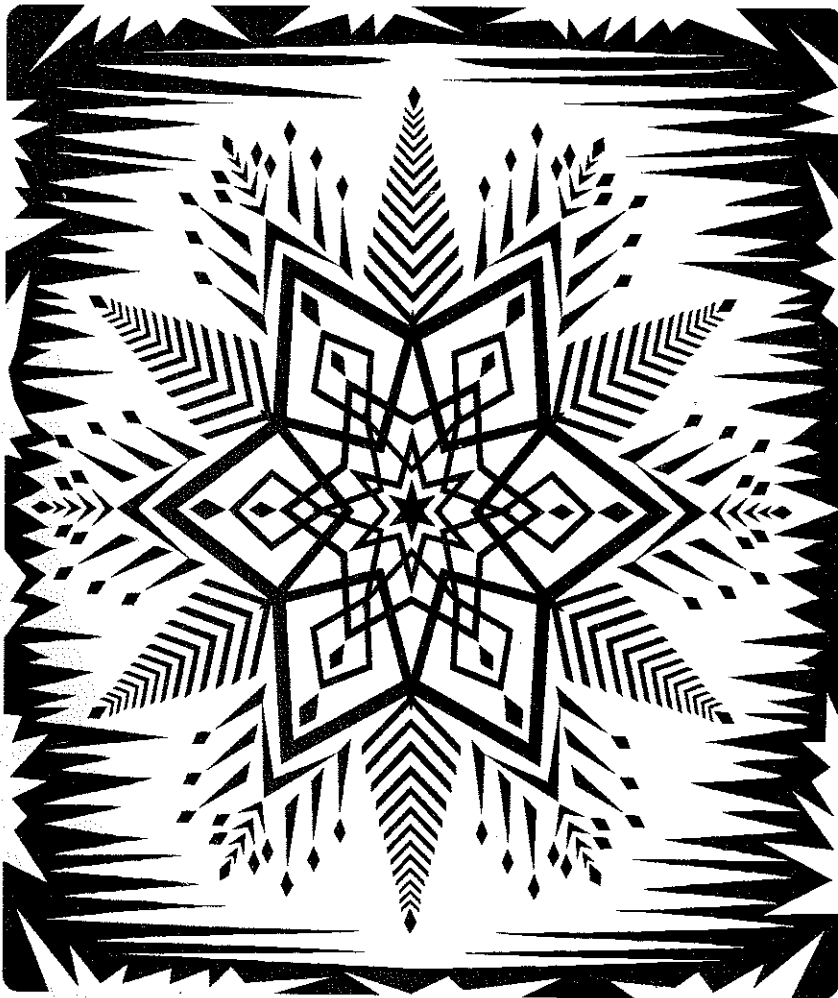


FOLK *North West*

WINTER 1997/8 (DEC, JAN & FEB) 80p



**SEASONS
GREETINGS**

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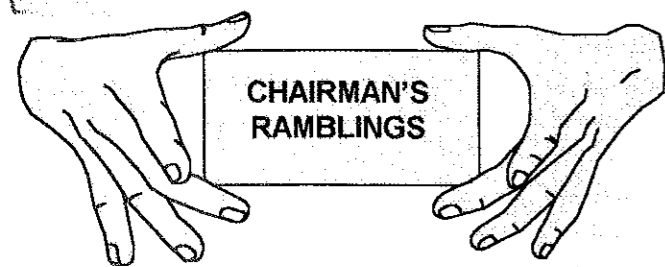
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 Winter 1997/8

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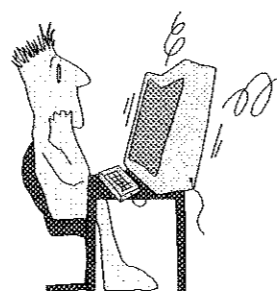
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Fax: 0161-620-0614 e-mail: Peter.Braid@Gconnect.com



I would like to introduce myself to you as the new Chairman of the North West Federation of Folk Clubs and apologise to the few people who turned up at 5pm for the AGM. I was at the meeting when the venue, date and time for the AGM was set - Sunday 12th October 1997 from 5pm to 7pm - but somehow the adverts in Folk North West were printed with a start time of 7pm. Following a few frantic phone calls, it was decided to keep to the advertised time rather than putting an insert into each magazine to correct the entry - the insert could easily be lost and the advertised time would prevail. We will try and ensure that this does not happen again. We have set a number of checks in place to try and catch any errors before printing future issues. There have also been a few complaints from member clubs that magazines are not getting to them before the start of the club dates. Also, some advertisers are not happy because the magazine is not being distributed in time for people to see their event advertised and they are losing potential audiences. These problems can only be addressed by bringing forward the deadline for all future issues and adhering to the deadline - ALL ORGANISERS TAKE NOTE - NOTHING WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE PUBLISHED DEADLINE - PLEASE GET YOUR DATES IN AS SOON AS YOU HAVE COMPLETED YOUR PROGRAMME FOR THE NEXT SEASON. We are planning a few changes to the magazine and any comments or suggestions should be sent to the editor Ken Bladen (or via e-mail to p.a.coan@mcm.com).

4 PAULINE COAN [CHAIRMAN]



EDITORIAL

Ken Bladen
36, The Oaks,
Eaves Green
Chorley,
Lancs, PR 7 3QU
Tel. No. 01257 263 678

Well here I am in the editor's chair and my back aches. I have been sat here for a long time and both I and my computer are overheating. Come back Nigel we, especially I, miss you already. It is a remarkable achievement to have been editor of this illustrious tome for twenty years and we all owe Nigel Firth a great debt of thanks. I am pleased to say that Nigel is still around and will be making contributions to future issues. One of the ideas mooted is to have a nostalgia fix and look back over the issues over the past 20 years.

Any mistakes sorry mistakes in this issue are my fault as I have proof read it, with able assistance from her indoors. Pete Gleave is innocent! (there's a first time for everything). Normal service will be resumed next issue with Pete's eagle eye (don't know what the other one is, hawk perhaps) pressed into service.

With one eye (there are a lot of eyes about) on her next door (Chairman's Ramblings adjacent) I rush off to the printer. I fear I may incur the Wrath of Coan as this issue may be a few days late. Again my fault as I grapple with new software and lose in the second round. It will not happen again as I now know a lot more about desk top publishing than I did a couple of weeks ago.

One or two regular features may be missing or shorter than normal. Please moan to me so I know what you want me to fix. I would be grateful for as many suggestions and items of constructive criticisms as possible. This is your magazine and we want to continue to provide you with the best.

A few kind words about Jenny Shottliff who has carried the banner and a blazing torch for the young brigade. She has whizzed off to Yorkshire (sensible girl) and will be greatly missed but not forgotten for her drive, enthusiasm and organisational abilities. A difficult act to follow but we need volunteers before we have to send out the pressgang.

Ah, sleep beckons, its time to put the magazine and the editor to bed. Happy reading.



Who do I send information to ?

Club Dates, information on forthcoming events, changes of venue or organiser to :-

Chris McIlveen
35 Glenshiels Avenue
Hoddlesden
Darwen
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Tel. No. 01254 704 726

Articles for possible inclusion, letters, complaints, suggestions for improvement to the magazines, ideas for inclusion, compliments (if any) and if in doubt to :-

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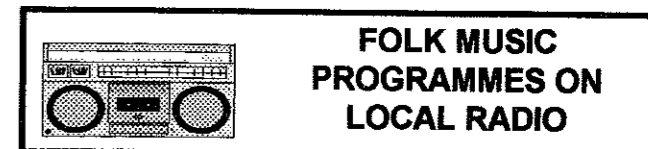
Please note that the copy date for the next issue is January 16th 1998. Have a good Christmas and a happy and well organised New Year.

MERRY
CHRISTMAS



HAPPY
NEW YEAR

from all at Folk North West



BBC Radio Lancashire
FM 95.5/103.9/104.5
LANCASHIRE DRIFT presented by NIC DOW
Sunday 5.00 - 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
FOLK and GOSPEL MUSIC with RICHARD WALKER.
Sunday 8.00-10.00pm

JAZZ FM (Manchester)
FM 100.4
BLUES IN THE NIGHT presented by PETE JOHNSON
Monday to Thursday Midnight - 1.00am

DUNE FM (Southport)
FM 107.9
ALL EMBRACING ROOTS SHOW presented by CLIVE POWNCEBY Tuesday 7.00-9.00pm

JAZZ FM (Manchester)
FM 100.4
BLUES EXPRESS presented by PAUL JONES
Tuesday 7.00-8.00pm

BBC Radio 2
FM 88.0-90.2
Folk on 2 presented by JIM LLOYD
Wednesday 8.00-9.00pm Often followed by a folk related programme and preceded by New Country with Nick Barraclough (see Radio Times etc for details)

BBC Radio Merseyside
FM 95.8 MW 1485kHz
FOLKSCENE presented by STAN AMBROSE and GEOFF SPEED Thursday 6.05 - 7.05pm

BBC Radio Stoke
FM 94.6 MW 1503kHz
FRETWORK presented by NONNY JAMES
Thursday 7.00-8.00pm

BBC Cumbria
FM 95.6 (N,W) 95.2 (Kendal) 96.1 (S) 104.2 (Windermere) MW 756 (N) 837 (S) 1458 (W)
FOLK and ROOTS presented by HENRY AYRTON
Thursday 9.05-10.05pm

Radio Telefis Eirann Radio 1
MW 567kHz (and via ASTRA Satellite)
Sunday 8.10-8.55am Mo Cheol Thu Monday and Thursday 9.15-10.00pm Sounds Traditional Saturday 6.37-7.25am Mora Dibh 9.15-10.00pm Ceilidh Music

HELP! If you know of any more or any of these have changed please let the Editor know.

