	Singers Night	Singers Night	
MONDAY	01 September	08 September	15 September	22 September	29 September
BRIDGE	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
CONWY	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
SWINTON	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
TRITON	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
TUESDAY	02 September	09 September	16 September	23 September	30 September
CHORLEY	Guest Night		Guest Night		Guest Night
DALTON		Sara Grey		Singaround	
HOWCROFT INN		Fat Badger		Phil Seddon	
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
URMSTON ACOUSTICS	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
WIGAN (WMC)	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
WEDNESDAY	03 September	10 September	17 September	24 September	
8:45 at LANE ENDS		Ken Nicol	Scolds Bridle	Ian Bruce	
ALISON ARMS	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
ASPULL	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
BLACKBURN	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
BURNLEY	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	
CASTLE	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
THURSDAY	04 September	11 September	18 September	25 September	
BLAKEY'S					
COCKERMOUTH					
FLEETWOOD	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
GATEWAY (still Thurs)	Waterson/Carthy	Sara Gray	Vin Garbutt	Ian Bruce	
GREGSON LANE	Singers Night		Singers Night		
RAILWAY	Grand Opening Night with Gypsy Reel	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
WIGAN (7 STARS)	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
FRIDAY	05 September	12 September	19 September	26 September	
FOUR FOOLS	Huw & Tony Williams				
NORTHWICH	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
PORKIES					
PRESTON	Music/Song Session	Music/Song Session	Music/Song Session	Music/Song Session	
RHYL					
WALTON	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
WESTHOUGHTON	Closed	Closed	Allan Taylor (Opening Night)	Dave Mallett	
SATURDAY	06 September	13 September	20 September	27 September	
*ARNSIDE				Donal Maguire	
BREWERY ARTS					
BURY		Mike O'Leary Johns		Mary Humphreys & Fred McCormick	
OSWALDTWISTLE	Singers Night				
POYNTON		Ceilidh with Bilbo Baggins		Ceilidh - band TBA	

OCTOBER DATES

SUNDAY	05 October	12 October	19 October	26 October	
ARNSIDE	Singers Night		Singers Night		
BOTHY	Julie Henigan	Singers Night	Singers Night	Julie Matthews & Chris White	
LLANDUDNO	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
POTTERIES					
WOODEN HORSE	Singers Night	Folk NorthWest AGM with Roy Bailey	Singers Night	Singers Night	
MONDAY	06 October	13 October	20 October	27 October	
BRIDGE	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
CONWY	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
SWINTON	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
TRITON	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
TUESDAY	07 October	14 October	21 October	28 October	
CHORLEY	Guest Night		Croab-Rua		
DALTON		Singaround		Get Reel	
HOWCROFT INN		John Cartain		Jon Harvison	
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	
URMSTON ACOUSTICS	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
WIGAN (WMC)	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
WEDNESDAY	01 October	08 October	15 October	22 October	29 October
8:45 at LANE ENDS	Dave Mallett		Tom McConville & Pauline Cato	Jon Brindley	Chris White & Julie Matthews
ALISON ARMS	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
ASPULL	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
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
GATEWAY (now Wed)	Gerry Hallom	tba	Chris Newman	tba	Jez Lowe & The Bad Pennies
THURSDAY	02 October	09 October	16 October	23 October	30 October
BLAKEY'S					
COCKERMOUTH					
FLEETWOOD	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
GREGSON LANE	Singers Night		Singers Night		
RAILWAY	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
WIGAN (7 STARS)	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
FRIDAY	03 October	10 October	17 October	24 October	31 October
*BOTHY			*Ceilidh with Shake-A-Leg		
FOUR FOOLS		Partners in Crime			
NORTHWICH	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
PORKIES					
PRESTON	Music/Song Session	Music/Song Session	Music/Song Session	Music/Song Session	Music/Song Session
RHYL					
WALTON	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
WESTHOUGHTON	Chris White & Julie Matthews	Ian Bruce	Tom Russell & Andrew Hardin	James Keelaghan	TBA
SATURDAY	04 October	11 October	18 October	25 October	01 November
BREWERY ARTS					
BURY		Jane & Amanda Threlfall		John Wilson	
OSWALDTWISTLE	Singers Night				
POYNTON		Ceilidh with Mr Beveridge Maggot Band		Ceilidh with Kamikaze Ceilidh Band	

LIVE REVIEWS:

Kamikaze Ceilidh Band, Joe Stead

KAMIKAZE CEILIDH BAND & STANLEY ACCRINGTON (7th Feb 1997)

Almost 300 people packed into the Lancastrian Hall in Swinton on 7th February earlier this year, to join the Kamikaze Ceilidh Band in a special charity ceilidh and barn dance. The event had been organised to support the work of the Adult Leukaemia Unit at the Christie Hospital in South Manchester, along with the Hodgkins' Disease and Lymphoma Association, and in the end £1300 was raised.

