

# FOLK *North West*

SPRING 1999 (MAR, APR & MAY) £1



*Si Kahn on Tour*

## IN THIS ISSUE

LOCAL RADIO  
LISTINGS

LIVE REVIEWS

FESTIVAL REVIEWS

A YOUTHFUL  
PERSPECTIVE

NEWSREEL

CLUB DATES

ADVANCE DATES

LETTERS

SPOTLIGHT ON  
THE HOWCROFT

CD REVIEWS

MAKING IT UP AS  
YOU GO ALONG

The Eleventh  
**LANCASTER EASTER**  
  
**MARITIME FESTIVAL**  
**1999**

2nd-5th April 1999 (Good Friday to Easter Monday)

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

The Anchormen • Tim Laycock • The Shanty Crew • Forebitter  
Hughie Jones • Sid Kipper • Louis Killen • Cyril Tawney  
Bob Fox & Benny Graham • Stormalong John • Keepers Lock  
Portsmouth Shantymen • Roy Harris • Mainbrace • The Keelers  
Jim Eldon • Salt of the Earth • Johnny Collins • Landlocked  
Callenig • Harry Brown Shantymen • Dave Robinson • Dick Miles  
Dave Webber & Anne Fentiman • The Mollyhawks • Paul Sirman  
Geoff Higginbottom • Graeme Knights • John Connolly & Robin Garside  
Roaring Forties • Roy Clinging • Brian Peters • Richard Grainger  
Th'Antique Roadshow • Derek Gifford

Supported by a wide array of Maritime themed entertainments including:  
Illustrated Talks and 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 and his wife Judy!

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

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

Tel: 01524 582894 Fax: 01524 847472



LANCASTER  
CITY COUNCIL

**Beware the Press Gang!**

**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 10th 1999 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:

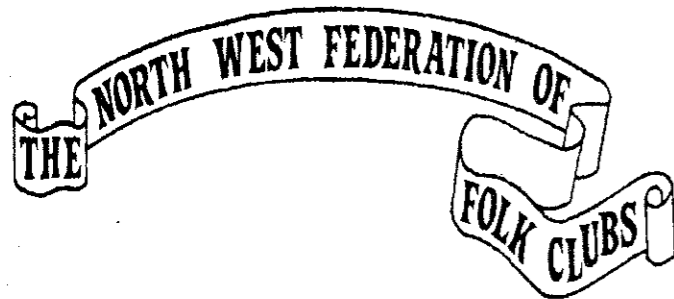
Newsletter Subscriptions  
7, Sunleigh Road,  
Hindley, Nr Wigan WN2 2RE  
Telephone No. 01942 258 459

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.

ISSN 1350-8083

**CONTENTS**  
Volume 21 Number 4  
Spring 1999

	Page
Advertising/Copy Dates	3
Federation Aims and Officers	4
Editorial	4
Contact Information	5
Local Radio Listing	5
<b>LIVE REVIEWS</b>	7
Mike Freeman and Tanya Opland	7
Charity Concert- Riding For The Disabled	7
Greek Son et Lumiere with Kapsali Bay Folk	8
Tom Paxton	8
Robin Laing	9
Dick Gaughan	10
Nanci Griffith	11
His Worship and The Pig - A Christmas Tail	11
<b>FESTIVAL REVIEWS</b>	13
Cleckheaton and Four Fools Festivals	13
Swinton Folk Festival	14
Maghull Ceilidh & Mahgull Floor Singers Hour	14
Maghull Day of Music	16
Helmsley Weekend	17
A Youthful Perspective	17
Newsreel	17,28
The Federation Clubs	19
March Dates	20/21
April Dates	22/23
May Dates	24/25
Advance Dates	26
Club Residents	26
Obituary - Arthur Scowcroft	28
Diary Chat	29
Letters	30
Spotlight on the Howcroft	32
<b>CD REVIEWS</b>	33
Cockersdale - Wide Open Skies	33
Anne Lister - Root, Seed, Thorn & Flowers	33
Don & Heather & The Kapsali Bay Folk	34
Rob Malaney - The Garden	34
Johnny McEvoy - Portrait	34
The Poozies - Infinite Blue	35
Pete Shirley - The Lone Pilgrim	35
Thought Gang - Monsters From The Id	37
Steve Tilston - Solorubato	37
Brian Willoughby - Black & White	37
Waz - Fully Chromatic	38
Press Release - Firebrand	41
Making It Up As You Go Along	42



## EDITORIAL

Ken Bladen  
36, The Oaks,  
Eaves Green  
Chorley,  
Lancs, PR 7 3QU  
Tel. No. 01257 263 678  
e.mail: four.fools@virgin.net

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'

### FEDERATION OFFICERS

Chairman	Pauline Coan, Lever Edge, Ulnes Walton Lane, Ulnes Walton. Tel 01772 452782
Treasurer	Kath Holden, 7 Sunleigh Road, Hindley, Wigan, Lancs WN2 2RE 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, Lancs WN2 2RE Tel 01942 258459
Membership Sec - Federation Sec	contact Treasurer (see above) Angie Bladen, 36 The Oaks, Eaves Green, Chorley, Lancs PR7 3QU. Tel 01257 263 678
Youth Activities	Jenni Hyde, 14 Ribblesdale Close, Kirkham, Near Preston PR 4 2HT. Tel 01772 683283
Club Dates	Chris McIlveen, Moorland View, Hargreaves Street, Hoddlesden, Darwen, Lancs. BB3 3NB Tel 01254 707826
Proof Reader	Pete Gleave, 34 Hamilton Road, St Helens. Tel 01744 732117

Note Pete did not proof read this issue, Angie did.

Review Coordinator David Jones, 4 Kingfisher  
Close, Swallowfields, Pleckgate,  
Blackburn. BB1 8NS  
Tel 01254 54877

Well here we are again and once again late. My sincere apologies and a fond farewell from the team of Ofsted inspectors who have distracted me from editing this edition of the magazine. How many Ofsted inspectors does it take to watch a light bulb being changed? Five!! One to check on how well the lightbulb was changed five years ago. One to check that the dimmer light bulbs get extra help while being changed. One to find out from the light bulb if it knows why it is being changed. One to be sure that the light bulb is receiving moral, social, spiritual and cultural guidance while it is being changed. Finally one to shed some light on how the whole process could be improved.

Do you regularly attend folk activities? Did you enjoy the night out or were you disappointed? Write and tell us about it. We are always pleased to receive live reviews for inclusion in the magazine so that we can increase the scope and variety of our coverage of folk activities in the North West. It would be helpful if you could send them on disc or attached to an e.mail if you have the technology. If not then your best writing will be fine, especially if it received well in advance of the copy date so that our willing typist can be bribed, enticed, cajoled or threatened depending upon her frame of mind and how brave I am feeling. It's hard to be brave while kneeling down. So do please take the time and trouble to write an article or snippet of information for the Diary Chat or Newsreel.

Once again this magazine is 44 pages long. My apologies to the postman, hall carpet, and faithful pooch who have to withstand the effects of gravity on the increased mass. Thank you to all those people who have responded with articles, adverts, information, reviews and diary dates within the copy date deadline. To those who are late with the information or have to be repeatedly reminded I give you fair warning. I am very unhappy that this is the second time running that the magazine is late. It is not fair on the subscribers, advertisers, club organisers and majority of people who supply the information on time. While it is nice to have all the diary dates and to be able to include the last minute or up to the minute information I will no longer do it at the expense of getting the magazine out for the start of the month. So please get it in on time or it may not be in at all.

Finally, having relatively recently allowed my computer access to the world wide web having warned it to look out for spiders and not to get caught in the internet (like Les Barker's camouflage net only it obscures a much larger area) I would be grateful to receive information on web sites of folk activities. I will publish a list in the next issue. Happy reading.



Who do I send information to ?

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

Chris McIlveen  
Moorland View  
Hargreaves Street  
Hoddlesden  
Darwen  
Lancs  
BB3 3NB  
Tel. No. 01254 707 826

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  
e.mail: four.fools@virgin.net

Advertising, subscriptions, club membership enquiries to :-

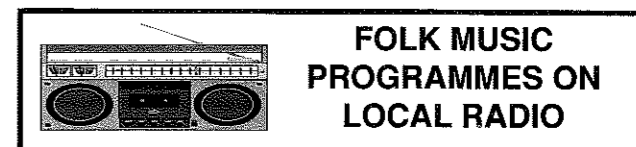
Paul & Kath Holden  
7, Sunleigh Road  
Hindley  
Wigan  
Lancs  
WN2 2RE  
Tel. No. 01942 258 459

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 10th 1999.**

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 editor on four.fools@virgin.net



**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 94.6/104.1 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  
MIKE HARDING  
Wednesday 8.00-9.00pm Sometimes 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 94.6/104.1 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) 104.1 (Whitehaven) 104.2 (Windermere)  
MW 756 (N) 837 (S) 1458 (W)  
FOLK and ROOTS presented by HENRY AYRTON  
Thursday 9.05-10.05pm

**BBC Radio Lancashire**  
FM 95.5/103.9/104.5  
LANCASHIRE DRIFT presented by NIC DOW & LES BOND  
Thursday 8.00 - 9.00pm

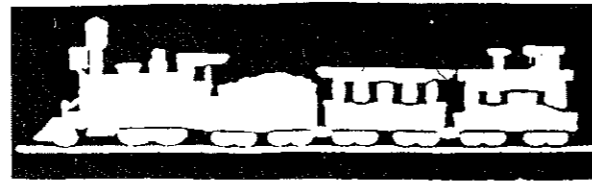
**Radio Telfis Eirann Radio 1**  
MW 567kHz (and via ASTRA Satellite)  
Sunday 8.10-8.55am Mo Cheol Thu Monday and Thursday 9.15-10.00pm Sounds Traditional Saturday 6.37-7.25am Mora Dibh 9.15-10.00pm Ceilidh Music

# THE RAILWAY FOLK CLUB

The Railway Hotel  
Heatley

Lymm, Cheshire

Tel 0161 432 4317



Every Thursday at 8.30pm

14 JANUARY

21 JANUARY

28 JANUARY

4 FEBRUARY

6 FEBRUARY

JANE & AMANDA THRELFALL

Singers' Night

SID KIPPER

Singers' Night

"SATURDAY RAILWAY SPECIAL"

\*\* WAZ \*\*

Steve Tilston, Maartin Allcock & Pete Zorn

STANLEY ACCRINGTON

Singers' Night

THE JON WRIGHT BAND

LEON ROSSELSON

VIKKI CLAYTON

Singers' Night

Singers' Night

MARIE LITTLE

Singers' Night

"SATURDAY RAILWAY SPECIAL"

JOHN KIRKPATRICK

BRIDGET GUEST & ROY WILCOCK

Singers' Night

ROBIN LAING

Singers' Night

MAGGIE BOYLE & TONY GIBBONS

"SATURDAY RAILWAY SPECIAL"

LANCASHIRE NIGHT with the BEST o't' BUNCH

Singers' Night

BERNARD CARNEY

Singers' Night

Singers' Night

"SATURDAY RAILWAY SPECIAL"

THE McCALMANS

11 FEBRUARY

18 FEBRUARY

25 FEBRUARY

4 MARCH

11 MARCH

18 MARCH

25 MARCH

1 APRIL

8 APRIL

10 APRIL

15 APRIL

22 APRIL

29 APRIL

6 MAY

13 MAY

15 MAY

20 MAY

27 MAY

3 JUNE

10 JUNE

12 JUNE

Contact: Don Davies 0161 432 4317



MIKE FREEMAN & TANYA OPLAND at the Wooden Horse Folk Club - Sunday 11 October 1998.

Mike Freeman and Tanya Opland are names which are familiar to those who follow the festivals, and read the club listings in the folk mags. Most of us at the Wooden Horse had not had the opportunity of seeing or hearing them before.

There was an air of anticipation at the Junction as thirty odd Wooden Horse enthusiasts gathered to give their customary warm welcome to the visiting artistes.

In this convivial atmosphere the evening got off to a flying start when resident group "Quartz" gave us an excellent opening set. Quartz possess a quality that compels the audience to sing along in a way that they do with few others. Jim Boyes "Unison in Harmony", Julie Matthews "Willow Tree" and "Sweet Thyme" gave us the opportunity to really let rip. Fine singing with no prisoners taken!

I had the feeling that the guests were rather impressed by the club singing and were put on their mettle by it so I was somewhat puzzled at the choice of opening material by Freeman and Opland. Having been handed a thoroughly warmed up and receptive audience by Quartz, the guests started with a Russian song, sung in Russian, the title of which I did not catch. This sort of song would have been more appropriate later on in the set when performers and audience had had a chance to "settle into each other", but it did not work as an opener.

The audience was "regained" somewhat with the "Circle of the Sun" which they loved and sang along with very happily.

Throughout the whole of the evening we had ample evidence of Freeman and Opland being very talented musicians with an eclectic selection of tunes and songs, ranging from Irish reels played on the fiddle by Tanya to some fine guitar accompaniment by Mike to some of Tanya's songs. I mention in particular a Peg Loughran song in the first half which I think is entitled "Not Too Late".

As diverse as Mike and Tanya's programme was, it was surpassed by the bewildering array of instruments which they (mostly Tanya) played to deliver it. Therein, in my opinion, lay the reason why the evening didn't really gel as it should have. There is no doubting the musicianship and commitment of Freeman and Opland but I feel that the frequent changing of instruments time and again prevented the programme from taking a shape which the audience could recognise. We really did enjoy for instance; Tanya's playing of the hammer dulcimer; but

we did not get enough of it. Her fiddle playing was excellent, but of very short duration as another switch took place to the recorder or the guitar. She is good at them all.

So much of the material was unfamiliar, not only through hearing it for the first time, but also because it came from cultures little known to us. This made it difficult to note many of the titles, but among those I managed to clock were; a hammer dulcimer tune "Nonesuch"; "Oak and Ash and Thorn"; "Music in our Hearts" and Bob Frank's "Hallelujah the Great Storm is Over". Their last song was the lovely old "Fair and Tender Ladies", which we could all get a hold of; but the encore was an incomprehensible Squamish Indian song which had lost us again.

The Wooden Horse audience really do appreciate their visiting artistes and like to share their music at close quarters, but they found it difficult on this occasion as the centre of the music, if indeed there was a centre, kept shifting and they could not get near enough to relate in their usual manner, despite the undoubted musical talents that their guests displayed.

Norman Wilson

CHARITY CONCERT - RIDING FOR THE DISABLED - Victoria Hall - Saltaire - Shipley Saturday 17th October 1998.

The one thing 'folkies' are always up for is raising money for charity, and there are few more worthwhile causes than the one that brought together this impressive guest list, on a cold, wet, winter's night, near Shipley in West Yorkshire,

Starting the proceedings off was Kate Grady, a member of the group, Blackstone Edge, but also a fine solo singer and guitarist. It was the second time I'd seen her perform, and it only reinforced my initial opinion of her undoubted talent. Amongst her songs were, 'Man O' War', performed by the Albion Band, 'Bonny Light Horseman', 'The Singer', all about an Irish fairy!!! Suzanne Vega's, 'Queen and Soldier', giving way to, 'The False Bride', all topped off with, 'La Belle Est Au Jardin D'Amour'. A set of great dexterity.

Another local artist, John Harvison, much in demand at clubs and festivals, showed his versatility. The pick of his set was, 'Chance to Fly', a song he wrote after observing next door's cat on the prowl, with one eye on his mother's budgie, 'Snoopy'. 'Heavy Horses', tells how, down on the farm, the accountant is king, while, 'Falling', is a love song that says, don't do it.

Jez Lowe, just back from Australia, before taking off again for the U.S.A. gave his usual assured performance, from, 'Black Diamonds' to the 'Ballad of Kid Canute', 'Spitting Cousins' to 'Coal Town Days', 'Tenterhooks' to 'Had Away Gan On', the audience, as always, were with him every note of the way, and were rewarded finally, with the ubiquitous, 'Durham Jail', followed by, 'Old Bones'. 'All in

all, the essential Jez Lowe.

Teesside's, Richard Grainger took up the baton with, 'Wave Over Wave', followed by the beautiful, 'Old Whitby Town'. 'The Ballad of the Death of Nelson', gave way to, 'Teesside and Yorkshire', all rounded off with the emotive, 'Roll River Roll'. Richard once again demonstrated the mastery of his craft.

The night was brought to a crescendo by the band, Frigga, the name deriving from that of the wife and daughter of Odin. It was real toe tapping, hand clapping stuff. 'The King of the Fairies', followed by 'Ride On', gave way to a set of jigs, 'Hare on the Corn/Morrisons' (what's a supermarket doing in there?). Then a real Irish favourite, 'The Fields of Athenry'. 'Fermoy Regatta', was followed by a reel set, 'Denis Murphy/John Ryan'. The perversely titled, 'Hush', and then, 'Follow Me Up To Carlow', set the seal on a superb evening, taken out finally by the vigorously played, 'Siege of Ennis/Mason's Apron'.

There was one really poignant moment, when 9 year old Rebecca, daughter of event organiser, Carol Langdale, sang Eric Bogle's classic, 'Rosie', with the backing of Brian Wiley from Frigga. I was privileged to stand in at the eleventh hour as M.C. for flu victim, Tony McGarth, on a night when the folk world gave something back, in the form of five hundred and fifty pounds, to this worthy cause, raised from an audience of just 70 people.