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For further information, or to be placed on the
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David Wright, Lancaster Tourism
Lancaster City Council
29 Castle Hill, Lancaster, LA1 1YN.
Tel: 01524 582394
Fax: 01524 847472



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22nd - 25th May 1998 (Spring Bank Holiday)
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Guests booked so far include:-

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Phil Hare & Penny McLaren-Walker,
Martin Carthy & Norma Waterson,
Andy M. Stewart & Gerry O'Beirne,
Chris Sherburn & Denny Bartley,



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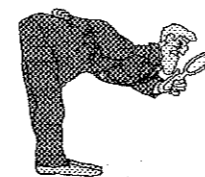
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LIVE REVIEWS

ERIC BOGLE Live at the Masonic Hall,
Westhoughton. Friday 1st August 1997

Eric Bogle is guaranteed his
place in the history of modern
folk music, his songs contain
powerful messages, for no mat-
ter when he wrote them, and
they span thirty years, their rel-
evance never diminishes. A
concert with Eric and his com-
patriots, Brent Miller and John
Munro, is a journey through life,
and emotion is never far away.

Eric left his home in Peebles,
Scotland, in 1969 and settled in
Adelaide, Australia, but he still
misses home, as he demon-
strates in singing, The End of an
Old Song. Were You There? re-
calls the early folk scene north of the border and
mourns the passing of Hamish Imlach, Alex
Campbell and Ewan MacColl.

Small Miracles, the title track of Eric's new album,
is the story of ten -year-old Rosie and Sandy who's
twenty-two, both suffer from cerebral palsy, but they
continue through life cheerfully, doing wheelies in
their electric wheel-chairs and sucking beer through
bendy straws.

Eric's granny comes under scrutiny in, The Belle of
Broughton, as he compares her youthful loveliness
to her ageing. The Dunblane tragedy is remem-
bered in One Small Star, stars shine through time
and space, and will still burn brightly, thousands of
years on. While on the same theme, Keeper of the
Flame, recalls last years massacre in Port Arthur,
Tasmania, when will man ever learn?

The Green Fields of France, has been covered by
artists the world over, written to commemorate the
passing of Scott Eric Bogle in the Great War. Sing-
ing the Spirit Home, focuses on the oppressive re-
gimes, that see prisoners being left to die in jails
the world over. While a 1985 visit to the former
German death camp, Saxonhausen, in Berlin,
spawned Never Again Remember. Romeo and

Juliet in Sarajevo, is self explanatory, love knows
no bounds, and it cost this couple their lives.

On a lighter note, Eric remembers his first sexual
encounter, in Cuddy River Revere. The classic,
Now I'm Easy, made way for Leaving Nancy, which
charts the moment when Eric left Waverley Station
in Edinburgh, en route for Australia, his mum prom-
ised she wouldn't cry, but she did.



No Bogle concert is complete
without his most requested
song, The Band Played Waltz-
ing Matilda, the story of the
ANZAC massacre at Gallipoli.

The emotion was there even in
the encore, as he sang of scat-
tering the ashes of his father,
who he didn't see eye to eye
with, Journeys, explains of
faults on both sides, but reflec-
tion comes all too late.

All in all a roller coaster of
thought provoking material, Eric
Bogle returns to our shores for
the Millennium, my only regret
is that his visits are not often
enough.

David Jones

JAMES KEELAGHAN, Westhoughton Folk
Club. Friday 24 October 1997

James Keelaghan is not new to the folk scene but
his visits to Europe have been limited. He has been
widely appreciated in his native Canada for many
years. Roy Bailey has promoted Keelaghan's repu-
tation in this country, recording "Small Rebellion"
and "Somewhere Ahead".

To describe Keelaghan as just another singer/song-
writer would be trite. He has an ability to relate sto-
ries with warmth and compassion. His songs vary
in subject matter from the environment to love and
the struggles of working people - sometimes all of
these - and why not.

James Keelaghan's visit to Westhoughton was long
awaited. His talented song writing and guitar play-
ing were clearly in evidence from the very first song.
The audience got a little edgy when he performed
his first 3 numbers without any word to them. The
Canadian soon dispelled any doubts, showing him-
self to be a consummate professional and build-

ing a strong rapport with his audience. As usual, the Westhoughton crowd distinguished itself by providing quality backing vocals.

Highlight of the evening - the spellbinding "Cold Missouri Waters" - the story of forest fire-fighter Wade Dodge. With an inexperienced crew of 14 fire-fighters he was parachuted in to tackle a raging explosive fire in Mann Gulch in 1949. Dodge survived only to reap the blame for the 13 who didn't. Only after his premature death, from Hodgkin's Disease at the age of 38, was he exonerated. Keelaghan's material included stories of railroads, a wonderful song about the consequences for an interned Japanese family during the war, and a mining disaster which killed 133 men. Using a lighted sample of 'sweetgrass', his evocative rendition of "Sweetgrass Moon" was accompanied by the aroma of incense. He paid tribute to the late Canadian folk legend, Stan Rogers, with a poignant rendition of "White Squall".

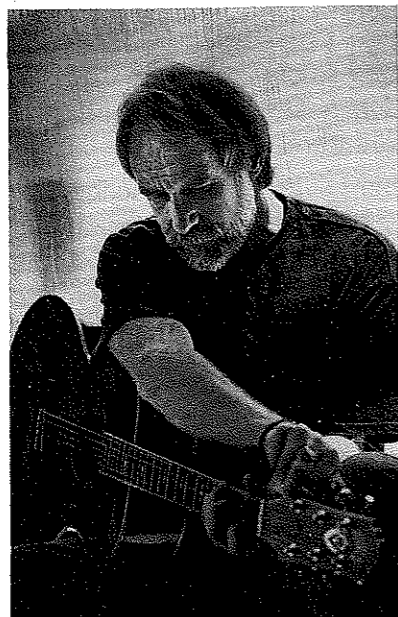
James Keelaghan is an artist with a growing reputation outside North America. His performance at Westhoughton is evidence that he deserves wider acclaim.

Catch him when he returns. In the meantime check out his 1995 CD "A Recent Future" and his award winning 1991 album "My Skies". Both are available on Green Linnet. For further information contact Adastra on 01377 217662.

Lewis Jones

DAVE MALLET Live at the Railway Hotel, Lymm, Cheshire. Thursday 25 September 1997

For the past three years, American singer/songwriter Dave Mallett has made all too brief visits to our shores, yet despite the high quality of his performances, his fans remain few. And so it turned out on this particular night in Cheshire, where no more than thirty-five people turned up. Dave Mallett is from Maine, New England and living in that picturesque part of the States has helped him combine compelling lyrics with beautifully crafted melodies. One such is Summer of my Dreams, as he recalls what is for him the perfect sun-kissed afternoon. Memories mean a lot, and al-



though we may have nothing to bring to a relationship materially, does that really matter? the subject of I'll Picture You. One song that audiences over here enjoy is The Garden Song with its chorus that's become an anthem, with tender love and care anything will grow. Red Red Rose is a love song recorded by Emmylou Harris, a pledge of love that will surely cut through any doubt that might exist.

Written back in 1976, The Haying Song recalls Dave's early life working on the family farm - he didn't like haymaking! My Daddy's Oldsmobile was inspired by the entire family plus dog, travelling round, sleeping and living inside the car, as dad searched for work. Hope for One and All shows that no matter what comes up you should never give up hope. The poignant I Miss Main Street tells of how the big conglomerates kick out the little man, but despite that, personal service will always be king. Distance really is no handicap, for despite everything it's family and love that bind us together, illustrated vividly in Closer to Truth. Dave's love for his father Aubrey is demonstrated in both 50 Years Returned and My Old Man, while finally Somewhere in Time tells of falling in love, but with *deja vu*, we've fallen in love many times and in many places.

An evening in the company of Dave Mallett and his guitar is a rollercoaster of emotions that come from the heart. His understanding of his subject is profound, while his singing and writing are first class. Dave Mallett will return to this country next autumn, make sure he's on your list of 'must sees'.

David Jones

STEELEYE SPAN Live at the Albert Halls, Bolton. Friday 22nd August 1997

Thirty years on the road and still going strong, no, not the Rolling Stones, but Steeleye Span, who brought folk rock to a sceptical public all those years ago. But this wasn't just another gig, but the final farewell from Maddy Prior, who will always be inextricably linked with Span's unique sound.

Prickly Bush opened the night followed by Peter Knight's superb fiddle playing on Room for Company, a song about hiring fairs, but really an excuse for drinking!! A look at life through the

ever changing seasons is the story of Harvest of the Moon, while Gay Woods joined Maddy in a capella harmony on My Johnny was a Shoemaker, memories of their highly acclaimed early album "Hark the Village Wait"

The traditional theme continued with Rose in the Valley, and only twenty eight verses long zzzzzzzzzzz!! Gay once more took centre stage with the American penned Irish song Erin Gra Mo Chroi, simply translated, Ireland Love of my Heart, a song of longing for the home country, no matter how far we roam. Peter's fiddle and Gay's bodhran playing were outstanding. The Padstow May Song is one that Maddy down the years has made her own and that was followed by the soaring sound of another English traditional number, The Lark in the Morning. All six came together on the hauntingly beautiful The Water is Wide, with Rob Johnson playing solo guitar as only Rob can. The Cutty Wren made way for Thomas the Rhymer, still eagerly anticipated by the audience and written by Rob for the "Now We Are Six" album that saw Australian drummer Nigel Pegrum join the group in the 70's. The Scottish standard, Old Maid in a Garret is supposedly sung only by spinsters, and tells of female sexual frustration. As surely as night follows day, every Span concert ends with their former No.1 hit, All Around my Hat, with their No.1 Christmas hit, Gaudette following on for the encore.

So it's goodbye to Maddy, but not to the group, as they continue along towards the Millennium. Original group member Gay Woods' return certainly adds to Steeleye's vocal capabilities, but I fear the overall impact will be severely diminished by the loss of a lady who largely helped to forge the Steeleye Span sound and cement their place in folk rock history.

David Jones

FESTIVAL REVIEWS

9TH FOUR FOOLS FOLK FESTIVAL 22 - 24 AUGUST 1997

Angie and Ken you have done it again! A success of a Festival! Friday evening was a great start for me, although when I walked into the Civic Hall I felt a thump in my chest, yes I missed my George, my singing suffered at times there were tears but

people were very kind.