The Kamikaze Ceilidh Band, in their trademark colourful stage clothes, consist of caller plus 6 musicians playing drums, percussion, electric guitars, bass, concertina, melodeon, and mandolin. Their repertoire consists of some very familiar dance tunes, given fresh interest by being played in varied arrangements and styles, drawing on rock, country, bluegrass and even reggae influences. Typically, they'd start a dance with melodeon, concertina, mandolin or guitar carrying a tune for the first few times through, only for tradition to get pushed aside when a full rock rhythm section kicked in to give power to the music, and a lift to the dancers.

Meanwhile, caller Ged Todd, using a radio microphone so that he could get among the dancers while calling instructions, worked tirelessly with humour and patience so that even the most inexperienced dancers could thoroughly enjoy the event.

The night was made complete with a half-hour performance from humorist Stanley Accrington during the interval, the highlights of his performance being a parody of the 'South Pacific' musical, the 'Pillar Box' song about the Manchester Arndale bomb, and 'Standing at the head end' (a male perspective on childbirth!)

A thoroughly excellent night was enjoyed by all.

GINNY FEENEY

JOE STEAD, Benefit Concert for the Labour Party at the Trades Club, Hebden Bridge, Saturday 5 April 1997.

Joe Stead distinguishes himself from the rest of the folk community with his desire to give the audience a choice in what they hear. No easy gig line up, pre-decided before the audience is even assembled. Instead, Joe actively encourages the audience to choose topics and subjects for him to sing about. I loved the fact that we, as an audience, were actually consulted and seen as a vital part to the night's performance. This style of performing generated not only a sense of community within the audience but also equally between performer and listener. Here, Joe was singing for the community, being responsive to

and respecting peoples' wishes, something he clearly enjoyed, if not revelled in. As a part of the audience, I appreciated Joe's obvious desire to include everyone in the evening. There was a real sense that he wanted us to come away satisfied that we'd enjoyed ourselves.

Giving the audience time to decide on what they wanted to hear, Joe started the first set with three self chosen songs, including "Paul's Song", the oldest folk song in the world. (It comes from the Bible, Corinthians Chapter 13 - St Paul's letter to the Corinthians). Then it was straight into songs prompted by the audiences' suggestions. Topics ranging from Unsuccessful to Fishing, Old Age to Whales and many in between. The audience was treated to such well-known songs as 'Where Have all the Flowers Gone?' and 'Joe Hill' as well as those written by Joe (such as 'Miles from Halifax'). The first set concluded with two powerfully moving songs about whales, 'Big Blue' and 'Call me the Whale'.

During the interval, the Labour candidate Chris MacFerty gave a short speech.

For the second set Joe performed a powerful and varied range of songs. The exceptional tribute to Pete Seeger 'Just Another Folk Singer' (which Joe wrote whilst in hospital) was included as was the Spanish Union-Peace song 'Somos El Barco'. The set was both humorous and thought provoking and I was left to wonder why nobody else seems to have picked up on some of his own quite remarkable songs. That apart I felt Joe's strength was in his deep passion when singing about the union movement with songs such as 'This Land is your Land' or 'Move on Over'. Paul Taylor accompanied Joe during these renditions on harmonica.

What I found so refreshing about the gig was the audience was seen as a vital and integral element of the performance. Isn't this what folk singing is all about? Singing for the folk, having a say in what we as individuals want to hear? Apparently with folk club audiences Joe is not on stage, he does the entire evening by subject, going to each individual in turn - something I'd really like to participate in!

Joe's deep passion for what he believes in - social justice, the community, the rights of the individual, the environment, came across so strongly. He has devised a show which is both refreshing and stimulating for the audience and performer alike. In all there were 29 songs lasting over two hours. I've never seen him perform before and it was certainly enjoyable, thought provoking entertainment - highly recommended.

ANGELA BROWN



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Caller Micheal McCabe.

Friday 25th. April 1997.
ALL BLACKED UP
Caller Barry Parkes.

Friday 27th. June 1997.
HORSES BRAWL
Caller Peter Bearon.

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FESTIVAL REVIEWS:

Cleethorpes, Middlewich Folk & Boat, Redcar

CLEETHORPES FOLK FESTIVAL (24th-26th May 1997)

Once again saw me at Cleethorpes Folk Festival, rather nervous and feeling rather lost. As you all know I had lost George early on in the year. But, I thought to myself I shall go to Cleethorpes, George would have wanted me to go. So with great trembling I set off by train, taxi and coach which was all OK. Friday evening, down to the Winter Gardens for my ticket, (half price at that!). Dancers were going at it like mad. Who do I see but Joe and Maureen Nicholson. Everything off to a great start, and into the Garden Bar, maybe for a singaround; but there was a bevy of musicians who entertained us for the night.