This year's concert is set for 13th November, and it's hoped that this will become an annual event, if so, it deserves your support, watch this space!

#### David Jones

#### GREEK SON ET LUMIERE WITH KAPSALI BAY FOLK at the Railway Folk Club, Heatley Saturday 31 October 1998

So there I went, armed with my bouzouki, down to the Railway in Heatley. Were they going to ask me to play? (Bearing in mind I've only ever mastered "Zorba the Greek") or even wear one of those dresses that bouzouki players wear in the films or on stage backing Nana Mouskouri. Well, thankfully (as far as the audience was concerned) my services weren't called on. The club room was set out as normal, with one addition – a large screen at the side of the stage with a slide projector in the front of the audience.

The show began with the Kapsali Bay Folk taking to the stage – Don and Heather Davies, Bernard Cromarty, Rick Nelson and Lesley Turner. What followed was a guided tour of the island of Kythera and surrounds in words, music, song and slides. The whole thing worked quite well, with Don and Heather's obvious love of the island and it's people coming to the fore. It was quite fascinating to hear the stories about the history and culture of this beautiful part of the world and as the show progressed you began to think you too knew these characters.

I have to say at this point that I was a little disappointed on two counts (a) my neck was aching trying to get a full view of the slide show, mainly due to me being positioned at an awkward angle and (b) I found it difficult to follow the lyrics when Don was singing alone, before the rest of the group joined in with the chorus. I think it would have been better if the songs had been pitched in a higher key to project everything louder – a small point I know, but without the hindsight of listening to the accompanying cassette (more of that later) I would still be trying to work out the songs. Anyway, we even had a spot of Greek dancing from Derek and Heather (another blooming Heather!) which made a nice diversion from the main show.



The whole thing lasted the best part of 1½ – 2 hours and, while it wasn't a tour-de-force, I couldn't help but admire the work and thought that went into it all. Each customer was given a free cassette as part of the admission and I have to say there was a very healthy turnout on the night. Maybe other clubs should think along the lines of putting on a night with a different slant from the 'norm'. The band played well together and I don't think the others will be offended if I single out Don and Heather for writing all the material and the one and only Bernard Cromarty for his enthusiasm, humour and no small amount of skill – lots of clubs could do worse than give this man a booking – I've seen him do a full night at the Railway and he was superb! Anyway, a fine night put on by a dedicated bunch of people. Now – where did I put my slides of Butlin's 1987?!

#### Tony Gibbons

#### TOM PAXTON - Live with Jez Luton - Birkenhead Town Hall - Saturday 14th November 1998 and "Wearing the Time" [SHCD 1045] and "Live for the Record" [SHCD 1053] and Jez Luton "Journey to the Heart" [B.T.L. CD1].

Like so many of my generation, Tom Paxton became, for me, a focal point for folk music on both sides of the Atlantic. I first heard his unmistakable tones in the mid-sixties and became a convert to what for me then, were eminently singable songs with powerful messages, and as I look back over those thirty plus years, little has changed, the words are still so relevant and the music still retains that melodic simplicity.

For the past couple of tours to this country, Tom has played in tandem with the highly talented, Jez Luton, a guitarist, "par excellence". Jez opened the night with two of his own songs from his album, the first, 'Dreaming My Life Away', tells how he daydreamed during the tedium of packing car batteries for a living. Then followed, 'Language of the Heart', you know sometimes, words aren't always necessary. Tom joined Jez on stage, and they launched into what Tom describes as 'short shelf life songs', extolling such luminaries as, Linda Tripp, Paula Jones and Monica Lewinsky (that's quite a mouthful). Lorena and John Wayne Bobbitt, from Virginia, are immortalised by the line, 'whoops, I think I've got it off', and finally, 'Zip It Up', written, would you believe in 1992, clairvoyancy is a rare gift!!

Topical songs have always been one of Tom's strongest suits, and the thought provoking, 'On the Road From Srebrenica', tells how 1000 or more men from that area of Bosnia Hertzagovina were taken away and slaughtered.

'Getting Up Early', from his, Wearing the Time album, was recorded at the Sugar Hill Studio's in Nashville, and is the first of an 'Oklahoma Trilogy'. It tells of the thoughts for a loved one, as soon as dawn comes up. The second part of the trilogy is titled, 'Passin' Through Tulsa', and finally, 'Along the Verdigris', a river that rises in the Ozark mountains is praised in song.

Tom grew up in Bristow, Tulsa, and in the town of Okima, they've now unveiled a statue to the memory of a legend, Woody Guthrie. Written in 1962, 'Can't Help But Wonder Where I'm Bound', continues to be much loved by audiences worldwide. Paul Reisler's song, 'Beneath the Bridge', continued the strand, highlighting the plight of people all over the States living in cardboard cities. Another of those timeless Paxton classics is, 'Kate', written for his youngest daughter when she was just three years old, I'd like to know her thoughts on the song now she's thirty!! Tom's marriage to Midge has lasted 35 years, and the first half was brought to a close with a song written for her, 'The First Song Is For You'.

There were so many friends and acquaintances in the audience to catch up with, the second half was almost an intrusion! 'Bottle of Wine', gave way to, 'Blue Mountain Road', written by, Eric Weissberg, who played, Duelling Banjo's, in the film, Deliverance, while another bluegrass number, 'Anytime', followed, no matter what the problem, there's always someone to call on. Jez then gave a fine rendition of one of the finest songs written by, Richard Thompson, 'Beeswing'.

Tom returned with a fusion of blues and ragtime, as he put it, a song for those of a certain age, 'Coffee in Bed', can't think what he means! 'Wearing In The Time', was written by Tom in collaboration with, Susan Graham White. An epidemic of teenage pregnancies in the U.S.A. in the 12/13/14 year old age group, prompted Tom to write, 'Little Girl', sadly, it was their way to solve the unconditional love they didn't receive in return. Another problem in the States, is that thousands of youngsters have easy access to guns, 'Johnny Got A Gun', Johnny was 11 years old, and bullied

at school, then.....bang.

Tom's mind, like mine, went back to the days of Jacqui and Bridie's club, in the Domestic Mission in Toxteth all those years ago, as he and Jez sang alternate verses of the timeless, 'Last Thing On My Mind'. Likewise, 'Ramblin' Boy', Tom told how he got a real thrill when he first heard Pete Seeger introduce him on an old recording, singing this song.

For his encore, Tom recalled his boyhood dreams, in, 'Come Away With Me', while finally, 'The Honour Of Your Company', is a song of thanks to so many who have given so much, many now departed, Pete Seeger, Woody Guthrie, Leadbelly, Josh White and Ewan McColl, all have in their unique way, helped to shape the history of folk music.

Tom Paxton remains very much a man of his time, never losing sight of the pain, the joy, the injustice and the triumphs of his fellow man. His music has stood the test of time and will continue to influence and entertain generations.

A word also for the concert organisers. The night was part of the 10th International Guitar Festival of Great Britain, an event now recognised worldwide for its excellence. It was my first visit to this superb venue, which was full to overflowing. Rob Smith, the Festival Director, can be justifiably proud of his superb efforts.

#### David Jones

#### ROBIN LAING - Live at the Wooden Horse - Rainford - Sunday 15th November 1998 and "The Angel's Share" [CDTRAX 137].

Robin Laing hails from Stirling in the Scottish Borders, and his success as a performer is undoubtedly in his versatility, with both words and songs. The introductions he affords the audience are both eloquent and informative, while his songs often make you look at things from a different perspective.

A full house at the Wooden Horse immediately warmed to the opening number, 'All Around My Flat', sung inevitably to the tune of Steeleye Span's No.1 success. The words by Judith Aarons chart the misdemeanours of her new found pet, the message was clear, pee indiscriminately at your peril! Robert Burns version of the traditional favourite, 'John Barleycorn', is in praise of whiskey, pain in the process, joy in the drinking! Staying with the subject of drink, and whiskey in particular, 'More Than Just a Dram', was written partly on the Scottish island of Eigg, and partly on Isla, with Isla being home to eight distilleries, what joy!

'Closer To Heaven', is not as the title suggests at all ecclesiastical, but tells of the joy of taking a shower with a loved one. The Trojan Wars ended after ten years, and the hero returns home after leaving his wife, Penelope, to bring up their son, the song is 'Ulysees', but it's all Greek to me! My favourite song of Robin's is, 'Punters', I didn't

know so many words rhymed with punt! until I heard this song, it was spawned after Robin lived at one time near the Union Canal, and was witness to a punt race.

Robin kicked off the second half with a song, with yet another misleading title, 'Our Glens', no not the beautiful scenery, but, Glenfiddich, Glen Lovat, Glen Isla, Glen Fyne, Glenmorangie, etc. etc. Sheila Stewart's version of, 'The Twa' Brothers', tells how William killed his brother John, with a penknife. Down the years, border ballads, have remained popular, and 'The Wife Of Usher's Well', tells the tragic tale of the famous Usher brewing family, who had an estate at Welles, and of three brothers who all died in adolescence. Another injection of smiles came from the song, 'Poor Willy', about a man who had a bad experience with an inflatable woman. Why do they despatch them inside out? Written by Jimmy Leith.

Another 180% turn, and the subject this time was, 'Heavy Horses', about the king of the working horses, the Clydesdale. When the Forth Rail Bridge celebrated the centenary of its construction, Robin wrote, 'The Forth Bridge Song', as a tribute to this fantastic feat of engineering. For his final offering, Robin gave us, 'The Missionary', about a Scottish missionary who went to Africa, and ended up in the pot! A terrible position to find oneself in!

A superb night and an essential encore in, 'The Eagle'. A song of sexual frustration, be it dove, crow, tit, cockatoo, eider duck or drake. Well can you tell the difference? The Ian Sinclair composition, 'Tak' A Dram - A Wee Deoch and Doris', brought the best out of the audience, at the end of a memorable night.

Many of the songs Robin performed are on his latest CD, "The Angel's Share", with every track linked to Scotland's whiskey industry, and the nation's national pastime, whiskey consumption. Robin Laing is a quality performer, who once again produced a performance of quality.

#### David Jones

**DICK GAUGHAN at the Bluecoat Arts Centre, Liverpool - Friday, 27 November, 1998**

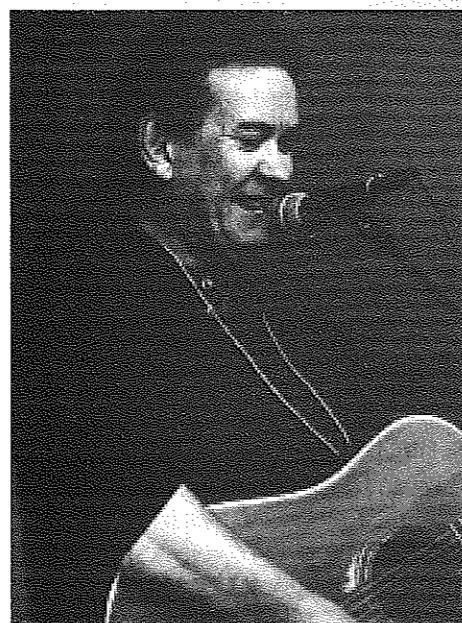
**Dick Gaughan - 'Redwood Cathedral' [Greenstrax CDTRAX 158]**

Passion, political commitment, Scottish internationalism and a wry sense humour are what you can expect from Dick Gaughan, and his visit to Liverpool did not disappoint. Some would take offence at being called an unreconstructed Communist; others - Gaughan included - take it as the highest form of compliment. His political philosophy is central to the songs he writes and chooses.

The first set, almost invariably, kicked off with a song both Gaughan and Roy Bailey like to begin with; Si Kahn's "What You Do With What You've Got". Pete Seeger's "Waist Deep in the Big Muddy", inspired by the Vietnam war and still relevant, followed.

Gaughan has been a long time admirer of Brian McNeill's songwriting ability - "the greatest current living songwriter." So it's little surprise that two of McNeill's songs appear on the new CD. Gaughan performed them back to back on the night. "Ewen and the Gold" tells the story of Ewen Gillies, exploring the ambivalent attitude of the Scots to exiles who later return home. "Muir and the Master Builder" is about another exile. A product of a sadistic Calvinist upbringing, John Muir became a tortured artist in the USA and is best remembered there for establishing the American National Park system.

The prelude to the interval brought us one of the finest modern folk songs. Written by Ron Kavana, on the face of it "Reconciliation" is a love story. It tells the tale of two lovers who, on another level, represent the two communities in Northern Ireland. The song finds hope in healing and "sweet reconciliation." It was prophetically written several years before the recent peace process.



The second set contained some old favourites including Robert Burns beautiful "Now Westlin' Winds", a personal favourite, and "Shipwreck" reminding us of a Margaret Thatcher misjudgement (one of many). She felt obliged to visit Scotland and proceeded to lecture and hector it's people about their misguided ways. There were two American influenced songs; "Geronimo's Cadillac", recorded in the 1970s by Claire Hamill, and Richard Thompson's homage to the motor bike, "Vincent Black Lightning 1952". "Why Old Men Cry" demonstrates Gaughan's, infrequently used, talent as a songwriter. It deals with the devastation caused by militarism and capitalist economics and the sorrowful impact that it has left in the eyes of old men.

It was a week in which the Law Lords had voted 3-2 to extradite General Pinochet to Spain. So as the evening reached it's climax it would not have been complete without a song Gaughan recorded in 1984. The words by Liverpool poet Adrian Mitchell and the music by Arlo Guthrie, "Victor Jara of Chile" is about the Chilean singer/songwriter, one of the many who was arrested, tortured

and murdered by the General's men. Those who have committed such atrocities in the past have hidden behind the excuse that they were only following orders. Pinochet claims he was only giving them. As Gaughan says, there is "no hole in hell deep enough to bury the bastard", a sentiment that found no dissent in the audience. Leon Rosselson's "World Turned Upside Down" provided a fitting finale to an excellent evening.

*Redwood Cathedral*, is a recording of exceptional quality. The CD is a testament to Gaughan's ability to choose and write high quality songs that fit a proud socialist outlook on life.

#### Lewis Jones

**NANCI GRIFFITH - Live - Other Voices Tour - Victoria Hall - Hanley - Stoke-on-Trent - Tuesday 1st December 1998.**

Let me say right at the outset, that if there's another war, head for Hanley, the enemy will never find you!! A one way system that defies belief.

This was the last night of a short, seven date U.K. tour, with two nights at Dublin's Olympia, two nights at the Armadillo in Glasgow, and a brace of concerts at London's Barbican already gone. The programme read like a musical who's who, and herein, for me, lay the problem, too many guests, and not enough from the concert host.

Nanci started the night by singing, 'Trouble in the Fields', before giving way to, Frank Christian, a singer/songwriter from New York. He gave us two blues numbers, 'Smile and Show Some Skin', and, 'Wash You From My Hands'. Nanci returned to join Frank for, 'Three Flights Up', before New York blues legend, Dave Van Ronk, appeared and joined them on, 'Another Time, Another Place'. Nanci went off stage once more, leaving Dave and Frank to continue their love affair with the blues.

Nanci returned, this time with Tom Russell and Andrew Hardin, playing her blue, electric guitar, on a song she recorded in 1985, written by Tom, 'St. Olav's Gate'. Tom and Andrew then brought the first half to its close, firstly with, 'Blue Wing', about a sailor's tattoo. Tom mused that Nanci used to open for him in hamburger joints in Texas, now she performs on sell out tours, while Tom still plays those burger joints. And finally, 'The Angel of Lyon', written by Tom in collaboration with, Steve Young, during a trip to France, with memories of copious amounts of cognac and croissants.

Nanci's much acclaimed recording, *Other Voices, Other Rooms*, was visited in the second half, which commenced with the eminently singable, 'Across the Great Divide', Andrew Hardin returned to provide top class guitar backing to the Sandy Denny classic, 'Who Knows Where the Time Goes', closely followed by the Tom Paxton anthem, 'Can't Help But Wonder Where I'm Bound'. Tom Russell co-wrote, 'Outbound Plane', with Nanci, in Nashville, and following on, she sang, 'Canadian Whiskey', on which,

Frank Christian, played a superb guitar solo. Dave Van Ronk returned to join Tom and Nanci, in harmonising on the up-tempo Richard Thompson number, 'Wall of Death'.

Nanci re-traced her country roots with, 'Speed of the Sound of Loneliness', which she performed with, Charlie Pride, on the U.S. networked T.V. show, 'Homer & Ethel'. Nanci's grandma' is 101 years young, and thinks, 'It's a Hard Life Wherever You Go', is one of the nicest songs her granddaughter has written, it urges us to pass on love, not hate, to our children.

The father of American folk in the second half of the century is undoubtedly, Pete Seeger, who was 80 years old in '98, along with his group, the Weavers, he introduced 'Wimoweh' in 1947, this freedom song, sung by the South African Zulu's, was banned in the U.S. until the 60's. The Blue Moon Orchestra, who provide Nanci's tour backing, joined her on the vocals of the final number, the former No.1 hit in this country for, Trini Lopez, 'If I Had A Hammer'. Co-written by, the Crickets, Buddy Holly's backing group, 'Well Alright', provided the encore, followed by a solo that charted a visit by Nanci to the home of her mother's ancestors, and written on a bus journey from, Glasgow to Aberdeen, appropriately titled, 'The Road to Aberdeen'.