Tom McConville and Pauline Cato, Ken Wilson, Martin Carthy, Graham and Eileen Pratt, Marie Little, Peta Webb and Les Barker were a few of my favourites that I saw. Also with plenty of "hugs" from Eddie Murphy and John Morris.

The singarounds were also a highlight for me, my friends Graeme Miles and Maveda Saunders sang and read dialect poems.

Oh and yes I also saw an Irish Scottish English band called "Anam", new to me but they were brilliant. "Wall of Sound" on Saturday that was it, my head was full.

"Sunday Songs" again went down well with me, although I had a little "hiccup" but people were very kind. Quartz Judith and Pete and daughter again sang "How Beautiful upon the Mountain" - "Magic". To be honest "Quartz" over the whole weekend to me were magic, but then again I am prejudiced.

Sea Songs and Shanties with Derek Gifford, again A1. I heard some very good singing. To follow later on "Harmony" with Quartz (yes again), Dave Webber & Anni Fentiman. Once again A1. I tell you I was in and out of those rooms like a bottle cork trying to see this and that. There is one thing, I thought Ian Tupling looked very "fetching" in the "sunflower hat".

At the Sunday folk club Phil Boardman as the MC, he was magnificent. "Good on you Phil". Then the final singaround with Theresa Tooley, a wonderful mixture of singers. A fitting end to a great weekend. But guess what; Steve, again of Quartz gave us "Uncle Joe's Mint Balls". I was over the moon shouting "Hey up".

So those of you that missed the festival, shame on you! we had a ball.

Joan Gallimore

PS - The dates for the 10th Four Fools Folk Festival are August 28th to 30th 1998. Fish out that new diary and make a note now.

STOP PRESS - Maghull's Day of Music was a great day out. The editor and his good lady (the wife wasn't able to attend!) enjoyed a wide variety of excellent entertainment. Congratulations to all involved. A full review will be included in the next issue by our roving reporter Lewis Jones. Vin Garbutt's performance was excellent, thought provoking and extremely funny.

CLUB VISITS

RAILWAY FOLK CLUB - LYMM - 30/10/97

Ken and I visited the Railway Folk Club for the first time on 30 October, for a Singers Night. A very enjoyable night it was too. Nice pub (once we'd found it), great beer and a warm welcome at the folk club. After a bit of a late start the evening ran as a nice informal singaround. Plenty of variety - monologues, chorus songs, tunes and ballads, a good mixture. I really enjoyed hearing Graham Sowerby's song about the Battle of the Somme. All in all, a great evening, many thanks to all for making us so welcome. We'll be back!!

Angie Bladen

DETAILS OF CLUB VISITS

We intend to get around more and visit clubs to see what is happening out there. We would also be very interested to hear what you have to say about the clubs you have visited. So if you have visited a club you would like to say a few words about (good or bad) now is your chance. Drop the editor a line and we will mention it in the magazine.

A Youthful Perspective

Owing to other commitments, Jenny Shottliff feels she is no longer able to carry on as our Youth Activities Officer. We would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all the hard work she has done for folk music for young people in the NW area and wish her every success in the future.

IS THERE ANYBODY OUT THERE????????? Anybody who would be willing to take on the role of Youth Activities Officer? If you think you can help in any way (how about one of the many youngsters that Jenny has helped in the past), please contact Angie Bladen (Federation Secretary) on 01257 263678, or contact Jenny on 01377 217078.

Meanwhile, below are details of an event that Jenny has organised (with help from the National Lottery).

"CARRYING IT ON"

Free master class tuition from experienced folk artistes for young people in North West England.

The most promising participants will get experience of recording in a studio and help to produce demo tapes.

These demo tapes will be launched at the Youthquake Werneth Folk Festival (near Oldham - Manchester) with main concert spots.

There will be introductory sessions at Maghull Day of Music, Saturday 8 November 1997. Other sessions to run from January 1998 - venue to be confirmed:

Session 1 - Chris Sherburn (presentation)

Sun 11 January 1998 12 - 2pm.

Session 2 - Denny Bartley (accompaniment)

Sun 11 January 1998 2.30 - 4.30pm

Session 3 - Karen Tweed (interesting arrangements) Sunday 1 February 1 - 4pm

Session 4 - Alistair Russell (recording & production technique) Sunday 1 March 1998 1 - 4pm

Session 5 - Stevie Lawrence (tbc) (recording, producing, mixing, recording contracts & a professional attitude) Sunday 29 March 1998 1 - 4pm.

Tutors will suggest potential participants ready for studio experience - this will take place in April and May 1998. The final tapes will be launched in July 1998. For further details contact Jenny on 01377 217078

THIS EVENT IS SUPPORTED BY THE NATIONAL LOTTERY THROUGH THE ARTS COUNCIL OF ENGLAND.



ENGLISH
CONCERTINA
PLAYERS

Calling all English Concertina enthusiasts in the North West. Fancy having a monthly gathering with other English Concertina friends, taking part in workshops (accompaniment, part playing, tunes etc) or just a general 'squeeze'? Anybody interested, please contact Angie Bladen on 01257 263 678 or Mike Bartram on 01744 817127. Beginners are welcome, I'm sure we can provide you with hands on experience. The only qualification required is a love of the best squeeze box in the world and the enthusiasm to share expertise. If sufficient interest is expressed then the first meeting will be arranged in January.

Angie Bladen
Mike Bartram

SPOTLIGHT ON "THE LANE ENDS"

On Wednesday 22nd October, we travelled to the Lane Ends pub in Wesham, near Kirkham, to visit the "8.45 at the Lane Ends" Folk Club, which is run by Ann and Eddie Green. Ann and Eddie have a reputation for putting on excellent artists, both well-known and obscure, and this always guarantees a very enjoyable evening.

The venue for the club is a cosy alcove just off the main bar area, and there is a small stage, together with seating for about 35 people. Straight away we were made to feel very welcome and although we arrived early, seats were beginning to fill up, and our first priority was to get two good seats.

Before long the whole area was full to capacity, and Ann started the proceedings promptly by introducing the first guest, Chris Hyde, the music teacher from the local secondary school. Chris played a mixture of traditional and self-penned material, which was delivered very competently, with some helpful explanations of the origins of the songs.

Ann then introduced the main guest artist of the evening, a young man called Jon Brindley, who hails from Wigan. Straight away, right from the first song that Jon played, we knew we were in for a treat. His confident, distinctive style combined with an amazing guitar technique were really impressive. Jon treated us to a first set of 9 songs which contained considerable variety, ranging from a traditional Scottish ballad to a really funky blues number.

Then came the interval, time to replenish the drinks and buy some raffle tickets. There was also the chance to chat to other club members, not least about the forthcoming Show of Hands concert, which is being organised by Ann and Eddie at the Wesham Community Centre on 29th November.

Having failed to pick up one of the bottles of wine on offer as raffle prizes, we then sat down to enjoy another blistering set from Jon Brindley. This included a display of talent on an electronic keyboard, featuring a self-penned song called "Feelings". Once again, Jon's considerable all-round ability as an accomplished folk singer came through very strongly.

The club is run entirely on a voluntary basis, there is no charge at the door. Instead a notice requesting a contribution was put up, and a glass handed round during the proceedings. This certainly seemed to be an arrangement which works extremely well, judging by the quality of the acts that are being advertised to appear at the club in the near future.

When Jon attempted to finish his set, the room prac-

MERSEY SHANTY FESTIVAL

13th and 14th June 1998

Albert Dock, Liverpool

Provisional Programme includes:

Fanch Le Marrec and Jean Paul Ferrec ♦ Jim Mageean
Stormalong John ♦ Hughie Jones ♦ Johnny Collins
The Keelers
Monkey's Orphan ♦ Forebitter

The Shanty Festival coincides with the Mersey River Festival Regatta, the Parade of Sail, 18th annual Mersey Nobby Race and much, much more.

Open access to most Mersey River Festival events, including Shanty Festival.

For further details call Healthwise FREE on 0800 838909.



Grimsby Folk Club

presents

ALL WRITING on the WALL

Tony Benn & Roy Bailey

An anthology of dissent in words and music

Appearing at:

The Winter Gardens, Cleethorpes

on

Sunday 1st February 1998

Tickets: £8.00

Available from:

The Rectory, Station Road, Willoughby,

Lincs., LN13 9NA

Tel/Fax: 01507 462045

tically erupted and he was then persuaded to do two encores. Even so, we were all left wanting more. Unfortunately he has not got round to doing any tapes or CDs yet, if he had he would have sold quite a few that night. In fact we couldn't help wondering why we hadn't heard of him before, Jon now deserves much more exposure and is highly recommended - book him as soon as possible!

At the time the club was under a bit of a cloud, following a complaint from local residents, and the lack of a music licence, which restricted the number of artists that could appear on any one night to two. However, since then the club has managed to obtain a music licence, and this will certainly serve to rejuvenate all aspects of the running of a club that is clearly dedicated to the promotion of folk music.

Mention must be made of the excellent quality of the sound at the club. This is the forte of Eddie Green, who worked hard to create an extremely well-balanced effect in very difficult acoustic conditions.

In summary then, we left the club having experienced a very enjoyable and sociable evening. Our lasting impressions are of a very professionally run club with bags of enthusiasm, which is due in no small part to the efforts of Ann and Eddie. Newcomers are always made to feel very welcome at the club, and we would thoroughly recommend a visit as soon as possible. Check the club dates in the magazine for details of forthcoming attractions.

Chris & Helen McIlveen

Raphael Callaghan
(vocal, slide guitar)
&
Christine Purnell
(bass)
are
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The best in
blues & roots

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and a hat full of
songs from all sorts
of places (including
my own head)
NORTHWICH
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A What's On Publication
**MIDLANDS FOLK
DIARY**
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121 Morris Avenue
COVENTRY CV2 5GS
Tel. No. 01203 444 405
Cheques payable to J. Smith

DIARY CHAT

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

35 Glenshiels Avenue
Huddlesden
Darwen
BB3 3LS

Tel: 01254 704726

Llandudno Folk Club

The club has had a change of venue, and is currently meeting at The Snowdon Pub in Llandudno. This is however only a temporary venue and new premises are being investigated.