Saturday dawned sunny and dry but a bit of a chill wind, so into the Winter Gardens to see the Step Dancers called Chequered Flag. They were excellent, their costume of black and white very striking, their home base Portsmouth. Off and away to my first singaround at the Lifeboat Hotel, very enjoyable, saw all my festival friends and I sang, so I 'broke my duck', (that's a Derbyshire saying). Back down to the main hall for food and part of a concert, Brian Peters - very nice; Old Rope String Band - as zany as ever; John Kirkpatrick Band - quite alright.

Back again along the seafront to Willy's Bar for another singaround. (It's all go isn't it!). Here there was a bit of sadness, Geoff Turner the MC sang a song in memory of George and Des Nicholson who died just before George. Barbara and myself, we both shed a few tears, and those that knew us were also full to the brim. Such a lovely thought. Again there were some wonderful singers, also a couple of poets whose play with words was out of this world. Half past seven saw me back in the Garden Bar, mixture as before, a good singaround with me doing a couple of songs.

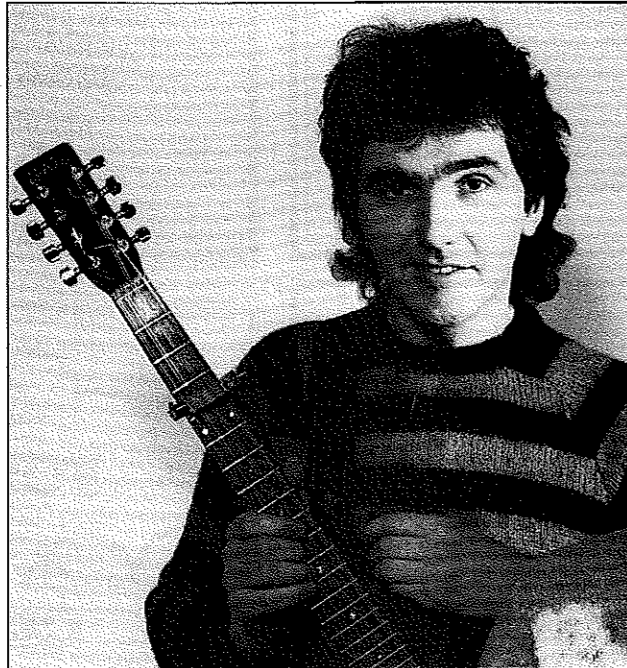
Sunday and Monday followed the same pattern, singarounds, dances and concerts. I saw Keith Hancock and Scolds Bridle who I haven't seen for ages and it was lovely. Tried to see Donkeys Breakfast (That's a name if you like!) - but I had left it a bit late, they had already been on stage. But I saw three fellows called

very good, a good and decent range of voices. Alan Taylor was as laid back as ever, then my favourite - Roy Bailey. He got the children to join in with the singing, magic!, wonderful! You see Cleethorpes is also for the young ones, something on for the kids, Folk Clubs, Ceilidhs, Mogsy, also a session in the Leisure Centre. So all in all you can guess I enjoyed myself. Tired as hell, but here's to next year.

JOAN GALLIMORE

MIDDLEWICH FOLK and BOAT FESTIVAL (20th-22nd June 1997)

The one thing you pray fervently for on any festival weekend is fine weather, but someone up there obviously wasn't listening, as the Saturday was deluged, fortunately I only attended on Sunday.



☐ Jez Lowe

The afternoon provided a real treat for a full marquee, with a great line-up, Jez Lowe and the Bad Penies kicked us off, sadly, Judy Dinning was missing from the line-up, as she fulfilled her final gig in Scotland with Lucky Bags but Jez, Billy and new boy Jez Luton gave a fine set. Black Diamonds, Soda Man, Galloways, Durham Jail and a touch of North East rock and roll in the Ballad of Kid Canute, quickly had the audience on board, add to those, the reflective mood of Glad Rags and The Guilts and the

balance was complete.

In stark contrast, Gilly Darby followed, her powerful voice filled the marquee, from her acappella start with sixties blues through Woodstock, Nina Simone's Plain Gold Ring to Sandy Denny's Mr Lacey we progressed from Stevie Wonder to the Ring of Bright Water, Doris Day's A Woman's Touch, topped off with Big Boned Girl from the ubiquitous k.d.lang. All sung with power and clarity, but for me totally in the wrong place at the wrong time.

