

FOLK NORTHWEST

SUMMER 2004 (JUNE, JULY & AUGUST) £1.50



RISKY BUSINESS

photo by Roger Liptrot

IN THIS ISSUE

RADIO LISTINGS, LIVE, CD & FESTIVAL REVIEWS
CLUB DATES, HIS WEBMASTER'S VOICE
DIARY CHAT, PRESS RELEASES, NEWSREEL
ARTICLES, DVD REVIEW, POEMS

www.folknorthwest.co.uk



FYLDE 2004

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**3rd, 4th & 5th
September 2004**

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the Most**

TICKETS & INFORMATION

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Lancs. PR4 2YL

FESTIVAL OFFICE:

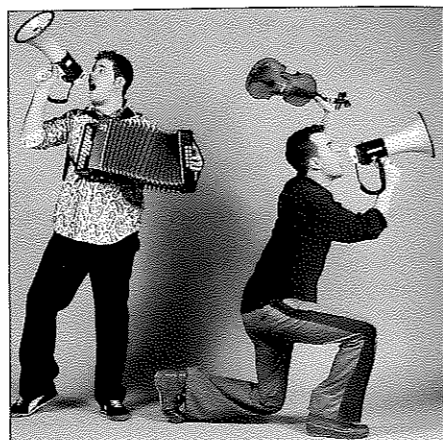
55 The Strand, Fleetwood, Lancs. FY7 8NP
Tel: 01253 872317 Fax: 01253 878382 email:
alanbell@fylde-folk-fest.demon.co.uk

visit our website

www.fylde-folk-festival.com

Festival artists booked so far include:

Show of Hands & Friends (Sun). Kate Rusby (Sat). Chris While & Julie Mathews. John Spiers & Jon Boden. Colcannon (Aus). Nancy Kerr & James Fagan. Old Rope String Band. Eric Roche. Hoover The Dog. Bruce Mathiske (Aus). Back of The Moon. Uiscedwr. Ferebandaperta (Ita). Imbizo (Zimb). Pint & Dale (USA). Grace Notes. Strawhead, Threlfall. Ellison & Edwards. His Worship & The Pig. Cross O'Th'ands. Cloudstreet (Aus). John Conolly. Bayou Gumbo. Alan Bell Band. Stanley Accrington. Rambling Riversiders Skiffle Group. Scolds Bridle. Elbow Jane. Harriet Bartlett. Brian Preston. Th'Antique Road Show. Derek Gifford. Heyfeva



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1/2 page	135 x 185 or 275 x 92
1 page	275 x 185

Discounts available for adverts booked in several issues.

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Only £2.00 per 1/16 page
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For private sales and wants, club adverts, artistes business cards and other items.
Size 65 x 44 mm.

Send your copy by July 10th 2004 to:

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Paul Holden
7, Sunleigh Road
Hindley, Nr WIGAN WN2 2RE
Tel. No. 01942 258 459
e.mail:- kath.holden@btinternet.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS

For just £10.50 per year you will receive four issues of the magazine. To subscribe please send your cheque (payable to N.W.F.F.C.)

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

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

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Folk North West Contact Information

Who do I send information to ?



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

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Tel 0151 678 9902
e mail: JOHNOWENBTACKS@aol.com

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

Ken Bladen, 36 The Oaks, Eaves Green, Chorley, Lancs PR7 3QU Tel. No. 01257 263 678
e.mail: four.fools@tiscali.co.uk

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

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Please note that the copy date for the next issue is July 10th 2004.



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EDITORIAL

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e.mail: four.fools@tiscali.co.uk

As you will read from the Chairman's Jottings we aim to continue to improve the magazine. Reluctantly we have had to put the cost up to £2 from the next issue, which will mean an annual subscription of £10.50 to cover posting (also gone up due to increased number of pages). We have made a start by extending the diary dates over 8 pages in a bid to make them clearer and easier to read. In addition from the next issue the inside back and inside front covers will also be in colour and we aim to upgrade the front cover to make it look more attractive (even though you can't always judge a book by its cover).

The next issue will undergo a complete makeover and we will aim to broaden the range of articles, information, interviews and newsreel. To do this we need help in the form of suggestions, articles for inclusion, constructive criticism and comments. We do not aim to go national but just to try and keep improving the magazine's service to the North West Folk Community.

You will see that Mark Dowding is keen to include a Hiring Fair section on the Website. It would be great to follow this up with interviews and reviews of local artistes trying to gain recognition. We also need you to review your clubs activities and send it to us. We can only report what we're told.

A big thank you to Graham Dixon for organising a meeting in South Ribble about the forthcoming changes to PEL and well done Colin Foster, the Licencing Officer for answering our questions. Watch this space for further information.

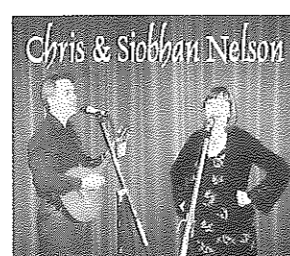
SINGAROUND

If your trip to the Lakes falls on the 1st or 3rd Friday of the month, why not bring your voice, fiddle, guitar etc to the **Kings Arms, Hale, Cumbria**

(just 2 miles south of Milnthorpe on the A6) where you will receive a hearty welcome to the

Hale & Hearty Folk Club. 8.30pm start.

The hotel offers good beer, a fine restaurant & B&B
Club details are given in the centre of this magazine



Contemporary & traditional songs accompanied on fiddle/mandola

For more information:
www.cnelson.plus.com

email: chris@niddart.co.uk
phone: 01704 220090

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

e.mail:
kath.holden@btinternet.com

CHAIRMAN'S JOTTINGS



Those of you who have been regular readers of Folk North West over the past two years will have seen a vast difference in its overall presentation. To celebrate the magazine's 25th anniversary we added colour to the cover and, judging by the comments made to me, it's something that has been more than welcome.

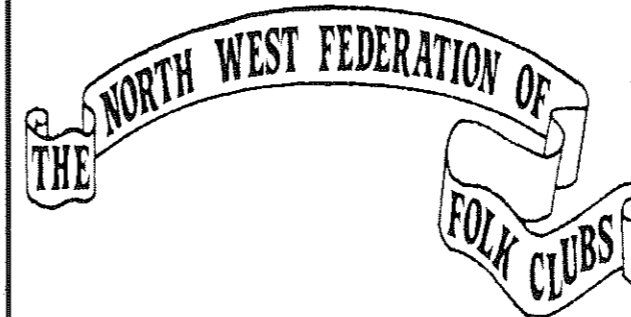
This quarter for the first time the inside cover is now also in colour, as we continue to evolve and bring you the best magazine possible. Also inside this edition many of the headings have been updated and improved which we hope will add to your reading pleasure. Further improvements are in the pipeline for subsequent issues as we continue to strive to keep FNW ahead of the pack.

To help fund these changes the cover price of the magazine will go up to two pounds, starting with the autumn edition. There will also be a rise in the cost of advertising in the magazine. This is the first rise in the cover price for some time, due mainly to the increased printing costs, and we feel sure you will understand its necessity.

Your support in this is very much appreciated as we continue to bring you the very latest news allied to the most up to date printing processes.

Cheers for now

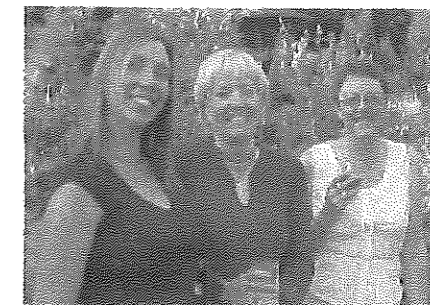
David Jones



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'



Wench All: a cappella harmony group from Lancashire (and Warwickshire!)

We can be contacted via

- 38, Chatburn Park Drive, Brierfield, Lancashire, BB9 5QA
- or at pf.crewe@ntlworld.com
- or 01282 698455

"Wenchall...musically unked-without instruments, that is!" quote from "Queensberry Rules!" group.

Why the name? "When shall we three meet again...!"

CD now available "Ne'er a Penny o' Money." .. "how amazing, uncanny and intriguing ... excellent CD- the magic of these songs" ("Strirings" issue 115)

Folk Roundabout, June-August 2003: "38 minutes of finely-controlled unaccompanied harmony singing from this accomplished female trio... the threesome create a very captivating mood in live performance and their general integrity, sensitivity towards their material are never in question..."

"Wench All singing traditional songs in three-part harmony. . Their voices are well balanced, the harmonies beautifully blended" Review by Don Moor, "Folk North West Spring 2004"



Slow and Steady Tune Sessions

Saturday 5th June	2pm to 5pm
Saturday 3rd July	2pm to 5pm
Saturday 7th August	2pm to 5pm
Saturday 4th September	2pm to 5pm

All types of Instruments welcome.

Concertina Workshops

Saturday 12th June	2pm to 5pm
Saturday 10th July	2pm to 5pm
Saturday 14th August	2pm to 5pm
Saturday 11th September	2pm to 5pm

English, Anglo and Duet Concertina players are welcome.

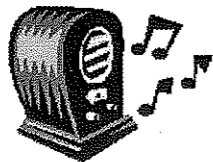
Eaves Green Community Centre
(near The Minstrel Pub)
Lower Burgh Way, Eaves Green, Chorley

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

FOLKUS
The Folk Arts 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 GMR 95.1 (104.6 Saddleworth)
SOUNDS OF FOLK presented by ALI O'BRIEN
Tuesday 8.00-9.00pm E MAIL: ali.obrien@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

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 10.05-12.00 midnight
IAIN ANDERSON (variable folk content)
Tuesday 8.05-10.05pm
CELTIC CONNECTIONS presented by MARY ANN KENNEDY
Thursday 8.05-10.05pm
TRAVELLING FOLK presented by ARCHIE FISHER
Saturday 7.05-8.30pm
TAKE THE FLOOR presented by ROBBIE SHEPHERD
Saturday 9.05-10.05pm
PIPELINE presented by GARY WEST
Saturday 10.05-12 midnight (repeat of Thursday)
TRAVELLING FOLK presented by ARCHIE FISHER
Sunday 1.05-3.05pm (FM only after 2.00pm)
THE REEL BLEND presented by ROBBIE SHEPHERD
Sunday 6.05-8.05pm (repeat of Tuesday)
CELTIC CONNECTIONS presented by MARY ANN KENNEDY

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 10.00-11.00pm (strong Country & Irish element)
FAILTE ISTEACH presented by DONNCHA O'DULAING
Sunday 8.10-8.55am
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
LAN A MHALE, 7.00-8.00pm Tuesday and Thursday evening.
Broadcasts on ASTRA satellite Channel 22. Details on
ASTRA satellite channel from www.rnag.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 -
12.00am (Fiona Talkington, Verity Sharp) include folk at
times, as does Andy Kershaw, Radio 3 Sunday 10.15pm-
12.00am. Radio 2's Wednesday evening schedule offers at
intervals topic-based series with a folk theme, usually 10.00-
10.30pm.

**LIVE
REVIEWS**



**JOAN BAEZ, supported by Josh Ritter, at The Liverpool
Philharmonic Hall on 16 January 2004**

Few folk singers have been as musically influential and politically
dynamic as Joan Baez. She captured the mood of the 1960s
folk revival and has earned the right to be up there on the same
pedestal as the likes of Dylan and Seeger. She has progressed
and evolved, building on what she recorded 40 years ago but
refusing to be bound by it. I remember her stunning performance
over 20 years in a packed out marquee at the Cambridge Folk
Festival so it was with great anticipation that I looked forward to
her visit to Liverpool.



But before Baez took centre stage, we were treated to a superb
set from Josh Ritter, a young American singer songwriter - from
Moscow, Idaho - who already has three highly acclaimed albums
under his belt. Ritter, who accompanied himself on acoustic
guitar, was greeted at the end of his performance by the kind of
rapturous applause reserved for evergreen headliners. He's
certainly marked himself out as one to watch and listen to,
evoking the songwriting instincts of Bruce Springsteen and Steve
Earle at their creative best, while injecting his own warmth and
wry humour. The highlight was his evocative tribute to Johnny
Cash that appears on his recent 'Golden Age of Radio' CD. "Snow
is Gone", taken from his second CD, 'Hello Starlings' that has
now been released in the UK, is getting considerable Radio 2
airplay. He makes a welcome visit to these shores in June. (See
our Newsreel section for more details). Certainly, a performer
not to miss.

Joan Baez made a grand entrance accompanied by a three piece
band, launching straight into a couple of songs from her most
recent album, 'Dark Chords on a Big Guitar', including the

sensitive Ryan Adam's ballad, 'In my time of need', followed by
the old Woody Guthrie classic, 'Deportees' - as relevant as ever.
Her voice on the first few numbers was somewhat overwhelmed
by poor sound balance but that was ironed out by the time she
launched into the labour movement anthem, 'Joe Hill' and
'Christmas in Washington', Steve Earle's modern tribute to
heroes who have inspired him and many of his generation. As
Earle says the song is not about Christmas - and it's certainly
not about Washington - but about his heroes of which Baez is
one. It's, therefore, highly appropriate that she's recorded it as
it's lyrics invoke the spirit of Woody Guthrie and the civil rights
and anti-war campaigners of the 1960s - movements of which
she was not only an integral part but they were movements that
she inspired. "Farewell Angelina" is one of many songs that are
synonymous with Joan Baez, and even though it's more
commonly associated with an acoustic accompaniment, the band
arrangement still has the power to roll back the years.

Giving the band a well earned break, Baez then moved into
more traditional mode accompanied by her familiar acoustic
guitar arrangement for a group of songs that included a couple
of her very early recordings, "Come all ye fair and tender ladies",
and the self penned "Sir Galahad", before returning to more
contemporary mode, charming us with the beautiful Janis Ian
song, "Jesse". Unlike Baez, Phil Ochs sadly did not survive the
1960s but his music legacy is still vibrant. There are few better
songs to come out of that fertile era of folk music than the
timeless, "There but for fortune"; it remains an audience favourite
and strikes a telling chord to this day.

She clearly recognises emerging songwriting talent when she
sees it. Josh Ritter's 'Wings' - not to be confused with Brian
Bedford's song with the same name - and Nathalie Merchant's
less than jolly, but moodily entrenched, murder ballad, "Caleb
Meyer", were delivered with delightful panache. An evening of
Joan Baez music would not be complete without a Bob Dylan
song or two and the full band rejoined her on stage for an esoteric
version of "It's all over now baby blue" and, as an encore the
less familiar, "Lily of the West".

Joan Baez is a remarkable woman and at the age of 70 is still
stunningly beautiful. She is a consummate charismatic performer
who might have lost some of the vocal power of her younger
days but this is more than compensated by her control, delivery,
and an ability to mould each song into a unique interpretation.
As Neil Young might say "Long may she run".

Lewis Jones

**FAIRPORT CONVENTION at Fairfield Halls, Croydon on 20
February 2004**

"It all comes round again..." and in Fairport's case I'm glad to
say it does. This seemed to be a re-charged band in front of me
compared to the one I saw last year. Dave Pegg's acoustic bass
had been cast aside for his trusty electric and the group fairly
rocked through their two long sets.

After joining support act Mundy-Turner on the self-penned 'We
Can Get There From Here', Fairport drew the audience in with a
couple of old standards including 'Journeyman' and Richard
Thompson's 'Genesis Hall'. Recently the band rediscovered their
English roots and, as if to prove it, they utilised a selection of
Morris dance songs and tunes, starting with 'The Happy Man'.
A lot of this could be down to the fact that Chris Leslie is a
dancer for the Adderbury Morris team, although I'm not quite
sure what that particular team would say about the playful
juggling with the melody changing time signatures and such like.
Still, it makes for entertaining listening. A new song, 'The Fossil
Hunter', was then introduced by some tasty bouzouki chords
emanating from the Leslie camp and Dave's fluid bass.

A by now regular contributor to the Fairport cannon of songs saw the first of the night by Steve Tilston (greeted with a ripple from those in the know) called 'Willow Creek', performed by Simon Nicol stretching his not inconsiderable tonsils. If you'll excuse my indulgence for just a minute, I must say that alongside Lindisfarne's Billy Mitchell he has to be one of the best assets that the British folk scene has to offer. On the fiddle front, Ric Sanders' soulful performance of his own composition, 'Portmerrion', was greeted with an un-harnessed enthusiasm by the audience, whilst drummer Gerry Conway demonstrated tasteful restraint on the best version of 'The Hiring Fair' I've heard in ages.



The band has always treated their gigs with a certain amount of tongue in cheek bonhomie and Simon Nicol's introduction to 'Matty Groves' (an impressive technical performance of 'Suicide Is Painless') saw Fairport bringing out the big guns for an excellent finale. To cap an already sterling performance the anthemic encore, 'Meet On The Ledge', saw many of the audience swaying and waving their hands in the air. It only needed the odd lit candle and discarded beer bottle and you'd have thought you were at Cropredy. Great Stuff!

Pete Fyfe

BOB FOX at Aughton Village Hall, Ormskirk, Lancashire 21st February 2004

BBC Radio 2 Folk Award nominee Bob Fox played to a packed house and, after a short set by support act "The Jill Fielding Band" (Jill Fielding, Pete Rimmer and Nigel Fielding), Bob took the stage to perform a stirring set in his inimitable way.

Bob is, in many ways, the complete folk performer. He is an excellent singer (hence his nomination for "Folk Singer of the Year") and an accomplished guitarist. He has, above all else, the ability to select and interpret a superb repertoire of songs that have a great deal of humanity in them. These songs come from a variety of sources, such as traditional songs ("Virginia", "Dance to your Daddy"); songs from the Folk Revival (Ewan MacColl's "Song of the Iron Road" and "Champion at Keeping them Rolling" and Alex Glasgow's "Standing at the Door"); songs from the Tyneside Music Hall Tradition ("Sally Gee"; "Bonny Gateshead Lass"; "Sally Wheatley") and the best of our contemporary songwriters, such as, Jez Lowe ("Greek Lighting") and Fairport Convention's Chris Leslie ("My love is in America"). The latter song (as performed by Bob) was rightly nominated for Best Original Song in this year's Radio 2 Folk Awards (the award eventually went to Tommy Sands).

Bob performed all of these songs, and more. Personal favourites of mine included "Child of Mine", an excellent song which all parents will appreciate and from which comes the title to Bob's latest album, 'Borrowed Moments', "Water of Tyne/Big River" (yes, the Jimmy Nail song) and "The Galway Shawl". Particularly poignant was Andy M. Stewart's "Ramblin' Rover" which Bob dedicated to Andy's former "Silly Wizard" colleague, Johnny

Cunningham, who had passed away recently - a fitting tribute indeed.

Bob finished with "Celebrated Working Man" and the crowd went home smiling having had a great night's entertainment from one of the very best performers on the folk scene. Come back to Lancashire again soon, Bob!

Peter Cowley

(This concert was a fundraiser for 'Ormskirk Comes Alive Festival' that takes place on 8-10 July. See the advert in this edition of FNW for more details.)

NORTHERN HARMONY at The Ship Inn, Haskayne on 4 March 2004

As a veteran follower of the folk music scene I reserve the right to be a bit sceptical when invited to sample the unfamiliar. Thus it was when I joined the audience at The Ship to hear a performance by "Northern Harmony," on the basis that I was told I would enjoy it. What I wasn't told was that I would be bowled over, knocked out, gobsmacked, etc. by it, as indeed I was.

From first to last, director Larry Gordon and this group of sixteen remarkable young musicians were enthralling. Their choice of material was so wide as to almost defy definition. From the late 18th Century "shape-note" songs of New England, to the strident and, to our cosseted ears sometimes different, harmony lines of middle and Eastern Europe, the whole programme was superb.

The section compiling both religious and secular songs, which opened the evening, was very impressive chorally, despite the fact that I have no religious affinity. The sheer strong musicality was enough to persuade me that this was going to be a very different folk club evening.

The band-within-a-band, two clarinets, trombone, accordion and drum, all expertly and robustly played, added to the atmosphere of the European material. The variety of languages used, all very confidently delivered and authentic sounding, also helped, as if such help were needed for the enjoyment of these items. This seemed to be the view of everyone there so far as I could judge from bits of overheard conversation at the end of the evening.

All I can advise now is that if you do get a chance to hear them, take it. Go, and if you don't find yourself having at least some of your faith in human nature restored, I'll be very surprised.

Dave Palmer

(Northern Harmony will be coming to Europe again in 2006. Pete Rimmer and Jill Fielding will be involved in arranging the tour do let them know if your club would be interested in booking them. Call Abacus Music 01695 623210 for more details.)

FEAST OF FIDDLES at Southsea Pier, Southsea on 22 February 2004

Take seven dynamite fiddlers and add a full folk-rock backing band and what do you have? Feast Of Fiddles - that's what. Now, and this is very rare for me, in the interests of justice I feel obliged to list all of the members so, taking a deep breath...we have: Phil Beer, Garry Blakeley, Joe Broughton, Ian Cutler, Tom Leary, Peter Knight, Brian McNeill and the backroom boys Dave Mattacks (drums), Hugh Crabtree (melodeon), Dave Harding (bass), John Underwood (guitar), Martin Vincent (guitar), Deirdre Graham (keyboards/harp) and, while we're at it, let's not forget Paul Smith and Nick Holburn on the sound.