I was really looking forward to the concert, but left feeling disappointed, not because of Nanci's performance, but more so because there just wasn't enough of Nanci on stage during the evening. I accept that all artists need backing, that's not in dispute, for me, it was the peripheral guests, who seemed to be more in evidence than the main artist herself. And when you think that such luminaries as, Clive Gregson, Carolyn Hester, Dolores Keane, Iain Matthews, Sharon Shannon, Odetta and Brian Willoughby, all left the tour on previous nights, how much less of Nanci did the audiences see at the other venues? Also, Nanci has so much original material, I found it strange that she resorted to singing so many covers of well known, but rather hackneyed songs. Nanci is a terrific talent, I hope that on her next visit to these shores, she gives her many fans more of what they want, quite simply, Nanci Griffith in concert.

A final word on the venue, the Victoria Hall has just been refurbished to its former splendour, it holds 1400 in concert format, with two 'wrap around' balconies looking down on the stalls below. Superb sound and vision should quickly make this venue a must on the artists national tour curriculum.


David Jones

**HIS WORSHIP & THE PIG "A Christmas Tail 1998" at Stoke-on-Trent Repertory Theatre Sunday 20 December 1998**

I have to confess that by the time we actually got to sit down in the theatre to watch this show, we were not in a particularly good mood. Despite being given directions, we got lost on the way. I had underestimated just how long it takes to drive from Darwen to Stoke-on-Trent, and by the time we finally found the place we were very late


**Mersey Shanty Festival 1999**

**Albert Dock, Liverpool**  
**19th & 20th June**



*Liverpool, spiritual home of the Sea Shanty, welcomes you to the 1999 Mersey Shanty Festival, one of the highlights of the award-winning annual Mersey River Festival, held in and around the world famous Albert Dock.*

*The Shanty Festival will feature many of the country's top sea song performers.*



**For more information call**  
**0151 227 3352**

**Chester Folk Festival**  
**28th - 31st MAY 1999**  
 (SPRING BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND)  
 The Morris Dancer, Kelsall, nr Chester

Many national & local guests including:  
 Craobh Rua • Roy Bailey  
 Deaf Shepherd • Tanglefoot (Canada)  
 Hugh & Tony Williams • Bill Caddick  
 The Family Mahone • Keith Kendrick  
 Salt of the Earth • Bernard Carney  
 Alison Humphries • Raymond Otto  
 Simon Care & Gareth Turner  
 Ian Goodier & Tom Browne

CONCERT MARQUEE & INDOOR VENUES FOR  
 DANCES, WORKSHOPS, SINGAROUNDS etc.

Children's Entertainment all day from  
 Same Train Different Teapot and others

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

**THE TENTH MIDDLEWICH FOLK AND BOAT FESTIVAL**  
**18-19-20 JUNE 1999**

THE FESTIVAL WITH SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Mainstage marquee. Acoustic stage. Canalside venues.  
 Displays and Concerts

FEATURING:-


Dance	CHERISH THE LADIES ( USA )	Sessions
Stockport	BLACK UMFOLOSI ( Zimbabwe ), THE POOZIES	Singarounds
Padham Fancote	ELIZA CARTHY BAND, THE BUSHBERRYS	Poets & pints
Haddockam Hoofers	COCK & BULL BAND, THE BOAT BAND	Late night extras
Grand Union Rapper	OLD ROPE STRING BAND, IAN BRUCE	Workshops
Raise The Dust	TANGLEFOOT ( Canada )	Carris bar
Fandance	OLDHAM TINKERS	Folk club
More Tba	BERNARD WRIGLEY	Crafts
	LOCTUP TOGETHER	
	LOREBREAKERS, AQUIESCE,	
	DAVIAN REEL, KEEPERS LOCK	
	ROY WILCOCK & BRIDGET GUEST	
	ST PATRICK'S PIPE BAND, YOUTH QUAKE	
	MIDDLEWICH PADDIES, SALT TOWN POETS	
	CALICO JACK, MIKE RAVEN & JOAN MILLS	

More to be arranged.

Weekend Tickets £25 Before 1st June 1999.  
 Advance concert tickets also available.  
 Concessions, Camping £3 per unit.

Craft & trade stalls TEL 01606 835371 Mobile 0410 874465  
 General information TEL 01606 836896 ( AFTER 6pm )  
 Boats & Dance, TEL 0410 256612

BOX OFFICE  
 6 Southway  
 Middlewich  
 Cheshire  
 CW10 9BL  
 TEL 01606 832850



**Cleckheaton 12th Cleckheaton Folk Festival**  
**2nd - 4th July 1999**

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 12th Festival already include:

Alchemy \* Roy Bailey \* Barnsley Lads  
 Bayou Gumbo \* Blackstone Edge  
 Derek Brimstone \* Dave Burland \* Copper Kettle  
 Firm Friends \* Ray Fisher \* Frigga  
 Rebecca Green \* Enda Kenny \* Sid Kipper  
 Jez Lowe & the Bad Pennies  
 Tom McConville & Pauline Cato \* Micron  
 John Prentice \* Kim Seymour \* Sharon  
 Chris Sherburn & Denny Bartley  
 Hilary Spencer \* Roy Wilcock & Bridget Guest

**FULL WEEKEND TICKETS**  
**ONLY £14 BEFORE APRIL 1ST**

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

and the car park was full. We had to park half a mile away, no joke on a freezing winter night! Just to cap it all, the bar was absolutely heaving, forcing the unprecedented step of abandoning efforts to get a drink before the show. Anyway, suffice it to say that as we took our seats I was thinking, "This had better be good!"

Well - it was, very good indeed. The show opened with Dave and Jeff playing a few of their 'general' compositions, which are all self-penned and very wittily written. These soon had the effect of making us forget the bad journey and putting everyone in the mood. We particularly enjoyed "Do It Yourself", about the perils of, well, DIY, and the memorable "Elaine's Chest". The only problem was trying to explain some of the lyrics to an eleven year old! This part of the show finished with Jeff singing "Your Teddy", a surprisingly nostalgic reminder of the special relationships we had with our teddy bears when we were children.



For those of you who are unfamiliar with the history of "A Christmas Tail", it all began life in 1994 as a one-line idea for a song: "Mary's gone and left me for the man from Toys R Us!". It was gradually expanded until it effectively became a mini-pantomime, which had its first performance at Biddulph Folk Club, Stoke-on-Trent. Over the next couple of years bits were added and it was successfully presented at many folk clubs and venues. For 1998 it was decided to go the whole hog and mount a full concert version at the Repertory Theatre.

"A Christmas Tail" opens with Jeff dressed as a boffin doing a hilarious piece about the scientific facts surrounding Christmas, along the lines of the sheer practical impossibility of one old man visiting umpteen million homes in one night.

There then followed a highly enjoyable, extremely funny and very professionally presented pantomime, featuring the very multi-talented trio of Jeff, Dave and the organ-player, whose name unfortunately we didn't catch. I won't spoil the fun for next year by going into too much detail about the actual plot, but the show basically comprises some 12 songs, interspersed with musical links. Together these tell the "alternative Christmas Story" in a very captivating and hilarious way.

It is no mean feat putting on a show like this involving so many complicated scene and costume changes, whilst at

the same time performing original folk songs to a very high vocal and instrumental standard. Such was the organisation and effort put into preparation that the whole thing passed off with barely a hitch. In summary several hundred people were treated to a unique and very enjoyable seasonable experience, and we would urge Jeff, Dave and Liz to repeat the whole thing this year.

A Christmas Tail 1998 is now available on CD and very highly recommended it be too. Contact Dave on 01782 835898 or Jeff on email: [jeff@partn.freereserve.co.uk](mailto:jeff@partn.freereserve.co.uk) for further details.

Chris, Helen, Lucinda, Richard & Jessica McIlveen



Hello

In one of the recent editions of the Newsletter you mentioned that ordinary festivalgoers weren't sending you information. I've been sampling folk clubs in Australia for most of the summer, but festivals I visited just before and (literally) just after my return were at Cleckheaton and the Four Fools at Lowton.

Cleckheaton had a lovely atmosphere - and probably something to please everyone. It was Tanglefoot (Canada)'s last UK appearance for 1998 - and they were superb! How many people can say they saw Tanglefoot at their first and last UK performances? I can! No prizes for guessing that they were the highlight of the festival for me.

Other highlights would have to be Pinch 'o' Salt's Sunday morning session on the poems of C Fox Smith, Les Barker's usual lunacy and a Sunday afternoon concert which included such diverse talents as Robb Johnson, Dave Webber and Anni Fentiman, Diz Dizley (!) and Noel Murphy. I think that line up demonstrates the eclectic nature of the festival.

Well done Geoff! Four Fools at Lowton was an altogether more 'traditional' festival, with a strong scottish flavour this year, which included Heather Heywood (accompanied by husband Pete, Editor of The Living Tradition), Kevin and Ellen Mitchell, North Sea Gas and the wonderful Robin Laing (OK, just a touch of bias creeping in there) who presented his session on malt whisky in song: 'The Angel's Share'.

The festival's international flavouring came from Seattle's William Pint and Felicia Dale whose seasons accompanied by hurdy-gurdy made a welcome and unusual contribution to the seasons and shanties session - the hurdy-gurdy is on my list of 5 least favourite

instruments, but I actually enjoy (!) Felicia's playing. There were so many good performers there it's hard to know when to stop - Dave Burland, Keith Kendrick, Martyn Wyndham-Read, Sisters Unlimited, Cyril Tawney and lots of talent from the north west.

Special mention should be made of His Worship and the Pig (although I didn't manage to work out which of this duo was the pig!) - their opening song about folk dinosaurs summed it all up for me - what IS wrong with wanting to sing chorus songs that people can join in with? Why DO some UK performers sing folksongs in a mid-Atlantic accent? I'm, obviously a folkosaurus too!

Four Fools was awash with chorus songs and people joining in enthusiastically - it's billed as a singer's festival - and it certainly is!

**Janet Hale**

**SWINTON FOLK FESTIVAL - Lancastrian Hall - Swinton - Saturday 24th October 1998.**

I may have been a little disparaging about the venue last year, as I described the Lancastrian Hall in Swinton as "cold and leaving me unimpressed", but I found it rather more welcoming this time, with more council staff on hand to help, and good food, at reasonable prices, readily available when needed, by a somewhat larger audience than last year.

Geoff Higginbottom again kicked off the afternoon proceedings in his own inimitable style with, 'Lancashire Lads', followed by a Richard Thompson song, the subject of which was a guy, a motorbike and a redhead, what a combination.....no not a mention of a sidecar!!! The story of a poem set to music by Stan Ellison, tells of two lads who spent their waked weeks holiday on top of Pendle hill, in July Wakes. Geoff's own composition, 'Bloomin' Once Again', brought his fine set to a close.

Jez Lowe and the Bad Pennies were next up, with new boy, Simon Howarth, from Morpeth in Northumberland, taking over from the departed, Jez Luton, along with Judy and Billy, you couldn't hear the join, as Jez led us through some old favourites. 'The Soda Man', always brings the best out of an audience, while the touching tale of the U.S. Gulf War victims burial place is the subject of the ballad, 'Dover, Delaware'. A warning to young women not to get involved with musicians is the message in, 'Sod All'. 'You Can't Take It With You When You Go', always leaves them wanting more.

An artist who has greatly impressed me during the past 18 months, is Hertfordshire based, Phil Hare. His style, both vocally and instrumentally, hits you squarely between the eyes. The highlights of a superb set were, 'Lady of the West', the Berlin wall may have come down, a McDonald's now stands in Red Square, but for the people it's still a struggle. Bob Dylan penned, 'My Back Pages', a feeling you go through in life, irrespective of who you are. 'Cast Iron', tells of a husband who gives his wife everything, except the love she craves. 'My Donald', by

Eoin Hand from Edinburgh, brought the set to a close.

Another Hertfordshire resident, The uniquely talented, Derek Brimstone, took top billing. His blues roots were in evidence in, 'I Ain't Got No Money Baby Now', then on into, 'Fairytale Lullaby', can we really catch rainbows? and then, 'Boomers Story', how we say one thing when we really mean another. 'Attitudes of Youth', was a commission from the BBC, based by Derek on his son Greg, a short, but poignant ditty! John Martyn's 60's composition, 'The River', followed, and then a tribute to the Rogers and Astaire films in, 'Fred and Ginger'. Derek took to the banjo to bring the afternoon to its climax, he learnt to play the instrument from his great uncle, Ezra Maddocks, from West Virginia. So it was fitting that he should finish with a song of the American Civil War, as troops dreamt of returning home in triumph in, 'Eight More Miles to Louisville'. Listening to Derek's stories is an entertainment in itself, he may be in his 60's, but on stage, rolls back the years.

For the evening concert, Anthony John Clarke and Bernard Wrigley joined the line-up, as well as a ceilidh taking place with the Kamikaze Band and caller, Ged Todd.

Swinton Festival, I feel, deserves far more support than it currently gets, both from the public and the town. It's a well established, top class day of music, right here in the North West. So why not treat yourself and a friend(s).

**David Jones**

**MAGHULL CEILIDH AND MAGHULL FLOOR SINGERS HOUR  
NOVEMBER 13 AND NOVEMBER 14 1998**

Here I am again with something to say about Friday November 13<sup>th</sup> Maghull Ceilidh and about Maghull floor singers hour at the Day of Music on the 14<sup>th</sup> November. So first things first and it's the ceilidh. A wonderful electric atmosphere in the Town Hall Room from the Liverpool Ceilidh Band, the George Ferguson Dancers to the people that were enjoying themselves. Tony Gibbons played the "Cittern" (is that right Pete), a young lady played the flute, her name I never caught but she was A1, and also same with the older man on the fiddle, it was said that he was an original member of the Liverpool Ceilidh Band, but wonderful to me, a great Dance Caller. Terry Coyne was the other flute player, he also wore another hat, he was a Dance Caller, also he was a dancer, guess what, with me of all people. Thank you Terry you made an elderly lady very very happy and proud to be in such good company. Not forgetting the squeezebox player. My George loved him, do you remember Kevin he called you; "Broken Leg". Lovely memories. Now the highlight of the evening the George Ferguson Dancers, words fail me, they were marvellous, I clapped and shouted what price the River Dancers, we had them on that Friday. The young man George he shot out into the room feet and legs going like mad. I was thrilled to bits. So you can guess I had a wonderful time. Of course I only managed 3 dances, but

# FOUR FOOLS FOLK FESTIVAL

## LOWTON CIVIC HALL

HESKETH MEADOW LANE, LOWTON, NEAR LEIGH, LANCs.

FRI 25 - SUN 27th JUNE 1999

**TOM McCONVILLE & PAULINE CATO**

**TANGLEFOOT (CANADA) (SAT)**

**GRAHAM & EILEEN PRATT**

**HIS WORSHIP & THE PIG**

**PETE WATKINSON**

**JANET RUSSELL**

**DAMIEN BARBER**

**JOHN PRENTICE**

**JIM MAGEEAN**

**STRAWHEAD**

**HEN PARTY**

**PETE COE**

**MAL WAITE**

**RAY FISHER**

**ARTISAN (SAT)**

**COCKERSDALE**

**DEREK GIFFORD**

**CHRISTINE KYDD**

**HARVEY DAVIDSON**

**RICHARD GRAINGER**

**PETA WEBB & KEN HALL**

**KEVIN & ELLEN MITCHELL**

**FAHEY, MURPHY & MAGUIRE**



**Weekend Tickets:- £26 before 30 April 1999, £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)**

**e.mail: four.fools@virgin.net**



one young man said that he would pick me up and carry me if I faltered. Good on you Tom.

Now for the Maghull folk club floor singers. Did I say one hour, they went on singing and playing for one and a half hours. I felt so proud of them all. To name them there was "Clover" a lovely singing group, they put over "The Praties Grow Small" lovely, but before them Terry played a "Lament" on his flute. "Steal Away" was sung by George, "Rocky Road to Dublin" was put over very well by various members of the group. Bob Tyrer sang "Hot Asphalt", I felt sorry for Bob having to follow such a rousing number, but trouper Bob managed very well. In between the songs the Narrators were saying their pieces regarding what the hour was about, very clear and well spoken I thought. We all joined in with Tony when he sang "From Clare to Here". The set of reels from Terry with the musicians joining in sounded 100%. So it all went on "Slip Jigs and Reels" from Norman my favourite. "Good Ship Ragamuffin" Mike put over very well. So did Paul with "Mursheen Durkin". Joe bless him made a good job of "Wild Colonial Boy". There was "Green Amongst the Gold", "Whiskey in the Jar", a medley of songs with my friend and festival compatriot Jane Day singing "I'll Take You Home Kathleen". You know that gal has a lovely voice, I wish someone beside myself would tell her. And so to the ending with Ian and Chris singing Ian's own song "Leaving the Green". All songs that everyone could join in. So shame on those that didn't see Maghull floor singers. For myself I felt so proud of them all, I could have cried tears of pleasure.