'Quite simply, the best purveyors of acappella son on the island', not my words, sadly, but the definitive description of Coope, Boyes and Simpson. Together for only four years, their achievements are endless and their sound hits you squarely between the eyes.

Unison in Harmony, their signature tune led on to the beautiful Maori song Oa Tea Roa. Their songs are so well crafted, for all sailors in love, Falling Slowly and

the tongue in cheek, So Sincere, written by Jim m Boyes, always evoke good audience reaction, but they also gave sensitive renderings to Joseph Taylor's Sprig of Thyme and Another Rolling Stone by Michael Marra.

The whole marquee for their part helped swell the harmonies on Remembrance Day and Only Remembered.

Les Barker was his usual jovial, inimitable self, as he led us through Snails by way of Deja vu an Endangered Species with Dyslexia, as we found out, Dachshunds With Erections Can't Climb Stairs, had words with Jason and the Arguments before finally settling down with the Shipping Forecast. As usual a trip to savour.

Topping it off were The Yetties, I hadn't seen them live for 26 years or so and forty minutes later remembered why!!! Best described as Jimmy Shand meets Val Doonican!!!

My day was rounded off down at the British Legion with a concert by that accomplished singer/songwriter Harvey Andrews.

I felt the festival committee made a big mistake making this a 'pay as you enter' evening, the result was reflected by the fact that the audience totalled only 45, not surprising when two events running simultaneously were free with a weekend ticket. Despite this Harvey was undaunted, as he mixed old favourites like Gift of a Brand New Day, Margarita and First You Lose the Rhythming with numbers from his forthcoming CD release 'The Journey'

Harvey has always been topical and his rendition of The Centurion looks back on the life of a family from 1900 to the forthcoming Millenium, while the poignancy of Found and Loved, is for one, not lost on me.

All in all a memorable day at a festival that deserves to succeed given the hard, unstinting work of the committee. And other festivals could learn a thing or two from the concert given solely for the pensioners of the town.

David Jones.

REDCAR FESTIVAL (11th-13th July 1997)

John Taylor invited Jane Day and myself to Redcar this year; a smashing fellow is John.

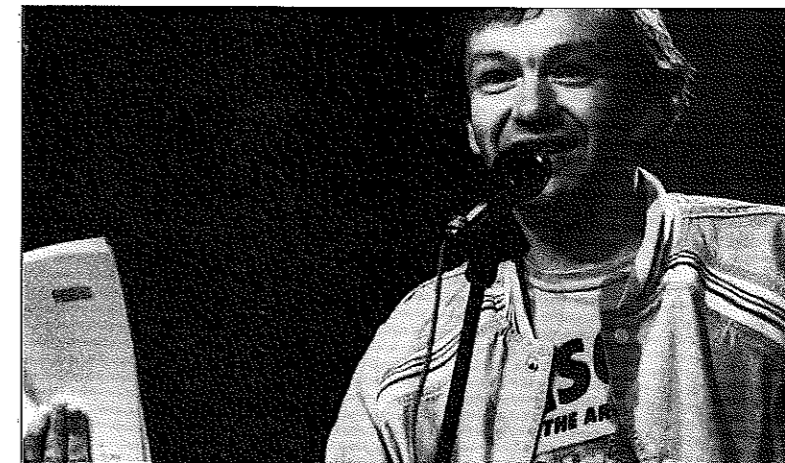
In the back of Ian Tupling's car we set off on the Friday afternoon in lovely sunny weather. Chris Lock was a bit of a pain, she dropped the crisps then lost an earring! Instead of waiting until later when the car

stopped she insisted on putting her head on the floor to look for it. Jane and I were quietly having hysterics at a bent down Chris passing dropped crisps to Jane - what a start to the weekend!

Friday night was great. A very good concert at the Claxton Hotel; Lucky Bags, Pete & Heather Haywood and our dear friend Marie Little were among the acts we saw. An excellent Late-night Singaround at the Redcar Bowl and then finally we watched those lovely young people The Fosbrook Dancers and Players.

On Saturday morning Jane and I split-up, Jane went to the Alan Bell workshop and Australian Folklore run by Margaret Bradford whilst I went to the Harmony Happening with The Wilson Family and Firm Friends, all followed by a singaround at the RAFA Club. Half past One saw Jane and I together again at the Big Concert at the Bowl and what a line-up we saw. The

Wrigley Sisters, Roy Bailey, Allan Taylor, the Eric Bogle Band and a new dance team One Step Beyond. Both of us were out of this world! After a meal and plenty of chat with people we met we made our way to the Late-night singaround - a disappointment this time - the singing seemed very flat and the people who were running it very blase.



