

FOLK NORTHWEST

SUMMER 2003 (JUNE, JULY, & AUGUST) £1.50



IN THIS ISSUE

RADIO LISTINGS, LIVE, CD & FESTIVAL REVIEWS

LETTERS, CLUB DATES, DIARY CHAT

PRESS RELEASES, NEWSREEL, ARTICLES

SPOTLIGHT ON THE PARTING GLASS

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Folk North West Contact Information



Who do I send information to ?

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e mail: JOHNOWENBTACKS@aol.com

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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
e.mail: kath.holden@btinternet.com

CD's or tapes for review (or reviews of) and live reviews 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 July 10th 2003.



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EDITORIAL

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I'll start as I finished last time with a request to write to producers of radio stations to congratulate GMR Radio on the start of a new Folk Programme (see Page 43 for details) and to complain that BBC Radio Humberside/Leeds has axed Henry Ayrton's Folk Show (also Page 43). Net gain nil. We really must demonstrate our support all the time not just in times of crisis.

I am given to understand that Nick Dow has relinquished the reins of Lancashire Drift on BBC Radio Lancashire. I would like to express our thanks for all his hard work for the programme and wish him well in his many other ventures. I hope that Jan Lardner and her team will have a long and successful term of office.

My thoughts this edition turn to the idea of trying to raise the profile of folk music in schools or perhaps to seek ways of providing out of school activities during the school holidays. There is funding available from a wide variety of sources for this kind of activity. However it requires a great deal of time and effort to access it and put together a programme of workshops, tasters etc that meet the requirements of the funding sources, the young participants and further the cause of folk music amongst the young. The success of Eccleston Heritage Day perhaps points the way and shows that given the opportunity young people can get enthused by folk music and dance. More needs to be done and providing the opportunity to have a go by having resources available for youngsters to use is obviously a key element. Ideas, suggestions, reports on successful ventures and information on artists who can lead such activities would be a start.

Talking to the manager of the Eagle and Child at Bispham Green where we run our monthly club I was reminded how little effort is put into celebrating St George's Day. Surely an ideal opportunity to bring English Folk Music Song and Dance to a wider audience. I remember some years ago putting together a tape of Traditional English Music so that colleagues working in France could 'treat' the French (or was it counteract Bastille Day) to a celebration of St George's Day and a reminder that a whole Napoleon can be beaten by a half Nelson. It also seems that there is a shortage of music sessions that concentrate on English folk tunes.

Finally I would urge you to continue to support your local club, local artists and make a special effort to go and see new artists who are trying to break into the small time.

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issued Monthly on the 1st of the month
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CHAIRMAN'S JOTTINGS



Following my recent visit to Dunoon in Scotland for the annual, 'Music in the Castle' festival, it set me thinking about folk festivals in general.

For the most part we make up our minds to attend a festival based on the quality of the acts booked. We then spend most of the weekend rushing around from one venue to another in breathless anticipation, being either elated or deflated by the artists we've seen.

This is where the serenity of Dunoon kicks in. No rushing around is needed, for apart from a ceilidh and a concert, the weekend is all about the people who turn up at this event.

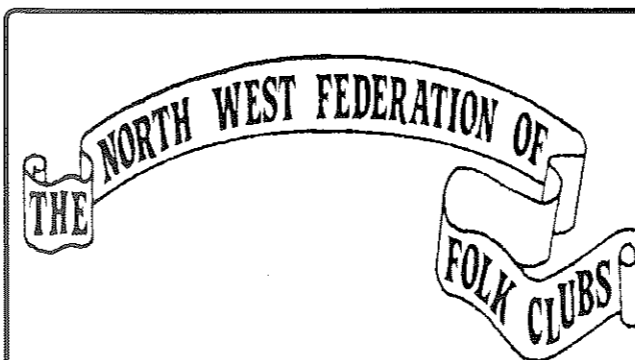
There are plenty of activities on offer, abseiling, canoeing and gorge walking as well as workshops for guitar, fiddle and songwriting. But it's the three sessions on each of Friday, Saturday and Sunday that brings the festival goers back each year.

The quality of singers and musicians present means that it is almost as good as a concert in itself and always guarantees at least fifty people in the round on any given evening.

I wonder then if that's the trick some festival organisers are missing in their quest to bring us the best artists available. For if they follow the old maxim, give the customer what they want, they might achieve bigger attendances if the festival goer was given more of a chance to express themselves.

Cheers for now

David Jones



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'

Drummer seeks Folk Band

Drummer (acoustic kit, congas, bodhran etc) interested in joining or forming a folk or folk rock band.

Ideally in East Lancs or Preston area.



Ring Shaun
on 01254 247 427

Fylde & District Pipers Club

Would be interested to hear from
an Electronic Percussionist or
other Instruments with a view to
forming an instrumental
Folk Group or similar.

Ring COLIN on (01253) 726 942



Slow and Steady Band Sessions

Saturday 7th June	2pm to 5pm
Saturday 5th July	2pm to 5pm
Saturday 2nd August	2pm to 5pm
Saturday 6th September	2pm to 5pm

All types of Instruments welcome.

Concertina Workshops

Saturday 14th June	2pm to 5pm
Saturday 12th July	2pm to 5pm
Saturday 9th August	2pm to 5pm
Saturday 13th September	2pm to 5pm

English, Anglo & Duet Concertina players are welcome.

Eaves Green Community Centre
(near The Minstrel Pub)
Lower Burgh Way, Eaves Green, Chorley

Please contact:-
Angie Bladen on 01257 263 678
E.mail:- four.fools@virgin.net
or Mike Bartram on 01744 817 127

FOLKUS
The Folk Music Network of the North West



FOLK MUSIC PROGRAMMES ON LOCAL RADIO

compiled by Rob Dunford



SUNDAY

BBC Radio Merseyside FM 95.8 MW 1485
FOLKSCENE presented by STAN AMBROSE & GEOFF SPEED Sunday 7.00-8.00pm
E MAIL:- radio.merseyside@bbc.co.uk

BBC Radio Shropshire FM 96.0 MW 1584
GENEVIEVE TUDOR'S FOLK SHOW Sunday 8.00-10.00pm
E MAIL:- genevieve.tudor@bbc.co.uk
also on BBC Radio Stoke FM 94.6/104.1 MW 1503kHz and BBC Radio Hereford & Worcester FM 94.7/104/104.6 MW 738

BBC Radio Cumbria FM 95.6 (north/west), 95.2 (Kendal), 96.1 (south), 104.1 (Whitehaven), 104.2 (Windermere), MW 756 (north), 837 (south), 1458 (west)
NORTHERN FOLK presented by ALISTAIR ANDERSON Sunday 9.00-10.00pm
E MAIL:- radio.cumbria@bbc.co.uk or direct to alistair.anderson@folkworks.co.uk

MONDAY

BBC GMR 95.1 (104.6 Saddleworth)
THE PARLOUR presented by ALAN KEEGAN Monday 7.00-8.00pm E MAIL: gmr@bbc.co.uk

BBC Radio Derby FM 95.3/104.5 MW 1116
FOLKWAVES presented by MICK PEAT & LESTER SIMPSON Monday 7.00-9.00pm E MAIL:- radio.derby@bbc.co.uk

Radio Maldwyn MW 756
THE FOLK PROGRAMME presented by YVONNE & JOHN HART Monday 8.00-10.00pm
E MAIL:- radio.maldwyn@ukonline.co.uk

TUESDAY

BBC GMR 95.1 (104.6 Saddleworth)
SOUNDS OF FOLK presented by ALI O'BRIEN Tuesday 7.00-8.00pm E MAIL: mike.shaft@bbc.co.uk

MANX Radio FM 89/97.2/103.7 MW 1368kHz
MANX FOLK presented by JOHN KANEEN Tuesday 9.00-10.00pm
E MAIL:- johnkaneen@manxradio.com

WEDNESDAY

BBC Radio 2 FM 88-90.2
FOLK, ROOTS & ACOUSTIC MUSIC presented by MIKE HARDING Wednesday 8.00-9.00pm
E Mail:- see www.bbc.co.uk/talk

THURSDAY

BBC Radio Lancashire FM 95.5/103.9/104.5 MW 855/1557
LANCASHIRE DRIFT presented by JAN LARDNER Thursday 8.00-9.00pm
E MAIL:- radio.lancashire@bbc.co.uk

BBC Radio Shropshire FM 96.0 MW 1584
FRETWORK presented by NONNY JAMES Thursday 7.00-8.00pm
E MAIL:- nonny.james@bbc.co.uk
also on BBC Radio Stoke FM 94.6/104.1 MW 1503kHz and BBC Radio Hereford & Worcester FM 94.7/104/104.6 MW 738

SATURDAY

BBC Radio Wales FM 94.8 (N.Wales Coast) 95.4 (Wrexham) MW 882, 657 (Clwyd)
CELTIC HEARTBEAT presented by FRANK HENNESSY Saturday 10.00pm-12.00am
E MAIL: frank.hennessy@bbc.co.uk

FOLK MUSIC PROGRAMMES ON INTERNATIONAL RADIO

compiled by Rob Dunford



BBC RADIO SCOTLAND FM 92.4-94.7 MW 810

Monday to Friday 9.00-10.00pm
IAIN ANDERSON (variable folk content)
Tuesday 7.15-9.05pm
CELTIC CONNECTIONS presented by MARY ANN KENNEDY
Thursday 7.15-9.05pm
TRAVELLING FOLK presented by ARCHIE FISHER Saturday 7.05-8.30pm
TAKE THE FLOOR presented by ROBBIE SHEPHERD Saturday 10.05-12 midnight (extended repeat of Thursday)
TRAVELLING FOLK presented by ARCHIE FISHER Sunday 1.00-3.00pm (FM only after 2.00pm)
THE REEL BLEND presented by ROBBIE SHEPHERD Sunday 5.05-7.05pm (repeat of Tuesday)
CELTIC CONNECTIONS presented by MARY ANN KENNEDY Sunday 9.00-10.00pm
PIPELINE presented by GARY WEST

BBC RADIO ULSTER FM 92.4-95.4 MW 873/1341

Friday 7.00-7.30pm
TRADITIONAL MUSIC presented by KAREN NA HAOINE E MAIL:- karen.nahaoine@bbc.co.uk
Saturday 10.05pm-12.00am
FOLK CLUB presented by TONY McAULEY and COLM SANDS E MAIL:- tony.mcauley@bbc.co.uk colum.sands@bbc.co.uk

RADIO TELIFIS EIRANN (RTE) Radio 1 MW 567 and via ASTRA SATELLITE

Saturday 9.00-10.00pm
CEILIDH HOUSE presented by KIERAN HANRAHAN Saturday 10.15-11.00pm
FAILTE ISTEACH presented by DONNCHA O'DULAING Sunday 8.10-8.55pm (strong Country & Irish element)
MO CHEOL THU presented by CIARAN MAC MATHUNA Sunday 10.00-11.00pm
LATE SESSION presented by AINE HENSEY

DOWNTOWN RADIO MW 1026

Sunday 10.00-11.00pm
FOLKALPOINT presented by MAURICE LEYDEN

RADIO NA GAELTACHTA FM 93.5/94

Range of Gaelic Music/Language programmes including MORA DIBH. Broadcasts on ASTRA satellite Channel 22 10.00am-12.00pm Saturday and Sunday mornings
Details from www.nag.ie

RADIO TIMES LISTINGS

For Radio's 3 and 4 it is worth close scrutiny for 'one off' programmes/items/short series with folk flavour/reference. Also Radio 3 'Late Junction' Monday-Thursday 10.15pm - midnight (Fiona Talkington, Verity Sharp) include folk at times, as does Andy Kershaw, Radio 3 Friday 10.15-11.30pm. Radio 2's Wednesday evening schedule offers at intervals topic-based series with a folk theme, usually 10.00-10.30pm.

LIVE REVIEWS



FLOOK at Accrington Town Hall on 24 January 2003

I first saw Flook a couple of years ago. Their appearance at the Brampton Festival was a breath of fresh air. That's not to say that the rest of the bill was poor. Far from it. It was just one of those magic sets which stands out from the crowd of other acts. So, how will they fair in a regular concert setting on a wet Friday in Accrington?

The evening started with the bad news that John Joe Kelly had broken his fingers falling off a bike. Not a good idea if you're a bodhrán player. Replacing him using a small drum kit was Jim Goodwin, an old friend of the band. Straight from the first set of reels, 'Beehive', you could tell that it would work. As the band launched into three jigs, 'Ballybroly Jigs', I remembered that it was the way that Sarah Allen and Brian Finnegan spark off each other at the front of the stage that makes the band so electrifying. I don't mean that there are wires everywhere; it's just those knowing glances between musicians as Sarah, on flute, and Brian, on whistle, drive the music along.

On their up tempo material, they are like a wind instrument version of duelling banjos. Whilst this duel rolls onwards, Ed Boyd on acoustic guitar and Jim on the drums provide a rock solid rhythm that never gives the pair upfront chance to let up. A medley of compositions from Brian, 'Suaimhness Intinne' and 'Rosberg' take the temperature down which is a signal for Sarah to pull on the accordion and prove that she's no one instrument woman. For sure, she doesn't trail in Finnegan's wake. The gentle melodies allow contemplation of the idyllic Irish beach in Brian's introduction to his compositions. Yet, before we drift metaphorically away, the first set is rounded off with some fiery tunes that show their skills in managing the pace of a set. At a quiet pause in the final tune, a voice from the audience shouts 'superb' - I couldn't agree more.

Our own Mr Jones announces their return as a band pushing back the boundaries of folk music. Sure enough, the second set picks up where the first one left off to prove his point. 'Flutopia' reminisces about an earlier tour of the same name featuring a range of classy European flautists. One of them, Sarah herself, takes up the one legged stance that makes her look like a direct descendent of Jethro Tull's Ian Anderson. Eyes wide open and staring sideways across the stage, the whites of her eyes give an almost manic impression as she spits out percussive sounding noises from her flute. That electrifying feeling is back again before suddenly you think you hear a flamenco rhythm. Not surprising, as the composition is by a Spaniard.

So, just like the first set, the second set flows on like a river. Sometimes, strong and rough, sometimes, reaching calmer waters such as the delightful Swedish tune, 'Glass Polska'. A pair of tunes with some jazzy flavours, 'Pod', is inspired by disastrous journeys experienced by the band. At this point, I realise just how wide a range of inspiration they drawn upon.

They may have had some disastrous journeys but their music is not just a happy accident. Certainly, much is made of the young Folk talent around but, surely, Flook are one of the finest young bands around at the moment. Delightful they are with it, too. Their feet are planted so firmly on the ground that there was no hesitation in asking twelve-year-old Jim Molyneux to join them

on bodhrán for the encore. Jim will no doubt return to his classes at Folkus with renewed vigour remembering this lovely moment and I'm looking forward to seeing Flook back at Brampton Festival this year. Book your ticket, now.

Steve Henderson

BRIAN PRESTON and CELTIC FRINGE at Gregson Lane Folk Club on 20 February 2003

Early 21st century music in its live form needs lots of friends. With the dreaded Public Entertainment License bill winding its way slowly to the statute book - and with increasing numbers of bodies toting pig-tailed microphones and carrying boxes of pre-recorded backing bands - it's a cause for celebration when two of live music's champions are brought together, in the same room, to present us all with the evidence we need to oppose the aforementioned bill. The room in question was Gregson Lane Folk Club and the champs were; long-time fellow journeyman across concert stages, Brian Preston and Trouble at Mills Graham Dixon who runs G.L.F.C. If you haven't already visited Grahams web site to register your vote 'agin' the bill, do so at www.musiclovers.ukart.com. (82000 hits & rising).

Bearing all of the above in mind, it was a nice touch to present Celtic Fringe as support. I once did a piece on the misnomer 'unplugged' and Celtic Fringe were the band I chose to represent the truly microphone and jack lead-free band whenever the occasion demanded this, pushed along by the baritone-powered lungs of Martin Banks. Tonight (without fellow 'fringer' Phil) Martin, Keith and Duncan presented their well loved fare of traditional and contemporary material including; Poverty Knock, Coal Hole Cavalry, Meet me on the corner and one I hadn't heard them do before: a gentle version of John Lennon's 'In My Life' (Nice pickin' Keith!) Thanks Duncan, thanks Martin, thanks Keith.

I think I'll split Brian's review into two sections, mainly because the vast majority of Folk Northwest readers will have seen him at least once and most will have seen him many times, so you already know the quality of his output and anything I write will only confirm that. So first, I'll record a few personal rambles then finish with a section for anyone who hasn't previously watched him at work.

Some time ago I suggested to Brian that watching him on stage, put me in mind of watching the artists down at 'Wedgewood' painting the designs on pottery prior to firing or whatever they do to pottery. Brian didn't remark on my observation but I could tell from his puzzled expression that he thought he'd either misheard me or that I should be drinking something a bit less powerful, so I'll try and explain what I was trying to convey. Along with the audiences both at Wedgewood and Folk Club, I watch the Painter/Singer working in an environment completely under his control, doing it with a skill that demands my complete attention. They both do it with confidence that enables them to move, speak, sing - whatever, in a totally relaxed manner that transmits itself to the audience and, in this way, the whole experience becomes symbiotic (which my wild-life books tell me means - beneficial to both parties). Where entertainment is concerned, this is the cornerstone.

As usual, every minute of his performance (and on this occasion it was 12:05 AM when he left the stage after something like two hours) was seamlessly welded together into a hugely enjoyable experience, which is more akin to a party than a performance. It's like a good guitar solo that sounds as if it is entirely spontaneous. But in reality, it is the product of many years honing skills that you can call on in a split second. So the ad-libs come thick and fast, slotting in neatly with the rehearsed material and,

on this occasion, he went as far as to let a member of the audience tell him a joke from the floor mid-performance. Now there's supreme symbiotic confidence for you.

For those of you who haven't yet seen a Brian Preston performance, what you see is someone who has been a significant figure in folk music for as long as I can remember. He's widely travelled and has been part of many line-ups and this, together with his recorded output, means that every performance is a 'Best of', with this huge treasure trove to draw from. There's no padding whatsoever, you'll see him move effortlessly through comedy routines and personal reminiscences and putting his own entertaining slant on current affairs. All of this is complimentary to the main ingredient – a powerful voice pitched somewhere between low tenor and baritone, singing a huge variety of songs both traditional and contemporary, accompanied by a driving, percussive guitar technique. In the introduction you won't get just the title you'll also get the songs history, the composer (where known) and many notable events regarding the song or composer – the complete package. So whether you go for the entertainment or a master class in folk performance, you will not be disappointed – I guarantee.

Harold Dearden

THE BIG SESSION at Southport Arts Centre on Sunday 23 February 2003

My one reservation about this concert before I arrived was wondering just how the logistics of it would work, given that there were eleven musicians in the company. But my worries were quickly forgotten as the Oysterband went into their first number, 'Soul's Electric', an opening song that always brings the best out of the audience.



Jim Moray is an exciting young musician who marries together new technology and traditional songs in a very acceptable way. Benji Kirkpatrick on bouzouki and James O'Grady on whistle joined him for an instrumental set, Jack Robinsons' All A'sidon. Rose Kemp, the daughter of Maddy Prior and Rick Kemp, continues to evolve and performed two songs she'd written taken from her brand new CD, firstly, 'I Am the World' and then a song that demonstrates how well love and friendship go together, 'Falls'.

Jim Moray's technical wizardry brought to, 'Lemady', gave it a new lease of life. The title track of Jim's forthcoming new CD, 'Sweet England', marks him out as one to watch for the future. 'Mrs. Jamieson's Favourite' linked to two other pipe tunes were performed by Oysterband fiddler par excellence, Ian Telfer along with James O'Grady on the Uilleann pipes, a terrific duet. Rose

returned with both Jim & James to perform the title track of her new recording, 'Glance'. A song with its origins in Devon, 'Raggle Taggle Gypsies', again gave Jim a chance to shine on guitar and technology, an electronic triumph indeed. Despite my initial reservations, the transition between performers on stage was minimal.

Benji Kirkpatrick is from the Welsh border country and he played two tunes, 'The First Snow/Oswestry Wake', on bouzouki accompanied by James O'Grady on pipes, as well as the might of the Oysterband.

He then became the narrator to Rose's heroine in, 'The Hole in the Handkerchief'. In, 'False Knight on the Road', the devil tests a boy on his way to school, he passes the various tests set with flying colours. Sung by Rose, it certainly had shades of Steeleye Span about it. To bring the half to a memorable end, the Oysterband performed their ever-popular number, 'Milford Haven'.

Eliza Carthy and Ben Ivitsky appeared for the first time, as all eleven musicians opened the second set with the powerful a cappella number, 'Please to see the King'. Eliza and Ben took over with a fiddle duet on, 'Willow Tree', from Eliza's award winning album, 'Anglicana'. Again the company came together for, 'Just as the Tide was Turning', Eliza does like a sailor!!!!

The traditional classic, '10,000 Miles', was boosted, and brought to a crescendo, by three fiddles and the Oysterband's unique sound. Eliza not only performs traditional songs superbly, she also writes contemporary numbers like, 'Fuse'. With four fiddles, cello, bouzouki, melodeon, guitar and drums, 'Three Jolly Sheepskins', proved irresistible to the audience. Oysterband were left alone to do what they do best, as they performed, tongue in cheek, 'Uncommercial Song'.

Benji on guitar and James on pipes bolstered the sound on, 'Be Lucky', before they performed the song they sang at the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards, 'Blackwaterside'. The evening was now building to its climax with the instrumentals, 'Bishop O'Chesters/Peacock'. The final number was the Dylan classic, 'All Along the Watchtower', with Rose Kemp showing her dexterity on bass.

But it was the encores that were worth the admission money alone. All eleven stood on the wrong side of the microphones to give the best rendition I've heard of, 'Country Life'. Eliza and Rose then joined the Oysterband on their superb number, 'Put Out the Lights'. To bring the curtain down there was another a cappella rendering, this time it was the classic, 'Bright Morning Star', which the sell out audience of over 300 harmonised on with great fervour.

I can honestly say it was an evening of top class musicianship that as far as I was concerned could have continued on and on. It was the last night of the tour, but I'm pretty sure it won't be long before it is on the road again. It is without doubt the best night I've been to in a long time.

David Jones

E2K at Accrington Town Hall on 23 February 2003

The band formerly known as Edward II is still very much alive, although now performing under the name of E2K. Like so many bands, people try to pigeonhole the music and stick a label on it; thankfully, it proves much harder to do with this band.

If I had to describe them it would be, African rhythms, English and Irish tunes, jazzy horns and driving vocals. It's an eight-piece outfit led by the voice of the ever-evolving Kellie While with Kwame Yeboah on keyboards, guitar and percussion as

the unofficial musical director. Trumpet, flugal horn, alto and baritone saxophones sit easily alongside the more usual instruments of whistle, bodhran, melodeon and drums. All in all, it is a big sound, with the band showing it off to its best advantage with their opening number, 'Come and Join Us'. They then demonstrated how traditional songs can be given a different musical beat with the Scottish traditional number, 'The Water is Wide'.