Yours as always

**Joan Gallimore**

#### **MAGHULL DAY OF MUSIC at Maghull Town Hall – Saturday 14 November 1998**

The comfortable feel of the venue, coupled with the friendliness of the welcome, goes a long way to explaining why the Maghull Day of Music is such a success.

So much is on offer, and you don't have to take more than fifty paces in any direction to change the musical mood completely.

Making a welcome return were the New Bushbury's – aka The Bushbury Mountain Daredevils. They headlined both the afternoon and evening concerts in the upstairs lounge. Their musical style remains unique on the circuit, although at times I wish they'd be more affable in their presentation.

Pete Coe, in his inimitable way, sang, played and danced his way through a delightful set, carrying the audience with him through every nuance.

During the afternoon in the downstairs room, Youthquake once more gave the opportunity to youngsters of varying age to 'strut their musical stuff', an opportunity which is all too rare for those who must pick up the baton, to continue our musical heritage.

Jenni Hyde works so hard to make sure those who want to perform are given the platform to achieve their early ambitions, long may it continue. If you feel you can help in any way, why not give her a call, her details are on page 4 of this issue.

The evening session opened with the Duffy Brothers a comic duo performing a range of Bluegrass, Cajun, and Country & Western material accompanied by, amongst others, guitars, banjos and mandolin. They have supported the Everly Brothers and Neil Sedaka (still alive) and Marty Robbins and Tammy Wynette (both late).

Gilly Darbey followed with a sensitive and powerful delivery of fairly diverse material ranging from Stevie Wonder and Sting songs, to those written by Brian Bedford and early 70's singer/songwriter Jonathan Kelly.

The duo of Bob Fox and Stu Luckley hail from the North East. As well as being established artists in their own right they have been session musicians for a number of major talents, like Allan Taylor. They performed a mainly traditional set showing off a range of instruments that included a strange looking 4 stringed offering, dulcimer and mandolin.

Pete Coe is a consummate performer who literally enjoys making a song and dance out of most tunes. Many of his songs are from the radical arm of the folk tradition and all the better for it. His set was all too short due to other artists over running. What he lacked in quantity was not diminished in terms of quality.

A major highlight of the evening, as ever, was Artisan with their exemplary a cappella harmonies and the outstanding lead vocals of Hilary Spencer. They were late replacements for Risky Business. Their spot opened with the marvellous "Lest We Forget" – reminding us why we created unions in the first place and why they are still essential. The session went from strength to strength with "Breathing Space" and the now classic Brian Bedford song, "What's the Use of Wings", finishing with the uplifting spiritual influenced "I Ain't Going Down".

The Old Rope String Band provided an almost indescribable climax to the evening. How can you describe organised chaos, cacophony, mayhem and general madness – allegedly without the use of any prohibited stimulants! The ORSB are the nearest you'll get to it. A mixture of music, mime and acrobatics that makes Riverdance look pedestrian. A hilarious act, they make you breathless just watching them. Not a band to listen to on CD but definitely one to catch live.

The test of a really good festival is if the time passes and you feel you could go back 12 hours and start all over again.

We certainly felt invigorated, roll on November 1999.

**Lewis Jones  
David Jones**

#### **HELMSLEY WEEKEND**

This winter sojourn is one of the most enjoyable of the year, bringing together friends old and new for a rousing weekend, putting winter to flight and opening the curtain on the year's folk events.

It is not widely advertised, it need not be, because demand always outstrips the places available as most of the accommodation is in Youth Hostel facilities and the singing takes place in the Carlton Lodge Hotel next door.

The management of this premier spot in this noted watering place for the discerning, have begun to welcome us dearly, the initial reserve innate thereabouts long since thoroughly dispelled. They provide substantial and tasty meals at reasonable prices and trouble themselves to provide us with a choice of real ales not normally available, and take an interest in the singing.

So they should too, because the standard of performance is excellent, even if the parameter of "folk song" may become a little stretched.

The only disappointing aspect is, given the care and interest the management take and the efforts, let alone the initial courage, of the organiser Hazel Bolton, a small number of performers disappear elsewhere only to return in order to sing the last songs of the session. Such discourtesy is unbecoming and runs contrary to the general spirit prevailing in the folk world. Fortunately it in no way diminished my enjoyment of the weekend and it takes more than a small slight to subdue Theresa!

I would like to record publicly my personal thanks to Hazel (love and kisses) for providing a wonderful weekend and say more strength (and breath) to the singaround crowd, see you all next year.

**Keith Scowcroft  
Scowie**

P.S. Terry Martin seconds this report.



#### **A YOUTHFUL PERSPECTIVE with Jenni Hyde**

In an attempt to resurrect Youthquake, I am thinking of setting up a patronage scheme to support the workshops and other Youthquake projects.

The idea, which is still in its infancy, is simple. I hope to attract donations, of whatever size, from individuals or organisations willing to become sponsors of Youthquake. They will be listed in Youthquake publicity and possibly receive a regular 'Newsletter' telling them what they are

helping to support.

My immediate aim is to raise enough money to fund a concert in October, probably with one big name artiste (in an attempt to draw in the crowds) and two young support acts. I intend to precede the concert with a workshop led by an established musician, to which local schools would also be invited. If I can raise enough funds to cover the costs of the event, all the proceeds will be profit, which can be used to subsidise monthly workshops and future events.

I am also hoping that there will be some artistes from the North West or beyond who would be willing to work with Youthquake for little or no cost. They would become highly respected artistic patrons!

Although my plans are not yet finalised, I would be more than happy to receive any enquiries or offers of help. Hopefully, between us we can make Youthquake a forum for young people to meet and learn together from each other, from experienced musicians and give them a platform to perform in front of an audience that is not simply made up of family in the living room!

**Jenni Hyde**



#### **NEWSREEL**

#### **SI KAHN - GUEST AT FOUR FOOLS FOLK CLUB**

Si Kahn the legendary singer/songwriter is making a short visit to the UK this summer and will be appearing at the Four Fools Folk Club in the Old Dog, Alma Hill, Up Holland on Wednesday 16 June.

This is a rare chance to see this great performer in an intimate and relaxed atmosphere. Si has long been acknowledged as one of the greatest songwriters to come from the States and his songs have been covered by many performers, Roy Bailey, Quartz and Sara Gray amongst many others. Songs like "What You Do With What You've Got", "So Long Ago", "What Will I Leave", "Aragon Mill" and "Here Is My Home" to name but a few. Don't miss this chance to hear Si sing and talk about his songs.

Tickets are limited for this event (the room is not large) and are available from 36 The Oaks, Eaves Green, Chorley, Lancs. PR7 3QU price £6 (cheques made payable to Four Fools Folk Festival please) or for £5 on any club night.

#### **BOTHY NEWS**

A temporary move ahoy for the Bothy, which is just about to celebrate its 34<sup>th</sup> birthday (continued on p28)

# Warwick Folk Festival 99

23rd - 25th July

## ARTISTS BOOKED TO DATE:

PEATBOG FAERIES • TARRAS • ROY BAILEY • BARACHOIS  
 VIN GARBUTT • OLD ROPE STRING BAND • DR FAUSTUS  
 LOOSE CHIPPINGS • IAN BRUCE • JILLY DARBY • MAD PUDDING  
 DANSAUL • PREGO • MEET ON THE LEDGE • TANGLEFOOT  
 BOBBY EAGLESHAM & CHUCK FLEMING • MAGGIE BOYLE  
 VULCHEVA-JENKINS • PEEPING TOM • CUCKOO OAK  
 FLORIDA • PAUL & GLEN ELLIOTT • JEREMIAH STONE  
 ALISTAIR HULETT • COCKERSDALE • JANE ON TUNDRER  
 TOM NAPPER & GINA LE FAUX • MICK RYAN & PETE HARRIS  
 BELSHAZZAR'S FEAST • VOXBOX • DR SUNSHINE • AAAAG  
 THE BLACK BOARD VAN • ROOTS QUARTET • DAVE HUNT  
 PAUL SCOURFIELD • VICKY JOHNSON (FRENCH DANCE)

### Morris teams:

ROSE & CASTLE • BRADSHAW MUMMERS • HOBOS • BENSkins  
 CARLISLE • SEVEN CHAMPIONS • WITCHMEN • PLUM JERKUM  
 MORTIMERS • HEREBURGH • NEWCASTLE KINGSMEN

BOX OFFICE: Tel 01926 614932 Dick Dixon 01203 678738

If you would to be included on our mailing list complete the form below and return it to:  
 Warwick Folk Festival Box Office, PO Box 1533, Harbury, Leamington Spa CV33 9ZU,  
 Email: warwick.folk.festival@iname.com, Website: www.warkfolk.demon.co.uk

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

## THE FEDERATION CLUBS

DAY/CLUB	TIME	CLUB ADDRESS	ORGANISER	CONTACT
<b>SUNDAY</b>				
ALBION	8.30pm	Albion Hotel, Albion Street, New Brighton	Gill Peckham	0151 639 9660
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
WALTON (SUNDAY)	8.45pm	County Ward Labour Club, 39 Hale Rd, Walton	Lillian French	0151 474 0979
WOODEN HORSE	8:30pm	The Junction, News Lane, Rainford	Jim Coan	01772 452 782
<b>MONDAY</b>				
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	Aigburth Peoples' Hall, Aigburth Vale, Liverpool	Anne Crumpton	0151 920 5364
<b>TUESDAY</b>				
CHORLEY	8:30pm	The Waggon & Horses, Bolton Street, Chorley	Frank Wilson	01257 230 047
FURNESS	8:30pm	Cavendish Arms, Market Place, 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
RING O'BELLS	8.30pm	Ring O'Bells, Farnworth Street, Widnes, Cheshire	Iris Bickerstaffe	0151 424 7072
MAGHULL	8:30pm	Hare & Hounds, Liverpool Road North, Maghull	Joe Ryan	0151 531 9273
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
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>				
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		Temporarily closed due to loss of venue	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
DENBIGH	8:30pm	The Bull's Head, Denbigh	Geoff Durno	01745 582 265
FOUR FOOLS	8.30pm	The Old Dog, Alma Hill, Up Holland	Angie Bladen	01257 263 678
<b>THURSDAY</b>				
BIDDULPH	8.30pm	The Biddulph Arms, Congleton Road, Biddulph	Eric Cox	01782 514 896
BLACK HORSE	8:30pm	Black Horse Hotel, Black Horse Hill, West Kirby	Paul Wrightson	015 1 625 2307
FLEETWOOD	8:30pm	Steamer Hotel, Queens Terrace, Fleetwood	Dave Ryan	01253 876 351
PARKGATE	8:30pm	Parkgate Hotel, Boathouse Ln, Parkgate, S. Wirral	Eddie Morris	0151 577 1840
RAILWAY	8:30pm	Railway Hotel, Heatley, Lymm	Don Davies	0161 432 4317
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
<b>FRIDAY</b>				
BOLLINGTON	8.30pm	Dog & Partridge, Palmerston Street, Bollington	Arthur Wakefield	01625 573 596
NORTHWICH	8:30pm	Harlequin Theatre, Queen St. Northwich	John Booth	01606 79356
PORKIES	8:30pm	Ladybrook Hotel, Fir Rd. Bramhall, Cheshire	Judy Hancock	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	D.D.Morley	01745 353 859
WALTON (FRIDAY)	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, Westh'ton	Pat Batty	01942 812 301
<b>SATURDAY</b>				
BREWERY ARTS		Temporarily closed due to refurbishment	Box Office	01539 725 133
CITADEL ARTS	8.30pm	Citadel Arts Centre, Waterloo Street, St Helens	Box Office	01744 735 436
OSWALDTWISTLE	8:30pm	St Mary's Parish Centre, Lock St., Oswaldtwistle	Dylan Owen	01254 390 391

## MARCH DATES

SUNDAY	07-Mar-99	14-Mar-99	21-Mar-99	28-Mar-99
ALBION	Singers Night	Singers Night	Moorland Folk	Singers Night
ARNSIDE	Singers Night		Singers Night	
BOTHY	<b>John Pearson</b>	Singers Night	<b>Robin Laing</b>	Singers Night
WALTON (SUNDAY)	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
WOODEN HORSE	Singers Night	<b>Jon Brindley</b>	Singers Night	Singers Night
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>01-Mar-99</b>	<b>15-Mar-99</b>	<b>22-Mar-99</b>	<b>29-Mar-99</b>
BRIDGE	No information supplied			
CONWY	No information supplied			
SWINTON	No information supplied			
TRITON	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>02-Mar-99</b>	<b>16-Mar-99</b>	<b>23-Mar-99</b>	<b>30-Mar-99</b>
CHORLEY	No information supplied			
FURNESS		<b>Anthony John Clarke</b>	Singaround	
HOWCROFT INN		<b>Barry Smith</b>	<b>George Wilson</b>	
JACQUI'S FOLK CLUB	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
LIVERPOOL	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
MAGHULL	Singers Night	<b>Murphy, Fahey &amp; Maguire</b>	Singers Night	Singers Night
RING 'O' BELLS	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
URMSTON ACOUSTICS	Singers Night	<b>Jon Brindley</b>	Singers Night	Singers Night
WIGAN (WMC)	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>03-Mar-99</b>	<b>17-Mar-99</b>	<b>24-Mar-99</b>	<b>31-Mar-99</b>
8:45 at LANE ENDS	John Kirkpatrick	Singers Night	<b>Jeremy Taylor</b>	<b>Andy Irvine</b>
ALISON ARMS	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
BLACKBURN	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
BURNLEY	No information supplied			
CASTLE	No information supplied			
CHESTER	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
DENBIGH		<b>Bram Taylor</b>		
FOUR FOOLS	Singers Night	<b>Donal Maguire</b>	<b>Mike Nicholson</b>	Singers Night

## MARCH DATES

THURSDAY	04-Mar-99	11-Mar-99	18-Mar-99	25-Mar-99
BIDDULPH	<b>Risky Business</b>			<b>Keith Hancock</b>
BLACK HORSE	<b>Teller</b>		<b>Willow</b>	
FLEETWOOD	Singers Night	Singers Night	<b>Robb Johnson</b>	Singers Night
PARKGATE			<b>Artisan</b>	
RAILWAY	<b>Leon Rosselson</b>	<b>Vikki Clayton</b>	Singers Night	Singers Night
THE SHIP INN	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
WIGAN (7 STARS)	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
WREXHAM	<b>Cathryn Craig &amp; Brian Willoughby</b>		Singers Night	
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>05-Mar-99</b>	<b>12-Mar-99</b>	<b>19-Mar-99</b>	<b>26-Mar-99</b>
BOLLINGTON	<b>Anthony John Clarke</b>		tbc	
CITADEL ARTS CENTRE	<b>Plainsong</b>			
NORTHWICH	Singers Night	<b>22nd Birthday - Blarneystone</b>	Singers Night	Singers Night
PORKIES	No information supplied			
PRESTON	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
RHYL	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	<b>Tom McConville &amp; Pauline Cato</b>
WALTON (FRIDAY)	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
WESTHOUGHTON	<b>25th Anniversary (Ticket only)</b>	<b>Partners in Crime</b>	<b>Tim O'Brien &amp; Darrell Scott</b>	<b>Oldham Tinkers</b>
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>06-Mar-99</b>	<b>13-Mar-99</b>	<b>20-Mar-99</b>	<b>27-Mar-99</b>
BREWERY ARTS	No information supplied			
*MAGHULL		<b>Annual Concert in Memory of Dave Day - Mellington Tithebarn</b>		
OSWALDTWISTLE	No information supplied			
<b>Notes:</b>	* If Club name has "*" in front, it's not the usual club night.			
	* If entry has "*" in front, it's being held at a different venue (unless venue is named)			

## APRIL DATES

SUNDAY	04-Apr-99	11-Apr-99	18-Apr-99	25-Apr-99
ALBION	Singers Night	Singers Night	Guest tba	Singers Night
ARNSIDE	Singers Night		Singers Night	
BOTHY	3rd Easter Quiz Night with MC Malcolm Howarth	Steve Tilston	Singers Night	Gerry Hailom
CITADEL ARTS CENTRE	Singers Night	Singers Night	Sierra Maestra	Singers Night
WALTON (SUNDAY)	Closed	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
WOODEN HORSE			Marie Little	
MONDAY	05-Apr-99	12-Apr-99	19-Apr-99	26-Apr-99
BRIDGE	No information supplied			
CONWY	No information supplied			
SWINTON	No information supplied			
TRITON	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
TUESDAY	06-Apr-99	13-Apr-99	20-Apr-99	27-Apr-99
CHORLEY	No information supplied			
FURNESS	Singaround		Singaround	
HOWCROFT INN		Ken Pearson		Geoff Higginbottom
JACQUI'S FOLK CLUB	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
LIVERPOOL	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
MAGHULL	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Eddie Walker
RING O' BELLS	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
URMSTON ACOUSTICS	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
WIGAN (WMC)	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
WEDNESDAY	07-Apr-99	14-Apr-99	21-Apr-99	28-Apr-99
8:45 at LANE ENDS	Bob Hall & Hilary Blythe	Singers Night	Phil Beer & Gareth Turner	tba
ALISON ARMS	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
BLACKBURN	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
BURNLEY	No information supplied			
CASTLE	No information supplied			
CHESTER	Singers Night	Singers Night	John Wright Band	Singers Night
DENBIGH	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
FOUR FOOLS	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night

