

FOLK *North West*

SPRING 1998 (MAR, APR & MAY) 80p



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Local Radio Listing
LIVE REVIEWS
Katy Moffatt
Iain Matthews
Paul Hudson Memorial
Concert
Kate Rusby
Show of Hands
Blarney Stone
Spitting On A Roast 10th
Birthday
A Youthful Perspective
Letters
Diary Dates
Advance Dates
Club Residents
Diary Chat
Festival Reviews
Interview with Loctup
Together
Spotlight on The Wooden
Horse
CD REVIEWS
Mark Atherton & Simon
Cohen
Jon Brindley
Ian Bruce Breeze Band
Robin & Barry Dransfield
Ian Giles
William Jackson
Eamon McCann
Pressgang
Bram Taylor
Roy Wilcock & Bridget
Guest
His Worship & The Pig
Scottish Voices

Visit one of the North's Largest Display of
 Folk guitars, mandolins and banjos.



Godin LGX-SA

The new **LGX-SA** is the guitar the whole industry is talking about. A top-line electric guitar which features **electric and acoustic audio outputs and MIDI output** (to optional interface unit)

£1599.99

GOT A FEAR OF MIDI AND HITECH?

We can put your backing tracks or arrangements including harmony vocals onto C.D. Ring for a quote

Electric Guitars

Make/Model	RRP	SALE
ARIA TA40sa	£299	£269
<i>Challenge</i>		
12lt-n	£199	£169
LP-bk	£249	£199
210CF-jg	£295	£249
3611F-ams	£379	£339
EPIPHONE		
NH-std	£420	£389
LP-std	£449	£399
<i>Godin</i>		
A6	£759	£695
LGX	£1359	£1299
LGX-sa	£1659	£1599
IBANEZ BL100	£289	£259
SAMICK YR660me	£349	£299
TANGLEWOOD Bretta-Twin	£249	£209
VANTAGE 725ba	£325	£275
WASHBURN HB30ts	£539	£489
WESTFIELD SR383	£279	£259
YAMAHA Pacifica	£199	£179

Public Address

Carlsbro
Speakers
Power Amps
Powered Desks
Lem
Speakers
Powered Mixers
Hertz
Speakers
Power Amps
Carlsbro
Acoustic Combos
Crate
Guitar amps
Fender
Guitar amps
Yamaha
Speakers
Power amps

Banjos and Mandolins
 in Stock

Acoustic Guitars

Make/Model	RRP	SALE
<i>Fender</i>		
DG18	£159	£139
DG17e	£229	£189
<i>Simon & Patrick</i>		
SP19b	£289	£279
SP19a (left-handed)	£329	£299
SP6-ced	£299	£269
SP19a (12-string)	£349	£299
SP07a	£535	£499
<i>Tanglewood</i>		
TSF5	£399	£355
TSJ10	£599	£529
<i>Washburn</i>		
D10b	£239	£189
D12sn	£335	£295
EA26n	£679	£619
D46sk	£1049	£939
D48sk	£1149	£1029

DISPLAY ADVERTISING

IS ACCEPTED AT THE FOLLOWING RATES:

	CAMERA READY	OTHER
1/8 page	£9.00	£11.50
1/4 page	£18.00	£21.00
1/2 page	£36.00	£42.00
1 page	£72.00	£84.00

COVER RATES:

External back cover	£80.00
Inside front or back cover	£75.00

SIZE [Height x Width (mm)]

1/8 page	65 x 92 or 135 x 44
1/4 page	135 x 92 or 65 x 185
1/2 page	135 x 185 or 275 x 92
1 page	275 x 185

Discounts available for adverts booked in several issues.

MINI MARKET

Only £2.00 per 1/16 page
 Maximum of 2/16 per advert

For private sales and wants, club adverts, artistes business cards and other items.
 Size 65 x 44 mm.

Send your copy by April 17th 1998 to:

Paul Holden (Advertising)
 7, Sunleigh Road
 Hindley, Nr WIGAN WN2 2RE
 Tel. No. 01942 258 459

SUBSCRIPTIONS

For just £5.00 per year you will receive four issues of the magazine. To subscribe please send your cheque (payable to N.W.F.F.C.)

Send your subscriptions to:

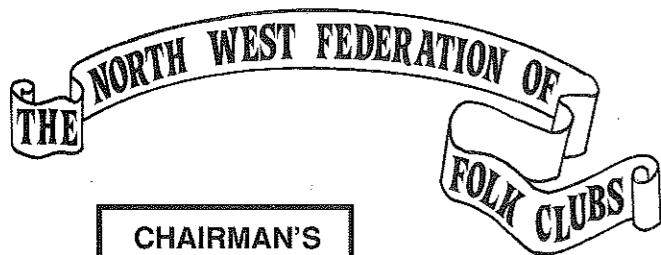
Newsletter Subscriptions
 7, Sunleigh Road,
 Hindley, Nr Wigan WN2 2RE
 Telephone No. 01942 258 459

N.B. All subscribers automatically become Associate Members of the North West Federation of Folk Clubs. This does not, however, confer voting rights at Federation meetings.

CONTENTS

Volume 20 Number 4
 Spring 1998

	Page
Advertising/Copy Dates	3
Chairman's Ramblings	4
Editorial	4
Contact Information	5
Local Radio Listing	5
LIVE REVIEWS	7
Katy Moffatt	7
Iain Matthews	7
Paul Hudson Memorial Concert	8
Kate Rusby	11
Show of Hands	11
Blarney Stone	12
Spitting On A Roast 10th Birthday	12
A Youthful Perspective	13
Letters	14
The Federation Clubs	17
March Dates	18/19
April Dates	20/21
May Dates	22/23
Advance Dates	24
Club Residents	24
Diary Chat	26
Festival Reviews	26
Interview with Loctup Together	28
Spotlight on The Wooden Horse	30
CD REVIEWS	31
Mark Atherton & Simon Cohen	31
Jon Brindley	32
Ian Bruce Breeze Band	32
Robin & Barry Dransfield	33
Ian Giles	33
William Jackson	33
Eamon McCann	35
Pressgang	35
Bram Taylor	35
Roy Wilcock & Bridget Guest	36
His Worship & The Pig	36
Scottish Voices	38
English Concertina Players	38



**CHAIRMAN'S
RAMBLINGS**



EDITORIAL

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

To you it may seem a long time since the last issue but from where I'm sitting it's not. If this has just landed on your doormat I apologise for any damage caused by the increase in number of pages. It is very pleasing that we have so much to impart and that our advertisers have kept the faith despite difficulties with previous issues. I have taken the liberty of extending to 40 pages and still have had to leave things out. The alternative was a smaller font but my optician advises against this course of action. Hopefully in this issue you will see evidence that Folk North West is alive and well and coming soon to a club near you. We aim to extend our coverage of events and club nights. We are also hoping to interview our local performers over the coming issues and have made a start with Loctup Together. It would also be worthwhile including articles on Folklore, customs and/or local interest - contributions and ideas gratefully accepted. An injection of humour would also be stimulating - any volunteers to do a cartoon strip? Not a lot else to say and no room to say it in so happy reading. Do get in touch and let us know how we can improve the magazine.

FEDERATION OFFICERS

Chairman	Pauline Coan, Lever Edge, Ulnes Walton Lane, Ulnes Walton. Tel 01772 45282
Treasurer	Kath Holden, 7 Sunleigh Road, Hindley, Wigan. Tel 01942 258459
Editor	Ken Bladen, 36 The Oaks, Eaves Green, Chorley Lancs PR7 3QU. Tel 01257 263678
Deputy Ed.	Nigel Firth, 118 Bolton Road, Aspull, Wigan. Tel 01942 833293
Advertising	Paul Holden, 7 Sunleigh Road, Hindley, Wigan. Tel 01942 258459
Membership Sec - Federation Sec	contact Treasurer (see above) Angie Bladen, 36 The Oaks, Eaves Green, Chorley. PR7 3QU. Tel 01257 263 678
Youth Activities	Jenni Melsom, 14 Ribblesdale Close, Kirkham, Near Preston PR 4 2HT. Tel 01772 683283
Club Dates	Chris McIlveen, 35 Glenshiels Avenue Hoddlesden, Darwen Tel 01254 704726
Proof Reader	Pete Gleave, 34 Hamilton Road, St Helens. Tel 01744 732117
Review Coordinator	David Jones, 4 Kingfisher Close, Swallowfields, Pleckgate, Blackburn. BB1 8NS Tel 01254 54877

Happy New Year to one and all.

I hope you had an enjoyable holiday.

Hopefully this edition of the magazine will reach you before the first published club dates - this is our aim.

I have heard via the grapevine that some clubs did not get their magazines until the third week in December - you should have got them during the second week except those which get posted out and during the Christmas rush we do not have full control over how long it will take them to get through the system.

I would like to make a request of all organisers - please can you let me know when your magazines reached you and then we can look at the situation and possibly move deadline for future magazines forward in order to give more time for them to reach you. Without your feedback, we cannot address this problem.

I know this may sound a little negative but we need to ensure that any problems you are having with the magazine do get addressed - if we do not know about them, we cannot correct them.

On to more lighter notes!!

Is your club planning any special events for the millennium? Do you think the Federation should organise any special events - possibly charity concerts? Something for the next generation?

Any suggestions for this or any other events you think we should be involved in - let us know and we will try and help to get things set up.

Another item which has been discussed is setting up a central directory of artists details which will be available for all members to access. If we pool all our details, we should have a fairly comprehensive list and you never know - you may find people out there that you would like to book but did not know how to contact them - well this could be the way to do it!

Please let your views be known on this and any other issues you may have.

**Pauline Coan
Chairman**



FOLK North West Contact Information

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
Lancs
BB3 3LS
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 :-

Ken Bladen
36, The Oaks
Eaves Green
Chorley
Lancs
PR7 3QU
Tel. No. 01257 263 678

Advertising, subscriptions, club membership enquiries to :-

Paul & Kath Holden
7, Sunleigh Road
Hindley
Wigan
Lancs
WN2 2RE
Tel. No. 01942 258 459

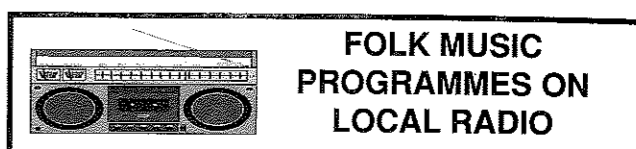
CDs or tapes for review to :-

David Jones
4, Kingfisher Close
Swallowfields
Pleckgate
Blackburn
Lancs
BB1 8NS
Tel. No. 01254 54877

Please note that the copy date for the next issue is April 17th 1998.

We would be very grateful to receive your comments, suggestions, criticisms, items for inclusion, letters, corrections, omissions and any other information you believe that we should know about. Please send information to the above or if in doubt to the editor, (who is also usually in doubt so you'll be amongst friends rather than fiends).

You can also e-mail us via our chairman on p.a.coan@mcmail.com



FOLK MUSIC PROGRAMMES ON LOCAL RADIO

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
RALPH McTELL
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 Telifis 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 Dabh 9.15-10.00pm Ceilidh Music

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

GOG'S MUSIC

LLANDUDNO, NORTH WALES



**FOR ALL YOUR MUSICAL NEEDS:
INSTRUMENTS, PUBLICATIONS, REPAIRS etc.**

APPOINTED DEALERS IN ALL QUALITY MAKES

**NOW IN: FIDDLES BY TIM PHILLIPS AS PLAYED BY NANCY
KERR & ELIZA CARTHY**

*FYLDE Gtrs, MARTIN Gtrs, GIBSON, EPIPHONE, TANGLEWOOD,
BOORINWOOD, NORMAN, ROSETTI, HOHNER, YAMAHA,
SELMER, OZARK, AMATI, TREVOR JAMES Brass & Woodwind,
STAGI, GALOTTA, SALTARELLE, DINO BAFFETTI,
CASTAGNARI, JAS (Indian & Asian Instruments), SHURE,
ZOOM (and other effects units), KORG and all sizes of harps, etc., etc.*

WE HAVE: ACCORDIONS & AUTOHARPS, BANJOS &
BOUZOUKIS, CLARINETS & CIARSACHS, DHOLAKS &
DIDGHRIDOOS, WHISTLES, TRADITIONAL FLUTES, **and so
on.....**

**CALL IN AND SEE US. WE ARE AT 6a VAUGHAN STREET
(NEAR THE RAILWAY STATION).**

OPEN MONDAY-SATURDAY 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Tel/Fax: (01492) 876649

**GOG'S WISH EVERY SUCCESS TO THE FIRST GWYL
IFAN GOCH FESTIVAL, TO BE HELD AT THE "RED
LION", TYN Y GROES, NORTH WALES, NEXT MARCH.
FOR MORE INFO. CONTACT GOG'S OR CAROL
LOUGHLIN ON (01633) 246857**



LIVE REVIEWS

**KATY MOFFATT - Live at Westhoughton Folk Club
Friday 14th November 1997 and "Midnight Radio"
(RTM CD 81)**

This was Katy Moffatt's first visit to Westhoughton, nothing strange in that, given that this much travelled American lady, makes all too rare visits to this country. But by the end of the night, she had won over the audience with her vocal vibrancy, sensitive guitar playing and overall musical dexterity.



Her opening number, Amelia's Railroad Flat, gave way to the title track of her 1992 album, The Greatest Show on Earth, written in collaboration with Tom Russell, who was a guest at the club a month earlier.

The plight of the many Mexican's trying to get into the USA and the methods used to keep them out, is highlighted in Rosa's Favorite Son, while Junkyard Heart, deals with love, if it aint broken, don't fix it.

Texas has a law for the right to carry concealed weapons, and Katy's .38 special spawned the song, Never Be Alone Again. Her treatment of the beautiful, Wings of a Blackbird, contrasted sharply with the bluesy treatment of Crazy, Dangerous and Blue.

The Chris Miller penned, Love Me Like a Man, deals with the need for love and was feminised by Bonny Raitt.

The female reasoning of treat 'em mean, keep 'em keen, is encapsulated in Ruin This Romance, for no matter how bad she treats him, he still comes back for more, confusin' aint it!!!!

If the first half was good, the second half was sensational. Tom Russell's evocative, Evangeline Hotel, deals with the inextricable links between childhood and adulthood.

Katys' sister-in-law, P.B. Siebert, wrote Borderline, the story of love between two people on opposite sides of the Mexican/US border, while Hank and Audrey deals with the dysfunctional relationship between country great, Hank Williams and his wife.

A new life, a new start, with time to sort things out in your mind, is the story behind, Slow Movin' Freight Train.

The title track to Katy's current CD is Midnight Radio and this tells how listening to the radio got Katy through High School in Fort Worth, Texas.

Cyndi Lauper's You Don't Know Me, gave way to Blue Angel - he may be a stranger but feelings grow.

For her first encore, life in the community with its tears and laughter, was brought to life in the beautifully crafted, Half Moon Boulevard, that was followed by a reprise of the song she sang in the first half, Walking on the Moon, written again in partnership with Tom Russell, and along with a packed room, a fitting end to a truly memorable evening.

There's no doubting Katy's background as a country singer, having supported on tour, amongst others, The Everly Brothers, Willie Nelson, Loretta Lynn and Don Williams, and she also received a nomination from the Academy of Country Music as Best Female Vocalist in the mid 80's.