☐ Les Barker

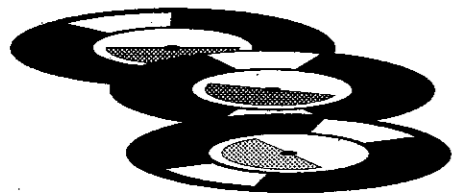
Out early on Sunday morning ready for the Chance to Meet session. First on

were Show of Hands - not bad singers and musicians! Jane and I sat tight in our chairs waiting for Old Rope String Band they did the business as usual, Jane says they should be available on prescription as a good laugh does you the world of good. Mind you there was another tonic with the wit of Vin Garbutt. We staggered off into heavy rain to go to the singaround, the venues are well spread out at Redcar but it did our little legs good. Derek Gifford was the perfect host and though the numbers were few the singing was good. Jane sang The Rose and as this was George's favourite you can guess what happened to me. Back to the Bowl for a last look at Fairport Convention all good musicians but the noise level made it sound better outside to my ears!

I must mention Fred Jordan who did a good set of songs, not a wrong note and the tune well held, Good on you Fred!! He and I were born in the same year, that should start some of you guessing.

Arrived home at 10.10pm feeling I could sleep for a week. Thank you John Taylor for a lovely weekend.

Joan Gallimore



RECORD REVIEWS

RICK KEMP "Escape"

Fellside FECD114

Everyone knows Rick Kemp as "Mr Bass Man", a reputation founded alongside such luminaries as Mick Ronson and Michael Chapman as well as being a bass-for-hire session maestro.

Somebody once whispered to him that they'd found the perfect slot for him in a happening band. His now legendary retort was "I'll only join two bands, Free or Steeleye Span and Free have split up" The reply "....you're in luck".

His first solo album will not be everyone's cup of tea, but it certainly shows that Mr Kemp is far more than a plucker of strings. His lead vocals on every track show his versatility and feeling for a song. The strong blues feel is brought to the surface in both Brampton to Roadhead Blues and Queen of Light, while we are treated to an unaccustomed, almost breathless rendition of Rick's thoughts on Genocide.

His past is evident in Waiting for a Miracle which has a definite Steeleye feel. Phoenix explains how we should be looking to rise above all that's decaying around us, but how, when, where, many have tried and failed before.

Rick gives the definitive treatment to two numbers written for his wife Maddy Prior with superb haunting echo in Deep in the Darkest Night, while Ian Kellet's keyboards and John Kirkpatrick on accordion bring out poignancy in Somewhere Along the Road.

All in all a CD that will appeal to many diverse tastes and another undoubted notch on Rick Kemp's bedpost of success.

David Jones

KATHRYN TICKELL "The Gathering"

Park Records PRKCD39

This is the polished, well thought-out album that I expected but there are some nice touches and the odd surprise. Kathryn re-visits and re-works a number of traditional Northumbrian pipe pieces from her earlier years to good effect with backing from Ian Carr (guitar) and Neil Harland (bass) along with many of her own tunes. The surprises come with Brenda Powers guest appearances. The pipes/harmonica interplay on Powers 'The Real Blues Reel' is a real showstopper.

Jenny Shottliff



☐ Kathryn Tickell

PETE COE "Long Company"

Backshift BASHCD45

After 26 years 'on the road' as a full-time professional you would expect high quality from this 'old beggar' mate of mine - and that is what you get.

You'd be hard pressed to find a weak track on Pete's latest album which is the usual mixture of traditional, self-penned and others-penned material, accompanied in the idiosyncratic Coe

style with melodeons, bouzouki, banjo, Appalachian dulcimer and bass balalaika - though not all at once of

course - even he isn't that clever! Oh - and I nearly forgot, on some tracks you get the Coe footwork (he calls 'em Appalachian feet but we all know he comes from Northwich!)

Pete has always been a highly active performer and this comes across effectively on this album - you can almost see him performing the up tempo numbers!

Favourite tracks? Like I said, they're all good, but I think Vic Gammon's 'The Kings and Queens of England' takes the biscuit, though I'm not particularly anti-royalist myself, with Matt McGinn's 'We'll Have A May Day' - how prophetic it seems now - making a close second.

Of the traditional songs I particularly like Pete's version of 'Across the Western Ocean' and 'As I Roved Out' which is a cobbled together but effective version of the song.

The CD is accompanied, as always, by informative sleeve notes spoiled only by a mug shot of the ugly beggar on the back page! - I joke!! It's a joke! (Sorry Ed, I forgot some might not see the tongue firmly in the cheek!)

Nothing tongue in cheek about my wholehearted recommendation to go out and buy this CD though - and I'd say that even if he wasn't a mate and paying me all this money.....