## APRIL DATES

THURSDAY	08-Apr-99	15-Apr-99	22-Apr-99	29-Apr-99
BIDDULPH	Julie Felix	Karen Tweed & Ian Carr		
BLACK HORSE	Anthony John Clarke			
CITADEL ARTS CENTRE	Frances Black	Capaill Dubh		
FLEETWOOD	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
PARKGATE			The Bushburys	
RAILWAY	Marie Little	Singers Night	Singers Night	Robin Laing
THE SHIP INN	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
WIGAN (7 STARS)	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
WREXHAM	TBC	Singers Night		
FRIDAY	02-Apr-99	09-Apr-99	16-Apr-99	23-Apr-99
*BIDDULPH				30-Apr-99
BOLLINGTON	tbc		The Phil Beer Band at Biddulph Town Hall	
*BOTHY			Julie Felix	Ceillidh at St John's Hall with Five Speed Box
CITADEL ARTS CENTRE			Kate Rusby & Helen Watson	Martin Carthy & Norma Waterson
NORTHWICH	Singers Night	Sally Barker	Singers at the Davenham Players Theatre	Graham & Eileen Pratt
PORKIES	No information supplied			Singers Night
PRESTON	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
RHYL	Anniversary Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
WALTON (FRIDAY)	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
WESTHOUGHTON	Closed	Bernard Wrigley	Doonan Family Band	Closing Night - Albion Band (Ticket only)
SATURDAY	03-Apr-99	10-Apr-99	17-Apr-99	24-Apr-99
BREWERY ARTS	No information supplied			
*FOUR FOOLS			The Big Sing with Ian Giles & Co.	
OSWALDTWISTLE	No information supplied			
*RAILWAY		Saturday Special - John Kirkpatrick		
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

SUNDAY	02-May-99	09-May-99	16-May-99	23-May-99	30-May-99
ALBION	Singers Night	Residents Night with Roger Parker	Singers Night	Singers Night	Guest tba
ARNSIDE	Singers Night		Singers Night		
BOTHY	Singers Night	Allan Taylor	Singers Night	Pete Coe	Closed
WALTON (SUNDAY)	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
WOODEN HORSE	Closed	Singers Night	Singers Night	Residents Night	Closed
MONDAY	03-May-99	10-May-99	17-May-99	24-May-99	31-May-99
BRIDGE	No information supplied				
CONWY	No information supplied				
SWINTON	No information supplied				
TRITON	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
TUESDAY	04-May-99	11-May-99	18-May-99	25-May-99	01-Jun-99
CHORLEY	No information supplied				
FURNESS	Singaround		Singaround		Galliard
HOWCROFT INN		No Turn Unstoned		John Joyce & Steve Gifford	
JACQUI'S FOLK CLUB	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
LIVERPOOL	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
MAGHULL	Singers Night	Auld Triangle	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
RING 'O' BELLS	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
URMSTON ACOUSTICS	Singers Night	Singers Night	Lynne & Barry Hardman	Singers Night	Singers Night
WIGAN (WMC)	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
WEDNESDAY	05-May-99	12-May-99	19-May-99	26-May-99	02-Jun-99
8:45 at LANE ENDS	tba	tba	Steve Tilston	Bernard Carney	tba
ALISON ARMS	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
BLACKBURN	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
BURNLEY	No information supplied				
CASTLE	No information supplied				
CHESTER	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
DENBIGH	Singers Night	John McCormick	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
FOUR FOOLS	Singers Night	Singers Night	Cyril Tawney	Singers Night	Singers Night

## MAY DATES

THURSDAY	06-May-99	13-May-99	20-May-99	27-May-99	03-Jun-99
BIDDULPH	Ben & Joe Broughton		Judy Dunlop & John Scafb		Mike West & Myshkin (New Orleans)
BLACK HORSE	The Pontiacs		Paul Wrightson		
FLEETWOOD	Singers Night	Jan Davis	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
PARKGATE				Tanglefoot (Canada)	
RAILWAY	Singers Night	Maggie Boyle & Tony Gibbons	Singers Night	Bernard Carney	Singers Night
THE SHIP INN	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
WIGAN (7 STARS)	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
WREXHAM	Jeze Lowe (TBC)		Singers Night		
FRIDAY	07-May-99	14-May-99	21-May-99	28-May-99	04-Jun-99
BOLLINGTON	tbc		tbc		
NORTHWICH	Bert Jansch	Singers Night	Singers at the Davenham Players Theatre	Quartz	Singers Night
PORKIES	No information supplied				
PRESTON	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
RHYL	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	John Wright Band	Singers Night
WALTON (FRIDAY)	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
WESTHOUGHTON	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
SATURDAY	08-May-99	15-May-99	22-May-99	29-May-99	05-Jun-99
BREWERY ARTS	No information supplied				
OSWALDTWISTLE	No information supplied				
*RAILWAY		Saturday Special - Lancashire Night with the Best o't Bunch			
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)			

## ADVANCE DATES FOR JUNE 1999 AND BEYOND

**8:45 AT LANE ENDS**  
June 9 - Pierre Schryer Band

**ALBION**  
June 6 - Singers Night  
June 13 - Singers Night  
Sept 12 - Houghton Weavers

**ARNSIDE**  
Singers Nights -  
June 6, June 20, July 4, July 18, Aug 1, Aug 15, Sep 5,  
Sep 19, Oct 3, Oct 17, Nov 7, Nov 21, Dec 5, Dec 19

**BIDDULPH**  
June 3 - Mike West & Myshkin (New Orleans)  
June 17 - Tanglefoot (Canada)  
July 17 - Folk in the Park - Biddulph Grange Country  
Park

**BLACK HORSE**  
Forthcoming guests (Dates tbc) -  
Gwyn Davies  
Southern Cookin'  
Gerry Smith  
Arthur Marshall

**BOTHY**  
June 6 - Derek Gifford  
June 13 - Singers Night  
June 20 - Dave Webber & Anni Fentiman  
June 25 - Ceilidh with The Martin Ellison Experience  
June 27 - Singers Night

**BOLLINGTON**  
Nov 2 - Jon Wright Band

**FOUR FOOLS**  
June 16 - Si Kahn (Tickets in Advance)  
June 25-27 - Four Fools Folk Festival

**FURNESS**  
June 15 - Singaround  
June 29 - Singaround

**HOWCROFT INN**  
June 8 - Anthony John Clarke  
June 22 - Eddie McGurk

**NORTHWICH**  
June 11 - Tanglefoot (Canada)

**PARKGATE**  
June 24 - Chris While & Julie Matthews

**RAILWAY**  
June 10 - Singers Night  
June 12 - Saturday Special with The McCalmans

**WESTHOUGHTON**  
Sept 24 - Opening Night with Tamarack (Canada)

**WOODEN HORSE**  
June 13 - Tanglefoot (Canada)

## CLUB RESIDENTS



**ALBION** - Gill & George Peckham, Roger Parker,  
Burgundy Road

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

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

**CASTLE** - Wild Rover

**CHORLEY** - Wolfman Jack, Frank Wilson

**FLEETWOOD** - Spitting on a Roast

**FOUR FOOLS** - Angie Bladen, Derek Gifford, Janet Hale,  
Paul & Kath Holden

**MAGHULL** - Tony Gibbons, Sue Howard & Bob Davies,  
Phil Boardman, Joe Ryan, Loctup Together, Bob Tyrer,  
Clover, Paul Robinson, Joan Galimore, Norman Wilson,  
Mike Bartram.

**NORTHWICH** - Jamie Anderson, John Booth, Sean Boyle,  
John Moncur, Charlie Reade, Brenda Yates, Ailsa Booth,  
Linda Pollard

**PARKGATE** - Eddie Morris, Brass Tacks

**PORKIES** - Sad Pig Band, Dave Walmsley

**PRESTON** - Jane Trelfall & Carl Hogsden, Rob Malaney,  
Tom Walsh, Nick Caffrey, John MacAlister, Simon Booth,  
Ian Brownwood, Hugh O'Donnell

**RAILWAY** - Heather and Don Davies, Trevor Morton and  
Geoff Smith, Bernard Cromarty, Lesley Turner, Rick  
Nelson

**URMSTON ACOUSTICS** - Keith Northover, Them Lot,  
Martin & Mandy Kavanagh

**WESTHOUGHTON** - Auld Triangle

**WOODEN HORSE** - Quartz, LocTup Together, Rob  
Peacock, Back in Business

**WREXHAM** - Offa (Goff Jones & Ian Chesterman),  
Yardarm



# The 3rd Alison Arms Folk Festival

**18th, 19th & 20th June, 1999**  
**Guests booked this year include:**

**Tanglefoot (Canada),**  
Derek Brimstone, Marie Little, Derek Gifford,  
Pete Ryder, His Worship & the Pig,  
Hands In Pockets, Redmayne, Bayou Gumbo,  
Mick Bramich, Mike Nicholson, Camellia,  
Monologue Joe, Rough Mix, Long Note,  
Roger Sutcliffe, Scolds Bridle,  
and many more!

*Craft Stalls, Dance Teams, Juggling, Pony Rides.....*

*For Details call Bob Gilbert on (01772)338718*

*or e-mail to gilbert.bob@cwcom.net*

*Tickets from Phil Bullen on (01942) 242471*

*Craft Stall bookings from Glenda Dooley on (01695) 724662*

*Tickets: Weekend £16.50 before Friday, April 17th, 1999, £20 after.*

*Friday & Saturday evenings, £9.50. Sunday evening £7.*

*Saturday all day, £12, Sunday all day £12.*

*Children under 12 free, OAP's and children 12-16 half price.*

*Supported by Chorley Borough Council*



## NEWSREEL

A major revamp is set for the club's home at the Blundell Arms, in Birkdale, probably commencing mid April and lasting 10 weeks.

During that time you'll find the club at The Shelborne Hotel, Lord Street, Southport. Business as usual – the Bothy is the show that never ends of course, and Clive only hopes that the refurbishment will mean a better class of lightbulb!

Call him on 0151 924 5078 for an update.

### TOUR DATES

The Rankins will be appearing at Manchester University M.D.H. on April 17 and Liverpool Philharmonic Hall on April 18. Their new album 'Uprooted' is out now on Grapevine. Having taken a year off the road to write, record and deal with personal loss and growth, Heather, Cookie, Raylene, Jimmy and John Morris rankin have emerged as a more mature, musically diverse and powerful group than ever before. 'Uprooted', the band's seventh album, elevates the Rankin sound to a new level by weaving trademark harmonies, stunning melodies and original lyrics with a refreshing boldness and up front edge and grit. 'Anyone expecting the usual dose of Celtic trad should prepare for a very big shock.' What's On Birmingham. For more details contact Claire Horton on 0181 542 8101

### MAYFEST 99 – THE FISHPOND HOTEL, MATLOCK BATH 28<sup>TH</sup> & 29<sup>TH</sup> MAY 1999

A new festival (MAYFEST) is to take place in the Derbyshire Dales over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend. Friday evening will be an American style hoe down with Rogues Gallery, plus guests. On Saturday, there will be a music and song session, with Cross o'th Hands, in concert and those urban hillbillies, The Bushburys, playing their own unique foot stomping music. Details and information can be obtained from Peak Arts, Po Box 200, Belper, Derbyshire DE56 2ZL, or phone 01773 853428.

### INTERNATIONAL DANCE AND MUSIC FESTIVAL AT BELTON HOUSE 16<sup>TH</sup> – 18<sup>TH</sup> JULY 1999

Belton House International Dance and Music Festival (previously held at Grimsthorpe Castle) will take place on the weekend of 16 –18 July 1999. A prestigious line-up includes Black Umfolosi (Zimbabwe), Lindisfarne, The Fraser Sisters, spectacular cossack dancing from Tziganka with many more to be confirmed such as La

Boutinne Souriante and Celtic Feet.

Belton House is situated 2½ miles from Grantham on the A607 and is an ideal camping venue for either tents or caravans with a campsite close by the heart of the Festival. Craft stalls are available for the weekend and can be booked through Peak Arts on 01773 853428. Festival details can be obtained from the Festival Office, International Dance and Music Festival at Belton House, South Kesteven District Council, St Peters Hill, Grantham, Lincs NG31 6PZ.

### FRANK'S FIELD MUSIC FESTIVAL - RODSLEY, NR ASHBOURNE, DERBY 18<sup>TH</sup> – 20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 1999

This is a Rock, Roots and Kite Flying Festival.

A weekend of family fun, with guests including Cross Over Hands, Fee Na Shee, Dynamica Samba Band, Shamus Oblivion and the Megadeath Morris Men, M.C. Cajun, Tower Struck Down. All in all a good ethnic mix of music and entertainment.

More details can be obtained from Gareth Jordan on 01335 360112.

### KAZBAH, 62 Argyll Street, Birkenhead, L41 6AP Tel 0151 201 6049

This new venue features live music from Wednesday to Sunday every week.

Forthcoming events are:-

Wenesday 24th March	Iron Horse (Scotland)
Friday 2nd April	Rory McLeod
Sunday 25th April	Tannahill Weavers
Friday 30th April	Abdur T Jays (8 Piece African band)
Saturday 1st May	Dave Peabody & Gypsy Dave Smith (Blues)
Thursday 13th May	Tarras (Celtic blend)
Friday 25th June	Jon Renbourn

## OBITUARY

### ARTHUR SCOWCROFT

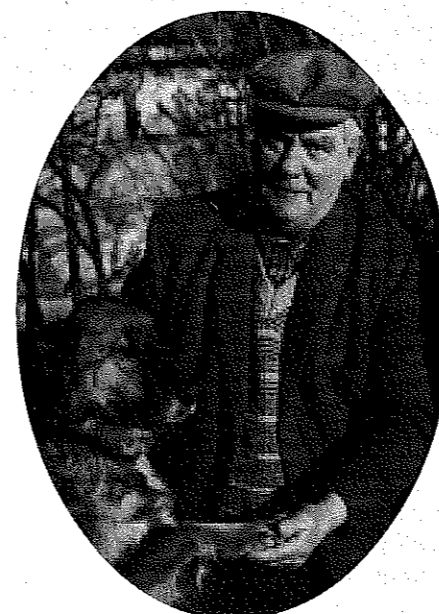
born 26 May 1917, died 29 December 1998

My father was born on my grandmother's farm near Affetside, Bolton, one of the youngest of a large family.

There he fell under the influence of the Spalpeens (Irish itinerant labourers) who left him at the age of 9 with the ability to smoke absolutely anything from hayseeds to Knitbone in a pipe. An addiction he maintained with great gusto to the end, plus a full and abiding love of the Irish people and their songs.

At his best he was massively strong and athletic, widely

noted for prowess both in the boxing ring (he bore the scars all!) and on the dance floor, it was a heady mix for the local females.



He was very much of the old school and only came on to the folk scene after retirement, but even so he made a profound impression being a marvellous exponent of the Victorian Parlour Ballad and the popular Irish song of his day.

His thirst was insatiable and he had an almost contempt for whiskey, all in all he was a natural recruit to the ranks of the Folkies.

One of my most pleasurable memories is recalling Johnny Collins at Poynton saying in profound appreciation he would have given his right arm to hear him in his pomp. He was every bit as good as his hero Josef Locke. He loved the folk scene and they loved him unreservedly.

He would choose a lady (preferably Sandra of Quartz) and address his song solely to her, it was a devastating trick and it humbled every audience.

Few ever could have matched his impact and I fear now we will not see such like again.

He was far from the modern concept of an ideal father, but given a choice I'd have the same again.

He leaves a loyal wife, a large and loving family, many of whom have inherited his enjoyment of the folk scene and a huge host of friends who will miss him greatly.

So now he's sharing a pint, a yarn and a song with my old pal Alan Bond at the Great Singaround in the Sky.

Doubles all round and I suppose, as usual, I'm paying!

Cheers SCOWIE



## DIARY CHAT

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

Moorland View  
Hargreaves Street  
Hoddlesden  
Darwen  
BB3 3NB

Tel: 01254 707826

A couple of changes of address for you this month:-

now at Tony Gibbons  
7 Town Green Lane  
Aughton  
Ormskirk  
Lancs  
L39 6SE  
Tel No: 01695 424327

now at Roy Wilcock and Bridget Guest  
1 Limefield Cottages  
Farleton  
Carnforth  
Cumbria  
LA6 1PB  
Tel No: 01539 567650

**Furness Folk Club** now meets fortnightly (as opposed to twice a month) at the Cavendish Arms, Market Place, Dalton in Furness. This old/new venue has been extensively modernised and improved. So no more Ice Station Cavendish and we can forget the noisy XXXX beer pump.

**Parkgate Folk Club** is pleased to announce that Brass Tacks have become residents at the club along with Eddie Morris.

### Welcome to New Clubs

We bid a very warm welcome to the following new club which has recently joined the Federation :-

**Ring 'O' Bells Folk Club** is organised by Iris Bickerstaffe and runs weekly on Tuesday evenings starting at 8:30 pm. The venue is the Ring 'O' Bells, Farnworth Street, Widnes. Contact Iris on 0151 424 7072 for further details.