For those of you that have been around long enough (like me)

you'll instantly recognise that here we have the bees-knees of the 'folk' world, including former and present members of Steeleye Span, Fairport Convention, Battlefield Band, Albion Band and Bully Wee. With reputations of this order the audience were expecting something special and 'the band' didn't disappoint. A veritable hits selection of traditional tunes including 'Haste To The Wedding', 'The Athole Highlanders' and 'Lark In The Morning' became the staple fare for the ensemble cast whilst individual performances from each of the fiddlers showcased their individual talents.



Amongst many highlights throughout the performance, one standout piece for me was Peter Knight's tune 'Too Late For Shadows' which got into a similar groove created by Paul Simon years ago on his Graceland album. This really was something special from the pizzicato introduction to the counter melodies between guitar and fiddle - it really sparkled! Finally a resounding slap on the back must go to front of house engineer Paul Smith who kept a tight grip of what must be the Mount Everest of audio challenges on the folk scene. If you can't make it to a festival this year I'd suggest you catch Feast Of Fiddles on their short tour.

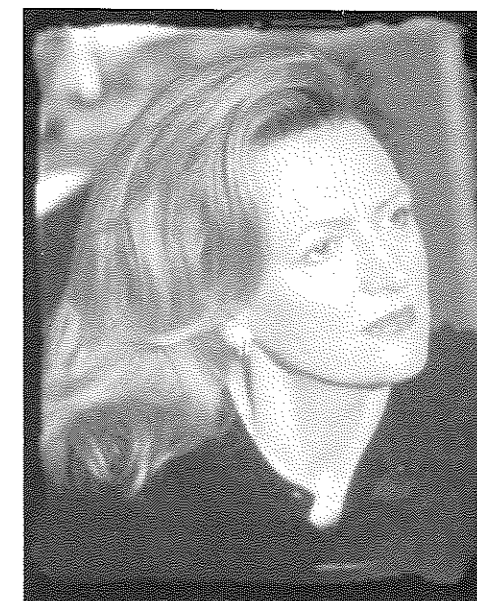
Pete Fyfe

BARBARA DICKSON at Fairfield Halls, Croydon on 26 February 2004

Not bad for a folk singer from Scotland! Barbara Dickson commands your attention from the moment she walks on stage. Unlike this generation of so called pop stars she could teach them a thing or two about presentation from looking strikingly elegant in a simple black trouser suit to the manner in which she glides effortlessly across the floor. Without a microphone stand to obscure the view, Barbara's easy-going manner belies the work she has put into her craft honed from many years treading the boards. That's not to say she's old (she looks anything but) but poise, good diction and a warm personality fill the auditorium as if she was embracing each individual. In return the audience were every bit as enthusiastic as kids at an Atomic Kitten gig.

Starting with the dramatic drone of the keyboard, it ushers in the song 'The Bells Of Rhymney' whilst the suitably atmospheric lighting highlights the bitter lyrics. You see what I mean? This is not a solo performance in the true sense of the word; it's more an all-embracing theatrical experience. Mood is not an easy thing to create in a vast arena but by sensible use of colour washes and the occasional wisp of smoke and in an instant you are transported to a gently beckoning cabaret show. In order to prime the gathered throng Barbara continues with the 'Theme From Caravans' demonstrating that she knows what people want before easing into the classy 'Brother, Can You Spare A Dime' with excellent accompaniment from guitarist/multi-instrumentalist Pete Zorn. In fact, on the subject of Mr Zorn, a lot of the musical texture is reliant on his skills as he also contributes saxophone, flutes, and mandolin plus a rather fine set of tonsils in the backing

department. Not to let the side down, Neil Drinkwater on keyboards provides substantial weight in substituting the lush sounds of an orchestra whilst electric double bass player Brad Lang excelled himself on the otherwise unaccompanied Peggy Lee favourite 'Fever'.



Each number was greeted enthusiastically either in recognition of the first few bars of music leading into say, 'Tell Me It's Not True' or 'Another Suitcase In Another Hall' or the stunning interpretation of the jazz influenced 'Wayfaring Stranger' a song recently featured in the movie Cold Mountain. All in all a faultless performance, let's just hope it isn't another six years before we see Barbara touring again.

Pete Fyfe

DAVE WEATHERALL MEMORIAL CONCERT at St Bernadette's Social Centre, Whitefield on 6 March 2004

When I attended the "Dave Weatherall" memorial concert I expected a good night out but the number of artists that turned up (and paid their for own admission!) was tremendous. The affection held for Dave was obvious as over 30 acts took the stage each performing one song from Dave's repertoire along with his favourites from their own repertoires. The guest list read like a 'who's who' of Manchester folk with a number other artists including Marie Little, Marilyn Middleton Pollock and Bernard Wrigley all wanting to attend but having prior engagements.

Of those who took the stage I can honestly say that I enjoyed every performance of the night but my personal favourites have to include seeing Jack and Mavis Lee performing together again (I first encountered Dave and Jolly Jack at their Fisherman's Inn Folk Club in the mid 70's), Stan Accrington and his "Last Train to Bacup" and memories of the Waggon Inn cricket matches, Redmayne with Stan Rogers' "North West Passage", John Parsons, Des Friel, Alan Taylor and Martin Hall along with Dave Pollard from Redmayne revisiting Jolly Jack's "Riding on top of the Car".

How lovely to see Dave's daughter Poppy continuing with his love of the music when she performed firstly as part of 'Leap to your Feet' and then again accompanied by Mike Canavan before finally bringing the night's proceedings to a wonderful close (as I'm reliably informed), definitely one to watch out for in the future!

The evening was presented in three parts and raised £1100 for Bury Hospice. Unfortunately as I was working on the Sunday morning I had to leave at the end of the second part at 12:45am

and forgo the pleasure of seeing the third set (which included The Hometowns, Mike Canavan, John Howarth of the Oldham Tinkers and others) along with the Sunday morning breakfast (or was Tony Downes joking?)

Overall a wonderful evening in the company of friends, a number of whom I hadn't seen for years, and great reminder of the quality and volume of Dave's material. Dave along with 'The Waggon Folk Club' and Jolly Jack will be sadly missed but thanks to Jean, his family and friends, and hopefully more evenings like this, won't be forgotten.

I took a number of photos of the night that can be seen on my 'Folkimages' website at: www.folkimages.co.uk

Roger Liptrot

(Since writing this I've been in contact with Martin Hall who is now thinking of making this an annual event and if any readers would like to send their thoughts about this to folkimagesuk@yahoo.co.uk then I'll pass them onto him!)

STEELEYE SPAN at the Assembly Hall, Tunbridge Wells on 22 April 2004

It certainly doesn't seem like thirty-five years have passed since Steeleye Span first set foot on stage and although I can't say I saw the band in their formative years things (or at least the style of music they perform) don't seem to have changed much from their 'rock' period. In fact, it's this feeling of familiarity that keeps drawing the crowds and for those gathered at the Assembly Hall's tonight the audience appreciation knew no bounds. I've already mentioned in my review of the band's latest CD 'They Called Her Babylon' that Ken Nicol has confidently taken over the guitar role held for so long by Bob Johnson and his contributions, particularly on acoustic guitar are a real asset. This evening there were several standout performances from fiddler Peter Knight the best of which just has to be his accompaniment to Maddy Prior's stunning Child's ballad [201] "Bess (y)ie Bell and Mary Gray". It's a chilling tale of two ladies who, in this instance try to avoid a plague in the Perth area of Scotland by running to the country only to have it brought to them by a mutual admirer. This kind of tale is of course staple fare for any true follower of Steeleye and the inclusion of "Long Lankin" and "Tam Lin" left none of their fans disappointed.

Much like Fairport and their ever-changing musical explorations of "Matty Groves", Rick Kemp updates the old Steeleye chestnut "Blackleg Miner" with a downright funky slapped bass intro that would put Mark King to shame whilst Liam Genockey in the engine room was given plenty of scope for a full blown drum solo. Of course the obligatory hits were rolled out including "Gaudette" and "All Around My Hat" which I must admit left me with a feeling of admiration for the communal sing-along that ensued. I couldn't end this review without a resounding slap on the back to the sound engineer (Gareth Williams?) who controlled the balance throughout the whole concert with real attention to detail, a point that was not lost on the gathered throng. Steeleye Span is a band that delivers the goods and then some so catch them on this tour - you'll be well rewarded!

Pete Fyfe

Slaid Cleaves and his band - Mr Kite Benefit, St Bedes, Whittle le Woods. Friday, 30th April, 2004.

I first saw Slaid Cleaves in 1998 when he was an unknown third on the bill in the late lamented music room 'Upstairs at the Adelphi' in Preston. He impressed by the straightforward manner, clear voice, steady guitar, and above all, good original songs. Since then, he has released three cd's, toured all over the place, headlined the Cambridge Folk Festival, and been acclaimed as the new face of American acoustic music. We are

grateful as ever, to Mr Kite himself, Steve Henderson, for arranging to bring such a fine performer to the backwoods of Lancashire.

Once the show started, the music never stopped. If there were duff notes or missed chords, they never showed. The band knew exactly where each song was going, and seemed to have a real enjoyment, even though they must have been on the road for some weeks together. The new songs from the cd 'Wishbones' are punchier than the set on 'Broke Down' and in some cases they take the story further. 'Drinking Days' and 'Sinner's Prayer', the latter a dark blues without a hint of optimism, follow 'Horseshoe Lounge'.

It isn't all dark though, 'Horses and Divorces' is a rollicking story song about a character from Slaid's native Maine, 'Tiger Tom Dixon' is Rod Picott's song about an alcoholic boxer's decline, 'Quick As Dreams' tells an eighty four year old's memories of his time as a jockey sixty years ago. They even got the audience to join in, during 'Breakfast in Hell', making noises of strain and effort through the verse describing a log jam on a Canadian river.

Slaid's Gibson guitar is a round-shouldered model that looks as if it has travelled hard and long. It keeps the rhythm. Ivan Brown plays an upright bass in an old-fashioned slap style as well as the electric bass. Rick Richards drums are steady and understated. Michael O'Connor plays lead on a slightly less battered Martin dreadnaught, and squeezes out excellent solos. It is a band that fits together perfectly, each player complimenting the other and bringing much more to the whole sound. This was emphasised when the band switched off the electrics and stepped forward for a purely acoustic set, which included the haunting 'Lydia', about a coal miner's widow. The audience listened as if spellbound.

Sound engineer, Eddie Green, produced an even and well-modulated sound. It was clear and sharp, as natural as could be - as the acoustic set demonstrated. It was no surprise that the audience rose as one at the end to give a standing ovation.

It was 1992 when Slaid won top award at the Kerrville Folk Festival. His hasn't been a meteoric rise to stardom. He's taken time, learned his trade. He's not a prolific writer, only three cd's thus far, but he has crafted a set of memorable songs and presented them with enthusiasm and verve.

His web site sums him up best. It says 'Slaid Cleaves. Grew up in Maine. Lives in Texas. Writes songs. Makes records. Travels around. Tries to be good.' Well on this showing, he was excellent.

Don Moore

FESTIVAL & SPECIAL EVENTS REVIEWS



AN EVENING OF FOLK AND FUN at Chorley Town Hall on 30 January 2004.

Friday night, and an audience of 240 gathered in the Lancastrian Room, for a unique event. This 'do' was the result of a collaboration between Graham Dixon of 'Trouble At' Mill', Councillor Eric Bell, Mayor of Chorley, and Iris Smith, on behalf

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- | | | | |
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| Jill Fielding Band | Elbow Jane | Mark Dowding | Brass Tacks |
| Blarneystone | Tony Gibbons | Phillip Melville (Storyteller) | Bedlam |
| Chris and Siobhan Nelson | Bob Lines | Chris and Siobhan Nelson | Tiny Tin Lady |
| Sarah Marks | Seven Stars Sword and Step Dancers | Pete Bond | |
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of the Mayor's charity appeal, for the benefit of local organisations including Derian House Children's Hospice, St Catherine's Hospice, the Motor Neurone Disease Association, and the Alzheimer's Society.

The evening opened with Trouble at Mill, and quickly moved on to Celtic Fringe. Caroline Lovett followed, then Smithereen, before the hot pot supper was served. Brian Preston and Bill Hunt opened the second half, followed by Rob Hart, and finally Trouble at Mill. The whole company joined the closing songs, and the evening ended with Duncan Fordyce from Celtic Fringe leading everyone in 'Will Ye Go', which has become the traditional closing song at Gregson Lane Folk Club.

Highlights of the evening are difficult to pick out. Celtic Fringe's rattling 'Coal Hole Cavalry', Smithereen's own caustically funny 'Thick End of the Wedge' and surgeon Rob Hart's songs by, about, and for doctors, are ones which most stick in the mind. And then there's Brian Preston and Bill Hunt. Here's a pair with nothing to prove, at the top of their game, both funny and musical. Brian never stops, Bill says virtually nothing, the perfect foil but with a bass accompaniment that never falters. Their songs included 'Dublin in the Rare Old Times' and 'Fields of Athenry'. The surreal moment of the evening was Iris handing Uncle Joe's Mint Balls round the audience, whilst the Mayor - on tambourine - joined Trouble at Mill in the song.

At the time of writing, we don't know how much was raised, but with all the performers giving their services free, an estimate is over a thousand pounds. It served a good cause and entertained, and above all it brought the music to the people. It has to be better than television.

Don Moore

JOE'S NIGHT

Three years ago Joe Roberts tragically died suddenly. His passing left all who knew him a little stunned, but he also left a little something special with all whose lives he touched and particularly with his friends. He was a gentle, giving man, who with the rest of his group Calico made the rafters ring at Leigh Folk club. He was widely respected in the wider community so it is fitting that his friends remember him each year and hold a night of music to raise money for a different local charity.

The present line up of Calico were either co founders of the group or friends so they organised this year's night in March in St Joseph's Hall, Leigh. The hall was packed and once again it was a sell out.

Calico started the night with a varied collection of songs performed well and with a lot of encouragement to the audience to join in the choruses which they did.

I would like to say that Pennygate did a brilliant spot but of course I am far too modest (and truthful!) to say anything like that, but we did enjoy ourselves.

Bram Taylor who cheerfully suffers the slings and arrows of his old mates Calico entertained the audience with a collection of songs that did him credit. He sang select songs from his new CD (see review elsewhere in mag) and other favourites. "Isle of Hope" and "The night is young" were outstanding and Keith Marsden's "Funeral song" went down well. I love to watch the audience during the latter and pick out the people who have never heard it before.

And then there was Marie Little who well what can you say - she was Marie Little - and the audience loved it. She really does have the send 'em up, send 'em down technique off to perfection. Marie had to drive back home to the north east on a rather wet

and windy cold March night after a finale from everyone and a very loud audience in "Fields of Athenry"

Everyone gave freely of their time and talent. The charity was Christie Hospital and their need for special pumps to administer chemotherapy drugs. They need 20 of these, each costing £1600. Joe's widow Cath made an impassioned plea on behalf of the hospital.

The amount raised on the night was a staggering £1806 and thanks are due to Pauline Dowsett of Calico for tireless organising, the artists who took part and, of course, and the audience whose generosity was truly amazing. Joe would have been tickled pink.

Kath Holden

(See also a piece in John's Diary Chat about this event)



Hello once again. Well what have you been doing in the Spring quarter? Whatever it was I hope you had a good time visiting your local folk club, session or concert.

Looking in retro myself - My gang joined me to celebrate a very special birthday in the centre of Liverpool on a Friday night in March. What a night it was! A superb Chinese banquet at The Mandarin was followed by a visit to O'Neil's Bar where John O'Connell's very excellent resident band "Ground Pig" excelled playing all kinds of music that soon had us all up dancing. What an atmosphere? What a place? What a night? At Parkgate, for the first time, we have had the pleasure of the young Scottish band, "Back of the Moon". They went down extremely well. Folk music is in safe hands with their quality of performance. I also paid a visit to the Poynton Folk Festival where everyone receives the warmest of warm receptions from those lovely and talented people Judy Wilcock and Dave Hughes, ("Sad Pig" - contemporary and traditional folk music at its very best). It was good to bump into Bollington's Arthur Wakefield as well and I enjoyed a lively band called "Gentleman Soldier".

I received a big thank you from Pauline Dowsett at Leigh Folk Club the other day. I quote - "Calico would like to thank everyone who supported our annual fund raising night, known as 'Joe's Night', at St. Joseph's Hall Leigh (see last issue) especially the artists who gave their time free of charge to join us in providing the evening's entertainment to the packed audience - Marie Little, Bram Taylor, and Pennygate. This year it was to raise £1600 needed by Christie's to purchase special pumps that regulate the dose of chemotherapy to cancer patients. Each one costs £1600. We are delighted to say we actually raised £1806 on the night. It was a brilliant night enjoyed by all. The audience packed the hall and the amount raised goes up and up each year: so many thanks to everyone again. Best wishes from all the group Pauline, Bernadette Heaton, Julie Houlton, Jim Heaton and Steve Eckersley.

PS: Thanks also to you John for all your support over the years it really is appreciated. Best wishes, Pauline". Gee, I really do feel good now.

New Clubs

Looking forward now, I am very pleased to announce that four new venues have joined the magazine and one club has re-joined.

The re-join first - Alison Arms FC at Coppull Moor are back in

fold thanks to the organiser Derek Docherty. The club continues to meet on a Wednesday from 9pm for mainly singer's nights but Derek asked me to mention their festival, which is scheduled for the weekend of 18th/19th June when Rare Old Times and Bandersnatch will be appearing. More details can be obtained by contacting 01257-791262 or email klsdavies@btopenworld.com

Paul Edwards at Bacup Folk Club is delighted to have come on board. His club is located at Bacup Conservative Club, Irwell Terrace, Bacup, which appears to be one of the few main places for entertainment in the town. The club meets on a Monday commencing at 8pm. The club books guest artists regularly and on the nights when they don't it is a singaround. You can speak to Paul on 01706-872810 or by email on Paul@Edwards527.fsnet.co.uk

I am also very pleased to tell you that the prestigious Liverpool Philharmonic Hall, Hope Street has joined the Federation. I am delighted as this is a location where you can keep an eye out for many national and international performers in the folk world. Steeleye Span appeared there in May. Christy Moore is scheduled for 22nd and 23rd October. Christy's visit to the city is a part of the Liverpool Irish Festival. Further details can be obtained on www.liverpoolirishfestival.com The box-office can be found on 0151-210-1948.

Heather Sheldrick, a member of the group "Now Then", and her colleagues Elaine Rose, and Peter and Sharon Hobson are also pleased to join the magazine with their two clubs, Earby FC at the "White Lion", Riley Street, Earby, (where they meet every Thursday at 9pm) and at Barnoldswick FC at the "Foster's Arms", Gisburn Road, Barnoldswick, where they meet on the first Saturday of each month commencing at 7-30pm. Both are informal singarounds. The contact is Heather on 01282-852898 and email info@nowthenfolk.co.uk In September Heather and the gang will also be launching their first Barnoldswick Folk Festival. Some of the guests are Tams & Coope, Oldham Tinkers, Gracenotes, Sad Pig and His Worship the Pig. With Folkus workshops, singarounds, craft fair and Morris Teams in the square, it promises to be a smashing time. Welcome on board everyone.

Festivals (See also the Festival section in this magazine)

It's festival time again. You know, that time when the sun is always beating down on your brow, the festival camp sites are spotless and dry, the real ale never runs out, the facilities are just like at home and the entertainment is first class!!! Well perhaps not all the time. But I do admire that motley gang better known as the Association of Festival Organisers and their helpers who indeed do a tremendous job under great pressure. What gamblers they are in putting on such large and sometimes complicated events often receiving little appreciation for their efforts. Why do they do it? Well it is to provide for the likes of you and I dear reader a wonderful opportunity to see and enjoy many of our favourite artists all under one marquee, club, pub or village hall - roof. In the main they are superb events, which, as the regular reader will know, I am always going on about. Once again I implore you, if you have never attended a folk festival then - isn't it about time you did? You will love it. Buddy, Mike and myself ("Brass Tacks" as if you didn't know) are booked at four so far this year so we hope to see many of you at Chester, Middlewich, Ormskirk and Bridgnorth. Organisers!! - We are also available for others by the way.

A number of clubs close for the summer season for varying lengths of time so if you do not see your favourite venue listed in the centre page calendar it is because they are closed or in the case of the Citadel and the Lighthouse, they do not have any folk artists booked. The space left has been used to diary some

of the region's festivals which include, the International Guitar Festival which takes place at Kendal Brewery Arts Centre, between 6th and 8th June. Pierre Bensusan, Gordon Giltrap and John Renbourn are some principal names, see www.breweryarts.co.uk

Over the Whit Bank Holiday weekend (28th to 31st May), the excellent four day Chester Folk Festival takes place in the lovely village of Kelsall. Top of the bill is that high velocity band from Canada - Tanglefoot. In my eyes they are just simply superb. They are appearing around the region regularly this quarter. Now where else can I go to enjoy them? - www.tanglefootmusic.com Jez Lowe, Last Night's Fun and that crazy big brass band Loose Chippings are some of the principals also. Look out for their 'Last Night at the Proms' - tremendous. Visit the festival website on www.chesterfolk.freeserve.co.uk for more details.