Railway Folk Club

The Railway Folk Club continues happily with its split personality existence. On the one hand there is a fine array of Guest Nights with well established names like Jeremy Taylor and Tom Paley but also introducing newcomers like Cautious Half and BlarneyStone, and on the other hand there are alternating Singers Night which regularly have ten to fifteen performers, some professional some enthusiastic, all raring to get up and entertain. Located in a nice part of Cheshire the Railway Hotel is a lively friendly place, always with a potent guest beer on tap. The Folk Club seems to attract visitors from all over the country with people driving from Hampshire to hear John Kirkpatrick, and coming down from near Glasgow for a Singers Night.

Some members are even preserved forever on tape with Graham's "Mrs Sowerby's Little Lad", Bernard Cromerty's "Revived Forty Five", the sequel is in preparation and Don & Heather's "Kythera Dream" also on the way.

The exploits of the Club can now be followed on the World Wide Web and the Website is <http://www.salford.ac.uk/prosthetic/railway/railway.htm>

We would be very pleased to receive items for inclusion in this section. It is an ideal opportunity to acquaint the readers of any forthcoming or recent changes. A few simple directions to the new venue if a venue change has occurred would be useful along with a contact number for more details. A reminder for clubs that the **copy date** is **January 16th 1998** - just time to enjoy a well earned rest and then put all those New Year resolutions into effect to keep us informed and up to date.



Dear Editor

Some months ago I applied to the Arts Unit of Lancashire County Council, for grant aid for two special projects I was planning for Fylde '97. My application for a guarantee against loss was rejected, on the grounds that the two events were commercial exercises and not of artistic value. Nomatter, the events went ahead anyway.

However, I am outraged and dismayed by a statement made by the Arts officer, that, and I quote, "I must inform you that the Arts Sub-Committee has not identified support for folk music to be a priority". In a later letter the lady concerned also wrote, and I quote again, "Folk is not considered to be a priority when deciding grant aid to Lancashire events".

From further enquiries, I have learnt that significant amounts of money is given to various orchestras in the North West and WOMAD.

Whilst other nations are proud to retain their cultural heritage and take great pains to do so, our Lancashire Arts Unit appears to be totally indifferent.

I hasten to say that grant aid to Fylde is not the issue; we have by good fortune and planning, managed to present a festival for twenty five years with little aid at all. However, a great principle is at stake here.

There are many folk projects and events in Lancashire that deserve and need financial support and should be receiving every encouragement from the Arts Unit of Lancashire County Council. Therefore I cannot let this matter rest.

I intend to challenge the grant aid ethos and philosophy of this Arts Sub-Committee. To that end, I have written to various organisations who are supported by their regional Arts Committees, asking for information in order to build a case history to support my cause.

Through your columns may I ask if any of your readers have any ideas or suggestions.

All help will be gratefully appreciated and I will of course keep you advised of progress and the outcome.

Yours sincerely

Alan Bell
55 The Strand, Fleetwood
Lancs. FY7 8NP
Tel: 01253 872317 Fax: 01253 878382

Alan wrote this letter to us on Wednesday 17th September and it is reproduced here in full. I would be grateful if you could let me have a copy of any ideas and suggestions as this matter is of great concern to us all. I am also in the course of following this up. (Editor)

Dear 'Folkie'

Redcar International Festival of Folk Music, Dance & Song suffered a mortal wound (financial) in July 1997, so now Redcar Festival ceases to exist.

However, true to form, we have moved lock, stock and barrel five miles down the coast to Saltburn-by-the-Sea, where we hope to be able to continue the festival in another guise, i.e. The First Saltburn International Festival of Folk Music, Dance and Song.

The only difference to our original plans are the dates, which are now **31st July, 1st & 2nd August '98**, hope this is convenient!!

We intend to run the Festival as in the past, i.e. Concerts, Ceilidhs, Singarounds, Chance To Meet, Craft Fayre, Workshops, Youthquake etc. etc. We will continue with the Shanty Competition as ever with Booker and Padget and the Singer-Songwriter Competition.

All we need now is you, the 'folkies', to turn up in your hundreds to support us as you always have in the past, The Festival Office and Telephone Number are as shown at the foot of this letter.

Thank you for your help and support over the past years and we look forward to meeting old friends and new in 'sunny' Saltburn-by-the-Sea.

Best Wishes

John Taylor
Saltburn International Festival of Folk Music,
Dance & Song, Festival Office, Fern Cottage,
Dalehouse, Staithes, Cleveland, TS13 5DT
Tel. No. 01947 840 928

December Dates					
SUNDAY	07-Dec	14-Dec	21-Dec	28-Dec	
ARNSIDE	Singers Night		Singers Night		
BOTHY	Coope, Boyes & Simpson	Singers Night	Office Party	Closed	
LLANDUDNO	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
POTTERIES					
WOODEN HORSE	Singers Night	Cuckoo Oak	Christmas Party	Closed	
MONDAY	01-Dec	08-Dec	15-Dec	22-Dec	29-Dec
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-Dec	09-Dec	16-Dec	23-Dec	30-Dec
CHORLEY	Forebitter		Anthony John Clarke		Singers & Musicians Night
DALTON		Bernard Wrigley		Closed	
HOWCROFT INN		The Renovators		Xmas Party - Staff Folk	
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-Dec	10-Dec	17-Dec	24-Dec	31-Dec
8:45 at LANE ENDS	Singers Night	Jez Lowe	Bob Fox & Stu Luckley	Closed	Closed
ALISON ARMS	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
ASPULL	Singers Night	Singers Night	Xmas Party	Closed	Closed
*BLAKEY'S	Dylan Owen				
BLACKBURN	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
BURNLEY	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singers Night
CASTLE	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
GATEWAY	The Monkeydoyles	Tom McConville & Pauline Cato	Xmas Party - Guest tbc	Closed	Closed
THURSDAY	04-Dec	11-Dec	18-Dec	25-Dec	
BLAKEY'S					
COCKERMOUTH					
FLEETWOOD	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Closed	
GREGSON LANE	Singers Night		Singers Night		
RAILWAY	Les Barker	Singers Night	Blarney Stone	Closed	
WIGAN (7 STARS)	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Closed	
FRIDAY	05-Dec	12-Dec	19-Dec	26-Dec	
*BOTHY	Ceilidh with Blue Billy String Band (St Johns Hall)				
NORTHWICH	Singers Night at Davenham Players Theatre	Christmas Party	Carols Evening	Closed	
PORKIES	Mike Silva		Xmas Special - Fiona Simpson		
PRESTON	Music/Song Session	Music/Song Session	Music/Song Session	Music/Song Session	
RHYL					
WALTON	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
WESTHOUGHTON	McCalmans (ticket only)				
SATURDAY	06-Dec	13-Dec	20-Dec	27-Dec	
*8:45 at LANE ENDS			Ken Nicol & Chris White		
BREWERY ARTS					
BURY		Tom McConville		Closed	
FOUR FOOLS	Calendar Tour - Keith Kendrick & Jo Freya plus John O'Hagan & Paul Tebbutt				
OSWALDTWISTLE	The Slopstones				
POYNTON		Ceilidh with Jack at a Pinch		Ceilidh with Bilbo Baggins	

January Dates					
SUNDAY	04-Jan	11-Jan	18-Jan	25-Jan	
ARNSIDE	Singers Night		Singers Night		
BOTHY	Desert Island Discs with Bev Sanders	Singers Night	Blue C	Joe & Ben Broughton	
LLANDUDNO	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
POTTERIES					
WOODEN HORSE	Singers Night	Risky Business	Singers Night	Singers Night	
MONDAY	05-Jan	12-Jan	19-Jan	26-Jan	
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	06-Jan	13-Jan	20-Jan	27-Jan	
CHORLEY		A6 Breakdown Band	Steve Tilston		
DALTON		Singaround		Singaround	
HOWCROFT INN		Guest TBA		Joe Stead	
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	07-Jan	14-Jan	21-Jan	28-Jan	
8:45 at LANE ENDS	Steve Tilston & Maggie Boyle	Mike Freeman & Tania Opland	Singers Night	Coope, Boyes & Simpson	
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	
GATEWAY	Martin Wyndham-Read	Sean Cannon	Steve Simm		
THURSDAY	01-Jan	08-Jan	15-Jan	22-Jan	29-Jan
BLAKEY'S	Singers Night				
COCKERMOUTH					
FLEETWOOD	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
GREGSON LANE	Singers Night		Singers Night		Singers Night
RAILWAY		Rhythm Rascals	Singers Night	Singers Night	Tom Paley
WIGAN (7 STARS)	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
FRIDAY	02-Jan	09-Jan	16-Jan	23-Jan	30-Jan
FOUR FOOLS	Coope, Boyes & Simpson with Mal Waite				
NORTHWICH	Singaround	Cautious Half	Singers Night	Eddie Murphy & John Morris	Singers Night
PORKIES		Tom Topping Band			
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		Harvey Andrews (ticket only)	Guest tbc	Brian McNeil & Ian Mackintosh	
SATURDAY	03-Jan	10-Jan	17-Jan	24-Jan	31-Jan
BREWERY ARTS					
BURY		Gordon Tyrrell		Guest tbc	
OSWALDTWISTLE	Singers Night				
POYNTON		Ceilidh with Mr Beveridge Maggot Band		Ceilidh with Plain Brown Wrapper Band	
*RAILWAY			Railway Special - Wetstones A-Z		