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



## LETTERS

Dear Editor

I write, as promised, to update your readers on the progress in establishing a Folk Arts Network in the North West.

Last November, I attended a meeting of the National Folk Arts Network committee at the BBC at Pebble Mill in Birmingham. I had been invited to present my views on the lack of the development of Folk Music, Songs and related Arts in Lancashire and the North West. I had the pleasure of meeting Rajan Hooper, of the Arts Council of Great Britain, who is the man responsible for introducing guidelines for the development of Jazz and Asian cultures throughout the United Kingdom.

I was given a sympathetic hearing and heard to my delight that a National Guideline Policy for Folk Music in the UK is to be announced in January 1999. In addition, I learnt that the funding for Arts Councils is to be decentralised, with monies being devolved to the regions. This is great news. How this is to be done, is not yet clear, but a series of meetings are to be held over the next few months to produce a working policy which will be beneficial for all. More on this later.

Since beginning this quest nearly two years ago, I have been operating as an individual and I came to the conclusion some weeks ago I could not make progress as such. To champion the cause by using my position as Director of Fylde could also lead to charges of nepotism or self-interest, therefore, following a meeting with the officer of the Arts Unit of Lancashire County Council, I am pleased to announce the formation of the Lancashire Folk Arts Network.

This will be an agency operating in Lancashire, similar to how Folkworks operates in the North East. A small steering committee, representing various areas within Lancashire is to meet soon. Our first task will be to produce a constitution, plus a one to three year business plan. These will then be presented to the Arts Units, with applications for funding to set up the enterprise and develop Folk Arts projects within the county. For your interest, phase two of the plan is to have the agency become a charity as soon as possible.

I find this a very exciting prospect. Once established I will be asking for views and ideas from all interested groups and people throughout the county. An information service will be developed. Regular seminars will be held throughout the county, so I hope we can make progress in the common cause of making the Lancashire Folk Arts Network work and take it into the Twenty First Century.

Alan A Bell

Dear Ken

The 10<sup>th</sup> Middlewich Folk and Boat Festival – 18<sup>th</sup>/ 20<sup>th</sup> June 1999

As you can see, we plan to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in style. After the sell-out concerts on Friday and Saturday night last year we are offering advance concert tickets as well as weekend tickets to avoid disappointment.

We look forward to welcoming you to Middlewich in June. Contact me for details. 01606 836896 (after 6pm).

In response to the lack of response to Bob Gilbert's article, 'The Federation, Help or Hindrance?' Personally I regard 'Folk North West' as a luxury folk club newsletter, run by volunteers for folk enthusiasts. I am grateful to FNW for keeping me updated with 'Who's on Where'. That's enough crawling I think!

Surely the lack of response to Bob's article speaks for itself. Folk club organisers are content to allow things to carry on as they are.

The system in place used to award grants (except lottery and millennium) is through local government and arts boards. This will not change in the foreseeable future. As I was advised several years ago – 'make friends with the arts board and council arts officers – not enemies! Make them realise how important your event/project is to the local community/education/tourism etc.'

I don't mean to preach, my point is funding and support is there **IF** you meet their criteria. A pain in the ..... sometimes but worth it. Until a professional national body is formed and is successful in changing the way money is granted, let's aim for success with local council and arts boards. Have any folk clubs had success applying for grants to fund any projects? How many clubs have applied for local arts grants?

I'm sure the Federation has an important role to play in the future. I suggest we start by offering Jenni Hyde all the encouragement and support possible. Any ideas?

Dave Thompson

Some words for Folk North West.....

'Over the last year, Mr Kite benefit nights raised over £800 for charity via gigs with Kate Rusby, Bert Jansch, The Wrigley Sisters and others. More benefits are being planned for 1999. Kate Rusby makes a return promoting her new album on April 14<sup>th</sup> whilst Chris While and Julie Matthews will be appearing on June 27<sup>th</sup>. A further night featuring local artists is planned for March 21<sup>st</sup>. All these nights will be held at The Worden Arts Centre in Leyland and details can be obtained from them on 01772 455908.'

Thanks in anticipation of your help.

Steve Henderson

**hobgoblin music**  
Est. 1976

**A 21 Year Tradition**  
CASTAGNARI, DELICIA, FYLDE, SHERWOOD, CHIEFTAIN, GREMLIN, YAMAHA, SERENELLINI, AND OTHER TOP MAKES

*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 Crumhorns, 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!*

<p><b>LONDON</b> 24 Rathbone Place, London W1 London's best for folk instruments, tapes, CDs, &amp; books. Just off Oxford Street, near Ivor Mairants. Call now! <b>0171 323 9040</b></p>	<p><b>CRAWLEY</b> 17 The Parade, Northgate, Crawley, Sussex, RH10. Britain's longest established, best stocked folk specialists. Free parking right outside. Call now! <b>01293 515858</b></p>
<p><b>BRISTOL</b> 30 College Green, Bristol BS1 The best for folk in the West, plus loads of Guitars and printed music. Easy to reach from Wales. Call now! <b>0117 929 0902</b></p>	<p><b>BRADFORD</b> 38 Manningham Lane, Bradford BD1 The Folk Shop of the North, Guitars, Early music and much more. Free parking right outside. Call now! <b>01274 730750</b></p>

**WORLDWIDE MAIL ORDER**  
Everything is available by mail order too!  
See our Web Catalogue at [www.hobgoblin.com](http://www.hobgoblin.com)  
or send now for our free FULL COLOUR catalogue and price lists.

**P.O. Box 12, Horsham, RH12 4YE, UK**  
Tel. 07000 462462  
Email [post@hobgoblin.co.uk](mailto:post@hobgoblin.co.uk)

1999-2000 **the folk directory**  
listings | festivals | classified | press contacts

**35th Edition**  
Published February 99  
Over 2,000 clubs and folk organisations. Hundreds of advertisers, festivals, folk events, folk resources, national and international contacts, press and media listings.  
All entries updated annually.

Price £5.50 plus £1.50 p&p.

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

**29th CLEETHORPES FOLK FESTIVAL**

Vin Garbutt • Old Rope String Band  
John Wright Band • Edward II  
Sid Kipper • Dave Burland  
The Bushburys • Keelers  
Peeping Tom • Tony Wilson  
Sandra & Nancy Kerr &  
James Fagan • Cockersdale  
Bill Whalley & Dave Fletcher  
John McCormack  
Chris Sherburn & Denny Bartley  
Children's Entertainment + much more

GOOD FOOD SERVED ALL DAY • REAL ALE • DANCE DISPLAYS

**28th - 31st May 1999**

3 Week End Ticket £33 (£28 before April 8th)  
Tickets and Information:  
CLEETHORPES FOLK FESTIVAL  
7 COLLINGWOOD CRESCENT  
GRIMSBY DN34 5RG  
Telephone: 01472 752852  
Tel/Fax enquires: 01507 462045

**"The Folk Festival at the Heart of Lancashire"**

**CLEETHORPE GREAT DAYS OF FOLK 99**  
4, 5 & 6 June 1999

THE ALBION BAND ~ THE POOZIES  
RORY McLEOD & AIMEE LEONARD  
JACK-e-McAULEY & THE POORMOUTH (IRELAND)  
BERNARD WRIGLEY (BOLTON)  
THE PIERRE SCHRYER BAND (CANADA)  
MAXI & MITCH ~ DAVE SUMMERS  
DAVE HUNT ~ REBECCA GREEN  
JABADAW ~ BUCKLE DOWN  
WHISTLING FOR THE MOON

For Booking Form send SAE to Great Days of Folk,  
PO Box 23, Accrington, Lancashire, BB5 5GX  
Telephone enquiries 01254 397623  
email: [great.days@talk21.com](mailto:great.days@talk21.com)



Dear Ken

At West Kirby on the Wirral, the "Black Horse Folk Roots Club" opens its doors for the New Year on January 21<sup>st</sup>.

Like last year, we've a very full date sheet, so it seemed appropriate to cover the story so far. The 'Black Horse' will of course need no introduction to many readers, as it was a going concern for I believe around 30 years, notably under the auspices of the 'Tom Topping Band'. Many names had a start there including Jasper Carrot! And correct me if I'm wrong, Billy Connolly passed through at some point.

Now, this is where the plot thickens. Having worked in the professional band game for a quarter of a century, mainly in pop and (sorry) very heavy rock ("Jethro Tull", "Gryphon" type of thing!) I decided the new material I was writing pointed to a solo career.

Living in West Kirby, it seemed natural to try the Black Horse. Only recently having moved there, I didn't expect the pool tables, flashing neons and all the accoutrements of a rock joint. 'No folk club here mate!' they said. So I recorded two solo albums and did a resident playing job at Alexander's in Chester for two years, then the Wirral Guitar Festival in 1996.

Back to the Black Horse went I to find new management who said "Folk Club? Yeah, great idea!" In June 1998 we got the original old room dusted down, lighting on stage, P.A. system and yes a bar!

Some of the acts so far include 'Celtic' (that word?) rock band "Arranmore", Cajun band "Southern Cookin'" local outrageous singer Arthur Marshall and Martin Pleass.

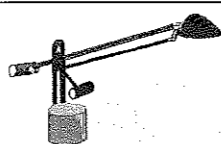
This year among many other artists are "Swamp Fever", "Capaill Dubh" the resident Deeside F.C. band, blues band "The Pontiacs" and from Belfast, Anthony John Clarke.

Incidentally we had "Wirral Eurodance Trust/Mersey Morris Men" for a Christmas Medieval bash. We had a ribald array of musicians with codpieces! (Oh well - suit yourself).

None of this happens without my partners Robb Orr, who helps with just about everything including publicity, stagehand, lighting, video, bookings and Quasimodo outfit, Pete Coleman on P.A. sound, Jenny Coleman stage management, Gemma on the door and my wife Gill. Some men have a mid-life crisis, I started a folk club!

Paul Wrightson

*Ed:- It is very pleasant to receive letters and e.mail in connection with the contents of the previous magazine. At least we know that somebody reads it and cares enough to contact us and tell us what they think or what they know about certain matters. Keep the letters coming so that we can pass on your information and comments and continue to generate interest in folk music, song and dance.*



## SPOTLIGHT ON THE HOWCROFT

The Live and Unplugged Acoustic Nights at the Howcroft Inn in Bolton has a slightly different history to many of the clubs in the Federation. It was begun by Pete Ryder who invited 'friends' to do spots during his evening's entertainment in the pub. Some time has now passed since Pete ran the club, and it is now run every second and fourth Tuesday of the month by Ron and Mick. It is held in a separate room in the pub, with no admission charge. In fact, the 'friend' doing the main spot of the evening relies for his or her bus fare home on the generosity of the audience in buying raffle tickets and giving to the pint pot which is handed round towards the end of the evening. The reasonably priced house beer is Walker's, with the guest beer of Timothy Taylor's Landlord being much appreciated by my cohorts.

Chatting to the evening's host Mick (Ron being away for the night), it emerged that the club has a policy of encouraging people to sing, newcomers in particular. Furthermore, inspection of their line-up will show that alongside established artistes, the club likes to showcase local acts and new performers trying to make their mark on the folk scene. There is no PA, and anyone who would like to perform will be given a spot, even if it be only one song when demand is high. They also try to introduce different styles of music in a relaxed atmosphere. On the evening of our visit, foul weather and flooding across many parts of the north west held back what I am assured are usually madding crowds. In addition, the proposed 'Friend' of the evening had let them down and had been replaced at short notice by John Kennedy.

The evening's proceedings began, as usual, between 8.50pm and 9pm with Mick giving us one song. The first half was made up of floor spots from regular and occasional visitors to the club. Each of five groups and individuals treated the appreciative audience to three pieces, and the first half finished at around 10.20pm. A short break of 10 minutes followed, during which there was an opportunity to buy raffle tickets in the hope of winning the prize of a bottle of wine conforming to the Howcroft 12% rule!

The second half of the evening began at about 10.30pm, and John Kennedy gave us nine choice songs before the raffle was drawn. The encore followed and a small but select audience had enjoyed a pleasant and easygoing evening's entertainment by 11.25pm, when any normal folk club audience would be at last considering going home to bed. But I should warn any fainthearted visitors that, due to the separate room in which the club is held and the relaxed attitude of the landlord, informal tune swapping and chat was still going on when we finally dragged ourselves away at close to midnight! So this is an unconstrained club, at which not only the guest of the evening but regulars and visitors are considered friends.

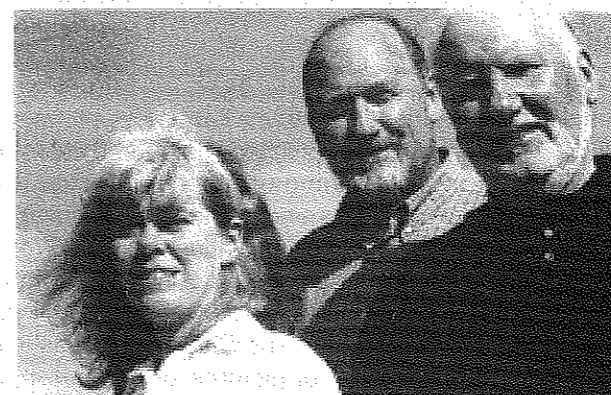
Jenni Hyde



## CD REVIEWS

COCKERSDALE - "Wide Open Skies" - [Fellside FECD 123].

Thankfully, our folk heritage is safe in the hands of artists like, Cockersdale. Val Marsden, John O'Hagan and Graham Pirt, continue their a-cappella travels around subjects that otherwise would be lost to generations. While Coope, Boyes and Simpson, plough a more contemporary furrow, Cockersdale dig and unearth the gems of our tradition. This CD has that rare commodity, balance, as one track flows ceaselessly after the next.



The 'Tree Song', is a Peter Bellamy setting of a Rudyard Kipling poem, in praise of that leafy triumvirate, the oak, ash and thorn. The more serious side to Les Barker is portrayed in, 'Fit For Heroes', that reflects on the plight of war widows. 'The Cuckoo', is much sung, but this tune gives a more mellow feel, not prevelant in other versions. Northumbrian in origin, a fact that's obvious from this particular tune, 'Poor Old Horse', has many different variants, depending on which part of the country you happen to be. Graham leads on a song he wrote, 'Sykehouse Bridge', a song extolling the virtues of the barges or 'tom puddings', that transported coal down the canal to Goole, to be loaded onto ships, and yes, the inhabitants are known locally as 'Goolies', honestly. 'Ash & Oak', by Chris Sugden, tells how, living in the city usually means no trees or greenery, but will a return to rural surroundings guarantee that the countryside will survive man's constant pillaging?

Aussie, John Warner, provided the inspiration for 'Anderson's Coast', a ballad from the recording, 'Pithead in the Fern', about the Australian mining industry. I never tire of hearing, 'Barratt's Privateer's', the late Stan Rogers' tale of adventure on the high seas, you can almost smell the gunpowder. 'Auld Fisher's Farewell to Coquet', is another Northumbrian song, this time complimented by a lilting Irish air. Along with, 'The Cuckoo', it was used on the Lateral History Programme, on BBC Radio 2. Dole often leads to despair, and then desperate measures

lead.... well who knows where? 'Us Poor Fellows', is a story of caution. 'Long, Long Road', proves that Americans really do have some strange ideas, a bright tune to Archie Fisher's song, that should give hope to all those in their prime!

Chris Sugden continues to write thought provoking songs of our time, 'Single Handed', again extols his art. Bob Dylan wrote, 'Death Is Not The End', what really is across the great divide? 'Tortoises Always Come Last', for no matter what your perspective, life really can be cruel, can't it? I bet Keith Marsden and Chris Sugden had hours of fun, putting it together. Back to Rudyard Kipling for the final track, 'A Pilgrim's Way', again adapted by the late, Peter Bellamy. A look by the author at his relationships, while reviewing his faults, both powerful and poignant.

Cockersdale continue to be in demand, and not surprisingly, continue to win over converts to their style of presenting songs with an ease, while not losing sight of the messages that lie within.

Paul Adams, has done another masterly job on the recording and production. A real recording of quality.

David Jones

ANNE LISTER 'Root, Seed, Thorn & Flowers'  
[HF004CD]

Anne Lister is probably best remembered as the 'writing' half of the duo Anonyma with such memorable songs as 'Icarus' and 'Moth'. Anne is also a story-teller and this CD is a collection of songs based on traditional stories with the core of the album being songs written to accompany two plays written by Anne based on Arthurian legends.

Anne, as you might have guessed by now, is a prolific writer but quality is not compromised by quantity and all of the songs show careful crafting. They are further enhanced by some excellent musicianship from Stefan Hannigan, who plays a wide variety of instruments including uilleann pipes, various small pipes, Turkish clarinet, bodhran, cymbals, djembe, bendir (answers on a post card please!) and deff (ditto!) and is Anne's regular accompanist on her travels round the world. Add some fine fiddle work from Mike O'Connor and occasional contributions from David K and Terry Mann with vocal additions on some tracks from Eileen McGann and Caitlin Matthews and you have a resulting intricate mix of arrangements.