MFAB - better known as the Middlewich Folk and Boat Festival (18th to 20th June) has its usual very strong line up topped off by - Fairport Convention, The Levellers (Acoustic), Show of Hands, and Shooglenifty. For a full list of artists and more information visit www.middlewichfestival.org or email Dave Thompson on Dave.Thompson@amec.com Tickets can be obtained by ringing 07092-390-501. John Booth at Northwich FC tells me that the club will be running a Folk Club Night as part of this festival at The Boar's Head, Middlewich on June 18th.

Following its great success last year Ormskirk's music festival organised by Pete Rimmer and Abacus Music once again returns to the town commencing Thursday 8th July for three days. "Ormskirk Comes Alive" - year two - commences firstly with a charity concert at Scarisbrick Village Hall featuring Pete Bond, Tiny Tin Lady, Bob Lines, Steve Chatterley, Odd at Ease, and Chris & Siobhan Nelson. The proceeds will be donated to the 'Friends of Chernobyl Children' charity. The other two days will see Jez Lowe and the Bad Pennies top the bill with Pete Morton. Alongside them will be Bram Taylor, Maghull's Tony Gibbons (Garva) with Blarneystone, the Wirral's very own Brass Tacks, Elbow Jane and Pete's band Gallimaufry. Mark Dowding is performing a concert of Lancashire songs by Harry Boardman. He will also be performing something similar at the Chorley, Saddleworth and Fylde festivals incidentally. With the usual mix of Barn Dance, workshops, singarounds and street events, it promises to be a great weekend. Contact number for Pete is 01695-585-400 or at www.ormskirkcomesalive.com

Other festivals:- Chorley (25th to 27th June), where my colleague and editor of this magazine Ken Bladen and his wife Angie are the contacts on 01247-263678. The festival website is www.fourfools.co.uk This mainly traditional festival features Bernard Wrigley, Tom McConville & Pauline Cato, Martin Wyndham Read, Kevin & Eilen Mitchell, Quartz and many others. Please note, however, that Sean and James Cannon will NOT be appearing due to Sean's commitments with The Dubliners.

The same weekend Lynne and Barrie Hardman will no doubt be very prominent at the Droylsden Festival commencing with a singaround at The Railway, Lumb Lane on the Friday night. On the Saturday a very talented group of younger artists will be performing at Fairfield Golf and Sailing Club, Booth Road - Jon Brindley, Joe Topping, Simon Howarth and Andy May. An open-air concert on the Sunday afternoon at The Railway with local artists sounds very interesting. How do they control the weather I wonder? Although, from a review I have read about last year's festival, 11 consecutive years of sun isn't bad is it.

In the last edition I promised you further information about the first women's international music festival planned for Liverpool. "WIMFEST UNPLUGGED" takes place over two days at the

Bluecoat Centre for Contemporary Arts in June (26th) and at The Picket (27th), Hardman Street. Tickets for the Saturday events at the Bluecoat are £12.50 (£8.50 conc)

The Bluecoat is Britain's oldest arts centre and on the first day, Drumming troupe Sheboom, launch the event following a procession down Church Street. The programme also features Mersey Harmony, Liverpool's own women's barbershop chorus, Soul Purpose with their acapella stylings and May Ming, a duo of voice and cello who deliver a delicate mix of classical and Chinese traditions, and Birkenhead High School Brass Ensemble. The evening programme features singer songwriter, Claire Mooney, whose songs have a powerful political edge. Up and coming local jazz singer songwriter Amy Newhouse Smith, the popular Jennifer John and her band, with Holly Lerski and Angelou heading the bill with their blend of folk rock and finely crafted melodies. Further details - tel: 0151-707-9393 or visit www.bluecoatartscentre.com/diary/music.html

Any Bob Dylan fans may be interested to know that a couple of weeks prior to WIMFEST the Bluecoat has also booked Michael Gray (a leading Dylanologist) who will give an illustrated talk and examine the impact of Bob Dylan on 1960's Britain and his enduring legacy. Further details- tel: 0151-707-9393 or visit www.bluecoatartscentre.com/diary/music.html

"Folk in the Park" is an open-air one-day festival (10th July - 3pm to 11pm), which will take place in Biddulph Grange Country Park. It is an excellent venue where you are invited to take your own food, drink, tables, chairs etc. Contemporary Folk, Cajun, Rock & Roll and Bluegrass bands are listed in the form of - Queensberry Rules, Elvis Fontenot and the Sugar Bees, The Four Originals, and Dulaman to name but a few plus dance group displays. What an excellent day there is in prospect for the princely sum of only £6 (before 1st July). Contact Eric Cox on 01782-514896 for more information.

Ali O'Brien (yes she of 'Sounds of Folk' on Radio GMR - Monday nights - "Well done Ali, keep up the good work on t'radio") will be keeping her fingers crossed for similar weather at the Saddleworth Festival on the 16th to 18th July. Main guests appearing will be the John Wright Band, Demon Barber Roadshow, Mrs Ackroyd Band, Quicksilver, Last Night's Fun and many many more. Visit www.safra.org.uk I would also like to wish Ali a very speedy relief to full health following her recent hospitalisation.

Whilst they are having fun at Saddleworth, Carlisle Folk and Blues' "Brampton Live" Festival will be pulling them in as well when the major names will be The Levellers, Steeleye Span, June Tabor, Martin Simpson, Tams and Coope and too many more to mention here. Try www.bramptonlive.net

Just before I close, it is worth mentioning a couple of interesting nights that took my eye in the centre pages. They are firstly - Monday 14th June, when the Red Bull FC will be inviting for the second consecutive year the Chorlton Green Ladies Morris Team. Peter Hood tells me that it was a great event last year with dancing and music on the car park until dark, followed by songs and butties in the pub thereafter. Get along if you can. You can also see something slightly different by attending Playhouse 2, Oldham on Saturday 4th September when you will be able to see 'Three Generations of West Country Songwriters'. Steve Knightley will be there together with Seth Lakeman and others.

Useful websites

Finally, I have mentioned website addresses a lot in this issue but being a PC enthusiast it is always worth mentioning places where performers and organisers can advertise their skills/events

etc. Graham Dixon at Gregson Lane FC advises of two such sites. They are: - www.calsnet.net/lancashirefolk and, when local to the south Ribble area, - www.artspager.ukart.com

I would also like to draw to your attention the excellent website the North West Folk Federation has. It is all down to our excellent Webmaster - Mark Dowding. If you are into websites, give the site a visit and contribute if you wish. You will find it at www.folknorthwest.co.uk

By the way...

In closing, I thought you might like to put yourself in the position of a folk club organiser who recently received the following list of requests from an act in their performance contract. They asked for: - a selection of six Marks and Spencer sandwiches, fruit and snacks, dips, tortilla chips, grapes, olives, humus and taramasalata with pitta bread. Tea, coffee, milk and sugar available on arrival and throughout the evening. A selection of soft drinks, twelve bottles of mineral water including Perrier and tonic. Twelve bottles of quality lager. Half a bottle of Vodka. Two bottles of red wine. One litre of farmhouse cider. Two good quality hot meals or the cost equivalent of £30. Added to the bottom of this list were the words - "As you can see the above is by no means excessive but provision of everything will help the evening run smoothly"

The organiser tells me that he contacted one of the band in question (they are virtually unknown on the folk scene by the way) and basically told the person to 'go away!!!' They eventually agreed to the band receiving the organiser's normal level of hospitality. The organiser begs the question - "Whatever happened to the starving artiste or in fact the sober one??" Can any other organiser beat that?

Have a safe and sunny folkling summer. See you around I hope? Now how do I use this bus pass?

John Owen

ARTICLES



MUSIC FANS RELIEF FOR NOW

MUSIC fans who download music from the internet have escaped a tough crackdown on Del-Boy type 'bootleggers' in the shape of new EU laws.

Flouting intellectual property rights will mean punishment under the EU Intellectual Property Rights Enforcement Directive. The law was drawn up to target professional pirates, criminals and counterfeiters who make copies of everything from CDs to handbags.

However, the law does not target people who use file-sharing software to grab free music online. Andrew Curwen, partner at Manchester law firm Rowe Cohen explained: "This new law allows companies to raid homes, seize property and ask courts to freeze bank accounts to protect trademarks or intellectual property they believe are being abused or stolen.

"Civil liberty and lobby groups feared that the music industry would also use the law to mount raids on the homes of people who swap songs via file-sharing systems such as Kazaa. However an amendment to the legislation means action should not be taken against consumers who download music "in good

faith" for their own use." Curwen said the Enforcement directive is being looked at to see if it leads to a version of the controversial US Digital Millennium Copyright Act. The Recording Industry Association of America has used the DMCA to bring lawsuits against US music fans who download tunes online. He warns the same could now happen in European countries.

"EU member states now have less than 8 months to implement their own versions of the directive and UK lawyers are keeping a close eye on developments in the US and its effect on British consumers who download music on their PC," he added.

For further information please contact Peter Davies peter@rmspr.co.uk - 0161 929 5194

HIS WEBMASTER'S
VOICE
www.folknorthwest.co.uk



BIRTHDAYS, HIRING FAIRS AND SPINNERS

Happy Birthday

First of all I'd like to say Happy Birthday to Ali O'Brien on her first birthday on 25th May - perhaps I'd better qualify that - Ali's older than that (but not much - you can pay me later Ali) "Sounds of Folk" has been running on GMR for over 12 months now which considering it was a 3 month fill-in between the football seasons has done very well indeed for itself. Most weeks the show has featured a guest who has a chat with Ali, Bernard or Laura and



played some of their music for us or informed the folk listening population about festivals and other events going on in the North West area. Thanks to people writing and emailing the BBC station manager at GMR with messages of support for the show, a permanent slot was found on a Monday evening in between "The Parlour" - the long running Irish based magazine programme - and the "GMR Country" show. The popularity of the show has been proved by the show being moved rather than dropped to make way for the ubiquitous sporting events that GMR features most days of the week. Here's to the next 12 months Ali.

Hiring Fair

A new feature of the website is going to be a "Hiring Fair" page. I'm inviting any artists looking for bookings to send their details in to me and I'll include them on the page. Hopefully this will come to the attention of club organisers who are looking to fill a gap in their club schedules. If people can send the usual details like names, addresses phone/mobile numbers, email addresses, websites, details of your style of performance - Trad, Contemporary, Harmony, Singer/Songwriter, we'll see how things develop. It's a different thing to putting a link on the Links Page because it lets people know that you're actively looking for bookings in the area. I can't obviously guarantee bookings and there's no substitute for going along to a club and doing a floor

spot to get yourself noticed but it is another avenue of advertising yourself.

Harry Boardman

As readers of this column will know, I am interested in the works of Harry Boardman to the extent that myself and Chris Harvey, of Cock Robin Music in Croston, have brought out a CD called "A Mon Like Harry" which is myself singing eighteen of Harry's Lancashire songs accompanied by Jenny Shottliff on fiddle, Chris on accordion, and Alison Younger on vocals on one track. I have been asked to do an hour or so of these songs at several festivals this year - Chorley (Four Fools) 26th June, Ormskirk Comes Alive 10th July, Saddleworth 16-18th July, and Fylde 4th September. I'll be singing the songs that Harry brought to our attention and giving some information behind the songs and the authors. So hopefully I'll see a few of you around the festivals during the summer. More information on my website www.markdowding.co.uk

Fivepenny Piece

Must give a mention to the Fivepenny Piece website - www.5pp.co.uk For the more long in tooth amongst us - and I include myself in this category - The Fivepenny Piece was a group that introduced some of us to popular music in the folk style and led us on to find the folk clubs in the seventies. Although it's a new site, there's plenty of information on it about their recordings and TV appearances such as "The Camera and the Song", "Get the Drift" and "That's Life" which brought the group and the songs of Colin Radcliffe and John Meeks to a wider audience.

The original line up of John and Linda Meeks, Colin and George Radcliffe, and Eddie Crotty has long broken up and I understand that George passed away in 2002. New faces came in to replace departing ones - Norman Prince and Bernard Wrigley were two of them for a time and the group carries on to this day apparently although I'm not aware of any gigs they're doing at present.

The Spinners

While I'm on the subject of groups getting us interested in folk music, have a look at this site of the Spinners http://uk.geocities.com/davenhel_uk/spinners.html

Have a good summer and happy surfing

Mark Dowding
Webmaster - www.folknorthwest.co.uk

LETTERS



Dear Ken,

Through the pages of Folk North West magazine may I thank all the individuals and members of folk clubs who sent me get well cards during my illness in February.

For those who did not hear via the jungle drums, I was unlucky enough to spend the four weeks of February in the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary recovering from major abdominal surgery. To cut things short, I had the equivalent of a heart attack in my abdomen, the thrombosis in effect cut off the blood supply to my small intestine and a large part of it had died off.

One operation discovered the problem, and then I was kept

sedated to wait for biopsy results on the various tissue samples. Twenty-four hours later I was opened up again to treat the problem, two thirds of the small intestine were removed and the remaining third re-plumbed to stitch together the bits of healthy material. I was later told by the surgeon that he had saved enough to be life supporting - that's good !!! I also had a small polyp removed from inside my stomach, which turned out to be benign - that's even better !!!

I am now back home in Kendal, frustrated by the slow recovery process and waiting for the stomach muscles to build up again - I have not yet even attempted singing.

The four weeks in hospital passed very slowly, especially being so far away from friends in Kendal and family in Wakefield, but Bridget was able to visit each day, with handfuls of get well cards and details of telephone calls on her mobile. This was such a boost and lifted my sagging spirit knowing that so many people were thinking of me and concerned about my welfare - thanks again.

As our friend, Howard Lees said to us, Bridget and I are now officially a drain on the NHS.

In friendship

Roy Wilcock

Hi Ken,

I've set up a new e-mail account for our folk club. All mail regarding the Maghull Folk Club can now be sent to: maghullfolkclub@btinternet.com. I am also in the process of setting up a web site for the club and hope to get this on line soon.

Regards,

Paul Robinson

Dear Ken

You may have seen the article "The Sidmouth Fiddler Appeal" on page 16 of the October 2003 issue of Folk on Tap (a .pdf file is attached). The Friends of Sidmouth International Festival are raising thousands of pounds to have the Bronze statue created, (a picture of the model of the fiddler also appears on page 16). We felt that others would like to help as well since Sidmouth has meant so much to so many of us over the years. Along with the Bronze statue we are organising a song writing competition and we would appreciate some assistance from your good selves in your Region.

For the writers it is a great opportunity to have an original song featured at Sidmouth. The judging of the finalists will be held at a special feature afternoon on the Wednesday of Sidmouth week and the winning entry will be performed again as a Special Feature on President's Night.

It is envisaged that organisers of folk venues, such as you, will organise local competitions - at their venue - some time by the end of June. So what's in it for you? £1 of the £3 entry fee will go to your venue to either help in the organisation of the competition, or into your club funds. It is envisaged that a regional semi-final will be held in each of the nine 'arts council' regions in July. Details will be given as soon as they are finalised.

There will be a CD produced of all the finalist's songs featuring the winning entry on the cover. The CD will then be on sale nationally and internationally and the proceeds will be divided between the singers and the upkeep fund for the maintenance of the statue.

So what will the winner get? An opportunity to perform the winning song during Sidmouth Festival Week. Winning song featured on a 'Finalists CD' Studio time, to record a CD with a nationally recognised Studios.

Would you be so kind as to make this information known to your club members? I am sure that they will want to take part in this unique opportunity to celebrate the 50 years of Sidmouth Festival.

Kind Regards,

Ted Comben

(The Sidmouth Fiddler Song/Tune Writing Competition is being organised by Folk on Tap, 3 Cranbury Road, Woolston, Southampton. Hants. SO19 2HZ; Tel: 023 8057 0082. Fax: 023 8043 7150. Email: editor@folkontap.co.uk; Coordinator: Ted Comben - email: info@sidmouthfiddler.co.uk)

POEMS



This poem was written to commemorate the true mining disaster following an explosion on 21 December 1910 at the Pretoria Pit, which bordered Westhoughton and Atherton. The disaster claimed the lives of 344 men and boys.

The poem below, written by Ernest Ford, is a widow's lament for her husband and was turned into a lyric with composer Timothy Lee Puckett from Michigan, USA. Share The Pain appears on a CD and the song that can be downloaded free from Timothy's web site www.timothyleepuckett.com

SHARE THE PAIN

In the darkness you'll remain
Never more to walk again
Just a memory softly creeping
Do you hear my heart a weeping
We will never meet again
See the sunshine, feel the rain
Again together
I wish I could dear share the pain

Now I'm left to live alone
Till all that's left is skin and bone
But happy memories will remain
Of courting nights out in the rain
With all the laughter all around
The sound
Now gone to silence

Without you what can I do
I must try to understand
That voices heard don't come from you
But only from my mind
Am I sane for clinging on
Or simply being kind
Please let me share your pain please do
I want to share your pain

We knew someday we'd have to part
The very thought tugged my heart
If you see me then touch my hand

DROYLSDEN FOLK FESTIVAL June 25th 26th & 27th 2004 At The Railway, Lumb Lane, Droylsden.

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SING A ROUND hosted by
Lynn & Barrie Hardman

Saturday 26th June
Concert at Fairfield Golf & Sailing Club,
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All talented young artists keeping the music alive
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Sunday 27th June
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At The Railway, Lumb Lane, Droylsden
Featuring local artists
8pm Evening Concert with
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For more information and maps visit our website
www.droylsdenfolkfestival.org
or telephone Christine on 0161 370 6587
or Brenda on 0161 432 4830

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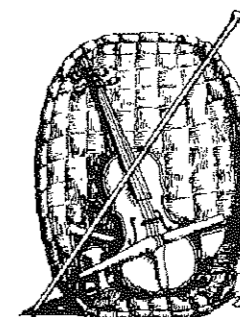
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And if you can't I understand
And cry
And cry

In a very different vein, Jim Saville has written to us to thank FNW and our website for the help it has given him in sticking to his New Year's (or millennium's) Resolution. Jim resolved to visit a dozen new clubs a year and, using web-sites and magazines like ours, he says that he's still on track after 3 (and a bit) years.

Jim would also like to thank the clubs who have made him welcome in that time. When he turns up, usually on a singers' night and usually unannounced, Jim says that the friendly folkies have been very generous to the stranger in their midst and he has had some excellent evenings.

He would encourage others to spread their wings now and then and experience the rich tapestry of folk that is available in this country especially in the area of the two roses. (Jim explains that he's actually a tyke from over the border.) His resolution is still as strong but he has revised his target to 12 new clubs a year because distances are getting greater and new clubs are becoming harder to reach. But he believes the effort is still well worthwhile and has written the following poem that most ably illustrates his experiences. Jim won't fix it for you but encourages you to do it yourself

SO YOU THINK YOUR CLUB'S THE BEST?

I know you think your club's the best.
But have you ever put it to the test?
Have you sampled ANY of the rest?
Why not try? Why not fly the nest?

December 2000 in the ice and snow,
I decided I'd like to have-a-go.
Scanning the Internet I made up a rota.
Of all the clubs I'd like to go-ter.

So my New Year's resolution firmly made.
I decided which club's I would invade.
Every month a new venue to find.
But it's been a pleasure - not a grind.

Once a month, and sometimes more,
I entered in through another pub door.
Wherever I went I was welcomed in.
And when I left I wore a grin.

So why don't you take a chance like me.
Expand your horizons and see what you can see.
Your own club may still be Number One.
But you'll have had a fantastic year full of songs and fun.

PRESS RELEASES



BARBARA DICKSON GOES PLATINUM

Barbara Dickson 'The Platinum Collection' is a brand new collection of hit songs from one of the most popular and talented recording artists of her generation. Released to coincide with Barbara's recent UK Tour the album contains an abundance of hits spanning her career as well as a new rendition of 'Wayfarin

Stranger', recorded especially for this album.

Other highlights include 'Answer Me' (Barbara's first hit single of her career in 1976); 'Another Suitcase Another Hall' from the musical *Evita*; 'Caravan Song', which was taken from the film *Caravans* which featured Barbara; the hugely popular Top 20 Hit 'January February' and of course the No. 1 single 'I Know Him So Well', which propelled Barbara (and her singing partner Elaine Paige) to truly global fame. Taken from the Webber / Rice musical *Chess*, the song became one of the biggest singles of the eighties, remaining in the UK charts for 16 weeks and selling 950,000 copies.

Fans will be delighted with the inclusion of the new track, 'Wayfarin Stranger', which demonstrates Barbara's continuing breathtaking vocal talent. Most recently heard on *Cold Mountain OST*, this classic blues standard was first performed by Barbara at the Radio 2 Folk Awards last year.

The full tracklist is: Answer Me; Another Suitcase Another Hall; Caravan Song; January, February; In the Night; I Know Him So Well; It's Really You; Song Of Bernadette; Only Seventeen; My Heart Lies; Run Like The Wind; I Believe In You; Take Good Care; Stop In The Name Of Love; Tell Me It's Not True; I Don't Believe In Miracles; If You're Right; Still In The Game; Coming Alive Again; Love Hurts; Wayfarin' Stranger;

The album serves as a superb opportunity for old fans and new to be re-acquainted with one of the most talented, popular and enduring vocalists the country has ever produced.

(A review of one of Barbara's performances from her UK tour is featured in the live section of this edition - Ed)

THE MEN THEY COULDN'T HANG

The If there were any justice, The Men They Couldn't Hang would be a famous band. They played the Manchester Academy on 16 April. Cruel twists of fate concerning their name and timing of releases undermined their chances of commercial success. Instead, they remain one of Britain's best-kept secrets, a national treasure known to the few who kept the faith over the years. Hopefully in their 20th anniversary year, people will have the chance to discover what they have been missing.