A little closer to home and inspired by the quay of the same name in Lancaster, they more than did justice to, 'St. George's Quay'. I found that in some cases a new musical slant on a traditional number gave it fresh meaning and a vitality all of its own.

'A Life Less Hard to Bear', was followed by a tale of the farmer, his wife and the devil, entitled, 'The Farmer's Cursed Wife'. Just to show off their versatility there followed a set of Morris dance tunes. 'She Moved Through the Fair', was delightful, before a number penned by multi-instrumentalist band member, Neil Yates, 'Itchu, Stitchu, Statue', which brought up the interval.



The second half got underway with, 'The Wind in the Trees', from the band's current CD, 'Shift'. The feature of 'Bradford in the Rain' was the band's outstanding instrumentals, especially from Kwame Yeboah. Neil Yates then played solo whistle on the first of two tunes, 'Chance Melody/Jenny Picking Cockles', which slowly gathered pace with a building instrumental.

For me, Kellie While has a voice that is well on the way to emulating that of her mother, Chris. 'Ever Dance', is the perfect song to show off her huge talent. Another band member, Jon Moore, wrote, 'Love for a Season', which gave way to yet another facet of this multi-talented outfit. Kwame Yeboah performed a song from his African roots, 'Meye Amawo', a song of love, played on just guitar, bodhran and bass.

Another new song written by, Neil Yates and featuring a fine whistle solo was, 'Be Sure Your Lover'. Two up-tempo numbers finished off an outstanding evenings entertainment, 'Something Left Behind' and the encore, 'Take Me Home'.

E2K move so easily through many different musical genres and that's what makes them so difficult to pin down. Make no mistake, this is not a band playing a mish-mash of styles, the music and songs are well thought out and executed.

Their diversity means that many different doors are open to them and which ever one they choose to go through at a given time will embrace their expertise, huge ability and be assured of a night of memorable music and outstanding professionalism.

David Jones

DOUGIE MACLEAN at Radcliffe Civic Suite on 27 February 2003

One of the true legends of the folk scene is Scotland's premier performer and songwriter, Dougie MacLean. His catalogue of songs has travelled around the world, thanks to the many artists who have covered and recorded them. Take Dougie and his 'Taylor' guitar and put them in front of over 200 fans and you have a night of real electricity as they interact with each other.

The opening number, 'Holding Back', tells how opportunities present themselves, but sometimes it's better to hold back and evaluate more important things. It is sometimes said about men that the older they get the more like their father they become, 'Talking with my Father', tells that very story.

Born in Butterstone, Perthshire, Dougie was once a member of the Tannahill Weavers and toured all over Europe. These experiences have helped to mould the solo artist we hear today. Written on the west coast of Lewis - a barren landscape - 'Feel so Near', tells of those dark nights with no moon and the spectacular power of the wind. Just when you think you've got everything planned as you go through life, something happens that makes you take stock. That's the simple story of, 'Seventh Sea'.

Dougie has never been averse to writing and dedicating songs to his family and friends. 'Ready for the Storm', was for his great uncle Fergus from Mull. Three out of four of Dougie's grandparents were Gaelic speaking and the family have only been speaking English for a couple of generations. We are all allowed to make mistakes in life, 'Not Lie Down', urges us on and not to give up. 'Stepping Stones', brought up the interval. Dougie bought his old school in Butterstone and turned it into a recording studio and he is grateful to all the people he has known who have helped mould him into the person he is today.

The one certainty at Dougie's concerts is that time passes all too quickly; such is the attention he commands Dougie did some peat cutting in Lewis with two 80-year-old locals, who showed him how to cut a perfect peat bank, 'Scythe Song', was spawned from that experience. Although written some years ago, 'War', is about Dougie's feelings of what was going on then, it continues to be very relevant today. Remains of stone circles and burial chambers litter the hillsides around Dunkeld, 'Turning Away', was featured in a recent Jennifer Lopez movie, sung by Mary Black. 'This Love Will Carry', is the antidote to war, no matter what happens your friends will always see you through.

The lyrics to all Dougie's songs bring on one emotion or another. It seems you only have to reach out to attain your wishes, but as, 'Broken Wings' explains, frustration comes when you just can't take that final important step. 'Who Am I', is the title track from the new CD, the inspiration for the song came as Dougie was watching some buzzards circling, whilst still being ever watchful of their young.

Written over 20 years ago on the beach in Cote Du Nord, Brittany, 'Caledonia', remains Dougie's most requested song. He sang it with Sean Connery at the opening of the Scottish Parliament. One encore was never going to be enough, so that was followed by another audience favourite, a song from Atholl side, 'Until We Meet Again'.

From artist to audience and audience to artist, it is a meeting of old friends, for you can almost reach out and touch the electricity. Dougie's easy style belies the messages that are in his songs. That combination keeps him at the forefront of popular folk music the world over.

David Jones

HUGHIE JONES at the Wooden Horse Folk Club on 16 March 2003

This was definitely not a night for the landlubbers! Those not used to nautical matters would have been well advised to have their Quells handy. The fo'c'sle, sorry the clubroom, was comfortably full for the first visit of Hughie Jones to The Wooden Horse.

It is the custom at the Wooden Horse for guest nights to be started by club residents. This time it was Loctup Together's turn at the wheel; there we go again, all nautical. They were augmented on this occasion by two friends from the North East; Helen Pitt and Steve Dawes; and the four of them now constitute a quartet called 'Fore and Aft'. You will see the name on festival lists this season.



'Fore and Aft' gave us a hearty opening set of shanties and related sea songs including 'General Taylor' and 'The old Ship's Rolling home'. Good four part harmonies, which produce a full and rich sound. A cracking start to the evening.

Hughie was given a warm welcome as stepped on board the quarterdeck; there I go again; I mean stood before the audience. The floor of the clubroom from where the guests sing creaks like the deck of wooden ship in a gale, that I suspect Hughie, who has been on board so many sailing ships, felt perfectly at home.

He is a most engaging performer, and with the sea, ships, sailors and the Port of Liverpool as the theme for his first set, I don't know of anyone who is more comfortable with, and in control of his material.

His songs, 'Unmooring Song', to start the journey, 'Liverpool Packet', 'Maggie May', Fox Smith's 'That's the Sailor's Way', WCSA (West Coast of South America), and 'Whip Jamboree' to bring us back safe to port, were sung with vitality, enthusiasm and commitment. The commentary in between was thoroughly entertaining. No waffle! Not a word wasted and very informative. His stories of the ladies of the night and the gangs who organised the crew's watches in the days of sail were captivating. It was a well crafted set and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

'Foe and Aft' kept to the sea theme when they opened the second half with Matt Armour's 'Jimmy Just Turn Her Around' and then featured Chris and Helen on 'The Victory'. The rafters rung

when we all joined in on 'Row On' and the audience were well warmed up for Hughie's second set in which he broadened his scope and revisited some of his past.

To us, who are old enough to remember The Spinners, it could have become too nostalgic as he delved into his back catalogue, and while he does acknowledge his roots and earlier folk music associations, he does not dwell in the past. His rendition of favourites such as 'Black and White' and 'Dirty Old Town, were delivered with the freshness and enthusiasm of a singer very much of today; which of course he is!

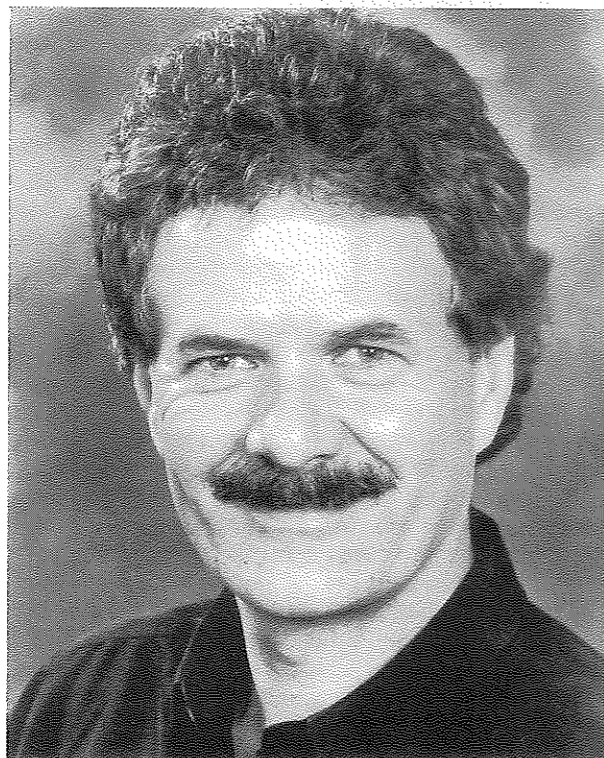
Hughie Jones writes love songs: love songs to ships, and we were treated to 'Ellen Vannin', 'Marco Polo', and my own favourite, 'Marques'. All fine songs, which bear favourable comparison with the best. 'Ellen Vannin' is now believed, by some, to be traditional. What finer compliment could be paid?

We all enjoyed Hughie's gig immensely, and his effortless rapport with the audience ensured some wonderful Wooden Horse singing in on 'The Leaving of Liverpool'. I think he had as good a time as we did. If that is so, then he is well satisfied. Thanks Hughie. Hope to see you again.

Norman Wilson

BERNARD WRIGLEY at Wrexham Folk Club on 3 April 2003

If I were to mention Mike Harding, Richard Digance, Jasper Carrott and Billy Connolly to several members of the general public most would recognise at least two of them as instant TV favourites.



It is hard to see how a fifth name has not yet been added to the list because the man concerned is equally talented, as I saw for myself at Wrexham Folk & Acoustic Music Club. Bernard Wrigley followed his more illustrious contemporaries' footsteps through the folk clubs of the 1960's without quite making the same commercial breakthrough. It did not take long though for this self-taught guitarist, with the booming and rasping voice that earned him the nickname of "The Bolton Bullfrog", to turn



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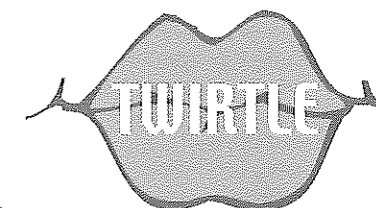
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professional. It was in 1969 that he gave up his "day job" as a Customs & Excise Officer - maybe he had too much of a sense of humour.

In the early years, Bernard was heavily involved in the theatre, one of his colleagues in the Ken Campbell Roadshow being the now internationally renowned actor, Bob Hoskins. No wonder Bernard realised that it was, "good to talk" and this he did with stunning effect becoming well known for his humorous anecdotes that still liberally intersperse his songs. He was certainly on top form and, as with most good things, the night flew by only to quickly.

His first set of "Schooldays", "Home Brew" (monologue), "Santa Fe Trail", "Caps" (monologue), "Indian Lass" and "The House of the Rising Sun" was nothing if not diverse, and ably illustrated the man's talents as a songwriter, a musician and an accomplished raconteur and humorist. I particularly liked his song "Santa Fe Trail" about the American pioneers of the 19th Century and the wagon trains that took many of them not to pastures new but to perish in the cruel deserts along the way.

The second set sped by while Bernard mesmerized and delighted us with the Fats Waller classic, "Your Feet Too Big" followed by the saddest part of the evening when he sang Mike Smith's brilliant song, "The Dutchman" as a tribute to John Evans who died last June and who was resident at the club for many years. John sang and recorded the song on the Yardarm Offa CD "Once Upon A Winters Night" reviewed in this magazine last quarter.

The inevitable Blackburn accent song, known to all as "The Car Park Song" raised everyone's spirits again and the Mike Harding monologue, "Albert & the Condom" had everyone in tears (literally). The Cyril Tawny song "Sammy's Bar" again changed the mood before Bernard completed the evening with a stunning instrumental set illustrating just what a fine guitarist he is. With no time for an encore, not even "Nelly The Elephant" which everyone was shouting for, the night was only too soon ended. It will be one that will be remembered for a very long time by all of us who were privileged to witness a consummate performer at the top of his profession.

Ian Chesterman

BANDERSNATCH at Gregson Lane Folk Club, Hoghton on 1st May 2003

If I was trying to think of one word that summed up last night's performance from Bandersnatch at GLFC, I'd be thinking....serendipity. Not just because I want to show off by using five syllable words, but because, for me, it's the correct one! I hadn't previously heard of the band, and on that basis, turning up for a gig on the strength of one of those "...oh, well, let's go and see..." decisions, the evening turned out to be a truly unexpected and delightful experience.

Bandersnatch encapsulated quite simply the very best of all the ingredients that promote this kind of music on this kind of evening. Exceptional talent with wonderful modesty, comfortable humour without being disingenuous, a range of instrument abilities that makes one wonder if they were once marooned for a year in the window of "Eric Shuttleworth's Musical Emporium for the Discerning Performer"; and a range of songs including incisive self penned numbers that we could really relate to.

I wouldn't single out one band member, simply because everyone genuinely added to the whole, and the vocals worked effortlessly together. Their performance was professionally entertaining, yet wonderfully warm. It felt like you were in their front room, stroking their cat and reaching for another chocolate Hobnob....

Peter Hardman

FESTIVAL & EVENT REVIEWS



ECCLESTON HERITAGE DAY - 8 MARCH 2003

Eccleston Heritage Day was a 'home-grown' product; the idea developing 'organically' out of a partnership between myself, a recent resident of Eccleston, and The Green Centre - a funded organisation, based in Eccleston, to develop environmental and cultural projects in the village. As a freelance dance artist specialising in clog and step-dance, I had spent several years working on clog dance projects in the N.E. and Cumbria for FOLKWORKS, who, as well as paying my salary, would always organise a stunning 'final event' to inspire all involved. I carried this vision with me when I moved over to Lancashire, but realized that generating my own projects and final events would not be an easy task.

Having found a 'fairy godmother' in the Green Centre, who were looking for cultural activities to support, it did not take long to convince them that clogs and clog-dancing were indisputably 'heritage', there having been at least 3 clog makers in the village within living memory. My suggestion to offer a clog dance project to both primary schools in the village was taken up and the funding was secured through The Countryside Agency's *Local Heritage Initiative*, which had also funded research into Eccleston's apple orchards and the creation of a village heritage trail. The schools took up the offer and, after several taster-sessions had taken place, two after-school clog dance clubs began in October 2002. Pupils aged 8 to 11 took part and this included five boys.

Although each school had its own club, I wanted the children to be able to perform together, so apart from one short section, both schools learnt the same dance. I had also decided to focus on a particular tune: *New Road to Alston* (originally collected by Greg Stephens), which is not a usual clog dance tune but which seemed to have a certain drive and vigour which I felt would appeal to the pupils. It was also an easy tune to play by ear - a fact that would later prove to be very useful.



With rehearsals well under-way, a final event needed to be planned. My vision was that the pupils, performing their newly devised clog dance, would feel part of something special and would not only want to continue dancing, would perhaps start to be involved in playing folk music as well. The Green Centre's vision was to profile and celebrate Eccleston's newly discovered heritage with an interactive community event that showcased

all three-village projects. After much discussion and head scratching, Eccleston Heritage Day was gradually pieced together.

The day took place at Eccleston Primary School and was officially opened at 10 am by Councillor Kath Hoyle followed by a dance display by Leyland Morris Men, who are also in the process of researching their own heritage. There were exhibitions of clogs and clog making from Astley Hall, and also from Sandra Turton, who lives in Eccleston and works in Skelmersdale. Other exhibits included evidence of the research done into Eccleston's apple orchards and the official launch of Eccleston's newly way-marked Heritage Trail.

Activities during the day included traditional music and dance workshops, a sponsored walk round the Heritage Trail to raise money for a skateboard park in the village, and excellent refreshments provided by the school's PTA. FOLKUS ran four all-day workshops in whistle (Phil Brown), bodhran (Frank Lewis), fiddle (Carolyn Francis) and guitar (Derek Gifford). There was also a concertina workshop led by Angie Bladen of *Jubilee Concertinas*, a voluntary group who meet every month in Chorley, and a clog dance workshop provided by myself. The idea behind both these workshops was that they should give a 'hands-on' experience for absolute beginners, with concertinas and clogs provided. I have a vast collection of clogs at my disposal but the funding to enable the concertina workshop to take place was secured through a small grant from *The North West Federation of Folk Clubs*, money specifically given to promote opportunities for young people. At least five juniors participated in this workshop, including two of my clog dancers, who rapidly learnt *New Road to Alston*, the tune they'd been dancing to for the last four months!

At the end of the FOLKUS workshops, the musicians gathered in the hall to perform what they had learnt. It was very informal but quite inspirational to witness the sense of achievement generated, and I realized that two more of my clog dancers, and their dads, were playing *New Road to Alston*, but this time on the whistle (and transposed to Em).

To round off the day, we had booked Cumbrian band *Striding Edge*, to provide a Ceilidh at which the young clog dancers could perform. *Striding Edge* are a four piece band led by Mike Willoughby and Carolyn Francis and, using an essentially Cumbrian repertoire of tunes and dances, generate a lively and varied programme. The event was free, attracting many parents and FOLKUS participants. The moment of truth for the Eccleston Schools' Heritage Clog Project finally came, and the 21 pupils, resplendent in their newly designed T-shirts, took the stage. Aply accompanied by Carolyn Francis on fiddle, they did exceptionally well, and with that out the way, set about really enjoying themselves on the dance floor. Later on in the evening, stunning performances by local clog dancers Harry Cowgill and Elizabeth Calderbank made the case for clog dance as an activity not just restricted to primary schools!

Everyone who got involved in Eccleston Heritage Day felt that it achieved its objectives, and more besides. Many are asking when the next one is, and *Striding Edge* have already been booked to do another Eccleston Ceilidh in June. A Young Cloggers group has been formed in Eccleston with 10 of the original pupils coming along, some now expressing an interest in playing as well as dancing. As a clog dancer and folk amateur, I feel that folk arts will continue to motivate and inspire people of all ages but that the 'folk world' itself must come half-way and be prepared to find a way to work with mainstream funding organisations. Rightly or not, its future depends upon it!

Alex Fisher (clog dance artist)

EXTRAVAGANZA 4 at the Bull's Head, Failsworth, Manchester - March 23rd/24th 2003.

Pauline and John who run the Open Door folk club at the same venue as this two-day festival hold the Extravaganza twice a year in March and October. It takes the form of singarounds from 2pm until midnight interspersed by three guests on both days.

The first of those guests was Marie Little, a Manchester girl from Salford, who now lives in the northeast. Marie is a great singer and guitar technician as she demonstrated with fine covers of 'I Wish it Would Rain', 'The Rose', Amanda McBroom's song about Janis Joplin's life from the movie of the same name, and Stan Rogers' superb song, 'Lockkeeper'. My only disappointment was that Marie lapsed into country mode for songs from Dolly Parton and Buffy Saint Marie. That apart it was a memorable set.

Tony Gibbons, a member of Garva and one of the regular members of the band that play with John Wright, is also a solo performer of many years standing. A good choice of opening number came with 'Allende's Song', which Tony picked up from the singing of Peggy Seeger - Allende, was ousted by the Chilean dictator, Pinochet, in 1973. Tony's roots are firmly across the Irish sea, as are many of his songs, 'The Fox and the Hare', from Cork's Jimmy Crowley, being a fine example. 'The Town of Ballysay' is a great song from the redoubtable Tommy Makem. James Taylor penned the classic 'Copperline' that tells how, when you move away and then return, things change. Two songs that took me back a few years were 'Spanish Ladies', brought to prominence in the 70's by Paul Brady and the Johnston's, and then, from Tom Paxton's 'Peace Will Come' album, 'When Princes Meet'.

The second half saw another good choice of material including, 'Green Among the Gold'. 'Sailing to Philadelphia', from the celebrated Mark Knopfler, who incidentally started his musical career singing around the folk club's in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, was also well executed. Finally, 'The Blarney Roses', brought out the best from the audience. A good set very well performed.

Jon Boden & John Spiers are a duo who have come a long way in a very short space of time, culminating in a well deserved award at February's BBC Radio 2 2003 Folk Awards. Jon Boden plays fiddle, John Spiers melodeon and they've brought traditional songs right up to date with their almost contemporary presentation of their material. Highlights of the first set were two songs led by Jon Boden, 'Adieu Sweet Lovely Nancy' and, from the singing of Nick Owens about a young squire of Tamworth, 'The Golden Glove'. John Spiers wrote and performed 'Red Kites', leading into the slow, deliberate delivery of 'The Banks of the Green Willow'.

A favourite song of mine, 'Copshawholme Fair', sung by Jon Boden, opened the second half. The late, much missed Peter Bellamy wrote about male insecurity with 'Courting Too Slow'. Other highlights were a slow ballad about a shepherdess, 'Down the Moor' and then a song that is given a new lease of life by this duo, 'Prickle Eye Bush'. No matter how you approach this song, it's still about someone stuck in a hedge. Boden & Spiers have a great future ahead, such is the freshness of approach to their music.

Sunday dawned with the day's first guests, Brian Peters and Gordon Tyrrell, a duo of many years standing. With a combination of guitar, melodeon, concertina and flute, allied to material from all corners of the U.K., it ensures a varied, yet balanced performance. Gordon sang the opening song from Ireland, 'The Crockery Ware', followed by an English pastoral song from the

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month of May, 'Just as the Tide was Flowing'. Les Barker wrote the ballad 'Earth', which is about warfare from the point of view of the planet we live on; it provides food for thought. Further songs and instrumentals followed before 'Blow the Winds I-O' - a variation on 10,000 miles -brought up the interval.

A version of 'Golden Vanity', the child ballad, 'The Green Willow Tree', started the second set. Other notable delights were the American version of 'High Barbary' and the beautiful 'Swansea Town'. For their encore, the boys performed a Beatles classic, 'I've Just Seen a Face'. All in all, it was a real audience pleasing performance from two guys who really enjoy what they do best.

One of the finest performers to emerge from the northeast is Bob Fox. His easy style and many stories have ensured his popularity with audiences down the years. Teesside's Graham Miles provided the inspiration for 'Shores of Old Blighty', about his experience of National Service. 'The Song of the Iron Road', from Ewan MacColl's radio ballad, *The Ballad of John Axon*, tells of the great days of steam. Two songs, extolling the virtues of Newcastle's famous river, followed. The ever-popular 'Waters of Tyne', preceded the much more recently written, 'Big River', by local hero and actor, Jimmy Nail. From music hall to folk music, Joe Wilson penned 'The Bonny Gateshead Lass', delivered in unintelligible Geordie dialect. Miner, Benny Graham wrote 'Have a Game for the Crack', Bob's a cappella offering brought a very varied half to an end.

Happy coalmining songs are rare, but one such song is the much-loved 'Byker Hill'. From laughter to the much more sombre feel of 'She Waits and Weeps', Vin Garbutt's story of the Piper Alpha oil platform disaster. Alex Glasgow who died last year wrote all the songs for the play 'Close the Coalhouse Door' written by Alan Plater; one of those songs was 'Standing at the Door'. Andy M. Stewart formerly a member of the band, Silly Wizard, wrote 'Ramblin' Rover' that tells of living life to the full and never saving for a rainy day. The set was topped off with a real favourite with the Tyneside Irish community, 'The Galway Shawl'. Bob's real professionalism again shone through and with his new band, 'The Hush', starting to come to prominence, the future promises to make his life even more hectic.