There is so much content here that you need to play the album a few times to really appreciate the complexities of the lyrics as well as take in all the arrangements. The CD comes with a comprehensive booklet containing the lyrics and the background to the songs. The latter information is very useful in explaining the raison d'etre for some of the songs particularly the ones that on face value appear to be somewhat ethereal. Yes, that's a good word, ethereal, it describes exactly the feel of the album - very nice.

Derek Gifford

**DON & HEATHER & THE KAPSALI BAY FOLK 'The Kythera Dream'**

So, as I said, everyone who came to the 'live' show at Heatley was given a copy of the cassette as part of the admission. I was looking forward to singing along with the songs as all the lyrics are included but, unfortunately, my eyesight isn't what it used to be and the small print in the dim light didn't help. However, this is an excellently produced and packaged tape, with 14 songs all with full explanatory notes. Glossy photos as well! I'm not going to go into great detail about the songs only to say they're all listenable and enjoyable. The accompaniment is competent and uncluttered. The vocals are much easier to pick out than in the live show, obviously due to levels and balance in the studio. As well as playing most of the instruments on it, Bernard Cromarty also produced the tape and a fine job he's done. My only reservation is that to get the full impact of what the songs are about you really need to see/have seen the live show. Still, with my memories of the night still fresh in my head I can quite happily play it on long journeys and relate to it. A good effort and a good idea. Well done to all. For a copy or further information, write to Don Davies, 6 Simon Freeman Close, Manchester M19 2WE. Maybe a video next Don?

**Tony Gibbons**

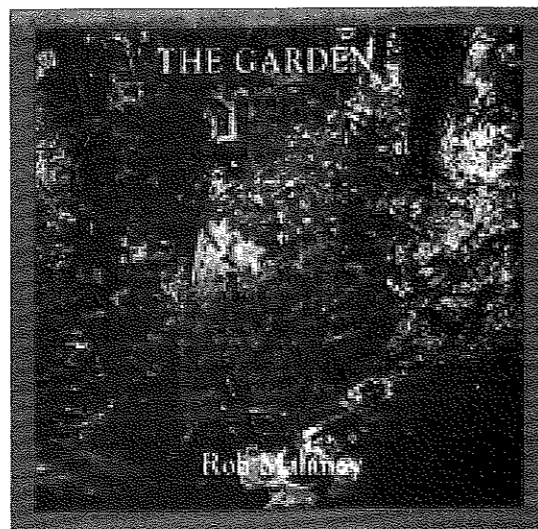
**ROB MALANEY - 'The Garden' [Antique records TAR 006]**

A good "folk" CD to me is like a good "folk" concert in that it provides the listener with a variety of exciting, stimulating and enjoyable musical experiences whilst provoking an enthusiasm to discover what is to follow. Having found such a CD, the next move is to put it on tape in order to play it in the kitchen when ironing, (I have been known to iron tea towels when the listening gets good!), or to play in the car, where I can sing the choruses with abandon. This is one such CD!

"The Garden" is made up of 17 tracks, all bar one, totally from the creative talents of this well-known Lancashire plasterer, and comprises 8 chorus / refrain songs, 4 tunes, a 2 voice dialogue piece and 4 ballads, two of which have their origins in Scottish history (a marked achievement for a man who still requires a translator outside a ten miles radius of Chorrrrrrley!) Fortunately, some of those translators made themselves and their considerable talents available for the recording and Rob's compositions have been well performed in thoughtful and effective ways and provide enjoyable variety to a CD that is a-typical of the usual singer/songwriter offerings. Rob is ably supported on a number of tracks by his wonderfully dry sense of humour, "The Fishing Trip" and "The Heavenly Brew" being excellent examples.

However, there is a serious and thoughtful side to Mr. Malaney that shows concern for the working classes of which he is so proudly a member. Most people will be familiar with one of his earlier songs, "Breathe with me",

which was written after Labour's 1987 election defeat. This very powerful song was immediately seized upon by many groups, my own included, and has become an integral part of many repertoires. I feel sure that songs from this album will be picked up in the same way.



"Goodbye Working Class" which was inspired by a John Major speech in 1992 bemoans the demise of the tradesmen of every calling - a song with real meaning to those of us who live in the, one time, industrial North West. I was pleased that Rob has chosen to include 4 of his tunes on the CD and particularly enjoyed Martin Ellison and George Critchley playing "The Chicken Run" as this conjured up some wonderful pictures of a free-range environment! "The Wrong Side of the Bed" and "Farewell to the Green" are performed with the talent and expertise that is synonymous with Chris Harvey. One of my favourite tunes from his "Feeling the Squeeze" album, "Donald Macpherson's Lament", is used here as a vehicle for "The Road Tae Ullapool", sung by Alison Younger, a song which benefits from her pure and sensitive singing. "My Love He Works On The Roads", sung by Angie Bladen in her own inimitable way is yet more perfection.

The title track is for me, as it should be, the absolute piece de resistance, a song of lilting tenderness that is irresistible to singers. I'm so glad that it's on this CD - it saves me keep having to ask Rob to sing it!

I could go on to extol the virtues of the Threlfall sisters, Nick Caffrey and Alan Burns but Mr Editor wants this review yesterday so suffice it to say that this is a terrific CD which deserves to sell millions! The cost of the CD is £10 and there is an accompanying book of the words & music for £4 - or £13 for the pair, obtainable from Rob on 01257 231463.

**Judith Gleave**

**JOHNNY McEVOY 'Portrait' [Dolphin Records TOLCD 8]**

I'm not sure whether this CD is available yet over here- I bought it in Dublin just before Christmas, but with the

growth of imports and internet shopping I feel justified in reviewing it anyway. For those who aren't crossing the sea or surfing the net, it will be one worth waiting for.

Johnny McEvoy must be becoming one of the veterans of the native Irish music scene. He's been around longer than I can recall, and in the absence of CD re-releases of his earlier material, any new release has added rarity value. The title 'Portrait' might suggest that this is a 'best of' collection, but that isn't the case. There are two tracks which were recorded by Johnny some years ago, but these have received new arrangements. There are traditional songs like 'Love is Pleasing', 'Boys of Barr Na Sraide' and 'Boo-lavogue', and there are songs by other composers, such as Richard Thompson's 'Waltzing's for Dreamer's'. But many of the songs (though the sleeve notes might tell you otherwise) are by McEvoy himself. These include 'Soldier on the Hill', the antidote to 'Boo-lavogue', and 'The Town I Left Behind' which is, as its name suggests, a song of reminiscence about his home town of Banagher in Co. Offaly, inspired by his brother's emigration to the USA.

All in all, it's a very well crafted, enjoyable and quite formal album from one who I believe deserves more recognition than he receives.

**Jenni Hyde**

**THE POOZIES "Infinite Blue" [Pure Records PRCD 03]**

For those of you who don't know who the Poozies are, they are Mary MacMaster on harps and vocals, Kate Rusby on vocals, guitar and fiddle, Patsy Seddon on harps, fiddle and vocals and Karen Tweed on piano accordion and vocals. All established artistes in their own right they have built up a deserved reputation as one of the folk scene's top bands. They certainly have a sound of their own; how many bands do you know with two harpists? I think the big question when a group of established artists come together is; does the whole add up to more than the sum of the parts? And in this case, I feel it does (probably about 7!)

The CD kicks off with 'Come All Ye Lonely Lovers', a song Mary discovered in a Scottish Studies magazine. This is one of the more up-beat songs on the CD and features Mary on lead vocal. Next comes 'Hog-ties Reel' from the nimble fingers of Phil Cunningham. A tune that builds gradually and displays some excellent interplay between the harp and accordion. This moves smoothly into the Gaelic 'Si Morag', with Mary again on vocals and flows into the tune 'Lasses Fashion'.

Track 3 sees Kate taking centre stage with 'Neptune', a Jim Malcolm song. This haunting song reminds us of the way we poisoned the sea and plundered its resources. Lovely understated backing complements the singing. Back to the tunes for track 4 and 'Crooked Road to Dublin' with Karen really showing that an excellent musician she is. Patsy takes lead vocal next on 'Ma Plaid' with Kate on

harmony; a Jacobite love song. This runs into Mary's composition 'Freya Dances', that has almost a Breton feel to it.



The CD moves on to 'Sorrows Away' with Kate leading and the rest of the band providing tight harmonies. Following this come a series of tunes; 'Majas Brudvals', from Sweden, with fiddles dominating, 'Tanteeka', a Jo Freya composition and finishing with 'Lost in Fishponds'. Track 8 gives us the Burns song 'The Shepherd's Wife', a song found by Patsy and with the band sharing the vocals and with a careful change of the final note, leading smartly into another set of deftly played, well arranged tunes including 'Rabbit Stew' and John Martin's 'Freddie's Reel'.

'The Maid of Llanwellyn' shows Kate's voice at her best, set against the somewhat unusual backing. In the middle of the song is a John McCusker tune 'Emma and Jane's Wedding'.

Well there it is, 49 minutes, 10 tracks but 20 individual items. The production and arrangements give the songs a mystical feel to them, the tunes, a showpiece of smart musicianship. It's grown on me a lot, you hear something new on each listen. Now you have a listen.

**Ken Howard**

**PETE SHIRLEY 'The Lone Pilgrim' [Cassette produced and published by the artist.]**

Pete Shirley is probably an artist most of you will be unfamiliar with. He comes from Stoke-on-Trent. When I went to see Clive Gregson at the Biddulph Folk Club in Staffordshire last year, Pete was one of the floor singers on that evening. It was immediately apparent that, although quite nervous, Pete has a powerful if sometimes understated vocal delivery and a more than accomplished guitar player.

On the strength of performing half a dozen songs, I bought his tape. I was not disappointed by the quality of the

# FOUR FOOLS BIG SING

Tel. No. 01257 263 678

**Saturday April 17th  
12 noon to 12 midnight**

**with IAN GILES, GRAHAM  
METCALF & JOHN SPIERS.**

**at THE OLD DOG, ALMA HILL,  
UP HOLLAND**

**Bring some food for a Jacob's Feast.**

**Afternoon concertina repair  
workshop with Steve Dickinson.  
Tickets (£5.00) and information  
from Angie & Ken Bladen, 36  
The Oaks, Eaves Green, Chorley,  
Lancs. PR7 3QU.**



**e. mail: four.fools@virgin.net**

*Thought Gang*

from the band formerly known as  
'Whiskey Before Breakfast'

**Monsters from the Id**  
A fivetrees release  
FTCD01  
distributed by Pinnacle

**ON TOUR IN MARCH**  
for details call 01223 248970  
or visit [www.fivetrees.com/thoughtgang.htm](http://www.fivetrees.com/thoughtgang.htm)

material. The tape consists of songs set against the accompaniment of an acoustic guitar. Of the 11 tracks on the tape, 7 are self-penned. Pete demonstrates a very promising songwriting ability and vocal style. If there is any criticism it is that the tempo and arrangements of the songs could be more varied. That's not always easy unless you have access to a wider choice of instruments and a reasonable budget. Outstanding songs include "Another Man's Sky", "Like a Bird in a Cage" and "The Miner", as well as the traditional offering, "Black Jack Davey".

Pete Shirley is definitely someone to watch out for.

For more information, bookings and copies of this cassette, contact : Pete Shirley on 01782 720217

**Lewis Jones**

**THOUGHT GANG 'Monsters From The Id' [Fivetrees FTCD01]**

The Thought Gang (see advert on Page 36) are:- Martin Green, Nigel J. Savage, Kevin Duffy, and Cathy Coombs who provides the vocals as well as strings, piano, low whistle and fire extinguisher. This CD, recorded in June 1998, contains 9 tracks and The Gap (0.17).



The first track called Winter gets the CD off to a good start as it compels the listener to take notice. Both the singing and the playing are of the highest quality. Both tracks 1 and 3 have a driving rhythm accompaniment. Track 4, entitled, 'The Twisted Keyboard', with accordion and low whistle is also very up tempo. It is in two parts; part a being written and arranged by band member Martin Green and part b 'Finbar Finnegan's' (McDermott) being arranged by Martin.

'Ten Thousand Miles' is, for me and I think also for Cathy, sung in too low a key. There is a little too much evidence of regaining breath for the next line. This is the most disappointing track on a well produced CD, which has a good blend of vocal and instrumental tracks. The instrumental tracks provide ample opportunity for the band

members to display their individual and collective formidable musicianship. However some of the instrumental tracks are a little too long and repetitious.

My favourite tracks are 'In The Voice Of The Waves', and 'MLK' both of which have a haunting feel to them. If you like your folk music with a pronounced jazz influence then you will appreciate this CD and I commend it to your attention.

**Ken Bladen**

**STEVE TILSTON 'Solorubato' [Fellside Recordings FECD134]**

There are few people in this world that I am happy to say give me an inferiority complex. But Steve is just so talented (and relaxed with it) that you can't help but admire him, whether or not what he does is your cup of tea. I'm not sure other reviewers have left me anything new to say about his excellent skills as a singer, songwriter and guitarist, so I'll just move on to his new release 'Solorubato', billed as a (nearly) solo album. What makes it only 'nearly' is Richard Adams' percussion, but there's not very much of it.

Predictably, eleven of the thirteen tracks are self-penned, the exceptions being two traditional songs - 'Night Visiting Song' and the beautiful 'Roving on a Winter's Night'. There's another ten minute Tilston Epic Narrative Song, 'The Turncoat', about a man pressganged into the American War of Independence, and there's all the usual class that you would expect from one so experienced and with such a track record. If proof were needed, one of the songs from the album is likely to be covered in the near future by Fairport.

For me, outstanding tracks on the album include the opener, 'Living with the Blues', 'Never Enough', 'These Grey Days are Done' and 'Hold Fast to These Sights'. The accompaniment is, as always, tasteful, the voice like velvet and the clarity of the recording superb. Somehow, it also seems a rather more optimistic offering than some of his work in the last few years. Last but not least, it's a very attractive package, too.

**Jenni Hyde**

**BRIAN WILLOUGHBY (with Cathryn Craig) 'Black & White' (PYOCD001)**

Brian Willoughby has been a guitar hero of mine since he first joined the Strawbs way back in the early 70's, having worked with that apple of "Apple's" eye, Mary Hopkin, as her backing guitarist. In fact I owe my own Guild guitar to Brian's eagle eyes, as he first spotted the instrument in a London music shop in the 70's and I well remember the trek south to examine, play and ultimately buy the guitar that has been my constant and trusty musical companion over the last 26 years.

It was therefore with more than a hint of anticipation that I listened to this, his first solo album and a long overdue debut. Having said that, and for all Brian's intricate skills so perfectly presented, the album benefits enormously from the Nashville lady with the haunting voice, Cathryn Craig, and one memorable contribution from Mary Hopkin turning the clock back to her halcyon days.



The whole album is a masterpiece of laid back, understated and simply superb acoustic guitar playing underpinning Cathryn's vocals, the only other musician invited along being Brian's dad, Walter "Flaco" Willoughby on button accordion. The CD kicks off with the atmospheric "In My Room" that sets the scene for the rest of this easy listening recording. This is followed by one of my favourite tracks "Alice's Song" written for Brian's young niece, some nice thoughts as he tries to look into Alice's World. The title track and probably the most powerful on the album is "Black and White", a story of racially motivated homicide handled with great aplomb by Cathryn whose voice prompted one reviewer to remark that she could "bring goose bumps up on sheet metal!"

Other memorable moments are provided by "The Fire", another great idea from Brian's pen, "Hard Luck Café", the story of a waitress who dreams of a Prince Charming who will take her away from the daily drudge and, for once, there is a happy ending, "Love Belongs Right Here" with a stunning performance from Mary Hopkin and quite rightly, Brian keeps the backing simple letting Mary take the honours and "More Than You Love Me", a real "country" song this and probably my own favourite with the Nashville lady in her element and Pa Willoughby chipping in with backing accordion.

No doubt you'll make your own choices from this fine debut album by one of the best acoustic guitar players in the UK who is proving to be no mean songwriter too. The other good news is that Cathryn Craig and Brian Willoughby will be appearing live at Wrexham Folk Club (see listings elsewhere in the mag) on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March so why not go along, see them and buy their album.

Ian Chesterman

#### WAZ 'Fully Chromatic' (WAZCD2)

WAZ founder members Maart Allcock and Pete Zorn made a wise decision when they invited singer and songwriter Steve Tilston to join them for, while Maart and Pete's instrumental pedigrees are impeccable following long spells with Fairport Convention/Jethro Tull and Barbara Dickson/Elaine Page respectively, they would be the first to admit that their vocal and songwriting talents are not their strong suit.

Their recently issued CD, "Fully Chromatic" reflects just what a good move it was with Steve Tilston taking star billing providing 9 songs in 13 tracks, all performed in his usual thoughtful style with easy on the ear vocals.

"The Dewy Ones" is taken from two bars of a traditional Cretan folk song heard on one of his travels while "Dust from my Heels" could apply to any town anywhere that just happens to be "in the way", a place you can't wait to leave. At this point a touch of Balkan Jazz fusion takes over with "Right in the Balkans", some great musicianship on this one from Maart on bouzouki, mandolin and mandocello, Pete on soparino, also sax, bass flute and percussion and Steve on guitar.