February Dates				
SUNDAY	01-Feb	08-Feb	15-Feb	22-Feb
ARNSIDE	Singers Night		Singers Night	
BOTHY	Singers Night	John Pearson	Robb Johnson	Singers Night
LLANDUDNO	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
POTTERIES				
WOODEN HORSE	Singers Night	Hands & Feet Roadshow	Singers Night	Singers Night
MONDAY	02-Feb	09-Feb	16-Feb	23-Feb
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	03-Feb	10-Feb	17-Feb	24-Feb
CHORLEY	David James & Claire Alison			
DALTON		Singaround		Singaround
HOWCROFT INN		Anthony John Clarke		Blue C
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	04-Feb	11-Feb	18-Feb	25-Feb
8:45 at LANE ENDS	Chris Sherburn & Denny Bartley	Paul Metsers	Rob Johnson	Singers Night
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
GATEWAY	Guest TBA	Guest TBA	Guest TBA	Guest TBA
THURSDAY	05-Feb	12-Feb	19-Feb	26-Feb
BLAKEY'S	Singers Night			
COCKERMOUTH				
FLEETWOOD	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
GREGSON LANE		Singers Night		Singers Night
RAILWAY	Singers Night	Singers Night	Ian Bruce	Singers Night
WIGAN (7 STARS)	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
FRIDAY	06-Feb	13-Feb	20-Feb	27-Feb
*BOTHY			Cellidh with Old Peculiar (St Johns Hall)	
FOUR FOOLS	"Flowers of Manchester" (Geoff & Lesley Higginbottom, Alison Younger & Chris Harvey)			
NORTHWICH	Tom McConville & Pauline Cato	Singers Night at Davenham Players Theatre	Trim the Velvet	Singers Night
PORKIES	Guest tbc			
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	Oldham Tinkers	Jez Lowe
SATURDAY	07-Feb	14-Feb	21-Feb	28-Feb
BREWERY ARTS				
BURY		Derek Gifford		Charles Fyson
OSWALDTWISTLE	Dylan Owen			
POYNTON		Cellidh with Village Band		Cellidh with Twisted Flax
*RAILWAY	Railway Special - John Kirkpatrick			

* 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	Pauline Coan	Lever Edge, Ulmes Walton Lane, Croston	01772 452782
Treasurer	Kath Holden	7, Sunleigh Road, Hindley, Wigan	01942 258459
Editor	Ken Bladen	36, The Oaks, Eaves Green, Chorley	01257 263 678
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Membership Secretary	Contact	Treasurer (see Above)	
Federation Secretary	Angie Bladen	36, The Oaks, Eaves Green, Chorley	01257 263 678
Youth Activities	Jenny Shottliff		01377 217 078
Club Dates	Chris McIlveen	35, Glenshiels Avenue, Hoddlesden, Darwen	01254 704726
Proof Reader	Pete Gleave	34, Hamilton Road, St. Helens	01744 732117
Review Co-ordinator	David Jones	4, Kingfisher Close, Swallowfields, Pleckgate	01254 54877

- THE AIMS OF THE FEDERATION SHALL BE
- ✓ The promotion of Folk Music in the North-West by:-
 - ✓ 1. Joint publicity of the Member Clubs
 - ✓ 2. The general support of the Member Clubs
 - ✓ 3. Joint organisation of Concerts & Ceilidhs in the area.
 - ✓ 4. The support of Festival Organisers in the area.
 - ✓ 5. The organisation of events to attract the 'under 18s'.



Day/Club	Time	Club Address	Organiser	Phone
SUNDAY				
ARNSIDE	8:30 pm	The Bulls Head, Milnthorpe	Steve Black	01524 761823
BOTHY	8:00 pm	Blundell Arms, Upper Aughton Rd, Birkdale	Clive Pownceby	0151 924 5078
LLANDUDNO	8:30 pm	The Old Victoria Pub, Church Walks, Llandudno	John Lee	01492 580454
POTTERIES	8:00 pm	The Old Swan Inn, Hartshill Rd, Stoke	Jason Hill	01782 813401
WOODEN HORSE	8:30 pm	The Junction, Rainford	Jim Coan	01772 452782
MONDAY				
BRIDGE	8:30 pm	Bridge Inn, Georges Road, Stockport	Peter Hood	0161 432 4142
CONWY	8:30 pm	The Malt Loaf, Conwy	Denis Bennett	01492 877324
SWINTON	8:30 pm	White Lion, 242 Manchester Rd, Swinton	Ged Todd	01942 811527
TRITON	8:30 pm	St John Hall, Malleson Road, Liverpool	Anne Crumpton	0151 920 5384
TUESDAY				
CHORLEY	8:30 pm	The Waggon & Horses, Bolton St., Chorley	Frank Wilson	01257 230047
DALTON	8:30 pm	The Brown Cow, Goose Green, Dalton-in-Furness	Andy Frame	01229 835601
HOWCROFT INN	8:30 pm	The Howcroft Inn, 36 Pool Street, Bolton	Ron Callow	01204 361958
LIVERPOOL	8:30 pm	The Ship & Mitre, Dale St, Liverpool	Helen Hebden	0151 727 088
MAGHULL	8:30 pm	Hare & Hounds, Maghull	Chris Lock	0151 526 4379
OSBALDESTON	8:30 pm	Bay Horse Inn, Longsight Rd, Osbaldeston, Blackburn	Bernadette Dixon	01254 853929
URMSTON ACOUSTICS	8:30 pm	The Nag's Head, Davyhulme Circle, Urmston	Martin Kavanagh	0161 748 5497
WIGAN (WMC)	8:30 pm	Working Mens Club, Upper Morris St, Wigan	Joan Blackburn	01942 321223
WEDNESDAY				
8:45 AT LANE ENDS	8:45 pm	Lane Ends Hotel, Weeton Rd, Wesham	Ann Green	01772 683027
ALISON ARMS	8:30 pm	The Alison Arms, Preston Rd, Coppull Moor, Nr Chorley	Hilda Foy	01257 792246
ASPULL	8:30 pm	Moorgate Inn, Scot Lane, Aspull, Wigan	Paul Wordsworth	0161 790 7153
BLACKBURN	8:30 pm	Veteran Hotel, Eanam, Blackburn	Brian Kirkham	01254 826661
BURNLEY	8:30 pm	Waggon & Horses Inn, Colne Rd, Brierfield	Phyl Watson	01282 774077
CASTLE	8:30 pm	Castle Hotel, Halton Village, Runcorn	Bob O'Callaghan	0151 424 5367
THURSDAY				
BLAKEY'S	8:30 pm	Blakey's Acoustic Club, King George's Hall, Blackburn	Dylan Owen	01254 390391
COCKERMOUTH	8:30 pm	Tithe Barn Hotel, Station St, Cockermouth	Jack King	01900 828226
FLEETWOOD	8:30 pm	Steamer Hotel, Queens Terrace, Fleetwood	Dave Ryan	01253 876351
GATEWAY	8:30 pm	The Gateway Hotel, 882 Wilmslow Rd, East Didsbury	Annie Morris	0161 881 8294
GREGSON LANE	8:30 pm	St. Joseph's Social Centre, Gregson Lane, Hoghton	Graham Dixon	01254 853929
RAILWAY	8:30 pm	Railway Hotel, Heatley, Lymm	Graham Sowerby	01825 265503
THE SHIP INN	8:30 pm	The Ship Inn, Rosemary Lane, Haskayne, Nr Ormskirk	Sue Howard	0151 526 9927
WIGAN (7 STARS)	9:00 pm	Seven Stars Hotel, Seven Stars Bridge, Walgate, Wigan	Joan Blackburn	01942 321223
FRIDAY				
FOUR FOOLS	8:00pm	Lowton Civic Hall, Hesketh Meadow Lane, Lowton, Lancs	Angie Bladen	01257 263678
NORTHWICH	8:30 pm	Harlequin Theatre, Queen St, Northwich	John Booth	01606 79356
PORKIES	8:30 pm	Ladybrook Hotel, Fir Road, Bramhall, Cheshire	Judy Alcock	01260 252633
PRESTON	8:30 pm	Moorbrook Inn, North Road, Preston	Rob Malaney	01257 231463
RHYL	8:30 pm	Bee & Station Hotel, Bodfor St, Rhyll	Jeff Blythin	01745 336052
WALTON	8:30 pm	County Ward Labour Club, 39 Hale Road, Walton, L'pool	Lilian French	0151 4740979
WESTHOUGHTON	8:15 pm	Westhoughton Golf Club, Long Island, Westhoughton	Pat Batty	01942 812301
SATURDAY				
BREWERY ARTS	8:30 pm	Brewery Arts Centre, 122a Highgate, Kendal	Box Office	01639 725133
BURY	8:00 pm	The Two Tubs, The Wyke, Bury	Alan Seymour	0161 761 1544
MECHANICS	8:30 pm	Burnley Mechanics, Manchester Rd, Burnley	Ian Wells	01282 30005
OSWALDTWISTLE	8:30 pm	St Mary's Parish Centre, Lock Street, Oswaldtwistle	Dylan Owen	01254 390391
POYNTON	8:30 pm	Poynton Folk Centre, Park Lane, Poynton	Sue James	01270 766975
SOUTHPORT ARTS	8:30 pm	Southport Arts Centre, Lord St, Southport	Lesley Wilson	01704 540004

The Federation Clubs

ADVANCE DATES FOR MARCH 1998 AND BEYOND

8.45 AT THE LANE ENDS

March 4 - Maxie & Mitch
March 11 - Ben & Joe Broughton
March 18 - Singers Night
March 25 - Strawhead

BOTHY

March 15 - Helen Watson Trio
May 3 - Mike Silva

CHORLEY

March 23 - Jon Brindley
April 7 - Phil Hare

FOUR FOOLS

March 8 - Artisan plus Robin Laing
April 4 - "Big Sing" (12 noon to 12 midnight) with Mrs Ackroyd Band (evening)
May 1 - Mad Pudding

OSWALDTWISTLE

April 4 - Tom McConville & Pauline Cato

RAILWAY

March 5 - Jez Lowe
March 12 - Singers Night
March 17 - St Patrick's Night Spectacular
March 19 - Singers Night
March 26 - Mike Silva

WESTHOUGHTON

March 6 - Bernard Wrigley
March 13 - Keith Hancock's Famous Last Words
April 17 - Albion Band
April 24 - Doonan Family Band
May 1 - Maddy Prior & Friends at Bolton School Arts Centre.