Her musical past won't make her a favourite with staunch folk devotees, but her style is easy on both the ear and the eye, while the subject matter of her songs, is something we can all relate to.

The warmth with which she was received will surely hasten her return.

David Jones

**IAIN MATTHEWS @ Biddulph Folk Club, Staffordshire
20 November, 1997**

This was Matthews' final concert of a two month tour of the States, Holland and Britain before he returned to his home in Austin, Texas. It must have been reasonably successful as he'd sold out of all his CD merchandise. As most of his touring outside America has been with Plain-

song, this was a rare chance to catch him almost solo.

When he played this venue two years ago Matthews was accompanied by long time Plainsong co-conspirator, Andy Roberts. This time Mark Griffiths supported Iain's acoustic guitar and vocals with his inimitable bass guitar and mandolin. Their association stretches back to the days of Southern Comfort through the different manifestations of Plainsong and other Matthews' projects.

The split set covered mainly his recent solo efforts - the Watermelon releases "The Dark Ride" (1994) and "God Looked Down" (1996), with the semi-retrospective, mostly unplugged, "Camouflage" (1995) sandwiched in between.

He kicked off the evening with a new song - the unaccompanied "Running Wild". Griffiths joined him for the upbeat "Girl with the clouds in her eyes" from his most recent album. Further tracks from the album included the "The beat I walk" describing the ups and downs in the singer's career, the evocative "Power of Blue". "And me", originally sung during the days with MSC (and latterly covered by Plainsong under the cover title of "Say a prayer"), and "Evening Sun" are both on the excellent "Camouflage". The plaintive "True Location of the Heart" features on the same album and was the penultimate song before the interval. "People's Park", one of Matthews many links with Woody Guthrie appeared on the most recent Plainsong release, "Sister Flute".

"God Looked Down", with Matthews accompanying himself on acoustic guitar was the curtain raiser for the second set, followed by the sea going ballad, "Compass and Chart", and an unexpectedly fresh rendition of the big Southern Comfort hit, "Woodstock" - an absolutely stunning unaccompanied rendition, this was one of the highlights of the set.

Written for his daughter, "You'll know lightning" was emotionally powerful; "Mighty to behold" is an example of the material to be included on his next CD. Peter Gabriel's "Mercy Street" and "Goodbye Hank Williams" completed the set. The obligatory encore featured the brilliant Mark Germino song "The Rat and the Snake" - a condemnation of amoral get rich quick form of American capitalist greed.

Iain Matthews is now a far better, more accomplished songwriter than he is given credit for. A generally shy person he is more at ease with himself, but prefers sharing the limelight rather than being the focus of it. Matthews has a new CD released in February 1998 entitled "Excerpts from Swine Lake". The lake in question is close to home in Austin. As Matthews pointed out, his name as an anagram is "I am that swine" - hence the title. "That swine" is still in fine fettle and intends touring this country in Spring '98 with a band. Something to look forward to.

Lewis Jones

THE PAUL HUDSON MEMORIAL CONCERT @ The Marine Hall, Fleetwood Sunday 23rd November 1997

Paul Hudson was well known in Fleetwood for his fundraising efforts for various organisations, including the Haematology Cancer Research Fund.

He also for many years, looked after the camp site at the Fylde Folk Festival, and became a popular member of the Festival Committee.

Sadly, Paul died in the summer of 1997 from cancer, and a group of his friends formed a Memorial Appeal in his name, to continue his fundraising efforts.

A number of artists gave their time generously for the cause, with Fleetwood based Thistle kicking off the concert, with a five tune selection played in their own inimitable style, and climaxed their spot with the Dylan classic, If You Gotta Go, Go Now.

Jim Smith and Alison Price are Traditional Edge, and gave us a fine set before giving way to another local voice, Rob Wilson.

One of the stalwarts of the festival scene is Stanley Accrington, his forte, is the way he looks at life from a distinctly different perspective from just about everybody else. He used the tune of Candle in the Wind, to bring us a eulogy of Desperate Dan, the pending demise of the Spice Girls and the eventual departure of Tony Blair.

A montage of tunes from South Pacific brought into focus, the Nuclear activities of the French on the Mururoa Atoll, while, complete with cowboy hat, he posed the question, has the world gone mad, dancing in a line?

The tune from the Laughing Policeman was used to good effect as he waved goodbye to the Tory Party. Whatever he's on, make mine a double !!!!

Two of Paul's friends from north of the border made the trip down, and Eddie and Bruce from Edinburgh, treated us to a blues set, including some fine slide guitar playing.

Enter stage left, the one and only Les Barker, The Lonely Glo-worm, Spot the Zebra, and his hunt for his Camouflage Net, quickly had the audience in fits of laughter, and only Les could name three dogs, Stay, Go, Fetch.

He signed off with two of his classics, Cosmo, the Fairly Accurate Knife Thrower and Daschunds with Erections Can't Climb Stairs.

Paul's niece, Claire Hudson sang superbly, firstly On My Own from Les Miserables and the poignant, Wishing You Were Here Again, from Phantom of the Opera.

The evening was brought to a fitting end by the Alan Bell Band, Alan of course is the Director of the Fylde Folk Festival and worked closely with Paul for many years.

Chester Folk Festival

22nd - 25th MAY 1998
(SPRING BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND)
The Morris Dancer, Kelsall, nr. Chester

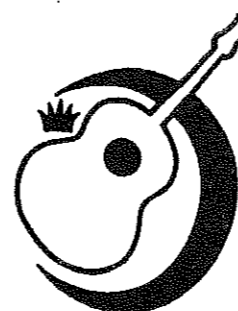
CONCERTS, CEILIDHS, SESSIONS,
FOLK CLUBS, WORKSHOPS, CRAFT FAIR,
CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT

Many national & local guests including:
Martin Carthy & Norma Waterson
The House Band • Brian Peters
Andy M. Stewart & Gerry O'Beirne
Eliza Carthy Band • Kate Rusby
Taffy Thomas • Tom Lewis
The Keelers • Heather Heywood
Chris Sherbourne & Denny Bartley
Phil Hare & Penni McLaren-Walker
Shake a Leg • Six Foot Three

Free Camping for Weekend Ticket Holders
(Space limited - BOOK EARLY)

All enquiries (SAE please) to:
13 Dee Fords Avenue, Chester, CH3 5UP
phone: 01244 320424

CD out now:



Regina Entwined With Magic

For your copy
contact:
0181 707 2796



PLOT A COURSE FOR "THE RAFTERS ROAR" FOLK CLUB

AT THE MOORGATE INN, SCOTT LANE, ASPULL
[NORTH BOLTON, OFF A6]
EVERY WEDNESDAY - 8.30pm
Residents - PAUL & JOHN SINGERS & MUSICIANS WELCOME
Paul 0161 790 7153 JOHN 01204 795 931

The Folk DIRECTORY

1998-1999

34th Edition £4.95 + £1.00 p&tp

2,000 clubs and folk organisations.
Hundreds of advertisers, festivals, folk events, folk resources, useful contacts, all annually updated. Published 1st February.

BUY IT... USE IT... BE IN IT
Simply the Best!

Cheques payable to:
EFDSS,
Cecil Sharp House
2 Regent's Park Road,
London NW1 7AY
Tel: 0171-485 2206

Lincoln Folk Festival 1998

Friday 1st May - Monday 4th May

Alias Ron Kavarna

Sid Kipper, Steve Phillips & Brendan Croker, Peeping Tom, Dave Swarbrick & Alistair Hulett, Jez Lowe, Eliza Carthy and Saul Rose

Bob Hall & Hilary Blythe, Monkey's Orphan, Bob Fegg, First Principles, Tlachta, Roman Browne & Peadar O'Loughlin, Bill Whaley & Dave Fletcher, Colonel Custard, Zak the Clown, Alas Smith & Wood, Maureen Sutton, Robin Garside & Datchet Border Morris

Concerts, Workshops, Dances, Club Sessions, Real Ale, Storytelling, Singarounds and Dance Displays

Secure Campsite

Information: Telephone The Lawn Centre 01522 560306
or Andy Watkins 01522 569434

Tickets: The Box Office The Waterside Centre Lincoln 01522 523000
The Lawn Centre Union Road Lincoln 01522 560306

Sponsored by Lincoln City Council, Eastern Arts Board, Lincolnshire County Council, Everard's Brewery, Bridgemasters Ltd & The Musicians Union

Weekend Ticket £25 (Concessions £20)

Raphael Callaghan (vocal, slide guitar)

&
Christine Purnell
(bass)

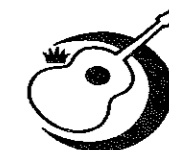
are
BLUE C

The best in
blues & roots



0151-709 5484

Regina Singer/Songwriter



Powerful voice and
haunting songs

48 The Alders, Hanworth
Middlesex, TW13 6NY
Tel 0181 707 2796
Mobile 0850 014 970

Mini Market Only £2.00 per 1/16 page

Maximum of 1/16 per advert
For Private sales & wants, club
adverts and artistes cards.
Send Copy by Jan 16th 1998
to:-

Paul Holden (Advertising)
7, Sunleigh Road, Hindley, Nr
Wigan WN2 2RE
Tel. No. 01942 258 459

A What's On Publication MIDLANDS FOLK DIARY

Covers 20 counties and over 100 clubs
Issued Monthly on the 1st of the month

Annual
Subscription
£9.50

Edited by: Joe Smith
121 Morris Avenue
COVENTRY CV2 5GS
Tel. No. 01203 444 405
Cheques payable to J. Smith

Hobgoblin Music
Est. 1976

As Britain's leading folk music business, we stock the widest range of new and secondhand folk instruments in the country. Whatever you're looking for, from Bodhrans to Bouzoukis, Concertinas to Crumhornis, Mandolins to Melodeons ... you'll find it at Hobgoblin at competitive prices. We are all musicians and our specialist advice is free. But don't just take our word for it, come and see us!

LONDON Hobgoblin Music at The Folk Shop 2 Regents Pk. Rd, London NW1 7AY. London's best for folk instruments, tapes, CDs, & books. Call now! 0171 428 9060	CRAWLEY 17 The Parade, Northgate, Crawley, Sussex, RH10 2DT. Britain's longest est- ablished, best stocked folk specialists. Free parking right outside. Call now! 01293 515858
BRISTOL 30 College Green, Bristol BS1 5TB. The best for folk in the West, plus loads of Guitars and printed music. Easy to reach from Wales. Call now! 0117 929 0902	BRADFORD 38 Manningham La., Bradford BD1 3EA, The Folk Shop of the North, Guitars, Early music and much more. Free parking right outside, Call now! 01274 730750

WORLDWIDE MAIL ORDER
Everything is available by mail order too!
See our Web Catalogue at <http://www.hobgoblin.com>
or send now for our free FULL COLOUR printed catalogue and price lists.
P.O. Box 12, Horsham, RH12 4YE
Tel. 01293 515858 - Email Post@Hobgoblin.Co.UK

Britain's first choice for Folk!

Shamrock Recording
is proud to announce its first record release
"Something Calling"
the debut album from:
Jon Brindley

CD: SHAMCD01 £10.75 inc. postage and packing
Cassette: SHAMCASS01 £5.75 inc. postage and packing

Available by Mail Order: send cheque/P.O. payable to:
SHAMROCK RECORDING, "The Garth", Commons Lane, Balderstone, BLACKBURN, Lancashire BB2 7LL
PHONE: 01254 812 131
E-MAIL: shamrock@wavenet.co.uk
WEBSITE: <http://www.wavenet.co.uk/users/shamrock>

Westhoughton Folk Club
presents
MADDY PRIOR & FRIENDS
with Auld Triangle
Friday 1st May 1998 8.00pm
at the ARTS CENTRE
BOLTON SCHOOL,
CHORLEY NEW ROAD, BOLTON


Tickets £10. Available at the Folk Club
or send an S.A.E. and cheque to 332
WIGAN ROAD, WESTHOUGHTON,
BOLTON BL5 2AR

E.mail: wfc@westhoughton.demon.co.uk
<http://www.westhoughton.demon.co.uk>

28th CLEETHORPES FOLK FESTIVAL

Houseband • The McCalman's • Flook
Andy M. Stewart & Gerry O'Beirne
Amazing Blondel • Peggy Seeger
Cock & Bull Band • Sileas
New Deal String Band
Archie Fisher • Ray Fisher
Graham & Eileen Pratt
John & Jack Burge • Jink's Stack
Sandra & Nancy Kerr
Dave Webber & Annie Fentiman
Jez Lowe • Taffy Thomas & Bob Pegg • Mogsy & Co.

GOOD FOOD SERVED ALL DAY • REAL ALE • DANCE DISPLAYS
23/24/25th May 1998
3 DAY TICKET £30 (£26 before May 1st)
Tickets and Information:
CLEETHORPES FOLK FESTIVAL
7 COLLINGWOOD CRESCENT
GRIMSBY DN34 5RG
Telephone: 01472 752852
Tel/Fax enquires: 01507 462045



Alan's love of the Lake District is legendary, and brought about the Lakeland Fiddler, that gave way to Bread and Fishes, is it really 25 years old?

The beautifully crafted, Sailor's Sky, from 1986 was written to commemorate Fleetwood's 150th Anniversary as a town, and Paul's brother, John, joined the band for this rendition.

Fleetwood's award winning trawler is remembered in the song, Jacinta, with The Minstrel and So Here's To You, ringing the final curtain down.

A night of thought provoking nostalgia, for a departed friend, who I'm sure was looking down and nodding in approval.

David Jones

KATE RUSBY @ The Music Room, The Adelphi Hotel, Preston
23 November, 1997

A rainy night in Preston. This performance was a successful fund-raiser for Vision Aid, a charity that helps partially sighted children.

The evening began with a set from Anthony John Clarke. From Belfast, Clarke is an engaging singer songwriter who performs his own brand of songs, many of them dealing with a different view of Ireland. He presents an alternative to the predominantly sentimental and sectarian extremes.

Kate Rusby emanates from Barnsley, is still learning the folk music having progressed via the ranks of Intuition, Equation and a successful partnership with Kathryn Roberts. She has become a significant performer in her own right, still finding time to fit in her collaborative venture with the Poozies.

Kate plays primarily traditional folk songs with the varying accompaniment of acoustic guitar or electric piano and electric fan. She is beset by hot ears, hence the fan - a significant breeze, rather than a wind, instrument.

She is relaxed, direct and wins approval from her audiences with her down to earth approach conveyed in her South Yorkshire dialect. Kate gives a rundown of the stories behind the traditional songs she performs, some of which she has written and others adapted. The subject matter tends to be about young people wanting to marry against wishes of parent(s); girl meets boy, boy dies, girl dies and they are happy. There are a few drownings, some sea trips - and these are just the happy tunes.

Kate moves with ease from the unaccompanied *Fair and tender ladies* to the Nic Jones song *Courting is a pleasure*. Most songs are from "Hourglass", her debut solo release, and her CD recorded with Kathryn Roberts. She finishes the set with *Annan Waters* and, as an encore, *Wild Goose* - described as a bloke's song based on an

old English sea shanty that she has rewritten. She fully expects her heresy to be punished by a visit from the "folk police" after the show.

Despite it being a less than comfortable venue, Kate Rusby showed that she has a fine voice which, given her age, can only improve. She is a more than competent musician and may need to look at more contemporary material if she wants to broaden her appeal to a wider audience. A talent well worth exploring for fans of traditional folk music, electric fans and burning ears.