As if we hadn't been treated to such a high quality weekend already, Harvey Andrews arrived to top things off. Harvey will soon be entering his 60th year, but if enthusiasm counts for anything, this doyen of songwriters refuses to slow down. The popular 'Friends Till Then', the subject of a 60's concerned generation explained in 'If it Wasn't for the Song' and 'Requiem' - all duffel coats and CND badges - was an inspired start to the set. 'Downshifting' is something many of us have experienced, growth against consumption is something that just doesn't add up. The audience aired their voices on the final song of the half, 'First You Lose the Rhyming'.

Harvey's songs always stand the test of time and so it has proved with 'Gift of a Brand New Day'. Experience of our crumbling health system was the catalyst for 'You Knew We Were Coming', grey power reigns!!! In my estimation, one of Harvey's finest numbers is 'The Centurion', a snapshot of one person's struggle for survival over 100 years. The night came to a close with real hilarity and the song, 'Middle Lane', road rage - no not here. Harvey Andrews' quality of performance has never wavered over his long career, he really is a master technician and a writer of songs that touch us all in one way or another.

Extravaganza weekends provide music of the highest order, no matter what your taste may be. Inspiration exudes from the performers and Extravaganza 5 due in October promises much more of the same.

David Jones

THE 25th GLENFARG FOLK FESTIVAL - April 2003

Yes it is the start of the festival season again and more by chance than planning I found myself at Glenfarg just north of Edinburgh, during their festival and popped in to see what was on offer. Like many festivals they started on the Friday night with a ceilidh held in the village hall. Saturday started with a well attended sing around followed by a singing competition judged by Mike Silver. A bit of a break for food and an evening concert with The Farg Folk, youngsters Back of the Moon, Fil Campbell and Tom McFarland from Northern Ireland and Mike Silver. Sunday followed a similar pattern, sing around and a Children's Concert in the afternoon and the final fling with a great line up of stars giving something for everyone. There was Fife band Sangsters for the local feel, Fergus O'Byrne and Jim Payne from New Foundland and headline act Vin Garbut.

However all this was just to fill the time around the main attraction of the weekend - The 18th World Puff-A-Box Championships. This long established competition sponsored by Scottish Bluebell Matches (there you got your plug) attracted well over 150 entries from the old, the very old, the young and the very young. Present were the reigning Men's World Champion and World Record holder Charlie Strachan and Women's World Champion plus a strong field of past champions. It was obvious from the start that competition would be fierce. The judges anticipated there would be disputes and appeals at the tactics used by all the gain the prestigious title. I was a novice but paid my entry fee hoping that as World Power lifting Champion I had the strength to see off the opposition.

For those of you unaware of the object of the competition it is simple, you try to blow the inside of an empty match box, in this case a Scottish Bluebell Match box as far as you can. Some entrants had chosen their boxes badly and had difficulty getting enough Puff to get their box out. Others misjudged the trajectory and sent it whizzing out of bounds to be disqualified. The standard at this years competition was not as high as in past years and distances of almost a metre shorter seemed to be the order of the day. Past champions were heard to put it down to the batch of boxes supplied others blamed the judges, the atmosphere was tense. I stepped up as entrant No55 for my first Puff. I filled my lungs. My huge chest admired by many of the women and some men. I took in another gasp of air and BLEEEWW. The box shot out, somersaulting through the air, covering the metres with ease. It landed and bounced a few inches forward taking me into third place. Only the reigning Champion and Phil Meldrum, the previous years winner were ahead, and only just at that. The crowd went wild. I went wild. I knew I had more in me. More competitors took their turn and none matched the standard. A young woman Anne O'Toole tall and slender, a slip of a girl in her twenties stepped forward. She put the box to her mouth and blew. It shot out like a bolt from a gun and passed all our efforts by some inches, breaking the Women's World Record into the bargain. I was now in fourth position. My turn came again and with No 103 box. I blasted the air from my lungs for all I was worth. Now I am sure there was some devilry afoot. It landed and instead of continuing forward as you would expect and into the lead. For some reason it went sideways and out of bounds to be disqualified. "No Blow" was called. Still I had one shot left and waited patiently for the minutes to pass.

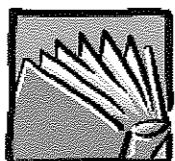
I stepped up for my third and last Puff at No121. I was still in fourth but out of the medals. (whisky bottles and full ones at that). I do not know whether it was nerves due to the pressure or whether my Box had been tampered with (such things have been known to happen in the past) or what. My third and final Puff fell considerably short of the mark required. Resigned to fourth I returned to my seat as the remainder of the entrants

followed my example.

I sat and watched the Anne O'Toole take first prize as overall winner a litre of whisky and other bottle for first female and Phil Meldrum got a bottle as first male. It should have been me. But there is still next year. I am in training again for my Third World Power lifting title and expect to add the Puff A Box Trophy to my display cabinet next April when the Glenfarg Folk Festival will hold the 19th World Puff A Box Championships. Those of you who want to enter start training now if you think you are hard enough. The dates to keep in mind are April 16/17/18 2004. For further details of Glenfarg festival go to www.glenfargvillagefolkclub.freeserve.co.uk

Rob Wright
The Worlds Strongest Roadie.

JOHN'S DIARY CHAT



Hello everyone.

Well Easter has been and gone and no doubt many of you have already visited or taken part in your first festivals of the year. This is the time of the year when some clubs close for a month or two whilst festival organisers, (what a great lot they are), put the finishing touches to their wonderful exhibitions of music and dance. Over the Easter break a few of my friends recently joined Angela and I at the recently revived Poynton Festival in Cheshire. Dave and Judy (Sad Pig - at Porkies) and their committee are to be commended for putting on a brilliant festival, in this their second year, since the restart. For me the highlights were Sad Pig themselves, the Lindisfarne Acoustic concert (there isn't an ordinary song on their Promenade CD by the way), the evergreen Johnny Silvo (what a voice range he has) and for me the find of the festival - Paul Millns, a wonderful singer/songwriter and keyboard player. Listen to his song - "Martha" - you'll cry buckets!

We are off to Chester Festival over the Whit weekend followed by a blue grass festival at Willaston, near Nantwich where the banjo champion of the world - John Dowling is performing.

Anyway, down to business, the centre pages in our last issue were printed in rather an untidy style (nothing to do with me you understand). So I trust this edition's layout is much more professionally presented for you.

Performing in the region are the likes of Isla St Clair (Scotland), Tanglefoot (Canada), Danu (Ireland), Eileen McGann (Canada), Bert Jansch and our own Roy Bailey (England). The aforementioned Paul Millns is appearing at the Rattan and Rush Acoustic Tearoom, Kirby Stephen, Cumbria on 16th August.

Club News:

Those clubs who close during the summer period have been omitted from the centre pages calendar but fear not, they will reappear in the Autumn edition.

This quarter I am delighted to welcome one new club to membership of the **North West Federation of Folk Clubs** - it is "**Folk Upstairs at the Railway**". The club is run by Christine

Stephen and Brenda Judge and can be found at The Railway, Lumb Lane, Droydsden, Manchester. The club has a mix of singers and guest nights and meets on the first and third Thursday of each month starting at 8-45pm. Contact details are Christine - 0161-370-6587 and Brenda - 0161-432-4830. A warm welcome to you all gang! In order to avoid confusion with **The Railway Folk Club at Lymm**, I have identified this club as such in the centre pages and have called our new club "**Upstairs at the Railway**".

The "**King's Arms folk club**", Haskayne has moved to "**The Swan**", Springfield Road, Aughton. Still meeting on a Wednesday at 8-30pm, the organiser is Dot Skinner who can be contacted on 0151-474-9661.

David Ryan at "**Fleetwood FC**" (usually a singers club) reminds us that the club is presently meeting at The Victoria Hotel (just around the corner from the Steamer - the usual venue). Ring David first (01253-876351) to avoid turning up at the wrong venue. In addition, David has arranged for Pete Coe to perform at a pre-Fylde Festival concert on the evening of Friday 28th August at the North Euston Hotel.

Paul and Penny at "**Rattan and Rush Acoustic Tearoom**" advise patrons that proceedings commence with a meal at 7-45pm on folk nights. Always book in advance and don't be late as this club sells out at most gigs. Visit the website for more details if you can.

Peter Hood at "**The Red Bull**" already has a sell out night on Monday 2nd June when Roy Bailey is the guest. On Monday 14th July - as well as being a normal singers night - the Chorlton Green Morris Team will bring something special to the evening with dancing on the car park along with a pair of clogging experts. Phew, I'm sweating already at the thought.

Clive Pownceby at "**The Bothy**", (he of the wonderful jackets), has arranged a singers' night with a difference on Sunday 8th June when the theme for the evening will be 'Give Booze a Chance'. This club has two acts I have yet to see, they are, on 22nd June - 'Hoover the Dog' (Tony Harris, Paul Hutchison and John Hymas) and on December 14th - 'The Witches of Elswick' (Bryony Griffith, Fay Hield, Becky Stockwell and Gillie Tolfrey).

A number of club organisers have the nerve and confidence to book the cream of the folk music scene at venues other than at their normal club venue. We are most grateful for this even though it may mean shelling out a few more pennies for the privilege. Such events this quarter are Eric Cox's "**Biddulph FC**"; they have made arrangements for alternative venues for Chris and Kellie While (Biddulph Working Men's Club) on 5th June, and Isla St Clair at Biddulph Town Hall on July 3rd. Eric Bogle at the Town Hall on Saturday 26th July.

Pat Batty at "**Westhoughton FC**" concludes their season (before the summer closure) with the aforementioned Chris and Kellie While appearing on June 6th at Hart Common Golf Club. You will need a letter from you know who to get a ticket for this one as this is already a sell out.

Terry Howarth at "**Folk at the Wheatsheaf**" has two special nights at Embleton Village Hall - one during this quarter and one in October. They are 30th July - Chris Newman and Maire Ni Chathasaigh and The McCalmans on 29th October.

Graham Dixon at "**Gregson Lane**" also has a special night (in aid of Bamber Bridge Lifeboats - RNLI). Where are the lifeboats in Bamber Bridge? - you may ask. This event takes place on 17th July at the New Hall Tavern, Samlesbury. Admission is free and you get a free supper. Trouble at 'Mill will be the

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DAVE FLETCHER & BILL WHALEY
THE OLDHAM TINKERS (SUN)
KEVIN & ELLEN MITCHELL
THE WILSON FAMILY
BACK IN BUSINESS
DEREK BRIMSTONE
DEREK GIFFORD
BRIAN PETERS
JIM MAGEEAN
JOHN MORRIS
ROISIN WHITE
THE BISMARCKS
LOCTUP TOGETHER
ALISTAIR ANDERSON
PETA WEBB & KEN HALL
HIS WORSHIP & THE PIG
THE SHELLBACK CHORUS
BARRIE & INGRID TEMPLE
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e.mail: four.fools@virgin.net Website:- www.four-fools.co.uk**

principal performers. Pie and peas for supper and a raffle with brilliant prizes should make a goodly amount for this very worthy cause. Get along there if you can.

Since becoming the club organiser - Stewart Lever at "**The Railway FC**" (Lymm) is soon to have his first experience of Lymm Festival Week. Folk specials during this time are: June 26th - Singers' Night with Graham Sowerby; 28th June - 'Best o' t' Bunch' and 'Haddenham Hoofers'; 2nd July - Irish Night with Garva. Later in the summer, two singers' nights will feature 'Big Spots' for Sean Kavanagh on 24th July and Rod & Dan Scotney on 21st August. The club reopens its guest season on 11th September with the high velocity Canadian band 'Tanglefoot'. They are absolutely superb. Don't miss them. They make their first appearance in England at my club - "**Parkgate FC**" (Wirral) on Thursday 28th August and their tour continues throughout the country until October 6th. Visit their very up to date website for more details.

Steve Henderson's good cause gigs - "**Mr Kite Benefits**" - are highlighted in the Advanced Dates column but in addition, Tom Russell performs at St Bede's Club, Clayton-Le-Woods, Chorley on Saturday 28th June.

Alan Reid from the 'Battlefield Band' has teamed up with Rob Van Zandt and is due to appear this quarter at "**The Citadel Arts Centre**", St Helens on 14th June and at "**Northwich FC**" on 12th September.

'Handpicked' is probably a new name to most of us. They are - Tony McManus (once dubbed 'the greatest Celtic guitarist in the world' by John Renbourn), Martin Simpson (recently named one of the top 15 artistes of the decade by Acoustic Guitar magazine), Seckou Keita (who plays Kora), Minna Raskinen (new generation Finnish Kantele player) and Llio Rhydderch (Welsh Triple Harp exponent). You can see these guys at "**The Brewery Arts Centre**", Kendal on Sunday 1st June. If you like your concerts string-driven then this is the one for you. Don't cut your fingers off on the way out though!

"**Southport Arts Centre**" sees a rare appearance of the Irish septet 'Danu' on Friday 6th June. This band was voted best live act at the 2001 BBC Folk Awards. Waterford based and all still in their 20's they perform traditional Irish music with a vim and vigour that has earned them a reputation as one of the most exciting acts on the circuit. "Reels, jigs, polkas and songs tumble together in a glorious mix" - Hot Press magazine. Ground breaking guitarist Bert Jansch appears on Saturday 19th July - a rare opportunity to see one of the British music scene's true legends.

Finally, I was unable to put the following advanced date info into the listings for "**Swinton FC**" - 15th September Pat Ryan and Ken Howard. 3rd November Kate Howden, Paul Jones & Tony Taffinder

Parkgate Folk Club, The Boathouse, Marine Parade, Parkgate, Wirral (last Thursday of every month) is now on the internet and can be found on www.Parkgatefolkclub.co.uk and www.Parkgatefolkclub.com Contact tel.nos. - Eddie Morris on 0151-677-1840 or Mike & Buddy Woods on 0151-678-6713 for more details

Festivals:

The wonderful '**Middlewich Folk and Boat Festival**' is high on my personal agenda for a visit. In fact, Brass Tacks are part of the line-up. Guess who is the main act on the Friday evening - Sir Bob Geldof and his band. Can't be bad hey? This festival runs over the weekend of June 13th, 14th and 15th June and is a

superb example of how two cultures can combine to produce a wonderful atmosphere of music, dance and canal activity. I consider it to be the best festival of its kind in the northern region.

A new festival has come to notice thanks to Christine Stephen at "**Upstairs at the Railway**". It is '**Droylsden Festival**' and will take place from 27th to 29th June.

The musical fayre is as follows: 27th - John Green memorial Singaround, 28th - Evening concert at Fairfield Golf & Sailing Club with Jez Lowe & the Bad Pennies, and Lynn & Barrie Hardman. On the 29th, an Open Air concert will take place from 1pm until dusk featuring local artistes.

Pete Rimmer, a resident at "**The Bothy**", is in creative mode just now as he and his committee realise a dream and announce a new festival in the sleepy hollow of Ormskirk. The event is entitled '**Ormskirk Comes Alive**'. The event will take place on Saturday 12th July with the principal performers being - Chris While & Julie Matthews, The Tom Topping Band, Nancy Kerr and James Fagan, Jill Fielding Band, Roam, Howden, Jones and Taffinder, Pete himself with Sarah Marks and Gallimaufry. All the usual dance events and workshops will be there to complement this excellent line-up. You can obtain further details by ringing Pete on - 07973-623210 or 01695-587947 or by email at pete@rimmer6.fsnet.co.uk

Still on the subject of festivals, you will see that Saddleworth Festival is scheduled for 18th to 20th July, where Eric Bogle is top of the bill.

One for your diaries - "**Swinton Festival**" will take place on 24th and 25th October - watch this space for confirmed guests or ring Ged Todd on 01942-811527 for further details.

Folk on the Radio:

There is no doubt that folk music/activity does not get the media airing that it should. It is therefore most gratifying that the moguls at Radio GMR have allowed one of our own (Ali O'Brien at "**SAFRA**") to comper a folk programme from May onwards. The move is something of an experiment throughout the summer months. So the best thing you can do is tune in to GMR between 7-00pm and 8-00pm on a Tuesday, COMMENCING ON Tuesday 20th May 2003, and listen to the dulcet tones of our Ali presenting 'Sounds of Folk'. Ali tells me that she wants the programme to reflect and celebrate the diversity of folk music, song and dance in the Greater Manchester area. Ali needs information about any goings on in the folk world and would like to feature clubs and their organisers, performers and festival directors. Any news you have that will promote our wonderful pursuit should be forwarded to Ali on 01457-870391 or to the GMR Radio station itself, preferably by email:- gmr@bbc.co.uk or to the producer email:- mike.shaft@bbc.co.uk or write to BBC GMR, P.O. Box 951, Oxford Road, Manchester. M60 1SD.

Anyway, that's all for now folkies. Have a wonderful summer and I look forward to speaking to you all again in September.

John Owen

ARTICLES



THE TRIALS OF A FOLK CLUB ORGANISER

The are different ways of running a folk club: the "benevolent

dictatorship", the "group of like-minded souls" and the "democratic committee" could be three, but however it is done, if the club books guests, somebody has to arrange this. It's one of the jobs I do and have done for some years, and this is perhaps one reason why there is more grey hair than there used to be about my head.

When I first took on the role, I thought "Great, now I can make sure all my favourite guests are invited to the club", but I soon realised it wasn't going to be that simple. You get phone calls; you get mail - and these days e-mails a-plenty - and you get people who just turn up at the club and smile in your face. You get packages of glossy posters and demo CDs (some of which I keep, some I pass on to other club regulars). I even got a video sent by one American hopeful. My book of contacts grew rapidly and so did my telephone bill.

So, I developed an ideal to strive for. Each season should have a balance, a mix of groups and solo performers, with a share of male and female singers and virtuoso instrumentalists, and a mix from traditional to contemporary and back again. But of course, the ideal guest or guests to fill a gap and maintain that balance are at that time touring Albania or somewhere and after three nights on the phone, you end up settling for whoever has just happened to call you at the right moment. Somehow, though, the programme manages to be varied enough and the punters keep coming in.

The bit of the job I don't like is when the phone rings and a pleasant voice says, "Hi, did you receive that package from me a week or two ago?" Well, yes I did, but I wasn't impressed. Oh dear, how do I...? Ok, there are others on the committee or amongst the residents and I am not so arrogant as to think my opinion is the only one that counts, eclectic though my taste may be, so I pass the package on to someone else and see what they think. Still, sometimes the response is "No, not really", and sooner or later I am faced with "Any chance?" and I have to say, "I'm sorry...". And I hate it. I know how I'd feel if someone had to say that to me. It's even harder if that someone has come down to the club to do a spot, something I like to encourage, but then I get stuck with the smiling, sometimes pleading, face at the end of the night when I'd rather just pack up and go home. On the whole, though, I can compliment the vast majority for being both thick-skinned and gracious. And persistently hopeful.

There are so many things to consider. We are after all talking about non-profit making organisations run by amateurs, yet some of those who tour make their living in this arena. It doesn't matter how well you are received by an audience of thirty, no club can afford a £300 fee, and yet travelling half the length of the country for £150 doesn't leave much for paying the bills. It's quite remarkable that the folk music scene is so healthy and vibrant given these unworkable equations.

Keeping the balance of variety can be a problem too. Even if we booked guests 52 weeks a year, I could probably set a programme for the year where every guest was "a bloke and a guitar". I don't think that's what my club members want (and I am a bloke that plays guitar) so I try my best to include a fair share of females and bands and other types of instruments. (It can't be denied, though, that some "bokes with guitars" are amongst the best entertainers on the scene.) The scene goes through phases too. Once upon a time there were Irish bands everywhere you looked (or listened); then there were Scottish singers and bands like an invasion. This year I have been pleased to book bands from Wales too and I'm really glad that the BBC2 Horizon winners are English guys playing English music (with no guitars). We get Americans and Canadians too from time to time. I wish there was the chance to catch some passing French or Italian performers (or Greek or Swedish or

Polish or Tunisian or Brazilian) too - if they play their own folk music, but such chances come by rarely. However, booking an unknown quantity can be a wonderfully exciting thing too - a trio called Bayou Seco spring to mind when we had at least five people squeezing past the "House Full" signs!

All in all, it's a reflection on the incredible talent around that the "disappointments" over the last few years have been few and even those only pale because the rest are so brilliant. And during the last four years 40 guests have visited us for the first time - that's about 50% - so it's not just the tried and true. However, a recent (very unscientific) survey revealed that one of the most popular guests we ever have is a bloke who doesn't even sing or play an instrument, he just reads daft poems from a never-ending series of booklets. Hmmm...

Anyway, thank you to all of you who keep coming just to listen and be entertained, as well as to all those who come and provide that entertainment. Every successful night makes me feel good. And if you are one of those who desperately want to persuade an organiser here or there to book you, please try to see it from our side too. I can't book everybody even if I did want to. However, if one of you would care to share your experiences, I for one would be interested.

One final thought - the "Hiring Fair": great idea! Wish there were more of them. (Well, maybe there will be.)

Daniel O'Kesh

(not my real name - as you may have guessed :-)

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THE SEARCH GOES ON...

How does a search engine work? No, I haven't got a clue either but I know that if you type a few words or a phrase into the box provided, then press "send", you'll get anything from "No results found" to half a million or more websites that contain the word or phrase you want. Usually the most relevant hits are at the top of the page with, hopefully, a site that is of interest to you. With a little help, you can usually narrow down the amount of hits and home in on the website you want by following a few rules:

Enclose phrases in " " quotes. This forces the search engine to find the words next to each other in a website rather than pick out the individual words. This is handy when you're looking for song words.

Put words in the box that are relevant to the subject i.e. music +folk +lyrics etc. The plus sign forces the engine to look for the word folk as well as music and also lyrics. A minus sign tells the search engine to ignore word - i.e. music +folk -jazz

Some search engines are based on questions e.g. www.ask.co.uk (Ask Jeeves). Here you are asked to type your search in the form of a question i.e. "How is a guitar tuned?" The answer comes back as a series of websites to chose from, as you would expect.