WOODEN HORSE

March 8 - Jez Lowe & The Bad Pennies
March 15 - Singers Night
March 22 - Singers Night
March 29 - Singers Night
April 5 - Th'Antique Roadshow
April 12 - Closed
April 19 - Singers Night
April 26 - Singers Night
May 3 - Closed
May 10 - Singers Night
May 17 - Singers Night
May 24 - 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, Neville Grundy, Pete Rimmer, Ray Rooney, Bev Sanders, Bill Hackney.

BRIDGE - Peter Hood, Phil & Claire Allen.

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

BURY - Dave Wetherall, Sheila Harty, Alan & Jane 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 Beamew.

GREGSON LANE - Lammergeier.

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

MAGHULL - Tony Gibbons, Sue Howard, LocTup Together, Bob Tyrer, Clover, Paul Robinson, Joan Gallimore, Maria & Harry Forsythe.

NORTHWICH - Jamie Anderson, John Booth, Sean Boyle, John Moncur, Charlie Reade, Sarah & Ian Sherwood, Brenda Yates.

OSBALDESTON - Trouble At Mill.

PORKIES - Sad Pig Band, Dave Walmisley.

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

PRESTON - Rob Malaney, Hugh O'Donnell, Tom Walsh, Nick Cafrey.

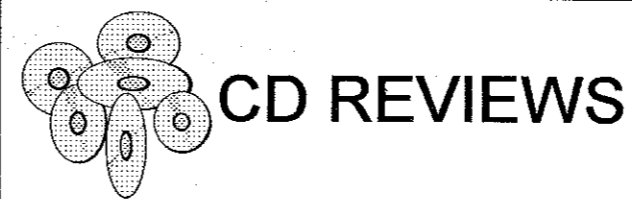
RAILWAY - Sylvia & Graham Sowerby, Heather & Don Davies, Trevor Morton, Geoff Smith.

TRITON - Bob Tyrer.

URMSTON ACOUSTICS - Keith Northover.

WESTHOUGHTON - Auld Triangle.

WOODEN HORSE - Quartz, Rob Peacock, Andy Anderson, LocTup Together.



BATTLEFIELD BAND "Across the Borders" [COMD2065]

Quite simply for me, Battlefield Band epitomise all that is best to come out of Scotland in a folk band. This CD recorded during three concerts in the Queens Hall, Edinburgh last year captures the many facets possessed by these four talented musicians. A trilogy of tunes gets the concert off to a flying start while the 60s traditional song Tramps and Hawkers is given superb treatment and is enhanced by the additional words written by Alan Reid.

A number of guests are featured and California's Eric Rigler, best known as the piper heard on the 'Braveheart' film soundtrack, helps you to drift away with his rendition of Snow on the Hills/Xesus and Felisa on the Uilleann Pipes. The legendary Irish flute player Seamus Tansey teams up with Iain McDonald, as their two contrasting styles bring The Concert Reel/The Green Mountain alive. Alan Reid's superb Arran Convict is enhanced by Eric Rigler's pipes and is a real audience pleaser. The treats are many and varied, with Alison Kinnaird's small harp bringing us the lovely Gaelic lament Tuireadh Iain Ruaidh. Amongst all this Celtic fervour is a rare English!!! offering, a fine rendition by Alistair Russell of the Trimdon Grange Explosion about pit death and its sad consequences. Yorkshire's Kate Rusby adds melodic harmony to Alan's super treatment of the Green and the Blue, but my favourite is where Battlefield meets country in the shape of the Radio Sweethearts, Glasgow's antidote to the overdose of syrup emanating from Nashville. Oh those heady days when your dog was still alive and the wife was still contemplating running off with your best friend.

Add to all that plenty more instrumental gymnastics from John McCusker and you have over 65 minutes of pure, unadulterated pleasure.

David Jones

CAFE ORCHESTRA "Topaz" [CD GRACD 221]

Imagine having tramped around some cold wet and

miserable European city - doing all the worthy things you feel you should do when over-faced with culture, and then finding a blessed hostelry. (I must call it thus, as a café in England always invokes the smell of chips and the thought of weak instant coffee.) You order a coffee to warm the bones, a brandy to warm the cockles, and if you are in any luck you will find music as good as this to warm your soul! Sit down make yourself comfortable and relax - my feet were tapping before the first track was halfway through! After the second track I had ordered a refill of the brandy, this was going to be a great night! The four musicians on this album all play real instruments and the keyboard listed on the sleeve notes is played with care and used with delicacy (other bands should take note).

How did this band manage to get album guests of this quality? Mary Coughlan (I could listen to her read out the telephone directory), Sinéad Stone (an artist I was not aware of but will now be looking for) along with Sarah McQuaid, Pete O Brian, and Robbie Casserly, at last a drummer who appears to be a musician.

This is a laid back CD but never bland! Superbly engineered by Pearse Dunne. My advice is to pour yourself that drink, turn down the lights and put this CD on the hi-fi.

Jim Coan

CHIPOLATA 5 "Skinless" [Hoodlum HOODCD 001]

The original 'Chips' were Sam Thomas, Jasper King and Tristan Glover; they are made five by the addition of "Cajun fiddle ace" (their words not mine!) Jock Tyldesley and "funky" bass player Barnaby Stradling. One look at a couple of those surnames indicates the sort of pedigree this band have. To say they obviously enjoy their music would be an under-statement of gigantic proportions - this album positively oozes enthusiasm. It also overflows with some excellent musicianship, not only from the lads themselves but also, as they put it ... "friends and kindred spirits along the way" who include Eliza Carthy, Gary Finlayson and Iain Macleod to mention but three of what seems a multitude of young performers.

The bulk of the material is jolly dance tunes arranged by the band but you'll also find a song or two and one of Taffy Thomas's stories (well! there's a surprise!). One of my favourite tracks which illustrates the 'street entertainers' feel to the album is their ren-

dition of Shel Silverstein's "Boa Constrictor" which they learnt from of all people, that diva of traditional song, Frankie Armstrong.

There are those I know who may scoff at the 'modernisation' of traditional material in the style that the Chipolatas play it but, if we are to accept that the young have right of access to the tradition, we must also accept that they will interpret it in their own way too. The important fact is that the tradition continues and evolves and that it is respected and enjoyed. The Chipolatas both respect and enjoy. Even an old beggar like me enjoyed it!

Derek Gifford

MICK FLAVIN "Country All the Way" [RCD564]

This is more Country and Western than folk. A pleasant CD, good to listen to or just to have on in the background. Mick has an old fashioned country voice, slightly shouting, reminiscent of Chilli Wills (the voice of the talking mule). Mick's voice stands out quite well from the music. Track seven "In my father's house" was one I quite liked and then "Cotton Jenny" an old favourite which most people are familiar with in the folk scene. "I met a friend of yours today" I don't usually like Talking/Singing songs unless they have something profound to say or are funny, this is just about passable.

Other voices join Mick on most songs but never stand out or harmonise, they just blend. The song "I sleep like a baby" is not for me. If sung in most folk clubs it would probably raise a laugh and not a tear at the end. I expected him to say "sincerely folks, I really mean it". I was surprised there wasn't a yodel or two, but I had to wait 'til the last song when there was almost a yodel but not quite.

Nothing to make you sit up here, but if you are a Country and Western fan, as I say Mick has a very pleasant country voice, I would give it 7/10, but for folkies 4/10.

Alan Poole

ROY HARRIS "The Rambling Soldier" [Fellside FECD 17]

This is essentially a re-issue of the original album released by Fellside in 1979 as a companion to 'The Rambling Soldier' book by Roy Palmer. It has been enhanced by the addition of four sets of tunes which are inserted at regular intervals making up 16 tracks altogether. There are, as one would expect, some 20 classic songs on this album including 'McCafferty',

'The Rambling Soldier', 'Thirteen Pence a Day', 'Banks of the Nile' and an interesting version of 'The Scarlet and the Blue'.

Roy Harris, as an ex-soldier himself, is well equipped to sing these songs in his own inimitable style either unaccompanied or backed up instrumentally by Roger Watson, Peador Long and John Astle. The new instrumental tracks are provided by excellent fiddler Paul Witty and equally proficient melodeon player Mike Breeze. The whole production is backed up by notes on the songs as written on the original release by Roy Palmer.

Those followers of traditional song will, I'm sure, welcome the chance to either update or catch up with this release.

Derek Gifford

ALAN KELLY "Out of the Blue" [Blackbox Music BBM001]

This is a CD of foot-tapping reels, jigs, slipjigs and the like. The light touch on the accordion along with a not overpowering rhythmic backing by guitar (Donogh Hennessy/Stephen Cooney), keyboard (Carl Hession), fiddle (Sean Smyth), flute (John Kelly) and assorted percussion (Jim Higgins), certainly gives the tunes a 'sensitive lift' - just makes you want to dance around the kitchen whilst drying the dishes!

The tunes are from various sources, - Ireland, Scotland, Cape Breton and Canada. The one slow air 'Beautiful Lake Ainslie' is more than worthy of a mention - played with just the right touch and feeling - wonderful!

Julie Airs

GORDEANNA McCULLOCH "Sheath and Knife" [Fellside Recordings FECD 117]

On first glance one could be understood for taking this as a CD for the folkies north of the border, but you would be very wrong. Yes, perhaps it would have been good if the CD cover had included the full lyrics for perhaps this would have helped the sassenachs amongst us with the more 'trying' dialect, but this would be my only criticism.

It must be said that this is not your sing-along in the car CD, but demands your full attention

to be truly appreciated. With the recordings wonderfully restored Gordeanna McCulloch's voice is both pure and haunting and she is truly an outstanding traditional singer, which is sadly becoming a rarity these days.

This collection is not only an essential for the true collector of folk music, but also for those of you who want a glimpse into the magical mystery of Scotland's rich history, for Sheath and Knife encapsulates a time when all would sit around the fire, each taking turns to do their bit. It is not a collection of background music and demands from the listener, time to sit back and really hear and then, personally more time to reach over, press the button and listen to it all again!