Lewis Jones

SHOW OF HANDS - Live at Wesham Community Centre
Saturday 29th November 1997 and "Dark Fields" (HM CD 03)

Eighteen months on from their all conquering, sell-out debut at the Royal Albert Hall, Show of Hands continue to pack'em in wherever they play.

The tour just ended, spanned six months and three countries and coincided with the release of their Dark Fields album.

The first half of the concert, was given over to showcasing the new release, which once more is a triumph for Steve Knightley's legendary song writing, Phil Beer's intrinsic musicianship and Gerard O'Farrell's production sensitivity.

Crazy Boy was released as a single in 1997, but distribution problems meant that the hoped for breakthrough into this particular market didn't materialise, which is a pity. But it remains a solid opening number to any concert.

The age old eternal triangle is dealt with in Flora, in which the ending is anything but happy. While the lurcher belonging to a wet log distributor by day and a poacher by night, is the subject of Long Dog.

The Shout is a tribute to the firemen of Dorset and the lifeboat crew in Port Isaac, Cornwall, and the desperation felt by someone in need of assistance.

Nic Jones' arrangement of The Warlike Lads of Russia, deals with Napoleon's retreat from Moscow.

Money from the slave trade was used to build many of the fine houses in the Clifton area of Bristol, and this trade in human misery is brought sharply into focus in The Bristol Slaver.

Phil's fiddle playing is the highlight of the Wessex Medley that includes, Carrick Road/Plum Pudding/The Rocky Road to Chudleigh.

The Train was written by Steve on an overnight trip between Avarngabad and Hyderabad, to celebrate India's

50th year of independence. India is still a land divided, forever changed.

The first half came to a close with Cousin Jack, the Cornish people see themselves as a lost Celtic race, with the Tamar Bridge opening up Cornwall to the east.

The second half was given over to requests from the audience, Steve's sympathetic interpretation of the Wessex tale, The Preacher, was followed by a real toe-tapping favourite, The Blind Fiddler.

High Germany and the self explanatory, It's All Your Fault, gave way to The Keeper, the story of a Devon gamekeeper who fought in the Battle of the Somme in 1916.

The evening reached its crescendo with Crow on the Cradle and the ubiquitous Galway Farmer. Santiago and Tall Ships provided two encores.

I would just like to mention Steve's simple but compelling version of the Bob Dylan classic, Farewell Angelina from the CD, which I thought was superb.

In every way, Show of Hands are the undoubted masters of their craft, aided by that fine instrument builder, David Oddy of Exeter.

Coming to a club, hall or theatre near you - the phenomenon that is - Show of Hands. I can pay them no higher compliment.

David Jones

BLARNEY STONE AT THE RAILWAY FOLK CLUB 18TH December 1997.

Once there was Garva and now there is Blarney Stone and it is a time to rejoice. At the Railway's Christmas Party the general consensus of opinion was that they had had the best night ever with Tony Gibbons and his Irish Band. Years ago he used to come to the Railway with Ceol Cait and we will remember seeing Kevin Webster even though we couldn't see his fingers as they blurred across the keys. A couple of years later we met Terry Coyne who over the years has advanced from being the highly competent professional to become the extrovert ebullient performer we saw a few weeks ago. Finally brother and sister, Dave and Lesley McGough, have taken up the mantle and together with Terry and Tony now make up Blarney Stone but take a tip from me and persuade Tony to bring Kevin along because although he is not currently in the group he is well worth the extra and hopefully he may rejoin.

On stage, gone is the slight air of tension that was familiar to Garva and that at times seem to fragment rather than weld. No more the desertion of individuals left to perform alone or in small groups. Blarney Stone are a group which is warmer, more relaxed and at ease with itself, the result being a constant stream of happy repartee and wonderful music, with excellent musicianship and

great singing, usually in close four-part harmony. Very pleasing to the ear.

There are still jigs and reels aplenty. Terry takes the front with songs like N17 by the Saw Doctors and Brown Eyed Girl by Van Morrison and still blows our mind with his range of gas fittings, Dave has introduced City of Chicago, Star of the County Down and Dirty Old Town, Lesley leads Afternoon Delight, an a capella version originally done by the Starlight Vocal Band but the main man is Tony who regaled us with a selection from his massive repertoire ranging from old favourites like Spanish Lady, Blarney Roses, A Man is in Love by the Waterboys, to Any Mick'll Do by one of his heroes Brian McNeill.

Naturally there were one or two glimpses of Garva with In the Town of Bally Bay and Couldn't Have Come at a Better Time and believe me that sums it up. To the Folk World and to a Folk Club Organiser Blarney Stone couldn't have come at a better time.

The other good news is that they have been down to a studio in Denbigh to record their first album. Be sure to get your copy. They will be at the Railway again on Saturday 13 June 1998, their favourite venue.

Don Davies, January 1998

SPITTING ON A ROAST'S TENTH BIRTHDAY 18 December 1997

It was a typical rain swept winter night in Fleetwood as I found my way to Fleetwood Folk Club's venue at the Steamer Hotel. It was a special night for Dave Ryan and Mike France who have run the club for just over nine years and were celebrating their tenth anniversary as Spitting on a Roast and in Dave's words 'massacring folk music.' But massacre it was not and they performed two fine sets of both traditional and contemporary music. The only blemish on the whole evening was the harmonica player in the audience who joined in on virtually every number.

The *Calico Printer's Clerk* opened the first set, a little 'wobbly' at first, but Spitting on a Roast gained confidence as the audience joined in the first chorus. This was followed by Dean Johnson's *The Other Foot*, obviously a Club favourite. Mike followed with a recitation of *The Green Eyed Yellow Idol*. Dave then put his guitar aside and picked up a bazouki which, together with Mike's harmonium made a different arrangement to Keith Hancock's *Chase the Dragon*. The Scottish ballad *The Smuggler* was next on the menu, succeeded by Fairport Convention's *Too Close to the Wind* with the places changed from Northamptonshire to Lancashire. The result of doing a Lancashire Evening for a caravan club who really wanted Whiskey in the Jar and the Wild Rover!

At this point Mike left to quench his thirst leaving Dave to sing Bogle's *Song for Rosie* which he dedicated to his nephew, who has cerebral palsy, and to all disabled children. This was certainly sung from the heart! The beating of a drum heralded the end of the first set as Mike

marched down the room to read a recruiting proclamation from the last century followed by a medley of snatches from traditional, first world war, and contemporary songs, which chronicled the lot of the soldier from recruitment to being a casualty of war. The demon harmonica could not leave even this alone, but nevertheless it was an impressive and poignant arrangement.

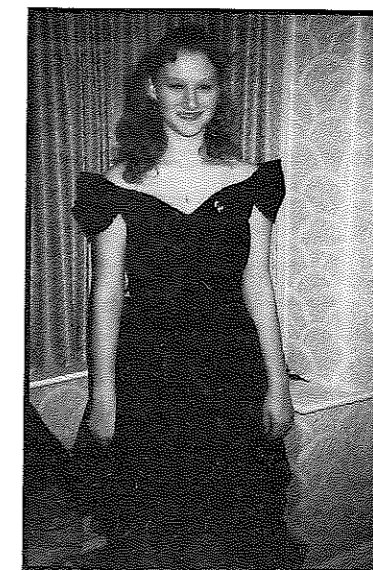
The *Irish Rover* opened the second half. Dave, who is addicted to record keeping, revealed this was Spitting on a Roast's first ever number in public, much to the amazement of the regulars who believed it was the *Diamond*. It ended with a duel between Dave and the harmonica player as to who could sustain a note the longest. Dave won that one. A change of pace brought Ron Baxter's and Alan Bell's lament for the scrapped trawler *Lord Middleton*. Mike then regaled the audience with a monologue of advice to folk clubbed goers adapted from a snippet he heard on the radio. The advice of getting there early to sit by the radiator is certainly appropriate to the Steamer. The Men They Couldn't Hang's *Cable Street* was next on the agenda. Mike then astounded everyone by singing! The Kipper Family's *Bored of the Dance* was certainly new to the audience who fell about laughing (at what I wonder?) Dave then soloed with *The Diamantina Drover* learnt off a Caught on the Hop album with extra verses from his wife Catherine. A new item in his repertoire but already a firm club favourite.

A change of costume for Dave who returned wearing his infamous sweater from those early days and into the 244th rendition of the song that has brought them such notoriety locally *The Bonny Ship the Diamond*. Yet another version, this one played at breakneck speed; that made punk rock look slow. The harmonica player won that one and still had enough breath for the next song Stanley Accrington's *Last Train* which generated a tremendous audience response to the line 'the last train to Fleetwood has gone'. At this point Mike and Dave were joined by Janet Cullingworth and her daughter Rachel who were in the original line up until family commitments forced them to leave. The lasses added some beautiful harmonies to *Chicken on a Raft* and *Roll the Old Chariot*. This left people thinking on what might had been if they had continued together. All too soon Dave burst into *Leave her Johnny leave her and John Kanaka*. 'One more chorus and then belay!'

Dave commented 'it was nice to have the limelight for once and have the challenge and responsibility for two long spots and we actually stuck to our list! Well there was only one change. Most of the time we just open and close the evening so that the regulars get plenty of opportunity to perform. It was good to have Janet and Rachel along too. Hopefully we'll get together again. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.' Tributes were paid to Dave and Mike's dedication in running the Club and on their night's performance. One regular was heard to comment 'why can't you sing like that all the time.' All in all a thoroughly enjoyable night and a credit to Spitting on a Roast and their choice of material and not a Christmas song in sight!

A YOUTHFUL PERSPECTIVE

Warmly we welcome our new Youth Activities Officer - Jenni Melsom and may this youth article in the magazine be the first of many. Many thanks Jenni for taking over from Jenny Shotliff.



It's a bit daunting to be stepping into Jenny's shoes, and indeed, her column, but here goes. I suppose the best way to start would be to introduce myself as Jenni Melsom. There, the name shouldn't be too difficult to cope with! If you want a bit of background about me, read on, if not, skip to the next paragraph! I've been a regular at the Lane Ends for a number of years, but in the last year or so I've started to

spread myself a bit further afield after completing a history degree at the great north-western metropolis of Manchester. I'm currently employed on and off by Helmshore Textile Museums as a museum guide and general dogsbody, and thus have plenty of time and a great deal of energy to throw into this folk thing. Personally I'm a jack of all trades (and yes, probably, master of none!) having a guitar, flute, piccolo and harp, and singing better than I do all the rest put together! You might then guess that my tastes in music are wide and varied, but my heart is always in the folk side of things. I've been singing solo for as long as I can remember, but have recently formed a folk trio called Triptych who are liable to turn up anywhere and everywhere in the next few months. Not that you're likely to know we're coming.

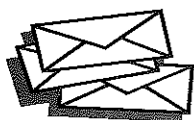
But enough about me. After all, that's not what I'm supposed to be here for. Having said that, if anybody has any ideas about what I should be here for, please, please let me know. I'm mobile and willing to go (almost) anywhere I'm wanted or needed, limited museum and UB40 budget allowing. I've even been known to cross the Pennines into Yorkshire! I can be contacted (and I hope I will be) on a variety of numbers; either 01772 683283 or 0161 654 6197, either of which will get to me eventually. If you're feeling remarkably flush, you could try the mobile on 0370 746337, but I should want you that though it takes messages, it's switched off far more often than it's on.

I'd better leave it here for now, just saying that if you have any ideas or need any help, please get in touch and I'll see what I can do. Hopefully by the next issue I'll have more idea of what I'm doing and what's going on, but in the meantime I'll be around at the 'Carrying It On' workshops that Jenny organised, so maybe I'll see some of

you there.

If there are any parents out there with interested or even interesting kids who are skulking in the background wanting to be involved but not knowing how, encourage them to show their faces, voices, instruments, pens or whatever, and stress that we're not concerned in the first instance about level of ability - after all, we've all got voices of one sort or another and can use them if all else fails!

Jenni Melsom
Youth Activities Officer



LETTERS

Below is a copy of a letter sent by Jenni Melsom to Alan Bell in response to his letter printed in the last issue of Folk North West.

8 January 1998
Dear Alan

I'm afraid I have only just obtained a copy of the Folk North-West in which your letter about the refusal of grant aid by the Arts Unit of Lancashire County Council to events at Fylde '97 was published. Perhaps it's a little late now to be offering assistance, but I'd like to anyway. I've been attending Fylde as a steward for the last few years, and in '97 actually bought a weekend ticket, and I have been thoroughly impressed with its commitment to live music, folk and beyond, and even more so by its commitment to and interest in the young performers in the tradition.

However, I'm afraid to admit that the County Council's view does not surprise me. At present I am an LCC employee, in the museums service, another underfunded area trying to preserve Lancashire's history and traditions.

I am also forced to take a stand on the issue because folk is probably one of the few musical genres in which anyone can take part, regardless of age and wealth, and actively encourages involvement from the younger generation. For evidence of this we only have to look at the marvellous work of Jenny Shotliff and friends over the last few years, and the great and growing number of young performers on the folk scene. It seems that the Arts Sub-Committee is displaying a great deal of benightedness in its attitude to folk events. I admit to being new to this job, but common-sense would tell me that events for young people need such support because they have few other methods of funding. I must stress that I am not a xenophobe and have no objection to orchestras and events such as WOMAD being funded, in part, by LCC. But it seems ludicrous that the Lancashire County Council, whose own red rose symbol is indicative of the county and the country's great wealth of heritage, should put large amounts of money into supporting foreign music and yet be happy to ignore its own tradition. The music industry is one of the country's largest employers, but it is not all

business, and therefore every encouragement should be given to those who wish to enjoy it in whatever form they choose.

Once again I must say that if there is anything I can do to help or give support in this matter, I would be more than happy to oblige.

Yours sincerely

Jenni Melsom
Youth Activities Officer
North West Federation of Folk Clubs

Ed: I spoke to Alan to get an update of the situation. He was about to attend a meeting with Lancashire Arts to try and learn more about their policies and understand their thinking. Watch out for more information in the next issue

Barrie Parker
30 St Albans Road
Blackpool
FY1 4ED
Tel: 01253 395251

Dear Mr Bladen

Re: North West Network of Morris Teams?

Having been involved for eight years as a musician with a North West Morris team, I have come to appreciate how difficult it is to maintain a team and its traditions. It is also a very sad event when an organisation loses the fight to survive.

With these thoughts in mind, I would propose a network organisation in support of all dance teams in Lancashire. This organisation could consider such issues as recruitment, publicity, events, workshops for dancers and musicians etc., all aimed to mutually support and benefit Morris in the North West. Perhaps also, a large scale event in Lancashire could be considered for the Millennium.

As this is obviously only a generalised concept of difficulties and problems affecting teams, I would be pleased to hear from any team Squire or Secretary who may be interested enough to discuss and progress this idea.

Please contact me on 01253 395251.

Yours sincerely

Barrie Parker

Ed: This sounds like a very worthy idea and deserving of support. We would welcome information on all types of folk dance activities for inclusion in the magazine. Wow that was quick - see over the page for an example of the sort of thing we mean. If we know about it we can spread the word and keep people informed.