GIFF

HUW AND TONY WILLIAMS "Live"

TCSCD 1005

"They couldn't be more musically attuned if they were brothers", a phrase that sums up perfectly the professional partnership for two guys who share a surname and have been lifelong friends.

To borrow a line from one of their songs 'note upon note, chord after chord', outstanding musicianship and harmonies are the things that set Huw and Tony apart in their niche market.

At last they've left the comfortable confines of the recording studio to give their ever growing legion of fans a real treat with a large slice of their 'live' concert performance, and whatever reservations Huw and Tony had about recording 'on the road' have surely been blown away with this rewarding CD.

All the old favourites are there. This Place - This Town looks at how their home in the Welsh valleys has changed down the years, while in Making Choices, man's constant striving to conquer the universe, is set against the famine and starvation in Biafra and Rwanda and puts everything firmly into perspective.

Some People Cry deals with homelessness and its consequences, loss of dignity and feelings of uselessness.

I Can Jump Puddles is the title of Australian author Allan Marshal's autobiographical work of the triumphant story of a child's battle against the affects of polio. It is both poignant and powerful.

The horrors of war are brought home in Rosemary's Sister. A true story of how two sisters are parted by a bomb in the war and how those left behind find it difficult to cope, to allay the myth that time is a great healer.

The buzz of a live performance really brings out the best in the Morse Code Song and Pterodactyl Two Step.

The biggest accolade I can pay, is in the form of an equation - talent multiplied by dexterity divided by superb harmony equals Gwent's finest export.

David Jones

THE WILSON FAMILY "Stocking Tops"

PURE RECORDS PRM C31 - ALSO

AVAILABLE ON CD.

The Wilsons have ventured into the world of live recording with their latest album, this one being recorded at various venues during 1996 by the now well known and respected Steve Rusby (Kate's dad!).

The live sound has had little effect on the singing, which is as strong and musically well presented as ever, but the difficulties of recording the garrulous chatter of the Wilsons is clearly illustrated (even for one as competent as Steve Rusby) and frankly doesn't always hit the mark. Some comments are virtually lost altogether while others are merely irrelevant or inane but at least the 'good bits' do give the flavour of a live performance. Also, Tom's introductions, though erudite, seem a little superfluous on a recording which includes comprehensive sleeve notes (which, of course, you wouldn't get at the live do's!).

However, like me, Wilsons fans will not be disappointed by the singing, which is rich and harmonious, or by the choice of material which is varied and appealing. They have taken the opportunity to re-



☐ Huw & Tony Williams

record two of Graeme Miles' songs from their first album, one of which is 'Horumayre' the title track of that album and the other being 'Running Fox'. Also included is Graeme's 'Across the Hills of Yatton' which is a pleasant enough song, but not as strong as the other two.

There is - of course, this is a Wilson album after all! - an anti-war song in the form of Si Khan's excellent 'Season of Peace' and, naturally, political comment (although now thankfully somewhat dated) is expressed through Clive Gregson's 'Lost at Sea' - let's hope the new government can get us back on course.

As would be expected, the tradition features strongly with, amongst others, 'Rap Her T'Bank', including Tom's own verses, 'Admiral Benbow' a version which I particularly like from the Wilsons, '18th Day of June' a version of The Plains of Waterloo, one of its other titles, the very rude 'Bonny Black Hare' and 'Thousands or More' a Copper Family classic which sums up pretty well how I feel about life, as the sleeve notes say - "simply enjoying the good company of fellow human beings". The Wilsons have been good company for a lot of us for a long time; may it ever continue.

GIFF

PS For those of you who were hoping, like me, for a raunchy sleeve photograph, 'Stocking Tops' are actually those little fitments that go over micro-phones. I know, disappointing isn't it!

CHRIS WHILE "In The Big Room"

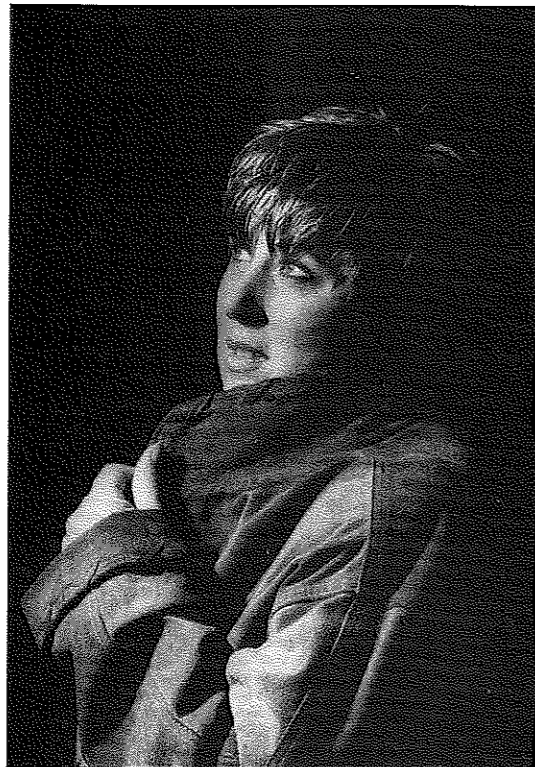
FLED 3009

Chris While is undoubtedly one of the biggest singers around, as a soloist or in a duo with Julie Matthews, she's just left the Albion Band after four very successful years, throw in a brief, but highly satisfying spell as part of the all girl super group Daphne's Flight and you begin to get the picture.