Paul Simmonds' superb songwriting forms the backbone. Phil Odgers ("Swill") and Stefan Cush provide fine contrasting songs and the exuberant vocals which give the band its unique character. Add Ricky McGuire on bass and quality session musicians such as Bobby Valentino and Nick Muir and you have recordings of rare potency.

Formed in 1984, TMTCH reluctantly called it a day after their two accomplished Silvertone albums "Silvertown" (1989) and "The Domino Club" (1990) again failed to achieve the commercial breakthrough they richly deserved. These, like their first three classic albums, received critical acclaim and earned them a loyal fan base. After the break-up, Simmonds and Odgers continued to perform and record fine songs as part of the band Liberty Cage. However, it was good to see TMTCH reform with a new album "Never Born To Follow" (1996) and a live video from Newcastle Live Theatre (1998). In this anniversary year a live DVD and autumn tour are planned.

A curtain raiser for this year's activities was a superb intimate gig playing to a packed Manchester Academy 3 on 16th April. All but four of the 22 songs performed came from their first three albums "Night Of A Thousand Candles" (1985), "How Green Is The Valley" (1986) and "Waiting For Bonaparte" (1988) or from their latest worthy release, "The Cherry Red Jukebox" (2003).

The set displayed not only the band's fine legacy of songs but also their sheer enjoyment in performing. Four guitarists provided the melodic thrust- from left to right the quiet songsmith Simmonds on lead guitar, the warm melodic vocalist "Swill", the raw folkie vocalist Cush and the bassist McGuire. Dan Swift was on drums, having joined the band in the last few months.

The Men started with "Singing Elvis", a tribute to the healing power of Rock'n'Roll that inspired the title of the new CD. Swill and Cush vocally complemented each other on this fine addition to the repertoire. Nick Lowe's "Wishing Well" followed the rousing "Ghosts of Cable Street", about the working class fight against Oswald Mosley's Blackshirts, both songs from the 1986 album. "Ride Again" told of the band's struggles over the years, rekindling their fire to record the new album. After the 1988 favourite "Bounty Hunter" came Swill's "The Day After" from the debut- he has just re-recorded this song for his "Swill and the Swaggerband" solo album.

Simmonds' 1986 classic ballad "Shirt Of Blue" told of former schoolmates finishing up on different sides of the picket line in the miners' strike. Cush superbly sang this- and the country-flavoured "Silver Gun". The first set ended with the jaunty "Nightbird" from the "Six Pack EP" (1997).

In the "interval" we were treated to four solo versions, two by Swill and two by Cush. Swill's performed his a cappella version of Stan Rogers' "Barrett's Privateers". His guitar accompanied "Going Back To Coventry" was followed by Cush's rendition of "The Bells", both from the second album. Cush then paid tribute to Joe Strummer with a version of the Clash's "Bankrobber".

The second set started with another new song, the rocking "Highwater", which fitted in well alongside their early cover of Hoyt Axton's "Greenback Dollar". The most commercially successful TMTCH single, 1988's "The Colours", told of the spread of republican ideals in the British Navy- "while Pitt stood helpless we were waiting for Bonaparte".

It was then on to another Paul Simmonds historical masterpiece, the stirring "Ironmasters", recalling the early days of the Industrial Revolution. To end the set, Swill evoked the days of punk, singing, "I Loved The Summer Of Hate" from the new album to rapturous applause.

The encore was magnificent- the icing on the cake. It was a testament to the songwriting talent tapped by the band. First, Cush led the band through an emotional rendition of Eric Bogle's anti-war song "Green Fields Of France", their first single back in 1984. Next, Cush belted out his own driving "Dogs Eyes, Owl-Meat, Man Chop" from 1990. Finally, a return to the debut album for Swill's own melodic and memorable "A Night To Remember" and the storming closer, Simmonds' "Walkin' Talkin'", which had the crowd in a frenzy.

Catch them if you can on the 20th anniversary tour this Autumn- you will not be disappointed! For details, please refer to the official website at www.tmtch.net

TOMMY EMMANUEL - "ENDLESS ROAD TOUR"

Tommy Emmanuel has been recognised for years in his native "Oz" and now the rest of the world is catching on to this awesome guitarist. His live performance is just stunning. Johnny Dickinson, the excellent slide guitarist, will support Tommy. It's a "must see" concert so book early. Venue: Colne Municipal Hall; Date / Time: 15 November 2004 at 8pm; Ticket Price: £13.00; Telephone: The Box Office 01282 661234. All profits to Pendleside Hospice www.pendleside.org.uk Email david@davidlewispromotions.com website: www.davidlewispromotions.com

LAST NIGHT'S FUN

Last Night's Fun have recently released their new album 'Tempered', on RabbleRouser Music: RR003 2004. Tracks from *Tempered* has already been played on Verity Sharpe's eclectic weekday programme *Late Junction*. The band has been on the road, promoting the album.

Recorded over two weeks in January at Doxford Hall, Northumberland, *Tempered* is a beautiful, soulful album, set to become Last Night's Fun's defining work so far. In an attempt to avoid the pressures and restrictions of studio recording, the band hired The Head Gardener's House - a secluded spot in the picturesque grounds of Doxford Hall.

From a musical perspective, there is a feeling that Last Night's Fun have recorded a timeless album. Recorded by manager and producer Adrian McNally, *Tempered* has a live and intimate feel, capturing the honesty and humility of three musicians at one with each other. While it is a very traditional album, it bristles with spontaneous musical exploration, and an ability to leave and return to a tune that only true understanding can allow.

Last Night's Fun are currently on the road, promoting *Tempered*: including June 18-19 BEVERLEY FOLK FESTIVAL 01377 217569; festival bookings later this summer include: July 17 Saddleworth; July 25 Warwick; August 28 Bridgnorth

Last Night's Fun is managed by Adrian McNally, RabbleRouser Music, Tel: 01484 840369
or email: adrian@rabblerousermusic.com
(RabbleRouser Music: formerly The Event Shop)

MAGNA CARTA - NOVEMBER TOUR

To celebrate Magna Carta's folk club beginnings and 35 years in the music business, the band is undertaking a tour of UK folk clubs during November this year. Their first professional gig actually took place at the Coalhole Folk Club in Cambridge, way back in May 1969. Chris Simpson and the Australian, Lyell Tranter, were on guitars, with Glen Stuart on vocals. They had 10 songs between them, were scared stiff, but the audience wanted more. That night Magna Carta was born. The rest is history... The line-up has changed, but that special something that is Magna Carta remains. Today, Chris Simpson founder member and the writer of most of the songs, and his wife Linda, who joined in 1983, are Magna Carta - one of the world's finest and most long lived acoustic acts.

Bookings are now being taken for Magna Carta's, Back To Grass Roots - The Folk Club Tour in November. For bookings and further information including a demo CD, please contact Nigel on Tel/fax/answer: 01359 252044 or e-mail: nigelchainey@tiscali.co.uk using the reply card.

EVENT SHOP NOW A RABBLEROUSER

The Event Shop has changed its name to RabbleRouser Music, with immediate effect. Adrian McNally's company manages Last Night's Fun and Rachel and Becky Unthank, and is the UK agency for Flook and Malinky.

The change in name coincides with the inception of Adrian's record label, which released Last Night's Fun's new album, 'Tempered' in March. Not wishing to confuse identities with a host of company names, Adrian's whole company will be called RabbleRouser Music, incorporating the record label, management and agency. Tel 01484 840369-email adrian@rabblerousermusic.com; www.rabblerousermusic.com

CHILDLINE APPEALS FOR HELP

Calling all music makers! Classical piano soloist and former Popstar Myleene Klass is urging musicians from across the UK to tune in and raise vital notes for ChildLine - the UK's free, 24-hour helpline for children and young people.

As part of its 18th birthday celebrations, in March ChildLine launched 'In Tune with ChildLine', a yearlong challenge to musicians around the country to raise £320,000 - enough for ChildLine to counsel an extra 10,000 children. Classical music maker Myleene is supporting the initiative and encouraging other people, young and old, to follow suit.

There are many different ways to help - from a sponsored singalong to a musical coffee morning, carol concert or interval collection - with every note helping to raise funds for ChildLine to help even more children.

ChildLine is the UK's free 24-hour helpline for children and young people. Trained volunteer counsellors provide comfort, advice and protection to children calling about any problem. And those notes will certainly make a difference. Every day around 4,000 children call ChildLine, but lack of funds means that only 1,800 of them get through to our counsellors for the comfort, advice and protection they so desperately need. Just £3 will pay to answer another call from a child who may be desperate for help; who is injured, alone or afraid; a child whose life may be in danger. Every £32 raised will help provide in-depth counselling to help change a child's life.

For more information on getting 'In Tune with ChildLine' please email intunewithchildline@childline.org.uk, visit www.childline.org.uk/extra/intune.asp or call 0161 877 9144.

NOTHING BUT A ... THINGUMAJIG CEILIDH PARTY

Ceilidh Party CD is the second release on the Hobgoblin label. The first, the 25 years compilation, received a wide range of critical praise. Ceilidh Party consists of twelve tracks of lively Anglo Celtic dance music and two songs. It makes for a complete evening's entertainment as it includes suggestions for dances to go with the tunes, and a set of instructions for five of the dances. The tunes are largely traditional, but given a lively and contemporary presentation. "Even if you are among the two-left-feet crowd, you'll enjoy the energy and superb musicianship of this album" (Singing Out magazine)

There is a complete set of music for dancing the Eightsome Reel, and as a bonus a couple of sets of Scottish traditional tunes played on Highland Pipes are included, making this a brilliant CD to use for a New Year's Eve party. A book with all the music and dances on the CD and more is in preparation and will be published later.

Thingumajig Ceilidh band began on New Year's Eve 1998, and the outfit has since gone from strength to strength with the concept of a complete evening of Ceilidh entertainment including songs, tunes and dance demonstrations as well as communal dances. They have played a number of folk festivals and many prestige corporate and private venues, and are generally booked up for over a year ahead. Hobgoblin people Pete & Mannie McClelland are at the core of the band, and their talents and energy combine well with the youthful brilliance of Philippe Barnes and Ollie Boorman, who have been finalists in the BBC young folk awards, and with the driving rhythms provided by David Sheldon and Tom Phelan. John and Liz Scholey are the regular callers and dancers with the band.

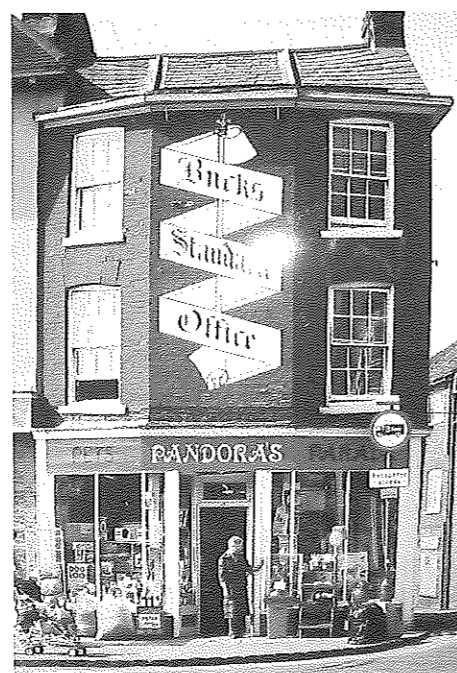
Thingumajig were recently featured by the BBC on a Radio 4

pick of the day "The Wedding Band" which chronicles the band's day as they travel, set up and entertain another wedding party. Following a successful Folk Alliance showcase series in Nashville in February, the band has a US tour planned for late 2004, and the US folk stations are currently providing radio exposure for Ceilidh Party.

For further information please visit www.thingumajig.org or contact Pete or Nicola McClelland: Tel: 01273 491456 (day) or email: thingumajig@hobgoblin.co.uk;

HOBGOBLIN MUSIC OPEN NEW SHOP

Hobgoblin's newest branch opened in April, in Newport Pagnell, near Milton Keynes. The shop is at 10 St John's Street, Newport Pagnell, six minutes from J14 on the M1, and on a direct route into town, and is run by Dave Soulsby, a guitarist and long term resident of Newport Pagnell, who became interested in running a branch of Hobgoblin Music when he noticed the lack of a folk instrument supplier in the region.



Dave has recently been involved with local music venue The Stables Theatre, and plays occasionally at the local acoustic session at the Cannon. He will be running the shop with help from his wife, Denise, and part time assistance from their son Mat, who is also a keen musician. Like all the other branches of Hobgoblin Music, the Newport Pagnell branch will be offering a full instrument repair service. Experienced repairer and restorer John Russell will be the main repairer for the branch, and can give free quotes.

TRADITIONAL PRAIRIE

Prairie Music Records are very excited about the upcoming concert tour being set up for Bob & Sheila Everhart (and their 8-year old daughter Bobbie Lhea). For the past 25 years, Bob Everhart has been at the forefront in the USA, promoting, preserving, promulgating, and performing traditional old-time country-bluegrass-folk music. He has been on tour in Europe a number of times."

Bob & Sheila consistently look for good acoustic traditional bands to book on their international festival in the USA, this year's dates being Aug 30-Sept 5. It's an amazing event, seven days long, 12 stages, over 600 performers, and an audience that borders

on 50,000. It's an all-acoustic event -no electric instruments, no drums. Prairie Music Records are happy to be co-sponsors of this amazing event. You can find out more at www.OLDTIMEMUSIC.BIGSTEP.COM just click up "festivals"

More importantly, Bob & Sheila want to share their old-time prairie music with young and old alike. Bob has an extraordinary view on music...."How would a young musician know what traditional country or bluegrass music sounds like, if they've never heard it played live?" And he's right. One of the objectives of their concert tour this year is to not only play with younger fellow acoustic musicians, but to listen to established groups interested in working in the USA.

Don't pass up the opportunity to have them perform for you in Great Britain. They still have a few dates open, they want to include as many stops as they can, but in logical order. And just in case you wanted to know about their recording works, including their 6 CD's for the Smithsonian-Folkways label, please click up Prairie Music Records on that same website: www.OLDTIMEMUSIC.BIGSTEP.COM

For those of you interested in 'national' promotion and publicity, the Everharts were recently featured in American Profile Magazine, a full colour newspaper supplement magazine with a circulation near five-million in the USA. The story is entitled "Hometown Heroes." Enjoy this recent story and photo of the Everharts at: http://americanprofile.com/issues/20040321/20040321_3781.asp Please don't hesitate to contact the Everharts directly at their own e-mail address: bobeverhart@yahoo.com

LA VOLÉE D'CASTORS

La Volée d'Castors, one of the strongest New Trad groups in Quebec these days, is now represented by La Compagnie Larivée Cabot Champagne for its tour management and concert production.

Since last year, La Volée have played over one hundred shows in Quebec, Canada and in several parts of the world, including important visits in Europe, Australia, New Zealand, the US, and Asia. That's quite a track record for these six young Quebec musicians, all extremely talented and generous, both on stage and in the studio.

La Volée are currently on tour promoting its brand new album - Migration - released in December last year on La Factrie. Migration delivers a fine mix of original pieces and songs picked from the Quebecois traditional songbook. It is a glorious selection of drinking songs and devilish reels, all rendered in a resolutely modern and innovative way. As powerful and festive as the previous albums, Migration will satisfy the Quebec Trad fan as well as the World Music aficionado. Denis Frechette, ex-pianist and arranger for La Bottine Souriante, was sitting in the producer's chair.

Enjoying a very good reputation in Quebec and abroad, the group received a nomination for Artiste s'étant le plus illustré hors Québec (Artist with the most exposure beyond Québec) at the last ADISQ award ceremony. Their previous album, VDC, received a nomination for Best Roots and traditional Album at the Juno Awards and the Felix Award for Best Traditional Album at the ADISQ in 2001.

Tour Manager: Marie-Claude Paquin, 845-0149, ext. #222; email: marieclaud@latribu.ca

(Ed:- A copy of their CD 'Migration' has just arrived, sounds interesting, and will be reviewed in the next issue)

GIBSON ANNOUNCES INNOVATIVE TOBIAS BASSES

In February, Tobias, the premier bass for tone quality, voicing and innovative ergonomic design, started producing a new line of basses handcrafted in Conway, Arkansas. The new U.S.-made Tobias basses feature exotic wood combinations, custom Bartolini electronics, neck-thru-body construction and all of the other design elements that have made Tobias the bass of choice for professional musicians.

Tobias basses offer a wide range of tone qualities and voicings from different tone woods. Because they employ a neck-thru-body design, the composition of the neck also plays a critical role in the tone. By combining different soft and hard woods, the sound is tailored to the needs of the player, making for an extremely versatile instrument. Tobias basses are fitted with highly respected Bartolini electronics, and Bill Bartolini is working with Tobias to design new pickups for the U.S. models.

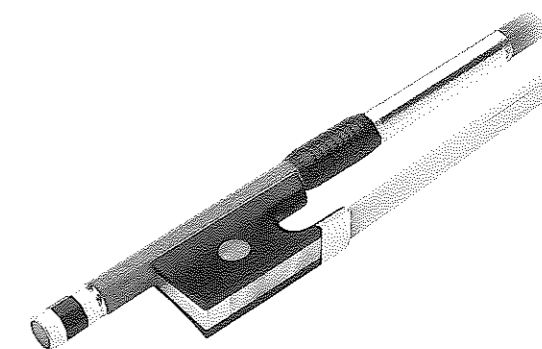
The first Tobias basses were made by luthier, Mike Tobias, in Orlando in 1977 and sold through his store, The Guitar Shop, later in California. The Tobias company joined the Gibson family in 1990, and production was moved to Nashville in 1992. The new USA Tobias basses are being made in a facility previously used for Baldwin grand piano production; Gibson acquired Baldwin in 2001. The Toby line will continue to be offered through Gibson's internet-based direct sales division, www.musicyo.com

DUNCAN McFARLANE BAND RELEASE NEW CD

'Woodshed Boys', the new CD by the Duncan McFarlane Band, is now available at a cost £13 (including post & packing). More details can be found on their website www.duncanmcfarlane.co.uk where you'll find the complete lyrics with augmented sleeve notes - and even the artwork for the CD! Just hit the 'Songs' button and look under 'Woodshed Boys'. Special guests on the CD are Alistair Hulett, Alistair Russell and Maggie Boyle. There are pictures (on various pages of our site) of them all in the studio.

ARY'S HYBRID BOW

Ary France International has created, perfected, and patented a handcrafted Hybrid Bow, uniquely combining Pernambuco wood with high-technology composite material. Ary France International's R&D department has come up with a bow producing a balanced and crystalline sound, affording performers



a quick and fine response, with exceptional amplitude and constancy, which can be used in playing all kinds of music - from classical to country and jazz. Thus, the Hybrid Bow combines the best of France's ancient violin-making tradition with today's most advanced technologies in the field of composite materials.

It is very stable and adapts to different playing styles. Chamber music performers and musicians specialising in classical music, country and traditional Irish music, and jazz have tested it. The Hybrid Bow is protected by patent.

The entire manufacturing process is performed in the company's own workshops. Since in-house and highly skilled craftsmen produce the bows, Ary France International is able to ensure continuous quality control. The range of bows produced covers five different Brazil wood quality levels and extends to signed Pernambuco bows. They are also 100% hand-made and have been perfected thanks to a unique manufacturing process that guarantees sensitivity, reactivity, fullness of tone, stability and the appearance of fine Pernambuco-wood silver bows. For further information, go to: www.ary-fr.com

FESTIVAL NEWS 2004



Kendal International Guitar Festival Fri 4th - Sun 6th June

Festival ticket £45 (Free entry to all concerts, discounted entry to workshops and master classes)

The Brewery Arts Centre, Kendal is proud to announce the dates for its first international guitar festival. Some of today's finest guitarists will be descending on the North West's biggest arts centre for a weekend of outstanding live music and workshops from Friday 4th June until Sunday 6th June.

The Brewery Arts Centre, because of its fine reputation and excellent facilities, has been attracting some big names in music. It is often the only venue outside London that bands play, and a visit to its beautiful listed building, right on the edge of the Lake District, makes you see why.

This Summer, the Brewery will be hosting the first Kendal International Guitar Festival with the intention of starting the tradition with a bang. The Malt Room music venue, 250 seat theatre, lively Vats Bar and courtyard garden will provide the backdrop to a number of concerts and master classes from some of the very finest guitarists currently available on the live circuit.

Featuring a full weekend in the company of Clive Carroll, John Renbourn and Pierre Bensusan - to name but a few - this festival is, and will become more so, one of the big events on the calendar for guitar and music enthusiasts no matter what style or interest.