1st Saltburn International Festival

of Folk Music, Dance & Song



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

Guests so far include

Vin Garbutt, Maxie & Mitch, Keith Hancocks Famous Last Words, Fred Jordan, Marie Little, The Bill Elliott Band, Henwen, Eddie Walker, Loobie, Phil & Barbara, Roy Bailey, Cobler's Monday, Booker & Padget, Punch & Judy, Stanley Accrington, Jenny Shotliff, Julie Mathew & Cris While, Tom McConville & Pauline Cato, The Wilsons, D.L.F.C. Athletic, The John Wright Band, Scowie, The Alan Bell Band, Acme Bluegrass Band, The Dunns, Steve Dawes & Helen Pitt, Fosbrooks, Quartz, One Step Beyond, Taffy & Crissy Thomas (Dancetails), Roy Wilcox & Bridget Guest, Ray Thom & Len Wilson, Hambones, Darlington Mummers, Roger Sutcliffe, All Blacked Up, Chris Sherburn & Denny Bartley, South Bank Grunters, John & Jack Burge, Pete Betts

Concerts, Ceilidhs, Cajun & Appalachian Sessions, Workshops, Singarounds, Youth Quake, Chance to Meet, Punch & Judy, Irish Traditional Dancers, Dance Displays, Street Entertainment & Outside Craft Market
Full Programme for children and those in their early teens.
Shanty, & Singer/Songwriting Competitions.
Superb Camping Facilities. Full 24hr Security etc. etc.
And the usual line-up of Top Artists that will make this Festival Unique.

FESTIVAL WEEKEND TICKETS £22 - after July 1st £26
SATURDAY TICKETS £15 - SUNDAY TICKETS £12

ALL CHEQUES TO BE MADE PAYABLE TO: SALT BURN FOLK FESTIVAL please!
Special Family Rates, Children aged 10 -16 half price, Children under 10 FREE

Souvenir Festival Magazine & Programme of Events - £1.50. • Individual Event Tickets will be on sale subject to availability.

Camping Tickets can only be purchased at the Camp Site on the Festival Weekend.



For further details and information, please telephone: 01947-840928 or write to Folk Festival Office, Fern Cottage, Dalehouse, Staithes, Cleveland TS13 5DT enclosing an A5 size S.A.E (36p) please.

MIDDLEWICH FOLK & BOAT FESTIVAL 19.20.21 JUNE 98

'The Festival with something for everyone'

DERVISH. THE ALBION BAND.

THE SENSITIVE NEW AGE COWPERSONS (Australia)
CHRIS WHILE & JULIE MATHEWS. HUW & TONY
WILLIAMS

ARTISAN. TANGLEFOOT (Canada)

Quiz	COCK & BULL BAND	Fendance
Sessions	THE PEACE ARTISTS	Ring Hey
Singarounds	CALICO JACK	Mind the Step
Poems + Pints	DAVIAN REEL	Newcastle Cloggies
Late night extra's	MOORLAND FOLK	Bradshaw Mummers
Kids entertainment	BUZZ & SAM COLLINS	Wrigley Head
Rolling Folk club	STANLEY ACCRINGTON	Pumphouse
Real Ale Bar	THE MIDDLEWICH PADDIES	More Tbc
Workshops	FLAKEY JAKE & THE STEAMIN LOCO'S	Stockport
Crafts	THE SALT TOWN POETS Featuring Dave Roberts	

and more to be confirmed.

Weekend ticket £20.00 (£16.00) Before 1st June
Saturday / Sunday £12.00 (£10.00)
12-16yrs Half Price. U12yrs. free
Camping £3.00 per night

Box Office
6 Southway
Middlewich CW10 9BL
Tel (01606) 832850

General info Tel (01606) 836896 (After 6pm)
Crafts & Trade Stalls Tel (01606) 835371

THE FEDERATION CLUBS

DAY/CLUB	TIME	CLUB ADDRESS	ORGANISER	CONTACT No.
SUNDAY				
ARNSIDE	8:30pm	The Bulls Head, Milnthorpe	Steve Black	01524 761 823
BOTHY	8:00pm	Blundell Arms, Upper Aughton Road, Birkdale	Clive Pownceby	0151 924 5078
LLANDUDNO	8:30pm	The Snowdon, Llandudno	John Les	01492 580 454
POTTERIES	8:00pm	The Old Swan Inn, Hartshill Road, Stoke	Jason Hill	01782 813 401
WOODEN HORSE	8:30pm	The Junction, News Lane, Rainford	Jim Coan	01772 452 782
MONDAY				
BRIDGE	8:30pm	Bridge Inn, Georges Road, Stockport	Peter Hood	0161 432 4142
CONWY	8:30pm	The Malt Loaf, Conwy	Denis Bennett	01492 877 324
SWINTON	8:30pm	White Lion, 242 Manchester Road, Swinton	Ged Todd	01942 811 527
TRITON	8:30pm	St John Hall, Malleson Road, Liverpool	Anne Crumpton	0151 920 5364
TUESDAY				
FURNESS	8:30pm	Brown Cow, Goose Green, Dalton-in-Furness	Andy Frame	01229 835 601
HOWCROFT INN	8:30pm	The Howcroft Inn, 36 Pool Street, Bolton	Ron Callow	01204 381 956
JACQUI'S FOLK CLUB	8:30pm	Bishop Eaton Parish Centre, Childwall, Liverpool	Jacqui McDonald	01244 300 576
LIVERPOOL	8:30pm	The Ship & Mitre, Dale Street Liverpool	Helen Hebden	0151 727 0088
MAGHULL	8:30pm	Hare & Hounds, Liverpool Road North, Maghull	Tony Gibbons	0151 526 5705
OSBALDESTON	8:30pm	Bay Horse Inn, Longsight Rd. Osbaldeston	Bernadette Dixon	01254 853 929
URMSTON ACOUSTICS	8:30pm	The Nag's Head, Davyhulme Circle, Urmston	Martin Kavanagh	0161 748 5497
WIGAN (WMC)	8:30pm	Working Mens Club, Upper Morris St. Wigan	Joan Blackburn	01942 321 223
WEDNESDAY				
8:45 AT LANE ENDS	8:45pm	Lane Ends Hotel, Weeton Road, Wesham	Ann Green	01772 683 027
ALISON ARMS	8:30pm	The Alison Arms, Preston Rd. Coppull Moor	Hilda Foy	01257 792 246
ASPULL	8:30pm	Moorgate Inn, Scot Lane, Aspull, Wigan	Paul Wordsworth	0161 790 7153
BLACKBURN	8:30pm	Veteran Hotel, Eanam, Blackburn	Brian Kirkham	01254 826 661
BURNLEY	8:30pm	Waggon & Horses Inn, Colne Rd. Brierfield	Phyl Watson	01282 774 077
CASTLE	8:30pm	Castle Hotel, Halton Village, Runcorn	Bob O'Callaghan	0151 424 5367
CHESTER	8:30pm	Chester Rugby Club, Vicar's Cross, Chester	Jacqui McDonald	01244 300 576
GATEWAY	8:30pm	Gateway Hotel, 882 Wilmslow Rd, E. Didsbury	Annie Morris	0161 881 8294
THURSDAY				
BLAKEY'S ACOUSTIC	8:30pm	King George's Hall, Blackburn	Dylan Owen	01254 390 391
COCKERMOUTH	8:30pm	Tithe Barn Hotel, Station Street, Cockermouth	Jack King	01900 828 226
FLEETWOOD	8:30pm	Steamer Hotel, Queens Terrace, Fleetwood	Dave Ryan	01253 876 351
GREGSON LANE	8:30pm	St Joseph's Social Centre, Gregson Lane,	Graham Dixon	01254 853 929
PARKGATE	8:30pm	Parkgate Hotel, Boathouse Ln, Parkgate, S. Wirral	Eddie Morris	0151 677 1840
RAILWAY	8:30pm	Railway Hotel, Heatley, Lymm	Graham Sowerby	01925 757 450
THE SHIP INN	8:30pm	Ship Inn, Rosemary Ln. Haskayne, Nr Ormskirk	Sue Howard	0151 526 9927
WIGAN (7 STARS)	9:00pm	7 Stars Hotel, 7 Stars Bridge, Walgate, Wigan	Joan Blackburn	01942 321 223
WREXHAM	8:30pm	The Lex Club, Regent Street, Wrexham	Ian Chesterman	01978 357 307
FRIDAY				
FOUR FOOLS	8:00pm	Lowton Civic Hall, Hesketh Meadow Lane, Lowton	Angie Bladen	01257 263 678
NORTHWICH	8:30pm	Harlequin Theatre, Queen St. Northwich	John Booth	01606 79356
PORKIES	8:30pm	Ladybrook Hotel, Fir Rd. Bramhall, Cheshire	Judy Alcock	01260 252 633
PRESTON	8:30pm	Moorbrook Inn, North Road, Preston	Rob Malaney	01257 231 463
RHYL	8:30pm	Bee & Station Hotel, Bodfor St. Rhyl	Jeff Blythin	01745 336 052
WALTON	8:30pm	County Ward Lab.Club, 39 Hale Rd. Walton, L'pl	Lillian French	0151 474 0979
WESTHOUGHTON	8:15pm	Westhoughton Golf Club, Long Island, West'hton	Pat Batty	01942 812 301
SATURDAY				
BREWERY ARTS	8:30pm	Brewery Arts Centre, 122a Highgate, Kendal	Box Office	01539 725 133
BURY	8:00pm	The Two Tubs, The Wylde, Bury	Alan Seymour	0161 761 1544
MECHANICS	8:30pm	Burnley Mechanics, Manchester Rd. Burnley	Ian Wells	01282 30005
OSWALDTWISTLE	8:30pm	St Mary's Parish Centre, Lock St., Oswaldtwistle	Dylan Owen	01254 390 391
POYNTON	8:30pm	Poynton Folk Centre, Park Lane, Poynton	Sue James	01270 766 975
SOUTHPORT ARTS	8:30pm	Southport Arts Centre, Lord St. Southport	Lesley Wilson	01704 540 004

March Dates					
	1-Mar-98	8-Mar-98	15-Mar-98	22-Mar-98	29-Mar-98
ARNSIDE	Singers Night		Singers Night		
BOTHY	Tom Browne & Ian Goodier	Singers Night	Helen Watson Trio	Singers Night	Singers Night
LLANDUDNO		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
POTTERIES					
WOODEN HORSE	Singers Night	Jez Lowe & The Bad Pennies	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
MONDAY	2-Mar-98	9-Mar-98	16-Mar-98	23-Mar-98	30-Mar-98
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	3-Mar-98	10-Mar-98	17-Mar-98	24-Mar-98	31-Mar-98
FURNESS					
HOWCROFT INN					
JACQU'S FOLK CLUB	Closed	Closed	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
LIVERPOOL	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
MAGHULL	Singers Night	Singers Night	St Patricks Night Bash with Blarneystone	Singers Night	Singers Night
OSBALDESTON	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
*RAILWAY			St Patricks Night Spectacular - Ian & Sarah Sherwood's Irish Band		
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	4-Mar-98	11-Mar-98	18-Mar-98	25-Mar-98	1-Apr-98
8:45 at LANE ENDS	Maxi & Mitch	Ben & Joe Broughton	Singers Night	Straw head	Pete Coe
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

March Dates					
	4-Mar-98	11-Mar-98	18-Mar-98	25-Mar-98	1-Apr-98
WEDNESDAY	4-Mar-98	11-Mar-98	18-Mar-98	25-Mar-98	1-Apr-98
BURNLEY	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singers Night
CASTLE	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
CHESTER	Closed	Closed	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
GATEWAY					
THURSDAY	5-Mar-98	12-Mar-98	19-Mar-98	26-Mar-98	2-Apr-98
BLAKEY'S					
COCKERMOUTH					
FLEETWOOD	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Phil Hare
GREGSON LANE	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
PARKGATE					
RAILWAY	Jez Lowe	Singers Night	Singers Night	The New Bushberry Mountain Daredevils	Singers Night
WIGAN (7 STARS)	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Mike Silver	Singers Night
WREXHAM	Joe Stead	Singers Night	Singers Night	Closed	
FRIDAY	6-Mar-98	13-Mar-98	20-Mar-98	27-Mar-98	3-Apr-98
FOUR FOOLS	Artisan plus Robin Lang				
NORTHWICH					
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	Bernard Wrigley	Keith Hancock's Famous Last Words	Coope, Boyes & Simpson	Marie Little	Stocktons Wing
SATURDAY	7-Mar-98	14-Mar-98	21-Mar-98	28-Mar-98	4-Apr-98
BREWERY ARTS					
BURY		Scolds Bridle		Vocalzone	
FOUR FOOLS					"Big Sing" with Mrs Ackroyd Band
OSWALDTWISTLE					
POYNTON		High Jinks		Five Speed Box	
Notes:	* If Club name has "*" in front, it's not the usual club night.				
	* If entry has "*" in front, it's being held at a different venue (unless venue is named)				

April Dates				
	5-Apr-98	12-Apr-98	19-Apr-98	26-Apr-98
SUNDAY				
ARNSIDE	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
BOTHY	Phil Hare & Penni McLaren-Walker	Singers Night	Pauline Cato & Tom McConville	Singers Night
LLANDUDNO	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
POTTERIES				
WOODEN HORSE	Th'Antique Roadshow	Closed	Singers Night	Singers Night
MONDAY				
BRIDGE	6-Apr-98	13-Apr-98	20-Apr-98	27-Apr-98
CONWY	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
SWINTON	Singers Night	Singers Night	Blue C	Singers Night
TRITON	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
TUESDAY				
FURNESS	7-Apr-98	14-Apr-98	21-Apr-98	28-Apr-98
HOWCROFT INN		Singaround		Singaround
JACQUI'S FOLK CLUB	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
LIVERPOOL	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
MAGHULL	Singers Night	Brass Tacks	Singers Night	16th Birthday Party
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				
8:45 at LANE ENDS	8-Apr-98	15-Apr-98	22-Apr-98	29-Apr-98
ALISON ARMS	Tom Napper & Tony Wilson	Jon Brindley	Singers Night	Gracenotes
ASPULL	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
BLACKBURN	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night

April Dates				
	8-Apr-98	15-Apr-98	22-Apr-98	29-Apr-98
WEDNESDAY				
BURNLEY	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
CASTLE	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
CHESTER	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
GATEWAY				
WREXHAM		Singers Night		
THURSDAY				
BLAKEY'S	9-Apr-98	16-Apr-98	23-Apr-98	30-Apr-98
COCKERMOUTH				
FLEETWOOD	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Stuart Boyd
GREGSON LANE				Maxie & Mitch
PARKGATE				Singers Night
RAILWAY	Singers Night	Singers Night	Sally Barker & Keith Richard Buck	Singers Night
WIGAN (7 STARS)	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
FRIDAY				
*BOTHY	10-Apr-98	17-Apr-98	24-Apr-98	1-May-98
FOUR FOOLS			Ceildh with Jabadaw - St John's Hall	
NORTHWICH				
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	The Albion Band	The Doonan Family Band	Maddy Prior & Friends - Bolton School
SATURDAY				
BREWERY ARTS	11-Apr-98	18-Apr-98	25-Apr-98	2-May-98
BURY	Jane & Amanda Threlfall		Quartz	
OSWALD TWISTLE				
POYNTON	Closed			
*RAILWAY			5 Bard Gait	Huw & Tony Williams
Notes:	* If Club name has "*" in front, it's not the usual club night.			
	* If entry has "*" in front, it's being held at a different venue (unless venue is named)			