If I put the same question into www.google.com, then I get no results. But if I change the question to "How do I tune a guitar"

**DROYLSDEN
FOLK FESTIVAL
2003**

June 27th, 28th & 29th

Friday June 27th

John Green Memorial Sing-a-round
Hosted by Lynn and Barrie Hardman
At The Railway Pub, Lumb Lane, Droylsden

Saturday June 28th at 8pm

JEZ LOWE & THE BAD PENNIES
Evening Concert at Fairfield Golf & Sailing Club
Booth Rd, Audenshaw
Tickets £6

Sunday June 29th

Open Air Concert 1:00pm -Dusk
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NORTH WEST FEDERATION OF FOLK CLUBS

Venue Title	Time	Venue Location	Contact	Tel.No.
SUNDAY				
Accrington Town Hall	7:30 PM	Blackburn Road, Accrington	Box Office	01254 380293
Bothy	8:00 PM	Blundell Arms, 34 Upper Aughton Road, Birkdale, S'port, PR85ND	Clive Pownceby	0151-924-5078
Folk at the Manor	8:30 PM	The Old Manor Club, Withens Lane, Wallasey	Roger Parker	0151-638-1987
Mr Kite Benefits	8:00 PM	Worden Arts Centre, Worden Park, Leyland	Steve Henderson	01772 621411
Open Door	8:45 PM	The Bull's Head, Oldham Road, Failsworth, Manchester	Pauline Westall	0161-681-3618
Walton	8:30 PM	County Ward Labour Club, 39 Hale Road, Walton, Liverpool	Lilian French	0151-474-0979
Wooden Horse	8:30 PM	The Junction, News Lane, Rainford	Jim Coan	01772 452782
MONDAY				
Conwy	8:30 PM	The Malt Loaf, Rosehill Street, Conwy	Denis Bennett	01492 877324
Farmers Arms	8:30 PM	Hillbark Road, Frankby, Wirral	Alison Parker	0151-648-4444
Folk at the Prospect	8:30 PM	The Prospect Inn, Weston Road, Weston Village, Runcom	Roger Hanslip	01928 731567
Red Bull	8:30 PM	The Red Bull, Hillgate, Stockport	Peter Hood	0161-432-4142
Room at the Back	8:45 PM	The Railway Inn, Parbold, Wigan WN8 7PG	Seth Holden	01257 463766
Swinton	8:30 PM	The White Lion, 242 Manchester Road, Swinton	Ged Todd	01942 811527
Triton	8:30 PM	Aigburth Peoples Hall, Aigburth Vale, Liverpool	Barry Meyer	0151-733-4159
TUESDAY				
Everyman	8:30 PM	The Everyman Bistro, Hope Street, Liverpool	Christine Jones	0151-709-3336
Furness	8:30 PM	The Cavendish Arms, Market Place, Dalton-in-Furness, Cumbria	George Birkby	01229 463284
Howcroft Inn	8:30 PM	The Howcroft Inn, 36 Pool Street, (off Vernon St), Bolton, BL12JU	Ron Callow	01606 863283
Longridge	8:30 PM	Royal British Legion, Townley Road, Longridge, Nr. Preston PR3 3EA	Brian Preston	01772-457071
Maghull	8:30 PM	Maghull Community Ass'n, Green Lane, L'pool Rd North, Maghull	Joe Ryan	0151-531-9273
Ring 'O' Bells	8:30 PM	Ring 'O' Bells, Famworth Street, Pit Lane, Widnes, Cheshire	Jean Finney	0151-424-3672
St Annes Acoustic Roots	8:30 PM	Civil Service Sports & Social Club, Shepherd Road, St Annes	Sue Arrow	01253 721503
Urmston Acoustics	8:30 PM	The Fox & Hounds, Woodsend Road, Flixton	Martin Kavanagh	0161-748-5497
Wigan (Fox & Goose)	9:00 PM	Fox & Goose, Wigan Lane, Wigan	Joan Blackburn	01942 321223
WEDNESDAY				
Alison Arms	8:30 PM	The Alison Arms, Preston Rd, Coppull Moor, Nr Chorley	Hilda Foy	01257 792246
Blackburn	8:30 PM	Fleece Inn, Penny Street, Blackburn	Brian Kirkham	01254 720745
Brewery Arts Centre	8:30 PM	Brewery Arts Centre, 122a Highgate, Kendal	Box Office	01539 725133
Broken Token	8:15 PM	The Eagle & Child, Bispham Green, Mawdsley	Ken & Angie Bladen	01257 263678
Bumley	8:30 PM	Waggon & Horses Inn, Colne Rd, Brierfield	Phyl Watson	01282 774077
Clarence	8:30 PM	The Clarence, Preston New Road, Blackpool	Ann Green	01772 683027
Cross Keys	9:00 PM	Running Hill Gate, Uppermill, Near Oldham	Jim Schofield	01457 833897
Falcon	9:00 PM	The Falcon Hotel, Hardhom Way, Poulton-le-Fylde	Pete Skinner	01253 301483
Red Bull	8:30 PM	The Red Bull, Hillgate, Stockport	Peter Hood	0161-432-4142
The Swan	8:30 PM	The Swan, Springfield Road, Aughton	Dot Skinner	0151-474-9661
THURSDAY				
Biddulph	8:30 PM	The Biddulph Arms, Congleton Road, Biddulph, Stoke-on-Trent	Eric Cox	01782 514896
Fleetwood	8:30 PM	Steamer Hotel, Queens Terrace, Fleetwood, FY7 6BT	Dave Ryan	01253 876351
Gregson Lane	8:30 PM	Gregson Lane Sports & Social Club, Gregson Lane, Hoghton	Graham Dixon	01254 853929
Parkgate	8:15 PM	Boathouse Pub/Restaurant, 1 The Parade, Parkgate, Wirral	Eddie Morris	0151-677-1840
Railway	8:30 PM	Railway Hotel, Mill Lane, Heatley, Lymm, Cheshire	Don Davies	0161-432-4317
Ruthin Acoustic Music	8:30 PM	The White Horse, Llanfair DC, near Ruthin, Denbighshire	Campbell Finnie	01824 750730
Wigan (7 Stars)	9:00 PM	Seven Stars Hotel, Seven Stars Bridge, Walgate, Wigan	Joan Blackburn	01942 321223
Wrexham	8:30 PM	Nags Head Inn, Mount Street, Wrexham	ian Chesterman	01978 357307
FRIDAY				
Bluecoat Arts Centre	8:00 PM	Bluecoat Chambers, School Lane, Liverpool, L1 3BX	Box Office	0151-707-9393
Carlisle Folk & Blues	8:00 PM	The Coach House, Heads Nook, Carlisle	Ken & Sue Bradburn	01228 670580
Hale & Hearty	8:30 PM	The Kings Arms, Hale, nr. Milnethorpe, Cumbria	Frank Lewis	01524 734440
Leigh	8:00 PM	Conservative Club, Railway Road, Leigh	Pauline Dowsett	01942 604803
Northwich	8:30 PM	Harlequin Theatre, Queen St, Northwich	John Booth	01606 79356
Playhouse 2	8:30 PM	Newtown Street, Shaw, Oldham OL2 8NX	Barrie Cottam	01706 663117
Porkies	8:30 PM	Royal British Legion, Georges Road West, Poynton, Cheshire	Dave Hughes	01625 430149
Preston	8:30 PM	Moorbrook Inn, North Road, Preston	Rob Malaney	01257 231463
Rhyl	8:30 PM	Costigan's Pub, Bodfor Street, Rhyl	Darryl Moorley	01745 353859
SAFRA Night	8:30 PM	The Wagon Inn, High Street, Uppermill, Oldham	Ali O'Brien	01457 870391
Second Friday	8:30 PM	Servite Parish Centre, Cavendish Road, Sedgeley Park, Prestwich	Bill Smethurst	0161-796-0698
Walton	8:30 PM	County Ward Labour Club, 39 Hale Road, Walton, Liverpool	Lilian French	0151-474-0979
Westthroughton	8:15 PM	Westthroughton Golf Club, Long Island, Westthroughton	Pat Baty	01257 230508
SATURDAY				
Buffet Bar	9:00 PM	Platform 1, Stalybridge Rail Station, Stalybridge	Jim Schofield	01457 833897
Citadel Arts Centre	8:00 PM	Waterloo Street, St Helens, WA10 1PX	Box Office	01744 735 436
Oswaldtwistle	8:30 PM	St Mary's Parish Centre, Lock Street, Oswaldtwistle	Dylan Owen	01254 390391
Platform	8:00 PM	The Platform, Station Buildings, Central Promenade, Morecambe	Box Office	01524 582803
Southport Arts Centre	8:00 PM	Lord Street, Southport, PR8 1DB	John Sprackland	01704 540011
Standish	8:15 PM	St Wilfrid's Parish Centre, Standish, Nr Wigan	David Jones	01254 54877

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Supporting the Campaign for Live Music

JUNE (into July)

(NB: Always check with club organisers before travelling)

	1ST JUNE	8TH JUNE	15TH JUNE	22ND JUNE	29TH JUNE
Bothy	PETA WEBB & KEN HALL	Singers Night	Singers Night	HOOVER THE DOG	Singers Night
Brewery Arts Centre	HANDPICKED				
Folk at the Manor	Singers Night	Singers Night	MARIELITTLE	Singers Night	Singers Night
Open Door	Singaround	Singaround	KIMBERS MEN	KEN PERLMAN	Singaround
Upstairs at the Railway					DROYLSDEN FESTIVAL
Walshaw		Singers Night			
Walton	Singers Night	Singers Night			Singers Night
Wooden Horse	Singers Night	WHALEY & FLETCHER	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
MONDAY	2ND JUNE	9TH JUNE	16TH JUNE	23RD JUNE	30TH JUNE
Conwy	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Farmers Arms	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians
Folk at the Prospect	REAL TIME	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Red Bull	ROY BAILEY	Singers Night	STANLEY ACCRINGTON	Singers Night	Singers Night
Room at the Back	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Swinton	STEVE HIGGINS	Singers Night	GEOFF HIGGINBOTTOM	Singers Night	Singers Night
Triton	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
TUESDAY	3RD JUNE	10TH JUNE	17TH JUNE	24TH JUNE	1ST JULY
Everyman	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Howcroft Inn		NICK BOLD		MARK & CHARLIE	
Longridge	Guest T.B.A.				Singers Night
Maghull	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	THE HOT TAMALES	Singers Night
Ring O' Bells	Singers Night	QUEENSBURY RULES	Singers Night	EDDIE MCGURK	Singers Night
St Anne's Acoustics	Open session	Open session	Open session	Open session	Open session
Urmston Acoustics	Singers Night				Singers Night
Wigan (Fox & Goose)	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
WEDNESDAY	4TH JUNE	11TH JUNE	18TH JUNE	25TH JUNE	2ND JULY
Alison Arms	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Blackburn	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Broken Token	MRS ACKROYD BAND				Singers Night
Burnley	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians
Clarence	EWAN CARRUTHERS	PINT & DALE	ALAN BELL BAND	MRS ACKROYD BAND	JON BRINDLEY
Cross Keys	MAGGIE BOYLE & CHRIS PARKINSON	QUEENSBURY RULES	HOOVER THE DOG	BRAM TAYLOR	GEOFF HIGGINBOTTOM

	4TH JUNE	11TH JUNE	18TH JUNE	25TH JUNE	2ND JULY
WEDNESDAY (cont'd)	4TH JUNE	11TH JUNE	18TH JUNE	25TH JUNE	2ND JULY
Falcon	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Open Mic. - PA provided	Singers Night
Red Bull		Music Session - English			
Swan	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
THURSDAY	5TH JUNE	12TH JUNE	19TH JUNE	26TH JUNE	3RD JULY
Biddulph	CHRIS & KELLIE WHILE**		RISKY BUSINESS		ISLA ST CLAIR**
Fleetwood	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Folk at the Wheatsheaf	Singers & Musicians		ALISTAIR RUSSELL		Singers & Musicians
Gregson Lane		ROBB JOHNSON			
Parkgate				ELBOW JANE	
Railway (Lymm)	TOM McCONVILLE	Singers Night	LES BARKER	Singers Night	Singers Night
Upstairs at the Railway	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Wigan (Seven Stars)	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
FRIDAY	6TH JUNE	13TH JUNE	20TH JUNE	27TH JUNE	4TH JULY
Carlisle Folk & Blues		BALSHAZAR'S FEAST		DICK GAUGHAN	
Hale & Hearty	Singaround		Singaround		Singaround
Leigh				BRAM TAYLOR BAND	
Northwich	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	MARTIN SIMPSON	Singers Night
Porkies	EWAN CARRUTHERS				BILLY MITCHELL
Preston	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians
Rhyl	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians	JON BRINDLEY	Singers and Musicians
SAFRA Night		Singers, Musicians, Poetry & Stories			
Southport Arts Centre	DANU				
Upstairs at the Railway	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	DROYLSDEN FESTIVAL	Singers Night
Walton					
Westhoughton	CHRIS & KELLIE WHILE**	Singers Night			
SATURDAY	7TH JUNE	14TH JUNE	21ST JUNE	28TH JUNE	5TH JULY
Buffet Bar	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Citadel Arts Centre		ALAN REID & ROB VAN ZANDT			
Mr Kite Benefits @ St. Bede's Club, Clayton Le Woods					
Oswaldtwistle	Singers Night			TOM RUSSELL	Singers Night
Rattan & Rush Tearoom					
Standish	WIZZ JONES		NANCY KERR & JAMES FAGAN		
Upstairs at the Railway				DROYLSDEN FESTIVAL	

JULY (into August)						
	SUNDAY	6TH JULY	13TH JULY	20TH JULY	27TH JULY	3RD AUGUST
Bothy		GERRY HALLOM	Singers Night	MIKE SILVER	closed	closed
Folk at the Manor		Singers Night	Singers Night	LESTER SIMPSON	Singers Night	Singers Night
Open Door		Singaround	ROY CLINGING	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
SAFRA Night				SADDLEWORTH FESTIVAL		
Walshaw		Singers Night	Singers Night		Singers Night	
Walton		Singers Night	Singers Night		Singers Night	Singers Night
Wooden Horse		MARIE LITTLE	Singers Night		Singers Night	Singers Night
MONDAY		7TH JULY	14TH JULY	21ST JULY	28TH JULY	4TH AUGUST
Conwy		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Farmers Arms		Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians
Folk at the Prospect		Singers Night	Singers Night	BOB FOX	Singers Night	Singers Night
Red Bull		Singers Night	CHORLTON GREEN MORRIS	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Room at the Back		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Swinton		BERNARD CROMARTY	Singers Night	STANLEY ACCRINGTON	Singers Night	DAVE WEATHERALL
Triton		Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
TUESDAY		8TH JULY	15TH JULY	22ND JULY	29TH JULY	5TH AUGUST
Everyman		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Howcroft Inn		BANDERSNATCH		T.B.A.		closed
Longridge			Guest T.B.A.			Singers Night
Maghull		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	PAT RYAN/KEN HOWARD	Singers Night
Ring O'Bells		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	MELANIE EBDEN
St Anne's Acoustics		Open Session	Open Session	Open Session	Open Session	Open Session
Urmston Acoustics		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Wigan (Fox & Goose)		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
WEDNESDAY		9TH JULY	16TH JULY	23RD JULY	30TH JULY	6TH AUGUST
Alison Arms		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Blackburn		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Broken Token		Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians	Singers Night
Burnley			THE HOMETOWNERS			Singers and Musicians
Cross Keys		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	GORDON TYRALL	Singers Night
Falcon					Open Mic. - PA provided	
* & ** Folk @ Wheatsheaf					CHRIS NEWMAN & MAIRE NI CHATHASAIGH	
Red Bull		Music Session - English				

JULY (into August)						
	WEDNESDAY (cont'd)	9TH JULY	16TH JULY	23RD JULY	30TH JULY	6TH AUGUST
Swan		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night

JULY (into August)						
	THURSDAY	10TH JULY	17TH JULY	24TH JULY	31ST JULY	7TH AUGUST
Biddulph			SAD PIG BAND			closed
Fleetwood		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Folk at the Wheatsheaf			PETE MORTON			Singers and Musicians
Gregson Lane		Singers Night		ROY WILCOCK & BRIDGET GUEST		Singers Night
Parkgate					DEREK BRIMSTONE	
Railway (Lymm)		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Upstairs at the Railway			Fundraiser Guest Night			Singers Night
Wigan (Seven Stars)		Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
FRIDAY		11TH JULY	18TH JULY	25TH JULY	1ST AUGUST	8TH AUGUST
Hale & Hearty		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Northwich		Singers Night	HOWDEN/JONES & TAFFINDER (DP)	MARCUS CROMPTON & BILL POOK (DP)	Singers Night	Singers Night
(DP) = Davenham Players Theatre					FIONA SIMPSON	Singers and Musicians
Porkies		Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians
Preston		Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians
Rhyl		Singers, Musicians, Poetry & Stories	SADDLEWORTH FOLK FESTIVAL			Singers, Musicians, Poetry & Stories
SAFRA Night		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Walton		12TH JULY	19TH JULY	26TH JULY	2ND AUGUST	9TH AUGUST
* & ** Biddulph - Town Hall				ERIC BOGLE		
Buffet Bar		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Oswaldtwistle						
Rattan & Rush				STACEY JANE DOUGLAS		
Acoustic Tearoom			SADDLEWORTH FOLK FESTIVAL			
SAFRA Night			BERT JANSCH			
Southport Arts Centre						

NB * = Not the usual club night

** = Different venue

AUGUST (into September)

(NB: Always check with club organisers before travelling)

SUNDAY	10TH AUGUST	17TH AUGUST	24TH AUGUST	31ST AUGUST	7TH SEPTEMBER
Folk at the Manor	Singers Night	MIV CAMERON BAND	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Open Door	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	GEOFF HIGGINBOTTOM
Rattan & Rush Acoustic Tearoom	KIERAN HALPIN & CHRIS JONES				
Walshaw	Singers Night		Singers Night		
Walton	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Wooden Horse	Singers Night	Singers Night	closed	Singers Night	Singers Night
MONDAY	11TH AUGUST	18TH AUGUST	25TH AUGUST	1ST SEPTEMBER	8TH SEPTEMBER
Conwy	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Farmers Arms	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians
Folk at the Prospect	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Red Bull	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Room at the Back	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Swinton	Singers Night	MAURICE DICKSON	Singers Night	LYNN & BARRIE HARDMAN	Singers Night
Triton	Singaround	Singaround	closed (BH)	Singaround	Singaround
TUESDAY	12TH AUGUST	19TH AUGUST	26TH AUGUST	2ND SEPTEMBER	9TH SEPTEMBER
Everyman	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Howcroft Inn	closed		closed		
Longridge	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Guest T.B.A.	Singers Night
Maghull	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Ring O' Bells	Singers Night	DARREN POYZER	Singers Night	Singers Night	GEOFF HIGGINBOTTOM
St Anne's Acoustics	Open session	Open session	Open session	Open session	Open session
Urmston Acoustics	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Wigan (Fox & Goose)	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
WEDNESDAY	13TH AUGUST	20TH AUGUST	27TH AUGUST	3RD SEPTEMBER	10TH SEPTEMBER
Alison Arms	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Blackburn	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Broken Token				TOM & BARBARA BROWN	
Burnley	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians
Clarence	closed	closed	closed	closed	EILEEN MCGANN & DAVID K

WEDNESDAY (cont'd)	13TH AUGUST	20TH AUGUST	27TH AUGUST	3RD SEPTEMBER	10TH SEPTEMBER
Cross Keys		JIM PALEY (USA)		Singers Night	JOE STEAD
Falcon	Singers Night	Singers Night	Open Mic - PA provided	Singers Night	Singers Night
Red Bull	Music Session - English				Music Session - English
Swan	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
THURSDAY	14TH AUGUST	21ST AUGUST	28TH AUGUST	4TH SEPTEMBER	11TH SEPTEMBER
Biddulph	closed	closed	closed	MRS ACKROYD BAND	
Fleetwood	Singers Night	Singers Night	PETE COE	Singers Night	Singers Night
Folk at the Wheatsheaf		EILEEN MCGANN & DAVID K		BRIAN PETERS & GORDON TYRALL	
Gregson Lane		Singers Night		DAVE CAMLIN	
Parkgate			TANGLEFOOT		
Railway (Lymm)	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	TANGLEFOOT
Upstairs at the Railway	Singaround	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Wigan (Seven Stars)	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
FRIDAY	15TH AUGUST	22ND AUGUST	29TH AUGUST	5TH SEPTEMBER	12TH SEPTEMBER
Carlisle Folk & Blues		closed		tbc	
Hale & Hearty	Singaround	closed		Singaround	
Northwich	BERNARD CROMARTY	Singers Night	VIKKI CLAYTON	Singers Night (DP)	ALAN REID & ROB VAN ZANDT
(DP) = Davenham Players Theatre					
Porkies				TANGLEFOOT	
Preston	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians
Rhyl	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians
SAFRA Night					Singers, Musicians, Poetry & Stories
Walton	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
SATURDAY	16TH AUGUST	23RD AUGUST	30TH AUGUST	6TH SEPTEMBER	13TH SEPTEMBER
Buffet Bar	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Oswaldtwistle					
Rattan & Rush					
Acoustic Tearoom	PAUL MILLNS				

Note: * = Not the usual club night

** = Different venue

NB: THE CALENDAR IN THE NEXT EDITION WILL COVER THE DATES 31ST AUGUST TO 6TH DECEMBER 2003
THE FINAL DATE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS -- 12TH JULY, 2003