Chris's songwriting is sensitive and highly communicative, her guitar playing and singing raunchy and soothing in equal measure.

The sea has always had a special place in Chris's heart due in no small part to her upbringing on the west coast of Cumbria, so it's no surprise that River Song starts this CD.

A re-working of the 1991 song from a previous recording, Living Apart, gives a perfect encapsulation of how far Chris has progressed, helped by Pete



☐ Chris While

Zorn's sensitive clarinet interpretation. Chris has the gift to be able to express herself succinctly, illustrated all too vividly in Too Good For Me.

Julie Miller's poignant song, Broken Things, is sung in perfect harmony by mother and daughter. Chris always seizes the opportunity to sing with Kellie, and this track shows why.

Sister Moon, shone on the Albion Band's Acousticity album in 1993. We might be sceptical about the moon's cycle affecting us, but after hearing Sister Moon, all doubts must surely disappear. This track again highlights one of the many vocal styles in Chris's range.

It often takes time to get close to someone, but once it happens you should continually cherish the moment as in Half a Lifetime. While moving from one relationship into another is always emotionally difficult as you continue to look back while trying to go forward as You And Your Heart demonstrates.

Chris's simply written song, Susan, shows how much her family mean to her, while Loving Hand, explains the feeling that comes when you finally find what or who you're looking for.

My favourite track is Every Word We Speak, Julie Matthews has a real gift for writing songs that get right to the heart of the matter. When things go wrong in relationships, it's hard to stay objective, especially when one partner only sees things from their own perspective, a beautiful song, enhanced by Chris Leslie's skill on the 5 string violectra. Guaranteed to bring a tear to your eye.

Give Me Wings, written by Rhonda Fleming and Don Schiltz is a lesson to all those who are possessive. Everyone needs their

freedom, to deny that freedom could exact a much harsher penalty.

Helen Watson joins Chris and Julie on Walk Beside You, the final track penned by the trio. We all have someone willing to help and support us in our hour of need. A special mention must be given to the world's top multi-instrumentalists, Pete Zorn, who along with guitar maestro, Howard Lees and drummer Neil Marshall make this recording a real musical treat.

If there is a weakness it's not apparent and the sky is surely the limit for this highly talented lady.

David Jones

QUARTZ "About Time Too!"

COCK ROBIN MUSIC CRM 9740

It's difficult not to like Quartz, both on human being and musical levels. There's a 'rightness' about them which is easy to relate to, and certainly in live performance one goes away with the feeling of "Yes, it was good to have been with them tonight".

The a cappella harmony quartet based here in the North West is an excellent ambassador for 'our' music and the enjoyment that Pete & Judith Gleave and Steve & Sandra Harrison derive from their singing is infectious.

It's neither po-faced nor contrived when compared to certain of their peers with a far higher profile. No, Quartz are ours - we like 'em that way and they're content to be as they are. There's no preening, no self-regarding here. Main stage at Cambridge? No way, they'd always prefer to be in a sing-around.

This is their second tape album and to say that it's a representative of their current live set is no criticism - it only highlights how eclectic their tastes are - hey, no Coppers and only 2 Trad. arr. Songwriters such as Julie Matthews, Jim Boyes, Dave Webber are drawn upon to good effect, the harmonies and diction are spot-on throughout and production by Chris Harvey at Cock Robin Studios is as meticulously crisp as ever.

The vocals are expressive, investing material such as "Only Remembered" and "Here is my Home" with a vitality that easily surmounts its over-familiarity. Elsewhere gospel-inflected songs à la "Gabriels Trumpet" and Bob Franke's "Great Storm" are effortlessly beautiful whilst their reading of Ron Kavana's lump-in-throat "Sweet Reconciliation", previously the preserve of Garva is a stand-out.

With a perfect fade-finish it's poignant but never mawkish. It sums up what Quartz are all about - credibility without any unnecessary distraction. Repeated listenings confirm the quality on offer here. Reputations have been built on much less.