May Dates

	3-May-98	10-May-98	17-May-98	24-May-98	31-May-98
SUNDAY	3-May-98	10-May-98	17-May-98	24-May-98	31-May-98
ARNSIDE	Singers Night		Singers Night		
BOTHY	Mike Silver	Singers Night	John McCormick	Closed	Huw & Tony Williams
LLANDUDNO	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
POTTERIES					
WOODEN HORSE	Closed	Singers Night	Singers Night	Closed	Singers Night
MONDAY	4-May-98	11-May-98	18-May-98	25-May-98	
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	5-May-98	12-May-98	19-May-98	26-May-98	
FURNESS		Singaround		Singaround	
HOWCROFT INN					
JACQUI'S FOLK CLUB	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
LIVERPOOL	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
MAGHULL	Singers Night	Pete Coe	Singers Night	Club Swap - Lymm Folk Club	
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	6-May-98	13-May-98	20-May-98	27-May-98	
8:45 at LANE ENDS	Mad Pudding	Enda Kenny	John Wright Band	Kate Rusby	
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	

May Dates

	6-May-98	13-May-98	20-May-98	27-May-98
WEDNESDAY	6-May-98	13-May-98	20-May-98	27-May-98
BURNLEY	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
CASTLE	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
CHESTER	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
GATEWAY	Guest TBA	Guest TBA	Guest TBA	Guest TBA
THURSDAY	7-May-98	14-May-98	21-May-98	28-May-98
BLAKEYS				
COCKERMOUTH				
FLEETWOOD	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
GREGSON LANE				
PARKGATE				
RAILWAY	Singers Night	Singers Night	Debbie McClatchey	Singers Night
WIGAN (7 STARS)	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
WREXHAM	Mike Silver		Singers Night	
FRIDAY	8-May-98	15-May-98	22-May-98	29-May-98
FOUR FOOLS				
NORTHWICH				
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				
SATURDAY	9-May-98	16-May-98	23-May-98	30-May-98
*8.45 at LANE ENDS	Show of Hands - Songs & Stories			
BREWERY ARTS				
BURY				
OSWALDTWISTLE				
POYNTON	White Knuckle Band		TBC	
*RAILWAY				
Notes:	* if C lub 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)			

**ADVANCE DATES FOR
JUNE 1998 AND BEYOND**

8:45 at Lane Ends

June 3 - Lucky Bags
June 10 - Thistle
June 17 - Artisan
June 24 - Singers Night
July 1 - Tanglefoot
July 8 - Paul Downes
July 15 - Guest tba
July 22 - Singers Night
July 29 - Guest tba
Sept 16 - Beryl Marriott Birthday Tour with
Hilary James & Simon Mayer

Bothy

June 7 - Singers Night
June 14 - Jerry Epstein & Sheila Kay Adams
June 21 - Singers Night
June 26 - Ceilidh with The Acme Dance Band
June 28 - Roy Bailey
July 5 - Cuckoo Oak
July 12 - Singers Night
July 19 - Sally Barker & Keith Richard Buck

Fleetwood

June 11 - Debbie McClatchie

Railway

June 4 - Anthony John Clarke
Sept 17 - Tom McConville & Pauline Cato

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'

**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 - Jean Seymour

CASTLE - Wild Rover

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, Loctup Together, Bob Tyrer, Clover, Paul Robinson, Norman Wilson, Mike Bartram.

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 & Clare Allen, Steve Finn, Geoff Higginbottom

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

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

WREXHAM - Assa (Goff Jones & Ian Chesterman), Yardarm

The 2nd Alison Arms

Folk Festival

On the A49 between Chorley & Standish

19th, 20th & 21st June, 1998

This Year's Guest List will include:

The Mc Calmans

Allan Taylor, Jez Lowe and the Bad Pennies, Bayou Gumbo, Th'Antiques Roadshow, Quartz, No Turn Unstoned, Derek Gifford, Frank Lewis, Joan Blackburn, Pete Ryder, Rebecca Green, Phil Regan, Rough Mix, Mooncoyn, Monologue Joe, Sharon Fountain, Liam Murphy, Camellia, Leap To Your Feet, Argemeles, Southport Sword, Shredded Feet, Line Dancers, and many more!

Dance Teams - Craft Stalls - American Line Dancing - Children's Face Painting - Children's Entertainment - Pony Rides.. *the lot !!!*

Free Camping, Free Caravanning,

For the latest details, call Bob Gilbert on (01772) 338718

Fax (01772) 330472; e-mail gilbert.bob@mcm.com

For Tickets, call Phil Bullen on (01942) 242471

For Craft Stall bookings, call Glenda Dooley on (01695) 724662

Tickets: Weekend £16.50 before Wednesday, 22nd April, £19.50 after

Friday & Saturday evenings, £7.50. Sunday evening £5.00

Saturday all day £10, Sunday all day £10.

Children under 12 free. OAP's & Children 12-16 half price.

POYNTON CEILIDHS

Sue, Joy and Mike of Poynton Ceilidhs would like to announce that from February 1998 the organisation of the Poynton Ceilidhs will be passed to the Poynton Centre Manager.

It is two years since we held our first Ceilidh and taking into consideration that the Centre has grown from strength to strength, any profit made from the Ceilidhs has been passed to the Centre and we have given our time freely, we consider that the time is right for the centre to have full control of the Ceilidhs. At a Committee Meeting on the 26th November, 1997 it was agreed that the Centre would accept our offer to take over the organisation of the Ceilidhs from February 1998 and that we would help and support the Committee where necessary.

We would like to thank the Bands, the Committee of the Centre and all who have given their support to us over the last two years and no doubt we will see you all on the dance floor instead of the door.

Finally we would like to wish Chris and the Committee every success with the Ceilidhs in the future.

Sue, Joy and Mike

Letter to the Editor - Tuesday 2 December 1997

I feel I must write a few words regarding the Maghull Day of Music. The whole Saturday from 12 noon till 12 midnight was one long pleasure. The "Rolling Folk Clubs" I thought were fantastic. I for one had a good sing; George would have loved it all. The concerts were out of this world sound wise especially. The Youthquake; well all I can say is Dave Day would have been so proud. Then to top it all a memory of my George and flowers for me. Tears I must admit were never far away the whole day; but for all that I felt happy. So very many people of various folk clubs were so kind to me. God Bless you all and keep the folk scene going and that includes all you young people.

Joan Gallimore

Diary Chat

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

35 Glenshiels Avenue
Hoddlesden
Darwen
BB3 3LS

Tel: 01254 704726

• Welcome to New Clubs

We bid a warm welcome to four - yes four! - new clubs who have joined the Federation. They are:-

- **Parkgate Folk Club**
This club is organised by Eddie Morris (0151 677 1840) and runs monthly on Thursdays at the Parkgate Hotel, Boathouse Lane, Parkgate, South Wirral.
- **Jacqui's Folk Club**
Organised by Jacqui McDonald (01244 300576) and runs every Tuesday at the Bishop Eaton Parish Centre, Childwall, Liverpool.
- **Chester Folk Club**
Also organised by Jacqui, who sings at the club, which is held at Chester Rugby Club, Vicar's Cross, Chester, every Wednesday.
- **Wrexham Folk Club**
Organised by Ian Chesterman (01978 357307) and runs every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month.

Please give these newcomers all the support you can by visiting them if they are within your area.

• Forthcoming Concerts

A couple of forthcoming dates for your diary :-

Friday 20th March at St John Boste Social Club, Gillingate, Kendal
Chris While & Julie Matthews with Roy Wilcock & Bridget Guest
Starts at 8:00 pm, Tickets £6, Telephone 01539 735692.

Saturday 21st March at 53rd Lancaster Cub Scouts Hut, Greaves Road (off A6), Lancaster
Derek Brimstone, Roy Wilcock & Bridget Guest, and Dave Summers
Starts at 8:00 pm, Telephone 01524 32681

FESTIVAL REVIEWS

MIDDLEWICH FOLK & BOAT FESTIVAL - 20, 21, 22nd JUNE 1997

Anyone issuing drought warnings will be in serious trouble! At least it got visitors under canvas at Middlewich last year..... the rain that is! According to the organisers from Chester Folk Festival, 'it was our turn anyway'!?

If you were there I hope you agree the marquee atmosphere and the concerts were great. The most popular artist - Les Barker, The Chipolatas, Anam & The Boat

Band. On the dance - The Bradshaw Mummers, Kicking Alice Kids & The Newcastle Cloggies and those wonderful chaps from Wrigley Head entertained a packed marquee on Saturday afternoon and enjoyed themselves so much they're coming back this year.

The only event cancelled was the parade, however, so many people turned out in the pouring rain Wrigley Head decided to go ahead and to hell with the weather! (Contact the writer if your side would like to take part in the Sunday free for all).

So with one eye on the marquee and campsite (not big enough) we're setting about the festival this year. As you can see from the ad, our line up is probably the best we've ever had at Middlewich. Perhaps now that weekend tickets have reached £20 people will begin to take us seriously? Please note - day and weekend ticket holders will have priority access so don't leave it too late.

Any clubs wanting to take part in the 'Rolling Folk Club' should contact me at the number given below. Contact me also if you need info., flyers, programmes etc. If space allows I will write an update for the Summer issue.

We look forward to welcoming you to Middlewich in 1998 (see Advert for full details)

Dave Thompson - Festival Director Tel: 01606 836896 (after 6pm)

SWINTON FOLK FESTIVAL - Saturday 18th October 1997

When it first started in the 70's, the Swinton Folk Festival was a trail blazer for one day festivals, of which there are now many around this country.

That fact alone meant my expectations were high as I set out towards Manchester.

The venue is the four storey, council owned Lancastrian Hall, which I've got to say left me cold and unimpressed, but I certainly warmed to the bill for the afternoon concert.

Local lad, Geoff Higginbottom, kicked proceedings off with the pithead ballad Blackleg Miner and followed this with two superb offerings from his self-penned concept album about the much missed Busby Babes entitled 'Flowers of Manchester'. Phil Hare and Penni McLaren-Walker gave us a great set, that included the set dance tune, The Galtee Hunt, The Lady of the West, Second Time Around and a song that should be every lyricist's commandment, Write What You Know. But for me they really excelled with the Canadian song, Rolling and Flowing.

Marie Little's sunny disposition is guaranteed to light up even the darkest day, and as always she gave us a good balanced look at life through her eyes. Canada's Great Lakes, were the inspiration for the late, Stan Rogers', when he wrote the ballad, Fish for Japan, while Eco Warriors

everywhere warm to All Used Up by Utah Phillips. Many fine female singers have fashioned Marie's career, which was reflected in Nanci Griffiths' composition, I Wish It Would Rain, and The Rose, by Amanda McBroom, sung by Bette Midler in the title role of the film, of the life, of the late Janis Joplin. What's the Use of Wings by Artisan's, Brian Bedford and the up tempo, I'm Gonna be a Country Girl Again, by Buffy St Marie, brought the set to a close.

Multi-instrumentalist and festival favourite, Pete Coe gave us an outstanding glimpse of his many talents. May Day, penned by one of Glasgow's finest singers, the late Matt McGinn, was a great opener, while Juniper Gentle and Rosemary followed by None So Steady, showed off Pete's vocal range. Stoke's Trevor Carter, brought a smile to my face as Pete performed his aptly titled, P.R. Man from Hell. The False Bride by Ulster's Sarah Makem, a song of unrequited love, William Taylor, and the Fireman's Song by Birmingham's Don Bilston brought the set to a fitting climax.

The afternoon session was brought to a close by the Black Country group, Mad Jocks and Englishmen, they tried hard to get the audience (which throughout the afternoon numbered no more than forty - and that's a generous assessment) into an animated state, with such a diverse selection as, The Bonny Lass O'Fyvie, The Dutchman, Making Whoopee, Daydream Believer and Killekrankie, but sadly all their efforts failed to find the required response.

The committee of the Swinton Festival, work hard to put the day together, but they need the support of North West festival devotees to keep the quality of the artists high.

Finally, perhaps a change of venue would give the festival a warmer feel, for in this present multi function room, I must confess I expected a disco to start up at any moment.

David Jones

MAGHULL'S DAY OF MUSIC - Saturday, 8th November 1997 at Maghull Town Hall, Liverpool.

This was my first visit to Maghull's Day of Music on its fifth anniversary. Organised by the Maghull Folk Club with the backing of Sefton Council and Association of Festival organisers, about 250 people of all generations supported the event.

I was impressed by a very well organised, friendly and varied event, catering for traditional and modern tastes. The variety of local, national and international artists attracted to Maghull is a tribute to the organising committee and a testament to the foresight of the late Dave Day, whose vision it was.

The well planned programme ran to time, was superbly compered, and afforded the audience the chance to catch most artists at least once during the day. Workshops, a craft fair, master classes, and a school concert provided a varied backdrop. Artists from Wooden Horse, Triton,

Bothy, Lane Ends, Cutty Wren, Heatley and Alison Arms alternated sing'arounds in the coffee bar as part the Rolling Folk Club programme

Wooden Horse acapella residents, **Quartz** proved once again that their exemplary four part harmonies are rarely unsurpassed and, as part of their busy schedule, led a tea time "Big Sing" event. **Cosmotheke** provided humorous songs and tales from the music hall tradition. Fuelled by their duelling banjos, the two Tonys - **Napper and Wilson** - entertained with a mixture of jigs and reels, interspersed with traditional Celtic and north east songs. The programme notes suggest they "are currently dispelling the myth that a banjo duo is one banjo too many". It's not a myth I've heard about - any banjo is one banjo too many! Only kidding.....perhaps!

Female acoustic duo **Scolds Bridle**, Maghull residents **Clover**, **Band of the Rising Sun**, and **Sue Howard and Bob Davies** all helped the make the day a great and enjoyable success. The sing along tapestry of Liverpool Life celebrated the city and its people in music, anecdotes, and poetry - from Maggie Mae to Eleanor Rigby - with cameos and collective performances from Maghull FC residents and guests.

San Franciscan born **Debbie McClatchy** has lived in the Appalachian mountains of Central Pennsylvania since 1980 and is a 30 year folk scene veteran. An exponent of the folk and clog dance traditions of her adopted home, she has a wicked laugh and did two devilish sessions, plus workshop, with frailed-banjo accompanied in part by Ross Campbell on concertina .

The renowned **Vin Garbutt** and **New Bushbury Mountain Daredevils** were the headline performers. The Daredevils played with energy, humour and verve, raising the roof and shaking the building with the heavy busking pedal drum, double bass and piano accordion.

Vin Garbutt, is one of the funniest people on the folk circuit. He combines his humour with a disarming ability to hit the nail on the head with some poignant and trenchant songs. The climax to the day saw him struggling to compete with the Daredevils, playing simultaneously in the room below. Vin overcame the odds by careful selection of songs, pauses, unique humour and readjustment of his set to cope with his problem neighbours.

A long but thoroughly entertaining day. Perhaps a few too many banjos. Long may Maghull prosper. Thanks for making it memorable.

Lewis Jones

Ed: We are trying to increase our coverage of festivals and club activities in the North West by sending out our roving reporters. We are in the process of considering a format for reviews of clubs and intend to spotlight a venue each quarter - so watch out we could descend on you without any warning and 'do' your club.