ADVANCE DATES FROM SEPTEMBER 2003

BIDDULPH Sept 4 Mrs Ackroyd Band Sept 18 Cath Mundy & Jay Turner
 Oct 2 Bernard Carney Oct 16 Colum Sands Oct 30 Chris White & Julie Matthews
 Nov 6 Kieran Halpin & Chris Jones Nov 13 Christine Collister Nov 20 Ian Bruce
 Dec 4 Jez Lowe Dec 18 Christmas Party
BOTHY Sept 14 Steve Ashley Sept 21 Dana Robinson Sept 28 Singers Night
 Oct 5 Duncan McFarlane Oct 12 Singers Night Oct 19 Maggie Boyle
 Oct 26 Singers Night Nov 2 Scolds Bridle Nov 9 Singers Night Nov 16 Ken Nicol
 Nov 23 Singers Night Nov 30 Anthony John Clarke Dec 7 Bothy Folk Reunion
 Dec 14 Witches of Elswick Dec 21 The Office Party Dec 28 closed
BROKEN TOKEN Sept 3 Tom & Barbara Brown Oct 1 Bernard Wrigley
 Nov 13 Martyn Wyndham-Read
CARLISLE Sept 5 tbc Sept 19 James Keelahan
CLARENCE Sept 10 Eileen McGann & David K Sept 17 Mike Agranoff
 Sept 24 Ben & Joe Broughton Oct 1 Bernard Carney Oct 8 Singers Night
 Oct 15 Phil Beer & Bev Sandland Oct 22 Scolds Bridle Oct 29 Steve Tilston group
 Nov 5 Singers Night Nov 12 Martin Carthy Nov 19 Martyn Wyndham-Read
 Nov 26 Sean Lakeman & Kathryn Roberts Dec 4 John Kirkpatrick
 Dec 10 Firebrand Dec 17 His Worship & the Pig
CROSS KEYS Sept 3 Singers Night Sept 10 Joe Stead Sept 17 Jeff Davies
 Sept 24 Kieran Halpin Oct 1 tbc Oct 8 Mundy & Turner (tbc)
 Oct 15 Bernard Carney (tbc) Oct 29 Lynne Heraud & Keith Kendrick
 Nov 5 Mike Nicholson Nov 12 Derek Gifford Nov 18 Clive Gregson
 Nov 19 Clive Gregson Nov 26 Jez Lowe and the Bad Pennies
FOLK AT THE MANOR Sept 21 Dave Burland Oct 19 Eddie Walker
 Nov 16 Blarneystone Dec 21 Tom Topping Band (tbc)
FOLK AT THE WHEATSHEAF Sept 4 Brian Peters & Gordon Tyrall
 Sept 18 Singers & Musicians Night Oct 2 Cathryn Craig & Brian Willoughby
 Oct 16 Singers & Musicians Night Oct 29 "Embleton Live" with special guests:-
 The McCalmans (at Embleton Village Hall) Nov 6 Kate Howden, Paul Jones &
 Tony Taffinder Nov 20 Singers & Musicians Night Dec 4 Bram Taylor
 Dec 18 Singers & Musicians Christmas Night
GREGSON LANE Oct 16 Ken Nicol Nov 13 Kate Howden, Paul Jones & Tony
 Taffinder Dec 11 Anthony John Clarke
HOWCROFT Sept 9 Re-opening Singers Night Sept 23 Saggy Bottom Girls
 Oct 14 John Harvison Oct 28 Redmayne
LEIGH Sept 19 Brian Preston Oct 24 Vin Garbutt Nov 28 Kellie White
LONGRIDGE Sept 2 Guest tba Sept 16 Singers Night Oct 7 Singers Night
 Oct 21 Guest tba Nov 4 Singers Night Nov 18 Singers Night
MR KITE BENEFITS Sept 21 Acoustic Strawbs (NB: in aid of 'Vision Aid' at the
 Worden Arts Centre, Leyland, Lancs) Nov 9 Vin Garbutt - same venue
 Nov 13 Show of Hands (NB: to help support The Extended Family via Plan Interna-
 tional at The Met, Bury) Dec 6 St Agnes Fountain (NB: same cause - at the
 Worden Arts Centre, Leyland)
NORTHWICH Sept 5 Singers Night at the Davenham Players Theatre Sept 12
 Alan Reid & Rob Van Zandt Sept 19 Malinky Sept 26 Singers Night
 Oct 3 Regal Slip Oct 10 Singers Night Oct 17 Firebrand (tbc)
 Oct 24 Singers Night at the Davenham Players Theatre Oct 31 The Wilsons (tbc)
 Nov 7 Singers Night Nov 14 John Spiers & Jon Boden Nov 21 Singers Night
 Nov 28 Singers Night Dec 5 Tich Frier
OPEN DOOR Sept 28 Donal O'Connor Oct 18 & 19 EXTRAVAGANZA 5 with:-
 Dave Burland, Tom McConville, Jane & Amanda Threlfall, Chris Foster, John
 Kirkpatrick plus other guests (tbc) Nov 2 Tom & Barbara Brown
 Nov 30 Stuart Thompson and friends Dec 21 Christmas Party with Tap the Barrel
PARKGATE Sept 25 Eric Bogle Oct 30 Dave Mallett Nov 13 Chris White & Julie
 Matthews (extra night)
PLAYHOUSE 2 Oct 3 "As I cycled out one May morning" Cecil Sharp memorial
 concert with Ashley Hutchings, Simon Care and others Oct 18 Vin Garbutt
 Dec tbc St Agnes Fountain
PORKIES Sept 5 Tanglefoot Oct 3 Oldham Tinkers
RAILWAY (Lymm) Sept 4 Singers Night Sept 11 Grand opening of season
 Tanglefoot Sept 18 Singers Night Sept 25 Risky Business Oct 2 Singers Night
 Oct 9 Brian Willoughby & Cathryn Craig Oct 16 Singers Night
 Oct 30 Singers Night Nov 13 Singers Night Nov 27 Singers Night
RATTAN AND RUSH ACOUSTIC TEAROOM Sept 13 Paul Millns
 Sept 27 James Keelaghan Oct 18 Colum Sands Nov 15 Fiona Harrison
 Dec 13 Christmas Bash
RED BULL Sept 15 Fore and Aft Nov 3 Anthony John Clarke Dec 8 Brian Peters
 Dec 22 Christmas Party
RING O' BELLS Sept 9 Geoff Higginbottom Sept 16 Bandersnatch
STANDISH Sept 27 Tanglefoot Oct 25 Chris White & Julie Matthews
SOUTHPORT ARTS CENTRE Sept 13 Little Johnny England Sept 26 Roy Harper
 Sept 27 Preston Reid
UPSTAIRS AT THE RAILWAY Sept 4 Singers Night Sept 18 Alistair Kildare
WESTHOUGHTON Sept 19 Tanglefoot Sept 26 Eric Bogle (ticket only)
 Oct 3 Enda Kenny Oct 10 Back of the Moon Oct 17 Colum Sands
 Oct 24 Bernard Wrigley Oct 31 Dave Mallett Nov 7 Clive Gregson
 Nov 14 Chris White & Julie Matthews (ticket only) Nov 21 Kathryn Roberts & Sean
 Lakeman Nov 28 Harvey Andrews Dec 5 John Wright Band
 Feb 6 John Tams & Barry Coope (30th Anniversary)
WOODEN HORSE Sept 14 Janet Russell Sept 21 Singers Night
 Sept 28 Singers Night Oct 5 Singers Night Oct 12 Singers Night
 Oct 19 Colum Sands Oct 26 Singers Night Nov 2 Singers Night
 Nov 9 Singers Night Nov 16 John Prentice Nov 23 Singers Night
 Nov 30 Singers Night Dec 7 Singers Night Dec 14 Dave Webber & Annie Fentiman
 Dec 21 Christmas Party Dec 28 closed
WREXHAM Oct 2 Cathryn Craig & Brian Willoughby
 Nov 3 Anthony John Clarke (tbc)

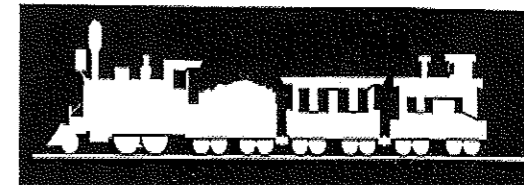
CLUB RESIDENTS



BIDDULPH - Liz Holland, Jeff Parton, His Worship and the Pig
BLACKBURN - Flatbroke
BOTHY - Clive Pownceby, Steve Freedman, Pete Rimmer, Bill Hackney,
 Alison Younger, Ray Rooney, Nev Grundy, Bev Sanders
BROKEN TOKEN - Gill Coyne, Mark Dowding, Tom & Ann, Angie Bladen
BURNLEY - Brillig, Korrigan
CLARENCE - Liz Moore & Sue Bousfield, Andrew Green,
 Rebecca Green, Ross Campbell
EVERYMAN - Chris & Hughie Jones, Bernie Davis, Brian Ferguson,
 Lennie Cruikshank, Shirley Peden
FALCON - John Bond, Clansfolk
FARMERS ARMS - Fickle Finger
FLEETWOOD - Spitting on a Roast
FOLK AT THE MANOR - Gill & George Peckham, Roger Parker,
 Marje Ferrier, Phil McGinity
FOLK AT THE PROSPECT - Chris Hanslip, Carol & John Coxon,
 Dave & Cheryl
FOLK AT THE WHEATSHEAF - The Occasional Three
GREGSON LANE - Trouble at Mill, Celtic Fringe, Smithereen,
 Caroline Lovett
HALE & HEARTY - Frank & Sheila Lewis, Steve Black, Bob Hellon,
 Dave Summers, Gillian Turner, Ken Lawson,
 Roy Wilcock & Bridget Guest, John Hodgson, David Littlewood,
 Roy Adams, David Hall
HOWCROFT INN - Micron (Mick Unsworth & Ron Callow)
LONGRIDGE - Ron Flanagan Band, Brian Preston
MAGHULL - Joe Ryan, Tony Gibbons, Loctuptogether, Bob Tyrer, Clover,
 Paul Robinson, Joan Gallimore, Back in Business, Jane Day, Jill Fielding
NORTHWICH - Jamie Anderson, Brenda Yates, John & Ailsa Booth,
 Iain Bowley & Tom Francis, Bill Pook
OSWALDTWISTLE - Dylan Owen, Slopstones
PARKGATE - Eddie Morris, Brass Tacks
PORKIES - Sad Pig (Dave Hughes & Judy Hancock)
PRESTON - Rob Malaney, Hugh O'Donnell, Tom Walsh, Dave Peters,
 Len Deevey, Nick Caffrey
RAILWAY - Rick & Lesley Nelson, Bernard Cromarty, Stewart Lever,
 Don & Heather Davies
RED BULL - Peter Hood & Linda Edwardes, Peter Fox & Anne Yates,
 Ged Derby, Pete Farrow, Pete Roberts, Jim Embleton,
 John Ashurst (poet)
RING O' BELLS - Jean Finney, Jean Crompton, Chris Roach,
 Peter Cheetham, Ian Hare, Stan Hesketh
SAFRA - Geoff Miller, Ali O'Brien, Dave Fieldhouse
ST ANNES ACOUSTICS - Tinkers Cuss
TRITON - Bob Tyrer, Frank Jenkinson
URMSTON ACOUSTICS - Keith Northover, Them Lot,
 Martin & Mandy Kavanagh
WALSHAW - Capstycam
WESTHOUGHTON - Auld Triangle
WOODEN HORSE - Quartz, Loctuptogether, Back in Business,
 Rob Peacock, Mark Dowding
WREXHAM - Offa

(Updated April 2003) - Alterations or additions to John Owen by email on
johnowenbtacks@aol.com or ring John on 0151-678-9902

THE RAILWAY FOLK CLUB
The Railway Hotel
Mill Lane, Heatley
Lymm, Cheshire



Tel 0161 432 4317 Every Thursday at 8.30pm

See our web site for more: www.railwayfolkclub.co.uk

5 JUN TOM McCONVILLE

12 JUN Singers Night

19 JUN LES BARKER

LYMM FESTIVAL 26 JUNE TO 3 JUL

26 JUN Singers Night & Graham Sowerby

28 JUN SAT LANCASHIRE NEET & HADDENHAM HOOFERS (TBC)

2 JUL WED IRISH NIGHT & GARVA

3 JUL Singers Night

17 JUL 21 AUG SUMMER SINGERS NIGHTS EVERY THURSDAY with Sean Kavanagh with Rod & Dan Scotney

11 SEP GRAND OPENING with TANGLEFOOT (Tickets on sale: July)

18 SEP Singers Night

25 SEP RISKY BUSINESS

Contact: Stewart Lever 01925 264660 home 07919 270916 mobile e-mail stewart_lever@yahoo.co.uk

then I get half a dozen sites come back to me. If I put Guitar Tuning then I get dozens of sites. It depends how you word your search.

If you get no joy with one search engine, then it doesn't mean to say there's nothing out there. Try another search engine or better still try a multi search engine - www.dogpile.com is an example of this. Your search is conducted over about twenty different search engines with one push of the enter key.

A lot of people tend to look for lyrics. They're not all out there - maybe because of copyright reasons but a lot of people have put their favourite songs on their sites. Try typing the song you want in " " and then add "lyrics" after it. It forces the engine to search for a site with the word "lyrics" and should home in on a site with that song rather than just a reference to the song.

The website (www.folknorthwest.co.uk) has a number of sites with folk song lyrics on them. If you come across any more sites that you find useful, please let me know and I'll include them on the list.

To go back to the original question "How does a search engine work?" I put this question into Ask Jeeves and came up with this site: <http://www.monash.com/spidap.html> It's a bit technical but it goes into detail and can be useful for website designers who want to incorporate metatags (or catch words) into their websites that are picked up by search engines.

That's all this time - please send any comments on the above, links or other information you want putting on the site to the address below - and don't forget - if you put your email address on the site please make sure it's correct!

Happy Surfing
Mark Dowding
Email: webmaster@folknorthwest.co.uk

LETTERS



Dear Ken

It's been nearly 25 years since three buddies from Peterborough, Ontario, decided to form a musical group to promote Canadian folklore and history. I'm the last remaining original member, Tim Rowat having left in 1988 and Bob Wagar in 1996.

Now I feel that it's time for me to move on to other things. I have plays and short stories to write, a house to finish and a grandchild (on the way) to enjoy. I also have a 57 year-old back that complains whenever the band hits the road.

I'll really miss the performing; your smiling faces in the audience and the zesty emails that so often follow a show. I will also really miss working with the finest bunch of guys you'd ever want to meet. Over the last quarter-century Tim, Bob, Steve, Frank, Rob, Terry and Bryan have been my companions, collaborators, mentors and confidants. Lucky me.

A huge thank you goes to my life-partner Catherine, who has always given me total support in my musical endeavours - often in unexpected ways. Sometimes she would show up unannounced in Duncan BC, Thunder Bay, Ontario or Oswego,

New York. I'd walk onstage, look at the audience and there would be her sparkling eyes in the front row.

My three kids also deserve 'un grand merci'. Many is the time they had to spend a birthday or graduation sans Papa.

All the best our long-time friend Terry Snider as he begins his new life as Foot Fiddler. Good luck to the band as they continue to fight the good fight and sing the good songs.

Love Y'all!

Joe (from 'Tanglefoot')

Dear Ken

Congratulations on the very readable and always interesting "Folk North West" magazine. I have just received the Spring 2003 issue which I particularly enjoyed.

I am a "born again" folkie who only started going to Folk Clubs again in the last year or so after an absence of 20 years or so. Not sure why I stopped going as I used to frequently visit folk clubs in East Lancs in the 60's and 70's (I have very fond memories of the Friday nights at the "Dog" in Clitheroe and the "Wellsprings" Folk Club near Sabden) I think marriage and kids distracted me for a few years!

I have always preferred the contemporary "singer-songwriter" folk music rather than the more traditional stuff and have recently rediscovered Fairport Convention who I loved back in the Sandy Denny days. I went to see them recently in Preston (having last seen them in 1971 at the Free Trade Hall in Manchester when they played 'John Babbacombe Lee' followed by 'Chirpy Chirpy Cheep Cheep' to unwind!) I was absolutely knocked out with how fresh and exciting they still sounded and am now busily collecting their back catalogue.

The only downside was that Simon Nicol was brave enough to mention the word "Macbeth" (as you may have heard, theatrical superstition has it that it is very unlucky and is usually only referred to as "The Scottish Play"). Five minutes later the fire alarm sounded and we had to temporarily vacate the theatre for 30 minutes or so!

One suggestion for the magazine (as requested). As a "muso" (drums, bodhran etc) I would love to see articles/items on the actual playing of instruments. Alternatively articles on the history of folk instruments may be of interest to readers.

I would be interested in reviewing CD's or performances if the opportunity arose.

Keep up the good work! All the best

Shaun Heffernan

OBITUARIES

IN CELEBRATION OF TREVOR MORTON - A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS
(11 September 1933 - 23 January 2003)

Trevor was a man of many parts, a true gentleman, a wonderful family man, a considerable intellect and last if not least a truly



Maghull Day of Music

8th November 2003 Saturday 1pm to 11.30pm
Maghull Town Hall
Hall Lane, Maghull
Merseyside.

Afternoon
Youth Session
with
Lindsey Hunt
Young Artistes
& Local Schools

Rolling Folk Club
with
Various Clubs

Chance to Meet

Craft Stalls

Supported by:
English Folk Dance
&
Song Society

Vin Garbutt - John Wright Band
Risky Business - Bakelite Boys - It's The Girl
Flossie - Kieran Halpin & Chris Jones
F.B.I. Blues - The Maghull Folk Club Hour

Admission strictly by ticket only
Tickets £13.00

Joe Ryan 0151 531 9273 - Jane Day 0151 526 6661
Mikki Boardman 0151 526 1082

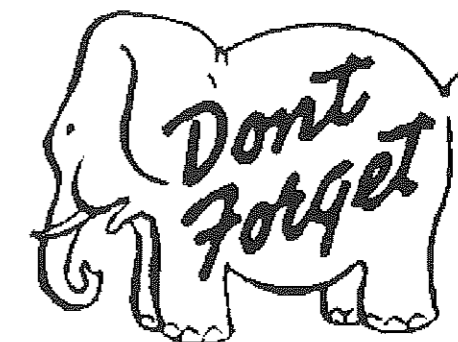
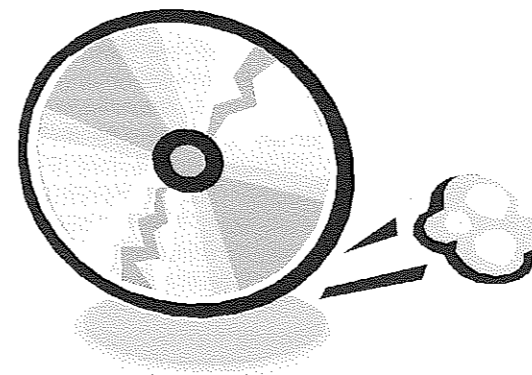
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Write an article
Write about your local folk club
Do a Live Review
Tell us about what's going
on in your area
Write a letter
Suggest improvements
Do something and send it to one of
us (Contact Details on Page 4)



creative writer and performer of poems, monologues and funny stories (if they weren't all true they should have been – he would say). Sadly he had just finished writing down and recording his life's work when he was taken from us with unseemly haste. Their need for a poet was this has been greater than ours. Impossible I hear you say! This, his final achievement, enabled Trevor to be the first person I know to perform at his own funeral. He would have laughed at that; however, I digress.

I first met Trevor at Salford Tech where we shared a staff room. After a year or so, I started a small folk group with friends Mike and Tessa and one day Trevor approached me and asked how he could join in. He said he couldn't sing, which proved not to be true because he just couldn't sing in time but, if I followed him, he was fine. I said perhaps he could write something original and perform with his speaking voice and within a week he had come up with something like 'Grimshaw's Corner Shop', which was a masterpiece. This immediately gained him entry to the group, even with a special role which he went on to develop until it actually saw him appearing on BBC TV's Look North for 6 weeks. The rest as they say is history.

He continued to write his own stuff and at the same time accumulated a wealth of stories prompted by his love of the English Language, humour and, most of all, people. As a result, he became well loved and welcomed at many a folk gathering from the North West down to Cornwall where they considered him to be 'one of them' and not 'an emmet' (Tourists are referred to by the Cornish as emmets - a slang term for ants).

His greatest contribution in this sense was probably to the Railway Folk Club where he was well and truly 'the resident poet'. Someone else may inherit the role but he became a legend whose shoes no one will ever be really able to fill. Such is the loss of a great talent and a lovely man, who was always the first welcome and encourage new members and never had a bad word to say about anyone.

Trevor's funeral was unique, a real funeral for folk. After the initial welcome, Bernard Cromarty singing 'Fiddler's Green', the John Connolly song which was one of Trevor's favourites, Don Davies then spoke in quite fine detail of the great man we all knew, before introducing Trevor for his very last performance to the assembled throng – "Coppice Pit". His son David spoke on behalf of the family and concluded by quoting his 4 year old daughter who asked "Will Grandad be able to walk straight now?" When told, "Yes" she replied "Good he'll be walking on soft grass!" That said it all and Bernard led us straight into 'Home Lads Home'. It must have made Shirley and the family feel very proud. Certainly the warmth of love surrounding her at such a difficult time was clearly evident and appreciated.

We then made our way to the Railway, where we sat around chatting, eating and drinking for a while, until the time felt right to have a good old sing-song to send Trevor off in great style. Don had written a song for Trevor, "A Man for all Seasons", and Helen had written a poem, "Trevor", both on the internet (www.railwayfolkclub.co.uk), which were very appropriate and well received. There were contributions from many of the club regulars, and we were pleased that Tony Gibbons, who Trevor always greatly admired, was able to join us. It would be inappropriate to list all those who contributed, but they all deserve our heartfelt thanks. Yes, many tears were shed. But, as Helen so aptly put it in her poem, 'Do you have to be so morbid? Can't you raise a little smile?' As someone said, it was such a good "Do" that Trevor would have hated to miss it!

Instead of flowers, donations were invited for the Brandon Marsh Nature Reserve. Trevor greatly enjoyed this wheelchair-friendly wild life sanctuary, and donations will hopefully provide enough

funding so they can extend the paths to make the bird-watching hide wheelchair-friendly as well. Contributions can be made by buying Trevor's CD as all proceeds will go to the Reserve.

Don Davies – a fan and lifelong friend

NANCY WHISKEY
4 April 1935 – 1 February 2003

If Lonnie Donegan was the king of skiffle, then Nancy Whiskey, who has died aged 67, was fleetingly its queen. As vocalist with the Chas McDevitt Skiffle Group, she had a top five hit in the summer of 1957 with 'Freight Train', a record that also entered the American top 40 at a time when British artists rarely made any headway.

Her success came in that confused time, in the aftermath of the breakthrough of rock n' roll in 1956, when British record buyers, searching for an exciting, home-grown musical form, encountered both local rock 'n' rollers and skiffle.

'Freight Train' was driven by Whiskey's ebullient soprano and McDevitt whistled obligato. It was the group's first single, and its upbeat arrangement belied the gloomy lyrics of its 1905 composition by black North Carolina singer Elizabeth Cotton. Its unexpected US success led to appearances by Whiskey and McDevitt on the Ed Sullivan Show, and other television slots, and a handful of stage shows, including one at Palisades Park, New Jersey.

The new music was accompanied by a brief flurry of British rock n' roll movies. The McDevitt group featured in The Tommy Steele Story (1957) - a fictionalised biography of Britain's first rock 'n' roll star - and a year later they were in The Golden Disc, built around the ephemeral popularity of Terry Dene.

It is a remarkable coincidence that, like Lonnie Donegan, Nancy Whiskey was born to a musical family in Glasgow. After her father, a lorry driver, taught her the guitar, she performed on the local folk club circuit while attending art school as part of her apprenticeship as a potter. Among her fellow students was Jimmie McGregor, the singer and guitarist later resident on Tonight, the BBC television magazine programme of the late 1950's and 1960's. He introduced her to blues and hillbilly music, though it was from a Glasgow folk song, 'The Calton Weaver' - with its "Whiskey, whiskey, Nancy, whiskey" chorus - that she took her stage name. She had been born Anne Wilson.

By the 1970s, family commitments had forced Whiskey into virtual retirement, though from her home in Leicester she resurfaced occasionally, most recently at a skiffle revival with Lonnie Donegan, at the Royal Albert Hall in March 1999. Now she has joined that other great skiffle icon who also became famous initially through another "train song". Maybe somewhere on that great track in the sky they are riding the rails together.

Ian Chesterman

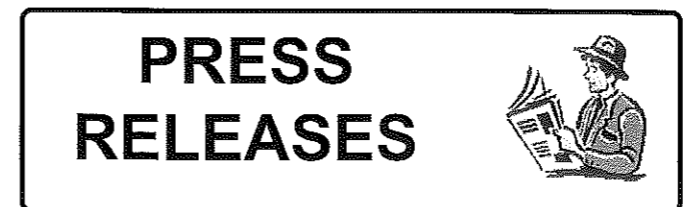
DENIS CANDLISH A tribute from Ian Dawson

The folk world will lament an exceptional talent with the untimely death of Denis Candlish who passed away on Saturday 26th April, very shortly after being diagnosed with cancer. Denis, who married his wife Barbara only two years ago on his 50th birthday, also leaves behind two sisters, June and Patricia and his Dad, Harry.