Fri 4 Jun
Pierre Bensusan Theatre Concert £12.50 7.00pm
Aziz Ibrahim
Eduardo Niebla

Les Wilson & MHR Malt Room, Standing £8.50 Door 9pm
Supported by Gerry Gillard

Sat 5 Jun
Pierre Bensusan Workshop / Masterclass £7/£5conc 11.45am
Eduardo Niebla Workshop / Masterclass £7/£5conc 1.30pm

Hans Theessink Free Concert, Vats Bar 2pm

John Renbourn Workshop / Masterclass £7/£5conc 3.15pm
Clive Carroll Workshop / Masterclass £7/£5conc 5pm

John Renbourn Theatre Concert £12.50 7.00pm
Clive Carroll
Eric Roche

Wilco Johnson Malt Room, Standing £9.50 Door 9pm
Supported by Gerry Gillard

Sun 6 Jun
Eric Roche Workshop / Masterclass £7/£5conc 11.45am
Gordon Giltrap Workshop / Masterclass £7/£5conc 1.30pm

Kent Duchane Free Concert, Vats Bar 2.00pm

Jerry Donahoe Workshop / Masterclass £7/£5conc 3.15pm
ohnnny Dickinson Workshop / Masterclass £7/£5conc 5pm

Jerry Donahoe Band, Malt Room, Ltd Cabaret £10 Door 7pm
Gordon Giltrap
Johnny Dickinson

Tickets for the festival, or for individual concerts are available now. Call the Box Office on 01539 725133.

For further information contact Becky Sayer, Press and Publicity Officer on 01539 722833 x 219 or email becky.sayer@breweryarts.co.uk

MERSEY SHANTY SPREADS ITS WINGS

As many of you will know the Mersey Shanty Festival figures as a major part of the Mersey River Festival. For most of its history it has been centred on the Albert Dock with additional events in the Baltic Fleet public house and a concert venue in the city.

Last year saw an important extension of the festival when a concert was held in the Pacific Road Art and Exhibition Centre in Birkenhead featuring artists from Italy, France and the UK. A similar concert is planned for this year to take place on Friday 18th June.

2004 will see a further extension of the festival when another additional concert has been organised to take place at Southport Arts Centre on Thursday 17th June, once again featuring both national and international artists. Those taking part are: Dan Milner and Bob Conroy (New York); Kat Y'nt Seil (Netherlands); Stormalong John (UK); Liverpool's Forebitter (UK); Four 'n' Aft (UK). MC is the inimitable Clive Pownceby.

Tickets are only £7:00 (£6:00 concessions) and are obtainable from the venue, contact number 0151 928 1919

This concert has been added following the initiative of Sefton Council who have asked that a concert be organised to complement some of the other events that have been arranged to take place within the borough during the Mersey River Festival. It promises to be a good evening with plenty of variety and lots of opportunity to sing.

The remainder of the festival, will takes place around the Albert Dock complex and in local bars across the weekend of 18th, 19th and 20th June and promises to be as exciting, varied and colourful as in past years.

So why not give it a try, you definitely won't regret it.

Should you require further information contact Jack Coutts on 0151 220 0152 or via email on jackcoutts@merseyshanty.co.uk; or visit the Web site at www.merseyshanty.co.uk

MIDDLEWICH FOLK AND BOAT FESTIVAL 2004

The Middlewich Folk and Boat Festival takes place from 18th to 20th June. Artists lined up so far, subject to confirmation, include: Fairport Convention, The Levellers Acoustic, Show Of Hands, Shooglenifty, The Demon Barber Roadshow, Pete Morton, Simon Mayor & Hilary James, All Blacked Up, Les Barker, Keith Donnelly, Hamish Currie, Brass Tacks, The Family Mahone, Baker's Fabulous Boys, Elbow Jane, Calico Jack, Celtica, Jug 0' Punch, Alison Parker & The 3rd Man, Salt Town Poets and Middlewich Paddies with more to be confirmed.

Amongst the other treats are: Children's Festival with Save The Children; Overseas Artists - Galena Street East (USA)>Nusantara (Malaya), Mighty Zulu Nation (South Africa), 2004 Dance Programme And Festival Fringe - venues to be announced. There's a 2004 Festival Boat Rally- free to attend, Church Concerts and festival praise service in association with Churches Together.

There's a Real Ale Bar, improved Campsite Facilities with 24-hour security. Weekend Tickets are £50 (£48 concessions) after 1st May (include free camping). Day tickets are available £16 Saturday and £20 Sunday.

Full details - www.middlewichfestival.org; email: boxoffice@middlewichfestival.org; Box office 0709 239 0501.

ORMSKIRK COMES ALIVE...AGAIN!

Following the resounding success of Ormskirk's first music festival last year the team at Abacus Music are once again organising a festival to take place this summer on the streets of Ormskirk. The event has been extended this year to three days in response to the high number of acts and entertainers who will be performing.

The festival opens on Thursday 8th July at Scarisbrick Village Hall with a concert featuring Pete Bond, Tiny Tin Lady, Bob Lines, Steve Chatterley, Odd at Ease, Chris and Siobhan Nelson. The events proceeds will be going to the Friends of Chernobyl's Children charity.

Top of the bill this year are Jez Lowe and the Bad Pennies and Pete Morton. Alongside them will be Bram Taylor, Tony Gibbons, and Mark Dowding, The Jill Fielding Band, Elbow Jane, Gallimaufry, Blarneystone, Brass Tacks and Bedlam.



The event features the usual mix of Barn Dance, Workshops, Concerts, Street Event and Singarounds at various venues in and around Ormskirk.

More details are available from Pete Rimmer at Ormskirk Comes Alive, telephone number 01695 585400 or look at the website: www.ormskirkcomesalive.co.uk

SIDMOUTH'S 50TH

Welcome to the third Sidmouth International Festival Newsletter of 2004. Tickets are selling faster than ever before, it looks as if lots of you are heading down to Sidmouth to party so don't be the one to miss out. The 50th Sidmouth International Festival runs from 30 July - 6 August 2004 so start your holiday planning now and look forward to a bumper year of top concerts, ceilidhs, workshops and loads more.

Joining Kate Rusby & John McCusker with loads of special guests, Oyster Ceilidh Band, Steeleye Span, Ralph McTell and the host of artists already announced will be John Kirkpatrick and Chris Parkinson as the 'Sultans of Squeeze, plus top Ceilidh bands Scumalash, Hekety and Stomp.

The host of artists announced include: Waterson Family Special; Danu; Roy Bailey & Tony Benn; John Tams & Barry Coope; Chris Smither; Coope, Boyes & Simpson; Sid Kipper; Black Umfolosi 5; Sara Grey; Kieron Means; Dan Milner & Bob Conroy; Bob Davenport, Taffy Thomas, and Jarlath Henderson - winner of the BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Awards 2003

Visit our website at www.sidmouthfestival.com to check out the full list of artists confirmed so far plus details of early booking offers. There is a great range of Family Packages available for those of you with one or two adults or children wanting to come and don't forget that if you buy 9 tickets of any one type you get 1 more absolutely free - so get a group of friends together and come and help us celebrate.

The First Week in August: Fifty Years of the Sidmouth Festival - PHOTOS NEEDED! The book is almost finished but we are looking for some photographs to make the story complete. Do you have any photographs of the following subjects taken at Sidmouth please? The Kipper Family in 1983 (their first, unprogrammed appearance); Ralph McTell in 1984; Blowzabella in the 80s, preferably 1984; Pyewackett in the early 80s; The South Sea Islands Fancy Dress Party in Carina's in 1984, especially the Dead Sea Surfers; Ponte Caffaro in 1985; The Dubliners 1985; SWEB building in 1985 or later; Photos of Carina's or Radway Cinema concerts about 1986; Home Service 1987; Michelle Shocked 1987; David Kossoff 1987. If you can help with photos please contact Derek Schofield directly at derek@dschofield.demon.co.uk

We hope to see you in Sidmouth! The Festival Team, Sidmouth International Festival; box office: 01629 827010; admin: 01629 827011; fax: 01629 821874; PO Box 296, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 3XU info@sidmouthfestival.com; www.sidmouthfestival.com;

SIDMOUTH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL FACES CLOSURE

Sidmouth International Festival is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year from 30th July - 6th August with a fantastic line-up and record ticket sales (season tickets are expected to sell out very shortly for the first time in 20 years), all pointing to a superb event. It is expected to be a landmark in the festival's history and growth, and this year will be televised nationally.

However, there is now considerable uncertainty about the festival's future. The financial risk involved in organising and staging such an event has grown considerably over recent years, and the current festival management find themselves unable to commit to events in the future without establishing a security fund of £200,000 to underwrite the festival in case of adverse weather.

THE RAILWAY FOLK CLUB

The Railway Hotel
Mill Lane, Heatley
Lymm, Cheshire



Tel 01925 264660 Every Thursday at 8.30pm

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

03 JUN PHIL CHISNALL & ARTHUR MARSHALL (£5)

17 JUN NELSON PEACH (£3)
(aka RICK & LESLEY NELSON & RICHARD PEACH)

LYMM FESTIVAL

24 JUN RAG, SHAG & BILL (£1)

26 JUN (SAT) MARTIN SIMPSON
(£10 advance £12 on door)

30 JUN (WED) GARVA (£6.50)

01 JUL ROY BAILEY (£6.50)

15 JUL BANDERSNATCH (£5)

SINGERS NIGHTS EVERY THURSDAY THROUGH SUMMER

09 SEP GRAND RE-OPENING WITH JEZ LOWE (£7)

ADVANCE DATES:

23 SEP ALLAN TAYLOR; 21 OCT BERNARD CROMARTY;

04 NOV KATHRYN ROBERTS & SEAN LAKEMAN;

SUNDAY		NORTH WEST FEDERATION OF FOLK CLUBS		
Accrington Town Hall	7:30 PM	Blackburn Road, Accrington	Box Office	01254-380293
Bothy	8:00 PM	Shelbourne Hotel, 1 Lord Street West, Southport	Clive Pownceby	0151-924-5078
Folk at the Manor	8:30 PM	The Old Manor Club, Withens Lane, Wallasey	Roger Parker	0151-678-1962
Mr Kite Benefits	8:00 PM	Worden Arts Centre, Worden Park, Leyland (and other venues)	Steve Henderson	01772-621411
Open Door	8:45 pm	The Star Inn, Church Street, Fallsworth	Pauline Westall	0161-681-3618
Walshaw	8:30 pm	Walshaw Sports Club, Sycamore Road, Tottington, Bury	Frank Brough	01204-413909
Walton	8:30 PM	County Ward Labour Club, 39 Hale Road, Walton, Liverpool	Lillian French	0151-474-0979
Wooden Horse	8:30 PM	The Junction, News Lane, Rainford	Jim Coan	01772-452782
MONDAY				
Bacup (new member)	8:00 PM	Bacup Conservative Club, Irwell Terrace, Bacup, OL13 9AW	Paul Edwards	01706-872810
Conwy	8:30 PM	The Malt Loaf, Rosehill Street, Conwy	Denis Bennett	01492-877324
Folk at the Prospect	8:30 PM	The Prospect Inn, Weston Road, Weston Village, Runcorn	Roger Hanslip	01928-731567
Gallagher's	8:15 pm	Gallagher's, Little Scotland, Blackrod, Bolton	Ken Howard	01942-832739
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
TUESDAY				
Crown	8:30 pm	The Crown, Heaton Lane, Stockport	Mary Hartley	0161-291-8243
Everyman	8:30 pm	The Everyman Bistro, Hope Street, Liverpool	Christine Jones	0151-709-3336
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, Farnworth Street, Pit Lane, Widnes, Cheshire	Jean Finney	0151-424-3672
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 (re-join)	9:00 pm	The Alison Arms, Preston Road, Coppull Moor, Near Chorley	Derek Docherty	01257-791262
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	Mawdsley's Hotel, Hall Lane, Mawdsley	Ken & Angie Bladen	01257-263678
Burnley	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, Hardhorn Way, Poulton-le-Fyde	Pete Skinner	01253-301483
Red Bull	8:30 PM	The Red Bull, Hillgate, Stockport	Peter Hood	0161-432-4142
Swan	8:30 PM	Scarbrick Arms, Black-A-Moor Lane, Southport Road, Downholand	Dot Skinner	0151-474-9661
THURSDAY				
Biddulph	8:30 pm	Biddulph Labour Club, Wharf Road, Biddulph	Eric Cox	01782-514896
Earby	9:00 pm	White Lion, Riley Street, Earby	Heather Sheldrick	01282-852898
Fleetwood	8:30 PM	Steamer Hotel, Queens Terrace, Fleetwood, FY7 6BT	Dave Ryan	01253-876351
Folk at the Wheatsheaf	8:15 pm	The Wheatsheaf Inn, Embleton, nr Cockermouth, Cumbria, CA13 9XP	Terry Haworth	01900-604765
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 (Lymm)	8:30 PM	Railway Hotel, Mill Lane, Heatley, Lymm, Cheshire	Stuart Lever	01925-264660
Upstairs at the Railway	8:45 pm	The Railway, Lumb Lane, Droylsden, Manchester M43 7LA	Christine Stephen	0161-370-6587
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
Bollington	8:30 pm	Dog & Partridge, Palmerston Street, Bollington	Arthur Wakefield	01625-573596
Carlisle Folk & Blues	8:00 PM	The Coach House, Heads Nook, Carlisle	Myrna Rae	01697-72305
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	01942-604603
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	Jeff Blythin	01745-588072
SAFRA Night	8:30 PM	The Wagon Inn, High Street, Uppermill, Oldham	All O'Brien	01457-870391
Walton	8:30 PM	County Ward Labour Club, 39 Hale Road, Walton, Liverpool	Lillian French	0151-474-0979
Westhoughton	8:15 PM	Westhoughton Golf Club, Long Island, Westhoughton	Pat Batty	01257-230508
SATURDAY				
Barnoldswick	7:30 PM	Fosters Arms, Gisburn Road, Barnoldswick	Heather Sheldrick	01282-852898
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	Aby Jeffers	01744-762305
Lighthouse	7:00 pm	The Lighthouse Restaurant, Lakeland Glass Centre, Ulverston, Cumbria	Jenny Thistlethwaite	01229-581121
Philharmonic Hall (new member)	7:30 PM	Liverpool Philharmonic Hall, Hope Street, Liverpool	Box Office	0151-210-2895
Platform	8:00 PM	The Platform, Station Buildings, Central Promenade, Morecambe	Glynis Johnson	01524-586823
Rattan & Rush Acoustic	7:45 pm	Rattan & Rush Tearoom, Market Street, Kirby Stephen, Cumbria	Penny & Paul	01768-372123
Southport Arts Centre	8:00 pm	Lord Street, Southport, PR8 1DB	John Sprackland	01704-540011
Standish	8:15 PM	St Ann's Parish Hall, Church Lane, Shevington, near Standish, Wigan	David Jones	01254-54877

MAY into JULY

(NB: Always check with event organisers before travelling)

SUNDAY	30th May	6th June	13th June	20th June	27th June
Bothy	Spring BH - get together	KEN PERLMAN (USA)	Singers Night	DICK GAUGHAN	BLUE C
* & ** Broken Token					CHORLEY FESTIVAL
Brewery Arts Centre	Singers Night	GUITAR FESTIVAL	JUNE TABOR	STANLEY ACCRINGTON	Singers Night
Folk at the Manor				JOHN TAMS & BARRY COOPE with JIM MORAY	
Mr Kite Benefits @ Worden Arts Centre			closed		MARK DOWDING
Open Door	Singaround	KAREN & COLIN THOMPSON			DROYLSDEN FESTIVAL
Upstairs at the Railway			Singers Night		Singers Night
Walshaw	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Walton	closed (BH)	BILL WHALEY & DAVE FLETCHER			closed
Wooden Horse					
MONDAY	31st May	7th June	14th June	21st June	28th June
Backup - (new member)	Singaround	THE DALES MEN	Singaround	STANLEY ACCRINGTON	Singaround
Conwy	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Folk at the Prospect	Singers Night	Singers Night	TONY GIBBONS	Singers Night	Singers Night
Gallaghers	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Red Bull	Singers Night	Singers Night	CHORLTON GREEN LADIES MORRIS	Singers Night	Singers Night
Room at the Back	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Swinton	Singers Night	EDDIE MCGURK	Singers Night	GEOFF HIGGINBOTTOM	Singers Night
TUESDAY	1st June	8th June	15th June	22nd June	29th June
Crown	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
Everyman	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	BOB CONROY (USA)	Singers Night

TUESDAY (cont'd)	1st June	8th June	15th June	22nd June	29th June
Howcroft Inn		NICK BOLD		MICRON	
Longridge	Singers Night		BANDERSNATCH		
Maghull	Singers Night	Singers Night	RISKY BUSINESS	Singers Night	Singers Night
Ring O' Bells	Singers Night	BERNARD CROMARTY	Singers Night	Singers Night	JOE TOPPING
Urmston Acoustics	Singers Night				
Wigan (Fox & Goose)	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
WEDNESDAY	2nd June	9th June	16th June	23rd June	30th June
Alison Arms - (re-join)	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Blackburn	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Broken Token	Singers Night		TANGLEFOOT		
Burnley	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians
Clarence	SIMON MAYOR & HILARY JAMES	EWAN CARRUTHERS	Singers Night	STANLEY ACCRINGTON	ANDY MAY & SIMON HOWARTH
Cross Keys	tbc	SCOLD'S BRIDLE	BRAM TAYLOR	WHITNEY GIN	tbc
Falcon	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Open Mic. - PA provided
* Railway (Lymm)					GARVA
Red Bull		Music session - English			
Swan	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
THURSDAY	3rd June	10th June	17th June	24th June	1st July
Biddulph	closed	closed	closed	closed	LOUD MOUTH WOMEN
Fleetwood	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Folk at the Wheatsheaf	JIM CONDIE		EDDIE WALKER		Singers & Musicians
Gregson Lane				THRELFALL ELLISON & EDWARDS	
Parkgate				GARVA	
Railway (Lymm)	PHIL CHISNALL & ARTHUR MARSHALL	Singers Night BIG SPOT STUTTERING BULLDOZERS	RICK & LESLEY NELSON & RICHARD PEACH	Singers Night BIG SPOT with RAG, SHAG & BILL	ROY BAILEY
Upstairs at the Railway	Singers Night		Singers Night		Singers Night
Wigan (Seven Stars)	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
Wrexham	QUICK SILVER	Closed until Sept. 16			

FRIDAY	4th June	11th June	18th June	25th June	2nd July
Bollington		JON HARVISON		TICH FRIER	
Brewery Arts Centre	INTERNATIONAL GUITAR FESTIVAL				
* & ** Broken Token				CHORLEY FESTIVAL	
Carlisle Folk & Blues	Singers Night		JOHN SPIERS & JON BODEN		Ceilidh with FEONIX
Hale & Hearty	Singaround		Singaround		Singaround
Leigh			** MFAB Club Night	MARIE LITTLE	Closed until Sept. 24
Northwich	Singers Night	TANGLEFOOT		GINA Le FAUX	Singers Night
Platform		BRIAN KENNEDY			QUICK SILVER
Porkies	TANGLEFOOT			Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians
Preston	Singers & Musicians				
Rhyl	PETE COE				
SAFRA Night		Singers Night			
Upstairs at the Railway				DROYLSDEN FESTIVAL	
Walton	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
SATURDAY	5th June	12th June	19th June	26th June	3rd July
Brewery Arts Centre	INTERNATIONAL GUITAR FESTIVAL				
* & ** Broken Token				CHORLEY FESTIVAL	
Buffet Bar	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Mr Kite Benefits @ The Met, Bury			JOHN TAMS & BARRY COOPE with JIM MORAY		
* Railway (Lymm)				MARTIN SIMPSON	
Rattan & Rush		SALLY BARKER		STONY	
Upstairs at the Railway				DROYLSDEN FESTIVAL	

JULY into AUGUST

SUNDAY	4th July	11th July	18th July	25th July	1st August
Bothy	PAUL DOWNES	Singers Night	TOM NAPPER & TOM BLISS	Closed until Sept. 12	
Carlisle Folk & Blues			BRAMPTON LIVE		
Folk at the Manor	Singers Night	Singers Night	RUM, BUM & CONCERTINA	Singers Night	Singers Night
Open Door	Singaround	KIERAN HALPIN	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
SAFRA			SADDLEWORTH FEST		
Walshaw		Singers Night		Singers Night	
Walton	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Wooden Horse	JEZ LOWE	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
MONDAY	5th July	12th July	19th July	26th July	2nd August
Bacup	THE FREE SANDWICHES	Singaround	DAN PHELPS & MATTHEW FOX (USA)	Singaround	WENCHALL
Conwy	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Folk at the Prospect	Singers Night	BRIAN PETERS	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Gallaghers	Singers Night		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Red Bull	CLOUDSTREET	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Room at the Back	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Swinton	VIKKI & TREFOR WILLIAMS	Singers Night	CLIVE LEYLAND	Singers Night	PHIL SEDDON
TUESDAY	6th July	13th July	20th July	27th July	3rd August
Crown	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
Everyman	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	closed
Howcroft Inn		tba	Guest tba	Singers Night	Singers Night
Longridge	Singers Night			Singers Night	Singers Night
Maghull	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Ring O' Bells	PHIL MCGINITY	Singers Night	TOM DOUGHTY	Singers Night	Singers Night
Urmston Acoustics	Singers Night	Singers Night		Singers Night	Singers Night
Wigan (Fox & Goose)	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night