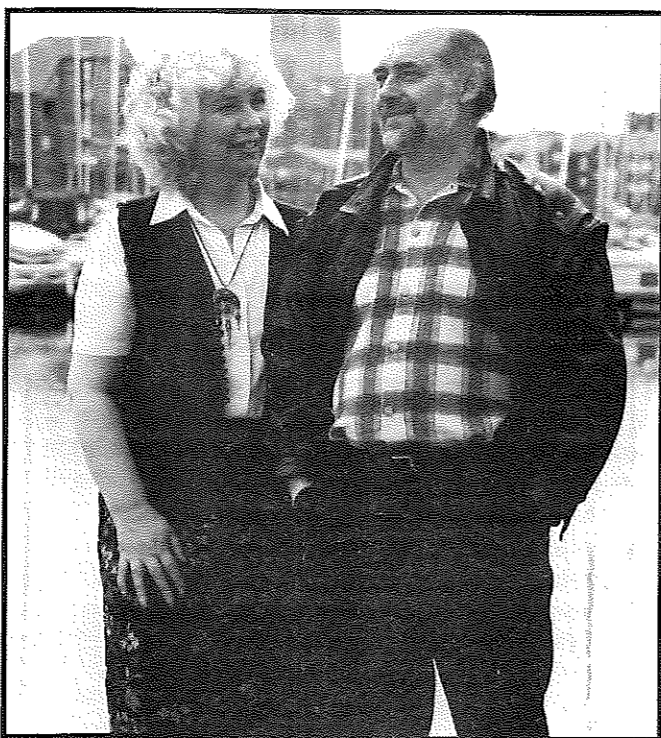
**NEW FEATURE
INTERVIEW WITH LOCAL ARTISTES
LOCTUP TOGETHER**

The North-West boasts a considerable amount of local talent and we thought it a good idea to feature some of "our own folkies" in future editions of the Federation Magazine. Over the next few issues we are going to be talking to local artists and asking them to tell us what the folk scene has been like for them over the past few months and what they have been doing.

In this edition, we caught up with LocTup Together. In case you haven't come across them, Chris Lock and Ian Tupling are a close-harmony duo. They sing both accompanied and unaccompanied and write some of their own songs, but whatever they do, their sense of fun is never very far away. During the past couple of years they have been much in evidence as club and festival guests throughout the country.

OK you two, so what's been happening to you?

Well we've certainly put some miles on the clock during the past couple of years, and we've had a great time. During 1996/97 we did around ten festivals each year and a fair few folk clubs. The trouble with doing the clubs is that if you have a "day job" travelling more than a couple of hours becomes unrealistic. The festivals are easier because they are at weekends.



1996 was a good year for us. During February/March we had our first taste of recording and we really enjoyed that.

CATHEROE
Great Days
of Folk
88"

5, 6 & 7 June 1988
"The Folk Festival
at the heart of
Lancashire"

ANAM~KATE RUSBY~ENDA KENNY
PETE & HEATHER HEYWOOD
NEW BUSHBURY MOUNTAIN DAREDEVILS
KING PLEASURE & THE BISCUIT BOYS
KEITH DONNELLY~STANLEY ACCRINGTON
PEEPING TOM~NICK WALDEN~SPUD
PAUL & GLEN ELLIOTT~MARIA BARHAM
THE GREAT BONZO & DORIS~HARD TIMES
TH' ANTIQUES ROADSHOW~WITCHMEN
BRIAN PRESTON~MOON DE LUNE
BAND OF THE RISING SUN ~ REBECCA GREEN
PETE BEARON~ MOSSLEY MORRIS MEN
TUMBLIN' TOM ~ THE ELECTRICS~ CLARET
ROY CLINGING~BRADSHAW MUMMERS
NEWCASTLE CLOGGIES~BUCKLE DOWN
FURNESS MORRIS MEN~TONY KELLY
MARTIN STIMSON~STEVE RAGNALL

For information
Tel: 01254 387623

OUT NOW

The New Album
FROM
Jez Lowe
&
The Bad Pennies

THE PARISH NOTICES
ON GREEN LINNET RECORDS GL 1192

CONTACT: Lowe Life Music,
Box 25, Peterlee, Co Durham SR8 3YZ.

Dave Howard of Redwood Studios recorded us and although we didn't think we'd given him too many problems, he has since fled to Ireland!! Recording, we discovered, is quite nerve-wracking at first, but working with Dave was very comfortable, but still so very different to a live performance. If you make a mistake in live performance you can laugh it off and the moment's gone but make a mistake whilst recording and it has to be done again until it's right and that can be quite stressful. There is, however, one lovely story from that experience. Dave was getting a "popping" from Ian's microphone and he cured it by producing the "bum-bit" from a pair of ladies tights stretched over a metal coathanger which he had re-shaped into a circle and attached to the front of Ian's mic. (Isn't technology a wonderful thing)!! It did cure the "popping", but unfortunately as the recording was done facing each other, it meant that Chris was now looking at Ian through these tights and it took another 30 minutes before she stopped laughing and could sing again!

In that year Artisan recorded one of Ian's songs, "The Spiral Trap". They had heard us sing it in The Wooden Horse Folk Club in November '95 and Brian Bedford asked if they could have the song. We were both really thrilled but we didn't hear anything else until the following August when we heard they had recorded it. We first heard them sing it in a packed Marine Hall at Fylde Festival in the September. That was one of those really thrilling moments.

1997 didn't get off to a very good start. The first festival we went to was the new Cheltenham Festival in early February and after a long festival-less winter, we were really looking forward to it. Unfortunately, whilst we were there Ian was struck down with something particularly nasty. (We won't go into the details here just in case you're reading this article over breakfast)!! Suffice to say that he saw very little of the festival that weekend.

However, the Darlington Spring Thing made up for that. It has long been a favourite weekend of ours and in March last year we were really honoured to be awarded the "Brian Whitmee Singers Trophy". We didn't know Brian but by all accounts he was a character much like our own Dave Day, who did much for the local folk scene. We were introduced to his widow who told us that he would have really approved of our variety of songs and sense of humour. The trophy is an annual presentation and we were especially pleased with it as this was the first time it had been awarded to anyone outside the north-east.

So all-in-all, we're having a great time in our middle age! It's a pity we didn't discover it years ago, but there you go. In the meantime we are busy storing up lots of lovely memories for our old age. For example, at a concert last year in the north-east when the audience raised the rafters with us and the next minute were crying with laughing, (but we suspect that could have been our singing)!! The smashing response we had from our concert spots at Otley last year, and we will never quite forget the sight of Ian hobbling on to the stage at Bedworth on crutches. However, the one abiding memory was at Maghull Day of Music in 1996 when we followed Chris While and Julie

Matthews (adrenaline time or what)? But it was just magic to be singing on our own ground to such a warm audience. That's what memories are made of. Long may they continue.

Many thanks Chris and Ian for breaking the ice. Anybody wanting to book LocTup Together can phone Chris on 0151 526 4379. Take it from me, when working Ian looks especially fetching in a Sunflower Hat and we have the photos to prove it. (Four Fools 1997)!!!

SPOTLIGHT ON "THE WOODEN HORSE"

On Sunday 11th January we drove down to the Junction pub in Rainford Junction to see Risky Business at the Wooden Horse Folk Club, which is run by Jim and Pauline Coan. The Junction is a friendly pub, where the locals seemed happy to recommend a drink from the selection on offer. Whilst there are three resident ales (Boddingtons, Castle Eden and Flowers Original), there are also guest beers which change weekly, and if you arrive early, as we did, the food's not bad either! The parents were also very impressed with the price of the drinks, compared to those on the Fylde coast.

The club itself is held in an upstairs room called the Hay Loft, which is big enough to fit a good-sized audience without feeling either crushed or lost. Despite the cool evening, the room was warm and friendly, and the atmosphere comfortable and laid back. For the guest nights, usually held once a month, the tables and chairs are arranged round the sides of the room and down the centre, allowing people a good view of the artistes. The admission charge varies depending upon the cost of the guest booked, but tends to be low and thus affordable even for a family or group. On singers nights the admission charge is only £1 to non-singers, and free to performers.

Regulars started arriving from about 8.30pm and by 9 o'clock when proceedings started the room was almost full. The evening's entertainment was opened when Jim introduced the support, Rob Peacock. Rob sang four songs, a mixture of traditional and contemporary material, which were very enjoyable. The club rightly relies heavily on its resident artistes, of whom Rob is one.

Soon it was time for the main act of the evening, Ruth, Ken and David of Risky Business, who performed almost faultlessly throughout. It appears that only two of the audience had not seen the trio before, and they certainly seemed to please the crown, who were happy to join in with all the choruses. In fact, looking round, I was hard pushed to find anyone not singing along, but then with regulars and residents like Quartz, that's hardly surprising. The set of five or six numbers included recent material like Jimmy McCarthy's 'Bright Blue Rose' as well as some self-penned numbers, which were also very pleasing to the ear. The first half lasted for just over an hour all told.

During the interval there was time to restock the drinks and buy raffle tickets, and to chat to the regulars who were more than happy to share information about forthcoming events. They seem pleased with the set up and running of the club. There was also the opportunity to purchase CDs from Risky Business, but it was clear that the main purpose of the evening was the music, and soon Jim re-introduced Rob Peacock, who gave us another three numbers. Then the raffle was drawn, and I can promise that the fact that I won free entry to another guest night has nothing to do with this review - I'd got all my notes before then! Other prizes can include bottles of wine and CDs.

Risky Business then did another set, much in the same vein as the first, but including some requests from the audience. The evening finished late, at around half past eleven after an encore, but we went away happy, having been made to feel welcome and treated to a very high standard of entertainment. We will certainly be visiting the Wooden Horse again in the near future.

Jenni Melsom

Note from the Editor: Seems like Jim actually behaved himself for once!!!!

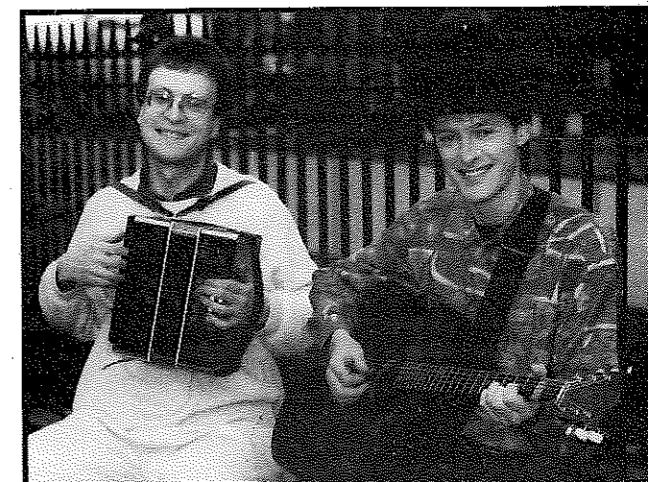
CD REVIEWS.

MARK ATHERTON & SIMON COHEN "Between Two Worlds" [Redwood Recordings]

Mark Atherton, with whom I have shared several stages, impresses me with his determination and enthusiasm. He crafts interesting and original songs brimming with good ideas and intelligent lyrics which he performs with an intimate sensitivity and an urgent sense of commitment. Mark is a songwriter who has something to say and who needs to say it. On this album he is ably accompanied by multi-instrumentalist Simon Cohen whose interesting and accomplished arrangements add an unobtrusive, subtle and atmospheric additional dimension to Mark's songs.

The opening number Home From Home has a sort of 'Nashville (or at least Horwich) Skyline' laid-back country feel with some nice mandolin and fiddle work from Simon. It's a happy and optimistic song with a sing-a-long chorus. The Geese Fly Farther than the Eagle has some moody and intense finger-style guitar work. It is a ballad whose narrative celebrates the struggles of individuals in the face of seemingly overpowering odds. The song offers a timely reminder to all of us feeling slightly fed up that we really should do something positive to change things. It made me dig out my Pete Seeger LPs. and get up a petition against the Spice Girls. OK, Eagles may be big and powerful but geese fly farther. This song is giving my budgie delusions of grandeur as she whistles 'We Shall Overcome'.

Lament of a Malcontent provides another example of Mark's intelligent lyrics and Simon's sensitive accompaniment. It's all about how we fail to learn from our past mistakes. Not me - never lend money to folksingers. Bessarabia, is a quirky and imaginative instrumental with exotic Eastern overtones. Circle of Stones has a New Age pagan feel (a bit like Bolton, really) and weaves a mystic and colourful spell concerning long-forgotten rituals.



Side one ends with an upbeat Joni Mitchell-type travelling song Postcard From Tübingen (where the Teletubbies go on holiday?). 2 begins with Heart On The Line where Mark opens his heart to sing about what music means to him in an attempt to strike a familiar chord with 'dream weavers everywhere'. It's a celebration of creativity and - as an ex-floor singer from which position it's difficult to descend - I'll drink to that. Instrumental time again. Rift Raft offers an interesting blend of the folk tradition with modern eclecticism. It reminded me a bit of The Dransfields.

Disparate Heroes is a traditional-style morality tale of enemies who should really be friends and how this is made easier once we really listen to, and understand, each other's stories. Thus, we discover the deep similarities that are too often covered by our superficial differences. Safety in Numbers is not a guide to visiting Wigan late at night but a warning about the mind-numbing nature of mass culture. And remember, if 1 million people do something stupid; it's still stupid. Between Two Worlds is an appropriately-titled autobiographical fusion that combines folk, jazz and pop. The lyrics cleverly point out the absurdity of the artificial distinction between audience and performer/amateur and professional/folk and pop.

The Ballad of Lady Jane's Lover is a touching tale of unrequited love. The accompaniment shows Mark and Simon at their best with a blend of sensitive finger-style guitar and haunting whistle and violin. The lyrics reveal the true inner-nobility and powerful passions of the simple peasant ... but enough about me.

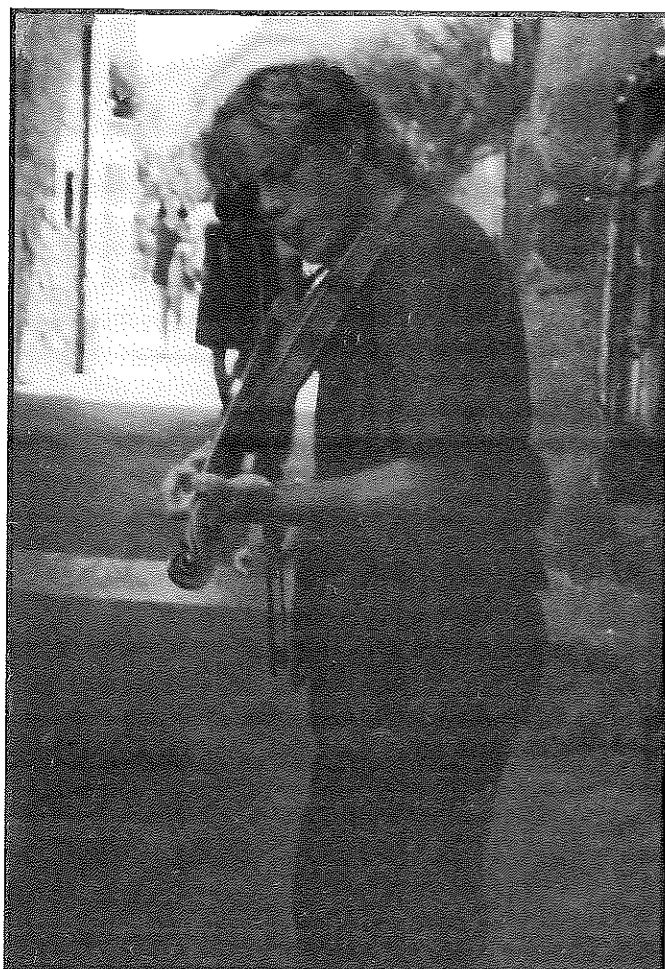
This album is thought-provoking and pertinent. It demonstrates both originality and sensitivity by both its lyrical content and unplugged, acoustic intimacy. The lyrics

are included in full and stand up surprisingly well on their own. Most singer-songwriters have a hard time of it these days and deserve our support. Go and see Mark live. Talk to him, maybe. Who knows, you might figure in one of his future songs if you don't recognize yourself there already. I did.

c. Nat Clare 1997

JON BRINDLEY "Something Calling" [SHAM CD 01]

This debut CD from Jon Brindley, represents the culmination of a two and a half year labour of love between him and his producer, Seamus Heffernan. It's also the first release for Shamrock Records in this particular field. Previously the studio had been rock based, but I think that the quality of this recording is a fore-runner for many more acoustic offerings. The CD is a mixture of Jon's own compositions, as well as some fine renditions of traditional songs.