The folk world will best remember Denis as the accordion player and founder member of ex-Cajun band - 'Sack the Fiddler' - who for many years entertained many Cajun music enthusiasts

both on Wirral, Merseyside and the Midlands. Denis was also a guitar player of the highest order, as anyone who ever had the good fortune of hearing him will surely testify. He once attended a workshop being run by one of his guitar heroes (Stephan Grossman) who promptly told him that he was incapable of teaching him anything that he did not know already. Fine praise indeed! He subsequently attended a master-class in blues in New York City and so amazed Woody Mann and Bob Brozman with his guitar playing that he was asked to run a class of his own! He truly was a talented musician and will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Sincere condolences to Denis' family. I had the great pleasure of being his friend and an equally great pleasure of being able to tell him that I played in a band that comprised MY personal guitar hero - Denis Candlish.



ATTILA THE STOCKBROKER – 'LIVE IN BELFAST' CD RELEASE

A brand new solo CD of poems and songs from the uncompromising Attila the Stockbroker was released in March on Roundhead Records (Helmet CD 5) and is followed by a major tour.

It was more or less twenty years ago that my his LP, 'Ranting at the Nation' was released by Cherry Red Records - on good old black vinyl of course - and although he's had about 15 releases in various countries since then, in many ways this is the follow up: a spoken word/musical time capsule, the definitive recording of his current live set. 'Live In Belfast' is 13 poems, 8 songs and 64 minutes of topical, hard hitting recent material reflecting the state of the world today - apart from a couple of very old favourites never before released on CD. Among other things: Iraqi weapons inspectors come to England looking for weapons of mass distraction (and find plenty when they pick up a paper and switch the telly on!).

Unemployed gay pacifist asylum seeking Daleks move in next door to a family of Daily Mail readers. Noted 'eater of all the pies' Billy Bunter marches with the Countryside Alliance, and Railtrack's scummy bosses finally get what they deserve - a lifetime slaving in a Cheshire salt mine listening to endless loop tapes of Phil Collins and watching slow motion videos of Crystal Palace reserve games!

There is also his song in tribute to Joe Strummer, 'Commandante Joe', on behalf of all those who were so inspired by him - and, rather more surreally, a tribute in verse to recently deceased former T.Rex bongo player, Mickey Finn, by the 'Dear Leader', Comrade Kim Jong-Il of North Korea!

But perhaps the most important song in the collection is 'Death of a Salesman' - about two September 11ths, 2001 and 1973, for the latter, 28 years before, was the day when the US installed the fascist Pinochet in Chile...and this song makes the connection between the brutalities of American foreign policy in the last 50 years and the attacks on the World Trade Centre which started this current nightmare. And 'New World Order Rap!' carries on the process by dealing with the strange logic whereby you sell a

"murderous fascist bastard" like Saddam all kinds of weapons and noxious substances for years and years and then decide to invade his country because (you think) he won't get rid of them when you tell him to!

And there's a true story about a night spent in an Australian pub called 'The Duck's Nuts' - and lots, lots more, and it all comes with a 12 page booklet containing an article he's written on the current world situation and a poem about New Labour's ridiculous Licensing Bill (which will make it illegal to play a guitar in a public place without a licence...)

The CD is available at his gigs, by credit card from Townsend Records, click the Townsend icon on his website www.attilathestockbroker.com or tel: **01254 885 995**. By cheque, payable to John Baine, at P.O. BOX 668, PORTSLADE, EAST SUSSEX, BN42 4BG

DIRECT ROOTS 2

A brand new edition of THE Guide to Folk, Roots and related music and arts is now available; it costs £25. It is the ultimate directory for artists, festivals, agents, promoters, venues, clubs, societies, tutors, shops, media, record labels, regional contacts and plenty more for folk, roots and related music and arts in the British Isles.

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New festival index

For more information and to order your copy visit www.direct-roots.com or Tel: 01629 760345; Mrs Casey Music, PO Box 296, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 3XU

FORGOTTEN FOLK SONGS AVAILABLE AT THE TOUCH OF A BUTTON

Experts at the University of Sheffield and the University of Aberdeen unveiled a unique but neglected collection of traditional British song and drama on 17 April.

The James Madison Carpenter Collection is one of the largest and most important collections of folksong and folk drama ever made in Britain. Carpenter travelled 40,000 miles around the UK in an Austin 7 between 1929 and 1935. He searched for singers of sea shanties, traditional ballads and folk songs and performers of mummies plays and recorded their performances, as well as noting down their words.

This rich and varied record was never published and has been in the Archive of Folk Culture at the Library of Congress in Washington DC since 1972. However, until now the collection has never been properly catalogued and was neglected by

scholars and performers alike.

A team of experts from the Universities of Aberdeen and Sheffield have catalogued the collection and produced it as a free, publicly available, online resource. The website will allow experts to search for particular songs and plays, while new users can browse the collection and find out more about Carpenter and his work. The site will also be of interest to local historians and genealogists, as there will be links to more information about the people that Carpenter recorded and the locations where he carried out his work.

Dr Julia Bishop, of the National Centre for English Cultural Tradition at the University of Sheffield and leader of the cataloguing and encoding team says, "Carpenter would have loved this resource. He was always trying to show people the value of his collection and now they can explore it at the touch of a button. We hope that making the collection so freely available will lead to study of the material and encourage performers to bring it to life again."

Hrionline, the online resource of the Humanities Research Institute, University of Sheffield, publishes the Carpenter Collection Online Catalogue. The site is located at www.hrionline.ac.uk/carpenter

HARRIS AND WOGAN GO SILVER

The last three weeks in a row, Bob Harris has, on his late night show on BBC Radio 2, played a track from Mike Silver's new CD release, **Solid Silver**, out on Stockfish Records, www.stockfish-records.de. Bob told his listeners, as he read out emails he'd received about Mike and the song, "Not a Matter of Pride", that the response had become a roller coaster; with people asking "Who is this guy?" and "When can we hear more?"

Of course, we at Faymus Productions already know how talented Mike is. But now a great many more people do as well. During his show Bob said he'd received literally hundreds of messages and could have spent a large part of the show reading them out.

On 1 May Terry Wogan played "Not A Matter of Pride", so even more people will be asking, "Who is this guy?" and saying things like, "Where can we see him? So, if your festival is fully booked, make space now!

Put Mike on the bill and your regular audience will be expanded by a mass of new faces. You will also be guaranteed to hear one of the very best songwriters this country has ever produced. Your audience will be drawn in by a man who shares his music - makes them part of it - and then blows them away with powerful yet subtle lyrics - wonderful melodies sung in a clear, warm voice, and stunning guitar work.

If your festival has already taken place, get Mike for next year. This is a chance not to be missed, how many songwriters can you name that Bob Harris has played three weeks in a row? How many songwriters working the current acoustic music club and concert circuit do you know that get played on Terry Wogan's programme?

Dave Tong
www.faymus.co.uk; email: dave@faymus.co.uk; Tel: 01566 781667; Mobile: 0771811688

GWELLOC'H MUSIC FROM BRITTANY

Gwelloc'h is a band of young musicians from Brittany, three brothers who combine woodwind, strings, keyboards and percussion for lively dance music from all areas of Brittany. Éric

Beaumin plays 'bombarde' - the shrill shaum that gives Breton music its unmistakable sound - as well as flute and 'veuze' - one of Brittany's two traditional pipes. Fabrice takes up the other bagpipe, the 'biniau', bouzouki and melodeon while Olivier keeps the beat on various drums and piano.

They have a new line up with considerable experience. As founding members of Nerzhus, they have been on the circuit for seven years. They perform widely in Brittany and make television and radio appearances. They have also performed in Britain (Wadebridge Folk Festival, Nottingham fest-noz, Lowender Perran Festival, London, etc.)

Gwelloc'h play a variety of dance tunes from all corners of Brittany. Solidly anchored in traditional style, their music also integrates diverse musical influences - jazz, modern, gipsy - to produce an energetic blend of music with wide appeal. They perform for concerts and 'festou-noz' and run workshops - dance and music led by Éric Beaumin.

Gwelloc'h have just recorded a CD featuring traditional material as well as the band's own compositions. The CD also features guest appearances by Steve Eddy, Neil Davey and Hilary Coleman from Cornwall. If you want to know more about them, listen to their music and see some videos you can go to their web site: www.gwelloc'h.com

YOUTH MUSIC CELEBRATES

Youth Music, the national champion of quality music-making for children and young people, is celebrated making its 1000th financial award in March, taking the total value of all the awards the charity has made, via funding programmes, special initiatives and strategic partnerships, above £29 million.

The recipient of the 1000th award, Warwickshire County Music, will spend its Plug into Music money on creating 'Nu-Tech Composition Clubs' in 10 Warwickshire primary schools, including one special school.

BASIC 'INSTINKT'

Instinkt has received four prizes in the "Danish Music Award-Folk 2003" for their debut-CD **HURI** (Visit www.gofolk.dk). They received the Awards in the following categories: Danish Folk Album Of The Year; **Danish Folk Artists Of The Year (Contemporary Style)**; Danish Folk Debut Of The Year; and the drummer, Vivi di Bap, won the prize as Danish Folk Instrumentalist Of The Year.

According to Stephen Hunt, writing in the Green Man Review, in October 2002, "Festivals seem to be the natural environment for Instinkt. This is an often-colossal sound, full of rhythmic complexity, melodic intrigue, and powerful anthems. That "super group" appellation is more than a lazy cliché — this is a group of musicians able to combine their immense individual talents with real, palpable verve."

Click on www.folkemusik.dk if you want to read who received awards in other categories in Denmark; and www.instinkt.dk if you want to read more about Instinkt or listen to some MP3's.

For bookings contact: Martin Seeberg, Sommerstedgade 30, 2.tv., 1718 København V, Mobile: +45 2670 2115; Email: martinseeberg@email.dk

FORTHCOMING MUSIC EVENTS AT THE LOWRY

RICHARD THOMPSON BAND Tues 1 July

Innovative guitar hero and songwriter, Richard Thompson, who for more than three decades has set standards to which others can only aspire, performs at The Lowry on 1 July. On tour following the release of his new CD, *The Old Kit Bag*, he is accompanied by American singer and feisty guitarist Erin McKeown, whose debut album *Distillation* has been receiving rave reviews. Richard Thompson Band Tues 1 July 7.30pm Tickets £15 Box Office 0870 111 2000. For more INFORMATION please contact Leonie Osborne on 0161 876 2044 or e-mail leonie.osborne@thelowry.com

TOP INTERNATIONAL ACTS AT LOWRY'S FIRST MUSIC FESTIVAL WORLDPORT FESTIVAL AT THE LOWRY Fri 18 - Mon 20 JULY 2003

A new major music festival of jazz, blues, soul and world music is taking place at The Lowry, Salford Quays this summer, 18 - 20 July. Worldport at The Lowry follows the extremely successful launch of Worldport Festivals in Cardiff last year.

The programme is broad in both appeal and content featuring world-class music of many genres. Music from all corners of the globe will be represented with many high profile acts including Nitin Sawhney (UK), Courtney Pine, Chucho Valdes and Irakere (Cuba), Michael and Randy Brecker (USA), Miriam Makeba (RSA), Pinise Saul, Dennis Rollins Bad Bone and a special 21st anniversary show by the London Community Gospel Choir with a host of special guests including Carleen Anderson.

Worldport's objective is to bring a diverse and exciting mix of musicians from across the world from different backgrounds and musical traditions, but all of whom are at the forefront of their particular genre or style.

Festival Director Jim Smith says "We are delighted to be working in partnership with The Lowry as its range of performance spaces within it, naturally lends itself to hosting a festival like this."

The Lowry's Artistic Director Robert Robson comments "we're delighted to be hosting such a high profile and exciting music event which will take over our two performance spaces and bring the building alive with continuous performances throughout the weekend. The idea of Worldport underlines the notion of The Lowry and Salford Quays as places that look out to the world, as in the heydays of the docks."

The intention of the organisers is for the festival to be an annual event that will grow over the next three years to become one of the biggest music events of its kind in the UK. So take the opportunity to be among the first to experience Worldport in the Northwest.

The festival has been made possible with financial assistance from the Arts Council of England, North West.

The programme of events is as follows:-

Friday 18 July 03 Lyric 8pm Nitin Sawhney + Support £15 (no concs) Quays 10pm Dennis Rollins Bad Bone £10 (no concs) Saturday 19 July Quays 2pm Pinise Saul £12 (no concs) 5pm Jalinkunda Cissokho £12 (no concs) £18.00 for both Quays Shows Lyric 7pm Miriam Makeba £20 (no concs) Lyric 10pm Courtney Pine £15 (no concs) £28.00 for both Lyric shows Sunday 20 July Lyric 2pm London Community Gospel Choir 21st Anniversary Show £15 (no concs) Lyric 5pm Chucho Valdes Irakere £15 (no concs) Lyric 8pm Michael Brecker/Randy Brecker £18 (no concs) £35 for the day

For more INFORMATION, PICTURES or REVIEW TICKETS please contact Leonie Osborne on 0161 876 2044 or e-mail leonie.osborne@thelowry.com

FYLDE FOLK FESTIVAL Fri 29th August - Sun 31st August Fleetwood, Lancashire

The Fylde Folk Festival attracts people of all ages and all walks of life. Local people have come to enjoy the music and the friendly atmosphere in the various hotels, pubs and outdoor events. Therefore in partnership with the officials and Tourism Officers of Wyre Borough Council, the festival organising committee is pleased to announce that very special pre-festival events will be staged in the week preceding the 31st festival.

On the 24th August, Bank Holiday Sunday afternoon, **The Alan Bell Band** will be featured in a free open air concert at Marsh Mill at Thornton Cleveleys, near to Fleetwood from 2-4pm. That evening Lancashire stalwarts, **The Houghton Weavers** will be in concert in the Marine Hall, Fleetwood at 7.30pm. Tickets £9, £8 concessions.

On Bank Holiday Monday evening 25th August, a concert will be held on board the famous and newly restored trawler **The Jacinta** moored in Fleetwood Dock. Rescued from the breakers yard by local fisher folk **The Jacinta** is a tribute to the people and history of fishing in Fleetwood. Commencing at 8pm, Free admission. Collection. Information from Festival Office 01253 872 317 or 01772 683 027.

On Tuesday 26th August local favourites **Captain Cooper's Motley Crew** will be in concert in the Victoria Bar at the North Euston Hotel Fleetwood, 8.30pm. Admission free. Collection.

On Thursday 28th August in the ballroom of the North Euston Hotel, the superb musician and entertainer **Pete Coe** will be in concert at 8pm. Tickets at the door. Also at 8pm in the Victoria Bar of the North Euston the festival gets under way with **The Gathering** featuring **Thistle**. Free admission, Collection. At the same time a "Come all Ye" singing session will be taking place in the Steamer Hotel. 8pm Free admission. Collection.

Following this exciting preliminary week of music and song, a further 125 events will take place over the festival weekend, in 17 venues throughout the town of Fleetwood. Venues also include Marsh Mill at Thornton and the Freeport Shopping village in Fleetwood.

A Craft and Music Fair will be held on the 30th and 31st of August 2003 in Fleetwood Leisure Centre. Contact Norma Allott on 01253 701 699 (after 6pm) Email: nallott@quista.net for stall hire information.

Three major competitions will take place over the Festival weekend:-

Lancashire & Cheshire Clog Dancing Competitions on Sunday 31st August 2003. Contact Festival Office.

Lancashire Dialect Contest: Contact Derrick Stanton, 30 Thirlmere Drive, Withnell, Chorley, Lancs Tel No. 01254 830 776 Email: idsociety@fsnet.co.uk

Young Performer's Competition: Contact Rusty Wright 165 Blackpool Old Road, Poulton-Le-Fylde, Lancs tel No. 01253 885 203 Email: rustyandstu@compuserve.com

Further details of the festival itself can be seen in the Advert on the back cover. Festival information and tickets can be obtained from the Festival Office, 55 The Strand, Fleetwood, Lancashire FY7 8NP Tel No. 01253 872 317 Fax No. 01253 878 382 Email: alanbell@fylde-folk-fest.demon.co.uk Website www.fylde-folk-festival.com.

CD REVIEWS



STEPHEN ASHBROOK – American B Sides (Haven Records - HAVENC15); Web site: www.stephenashbrook.net

Stephen Ashbrook - an American artist based in Portland, Oregon - will be an unfamiliar name to British audiences. His appearances in Europe have so far been restricted to Germany. Ashbrook writes his own material and has been on the acoustic and rock scene since the early 1990s. Three years ago, he was invited by The White to deliver a command performance for President Bill Clinton.



His 1998 release, *Navigator*, illustrated Ashbrook's acoustic side but, with the release of *American B Sides*, Ashbrook has put together an album with a full band sound that has veered towards rock folk. *American B Sides* is an impressive CD that takes us through the trials and tribulations of relationships - both good and bad - and life on and off the road. His songs are atypical, avoiding the use of clichéd lyrics but painting stories of small and mid size towns in South Western America. Nevertheless, his songs also reflect universal themes and emotions that most of us will recognise and have been through.

Two of the stand out tracks, the vividly entitled, "Scotch and a Handgun", and "Good Friend" have been included on the soundtrack of "Now You Know", a major film recently released in America. The opening track, "Rock-n-Roll" tells of the up and down emotions of life in a rock band with the exasperation showing through in the lines:

"So excuse me if I'm angry/I don't wanna hear the way it was/
And I don't need to be discovered man/ 'cause I was never lost!"

The impossibility of a triangular relationship forms the story of "The Hard Part". The victim looks on helplessly and distraught

outside a motel room as the one he loves makes out with his best friend. "Houston" is about another triangular relationship, highlighting the loneliness and inspiration that only driving along at 3 a.m., with only the car and a satellite for company, can evoke.

In *American B Sides*, Stephen Ashbrook has produced an enigmatic collection of songs, backed by a fine band of musicians who complement his rich expressive voice. Ashbrook is a songwriter who defies easy categorising and has a voice that is reminiscent of the great 1970s American folk troubadour, David Ackles, and uncompromising Canadian singer/songwriter, Bruce Cockburn. Like all the best songwriters, in his lyrics he paints extraordinary pictures from every day occurrences. I suspect he won't get an invite to The White House from George W. Bush but that can only add to Ashbrook's credibility!

Lewis Jones

KARAN CASEY - Distant Shore (Vertical Records VERTCD064)

I must admit to having been a fan of Karan since I first heard her singing in the band Solas. Now that she has struck out on her own, she seems to have shed any inhibitions that she may have had working within the confines of a structured 'band' format. I suppose a lot of it, particularly on this recording, should be thanks to the critical ear of her producer, Donald Shaw, who certainly knows a thing or two about musical construction. Where he could have utilised the services of the accompanying musicians (a veritable superstar line-up including Michael McGoldrick, Niall Vallely etc) on every number, it is his thoughtful sparseness on tracks such as 'The Song Of Lies', where the beauty of the lyrics are unhindered by over embellishment.

Don't get me wrong; there is the unmistakable Capercaille groove where guest Karen Matheson - on the Gaelic 'Lord MacDonald's', or the jazz-tinged 'Bata is Bothar' - joins Karan for a duet. But again, the production isn't allowed to distract the listener from the vocal performance. The mention of the dreaded words folk-rock will undoubtedly come into the equation somewhere but that would be to miss the point entirely. No, this is an album of restraint and all the more poetic for it.

Pete Fyfe

THE DUBLINERS - The Ultimate Collection (Sanctuary Records TVSAND003)

OK, so wouldn't you just know it Bejesus! And sure, what big (ger) horror could there be than another trek out for the beloved Dubliners and a timely St Patrick's Day release of (according to the title at least) the Ultimate Collection. Maybe it's me and my cynical eye to marketing but yet another re-packaging (!) please, give us a break chaps. It's not as if I don't appreciate a good song and set of feisty fiddle driven tunes but there's only so many times you can put up with it throughout your life.

Still, the contents of the CD aren't that bad - in fact I'd go so far as to say it's possibly the most accurate title I've come across for some time. There's "that" amazing version of 'The Mason's Apron', led by the fearsome banjo antics of Barney McKenna, and, of course, we have contributions from the dear departed Luke Kelly. Who can forget Ronnie Drew's 'Seven Drunken Nights' - although we all know there has been a damn site more than seven! Even new boy Paddy Reilly gets a look in with the anthem-ish 'Fields Of Athenry'. No self-respecting Celtophile could forget the Dubliner's highly charged 'Irish Rover', joined by The Pogues, and, lest we forget the real fans out there, there's the lovely air 'The Marino Waltz', performed magically by its

composer John Sheehan.

If you haven't got at least one of The Dubliners CDs in your collection (and I'll buy the first person who says he hasn't a pint of the good stuff) then buy this one - there's not a duff track here!

Pete Fyfe

EQUATION - Return To Me (Rough Trade RTRADECD083)

Whatever happened to the recording that Equation made in 1996 but was never released? Well the answer my friend isn't blowing in the wind any longer. And wouldn't you know it, here could have been a band to at least give Steeleye, Fairport and, most assuredly, The Corrs a run for their money. But no, due to power play and wrangles that would have seen lesser bands throwing in the towel the recording lay in darkened vaults for the best part of five years - more's the pity.

OK so now that Cara Dillon and Sam Lakeman are creating waves as the next best thing...and, while Kathryn Roberts and Sean Lakeman have returned to their roots ploughing the field of folk clubs, for this album to re-emerge is an astute piece of marketing. Or maybe I'm being a tad cynical here? But let's face it, the 'folk scene' has been in something of the doldrums lately and anything this fresh deserves to be heard. The fusion of folk and rock has not always made successful bedfellows, but at least Equation make a fair crack at it with many of the tracks being Radio 2 'consumer' friendly if you get my drift.

Funnily enough the least successful of these is the title track, 'Return To Me', which comes across as a pale interpretation of the 'throaty' original by October Project. The band will know what I'm talking about. That said - this would have been a stunning introduction to a very original band. Still, let's just be grateful that it's been released at all. Highly recommended!

Pete Fyfe

PATTY GRIFFIN – 1000 Kisses (Sanctuary – SANCD143); Web site: www.pattygriffin.com

Patty Griffin hails from a small town in Western Maine and has been growing in stature since recording her first album of demos in 1995. This is her third 'official' release. It's under a new label owned by Dave Matthews. '1000 Kisses' (or 'Mil Besos' - the title track sung in Spanish) was recorded in Nashville but is atypical of the musical genre normally associated with that corner of Texas.

Griffin writes most of her songs- she started writing and playing guitar when she was 16 - with the exception of the title track and an excellent cover of Bruce Springsteen's 'Stolen Car'. Her lyrics are well crafted, full of wistful pathos without being depressing, set to a backdrop of heart torn melodies. Each song is a vignette of life stories condensed into evocative compartments that are delivered with a voice that is simmering, passionate, and heartfelt.

The rest of the album is mainly contemporary music superbly co produced by Griffin and Doug Lanco. While all the songs are consistently good, the opening track, 'Rain', the sensitively fragile, 'Be Careful' and 'Making Pies' are outstanding. 'Making Pies' is not only intriguing but captures that feeling of matter of fact sadness and loneliness. 'Tomorrow night' could easily have been recorded with Benny Goodman or Artie Shaw, creating the mood of the 1940s, while the title track conjures up images of a 1950s Carmen Miranda inspired Hollywood musical. Michael Ramos pointed Patty in the direction of the Latin American

standard used as the title track and Carrie Rodriguez, who has recently dueted with Chip Taylor, provides an invigorating violin complemented by David Pulkringham's atmospheric classical guitar playing.