WEDNESDAY	7th July	14th July	21st July	28th July	4th August
Alison Arms	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
* & ** Biddulph		COLCANNON			
Blackburn	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Broken Token					
Burnley	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians
Clarence	PETE COE	CAPTAIN COOPER'S MOTLEY CREW	Closed until Sept. 15		
Cross Keys	RON TRUJMAN BORDER	LYNN & BARRIE HARDMAN	GEOFF HIGGINBOTTOM	TOM BROWN & IAN GOODIER	
Falcon	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Open Mic. - PA provided	Singers Night
Red Bull	Singers Night	Music Session - English	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Swan	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	"EMBLETON LIVE" with EMILY SMITH BAND	
* & ** Wheatsheaf					
THURSDAY	8th July	15th July	22nd July	29th July	5th August
* & ** Biddulph				THE ISLAND GIRLS	
Fleetwood	GRAEME KNIGHTS	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Folk at the Wheatsheaf		RUTH HAZLETON & KATE BURKE			Singers & Musicians
Gregson Lane	SCOLD'S BRIDLE	* COLCANNON	Singers Night	CATH MUNDY & JAY TURNER	Singers Night
Parkgate				Singers Night	Singers Night
Railway (Lymm)	Singers Night	BANDERSNATCH	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Upstairs at the Railway	Singaround	Singers Night	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
Wigan (Seven Stars)					
FRIDAY	9th July	16th July	23rd July	30th July	6th August
Carlisle Folk & Blues		BRAMPTON LIVE			
Hale & Hearty		Singaround			Singaround
Northwich	QUEENSBERRY RULES	Singers Night	Singers Night	RESTLESS BENTLEYS	Singers Night
Porkies					JOHNNY COPPIN
Preston	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians

FRIDAY (cont'd)	9th July	16th July	23rd July	30th July	6th August
Rhyl	Guests to be arranged - July & August				
SAFRA	Singers & Musicians	SADDLEWORTH FESTIVAL			
Walton	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
SATURDAY	10th July	17th July	24th July	31st July	7th August
* & ** Biddulph	"FOLK IN THE PARK"				
Buffet Bar	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Carlisle Folk & Blues		BRAMPTON LIVE			
Rattan & Rush	KAREN BATES & ANDREW INGRAM				ROBIN LAING
SAFRA		SADDLEWORTH FESTIVAL			
Standish	No guests booked this quarter				

AUGUST into SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	8th August	15th August	22nd August	29th August	5th September
Bothy	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed
Folk at the Manor	Singers Night	PHIL CHISNALL & MARK BYRNE	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Open Door	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
Walshaw	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Walton	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Wooden Horse	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	closed	Singers Night
MONDAY	9th August	16th August	23rd August	30th August	6th September
Bacup	Singaround	RAMBLIN' JOHN DEAN	Singaround	THE SWAMPNOBS	Singaround
Conwy	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Folk at the Prospect	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Gaillaghers	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night

MONDAY (cont'd)	9th August	16th August	23rd August	30th August	6th September
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	Guest tba	Singers Night	Singers Night	REDMAYNE
TUESDAY	10th August	17th August	24th August	31st August	7th September
Crown	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
Everyman	closed	closed	closed	closed	Singers Night
Howcroft Inn	closed	closed	closed		Singers Night
Longridge		Guest tba			Singers Night
Maghull	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Ring O' Bells	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	STANLEY ACCRINGTON
Urmston Acoustics					Singers Night
Wigan (Fox & Goose)	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
WEDNESDAY	11th August	18th August	25th August	1st September	8th 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	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Burnley	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians
Cross Keys	KIERAN HALPIN			PETE COE	
Falcon	Singers Night	Singers Night	Open Mic - PA provided	Singers Night	Singers Night
Red Bull	Music Session - English				
Swan	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
THURSDAY	12th August	19th August	26th August	2nd September	9th September
Fleetwood	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Folk at the Wheatsheaf		CATH MUNDY & JAY TURNER		WILLIAM PINT & FELICIA DALE	
Gregson Lane		Singers Night		"EMBLETON LIVE" with VIN GARBUIT	
Parkgate		Singers Night	SHEP WOOLEY tbc	Singers Night	ALLAN TAYLOR & JOHN WRIGHT

THURSDAY (cont'd)	12th August	19th August	26th August	2nd September	9th September
Railway (Lymm)	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	JEZ LOWE
Upstairs at the Railway		Singers Night			
Wigan (Seven Stars)	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
FRIDAY	13th August	20th August	27th August	3rd September	10th September
Boilington	TOM McCONVILLE			MIKE SILVER	JEZ LOWE
Carlisle Folk & Blues				ANDY IRVINE	
Hale & Hearty	Singaround	Singaround			
Northwich	Singers Night	Singers Night	DAVE WOOD	Singers Night	Singers Night
Porkies				GENTLEMAN SOLDIER	
Preston	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians
Rhyl	July and August guests not yet booked				
SAFRA Night	Singers & Musicians				
Walton	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers & Musicians
Westthroughton	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed
SATURDAY	14th August	21st August	28th August	4th September	11th September
Buffet Bar	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
* Maghull				KIERAN HALPIN & CHRIS JONES	
Playhouse 2				WESTERN APPROACHES STEVE KNIGHTLEY SETH LAKEMAN and Friends	
Rattan and Rush					KIERAN HALPIN (& 12th)

STOP PRESS: - 2 New members -- Early Folk Club @ White Lion, Earby each Thursday & Barnoldswick Folk Club @ Fosters Arms,

Barnoldswick - first Saturday - both singarounds

Note: * = Not the usual club night ** = Different venue

NB: THE ABOVE CALENDAR IN THE NEXT EDITION (AUTUMN) WILL COVER THE DATES - 29th August to 11th December, 2004.

TO BE INCLUDED IN THIS CALENDAR PLEASE REPLY TO JOHN OWEN BY - SUNDAY 11th July, 2004.

ADVANCE DATES FROM SEPTEMBER 2004

BIDDULPH

Sept 16 Phil Beer & Deb Sandland Sept 30 Allan Taylor Oct 7 Bob Fox Oct 21 Mundy & Turner Nov 4 Chris While & Julie Matthews Nov 18 Jez Lowe Dec 2 Mike Silver Dec 16 Arizona Smoke Review Jan 27 Vin Garbutt Feb 10 Harvey Andrews April 7 Artisan

BOLLINGTON

Sept 3 Mike Silver Sept 10 Jez Lowe Sept 17 Pint & Dale Sept 24 Kieran Halpin

BOTHY

Sept 12 Dave Burland Sept 19 Singers Night Sept 26 tbc Oct 3 Singers Night Oct 10 Louis Killen Oct 17 Singers Night Oct 24 Vikki & Trefor Williams Oct 31 Singers Night Nov 7 Quicksilver Nov 14 Singers Night Nov 21 Derek Gifford Nov 28 Singers Night Dec 5 Hughie Jones & Bothy Folk Club Reunion Dec 12 Threlfall/Ellison & Edwards Dec 19 Xmas Party Night Dec 26 closed Jan 2 closed Jan 9 tbc Jan 16 Singers Night Jan 23 Jed Grimes Jan 30 Singers Night Feb 6 Singers Night Feb 13 Dana & Sue Robinson Feb 20 Singers Night Feb 27 Roy Bailey Mar 6 Singers Night Mar 13 Artisan 20th Anniversary Tour Mar 20 Singers Night

CARLISLE FOLK & BLUES

Sept 3 Andy Irvine Sept 17 tbc Oct 1 Steve Tilston Oct 15 Emily Smith Band Oct 29 Cathryn Craig & Brian Willoughby Nov 12 Helen Watson & Kellie White Nov 26 Tom McConville Dec 10 Xmas Party night Guest tbc

CLARENCE

Sept 15 Steve Tilston

CROSS KEYS

Sept 1 Pete Coe Sept 8 tba Sept 15 Quicksilver Sept 22 Anthony John Clarke Sept 29 Risky Business

EVERYMAN

Sept 7 Re-opening night Singers Night

FOLK AT THE MANOR

Sept 19 Huw Chidgey & Catherine Handley Oct 17 Dear Gregory Nov 21 Jez Lowe

FOLK AT THE PROSPECT

Sept 20 Flossie Oct 4 Mike Nicholson Nov 15 Anthony John Clarke

FOLK AT THE WHEATSHEAF

Sept 2 "Embleton Live" with Vin Garbutt Sept 16 Karine Polwart Oct 7 tba Oct 21 Singers & Musicians Oct 23 "Embleton Live" with Chris While & Julie Matthews Nov 4 Andy May & Simon Haworth Nov 18 Derek Gifford Dec 2 Singers & Musicians Dec 11 "Embleton Live" with Jez Lowe & the Bad Pennies

GREGSON LANE

Sept 2 Singers Night Sept 16 Keith Mitchell Sept 30 Singers Night Oct 14 Ben Wood Oct 28 Singers Night Nov 11 Andrew Green Nov 25 Singers Night Dec 9 Pete Hardman Dec 23 Xmas Special

HOWCROFT

Sept 14 Pete Ryder Sept 28 Bandersnatch

LEIGH

Sept 24 Captain Cooper's Motley Crew Oct 29 Pete Coe Nov 26 Anthony John Clarke

LONGRIDGE

Sept 7 Singers Night Sept 21 Guest tba Dec 7 Pat Ryan & Ken Howard

MAGHULL

Sept 4 Kieran Halpin & Chris Jones

NORTHWICH

Sept 3 Singers Night Sept 10 Singers Night Sept 17 Solan Oct 15 Dangerous Curves Oct 29 Gordon Tyrrell & Maggie Boyle

OPEN DOOR

Sept 5 Singaround Sept 12 Jed Grimes Sept 26 Geoff Higginbottom Oct 3 Singaround Oct 10 Dave Gibb Oct 17

Singaround Oct 24 Extravaganza 7 Elaine & Sam Bracken Jez Lowe and the Bad Pennies Oct 31 Singaround Nov 7 Singaround Nov 14 Singaround Nov 21 Singaround Nov 28 Pete Morton Dec 5 Singaround Dec 12 Cath Mundy & Jay Turner

PARKGATE

Sept 9 Allan Taylor & John Wright (as a duo) (extra night) Sept 30 Vin Garbutt Oct 28 Bob Fox Nov 25 The McCalmans (Tickets available for all above concerts)

PHILHARMONIC HALL

Oct 22 & Oct 23 Christy Moore & Declan Sinnott Oct 26 The Waterboys

PLATFORM

Nov 13 Ian Matthews

PLAYHOUSE 2

Sept 4 "Western Approaches" with Steve Knightley, Seth Lakeman and friends Sept 18 Tom Topping Band Oct 23 Connie Lush & Blues Shouter Oct 30 "Shamrock, Thistle & Rose" Nancy Kerr & James Fagan, Niamh Parsons & Graham Dunne, Alistair Hulett Nov 20 Broderick Dec 3 St Agnes Fountain Dec 18 John Wright Band

PORKIES

Sept 3 Gentleman Soldier Oct 1 Allan Taylor Nov 5 Chris While & Julie Matthews Dec 3 Tannahill Weavers Dec 17 Sad Pig Xmas Party

RAILWAY (Lymm)

Sept 23 Allan Taylor Oct 21 Bernard Cromarty Nov 4 Kathryn Roberts & Sean Lakeman

RATTAN AND RUSH

Sept 11 & 12 Kieran Halpin Sept 25 Phil Beer & Deb Sandland Oct 16 Helen Watson Nov 13 Adrian Byron Burns Nov 27 Kathryn Roberts & Sean Lakeman Dec 11 Vin Garbutt Xmas Bash

RED BULL

Sept 20 George Papavgeris Nov 1 Witches of Elswick (ticket only)

RHYL

Sept 17 Ron Truman Border Oct 1 Dangerous Curves

RING O' BELLS

Sept 7 Stanley Accrington Sept 14 Singers Night Sept 21 Sounds Acoustic Sept 28 Singers Night Oct 5 tba Oct 12 Singers Night Oct 19 John & Ailsa Booth Oct 26 Singers Night Nov 2 Tony Gibbons Nov 9 Singers Night Nov 16 Quartz

STANDISH

Oct 30 Chris While & Julie Matthews Nov 27 Nancy Kerr & James Fagan

SWINTON

Sept 6 Redmayne Sept 13 Singers Night Sept 20 Ron Truman Border Sept 27 Singers Night Oct 4 Pete Ryder Oct 11 Singers Night Oct 18 Des Friel Oct 23 Swinton Folk Festival Oct 25 Singers Night Nov 1 Tony Taffinder & Bruce Baillie

WESTHOUGHTON

Sept 24 Club reopens with Allan Taylor & John Wright (as duo) Oct 1 Real Time Oct 8 Back of the Moon NB: Above three dates at Douglas Valley Golf Club, Blackrod Oct 15 Bernard Carney (Australia) Oct 22 Eileen McGann with David K (Canada) Oct 29 Chris While & Julie Matthews (ticket only) Nov 5 Mrs Ackroyd Band Nov 12 Clive Gregson Nov 19 Kathryn Roberts & Sean Lakeman Nov 26 The McCalmans

WOODEN HORSE

Sept 5 Singers Night Sept 12 Singers Night Sept 19 Robin Laing Sept 26 Singers Night Oct 3 Singers Night Oct 10 Singers Night Oct 17 John Prentice Oct 24 Singers Night Oct 31 Singers Night Nov 7 Singers Night Nov 14 Martin Wyndham-Read Nov 21 Singers Night Nov 28 Singers Night Dec 5 Dangerous Curves Dec 12 Singers Night Dec 19 Xmas Party Dec 26 closed

WREXHAM

Sept 16 Re-opening night Joe Topping Oct 7 Bram Taylor Oct 21 Singers Night Nov 4 Cathryn Craig and Brian Willoughby Dec 2 Les Barker - tbc

BLUE C

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His Worship & The Pig • Anne Lister • Grace Notes
Sad Pig • NowThen • Ben Needham & Robin Petty

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Singarounds • Buskers • and more!

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Compère:
David Jones

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Barnoldswick Community Arts Group
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CLUB RESIDENTS

BACUP - Brian Eastwood, Boo Long, Joe Caswell, Mark Almond, Barry Maine, Steve Brooks, John Dean, Will Scribble, Tom Winstanley, Keith Winfield, Bernadette O'Vonnor, Lynn and Barry

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

GALLAGHER'S - Pat Ryan, Ken Howard

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, Loctup Together, 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

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

TRITON - Bob Tyrer, Frank Jenkinson

UPSTAIRS AT THE RAILWAY - Lynn & Barrie Hardman, Dave Jones, John Denny, Dave South

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

WALSHAW - Capstycam

WALTON - Ray Ellis, Arthur Best, Joe Wilcoxson, Lil French, Tommy Everett, Andrew & Steve Hesford

WESTHOUGHTON - Auld Triangle

WOODEN HORSE - Quartz, Loctup Together, Back in Business, Rob Peacock, Mark Dowding

WREXHAM - Offa

(Updated April 2004) - Alterations or additions to John Owen by email on johnowenbtacks@aol.com or ring John on 0151-678-9902

Sidmouth International Festival contributes in the region of £5,000,000 to the local economy, yet business in the district fail to realistically support the festival's Patron Scheme. Also after 50 years of support, East Devon District Council have indicated their financial support will soon come to an end, exposing the management to even greater risk than before.

Faced with this situation, the 50th Sidmouth Festival will be the last one organised by the current management.

The organisers are aware that this news will shock many of the event's supporters. This decision has not been reached lightly. The only way that the current management is prepared to consider a future beyond the 50th festival is to secure sufficient underwriting.

If there are companies or individuals willing to make significant financial contributions towards this underwriting they should register their interest to the Festival Office by Friday 28th May. Based on the response, final decisions on the future of the festival in 2005 and beyond will be made in early June.

Festival Office, PO Box 296, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 3XU, UK info@sidmouthfestival.com

TOWERSEY'S RUBY ANNIVERSARY

Welcome to the first Towersey Village Festival Newsletter of 2004. This year's Festival runs from 26-30 August 2004 and is our Ruby Anniversary. Where else can you get great artists, fantastic venues and a unique, relaxed atmosphere? So dig out your red and pink dresses and join us in Towersey, Nr Thame, Oxon for an August Bank Holiday weekend full of concerts, ceilidhs, workshops, arena shows, children's festival and loads more.

We have already confirmed some of the folk scene's top acts. Taking the Arts Centre by storm will be Rory McLeod and Daily Planet. On the Concert Stage join, Flook, Martin Simpson, Andy Irvine, The Fagans, Malinky, The Demon Barbers, Doghouse Skiffle Group, Steve Tilston, FolkESTRA north! David Francey - the list goes on and on.

For all you dancers then Florida, Bedlam, The Woodpecker Band and others will be getting your pulses racing in the Dance Tent. For something a little more genteel, head down to St Catherine's Church and back to the 17th Century with The Oxford Waits. Check out our website at www.towerseyfestival.com for a full list of artists confirmed so far plus details of early booking offers.

Don't forget to book your ticket before 31 May 2004 to save money on your Full Weekend Season ticket. Day Season tickets will be available from 1 June 2004 and if you buy 9 tickets you get another one free, so get your friends and family together and join us for the Ruby Celebration.

If you want to get more involved, we are still looking for Volunteer Stewards to help us run the Festival. With a 5-day build up, a 4-day Festival and a 3-day get out we need about 250 Volunteer Stewards to help with all sorts of things from administration to traffic control, ticket checking to venue management. If you are aged 18 or over and want to be part of a great team please give us a call on 01629 827017 for an application form or download one from www.towerseyfestival.com In return we will give you a Full Weekend Season ticket with camping and a part in the team that makes it all happen. Applications to be received by 31 May 2004.

Village Festival PO Box 296, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 3XU info@towerseyfestival.com Box Office: 01629 827016; Fax: 01629 821874 www.towerseyfestival.com

FESTIVAL ORGANISERS GET IT TOGETHER

A record number of delegates attended the Association of Festival Organisers Annual Conference in Buxton on 30th Jan - 1st February 2004. The Conference Agenda boasted 24 topics in just one and half days, plus plenty of networking opportunities, a stunning concert, a Trade fair and an Agent's Market representing leading agencies in the roots, world and folk scene. Many delegates have heralded this year's event as the most practical and useful conference they have ever been to. The AFO would like to thank Arts Council England and production company Stage Electrics for their funding and sponsorship of the event.

Topics ranged from briefings on new legislation such as the new Licensing Act and its affect on outdoor and temporary events, the Disability Discrimination Act and the new Doorkeepers legislation. Other sessions and discussions included Publicity & Marketing, Health & Safety, Working with the Media, Audience Research & Evaluation, What Makes a Good Festival Programme, Advice on Constitutions and Committees Insurance, Artist Accommodation, Story Telling, Working with Agents, and much more.

The AFO Conference prides itself on providing advice and support to festival organisers - especially those working in a voluntary capacity, fitting in the organisation of their events in their 'spare' time. Many of the festivals and events represented at the AFO Conference focus on folk, roots, world and acoustic music festivals. In addition, there are many organisers and coordinators of events and projects from different areas of the arts who also attended the conference. The feedback from many delegates has been incredibly positive and enthusiastic.

Plans are underway for the next AFO Conference, due to take place in November 2004. If you would like further information or would like to join the AFO mailing list, please contact FolkArts England at afo@folkarts-england.org or post to PO Box 296, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 3XU. Tel: 01629 827014 Fax: 01629 821874.

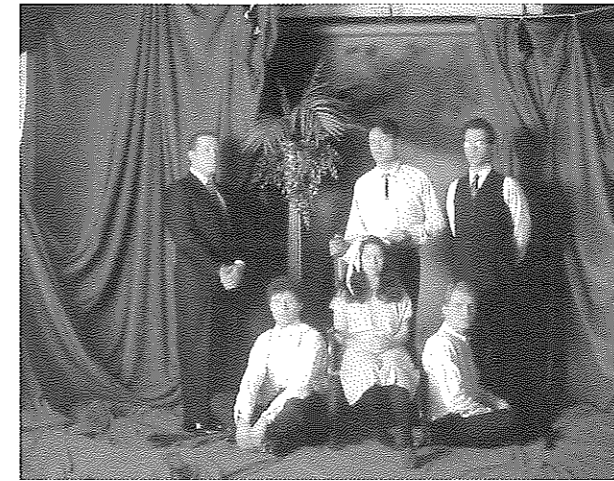


10,000 MANIACS - Campfire Songs (Rhino/Elektra Records R2 7900)

Following Natalie Merchant's recent exploration of the folk idiom, some of you may be wondering where those distinctive vocals came from. Natalie was the leading light and singer in 10,000 Maniacs whose career spanned the early 80's to the early 90's. Right on time, this two CD retrospective arrives to expose the wide-ranging influences by, and of, others in the world of music.

The first CD selects from their best-known recordings showing a career that might start with some punk flavourings but matures into pop/folk material such as 'Hey, Jack Kerouac', 'What's The Matter Here', 'These Are The Days', etc. The CD gets rightly sub-titled as 'The Most Popular Recordings' as these songs defined a new wholesome approach attracting the attention of

the likes of Billy Bragg and Michael Stipe to the covert political comment within the lyrics.