Twinkle in his Eye, is a good opening track, that gives good solid guitar, backed up by Jon's fine voice. Three tunes with a Scottish feel, under the title, Nippy Sweeties, follows, and feature Jon on fiddle and mandolin as well as guitar.

Precious Time, tells us what few of us realise, for once time has gone, we can never get it back. It's refreshing to hear Twa' Recruiting Sergeants given the straight-forward treatment, again the fiddle combined, this time with the

bohdran brings out the best in this traditional standard.

I always think Bob Dylan's, Dark Eyes, is a difficult cover to do, but the haunting feel of the piano and vocals is a winner. Sonny's Dream, deals with a sailor dad's continual absence and the mother's reticence to let the same happen to her son, effective accordion is backed up by Jan Hough's strong backing vocals.

The title track, Something Calling, is a tale about how the sea plays a part in our sub-conscious - if only we could follow the flow. It will come as no surprise that the instrumental, Acropolis Now, has a Greek feel. The much sung, Spanish Lady, provides a vehicle for Jon's excellent guitar playing, allied once more to his simple treatment of a popular song.

In the 60's, Woody Guthrie wrote, Deportees, a powerful song about the Mexican's who enter the US illegally, work the farms, and are then rounded up and deported. Even when they were killed in a fire on a plane, they weren't treated as people - just deportees. Has a familiar ring even today, doesn't it?

Be positive, leave the past behind and follow your instincts, is the final message in, I've Got a Feeling. I've got a feeling too, that this 26 year-old born and living in Wigan, is going to make quite a name for himself. He has so far played predominantly around the North-West, but this CD, is solid, well engineered and doesn't suffer from that malaise of over elaboration.

I predict a big future for Jon Brindley.

David Jones

IAN BRUCE BREEZE BAND "Annie Laurie" [EP/CD LUMS CD 0103]

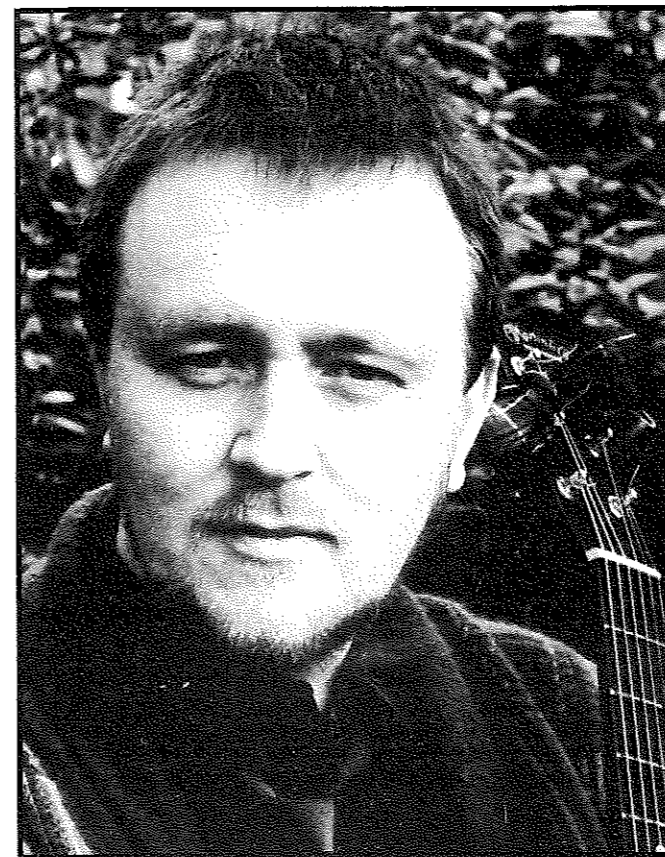
This departure from Ian as a solo artist is a refreshing listen, with his band comprising of Paul Hutchinson, Costa Peristianis and Paul Sartin, combining to give a unique sound. My only disappointment is that it's only an EP for I would certainly have enjoyed more of the same.

Ian, who hails from Glasgow, has come to terms with the songwriters art and has evolved steadily down the years. The opening track, The Best of Friends, explains how, despite wanting a relationship to blossom into something much more, we sometimes have to be content with just friendship, this track features some fine fiddle playing from Paul Sartin.

The title track, Annie Laurie, was first published in 1838, the words by William Douglas, the melody courtesy of Lady John Douglas Scott. It was very popular with the British Army in the Crimean War. Annie Laurie was a girl whom William Douglas loved, but despite her promise, married another.

The National Lottery will, I'm sure, become the focus of many songwriters. Dollar a Dream explains how a win

would provide a ticket to the promised land, and I particularly like the phrase 'what more could we want, when we've got love? But money! money! money! and lots and lots of'. Paul Sartin's oboe gives this track an edge.



Finally, Prisoners of War, tells of the futility of fighting, and a yearning for peace.

A good listen and all four tracks different in their own way. If you've never heard Ian Bruce, this would be a good introduction, to one of Scotland's finest singer-songwriters.

David Jones

UP TO NOW (A HISTORY OF ROBIN & BARRY DRANSFIELD) [FREE REED FRDCC 18]

I realise that there are those amongst you who will be amazed, but I have to confess that "up to now" ('scuse the play on words), I had never heard the Dransfields. I had heard of them and I had heard some of their songs sung by other people, but when it came to seeing them I never seemed to be in the right place.

From the outset I have to say that this is a cracking album. There are 39 tracks on two discs with a total running time of 2 hrs 37 mins and at £17.99 is extremely good value for money. (Single albums often cost £12.00 or more). It is well produced and comes complete with a 32 page booklet on the history of the Dransfields, notes on the songs and a bibliography.

It's been a fairly tricky album to review as there is so much of it. Many of the songs were new to me and of those I

really loved The Werewolf, Dr Slime and The Alchemist and the Pedlar. Amongst my old favourites are Rout of the Blues, Holmfirth Anthem and Peggy Gordon. My favourite track of all is the beautifully played O'Carolan's Concerto.

It's bound to appeal to Dransfield fans - I've already spoken to one committed fan who has bought it and thinks it's great. And as for the uninitiated, well I thoroughly enjoyed it. It's the sort of album that makes housework almost bearable!!!

Chris Lock

IAN GILES "The Amber Triangle" [WGS 287 CD]

At long last we have Ian's first solo recording. I first heard him sing in 1982/83 (with Keith Dandridge as Waltons Wakes) and have been a fan ever since. Pete Coe sums it up perfectly in the Foreword to this CD when he writes "Ian Giles has the original 'amber voice', rich, resonant, fluid and wide-ranging". I couldn't put it better myself. Over the years he has been singing with the groups Folly Bridge and Magpie Lane.

On this CD he is joined by, amongst others, Steve Tilston who adds some sensitive and haunting guitar arrangements; Moira Craig, Sandra and Nancy Kerr and Graham Metcalfe on vocals; Chris Leslie with some great fiddle; and Paul Sartin on Oboe and Fiddle. Ian sings a selection of his favourite traditional songs gathered over the years.

Favourite tracks, all 14 of them. If I have to choose, "I Wish I were where Ellen lies", otherwise known as Helen of Kirkconnell, a beautiful border ballad; Thornaby Woods; The Streets of Forbes; Singing Bird; and Aye Waulkin O. Special special favourite for me is "Banks of the Dee" as this is the only track on the CD that is just Ian singing, no musicians, no other vocals. On a strictly personal note, I would have liked a couple more tracks that were Ian alone. He sounds so natural and his singing seems so effortless, he really is a joy to listen to and for me the voice is the best instrument in the world.

So, for anyone who enjoys good singing, this CD is a must. Please Ian, don't make us wait as long for the second solo one. Copies of the CD can be obtained from Ian on 01865 204873.

Angie Bladen

WILLIAM JACKSON "Celtic Experience-Volume 1 - Haunting themes from Scotland & Ireland" [LINN AKD 080]

This is a mainly instrumental album featuring the multi-talented William Jackson, a founding member of the Scottish band Ossian; Scotlands answer to the Chieftains.

Taking some of the folk worlds favorite melodies and

The Tenth Lancaster Easter Maritime Festival

10th - 13th April 1998 (Good Friday to Easter Monday)



Featuring the World's Biggest Gathering of the
Finest Sea Song & Shanty Singers

with

Hughie Jones • Cyril Tawney • Dick Miles • Paul Sirman
The Mollyhawks Shanty Crew • Louis Killen • Sid Kipper
Roy Harris • Mainbrace • Stormalong John • Johnny Collins
Richard Grainger • The Anchormen • Keith Kendrick
Damien Barber • John Conolly & Pete Sumner • Derek Gifford
Portsmouth Shantymen • Jim Mageean • Roaring Forties
Brian Peters • Th'Antique Roadshow • Roy Clining • Tim Laycock
The Shanty Crew • Bob Walser • Carl Hogsden & Jane Threlfall
Dave Robinson • Geoff Higginbottom • Landlocked • Forebitter
Harry Brown Shantymen • Salt of the Earth • Callenig

Supported by a wide array of Maritime themed entertainments including:
Illustrated Talks & Guided Walks; Salty Storytelling; Nautical Dramas;
Ships in Bottles Demonstrations; Mr. Tranter's Navy Rum Promotion;
The Seasonal Lancaster Pace Egg Play and a Grand Celebration of
Mr Punch & his Wife Judy!

For further information, or to be placed on the Festival mailing list, contact:

David Wright, Lancaster Tourism, Lancaster City Council,
29 Castle Hill, Lancaster, LA1 1YN.

Tel: 01524 582394 Fax: 01524 847472



Beware the Press Gang!



writing a new arrangement for them is a daunting task. Doing it as well as this says a great deal about the strength of the original melody and the skill and sensitivity of William Jackson. He has taken these tunes, ripped them open, and shaken them until all the baggage they have acquired over the years has dropped out, and then carefully put them back together.

The result is amazing! All those tunes that have been "done to death", have acquired a new life. The openness and freshness has to be heard to be believed. Considering the number of instruments playing at once, the space they have to themselves is remarkable. Harmonies float out of nowhere, surround you and then disappear just as mysteriously.

Two tracks on the CD have guest vocalists. The first, "Ca the Yowes" (a Robert Burns song), arranged and sung by Ian Bruce - a fine singer and gentleman (don't be put off by his Haggis skin head gear, and bikers leathers because beneath them lurks a really nice guy - say hello he would love it). The second "Hebridean Prayer" sung in Gaelic by Mairi Mac Innes, has a simple harp arrangement allowing her voice to convey the beauty of the song.

This is a CD that will be listened to - by folkies who will know and love the tunes, by the uninitiated who will just love the sound, and by musicians looking for a new slant to an old tune.

I know that is unusual to mention the record company in reviews but this must be an exception. This is a LINN CD, and these people have a genuine interest in music! Not just the money side of it, and it shows in their recordings. They are currently recording the complete songs of Robert Burns, 373 songs in all, over 12 volumes - performed by first class artists from the folk world. The classical and jazz worlds also get the Linn treatment; I have heard quite a large selection of them and have not come across a poor recording.

It states on the CD that it will sound even better through a Linn CD player. I am unable to comment on that at the moment because I don't have one! But if the nice people at Linn would like to send me one, I'm sure that I could be persuaded!

Jim Coan

EAMON McCANN "Touch Wood" [Ritz RCD 566]

There are albums that you either love or hate and this one falls slap-bang in the middle! But that's where it was always meant to be. A middle of the road album with an emphasis on the general public / country and western listener. It is a smooth, well produced CD with good musicians and some well picked tracks, but without a folk feel to it. Even the Van Morrison track "Have I told you lately that I love you" has had its rough edges (that I love so much) knocked off.

I'm always uneasy when I hear an English man singing with an American accent, so when I heard Eamon I knew.

I had a problem, an Irish man with a smooth American accent! Maybe that's just the way it is, but I can see him playing to a packed cabaret audience, and doing a great job of it, but not your average folk club or festival. I like my singers to have a distinct identity, Eamon has a sort of Glen Campbell /John Denver/Gordon Lightfoot/James Taylor sort of voice. That's my problem, it's a very pleasant voice but I couldn't tell you what he sounds like! Maybe I need to listen to more of his material.

Jim Coan

PRESSGANG "Mappa Mundi" [TWAH!109]

'Gosh 'I thought when I first saw the sleeve 'Lots of old favourites'. Wrong! For though the titles are those of my youth: The Sylkie, Flowers of the Forest, Lyke Wake Dirge etc, the tunes and/or words are not as I knew them.

Pressgang are, I confess, new to me but they have been around for 10 years, much of the time on the Continent. The musicianship on this CD bears out the time spent honing their talents. With a basic line-up of Accordion, Guitar, Bass and Drums each track keeps moving. This is not to say that the pace is excessive, each song is given its own space so that the lyrics are granted their due weight. This is a pitfall that too many bands with the dreaded Drummer fall into. There is, as one would expect from the title something of a Middle Ages feel to many of the tracks but, along with the use of electronic wizardry to set the mood, you have an overall clear acoustic tone. For me most of the music on offer here is pleasant to the ear and, whilst not to everyone's taste (what is?), this is a well-produced album.

The Chainsaw Reel was apparently conceived on the autobahn although to me the track owes more to South Africa with its Ladysmith Black Mambasa rhythms. Taking things all round I'm pretty impressed with this album although one thing keeps niggling at the back of my mind in spite of the good feelings I have, and that is; will the decibel level of the drums be kept down to an equally pleasing intensity in a live performance? I'd like to think it could be, but I doubt it.

Pete Gleave

BRAM TAYLOR "Pick of the Grinner" (Fellside FECD120)

First of all, good reader, you are warned that this review may not be all that independent, we have after all been good friends and fans of Bram for some years! It may also not be very objective since we have been playing the CD constantly since October!

Anyway, this features Bram together with some fourteen very accomplished personnel, including Fiona Simpson, Tom McConville, Dave Howard, Serge Gorlin, Chris Lee, Dave Hutchinson, Phil Hare, Viv Tanswell, Bryan Stewart, Ian Kellet, Buzz Elliott, Linda Adams, Richard Adams and

even a complete percussion ensemble, in what for us turns out to be a very pleasing listening experience. There are some excellent and moving interpretations of a variety of songs, ranging from traditional Scottish and Irish ballads, through to songs acquired by Bram during his recent forays to the USA. The album sleeve includes a short note on each song, which is very helpful.