Griffin is supported by an excellent bunch of musicians including Lanco, providing acoustic accompaniment on 12 string and mandolin, Brian Standefer on cello, the accordion of Michael Ramos, and the understated percussion and vibes of Giles Reaves. Emmylou Harris stepped in to provide back up vocals on 'Long Road'.

Patty Griffin has been likened to groundbreaking luminaries Bonnie Raitt and Lucinda Williams. On the evidence of this album it is easy to see why, but make no mistake, Griffin's territory is her own and she has a clear direction marked out. Her voice and material are timeless and while the arrangements are contemporary, they could easily take you back an earlier post war era.

Lewis Jones

BOB HELLON - 'A Bob's Worth' (KR 901)

Bob Hellon is one of the residents at the Hale & Hearty folk club held at the Kings Arms in Milnthorpe. Bob was raised in Cumberland and educated in Scotland, before spending time down south. He returned to the northwest in 1999.

'A Bob's Worth', is a CD of some 21 songs which gives a good breadth and depth of his material, amongst which are five self penned numbers. 'Across the Blue Mountains' sees Bob adding some intricate guitar work to a traditional number.

The short but no less sweet, 'Kate Dalrymple', by Robbie Burns is enhanced by the Scottish burr in Bob's voice. It's a real tongue twister that definitely has shades of the late, Jake Thackeray about it. The battle of Flodden is commemorated in Jane Elliot's, 'Flower's of the Forest'; Bob's drumbeat on the guitar sets the tone perfectly. 'Can o' Tae', by Matt McGinn, and Ewan MacColl's, 'Jamie Foyers', are two more real highlights of the recording.

Indeed the only songs that didn't work for me were the two written

by Stan Rogers, 'Field Behind the Plough' and 'Make and Break Harbour'. I've probably been spoiled by the late Canadian's rich, rounded tones.

All in all it's a CD to be proud of - just one man, his guitar and voice, with none of the other gizmos that go to make up the bulk of today's recordings. Frank Lewis has done a fine job capturing the atmosphere of the moment. That said, next time I'd perhaps like to hear a little more in the way of backing, for I feel that's the best way to coax even more from this fine performer.

Further information on how to purchase this CD can be obtained by phoning 01524 701535.

David Jones

ROSE KEMP - Glance (Park Records PRKCD63)

A quick introduction for those who need it - Rose Kemp is the daughter of Maddy Prior and Rick Kemp. That was quick wasn't it? OK, so now we've got the introductions over with, let's get down to the nitty-gritty. Put aside your hopes of any traditional material for here we have an album of such maturity that it hits you like the first time you encountered say Tracy Chapman or, more recently, Dido.

Much like Maddy, Rose has chosen the talents of one main musician/producer, Tony Poole, to carefully craft and shape the songs. In doing so, the contemporary edge brings it into the market place so beloved of the likes of Jools Holland etc. This is acoustic based pop of the highest calibre crossing swords with Jazz, Blues and a myriad of styles. The lyrics belie her youth (18) and, although perhaps not bitter from life's experiences, releases her feelings through her words. On the telling 'No-One' you get a sense of (perhaps) resignation tempered by the thought that whoever the song is written about may just come around to your way of thinking. For those that have been there, and let's face it most of us have, the maturity of the lyric will strike a chord. Although I'll more than likely be slagged off for it, I must admit that for me a woman's voice can speak far more eloquently than a man when it comes to matters of the heart. Just a glance at the album's lyrics will confirm the statement.

Finally, I notice that Rose doesn't allow herself the luxury of relying on her illustrious parents to prop up the recording. I'm sure this isn't a case of striking out on her own to prove a point. If I know her mum and dad they must be extremely proud of their little girl - I know she is of them, it says so in her sleeve notes.

Pete Fyfe

HARRY MANX & KEVIN BREIT - Jubilee (Northern Blues Music - NBM0014); Web site: www.harrymanx.com

Harry Manx was born in the Isle of Man - his parents moved to Canada when he was a child. He is a phenomenal guitar player showing mastery of the lap slide guitar, the Mohan Veena (a sitar-guitar cross), blues harp and vocals. He has been called an "essential link" between the music of East and West.

For about ten years from the mid 1970s Manx was performing in cafes and bars throughout Europe; by the mid-eighties, he was touring regularly in Japan and had lived for several months in India. It was while he was in Japan that he discovered a recording of the legendary Indian slide guitarist, Vishwa Mohan Bhatt. Bhatt is also renowned in the West for his collaborations with Ry Cooder. Manx then studied with Bhatt in India for five years, touring and performing in front of large enthusiastic audiences. He eventually mastered the Mohan Veena and, in

the spring of 2000, he moved back to Salt Spring Island in Canada and has recorded two fine solo albums - *Dog My Cat* and *Wise Otherwise* - for his current label.



Jubilee is the first recorded collaboration between Manx and Kevin Breit. Breit is a Toronto born guitarist whose outstanding command of the instrument has meant rubbing recording shoulders with the likes of k.d lang, Janis Ian, Natalie MacMaster, and, most notably, accompanying Norah Jones on three tracks on her outstanding debut album.

Manx and Breit met at a festival in Canada in 2001 and immediately struck up a musical understanding with an inspired improvised live set. A year later, they got together to record *Jubilee*, which embraces the spontaneity and freshness of a live performance. The CD comprises a range of tracks written by Manx, a couple in partnership with Breit, and notable innovative covers: Danny O'Keefe wrote the laid back "Good Time Charlie's Got The Blues"; "Take This Hammer" (Working on a Railroad) is traditional song - also part of the Tom Topping Band repertoire; there's a disarming instrumental version of the Doobie Brothers classic, "Taking It To The Streets"; and an energised reworking of Jimi Hendrix's "Voodoo Child".

This is a high quality CD but my favourite track, by a distance, is "Unmoved By Love", the only song written jointly by Manx and Breit. It is simply one of the best ballads ever written and it would not surprise me if it is widely covered by other artists. It demonstrates Manx's understated sensitive vocal attributes, combined with subtle acoustic accompaniment. The final track on the album - "Lastly Tender" - is a seductive instrumental written by Breit, who excels on his Resonator guitar. It rounds off a wonderfully eclectic range of contemporary blues, subtly influenced by Indian rhythms.

Manx's contemporary style and demeanour is reminiscent of

what you would expect from Richard Thompson if he had played the blues. He also seems to have acquired Thompson's taste in headgear. I was pointed in the direction of Harry Manx's music by Kristina Olsen, always a fine judge of music. I wasn't disappointed. He has found, in Kevin Breit, a musical soul - or should that be blues - mate.

Lewis Jones

ANDY MAY - The Yellow Haired Laddie (Fellside Recordings FECD174)

The intricacy involved in performing on an instrument that looks so fragile, it might snap in a breeze, has always won my admiration - and the Northumbrian pipes are just such an instrument. From the opening number, 'King Of The Pipers/Phil's Favourite', there is the syncopated notation that is so much a character of the North-East. For those of you that possess little knowledge of music (and I count myself amongst you - I just know what I like), imagine the music sounding as if it were played by a good humoured drunk and you'll get some idea of what I mean. Accompanied by subtle use of guitar and double-stopped (chords) fiddle and you have just the right amount of accompaniment without being over the top.

In the hands of Andy May, we have a musician who, whilst remaining respectful to the tool of his trade, performs in a delightful, precise manner without trying to be 'flash', although I'm sure he's well capable of it. I suppose the nearest he gets to becoming a speed merchant is on the final track 'Farewell To The Dene/The Spey in Spate/Billy Pigg's Hornpipe' - and very impressive it is too.

It's a real pleasure to see so many of the old tunes coming round again and 'The Golden Eagle/The Banks Hornpipe', 'Sir Sidney Smith's March' and 'The Mason's Apron' will all bring a knowing smile to folk musicians everywhere. Comparisons might be drawn to that other well-known 'piper' Kathryn Tickell but I'd suggest Andy sounds more like Ged Foley when he was in the Battlefield Band. Lovely stuff!

Pete Fyfe

PETER MULVEY - 'Ten Thousand Mornings' (Acoustic Roots AR004)

Peter Mulvey is a man with a growing reputation. He spent many an hour playing on the streets of Dublin in the 90's before returning to his native America. The Dublin public must have missed his fiery guitar playing with those bluesy chords aplenty. As a consolation, Peter has made available an album recorded on the tube stations of Boston. It must have been a pretty staggering experience for train travellers coming across Peter with his superlative guitar playing and a penchant for songs which are as wide ranging as Marvin Gaye's 'Inner City Blues' and Bob Dylan's 'Mama, You Been On My Mind'. The latter starts with a dog barking and, naturally, others have the sound of the trains arriving or departing.

There are children giggling as Peter works his way through The Beatles' 'For No One'. Then, at one point, the station announcer provides an eerie background to Randy Newman's 'In Germany Before The War'. Sounds a little crazy but it all adds to the atmosphere. At times, folk such as Chris Smither join Peter with the former, for example, providing a fuller sound on Paul Simon's 'Stranded In A Limousine'. Elsewhere, there are some nice vocals provided by Erin McKeown who has her own 'up and coming' profile and has just toured the UK with The Be Good Tanyas. All in all, it sounds like a veritable party was happening at times on Platform One. Then, at other times such

as with 'Rain And Snow', there is the otherworldly feel that only an empty underground station can provide.

One might imagine that the average record company would laugh hysterically at the idea of recording on the underground. Trust me, there is nothing 'average' going on around here. Underground music at its finest.

Steve Henderson

KATE RUSBY AND JOHN McCUSKER - Music From The Soundtrack Of 'Heartlands' (Pure Records)

I remember taking my niece to see 'Oh Brother, Where Art Thou?' and gaining a convert to American roots music. Given the awards that followed, she clearly wasn't the only one. So, what will happen here?



'Heartlands', starring Michael Sheen, is the follow up to the hugely successful 'East Is East' film. The soundtrack to this romp through the North of England features some re-worked material from Kate Rusby, some instrumental additions by John McCusker, and, if your mouth isn't watering already, there are contributions from Tim O'Brien. Kate's material includes 'Sweet Bride', 'I Wonder What Is Keeping My True Love Tonight' and her version of Nic Jones' 'The Drowned Lovers'. So, you're getting some of her finest moments here. John seems to have turned his hand to the atmospheric feel of film soundtracks with the ease of the consummate musician that the folk circle already knows about.

Its seventeen tracks is generous for those of you thinking that you already possess some of them. Following on Kate's own revival of past glories on the '10' record, you may still not be tempted to buy into more of the back catalogue - refreshed that it is. However, I have a sneaky feeling that this is just the sort of record that will find its way into places where Folk music is normally regarded as for people with Arran sweaters who smoke

pipes and have a penchant for sticking one finger in their ear as they sing.

Steve Henderson

STRAWBS - Blue Angel (Witchwood Records WMCD 2008)

Ah, the pretentious tones of rock-opera raises its head majestically once again and who better to helm it than Dave Cousins? Harking back to the days of *Hero & Heroine* and before that *From The Witchwood*, this album, more than any recent band outing, punches itself to the front of the pile.

From the opening track, the effect of using gently picked classical guitar on a \dot{J} waltz to lure the listener in, before the dark lyrics of 'Blue Angel', is classic Strawbs. It's also nice to see a welcome return to keyboard duties of Blue Weaver whose contributions created much of that distinctive musical palate. The rich seam that the band tapped and established as their own is continued with Brian Willoughby providing some solid guitar riffs, while a surprise comes in the shape of the harmonica led country-shuffle of 'Strange Day Over The Hill'. With Dave getting to grips on a (at times) hokey inflection to his vocal mannerisms, I suppose the track could be compared a bit with Rick Kemp doing the lead vocal on 'Sam Hall' on the latest Steeleye album. It sounds like it shouldn't work but it does and is a nice respite on an otherwise heavy instrumentally speaking album. Oh yes, there's plenty here to rock on down to. I can just see the hands on hips and Afro hair being tossed around on 'Rhythm Of The Night' at the Greyhound in Croydon (cor blimey I'm going back some now) complete with air clapping and catchy chorus.

Sometimes, when reviewing certain albums, I come over nostalgic longing for the carefree days of my youth. You know, when songs brought a lump to the throat the first time you heard them. In many ways Mr Cousins does that to me, particularly when you read a lyric as poignant as 'Traitor's Kiss'. By the way, the re-working of 'Lay Down' (which, when it was first released a masterpiece. A chart hit) with its tiered vocal key change is a masterstroke. I know it'll never happen but wouldn't it be great if they were to release it again...

Pete Fyfe

RICHARD THOMPSON - 'The Old Kit Bag' (Cooking Vinyl COOKCD251)



record amongst the column for 'also rans', it must be the season for critics to kick Mr. Thompson. Well, I'm not known for pulling my punches but neither am I known for falling in with the herd. This may not be his best - and it may not forge new ground - but it still sits head and shoulders above most other releases.

Opening with 'Gethsemane', the riff reminds you of Richard at the electric best of his 'Rumour And Sigh' album. 'Jealous Words' has some nice vocal work from Judith Owen and it points to the benefits that this record accrues from a 'small is beautiful' philosophy. The musicians used are a tight working unit with Judith, Danny Thompson, on bass, and Michael Jerome, on drums.

It was recorded quite quickly and the sound has a very live and spontaneous feel as a result. That doesn't mean that there has been little attention paid to this album as a number of the songs have featured in Richard's live set whilst he was sorting out this new record deal. The delay has meant that there is a variety of approach and lyrical ranging from the pop feel of 'I'll Tag Along' to the dark 'Outside Of The Inside'. It remains resolutely Richard Thompson in electric mode and anyone who thinks that it's time to write him off needs to think again.

Steve Henderson

WENDY WEATHERBY - Two Loves (Lochshore Recordings CDLDL 1312)

I've long enjoyed the sound of the Cello. I suppose it comes from my days when I was at school and visits from the local string quartet. I have always had a soft spot for anyone who can turn their hand getting to grips with the unwieldy beast as a lead instrument, particularly when it comes to playing a jig or reel.

Wendy comes across as one of those musicians who enjoys the art of performance although I get the feeling - and I'm more than likely speaking out of turn here - that the technicality of the instrument is of secondary importance in the faster paced pieces. If that is the case (and I very much hope it is), then she displays a certain charm and, should I dare say it, a throwing of caution to the wind.

When I listen to the track 'Bonny At Morn', here is how I would normally expect to hear the instrument played. With love and attention to the overall sound whilst gently caressing and teasing every nuance available - rather like a mother cooing to her baby. On the other hand I get the feeling that she just wants to have a good time and enjoy the craic with her mates on tracks such as 'The Hybrid Set'. You may not be able to get the triplets or rolls (these are left to the piano and accordion accompaniment) but the sense of dynamics and energy more than make up.

Considering that the main thrust of the album is hinged on the cello it is something of a surprise to find that Wendy is also a more than capable vocalist who really shines on the funky 'Church On Sunday'. It may not be the album for everyone but if on the other hand you want to look for something musically challenging here's a good place to start.

Pete Fyfe

JOHN WRIGHT - That's the Way Love Is (tw101).

Let me say right from the start that if you find songs on the subject of love a turn off read no further, but if you like songs that are performed with sincerity and emotion then this album is definitely for you. For the first time since his inaugural album 10 years ago, John Wright performs solo, save for the backing of two of the finest musicians on the scene today. This concept

album deals with love in all its varying forms and features songs from ten songwriters from both sides of the Atlantic.

Jackson Browne wrote, 'Sky Blue and Black', about always being dependable no matter what the situation, fine fiddle playing allied to solid electric guitar gives the CD real lift off. John Gorka has always been one of John's favourite writers and 'Armed with a Broken Heart', tells how it's hard to get over a love that has finally died. A clean break is often the best course of action, but highly painful.

'Summer Lightning', by Ralph McTell urges us never to let the sun go down on our wrath, always find a way to make up before a new day dawns. Love is the most amazing thing in the world, transcending everything, 'Your Love Amazes Me', brings the best out of John's voice. Mary Chapin Carpenter wrote, 'Where Time Stands Still'. At least once in our lives we've been to this place, you can't touch it but it's very real.

Another state we can all relate to is 'Shattered', to some more than others. No amount of sticky tape or glue can repair the feeling. It's that understanding only two people who have been really close can have, interchangeable, but a telepathic understanding. Beth Nielsen Chapman wrote 'No One Knows But You' at one of the lowest points of her life.

Joan Armatrading was heralded as a songwriter way ahead of her time back in the 70's, 'The Weakness in Me', tells how we keep going back, but with what motive? For it has to be the same on both sides, 'How Can I Tell You', the right words don't often come easy, if at all and the moment is lost. We all need someone, but finding the right person is never easy. Jimmy Lefave's 'Never a Moment' tells of beauty from head to toe that makes that special someone unforgettable.

This is John Wright doing what he does best, tugging at the heartstrings, with Martin Allcock and Chris Leslie displaying their own special brand of musicianship. John has never been slow to spot the lyrics that suit him best and that is what has endeared him to audiences both here in the UK and right across Europe.

Concept recordings don't always work, but take a collection of love songs and add John's unmistakable voice to them and you have a CD to savour with the lights down low and a glass of wine in your hand.

David Jones

BOOK REVIEWS



DIRECT ROOTS 2 - Mrs Casey Publications

Now, it'll come as no surprise to those that know me that I have always felt that a directory is a reference source and should be just what it says on the cover. I don't think there is a directory but 'The White Book' has to be the UK music industry bible, in as much as it provides what it says - a directory of contacts in the business - pure and simple. By that I mean that it is a record just of addresses, of contacts, and nothing else (apart from the advertising boxes). I will therefore try to approach this review with an open mind.

Directs Roots 2 is a book of contacts that includes pages of useful hints in editorial format, with a focus on educating the reader in the art of say...how to run a folk club/stage management and the role of the MC...etc. Now I'm not saying this isn't worthwhile but surely it would be better to produce a separate 'book' with this kind of information? I would like to point out at this stage that every article is relevant to anyone in the business and that I found them all interesting (particularly the Show Of Hands piece) but unfortunately I found it all a bit distracting. Distractions apart, the contents are well laid out and include categories ranging from Artists, Agents, Venues, and Festivals through to Organisations and Services.

OK, so whatever my reservations, Alan Bearman, has to be wildly applauded for at least getting the product out there and, in my mind, I don't think we could find a better ambassador for the music he so obviously loves. Another round of applause goes to designer Brian Ledgard, who never puts a foot wrong. Take my word for it, if you are in the business of 'folk' you cannot afford to be without a copy of this impressive tome. To order yours contact Mrs Casey Music, PO Box 296, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 3XU. Tel: 01629 760345 or go to their website www.direct-roots.com

Pete Fyfe

TRADITIONAL & FOLK MUSIC DIRECTORY 2003 - Editor: Sean Laffey

Directories are the backbone of the music industry and, for those of us in the business, are our lifelines to untold riches. OK, so that last comment may be a little tongue in cheek, but you get my drift. Unlike its English counterpart, the tome-like *Direct Roots*, the *Traditional & Folk Music Directory* is predominantly aimed at promoting our Irish cousins. And a fine job it does too! By dispensing with loads of editorial comment, (only 5 pages) the Traditional directory gets straight down to the basics of doing what a directory should do and gives you nothing but a list of contacts.

From the clearly laid out contents page, you can easily find the sections you require: Musicians/Bands A-Z and Other Categories (Agents, CD Manufacturers and Record Companies etc). It's that simple! There's none of your commentary from guest artists and 'the Powers that be...' No, I'm pleased to report that here is a book that sets out what it is intended to be used for. My only negative comments would be that the title is a little misleading with only a token mention of a handful of International (as opposed to Irish) artists and companies. Perhaps it would be better to call it the Irish Traditional & Folk Music Directory? The address lines could be tied together and not broken by line spacing them. And finally, the artists in the artist's section should be listed in bold and not the instrument they play.

Occasional splashes of colour advertising are added to brighten up the stark black and white lettering but there's no space wasted on waffle - a real bonus in my books. By doing this, the cost is kept to a reasonable £8.95 and will prove an invaluable resource to both artists and promoters. The directory is available from Select Media Limited, 11 Clare Street, Dublin 2, Ireland. Tel: 00 353 1 662 2266. E: info@selectmedialtd.com

Pete Fyfe

(Ed:- It is good to see that the folk music scene is well documented. I can only applaud and stand back in amazement at the amount of work that must go into chasing people for information and verifying that it is correct. I would also like to see more song books, tune books and folklore books reviewed)

FACE THE MUSIC

Fyldemusic.co.uk

A celebration of music's different genres through
workshops, masterclasses and concerts.

Free afternoon activities, ticketed evening concerts with high class acts, tickets go on sale July 03 from the Tourist Information Centre St Annes 01253 725 610 and Lowther Pavilion, Lytham.

Wednesday 13th August

2- 4pm Free workshops supplied by Folkus: Bodhran, Penny Whistle, Guitar and Fiddle.

Venue tbc

FOLK 7.30-11pm

Across the Moss

Roam

Chris While and Julie Mathews

Thursday 14th August

YOUNG PEOPLES DAY

DJ's from Blues & local bands during the day.

Evening headliner to be confirmed main theme Scar Punk

Friday 15th August

Free performances by bands from around the area,

in the Marquee on the Prom and in St Annes

Run through a sound check with E2K

pick up some techniques from our sound team

WORLD MUSIC 7.30-11pm

Support Act tbc

Samba drums and fire display tbc

E2K – a fantastic 8 piece Indie band with African Caribbean influences

Saturday 16th August

POPULAR MUSIC 7.30-11pm

Bellywheel – Local rock band

Obsession - From Manchester

Razor Dog – Local Rock/PunkBand

Goldblade – Blackpool – Scar Punk/ Rock

Sunday 17th August

Guitar workshop – Intermediate to advanced level with Stuart Ryan

MUSIC ACROSS THE YEARS 1 – 5pm

Stuart Ryan – Acoustic Guitarist of the year 02 plus duet partner, Jazz

Brass Band tbc

Tower Dance Band

To gain up to date information about bands, free workshops and concerts go on to the website www.fyldemusic.co.uk

NEWSREEL



THE PEL PETITION MAKES AN IMPACT

The success of this petition has already contributed to major changes in the UK Government's Licensing Bill. As originally published in November 2002, the Bill would have made almost all public performance of music or dance in England and Wales a criminal offence unless first licensed by local authorities. The Government said the increased licensing controls were necessary for public safety and noise reasons. But since this petition was started in December 2002, the Joint Committee on Human Rights has found that:

the licensing regime could violate people's right to 'freedom of expression', and the Government has provided no evidence, as the law requires, of any 'pressing social need' to justify the increased licensing controls.

The Government has responded with a number of concessions. Places of public worship will not now need a license to put on entertainment performances of any kind; garden fetes and private events raising money for charity will also be exempt. On 11 March, the Government said it would accept 'the principle that incidental live music should be exempt'. This is welcome.