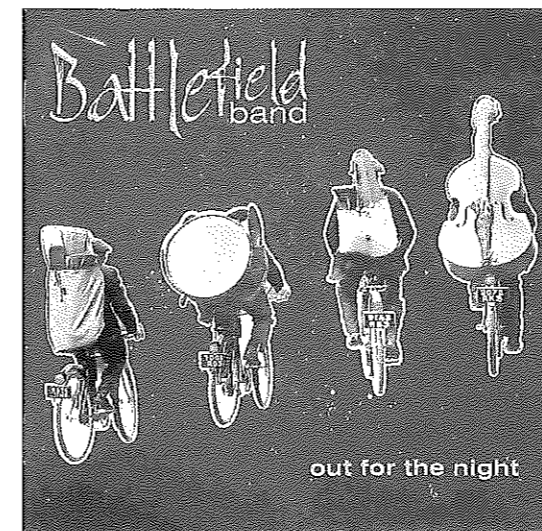


On the second CD, we find out just how 10,000 Maniacs were able to come up with a sound that was so fresh and worthy of any ear. Here, the breadth of influence is laid open for all to see. Packed with cover songs, this second CD include Iris Dement's 'Let The Mystery Be', Cat Steven's 'Peace Train', A.P. Carter's 'Wildwood Flower', Jackson Browne's 'These Days' and, ahem, David Bowie's 'Starman'. "We called the music 'proletariat'", says Merchant. I call it diverse and inspirational.

Steve Henderson

BATTLEFIELD BAND - Out For The Night (Temple Records COMD2094)

The tightly finger-picked counter melody guitar of Pat Kilbride coupled with Alasdair White's twin fiddles on the opening track 'Ms Dynamite Of Benbecula' highlights this latest incarnation of Scotland's Battlefield Band and is a sure-fire winner in the "...how to arrange master-class..." scheme of things. Proving that they've also lost none of their attack by featuring the highland pipes of Mike Katz on the tune 'Little Cascade' this first set of tunes fair leaves you gasping for breath. Alan Reid (the only remaining original member of the band) has always played a major part with his interpretations of traditional songs and can now add to the canon the gently funky 'Earl Of Errol'. Compositional skills of the band are another forte and between them Katz, White and Reid are quite formidable.



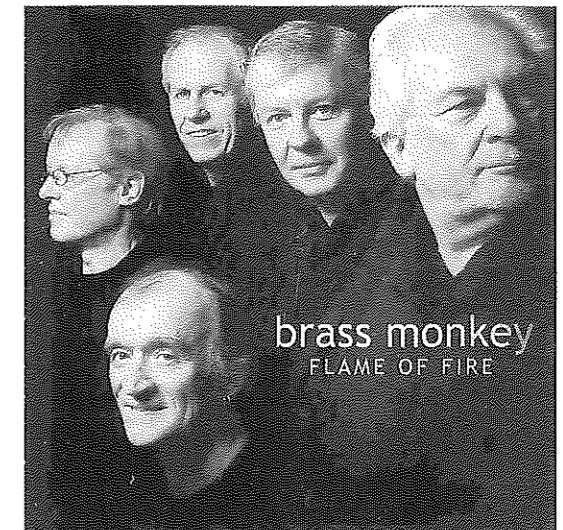
This recording has all the right ingredients that come with years

of maturing much like a fine malt whisky. All of the material presented on this album is of the highest quality and I'm sure many of the new tunes will find themselves being soaked into the tradition and, as such, a finer compliment to any artist I can't think of.

Pete Fyfe

BRASS MONKEY - Flame Of Fire (Topic Records TSCD550)

As Dick Van Dyke might have it... "Strike A Light Guv!" for it is the utter British-ness of this album that makes one feel justifiably proud to be patriotic. I'm of course referring to the sound of Brass Monkey who once again turn in an excellent set and what else would you expect from the masters? For those in need of an introduction there is Martin Carthy (guitar & vocals), John Kirkpatrick (squeezeboxes & vocals), Howard Evans (trumpet), Martin Brinsford (percussion) and Roger Williams (trombone). Without meaning to sound patronising to the non-folk music enthusiasts amongst you reading this review you may wonder at the idea of combining a brass section with acoustic instrumentation...but let me tell you...it works. The content of the recording comprises (with the exception of 'Happy Hours') traditional tunes and songs amassed by this extremely knowledgeable quintet. As well as some of the more established repertoire including 'A Brisk Young Widow' and 'Streams Of Lovely Nancy' the overall effect is that of listening to a brass band performing at a local fete albeit a more professional sound you could not imagine. Ever inventive with their arrangements, the band strike a balance that highlights the authoritative delivery of the vocals including a great version of the song 'The Game Of All Fours' featuring John Kirkpatrick.



In the hands of younger artists, the presentation of the chosen material may just come across as quaintly quirky but in the hands of Brass Monkey I'm glad to say that they mark their territory with a dignity afforded their position as elder statesmen. To harness such a sound in the studio is quite demanding but in the hands of Oliver Knight it appears effortless and whilst congratulating the back room boys I'd like to say that the photography and sleeve concept are once again handled with the care and attention we have come to expect from John Haxby. Another outstanding contribution to 'real' music

Pete Fyfe

CALASAIG - Merchants' City (Lazy Mist Records BKDCD107)

What better way to start the New Year than with the skirl of the pipes? Heady stuff I know but I'm sure this album will help kick out any remaining cobwebs you may have. Starting off with a

set of tunes 'The Pullet/Sandy Duff', Calasaig prove they aren't the shy retiring type. Although I wasn't expecting it, I'm glad to hear that lead vocalist Kirsten Easdale has an attacking edge that more than balances the band's powerhouse backing. In fact, the performances by the rest of the members Celine Donoghue (fiddle), Keith Easdale (pipes), Andy Webster (guitar) and Keith Johnston (cittern) are dynamic and spirited - just the way I like it!

As well as established traditional favourites such as 'The Road To Drumlehan' and 'The Bonnie Light Horseman' the members of the band all take a part in contributing new tunes and songs and the diversity in their subject matter makes for interesting reading (and listening). Whether ripping it up with the banjo driven 'Dinny O'Brien's/The Shortcut' or relating the tale of 'The Lost Gardeners Of Heligon' Calasaig are a refreshingly lively group whose reputation should see them at the top of the tree. Finally, and this is by no means meant to detract from their efforts, comparisons are inevitable and for those of a certain age I'd hedge a bet with Kentigern which I hope will be seen as a compliment. If you hadn't guessed it already the album comes highly recommended and you can order copies from www.rowanarts.co.uk

Pete Fyfe

PHIL CHISNALL - As For Me (Own label)

Phil Chisnall lives on the Wirral, although he's been in and around the folk scene for many years, he's finally taken to the courage of his convictions and released a second CD of his own songs borne out of memories, experiences and forward thinking. 'The Inner Child', is a rhythmic look back at those things that are permanently etched on the mind, but sadly now long gone.

Many people build a wall around themselves as a defence mechanism. 'My Comfort', explains how, despite this, you can still be there for them. In contrast, those you would expect to be there are nowhere to be found, typical 'Fairweather Friends'. The emotional rollercoaster that is love has remained unchanged since time immemorial, but do we ever forget lost love, as we are 'Haunted By Your Memory'. Phil also enjoys creating the odd instrumental; 'Poppyfields', is one such, played with feeling on a steel resonator guitar.

If you like your blues clichéd, you've come to the right place with, 'Every Morning Blues'. Phil's love of this particular musical genre comes through loud and clear. I always feel that songs written specifically for a wedding put the songwriter in a no win situation, it's only my personal view, so here's hoping I'm wrong with this, 'Wedding Song', for Joanne & Mark. 'Lover Of My Soul', started out as a spiritual poem, with the music added later. It is certainly my favourite track off the CD; the lyrics are so apt for us all. 'It's Better To Try', than never to have tried before. A song that I'm sure will strike a chord with each of us. There is such a fine line between success and failure.

The only song on the CD not written by Phil is the much-covered traditional offering, 'The Water Is Wide'. Phil's slide guitar passage midway through gives this great song a real up to date sound. 'Desert Skies' is another tantalising instrumental, this time with a Latin feel and sultry beat.

Often we let our minds drift in moments of solitude towards someone special that we hold very dear, 'Thinking Of You', explains it far more eloquently than I ever could. The album is rounded off with the title track, 'As For Me'. What is urgent and what is important are two aspects that form opposite ends of the spectrum. But surely to deal with the here and now is the one thing that gives real satisfaction.

Phil Chisnall is someone who not only plays good music but

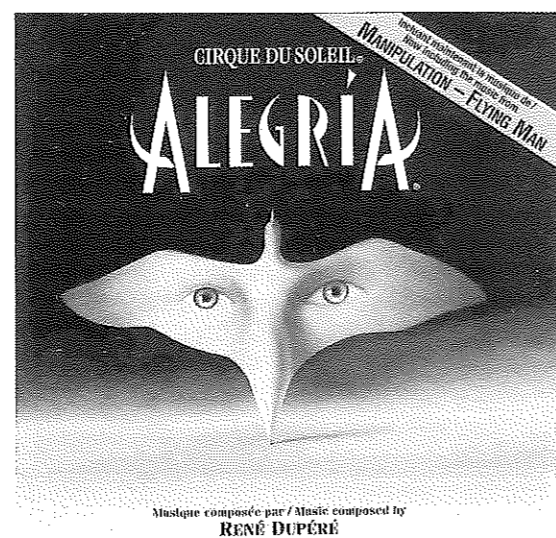
lives it as well. He has learned off so many people as well as listened to those who have helped shape the singer/songwriter we see and hear today. So many have trodden the well-worn path before but failed to heed good advice and have fallen along the way. Somehow I think Phil will be around long after the pack has disappeared.

On the recording Phil plays Ovation and Yamaha guitars as well as a Fender Stratocaster, long may he continue to evolve and to take on board good advice offered. This CD has indeed been worth waiting six years for.

David Jones

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL - Alegria (74321-93442-2); Quidam (74321-91493-2); Varekai (400005-03805-1)

Cirque Du Soleil are perhaps the most stunning visual artists to exist on the face of this planet. If you have witnessed any of their performances on TV or (and I wish I could count myself one of them) 'live' then you can be in no doubt that they are the ultimate arts package. So, it goes without saying that along with the visual aspect musically, they are equally at home. For the folk enthusiasts just imagine if you will all the best elements of Loreena McKennit topped by a dash of the group Enigma and now we are heading some way to establishing the unique soundscapes created by Cirque Du Soleil's musical sculptures. Having no knowledge of the French language (don't forget the troupe are basically French-Canadian), I must admit that this doesn't even enter into the equation within the musical envelope as, in many respects, the voice could, from an 'English' perspective be treated as a musical texture. Having said this, the choice of vocalists would give say Celine Dion, Tina Arena or, in the case of 'Alegria', Edith Piaf a run for their money - they're that good.

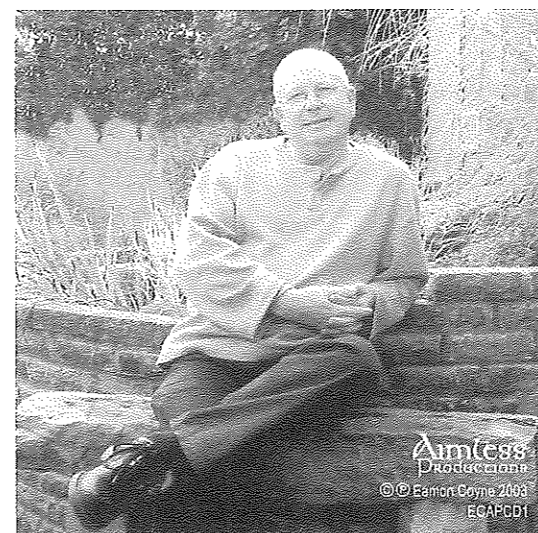


I suppose without meaning to sound churlish, compassions may be drawn to the Riverdance choir and if you liked them then you'll like this. On the instrumental front violin is a predominant feature while the percussion and drums (drum programming) are so groovy that I dare anyone not to feel genuinely excited. As if proof were needed check out Nitin Sawhney's arrangements on Varekai. The musical directors of each show place their own individual stamp on proceedings. In the case of Rene Dupere on 'Alegria' it conjures up the back street restaurant sounds utilising accordion and even musical saw. Before I get too carried away I'll finish this review saying buy these albums! If you're ears are in need of stabilising from everything 'folk' these albums will give you a whole new perspective on your assumptions that you can't do anything new with roots based music. By the way, check out the stunning official website at www.cirquedusoleil.com

Pete Fyfe

EAMON COYNE - Liverpool Connection (Aimless Productions ECAPCD 1)

It cannot be easy when you are a son of a father with one of the finest bow wrists to come out of Ireland. Complicate that ever further when your brothers are Irish Champions on a number of instruments and are internationally renowned as session players and live performers. All this sits comfortably on the shoulders of this gentle and mild mannered Irish/Liverpudlian - Eamon Coyne.



From a very tender age he toured with the Liverpool Ceili Band - Europe, America and beyond. Uncountable live shows and studio sessions have since followed, as a session musician and as a member of a number of high profile bands.

Now at last his first solo instrumental Cd: "Liverpool Connection" by Aimless productions - ECAPCD 1. Twelve tracks of Traditional Irish Music totalling 43 minutes.

This is a beautifully brilliant CD. One for the established player and a yardstick for aspiring.

It sums up a lifetimes work, all the practicing, performing at sessions, live shows in every conceivable type of venue, and living at the heart of a family of traditional musicians.

And don't take my word for it, buy the CD. You will hear a consummate professional musician, at one with his chosen instruments - fiddle and mandolin - breathing life and experiences into the music he lives for.

Eamon is joined by some first class musicians: his brothers Terry Coyne - flute and whistle and Mick Coyne - Uilleann Pipes; Tony Gibbons - Cittern, Patrick Michiels - Bodhran and by the fantastic guitar of Philip Masure.

This Cd is available direct from Eamon. Tel 07811 040 336
Brian Preston

KRIS DELMHORST - Songs for a Hurricane (Acoustic Roots - ARCD7)

Kris Delmhorst grew up in Brooklyn and developed an eclectic taste in music that ranged from the Beatles, Led Zeppelin and John Coltrane to Dvorak, Tom Waits and The Smiths. However, she has evolved into her own person and after a number of home made albums, the conceptual project, 'Songs for a Hurricane' is her third major release.

Delmhorst, with her base now in Cambridge, Massachusetts, has built up a strong reputation and loyal following in the independent scene in America after incessant touring. As a result of strong performances and word-of-mouth alone she's sold 25,000 copies of her first two releases, 'Appetite' and 'Five Stories'. She's toured all over the USA and Europe with the likes of Dar Williams, Catie Curtis and Mary Gauthier. As well as being a gifted singer and songwriter, she's a talented multi instrumentalist who has played cello and fiddle as a session musician. She's attracted six Boston Music Award nominations, is an award winning songwriter, and received considerable airplay across the States.

It is important to understand the concept of 'Songs for a Hurricane' before listening to it. As the title suggests, the record relates to a turbulent time. "The sequence of songs traces a hurricane's arc" which is an allegory for a personal "transformative journey". Delmhorst describes the album as telling "a universal tale of heading through the teeth of a storm and coming out the other side whole, wiser for wear, and forever changed". A concept that many people can relate to in their personal lives. Although the only hurricane I've personally experienced was in 1987 in London, when one hundred year old trees were uprooted - fortunately or otherwise, I slept through it all and only saw the aftermath.



Delmhorst has a rich interpretive and distinctive voice. She accompanies herself on a range of stringed instruments and her vocals are ably complemented, but not overwhelmed, by a talented band of musicians, including Mark Erelli (guitars), Kevin Barry (electric and lap steel guitars), Julie Wolf (piano, accordion, organ etc) and Billy Conway (drums and percussion) who, with the artist, has done a great job on the production. The album starts off in a low key with "Waiting under the waves". The best tracks are "Billy Lee", "Hurricane" and the final track "Mandalay".

This is a fine album from a highly talented artist who deserves far wider recognition. 'Songs for a Hurricane' is a brave project and one to which you'll need to listen several times before being able to appreciate its true value and quality. However, the result of perseverance is extremely rewarding. Kris Delmhorst came on a promotional tour to the UK last year. I only hope her next visit isn't too long.

Lewis Jones

DERVISH - Spirit (Whirling Discs WHRL007)

There's much for which to applaud Dervish - and making excellent recordings is one of them. They may not be the kind of band to break new ground, but then again, why should they? They've served their apprenticeship and from the outset the band seemed to comfortably settle down into the seat vacated by The Bothy Band with a splash of Altan. In fact I can still remember the first time I heard them which ironically was at Matt Molloy's Bar in Mayo. The band have found a comfortable formula that seems to work for them and if consistently maintaining creative, driving music that stops you dead in your tracks one minute

capped by Cathy Jordan's vocals then so be it.

For those of you looking forward to expanding your musical repertoire, there is plenty of choice from the jig set 'Father Jack' to the clever use of layered string rhythm on the 'Swallows Tail' whilst overall, the album title just about sums up the contents of the disk. Ireland should be proud to have such cultural ambassadors. **Pete Fyfe**

JEAN FINNEY - Remember My Name (Own label)

Jean Finney is the driving force behind the 'Ring O' Bells' folk club held each Tuesday in Widnes. But Jean is no ordinary club organiser, for she writes songs and performs them. This CD marks Jean's first venture into the recording studio with a collection of songs that cover a number of musical boundaries.

A real country ballad feel is given to the opening track, 'If There's Someone That You Love', should you tell them for fear of receiving a rebuke? 'Spontaneous Combustion', again a song allied to love with a real up beat tempo. We all hope to be remembered after we've gone, but how would you like to be thought of, a question posed in 'Remember My Name'.

The gold rush drew people from all walks of life to the west in the 1800's, but so few found fortune. Many were duped out of what little they had, 'Fool's Gold', was much in evidence and not only in panning for a fortune. I think we all pine for at least one special person who has touched our lives, however briefly. 'Alone' is a poignant ballad looking at the emptiness of it all.

'Don't Miss Me 'till I've Gone', a sentiment felt by us all at sometime during our lives. Make each moment count until the end finally comes. Fine piano gives this track a pleasant, warm feel. '20,000 Lemmings Can't Be Wrong' - a piece of graffiti seen on a toilet wall - but surely they know something we don't, a fun song with a serious message. A song that likens men to fruit on a stall, perfect specimens, all neatly laid out, but choosing the right one is just as difficult. I can't help thinking this is sung a little 'tongue in cheek', a Caribbean beat can lead who knows where?

I defy the words of 'One Day Daddy', not to bring a tear to the strongest persons eye - a perceptive song from a child's perspective. Divorce causes such pain, especially for the children. 'Summer Is Over' is a wistful song with a beautiful sentiment. Memories are best kept as just that. Holiday romances very, very rarely work out, but memories never fade.

I'm told that the female wiles are many and varied, but surely the tactic of 'Pity' to help keep your man isn't one universally used, is it? A lady of the night takes pride in her work, but switches off when it comes to her clients needing sympathy. 'My Wife Doesn't Understand Me', is the most oft used excuse for their straying. MYOB is an acronym you can use when filling in forms, when you don't feel the question appropriate. Oh yes I almost forgot, 'Mind Your Own Business'.

This album was a refreshing departure from the ones I usually review. Jean seems to have her finger firmly on the pulse of reality and is not afraid to say it the way it is. She has never claimed the CD is 'folkie', but it certainly fills a gap in the 'easy listening' market. I would recommend it as a recording that will bring food for thought. I would like to know how much is personal experience and how much is wishful thinking, but I'm too much of a gentleman to ask. **David Jones**

FOUR 'N' AFT Running Free (Cock Robin Music - CRM121)

Four 'n' Aft are two duos, Helen Pitt and Steve Dawes; and Chris Lock and Ian Tupling, who after performing very successfully as

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duos for several years, decided, in 2002, to get together and explore four part harmony on songs they loved. The result, if you have not had the pleasure of hearing them live, is an overall rich sound of great depth and some superb harmony singing.

For someone not greatly in love with shanties, I thought I might find reviewing this CD a bit of a challenge, but all my fears are unfounded. This is a CD not only for people who love shanties and songs of the sea, but also for those who like good harmony singing. Their voices all blend seamlessly together and all have the strength to take the lead when required.

All the tracks on this CD are eminently listenable, my favourites, if asked to choose would be 'Stamp and Go' from the pen of Graham Moore; 'The Spirit Song of St George's Bank' a spooky maritime ghost story; 'So Long Ago' (OK, I have to go for this one, its not a shanty, but it really is a great anti-discrimination song from the pen of the wonderful Si Kahn) and 'Sugar in the Hold' which is a cargo-loading shanty from the US Gulf Coast.

Overall I have found this CD a pleasure to listen to, I love the sound of their harmonies and do find myself singing along with them (even if some of them are shanties (bah, humbug)). Seriously though, if shanties and sea songs wonderfully sung are for you, then this CD is a must, and also if haunting close harmony singing is for you, then this CD is a must also. Definitely one for everyone's collection, not to be missed.

Angie Bladen

GAELIC STORM - Special Reserve (Own Label)

I suppose in many ways Gaelic Storm is the American equivalent of Australia's Bushwhackers Band and for those of you wondering where you've heard their name before they were the band below decks tearing up a storm in the James Cameron film 'Titanic'. Introductions over, the group represent the high octane Celtic fusion that made the likes of The Pogues so popular. But, with the introduction of Highland pipes, they have added gusto, which I know although this isn't anything new as far as we Brits are concerned (the Tannahill Weavers anyone?). For those uninitiated in the ways of folk bands, I'm sure this album will prove highly energetic and entertaining.