Basically, the whole CD is superbly engineered and produced in a way which allows the particular talents of Bram and his colleagues to be displayed to the full. There are 14 tracks in total on the CD, of which the following are worthy of particular note. "River Run", is a song by James Keelaghan, in which you get the first taste of what turns out to be a feast of delicious saxophone playing by a young man by the name of Serge Gorlin. There follows a rendition of the Eric Bogle song "Feed the Children", which brought back vivid memories of Band Aid - haunting pictures of innocent starving children on the TV, whilst we tuck into a healthy meal. "The Low Road", by Kieran Halpin, is an unrequited love song which is best listened to when in pensive mood, and which features some great guitar work from Phil Hare. Also, the lovely "Katie", the highlight of which is some lovely atmospheric sounds from Serge Gorlin on sax.

The two best tracks on this album, and here we will definitely admit to being biased, are two of our favourite songs anyway. Dave Walmisley's "Harbour in the Storm" is superbly performed, with outstanding harmonies from Bram and Fiona, and once again great sax from Serge. We are also extremely pleased to see that Bram has finally managed to include "Never Be the Sun", the Donagh Long song with which he ends so many of his live sets, and which we always ask him to sing. This powerful yet simple song is treated to a studio production and features some breathtaking harmonies.

The only criticism that could be mentioned, since we do like a good instrumental solo, is that we thought that the sax and guitar solos were too understated and relatively few and far between. However, this only leaves one wanting to hear even more. Regrettably, we have had to travel afar recently to hear Bram perform live, since he rarely appears locally. However, his concerts are always popular, and as a result his gig list is always full to overflowing.

So, our recommendation is simple - buy this CD and enjoy it, it's Bram's best yet, and is further testimony to his considerable talent, both vocal and instrumental. Then please let's see Bram appearing at some local clubs as soon as possible

Chris & Helen McIlveen

ROY WILCOCK & BRIDGET GUEST "Farewell Kiss" (KTCD01)

An unusual CD for a dyed in the wool 'traddie' like me to review, but I thoroughly enjoyed it. Throughout it had a lovely laid back feel, the whole CD 'flowed' from start to finish. There is a good mixture of songs, some accompa-

nied and some a capella. They all have one thing in common, and that's a good story line. Chris Leslie and Julie Matthews add excellent fiddle and piano on some tracks and Howard Lees provides some very nimble guitar work. Also Nigel Drayson supplies good harmonies. The voices all blend exceptionally well. I enjoyed every track on this CD. Difficult to choose, but my favourites I think would be "The Loneliest is Man" a song from the pen of Ewen Carruthers. "Joe Peel" a song by Peter Bond, has long been a favourite of mine and I thought this sensitive arrangement one of the best I have heard. "Farewell Kiss" the title track, and one of Bridget's own is a song about people who, due to commitments, cannot be together all the time and how one feels, leaving and making that long journey alone. This is a song which I'm sure a lot of people can relate to. Out and out favourite has to be Ewan MacColl's "The Joy of Living", which embraces his love for the mountains and also for his wife Peggy and his children.

This CD can be obtained direct from Roy and Bridget on 01539 735692. Buy it, turn the lights down, open a bottle of wine and listen to it. You won't be disappointed, you'll start to unwind instantly and you'll be reaching for the button to play it again.

Angie Bladen

HIS WORSHIP AND THE PIG "Bringing Home The Bacon" [Tape WP3]

If you enjoy a good laugh, this is the tape for you. Dave Boulton and Jeff Parton, who together are His Worship and the Pig, have had audiences in fits of laughter wherever they have appeared for quite a while now. All 10 of the tracks on this tape are self-penned. Dave supplies the words and Jeff the tunes.

Not all the tracks are funny. "Goodbye to the Sea" is thought provoking, as is "Bricks and Mortar" a chorus line of which sticks in my mind as very true runs "A town can be constructed but communities are grown, it takes more than bricks and mortar to make a house a home". Definitely food for thought.

On the funny side there's "I hate Country Music", the title speaks for itself, (neat bit of fiddling from Pete Hall on this track); "Elaine's Chest" (no prizes for guessing what this one is about) and "One of those Days" and when you hear it you'll recognise yourself in there somewhere.

My special favourite has to be "Teddy" and no I'm not going to tell you all about it. Buy the tape and find out for yourselves.

All in all, a really good tape just to listen to, although I'm pretty sure we'll be hearing some of the songs performed by other artistes in the future.

If you want a copy of the tape, or if you want to book "His Worship and the Pig" for a memorable night at your folk club, 'phone Dave on 01782 835898.

WHITBY folk week

22-28 August

the friendly festival with plenty for all

Details from
Whitby Folk Week
PO Box 44
Selby
North Yorkshire
YO8 9YP
Please enclose SAE with enquiry

Cleckheaton
folk festival

11th Cleckheaton Folk Festival
3rd - 5th July 1998

Festival Office:
7 Listerdale, Liversedge, W Yorks WF15 6EN
Tel/Fax 01924 404346
e-mail: cff@argonet.co.uk
Internet: <http://www.argonet.co.uk/users/whitesn/cff/>

Booked artists for the 11th Festival already include:

Bad Habit * Les Barker * Barnsley Lads * Black Velvet
Dave Burland * Cherrington & Ward * Vikki Clayton
Copper Kettle * Firm Friends * Sharon Fountain
Frigga * Derek Gifford * Hall Brothers * John Harper
Robb Johnson * Kamikaze Ceilidh Band * The Keelers
Kings Ransom * Bernie Parry
John Prentice * Risky Business
Pete Ryder * Dave Summers
Tanglefoot (Canada)
Bram Taylor
Dave Webber & Anni Fentiman
Roy Wilcock & Bridget Guest
Whitney Gin * Michael Wright

Only £11 to
17th April



Concerts, parade, craft fair, singarounds, ceilidh, musicians' sessions, children's events, dance sides, camping etc. etc



THE RAILWAY FOLK CLUB

The Railway Hotel
Heatley
Lymm, Cheshire
Tel 0161 432 4317



Every Thursday at 8.30pm

7 FEBRUARY	"SATURDAY RAILWAY SPECIAL" JOHN KIRKPATRICK
12 FEBRUARY	Singers' Night
19 FEBRUARY	IAN BRUCE - A Scottish super star
26 FEBRUARY	Singers' night
5 MARCH	JEZ LOWE - Geordie legend
12 MARCH	Singers' Night
17 MARCH	"ST PATRICK'S NIGHT SPECTACULAR" with Ian & Sarah Sherwood's Irish Band
19 MARCH	Singers' Night
26 MARCH	MIKE SILVER - A beautiful singer
23 APRIL	SALLY BARKER & KEITH RICHARD BUCK
25 APRIL	"SATURDAY RAILWAY SPECIAL" HUGH & TONY WILLIAMS
21 MAY	DEBBIE McCLATCHEY - Appalachian Banjo
23 OR 28 MAY	"THE McCALMANS"
4 JUNE	ANTHONY JOHN CLARE
17 SEPTEMBER	TOM McCONVILLE & PAULINE CATO

WEB SITE - <http://www.salford.ac.uk/prosthetic/railway/railway.htm>

Contacts: Don Davies 0161 432 4317 Graham Sowerby 01925 757450

MERSEY SHANTY FESTIVAL

13th & 14th June 1998
Albert Dock Liverpool

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME INCLUDES:

Bob Walser * Calennig
Fanch Le Marrec & Jean Paul Ferrec
Forebitter * Hughie Jones * Jim Mageean
Johnny Collins * Landlocked
Monkey's Orphan
Stormalong John * The Keelers

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 many events.
For further details call Healthwise
FREE on 0800 838909

VARIOUS ARTISTES "Scottish Voices" [Topic CD TSCD703]

This is a sampler of what we have come to expect from a fine Scottish tradition with a good selection of both songs and Artists - some better known than others. With sixteen tracks as diverse as these, you should be able to find something that you like. I was a bit puzzled to find two Dick Gaughan tracks on the CD, but after hearing the tracks I can now see why - they show a talented performer at both ends of his spectrum - from ranter to sensitive balladeer. In fact, this would sum up the CD - you go from an eightsome reel to a wrist-slashing lament - but without highs and lows, what would life be?

I know this is a review for Folk North West, but, should it be reproduced elsewhere, I would explain that the North West of England has been greatly exposed to, and consequently influenced by, both the Scottish and Irish tradition. We may thus be more aware of these songs and artists, but this is a good place for the Uninitiated to make a start.

I believe this is one of those albums that should have been produced on vinyl (you know those big black things with two sides you put on record players). The temptation with a CD is to skip through instead of listening to all of the tracks - as the producers meant you to! It would seem that some thought has gone into the track order - maybe other samplers should take note!


Jim Coan

ENGLISH CONCERTINA PLAYERS

As the first meeting of English concertina players was successful it has been decided to hold a monthly meeting at the Alison Arms. The pub is located on the A49 at Coppull. The next meetings will be on:-

- Saturday 21st March
- Saturday 18th April
- Saturday 16th May

The meetings run from 2pm to 5pm. All English and Duet concertina players are welcome. For more information contact Angie Bladen on 01257 263 678 or Mike Bartram on 01744 817 127.



Knicker NICH and other tales
a collection of stories told in verse
Steve Morris

A sideways, but good natured look at Northern Folk and Northern Life, with a little of the after life thrown in for good measure. A5 size, metal spiral bound with a full colour laminated cover.

Available mid-March from Steve Morris, 85 Sydney Avenue, Leigh, Lancs WN7 3LT. Tel No 01942 746 552 Price £3.50 + 50p p&p.

DAVE DAY MEMORIAL CONCERT

14th March 1998
at
Melling Tithebarn


Appearing will be:-

Dave Summers
LocTup Together
Sue Howard & Bob Davies
The Britannia Blue Grass Band

Tickets will be £5.00
for information phone Joe Ryan on
0151 - 531 - 9273

All proceeds to Woodlands Hospice

26th



FYLDE FOLK FESTIVAL

**Marine Hall
Fleetwood Lancs**

**4th, 5th & 6th
SEPTEMBER 1998**

Over 125 Events
Music Song and Dance
Ceilidhs, Workshops
Singarounds, Pub Sessions
Palace of Varieties,
Craft Fair

Simply the Most

**Book Early with Festival
Director Alan Bell
55 The Strand, Rossall,
Fleetwood FY7 8NP
Tel: (01253) 872317
Fax: (01253) 878382
Info: (01772) 683027
Email: Alan.Bell@fylde-folk-fest.demon.co.uk**

FESTIVAL ARTISTS BOOKED SO FAR INCLUDE:

Albion Band, Roy Bailey, Liza Carthy Band, Fling AUS), Rory McLeod, Tamarack (CAN), Kate Rusby, Ben & Joe Broughton, Florida, Jeremy Taylor, Pint & Dale (USA), Stanley Accrington, Walters & Warner AUS), Strawhead, Robb Johnson, Mundy & Turner (AUS), Band of the Rising Sun, Fred Jordan, Chris Sherburn & Denny Bartley, Alan Bell Ensemble, Dave Summers, Thistle, Notts Alliance, Bayou Gumbo, Jan Davis (AUS), Spinning Jelly, Mike Willoughby, Bob Hall & Hilary Blythe, Tall Stories, Joe Stead, Scolds Bridle, Hugh Diamond, Coopers Motley Crew, Youthquake, Rebecca Green, Folklore, Nick & Mally Dow, Brian Preston, Traditional Edge, Smokehouse Boys, Tom Walsh, Mike Allen & Alison Price, Tallyman, Camellia, Brian Osborne, Fleetwood Mashers, Rob Wilson, Past Carin', Ross Campbell & Richard Hone, Paul Greenwood, Ian Gartside Band, Hugh O'Donnell, Locked Up Together, Spitting On A Roast, John Bond, Two Rooms, Festival Ceilidh Band, Red Duster, Blackpool Brass Band.

Clog Dance Champions: Harry Cowgill, Chas Fraser, Geoff Hughes, Melanie Jordan, Pat Tracey, Marguerite Hill, Tony Hill-musician

Comperes: Booker & Padgett, Derek Elliott, Ken Hughes, Ian Gartside, Clive Pownceby, Pat Ryan & Ken Howard, Jim Smith, John Taylor.

Callers: Taffy Thomas, Sid Calderbank.

Outdoor Performers: Ticklish Allsorts, Flipjack Jugglers, Fylde Coast Cloggers, Fosbrooks.

Special Events: "The Band in the Park" Radio Italia Award Winner "North West Passage" with Red Duster "Valparaiso Around the Horn" with Joe Stead "Ukranian Song & Dance Ensemble"

.....
LANCASHIRE & CHESHIRE CLOG DANCING CONTESTS
LANCASHIRE DIALECT COMPETITION
YOUNG PERFORMERS COMPETITION
WORST SINGER IN THE WORLD CONTEST
.....

WEEKEND TICKETS FROM ONLY £31.00
(BEFORE 15th JUNE 1998) £34.00 AFTER

ALL-IN DAY & EVENING TICKET SAT - £19.00
SUNDAY DAY TICKET 10AM - 6PM - £16.00
(NOTE: Final Concert for Weekend Ticket Holders only)

Session Tickets from only £4.00 Children 12 - 14 years half price
FREE - Children up to 10 years
Special programme for Children
Camping and Caravan Sites available
FREE Showers and Swimming (for Weekend Ticket Holders)
FREE entry to Craft Fair (for Weekend Ticket Holders)
FREE Festival Bus Service

BOOK EARLY - ALL TICKETS SOLD OUT IN 1997

FOUR FOOLS

proudly presents

MONTHLY CONCERTS

at Lowton Civic Hall, Hesketh Meadow Lane, Lowton, Near Leigh, Lancs.



- Fri 6 Mar ARTISAN plus ROBIN LAING
Sat 4 Apr "BIG SING" (12 noon 12 midnight)
 MRS ACKROYD BAND (Evening)
Fri 3 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

FOUR FOOLS FOLK FESTIVAL

LOWTON CIVIC HALL, HESKETH MEADOW LANE, LOWTON, NEAR LEIGH, LANCS.
FRI 28 - SUN 30 AUGUST 1998

EDDIE MURPHY & JOHN MORRIS
HIS WORSHIP & THE PIG
ALISTAIR ANDERSON
ROY CLINGING (SUN)
CYRIL TAWNEY
ROBIN LAING
HEN PARTY
JIM MAGEEAN
KEITH KENDRICK
KEVIN & ELLEN MITCHELL
ROY WILCOCK & BRIDGET GUEST



SISTERS UNLIMITED (SAT)
GEOFF HIGGINBOTTOM
HEATHER HEYWOOD
LOCTUP TOGETHER
NORTH SEA GAS
PINT & DALE
DICK MILES
DAVE BURLAND
FIRST PRINCIPLES
MARTYN WYNDHAM-READ
JOHN O'HAGAN & PAUL TEBBUTT

Weekend Tickets:- £26 before 30 JUNE 1998 £30 thereafter.

OAP/Under 16 Half Price Under 11 Free

Tickets and Information (large SAE please) from:-

Angie & Ken Bladen, 36, The Oaks, Eaves Green, Chorley, Lancs. PR7 3QU
Tel (01257) 263 678 or Pete & Judith (01744) 732 117