My favourite track follows, a song about an old boat and it's Captain being both pensioned off at the same time, "Salty Dog", but then I always was a sucker for anything to do with messing about in boats! "Only For You" is a simple love song with Robbie Burns overtones and, after another Tilston song, Maart features on "Bo Lamkin", a reworking of the old Childe Ballad, "Long Lankin". Steve returns with "Foolish Me", a novelty song that could have come straight out of a 1940's Radio Show, a bit of fun that, nevertheless, receives the same thoughtful and subtle treatment as all the material on the CD.

Of the rest of the album the now standard Steve Tilston song, "Here Comes The Night" shines like a star in the firmament, a great reworking of this old classic from his "back pages". The prophetic "I Will Return" (I seem to remember a certain boxer by the name of Ali using the phrase to good effect a few times) with its rumba influences brings a good 52 minutes worth to a close.

A CD packed with good songs, good performances and good musicianship and, on this evidence, WAZ will never regret asking Steve Tilston on board although the feeling must be mutual as his songs can only benefit from Maart and Pete's imaginative and sympathetic arrangements, surely a winning combination.

Ian Chesterman

*Ed:- We are always interested in your views and opinions on our reviews and articles. If you have reviewed CDs for us in the past or would like to be added to the list of reviewers then please contact David Jones on 01254 54877. Also if you have just bought someone's latest CD and want to share your enthusiasm/disappointment with us then write and tell us what you think. We sometimes get a bit lonely and it would be great to hear from you.*

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

**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 April 10th 1999 to:-  
Paul Holden (Advertising)  
7, Sunleigh Road, Hindley, Nr Wigan WN2 2RE  
Tel. No. 01942 258 459

**THE FIDDLER ROUND THE FAIRY TREE**  
by  
**SUE STAPLETON**  
Irish Traditional Music From Liverpool  
Available from  
Sue Stapleton, Keyside Records,  
Apley House, The Mount,  
Heswall, Wirral,  
L60 4RG  
Tel :- 0151 342 8264  
CD £12.50 Tape £8.00 p&p 50p



#### ENGLISH CONCERTINA PLAYERS

The next monthly meetings are:  
Saturday 20th March 2pm to 5pm  
Saturday 17th April 2pm to 5pm  
Saturday 15th May 2pm to 5pm  
Saturday 19th June 2pm to 5pm  
**Now at The Old Dog, Alma Hill, Upholland**  
All English and Duet Concertina players are welcome.  
For more information please contact Angie Bladen on 01257 263 678 or Mike Bartram on 01744 817 127

#### SINGLETON CLOGGERS

North West Morris Team  
50th Anniversary Year 1999  
Bookings:  
Sue Walker Tel 01253 884217

**Matt FAHEY John MURPHY Dónal MAGUIRE**

further information .....telephone 01744 736043

# FOUR FOOLS

## FOLK CLUB

every Wednesday from 8.30pm at  
**THE OLD DOG, ALMA HILL, UP HOLLAND**  
 A warm welcome awaits singers, musicians and listeners.

- Mar 3rd Singers Night
- Mar 10th Singers Night
- Mar 17th DONAL MAGUIRE
- Mar 24th MIKE NICHOLSON
- Mar 31st Singers Night
- Apr 7th Singers Night
- Apr 14th Singers Night
- Apr 21st Singers Night
- Apr 28th Singers Night
- May 5th Singers Night
- May 12th Singers Night
- May 19th CYRIL TAWNEY
- May 26th Singers Night
- Jun 2nd Singers Night
- Jun 9th Singers Night
- Jun 16th SI KAHN
- Jun 23rd Singers Night

Apr 17th (Sat 12 noon - 12 midnight)  
**BIG SING with  
 IAN GILES and Co.**



Fri 25th - Sun 27th June  
**FOUR FOOLS FOLK FESTIVAL  
 @ Lowton Civic Hall**

For more details please contact:- **Angie & Ken Bladen**  
**36, The Oaks, Eaves Green, Chorley, Lancs., PR7 3QU.**  
 Tel. No. 01257 263 678  
 e.mail: [four.fools@virgin.net](mailto:four.fools@virgin.net)



**PRESS  
 RELEASE**

Firebrand - Kyng Horn Tour - April/May '99

Firebrand, the Gloucestershire acoustic trio, take their unique blend of traditional and original music on a spring tour, to promote their new CD album 'Kyng Horn'. They have a line up comprising celtic harp, fiddle, cittern, guitar, mandolin and vocals. The title of the album is taken from a late thirteenth century English metrical romance which features harp playing. The album will be released to coincide with the start of the tour, which will see them travel nationwide during April and May, including gigs in Devon, North Wales, the Home Counties and many places in between.



This new album follows the successful release of their debut CD album, 'Firebrand' at the end of last 1997. It was the recording of this album that brought together Peter Miln, Daniel James, and John Harris. The trio played relentlessly over the summer festival season, successfully promoting themselves with gigs such as Glastonbury Festival's Avalon stage, the renowned 12 bar club in London, and a Channel Islands tour to name a few. The warm, vibrant sound of Firebrand is becoming a favourite with local radio audiences and positive album reviews are coming in from as far afield as the USA. The trio recently had their first national TV appearance on BBC News 24 when they played at Cheltenham Literature Festival.

The exceptional production of Kyng Horn is due to the outstanding musicianship of the band and the studio experience of John Harris - a highly respected sound engineer and writer on music technology. The 'Firebrand' CD is now available in MVC stores as well as from the mail order address below. 'Kyng Horn' will also be available in MVC stores and by mail order from April onwards.

Aeolian Management, PO Box 221 Glos, GL19 3YG Tel  
 01452 831491 mob 07971 631688  
[Pete@firebrand.demon.co.uk](mailto:Pete@firebrand.demon.co.uk)

Peter Miln, Daniel James & John Harris  
 Celtic harp : Fiddle : Cittern : Guitar : Mandolin :



**"KYNG HORN" ALBUM TOUR**

APRIL

- Wed 7 **Albert Hole** (supp. to Swarbrick/Hewlett)
- Sun 11 Bedminster, Bristol 0117 9661968  
**Topsham Folk Club**
- Mon 12 Exeter 01395 577605  
**Tudor folk club**
- Fri 16 Chesham, Bucks 01494 872859  
**Oxford folk club**
- Sat 17 St. Clements, Oxford 01865 768128  
**Ceilidh**
- Sun 18 (Caller Wendy Townsend) Archways School, Stroud  
**The Mill A/C, Banbury**
- Wed 21 (lunchtime) 01295 279002 / 252050  
**Folk Plus**
- Fri 23 The Boundary Hotel - Walsall 01922 633555  
**Royal Oak folk club with Jim Reynolds**
- Sat 24 Nailsea 01275 858756  
**Prema Arts Centre**
- MAY  
 Uley, Nr Dursley, Glos. 01453 860703
- Sat 1  
**Queen's Hall**
- Sun 2 Narberth, S. Wales 01834 861212  
**Halfpenny folk club**
- Mon 3 Swansea 01792 850803  
**Llantrissant town festival TBC**
- Tue 4 Llantrissant, S.Wales  
**Roses Unplugged**
- Wed 5 Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury 01684 295074  
**White Horse Folk Club**
- Thur 6 Highworth, Swindon 01793 762835  
**Ruthin Acoustic Music club**
- Fri 7 Castle Hotel, St Peters Sq. Ruthin 01824 750730  
**Chase folk club**
- Sat 8 Cannock 01543 271269  
**Moving Music**(Supp to Mick West
- Sun 9 Band)  
St. Georges Hall, Blockley 01386 700307
- Sun 16 **Swindon Literature Festival** (Lunchtime)  
Goddard Arms, Clyffe Pypard 01793 771080
- Mon 17 **Raven folk club - Chester**  
The Liver Hotel, Brook st. Chester 01244 677212
- Fri 21 **Swinton folk club - G. Manchester**  
The White Lion - Swinton 01942 811527  
**Folk at the Boat**

Mail Orders & Enquiries:  
 Aeolian Management, PO Box 221, Gloucester GL19 3YG  
 Tel 01452 831491 [pete@firebrand.demon.co.uk](mailto:pete@firebrand.demon.co.uk)

## MAKING IT UP AS YOU GO ALONG

One of my time consuming and enjoyable pastimes is putting together compilations of my favourite songs. Sad to say I've been doing this for over 30 years so I've built up a fair collection. Before the advent of CDs I'd spend ages lining up the needle over the right track. I've ended up with a fairly diverse range of compilations very often bordering on the bizarre. The one below reflects a particular personal interest and is inevitably subjective. It's generally entitled "Songs of Peace, Hope and Struggle...." Here goes:

### Side One

Joe Hill - Paul Robeson  
Peat Bog Soldiers - Paul Robeson  
Where have all the flowers gone? - Pete Seeger  
We shall overcome/I'll be all right - Guy Carawan

When I'm gone - Dick Gaughan

Two Bums - Utah Phillips

Rosie the Riveter Revisited - Linda Allen

Peace and love and understanding -  
Marilyn Middleton Pollock  
What's so funny about peace, love and  
understanding - Brinsley Schwartz.  
Fat Black heart - Pele

My Skies - James Keelaghan  
Jewel in the Crown - Julie Matthews

Between the Wars - Tom Juravich  
We were there - Sandra Kerr

Dump the bosses off your back - Utah Phillips

### Side Two

Beloved comrade - Holly Near/Ronnie Gilbert  
Two Good Arms - Holly Near/Ronnie Gilbert

Tolpuddle Man - Roy Bailey

Brothers in Arms - Joan Baez  
If I had a rocket launcher - Bruce Cockburn

Victor Jara - Dick Gaughan

If they come in the morning - Roy Bailey

Undefeated - Robb Johnson

Reconciliation - Dick Gaughan  
No more reds in the union - Utah Phillips

Wobbly - Utah Phillips

an anthem adopted by workers in struggle all over the world  
a song about forced labour in a German concentration camp  
Seeger's classic anti-war song derived from a Russian folk song  
Carawan was one of the early pioneers of the American Civil Rights  
protest songs  
a Phil Ochs song that advocates struggle in this life because you  
won't get a chance when you die  
get rid of the bum at the top and the bum at the bottom will  
disappear  
the song illustrates how women are needed for the labour market  
in times of war and cast aside in peace  
Stanley Accrington's song delivered by a wonderful vocalist

Nick Lowe's song sounds as fresh and relevant today as it did in  
the early 1970s  
Liverpool band with a song that reflects the worst of social  
deprivation in the 1980s  
great Canadian songwriter with one of his best songs  
a song that celebrates the demise of the Empire and the  
hypocrisy that continues to dominate Britain's relations with the  
'colonies'

very good version of Billy Bragg's song  
the role women have played in the wider labour and peace  
movement is largely ignored. Sandra Kerr and Sisters  
Unlimited have tried to redress the balance.  
straightforward message sung to a popular hymn tune by the  
archetypal WOBBLY

the fight goes on  
Charlie King's song is the story of the death penalty imposed on  
the innocent Saccho and Vanzetti by the American courts earlier  
this century  
in memory of the Tolpuddle Martyrs who were deported to  
Australia for taking an oath to their union  
excellent version of the Mark Knopfler song  
for those with pacifist tendencies who have got to the end of their  
tether as a result of the likes of Pinochet  
one of those Chilean citizens arrested, tortured and murdered by  
the aforementioned General's troops.  
in many societies the knock on the door at dawn is still not far  
away.  
a song of optimism. Despite the trials of the Thatcher era, and  
New Labour, we are still here.  
an allegory about the divided communities in Northern Ireland  
the only people who benefit from getting the 'reds' out of the  
union are the employers  
another song in the same vein

If you think you have an interesting compilation, or you want more information about the compilation above, write to  
Lewis Jones, c/o 28 Haywood Crescent, Waters Edge, Norton, Runcorn, WA7 6NB

# A TWENTIETH CENTURY FOLK FESTIVAL 27<sup>th</sup> FYLDE FOLK FESTIVAL

## Marine Hall Fleetwood Lincs

### 3rd, 4th & 5th SEPTEMBER 1999

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  
(After 6pm only)

Email: alan.bell@fylde-folk-fest.demon.co.uk

### PRE-FESTIVAL EVENTS:

THE JACINTA CONCERT. THE JACINTA, FLEETWOOD DOCKS,  
8pm MONDAY 30th AUGUST 1999.

ISLA ST. CLAIR CONCERT. MARINE HALL, FLEETWOOD,  
8pm TUESDAY 31st AUGUST 1999.

JULIE FELIX CONCERT. MARINE HALL, FLEETWOOD.  
8pm WEDNESDAY 1st SEPTEMBER 1999.

Tickets & Information for Marine Hall Concerts. Tel: 01253-771141.

### FESTIVAL ARTISTS BOOKED SO FAR:

Show of Hands, Waterson/Carthy, John Wright Band, John  
Kirkpatrick, Huw & Tony Williams, Cyril Tawney, Tarras, Debby  
McClatchy (USA), Tamarack (CAN) Ben & Joe Broughton, Colum  
Sands, Peeping Tom, Stanley Accrington, Roy Harris &  
Mainbrace, Strawhead, Bayou Gumbo, Alan Bell Band, Nebula,  
Quartz, Thistle, Brian Preston, Cross O'Th' Hands, Th'Antiques  
Road Show, Old School Band, Burdett, Simpson & Young, Scolds  
Bridle, Derek Gifford, Coopers Motley Crew, Brian Osborne,  
Folklore, Camellia, Youthwave, Rebecca Green, Ian Gartside  
Band, Hugh Diamond, Slippy, Tallyman, Hugh O'Donnell, Two  
Rooms, Tom Walsh, Beer For Breakfast, John Bond, Fleetwood  
Mashers, Ross Campbell & Richard Hone, Festival Ceilidh Band,  
Joe Crane, Red Duster, Paul Guppy, Rough Mix, Martin Whittell,  
Spitting On A Roast, Paul Greenwood, Past Carin', Evans Door,  
Doc Hunt's Blues Prescription.

**Clog Dance Champions:** Chas Fraser, Marguerite & Tony Hill, Geoff Hughes,  
Melanie Jordan, Sam Sherry, Pat Tracey.

**Comperes:** Matt Armour, Derek Elliott, Dave Jones, Peter Pilbeam,  
Clive Pownceby, Pat Ryan & Ken Howard, Jim Smith,  
Derek Stanton.

**Callers:** Mick Peat, Hester Meadows.

**Outdoor Performers:** FlipJack Jugglers, Fosbrook Dancers, Singleton  
Cloggers, Snark Rapper, Jaberwocky Morris.

**Special Events:** "Cape Famine to Dent" - The Trail of songs. Alan Bell  
"First Settlement" Captain Cook in Botany Bay.  
Derek Gifford  
"Adventurers, Buccaneers & Corsairs - ABC of Piracy"  
Red Duster

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

FULL 3 DAY WEEKEND TICKETS FROM ONLY £32.50.  
(Before 30th June, 1999 £36.00 after)  
ALL EVENTS DAY & EVENING TICKET SATURDAY, ONLY £20.00.  
SUNDAY DAY TICKET 10am - 6pm. £17.00.  
(FINAL CONCERT FOR WEEKEND TICKET HOLDERS ONLY.)  
SESSION TICKETS FROM ONLY £4.00.  
CHILDREN 10yrs - 14yrs HALF PRICE.  
FREE - Children up to 10 yrs. Special Programme for children.  
Camping and Caravan Sites available. Camp Site Catering.  
FREE - Showers and swimming (Weekend Ticket Holders.)  
FREE - Craft Fair Entry (Weekend Ticket Holders.)  
FREE - Festival Bus Service. (For all Festival Ticket Holders.)  
**BOOK EARLY.**

2nd

# Saltburn International Festival

of Folk Music, Dance & Song



**6th, 7th & 8th August '99**

**Guests invited so far include**

The John Wright Band, Bernard Wrigley, Fred Jordan,  
Mike Silver, Waterson-Carthy, Shine,  
Jez Lowe and the Bad Pennies, The Old Rope String Band,  
Loctup Together, Alan Bell, Smokehouse Boys, Silver Leaf Jazz Band,  
Derek Brimstone, East Coast Connection, Phil & Barbara,  
Allan Taylor, Booker & Padgett, The Antiques Roadshow,  
Pat Ryan & Ken Howard, The Margaret Robson Irish Dancers,  
Darlington Mummers, Coope, Boyes & Simpson, Peeping Tom,  
The Bushberry Mountain Daredevils, The Wilson's,  
Mundy-Turner, Pete Betts, Marie Little, Ron Angel, The Fosbrooks,  
Mike Raven & Joan Mills, The Judith Haswell Band,  
Borderline, Eric & Terry Freeman, Vin Garbutt, Hugh Rippon,  
Freda from Wensleydale, Derek Elliott, Scowie, Jim & Lynette Eldon

Concerts, Ceilidhs, Cajun & Appalachian Sessions, Workshops, Singarounds,  
Chance to Meet, Punch & Judy,  
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 £27 - after June 1st £32**  
**SATURDAY TICKETS £18 - SUNDAY TICKETS £15**

ALL CHEQUES TO BE MADE PAYABLE TO: SALT BURN FOLK FESTIVAL please!

Special Family Rates, Children under 10 years Free, Children aged 10 -16 half price,

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. [www.btinternet.com/~banjo.bill/men.htm](http://www.btinternet.com/~banjo.bill/men.htm)