Scott Bryce

THE NEW BUSHBURY MOUNTAIN DAREDEVILS "Urban Hillbilly" [ENIGMA ENI 105 CD]

I first encountered this midlands based country band at the short-lived Coombe Abbey Festival in 1995 (?) where they tied with Tom Paxton as the most enjoyable performers of the festival. This CD has its high energy moments, but on the whole it's gentler than my memory of their barnstorming live performance.

If you enjoy country rock, cajun or good ol' hillbilly music this is the band - and the CD - for you. All the numbers are written by members of the band, principally the two main vocalists Brian Bannister and Eddie Morton. Having said that, you will hear strong echoes of Tom Paxton, Bob Dylan, Ralph McTell, the Eagles and - particularly on Homeland - Woody Guthrie; good company to keep.

Favourite track? Difficult to decide as this CD takes me back to my teenage years and back-to-back Eagles - probably the cajun influenced

Rebecca's Heart whose storyline is reminiscent of a number of traditional ballads!

And where is Bushbury Mountain? Well - Bushbury Hill is in Wolverhampton, but it doesn't have quite the same ring to it.

Janet Hale



THE POOZIES "Come Raise Your Head" [E.P. / CD POO201]

For the uninitiated, the Poozies are a four girl group, comprising, Patsy Seddon and Mary MacMaster who are Scotland's No.1 harp duo, Sileas; accordionist Karen Tweed, who also works in a duo with guitarist Ian Carr and Kate Rusby who worked with Kathryn Roberts, before setting out as a soloist of some reputation. This all too brief cross section of their work is a delight

on the ear, with the Mick Ryan penned, The Widow, for me taking the honours. It's the tale of a woman whose husband dies, and the devil, who decides to take advantage of the situation but the woman has an insatiable appetite, which Old Nick can't even begin to satisfy. It leaves him shaking in fear, with the immortal final line, "I never knew what pain was like, till I rang your front door bell". A good alternative title would be "The Women Strike Back". It also incorporates Karen's accordion playing on the tune, Charlie's Cap.

Next comes two tunes, Mr. Grapes, written by Patsy, and Heidi Hendi, Andy Cutting's tune, which shows off to fine effect the group's musical prowess. Four part a capella harmony is the treatment given to Lonesome Road, by James Taylor, when you decide to leave, don't look back, have no recriminations. Finally, it's back to the instruments, with Andy Cutting's, Bay Tree Waltz, while the group's arrangement of the Scottish traditional number, Faca Sidh,

gives Patsy and Mary a chance to sing in their native Gaelic. Karen's accordion brings the curtain down, with Jig Jazz by Brendan Power.

It's a well balanced recording, and a fair reflection of the talent of these dedicated ladies.

David Jones

ALAN PROSSER "Hall Place" [Rafting Dog Records RD001]

For those of you who don't know, he's the smart guitarist from the Oyster Band. I've always thought of him as tasteful, flash when necessary but more importantly restrained and adding colour to the Oyster's sound. Therefore it comes as no surprise that this, his solo album, shows that same sensitivity. There are 16 tracks, of which 13 are self-penned, the other three being traditional. Five of the tracks are instrumentals.

'Hall Place' is one of those albums that I didn't really like at first but frequent listenings have changed my mind completely; so much so that it made the never ending traffic jam from Bolton to Manchester almost bearable. The album opens with 'Sheepscar Beck' an infectious song about the indifference of industry to the workforce. 'Two Crows' is suitably dark and eerie but I was not so sure that getting someone else to do lead vocal was a good idea when Alan could have made a good job himself. All the instrumentals prove what a deft guitarist he is and make me think, perhaps I ought to practice more - a lot more!

The highlights for me are 'Sheepscar Beck' and 'The Leaves of Life'. This track has everything including the kitchen sink in it, you would swear you were listening to a Breton band. When I listened to this I kept thinking, that bit sounds like Billy Bragg, that bit sounds like Beautiful South, but really it's Alan's sound. Extremely well recorded, beautiful arrangements and some instantly nickable songs.

Buy it now and put it on repeat play.

Ken Howard

DAVY STEELE "Chasing Shadows" [Hyper-tension HYCD297171]

When I saw this CD was up for 'grabs' for review I practically bit Nigel's hand off! Davy Steele has always been one of my favourite Scottish singers from the 'less-traditional' stable and I welcomed the chance to listen to his first solo offering. On this CD he is ably backed by such esteemed musicians as Rab Handley, Brian McAlpine and Dick Gaughan amongst others. The lyrics of his own songs are well written and thought provoking and his bouzouki, guitar and bodhran playing as professional as one could wish for.

The CD is well presented with sleeve notes on the songs where appropriate and full printed lyrics - a definite bonus for us sassenachs. In fact, the recipe for an excellent album is all there and, dear reader, you are forgiven for thinking that I really enjoyed this album.... unfortunately, I didn't.

The reason is quite simple, all of the eleven tracks, bar one, are well.. 'dour' is the word that comes to mind. The overall effect is so depressing that I thought to myself 'come back Leonard Cohen all is forgiven!' Of course, an album should have some thought provoking or less than happy songs but by the time you've listened through this one, even if you'd just won the lottery, you'd be downhearted! Even the chance to provide something a little up-tempo, such as 'Calton Weaver', has been ignored and the arrangement of 'Leave Her Johnny, Leave Her' would have Stan Hugill turning in his grave - the 'Lyke Wake Dirge' would sound a much more cheerful song against this!

Sorry Mr. Steele but I would have thought an experienced performer like yourself would have paid a lot more attention to programming. What should be a top-line album is, in my opinion a disappointment, even for one of your admirers.

Derek Gifford

STEELEYE SPAN "Sails Of Silver" [PRKCD40]

When I sat down to review this CD, I knew I

had made a mistake, this is a CD to do something to - turn up the volume, and join in with Steeleye. This CD is the result of Steeleye Span's reformation in 1980. After a couple of years in the cold, they had finally realised what we, the audience, had known for years. That as individual artists they were all amongst the best, but as Steeleye Span they were in a league all of their own. The resulting Span line up certainly worked! And the resulting confidence shows in these tracks, the bands enthusiasm will have even the most reluctant of singers belting it out with them. All the songs on the CD are written by Steeleye Span, with the new ones sure to be added to the old favourites in our memories. The mix between Steeleye's big concert numbers and their more reserved acoustic renditions ensures that your interest is never left to wander far from the track in hand.

As with a lot of CD's you get some bonus tracks on this one, but uncommonly these tracks are a real bonus, with live recordings of the band - albeit in a different line up. But have a listen to Gay Woods voice, it's not often that I can be distracted from the delights of Maddy Priors voice but Gay is well worth listening to. The only reservations I have about some of the recordings is that although I could tell you who was the vocalist from the first note they might sing, I could not tell you who made the drum kit - even though the soundman thought it was the most im-



Civil War" [Tape / Book]

I've listened to many concept recordings during the past couple of years, some have hit the spot while others have lost the plot by the fourth track. My view of Songs of the Civil War is that it's a triumph for research, for a thorough knowledge of Charles II, the Roundheads and Cavaliers, made my formative history lessons come to life. The opening three tracks, Marching Along, Vive le Roy and When Cannons are Roaring, set the scene, so much so that you can almost smell the gun powder. When the King Enjoys His Own Again and I Live Not Where I Love, are contrasting ballads, with a shared poignancy. This story in song, gives a balanced view from both sides, while The Contented, encapsulates where the power really lay during the Civil War.

No self respecting war would be complete without its surfeit of drinking songs, of which, A Catch, Malt's Come Down and Drink Old England Dry, are fine specimens, if you'll forgive the pun. Over the Hills and Far Away, was recently popularised through Sean Bean's characterisation of Sharpe. There may have been plenty of



material from the period available for research, but that was only the basis, with the group adapting and re-writing, to bring it all to life.

The sound is authentic, with dulcimers, cittern, recorders and cornetts from the period, mixing superbly with guitar and keyboards. Gregg Butler's voice is so convincing, is he really 300 years old!!! while Malcolm Gibbons ballad treatment and Chris Pollington's genuine arrangements, give the work that rare commodity, balance. Alison Younger's dulcimer playing and Jude Flint's eye for research detail, guarantees that Songs of the Civil War will be just as relevant in the centuries to come.

You might think that this recording, by it's very subject matter will make listening heavy going, but thanks to the accompanying book with its song words and explanations, once the musket fire and smoke lift, you'll enjoy a unique musical treat.

David Jones

VARIOUS ARTISTES "The Very Best of British Folk" [NTMCD 544]

I have a few of these Best of British Folk CDs and each one has been good value for money with many tracks by a wide variety of performers and songs and tunes to suit all tastes. This one is no exception with 19 tracks and a total running time of just over 77 minutes. There is only one track on the CD which I did not like - and that was not the song, but the way it has been done, no doubt someone else will like this particular rendition. The artists on this particular compilation range from Ewan MacColl and The Watsons to Fairport Convention and Davey Graham. I would recommend this CD to anyone be they long time folkies or those new to folk music.

Pauline Coan

**VARIOUS ARTISTES "Robert Burns The Complete Songs Volume 3"
[Linn Records 1997 : CKD 062]**

In the mid-1970's I went to my very first Folk Club, the Black Bull at Milngavie, on the outskirts of Glasgow. The very first folk song I ever heard was "Ye Jacobites by Name". It was sung by a group I had never heard of - The McCalmans! An Englishwoman, having just moved to Glasgow to live and having no experience of folk music either north or south of the border, was bowled over!

My point is this. You don't need to be a Scot to enjoy this splendid album of Burns songs. There are seven performers; Ronnie Browne (of the Corries), Ian Bruce, Leslie Hale, Gordeanna McCulloch, Brian Miller, Wendy Weatherby & Mick West, and I enjoyed listening to all of them. It seems to me that the album has been produced from a "folk" angle. Burns songs are often given the tenor or baritone treatment; here they are presented as folk songs of today. They have a modern feel to them.