However, it remains the case that no license is required under this Bill for crowds to watch big screens or listen to juke boxes in any place with a powerful sound system; but an advertised performance by one un-amplified musician would be illegal, unless the premises was first licensed for live music. This applies irrespective of whether alcohol is sold. The same would apply to any unlicensed performance of dance, whether indoors or outdoors. The provision of 'entertainment facilities', such as a piano, whether for public entertainment or private entertainment for profit, also remains a criminal offence unless licensed.

The petition - www.musiclovers.ukart.com - seems to be having a positive effect. The House of Lords threw out the bill and are asking for it to be amended so that any venue holding 250 or less - and where the entertainment finishes before 11:30 p.m. - should be exempt. If you haven't yet signed - please do so - (over 82000 signatures on the internet) and a pile of hard copies over a foot high, at our house.

Graham Dixon; www.troubleatmill.btinternet.co.uk

GOOD NEWS! NEW FOLK MUSIC PROGRAMME ON GMR...

Whilst Irish music on BBC GMR is catered for with the excellent "Parlour", presented by Alan Keegan on Mondays at 7-00pm, it has been a while since there has been a programme for general folk music focusing on the North West artists and club scene. With the demise of Mike Billington's show on Radio Manchester/ GMR five years ago, Harry Ogden's "Folkspan" on Piccadilly Radio and Henry Ayrton's show on the BBC North network (*now about to be axed - see story in Newsreel in this edition - Ed*), local radio has had little for the Manchester based folk fans to tune in to.

Now, thanks to some letters written to GMR deputy editor Mike Shaft, Folk Club and Festival organiser Ali O'Brien is about to present a brand new show aimed at a North West listening audience. Called "Sounds of Folk", it will be broadcast on

Tuesday evenings, commencing on Tuesday 20th May 2003, between 7-00 and 8-00 p.m. and will focus on North West artists and events.

Ali has been busy in the studio rehearsing the show and getting familiar with the controls. She is doing the job of Editor, Producer, Presenter, Interviewer and Engineer and in her spare time will be involved in running the successful Saddleworth Folk Festival as Chair and Artistic Director – a job that she has done for the past six years. Ali was also involved in running the Folk Club at the Cross Keys in Uppermill for six years and the once-a-month SAFRA night at the Waggon Inn at Uppermill. With husband Geoff, she is a regular attendee at other festivals throughout the UK and will be taking the opportunity to interview artists for future broadcast on the show.

With a wide taste and range of Folk Music to draw from, the show promises something for everyone. North West based artists are invited to send CDs and information about themselves in to the show for broadcast consideration and club organisers, in the GMR listening area, should forward their dates to Ali for the Diary spot on the show.

"Sounds of Folk" is initially intended to fill the gap vacated by the evening sports programme until the football returns in the autumn but should interest in the show be good then who knows what may happen!

Anybody interested in sending in their CD or any information about Clubs, Festivals, etc should contact Ali at: Sounds of Folk (Ali O'Brien), BBC GMR, PO Box 951, Oxford Road, Manchester, M60 1SD.

Comments about the programme should be sent to Mike Shaft at the same address or by email to mike.shaft@bbc.co.uk. BBC GMR is broadcast on 95.1 FM and 104.6 FM

Mark Dowding

...BAD NEWS! BBC AXES HENRY AYRTON'S FOLK SHOW...

Kate Bramley, from Jez Lowe and the Bad Pennies, tells us that the BBC has cut Henry Ayrton's folk music programme for the Northern region, which has a direct effect on her as a musician, and the folk community as a whole across the North. If you could find a minute to sign the email petition linked below then perhaps the BBC will have to reconsider, or find a suitable alternative.

Jacey Bedford, of Artisan, has organised an online petition, which you can sign by logging onto www.PetitionOnline.com/flkradio/petition.html Yorkshire Folk Arts is taking up the cause and has asked the head of the Yorkshire region, Colin Philpot, to meet them to discuss the situation. You can get further information and updates on the campaign via the Yorkshire Folk Arts website: www.yorkshire-folk-arts.com/#ayrton

Rob Dunford, our Radio List compiler, writes that Henry Ayrton via his 'Real Music Show' gave a lot of air time to diary dates on this side of the hills. In addition he often did his bit to give a Trans-Pennine concept to his presentation. Rob urges you all to write letters of complaint to:- Phil White, Producer, BBC Radio Humberside, 9 Chapel Street, Hull, HU1 3NU or Email: phil.white@bbc.co.uk

...AND STILL WITH RADIO - NORTHERN BRIDGE HITS KZSC

Malcolm Rigby has a new radio programme on an American

radio station called KZSC, which you can listen to via the Internet. He wants to let listeners in the North West know that his new show called *Northern Bridge* airs 3-6 pm Santa Cruz (USA) local time on <http://kzsc.ucsc.edu/schedule/mon.shtml> and covers folk music and song of the British Isles and Ireland.

Malcolm would be happy to receive any CDs in this genre from listeners and artists as he's trying to feature talented U.K. artists who are not known in America. So, if you've any CDs, send them to Malcolm Rigby, 18555 China Grade, Boulder Creek, CA95006, USA.

CELEBRATING CREATIVITY

Forget Fame Academy and Pop Idol. This is the real deal. Up to 450 future stars bring energy and passion to this two-day pioneering arts festival, from classical music to new media arts. Guaranteed to show Myleene and Gareth what genuine talent looks like. Celebrating Creativity is a prestigious annual platform for young people's arts in the North West. Visit www.celebratingcreativity.org.uk for further details.



Tue 8 July 7pm - Primary schools event; **Wed 9 July 7.30pm** - Secondary schools and arts colleges event; Tickets: £3 (£2 concessions); **The Bridgewater Hall, Manchester Box office:** 0161 907 9000

'ORMSKIRK COMES ALIVE' ON 12 JULY

The very first Ormskirk Acoustic Music Day takes place on **Saturday 12 July**. The event is entitled '*Ormskirk Comes Alive*'.

The impressive line up includes **Chris While & Julie Matthews, Nancy Kerr and James Fagan, The Tom Topping Band, Roam, Howden, Jones & Taffinder, The Jill Fielding Band, and Pete himself with Sarah Marks and Gallimaufry.**

There's also dance events and workshops and you can get further details from Pete on 07973-623210 or 01695-587947 or

by emailing him at pete@rimmer6.fsnet.co.uk

MORE SOUTH ASIAN HIGHLIGHTS AT THE LOWRY

Milapfest the vibrant, innovative year-round South Asian Arts Festival based in the Northwest is returning to The Lowry.

Sun 18 May, 7pm Tickets £8 Milapfest - Khazana, The South Asian Ensemble - National Premiere

This national premiere features exciting dance, music and theatre events and provides the chance to see some of the best South Asian work in the North West.

Six of the finest young musicians from India and Britain combine to present exquisite world music that is both tranquil and uplifting. A chance to experience the serenity and joy of South Asian music, with Sitar, Sarod, Flute, Shehnai and Tabla - an event you will want to relive again and again.

Mon 2 June, 8pm Tickets £10 Vayu Naidu Company SOUTH

In association with Milapfest Vayu Naidu Company present South, compelling storytelling that weaves narrative with live music, contemporary dance and Indian classical dance. This new and already acclaimed company promise to bring the South Asian sun to The Lowry this June.

As the Storyteller spins the compass, three strangers are drawn together by an irresistible force. What do they have to reveal before they can be set free? Narrative, live music and contemporary and Indian classical dance combine in this unique tale of encounters with the soul.

Sun 27 July, 7pm Tickets £10 Milapfest - Anand Yatra- The South Asian Folk Dance Festival - National Premiere

Another production by Milapfest, the year-round South Asian arts festival based in the Northwest. In July they bring a programme of Indian folk dance to The Lowry continuing their strong partnership and extending the wide range of South Asian events already on offer this season.

A colourful and joyous celebration of folk dances from the Indian Subcontinent. Foot-tapping dances from some of the most talented troupes. From Kuravanji to Raas, from Garba to Bhangra, plus Bollywood dancing. You'll feel like dancing in the aisles!

Box Office 0870 111 2000; for more information, contact Leonie Osborne on 0161 876 2044 or e-mail leonie.osborne@thelowry.com

DULAMAN

Young band, Dulaman, released in May their first CD, *Four years in November*. They are a dynamic young band currently hitting the folk and bluegrass music scenes. All band members are multi-instrumentalists and are currently developing their talent in song writing and composing their own tunes. Their arrangements of traditional tunes are superb, whilst retaining their authenticity. Their talents are being recognised locally and further afield, having supported top folk artists, Waterson: Carthy, and Bluegrass performers from America and Canada.

They appear at the Acclaim Music Festival, Cheshire on **30 May & 1 June**, the Conwy Bluegrass Festival during the **first weekend in July**, and Nantwich Folk Festival on **24/25 August**. The band is available for bookings.

You can order their CD via their website: www.dulaman.co.uk The email contact for CD and bookings is: moonburning@yahoo.com

Ormskirk Comes Alive Music Festival

Featuring

Chris While and Julie Matthews

Tom Topping Band

Nancy Kerr and James Fagan

Jill Fielding Band

Roam

Kate Howden / Paul Jones / Tony Taffinder

Gallimaufry

Concerts, Workshops

Music, Song and Dance Sessions

Barn Dance / Street Events

Saturday 12th July

at: Ormskirk Civic Hall



Call now for details

01695-587947 / 07973 623 210

NEWS FROM THE GLENFARG VILLAGE FOLK CLUB

Glenfarg Folk Club has just had its annual Folk Feast. For those of you who were there, they hope you have recovered from the weekend's festivities. For those of you who weren't there, you missed one hell of a weekend, so why not try to make it next year?

The regular folk club meets on a Monday evening and guests for May and June include Johnny Silvo, Mundy & Turner, and The Keekin-Gless, a fascinating and entertaining mix of stories, songs, poems and tunes from Perthshire brought to you by singers Ewen Sutherland and Doris Rougvie, fiddler Pete Clark, and the novelist and poet Carl MacDougall. Glenfarg Village Folk Club is a non-smoking venue.

You can find more details on www.glenfargvillagefolkclub.freereserve.co.uk or contact Philip Ponton, the club secretary, at philip.ponton@cnh.com

www.music-cafe.co.uk

A little note from the Cafe Staff, We've added a second design to our Music Cafe website. We now have two versions, the new one being an accessible version for people with phone line internet connections and / or visual impairments

We're also compiling a database of music tutors in Cheshire, so if you are a tutor or you can recommend one, please let us know

We've also added an up to date GIG GUIDE to which bands and artistes can instantly add their gigs, events, cd launches, workshops etc. This covers a wide area of the North West and Midlands and is currently networked and featured at six different websites

Not to forget we also carry a list of Funding Authorities in Cheshire, and a fairly decent links and resources page that musicians and new music lovers will find interesting

Forthcoming events this month in Cheshire and featured on the gig guide include:

- Sat May 10th - BALLISTIC ACOUSTIC BIG NIGHT OUT, Widnes
- Sat May 17th - TONY McPHEE of THE GROUNDHOGS, Woodford
- Sat May 24th - FOLK and CELTIC NIGHT, Crewe
- Sat May 24th - THE RODNETS, Widnes
- Fri May 30th - DULAMAN, Aclaim Festival, Nantwich

And finally of course, we mail this occasionally to a combined mail-list of many music interested people. If you'd rather not receive our mail, please let us know, we won't send but will be sorry to lose you :-)

Thanks & Best, The Head Chef

FOUR FOOLS FOLK FESTIVAL - FRI 27 - SUN 29 JUNE 2003

Festival events commence around 7.30pm on Friday 27th June 2003 with the usual mix of arriving artists and festival-goers at the gathering in the main hall. On Saturday 14 dance teams hosted by Newburgh Morris will dance at various locations in Chorley Town Centre. The Shellback Chorus will also be much in evidence in the town.

A wide range of tickets are available for individual workshops, meet the artist sessions, concerts etc as well as daytime, evening and full day tickets. For details please contact Ken & Angie Bladen on 01257 263678, E.mail four.fools@virgin.net

**SPOTLIGHT
ON
THE PARTING GLASS**



Usually the magazine turns its spotlight on a folk club or venue. Well this time the spotlight falls on the artists. Stepping into the limelight are 'The Parting Glass'. They are a four piece band with an exciting line-up of vocals, plus a wide variety of instruments including guitar, bass, flute, whistles, bouzouki, mandola, fiddles and concertina. Ed Conway, Martin Waters, Chris Algar and Martin D'Arcy play a varied selection of songs and tunes, mainly traditional, with the emphasis on Irish music, but their extensive repertoire also includes several well-known contemporary songs, including self-penned songs by both Chris and Ed. They are all based in the Staffordshire area and are the very popular residents at Eccleshall Folk Club. Last year the band won 'Best New Band' at Banbury Folk Festival.



Some time ago while talking to Chris Algar on one of our occasional visits to his Concertina emporium (Barlecorn Concertinas) he was enthusing about the group he was playing in and asking about the clubs in the North West with a view to trying to get bookings. I supplied him with a list of clubs that book guests in the North West but warned him that many of them were not favourably disposed to taking a chance on people who were not well known or well established favourites.

When we got to thinking about the situation we realised that we too did not book guests that we had not seen elsewhere. To cut a long story short we decided to book them at The Broken Token Folk Club.

So on Wed April 2nd 2003 (the day after April Fool's Day) they duly arrived in good time to do the booking. The first time we had ever heard them play anything was as they tuned their instruments and limbered up. It was in those few moments that we knew we'd done the right thing.

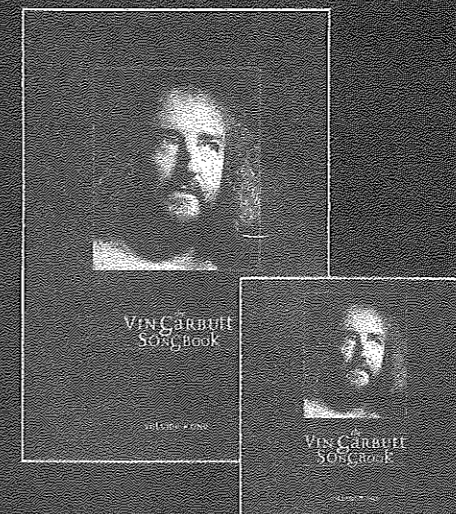
They started with 'Don't Come Again', by the end of which we were all issuing invites to return. Time just flew until the first half finished with a 'railroad song' collected in America entitled 'Last Train to Clarksville'.

In the second half we were regaled with Irish tunes played 'with much more subtlety' and 'strangely refreshing' quoth one member of the audience. 'Aren't they good' said another. Music to the ears of the organisers. My recommendation is book them quickly while you can afford them and before everyone has heard of them.

Ken Bladen

VINGARBUTT

New Songbook Compilation CD



Vin recently published "The Vin Garbutt Songbook Vol 1" containing a selection of seventeen songs written between 1970 and the year 2000. Since the songbook has been available there have been many requests for a matching CD and Vin is pleased to announce that the CD is now available. Some tracks are from Vin's previous CDs but there are 9 pre-CD tracks that have been re-recorded, some "live in concert" and some in the studio. The album has 17 tracks and at £13 is fantastic value but if you buy it with the book you can get it for just £8!

- Songbook - £12 plus £1.50 p&p
- Songbook CD - £13
- Songbook & CD - £20 plus £1.50 p&p

Available at hardly any good CD shops but available by mail order from:

Home Roots Music Ltd, PO Box 6, Skelton, Saltburn by the Sea, Cleveland. TS13 4YT.

Email: homeroots.garbutt@cwcom.net

Credit Card Sales from: www.vingarbutt.com

Distributed by PROPER MUSIC DISTRIBUTION

VINGARBUTT
www.vingarbutt.com

TOUR DATES 2003

APRIL

- 1 The Station Hotel, Loftus, Cleveland. 01287 640373
- 4 The Rockingham Arms, Wentworth, S Yorks. 01709 585977
- 5 The Scout Centre, Bluebell Way, Newton Aycliffe. 01325 301334
- 9 Saltburn Junior School, Upleatham Street, Saltburn. 01287 622447
- 10 The Melbourn Hotel, Bradford. 01274 883412/726867
- 11 The Playhouse Theatre, Sleaford, Lincs. 01529 305040
- 15 Old Black Lion, Mareham, Northampton. 01604 633144
- 20 Glenfarg Festival, Tayside, Scotland. 01337831116
- 24 The Flower Pot, Derby. 01332 834438
- 25 The Foley Arms, Claygate, Surrey. 0208 686 9421
- 26 The Red Lion, Kings Heath, Birmingham. 0121 605 7000

MAY

- 1 The Railway Inn, Healey, Nr Lymm, Warrington. 0161 4324317
- 2 The Coach House, Head's Nook, Carlisle. 01228 670580
- 3 The Moor & Coast Festival, Whitby. 01947 820408
- 7 The Miner's Welfare Institute, Moira, Nr Ashby De La Zouch. 01675 465002
- 10 The Tithe Barn, Bardwell, Nr Bury St Edmunds. 01359 252044
- 11 Holmfirth Festival. 01484 605059
- 14 Scholars, Scarborough. 01723 376084
- 16 Farnsfield Village Hall, Farnsfield, Notts. 01623 882662
- 17 St Patrick's Men's Club, Fairfield, Stockton on Tees. 01642 580538
- 22 The Arts Centre, Chesterfield College. 01246 500578
- 24 Pannal Memorial Institute, Pannal, Nr Harrogate. 01423 868632

JUNE

- 4 Sunny Bank Mobile Home Park, Wenlock Bank Lapey, Stafford. 01785 841274
- 5 The Courtyard Theatre, Hereford. 01432 359252
- 6 Avoncroft Museum, Stoke Heath, Bromsgrove. 01527 575476
- 11 The Town Hall, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham. 01388 602610
- 14 Sutton Village Hall, Nr Sandy, Beds. 01767 260041
- 15 Cambridge. Private Concert
- 16 Boarhams Social Club, North Boarhams, Hants. 01329 833625
- 19 The Bell Hotel, Market Place, Driffield, Yorks. 01262 420591
- 21 Snells Hall, East Hendred, Nr Wantage. 01235 762644
- 22 The English Wine Centre, Adfriston, Nr Eastbourne. 01323 731750
- 23 Nettleden Village Hall, High Street, Berks. 01628 636620
- 27-29 Skagen Festival, Denmark. www.skagenfestival.dk

JULY

- 4 The Runway at the Boggerly H.O. Field Lane, 0121 680 7723
Between Lutroft Lane & Hampton Lane, Solihull.
- 5-11 The La Jeusselinere Experience. A week long workshop with Vin in France organised by Martyn and Danny Wyndham Read. To find out more you can ring 01252 719556 or 07787504814. You can also email Martyn at wyndham.read@btworld.com. To apply by post write to: Martyn Wyndham Read, PO Box 341, Farnham, Surrey, GU9 6YT. We recommend that you read the review of last years course on Vin's web site 'Reviews' page.

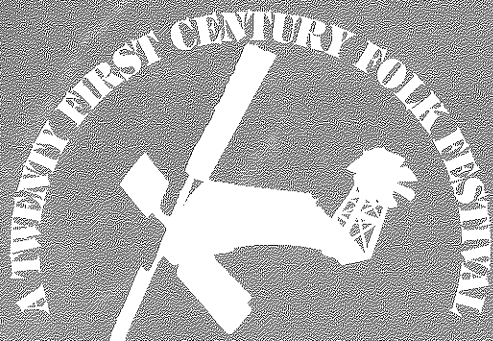
July 18 - August 24 Australia.

SEPTEMBER

- 12 The Woodman Inn, Kingswinford, W Mids. 01284 831263
- 14 Bromyard Festival, Bromyard, Herefordshire. 01531 670593
- 20 The Worley Arms, Worley Village, Nr Sheffield. 0114 2847190
- 26 The Spa Hotel, Saltburn, Cleveland. 01287 622623
- 27 The Red Lion, Kings Heath, Birmingham. 0121 605 7000

OCTOBER

- 3 The Fishponds Hotel, Matlock, Derbys. 01773 853428
- 4 The Lonsdale Hotel, Sandringham Road, Ingle, Doncaster. 01302 349329
- 16 St Peter's Church, Marlborough, Wilts. 01672 512465
- 17 The International Arts Centre, Leicester. 0116 2554854
- 18 Playhouse 2 Theatre, Shaw, Nr Oldham. 01706 847494
- 23 The Music Hall, The Square, Shrewsbury. 01743 281281
- 28 Leigh Conservative Club, Leigh, Lancs. 01942 674868
- 29 St Francis Church Hall, Acklam Road, Middlesbrough.



FYLDE 2003

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Fleetwood Lanes**

**29th - 30th & 31st
August 2003**

Over 120 Events
Music Song and Dance
Ceilidhs, Workshops
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Info: (01772) 683027**

Email: alanbell@fylde-folk-fest.demon.co.uk
www.fylde-folk-festival.com



Festival artists booked so far include:

Dougie MacLean (Sun). Eric Bogle Band (Sat). John Tams & Barry Coope (Fri). Roy Bailey. Tanglefoot (Can). The Hush featuring Bob Fox. Les Barker & Mrs Ackroyd's Band. Magpie Lane. Sid Kipper. Boat Band. Beishazzars Feast. Bakelite Boys. Pete Coe. Witches of Elswick, Sara Grey & Kieron Means. Cloudstreet (Aus). Serious Kitchen. Eric Roche. Real Time. Strawhead. Jane & Amanda Threlfall, Roam. Asif Iqbal & Ali Zaidi (S.E. Asia). Tich Frier. His Worship & The Pig. Matt Armour. Tom Lewis (Can). Alan Bell Band. Emily Smith Band. Stanley Accrington. Scolds Bridle. Emma Williamson. Altar Native.

PLUS 50 more national & local artists, clog dancers, morris teams, street entertainers. Dancers Fiddle 'N' Feet & Mary Whelan's Irish Dancers.

PLUS Sid Kipper's Seaside Show.

PLUS Pop Goes The Century - The Bakelite Boys

LANCASHIRE & CHESHIRE CLOG DANCING CONTESTS

LANCASHIRE DIALECT COMPETITION

YOUNG PERFORMERS COMPETITION

WORST SINGER IN THE WORLD CONTEST

FULL WEEKEND TICKETS ONLY £38 (Before 30th June 2003)

FULL WEEKEND TICKETS ONLY £41 (After 30th June 2003)

Children under 11yrs free. Children 11-16yrs half price

ALL-EVENTS SATURDAY DAY & EVENING TICKET - £24

(Note: Final Concert for Weekend Ticket Holders only)

Session Tickets from £5

Camp Site - Adults £6. Per person for 1 night or weekend.

Caravan Site - Adults £6. Per person for 1 night or weekend.

Camp/Caravan Sites for weekend ticket holders only.

FREE Showers & Swimming (For Weekend Ticket Holders)

FREE Entry to Craft Fair (For Weekend Ticket Holders)

FREE Festival Bus Service.

BOOK EARLY