Clive Pownceby



☐ Quartz

LUCKY BAGS "Food for Thought"

FELLSIDE (FECD112)

This CD contains an eclectic mixture of contemporary and traditional songs and tunes, including two pieces by Lucky Bags member Julie-Ann Kay as well as songs from the pens of Allan Taylor and Richard Thompson (amongst others).

Those of you who have been 'lucky' enough to see them at a folk club or on the festival circuit will recognise the blend of material as representative of their live performance.

Lucky Bags are Judy Dinning, Liz Law, Julie-Ann Kay and Zena Tubmen, and between them they play guitar, Appalachian dulcimer, English concertina, claves, bodhran and harp - the latter played to great effect by Julie-Ann on 'Cotton Mill Girls' (as a Calypso) and hauntingly on 'Bonny at Morn'.

Tracks worthy of particular mention (in addition to those above) are Howlin' at the Moon - an unusual treatment of Jane Gilman's

song, and Richard Thompson's 'Dimming of the Day' (but then, I'm an old softie).

Lucky Bags voices blend well, covering the lower as well as the upper register, and so avoiding the rather piercingly high pitched sound of some all women groups.

If I have one criticism it is that the material is overwhelmingly gentle - however, there's nothing wrong with that in appropriate circumstances.

Finally, I must mention the witty cover illustration by Liz Law - buy it and see what I mean! (mine's the Chicken Korma).

Janet Hale

ANITA BEST & PAMELA MORGAN
"The Colour of Amber"

ACC 49332

This cassette is a collection of Newfoundland versions of mostly traditional ballads performed by two relatively lesser known artistes as far as the U.K. is concerned.

Their presentation reflects the perspectives of the two performers with Pamela Morgan, who does all the arrangements and plays a variety of instruments, coming from her contemporary folk-rock background notably as lead singer with the Canadian band 'Figgy Duff' and Anita Best who is a Newfoundland traditional singer and folklorist.

Not only do their respective styles fuse very well on this cassette but also their voices which complement one another particularly attractively. The arrangements too are particularly sensitive to the songs and, considering this is their debut album as a duo, have an aura of experienced professionalism behind them. There is an almost ethereal quality to the whole album and one can almost imagine the singers performing to the backdrop of the Newfoundland wilderness.

The choice of material is fairly eclectic although there is a definite bias towards the maritime theme. A French song 'Le vingt cinq de juillet' is included in the repertoire reflecting the French-Canadian influences. I particularly like their renditions of 'She's Like the Swallow' and the well known 'Lowlands Low'.

If I have any criticism at all it would be that the tempo of the whole production is a little slow but this no is doubt as much to do with the fact that the material is almost all in ballad form as anything else. Easy listening is often regarded as something of a derogatory term but I would think that this tape will appeal to a wide variety of music lovers because of its musical accessibility. It is indeed a delightful production.

It is available from Topsail Music, who are the sole importers at PO Box 12043, Chingford, London E4 6YJ. CD £13.99, Cass £9.99 p&p incl.

Derek Gifford

BLASTA
"Gael- Linn"

CDT CD007

This is a great album. Unlike some samplers there are no weak tracks and it is worth having just as a good listen. If you are looking to broaden your knowledge of Irish music it's a 'must have' taking you through many of the big names of the last 20+ years: early Dedannan, Clannad, Dolores Keane and many more.

I particularly enjoyed the tracks from Paddy Glackin and Mairhead Ni Dhonnai.

Jenny Shotliff

MARY DUFF

"Shades of Blue"

RITZ CD0082

Here is a CD produced with all the "pzzazz" one expects from the stable that has given the world the Daniel O'Donnell CDs and tapes.

The insert gives the words of all the songs set around a series of photographs of a pretty Mary Duff wearing a clothes collection stylish enough to grace the pages of Vogue. On the back of the booklet are the credits for the 20 musicians, 7 backing singers, engineers, assistant engineers, cameraman and assistant cameraman and - wait for it! - Hair Stylist, Make-up Artist and Fashion Stylist!

With all this back-up what do we get? The artiste herself sings sweetly - too sweetly for Julie Matthews song 'Road to Eden'. The songs are mainly those you might expect to hear whilst pushing a shopping trolley.

One concession to folk music - and presumably why the disc was sent to Folk North West - is a rendering of 'The Dark Island' which is taken at such a boringly slow pace that the island could have rejoined itself to the mainland before the two verses and two choruses are completed. This track incidentally, is only available as a bonus track on the CD!

'Dark Island' isn't good but it is much to be preferred to the mind numbingly awful 'Michael', a quasi-religious experience with the Camcor Singers, strings and more instruments than you could shake a stick at.

I'm sorry Mary, maybe lots of people will like it but it is too sweet for me.

Pete Gleave

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