I'd be hard-pushed to name favourites, but I particularly enjoyed Ronnie Browne singing Birks o' Aberfeldy, Ian Bruce's (unaccompanied) Such a Parcel of Rogues in a Nation and Wendy Weatherby's I am my Mammie's ae Bairn/O Whistle and I'll come to you, my lad.

This is Volume 3. There is to be a total of 12, containing all 368 songs written by Burns (an amazing feat considering he died at the age of 37), but you would need to be a total "Burnsophile" to want to own all twelve of them. However, I have certainly enjoyed listening to this one for review, and I will certainly play it for my own pleasure.

Chris Lock

VARIOUS ARTISTS "The Best of British Folk Rock" [PRKCD36]

The big question whenever Folk Rock is discussed is who began it and this offering goes a long way to giving that answer. Pentangle, Fairport Convention, Steeleye Span, Lindisfarne and The Strawbs were all there in the late 60s and 70s and carrying the baton forward are Runrig, The Oyster Band and Ca-

percaillie. If you're proud to be British and want to celebrate your roots..... read on.

Cynics will say Lindisfarne and The Strawbs sold out to commercialism, that in the broadest sense of the word is true, but they have never forgotten how it all started. Lay Down and Part of the Union are both featured with the unmistakable vocals of Dave Cousins still bringing a tingle to the spine of all Strawbs devotees. While Lindisfarne bring us Lady Eleanor and Meet Me on the Corner that stand as proud monuments to the sadly departed Alan Hull. Steeleye Span stormed to No.1 in the charts with All Around my Hat, but continue to bring us stories in song from our heritage, through Peter Knight's rendition of Lowlands Low. When I'm Up I Can't Get Down and One Green Hill provide a great platform for those who have never heard the Oyster Band, while the unmistakable voices of Jacqui McShee and the legendary Bert Jansch again bring Pentangle to the fore with The Blacksmith and So Early in the Spring.

The musical dexterity of Fairport Convention is featured in Jewel in the Crown and Surfeit of Lampreys, add the big sound from Scotland that is Runrig and the powerful Celtic folk band Capercaillie and it all adds up to 18 tracks of the very best in British Folk Rock, which brings me back to my original question. Who began it, where and why?

David Jones

VARIOUS ARTISTES "Taster" [PRKCD40]

This is a compilation CD with 15 tracks featuring Steeleye Span, Maddy Prior, Davey Arthur, The Guitar Orchestra, Pentangle, Maddy Prior and the Carnival Band and also Wild Willy Barrett. The first three tracks (The Fox, The Jovial Beggar and The Old Maid in the Garret) are up-tempo versions and would not suit most traditionalists despite Maddy Prior's excellent singing. I feel that the Old Maid in the Garret sounds as if the singers are desperately trying to be heard over the musicians. I enjoyed Davey Arthur's version of the Galway Farmer which he sings slower than all the other

versions I have heard. Maddy Prior's voice is better suited to the tracks where she is singing with little backing so you can hear both the words and tune easily and enjoy it fully. I do feel that Steeleye Span sound much better without the loud drum beating away in the background and drowning the rest of the band.

Pauline Coan

VOICE UNION (With Special Guest Maddy Prior) * (Fellside FECD199)

Voice Union are Sandra Kerr (UK), Liliana Bertolo (Italy) and Evelyne Girardon (France). (*Maddy Prior appears on two tracks). "In this album they have each set about exploring their own song traditions and found that not only was there a synchronicity in terms of subject matter but that the modal nature of the music meant that they could mix and match tunes, sometimes even using a tune from one tradition as a harmony for a song from another culture. This discovery has enabled them to create montages of songs in vocal arrangements of great complexity and beauty".

The first paragraph is quoting part of the press release for this album. It states (in fact I think it rather overstates) what they have attempted to create, but to be fair, the result is quite stunning. Three very different and very beautiful voices weaving in and out of tunes and creating amazing harmonies and counter-melodies with an apparent natural ease and an obvious technical brilliance.

The songs are sung in four different languages, English, Italian, French and Patois, (which we are informed is a language and not a dialect). The accompanying booklet has translations to each song, although it must be said that very often the subtleties of the meanings become lost in translation and it is probably better to enjoy listening to each song for it's own language's merit rather than to try and think of it in English.

Although I enjoyed listening to it, to me it begs the question "who will buy it"? It strikes me as very much a "personal project" album, put together because these ladies enjoyed the

intellectual and musical challenge of working together, and I think it will probably have limited appeal. However, it is beautifully done, so if you're a polyglot with a penchant for clever and complex arrangements, then this album will be for you.

Chris Lock

HANK WANGFORD & THE LOST COWBOYS
"Wake up Dead" [WOW CD08]

Folk North-West meets Country. I wanted to review this CD, not as a country music fan, which I am not, but because the persona of Hank Wangford has always intrigued me. The contents of the CD are, in the main, very country and based mainly on broken dreams, broken romances, death and despair. The songs are written in what I see (or should I say hear) as the traditional country style, although I am sure there are purists who would disagree. In saying this, I found that there were only a few tracks that I felt I had to skip due to boredom. The melodies are, for the greater part, very pleasing to the ear.

The CD contains 13 tracks and most of these are well written, although some are spoiled with the addition of the typical banal country lyrics. Of the tracks I would pick out, the title track, Wake Up Dead, for its good tempo and message that we should enjoy ourselves in any way we wish, 'cause we're all gonna reach the same end! Home Sweet Home, once again a good up-beat tempo and easily singable chorus. Johnny 55 for me is the best track, set in the late '50's and about a desire to own a Chevrolet.

Quite unusual is the inclusion of a Mongolian Long Song, sung and composed by Sianed Jones; apparently this is where country music all began. If you enjoy country/folk fusion, then you will enjoy this well produced CD.

Ian Tupling

Editors Note:- There were a lot of CD's to review for this issue. There are a few still to be done but we should be up to date again by the next issue. If your CD has been sent for review please remind us and if not send it.



NewsReel
Latest News from
around the region

Steve Henderson, who has moved back into the area, is organising a series of concerts under the banner **Mr Kite**. He aims to put on top quality artistes, to provide a good night out and most important of all give all profits to charity. The first event features Kate Rusby and will have happened by the time you have read this (Sun 23rd November at the Adelphi, Preston). For details of forthcoming events call Steve on 01772 621411

Geoff Parry has released a third volume of his songs on tape, **Angels on The Wing**. It contains a total of 24 of Geoff's songs and features a host of local artistes **Quartz, Tall Stories, Derek Gifford, Raphael Callaghan & Christine Purnell and many others**. It is well worth a listen and is available from Geoff Parry, 42, Warwick Street, Southport, PR8 5ES at a cost of £6 (cheque please). All profits from the tape will go to **Save The Children**. Buy it in time for Christmas, it's worth it

Zak Sikobe and Medicine Lights are appearing at The Trades Club, Hebden Bridge on Saturday 13th December. Zak has a guitar style reminiscent of the 50's Kenyan legendary Blues and Folk giant George Mukabi. The band includes members of Bob Geldorf's backing band. (Details from 0181 940 7630).

The Houghton Weavers & Brighouse & Rastrick Band present a Folk & Brass Christmas Show on Tuesday 23rd December at the Guild Hall, Preston from 7.30pm (Tickets £8-£11, Box Office 01772 258858)

Tony (Sully) Sullivan has released a new CD/Tape & Book Traditional Mouth Organ Tutor (Tel No 01625 610849)

Landy Publishing has sent a review copy of "The Really Lancashire Book" edited by Bob Dobson. It is Lancashire with tekken out. It is a fascinating book with a mixture of poems, stories articles and some excellent old photographs. A good Christmas present for your Yorkshire friends and only £6 (Tel No 01253 895678)

On the Fylde Coast on Sunday 14th December the Cartford Reunion will take place to raise money for the Paul Hundson Memorial Appeal. Artistes (Alan Bell Band, Ian Gartside, Strawhead and Thistle), friends and the public flock to the Cartford Hotel from 7.30pm to where the Fylde Folk Festival was first mooted.

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MAL WAITE
- Fri 6 Feb** "FLOWERS OF MANCHESTER"
(Geoff & Lesley Higginbottom,
Alison Younger, and Chris Harvey)
- Fri 6 Mar** **ARTISAN** plus **ROBIN LAING**
- Sat 4 Apr** "BIG SING" (12 noon 12 midnight)
MRS ACKROYD BAND (Evening)
- Fri 1 May** **MAD PUDDING** (from Canada)
- Fri 5 Jun** **TANGLEFOOT** (from Canada)
- Fri 3 Jul** **MARTYN WYNDHAM-READ** and
NO MAN'S BAND

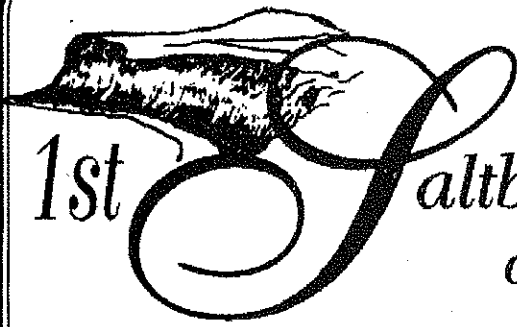
Doors open at 8pm for 8.30pm start.

All tickets £5 each.

For details and advance tickets please contact
Angie & Ken Bladen, 36, The Oaks, Eaves Green, Chorley,
Lancs. PR7 3QU (SAE please)

or ring 01257 263 678.





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31st July, 1st & 2nd August '98

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Loobie, Phil & Barbara, Roy Bailey, Cobbler's Monday,
Booker & Padget, Punch & Judy, Stanley Accrington, Jenny Shotliff,
Julie Mathew & Cris While, Tom McConville & Pauline Cato,
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**For further details and information, please telephone:
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Dalehouse, Staithes, Cleveland TS13 5DT
enclosing an A5 size S.A.E (36p) please.**