In many respects I'd call the album ragged but right, as there aren't any outstanding contributions instrumentally speaking and that isn't meant as a slight to the members of the band. This is the kind of music that you could experience in any self-respecting Irish pub down the Holloway Road on a Saturday night and in a nostalgic way I still hanker for it myself. The songwriting isn't on a par with, say Shane MacGowan, although it's passable, whereas a majority of their efforts seem to go into the more traditional material such as 'Courtin' In The Kitchen', 'Leaving

Of Liverpool' and 'Johnny Jump Up'. So there we have it ladies and gentlemen, a bit of an old fashioned knees up. To order copies of the CD go to their website at www.gaelicstorm.com or from the Amazon website **Pete Fyfe**

ANNIE GRACE - Take Me Out Drinking Tonight (Greentrax Recordings CDTRAX256)

It's been a long time since I'd heard anything from the former Iron Horse lead vocalist so when I learnt that Annie Grace had released a solo album I got on the blower to the record company straight away. Having been a fan for many years I'm pleased to report that the album doesn't disappoint. Opening with a downright funky 'The Trees They Grow High' the chunky guitar set up by Aly Macrae (somewhat disconcertingly) soon gets under the skin and joined by Annie's low whistle and Gavin Marwick's fiddle during the link helps lend dynamic tension. One of my favourite North-East folksongs is the haunting 'Bonny At Morn' and Annie's take on it given a slight jazz tinged accompaniment ranks alongside the best of numerous versions I have heard recently.

Among the more contemporary numbers, the title track written by Michael Marra is given a suitably lazy country waltz treatment whilst the traditional 'Land O' The Leal' with its gently brushed drums and drum programming are surprisingly effective in an evocative kind of way. Although this isn't an album that pushes the boundaries it is nonetheless a worthy contribution to the ever-expanding quantity of quality recordings we can be proud to embrace under the title of 'folk'. **Pete Fyfe**

THE GREEN HOUSE BAND - Mirage (Market Square MSMCD126)

The Green House band appears to be an unusual combination. The band has been assembled from 1970s cult folk rock musicians, an award winning theatrical arranger and is fronted by a young actress/singer.

So who is this seemingly strange ensemble? Lead vocalist, Madeleine Worrall has worked with the RSC, in the West End and TV. Neil MacArthur, has been involved in successful West End productions like 'Five Guys Named Moe' and 'Blues in the night' - on this album he plays acoustic guitar and piano. Graeme Taylor was a founder member of Gryphon and in 1977 joined forces with John Tams and Ashley Hutchings to form the Albion Band, and later teamed up with the former in the Home Service. Dave Berry on double bass and bass guitar has played with the John Kirkpatrick Band and, like Taylor Michael Gregory (drums and percussion) joined Taylor in the Albions and Home Service in their early stages, and has since worked with Kirkpatrick, Maddy Prior and more recently with Ric Sanders.

So an impressive cast that has gelled well together to produce an album of traditional songs many of which were originally brought to our attention and arranged by John Renbourn and Bert Jansch. These include: 'Reynardine', 'Rosemary Lane', and 'Backwater Side'. While occasionally the band fails to provide some of the energy and vibrancy of the originals, Worrall more than makes up for it with her vocal delivery, which at times has raw echoes of Sandy Denny. She also has added help on 'The Snows' from the legendary Tim Rose. The Green House Band has lovingly reinterpreted a fine bunch of traditional songs and treated them with the dignity they deserve. The album has been described as "An unusual essay in pastoral English folk" and that sums it up very well. **Lewis Jones**

INDIGO GIRLS - All That We Let In (Epic Records 515144 2)

Described as folk-rock by their blurb, this may be folk-rock but

not as we know it. Indigo Girls have been making a name for themselves for over 20 years in their American homeland. They are folk in the way that the more mainstream material of Chris While and Julie Matthews is folk. In other words, hardly related to the traditional style at all.

The album opens up with the lively 'Fill It Up Again', complete with a catchy chorus and enough hooks to make this a real pop catch. Its lyrical content is a hybrid of their typical personal relationship/social concern subject matter. Another pop oriented song - 'Heartache For Everyone' - follows it, which they claim was inspired by The Clash's occasional playful use of the ska beat. Though pleasant, these claims are fairly outlandish as these girls are squarely in the area of soft rock. 'Free In You' is typical of the ballads that we hear from across the water and have influenced the aforementioned While and Matthews. So, you'll get the picture of 'soft' rock/pop mixed with some sweet ballads.



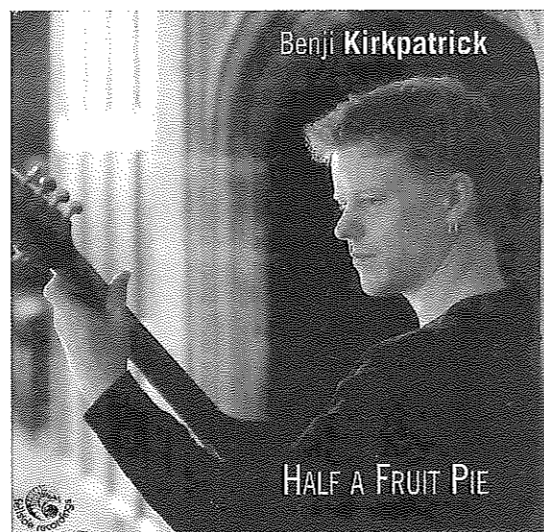
There are some good songs on this record and established fans will no doubt be pleased with what they find here. Also, there would certainly be a potential new audience amongst those of you who enjoy the territory that attracts Woman's Hour or Johnny Walker on BBC radio. In truth, too 'middle of the road' for me but that doesn't mean that it wouldn't interest those of you whose folk interests spread into the more lightweight areas.

Steve Henderson

BENJI KIRKPATRICK - Half A Fruit Pie (Fellside Recordings FECD181)

Paul Adams at Fellside Recordings must be feeling well chuffed at the moment. As stated in the press release he has started to obtain a roster of English folk artists who are fast establishing the label as one of the leading companies in that particular field. The latest solo addition to this already impressive list is Benji Kirkpatrick and from the opening track 'A Bed Between Friends/ Urge To Caper' you can rest assured that he has emerged from under his illustrious father's shadow with the kind of dignity you would expect in keeping with family tradition. Benji's father is John Kirkpatrick the squeezebox maestro who puts in an appearance on Urge To Caper providing an opportunity to show that the folk-rock pioneering days of the Albion Country Band have been put to good use. Unusually Benji's chosen instrument is the bouzouki, and, although not generally considered a tool in the English cannon of folk instruments (apart from maybe Jez Lowe) the delicate - but not in a prissy way - employment particularly when accompanying the vocals proves very refreshing.

For those of you looking for something a little different, the melody and chord accompaniment on the challenging second section of the title track for some reason bring to mind those used in The Adventures Of Robinson Crusoe TV series from years ago. Sparingly adding touches of fiddle courtesy of Seth Lakeman and the drums of Richard Adams, the album doesn't so much rock your socks off as show that with a bit of thought production skills can enhance without being intrusive.



Many moons ago I witnessed the revolution that Donal Lunny and Andy Irvine inspired in many Celtic musicians to pick up the bouzouki and as I'm sitting here writing this review I can't help but think that Benji could do the same for the English. This is a sparkingly good recording and one that deserves your attention.

Pete Fyfe

LAST NIGHT'S FUN - Tempered (Rabble Rouser Records RR003)

Chris Sherburn, Denny Bartley and Nick Scott have rightly gained themselves a place in the folk hall of fame for perseverance and sheer hard graft and, I have to say that I think this is their best album to date. Capturing just the right moment in a performance can be just plain awkward at times for many engineers and you have to be aware of each nuance the band conveys or you are in serious danger of missing 'the right moment' altogether. None of this is lost on Adrian McNally the lad's engineer and producer who has an empathy with what each musician brings to the overall sound and draws on that to raise and lower the temperature. In order to find what was (I would imagine) the best environment in which to nurture this more or less 'live' quality our intrepid trio headed for Doxford Hall in Northumberland and judging by the pictures in the accompanying booklet you can just see them snugly sitting round an open fireplace with beaming smiles as they launch into another set of reels.

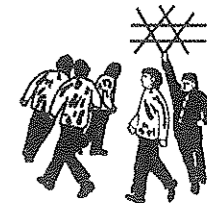
As you're listening to the recording you can just feel the tension created by the inter-active use of Uilleann pipes and Chris's anglo concertina utilising the harnessed beauty of unison lead lines or the occasional harmony for good measure. The crowning glory on an album littered with technical merit has to be Denny's vocals on an uncommonly slow version of the old chestnut 'Whiskey In Jar' where his emotive rendering makes the original melody seem superfluous. All in all a resounding thumbs up!

Pete Fyfe

LUNASA - The Kinnitty Sessions (Compass Records 4377)

I don't know about you but the hairs on the back of my hair stood on end the first time I encountered The Bothy Band many

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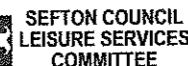
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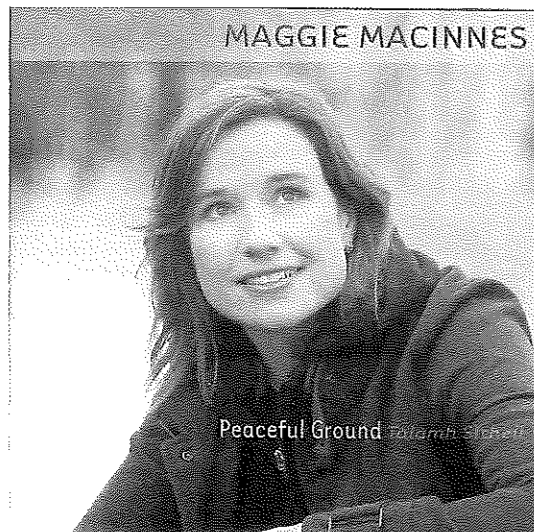
years ago. Well, I've just had the same sensation with the first track of Lunasa's latest release. The interplay of Kevin Crawford's flute and Cillian Vallely's Uilleann pipes opens the 'Stolen Purse' before the power chord chops of Donogh Hennessy join along with the double bass of Trevor Hutchinson and Sean Smyth's sonorous fiddle. So, now that we know we are in for a good time we can relax in the capable hands of one of Ireland's finest instrumental bands. The first tune of the next track 'Ballyogan' brings to mind the arrangement of The Maids Of Michelstown from that 'other' band but the second tune has an arrangement that sounds as if it had a bass line lifted straight from a James Bond movie. The lads have obviously put in a great deal of time and effort into constructing a selection of tunes that are both dynamic one minute but hit you with their subtlety the next.

Setting the measure speed-wise of a tune is all important and I must admit the band certainly know where to hit the nail on the head from the unrushed 'Jerry O'Sullivan's/The Dimmers' to the snappy 'Sean In The Fog'. Isn't it grand to know that we in the 'folk' world can proudly stand and be counted as having some of the finest musicians around to create wild and passionate music without the aid of sampled sounds and the like? Oh, by the way (although you wouldn't know it from the brilliant engineering) this album was recorded 'live' and to say that it sparkles as bright as any diamond is a bit of an understatement. Top Notch!

Pete Fyfe

MAGGIE MACINNES - Peaceful Ground (Marram Music MARCD02)

I first came across the gently lilting voice of Maggie MacInnes back in the early 80's on the album Cairistiona with George Jackson and I'm pleased to say that she reprises that particular song here (surprisingly) with the addition of understated electric guitar. The 80's were also about the time that I became aware of the Gaelic language in song. I still can't quite get to grips with it, but if you take it as a texture mixed in with the music it is more than palatable, as Clannad and Capercaillie have proved on the mainstream market. OK, so lyrics aside, the album is a controlled folk-rock exercise courtesy of producer Graeme Hughes which at times crosses over into Martyn Bennett territory where the skirl of highland pipes add passion to an already evocative "Dh'fhalbh mo run bho chionn seachdain". Interestingly the vocals of Maggie joined by her mother the great Flora MacNeil on the same track conjure up images of Native Americans at a gathering.



44 Whereas her previous recording was perhaps a little more subdued in it's arrangements, Maggie has surrounded herself

with some of Scotland's finest musicians including Sean O'Rourke (saxophone), Wendy Weatherby (cello) and Brian MacAlpine on keyboards and the overall performances on this album are far more dramatic. Take for instance the waulking song "Haidh O" where the use of stick driven rhythm and crashing electric guitars create a powerful, edgy performance. Although not rocking in the true sense of the word this is an album that is refreshing without being in your face and a joy to listen to.

Pete Fyfe

MAELSTROM - Maelstrom (Keltia Musique KMCD142)

It's funny what runs through your head when writing CD reviews. You wonder where you've come across the name of this band before. Well in this case it's the title of a Disney ride as part of their Norwegian experience in Florida. I don't mean the band (they're actually a string quartet) just the title. There I go shooting off at a tangent again. I'm also distracted by the vision of my Windows Media Player: Night Lights, which looks uncannily like the Northern Lights. So there we have it music to accompany a vivid imagination.

This album won't appeal to everyone (possibly a little too avante garde) but it is extremely well performed by the four protagonists: Jean-Pierre Andrieux, Pierre Stephan, Laurent Dacquay and Thierry Moreau. The brooding Cello that provides the bass end lends a sense of foreboding while the gypsy style violin playing conjures up notions of a vampire lurking in every corner. Whirling dervishes aside the album is haunting in a sort of Gothic way and a pleasant diversion from the Celtic fare I'm used to receiving. File it under 'folk' if you will - but not for the feint-hearted.

Pete Fyfe

KIRSTY MCGEE - Frost (Park Records PKCD69)

As I've stated in previous reviews it takes a lot for me to listen to singer-songwriters. I suppose I'm too far steeped in traditional music to change my ways but more recently I've been drawn by certain lyrics. This recording is just such a case and the gently cooing Kirsty reminds me in many ways of a youthful Ralph



McTell when it comes to a turn of phrase - hands up if you remember 'Barges' and 'Daddy's Here'? Achingly beautiful, the song 'Plane Vapours' paints a bleak picture of lost love with the descriptive narration holding the listener entranced with each verse and the sparseness of the arrangement makes it all the more poignant. In her storytelling I feel the words wash over in a very English way (as opposed to American) and so intricately written is each verse of each song that you can't help but imagine that every word was agonised over before the ink was allowed to dry.

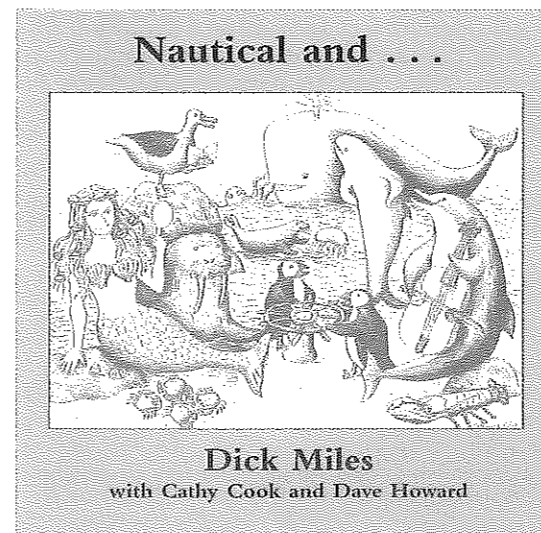
These are the kind of songs that wind up on shows like Dawson's Creek that in turn visually explore teenagers' angst ridden years; and rightly so if the songs are to get maximum exposure out there in the mainstream. The production by Boo Hewerdine is a work of art by allowing the songs ample room to breath adding delicate touches like the marxophone (whatever that is?) on the deliciously sinister 'Spider Lullaby'.

It's early days yet but I'm sure we'll be hearing a lot more of this young lady and trust me when I say that Kirsty will get anything like a frosty reception from the media for an album that just has to be heard by anyone who claims to have emotion in their soul.

Pete Fyfe

DICK MILES - 'Nautical and ...' (Milestone Music 2003)

Dick has certainly provided value for money on this CD with a full 23 tracks and a total playing time of slightly over 70 minutes. I played this CD for the first time as I began to put this issue of the magazine together and it kept interrupting my work as I stopped to listen and enjoy. Obviously not wallpaper music and very pleasing to the ear. It encompasses many old favourites cleverly interspersed with less well known songs and three sets of tunes. It is a very mellow, yet somehow cheerful and refreshing performance benefiting greatly from Dick's vast experience of signing and uncluttered by unnecessary extras. The necessary extras are Cathy Cook on fiddle and Dave Howard adding harmony vocals and guitar as well as recording and mixing tracks. They enhance, enrich and enchant a CD that has great purpose, pace and presence.



Dick is a friend of mine and so reviewing his CD is a worry. Would I like it? Would I genuinely be able to say nice things about it or would the need for honesty and a fair review put an end to a long standing friendship? Relief set in by track two, 'The Sailor's Dream'; written by Dick based on the idea of the Australian Drover's Dream. As you can see below this also inspired Cathy to produce a great cover illustration.

Her indoors likes it of course because there is lots of English Concertina on it and it demonstrates the art of song accompaniment on the concertina par excellence (well he has wrote just wrote a tutor book about it). I know concertinas at sea according to the adverts tend to get the chop. On this voyage the concertina is not at risk.

This is Dick's definitive CD, full of expression both in voice and concertina, happy in his work and in good company. I particularly like 'The Boys of Killybegs' which is a great contrast to the previous 'Johnny Come Down to Hilo'. Whereas normally nautical

songs feature unfaithful sailors 'The Dockyard Gate' warns seaman that their wives may not remain faithful while awaiting their return. The unaccompanied 'John Phillip Holland' reminds us that the submarine was invented by an Irishman.

It is a CD of thoughtful contrasts and I just love it all. A CD with the uncanny knack of making 70 minutes fly past without the need to do anything else but relax, sit back, listen and enjoy the songs and performance as much as Dick obviously does.. A CD that encourages the listener to play it again straightaway. Though the songs are mainly of a nautical flavour there is little chance of sea sickness as the Captain steers a brisk course through calm waters and returns us safely to land at the end of the trip. A memorable voyage and one that will be repeated often. There is nothing nought-ical about this CD, it is definitely Nautical and extremely nice.

Ken Bladen

OLD BLIND DOGS - The Gab O Mey (Green Linnet Records GLCD 1223)

Innovation isn't the only way to gain attention or keep it for that matter. No, sometimes the joy of listening to an album is the consistency that comes from familiarity. This is certainly true of Old Blind Dogs who found a niche early in their career and have maintained their own kind of quality control ever since. OK, so you know what to expect but that doesn't spoil your enjoyment one iota and once again the listener is treated royally with everything that is set before them. The stirring pipes of Rory Campbell has more than found his metre within the line-up whilst the rhythmical groove of Fraser Stone (percussion) perhaps not as up-front as some of his predecessors certainly drives along the non-intrusive bass playing of Buzzby McMillan.



A major part of the band's make-up is Jonny Hardie's controlled fiddle that again is handled with restraint filling in the gaps or taking a lead role on the instrumental sets and the crowning glory of Jim Malcolm's sublime vocals. Their choice of material includes a couple of old standards; 'Monymusk Lads' (Silly Wizard), Brian McNeill's much-covered 'Lads O The Fair' and a glorious full-bodied version of the homeward-bound shanty 'Rolling Home'. Much like The Tannahill Weavers and the Battlefield Band, OBD's longevity is assured. In my opinion if it ain't wrong don't fix it - more please!

Pete Fyfe

THE RAMBLIN' RIVERSIDERS SKIFFLE GROUP - 'Down By The Riverside' & 'Railroads and Outlaws' (Own Label)

Mr. Dearden has kept this band going for over fifty years now. It's an amazing band. This is an amazing CD. It will sweep you

back majestically to our own past. This delightful group of fine musicians features everything from Bill Monroe to Jimmie Rodgers. You'll also love their performances. It's the best; you'll listen to it over and over like I do.' Thus wrote Bob Everhart, President of the National Traditional Country Music Association writing in 'Tradition' magazine, after the band's performance in Iowa last summer, where the first of the CD's under review here won the 'best in festival' award.

There's not a lot more to add, the songs on these two CD's are mainly traditional and the staple of the genre. They're faithfully sung and played with immediacy and obvious enjoyment by the group. Naturally in a collection such as this, there are a lot of old favourites, and the Lancashire accent comes through, as it should on songs that have been long adopted by English groups. Whilst the first CD won the award, the second came out of the rehearsals for the trip, and to my mind gives a better representation of the sound the group produces live.



The slap rhythm of Pat Flood's double bass underpins the sound, holding it all together, with lead shared between Eddie Holden and Kevin Brock, over Harold Dearden and Neil Farnworth's rhythm. George Pritchard's washboard completes the traditional feel of the sound. Vocals are shared between the group members, with Harold, Pat and Neil taking the leads. The production by Peter Knight's Assembly Line Studios gives an honest, full and evenly balanced sound.

I've reviewed a live performance by the band, and my comments about skiffle there should suffice. If you're an enthusiast, this is a fine example of the sound today. If you're new, it's a fine introduction. It's a rare genre these days, but it's one that is well served by these CD's and deserves a wider audience. These CDs are available from <http://uk.geocities.com/ramblinriversiders/>

Don Moore

RISKY BUSINESS - Home Again (Own label)

It's ten years since Risky Business first formed as a trio and this, their fourth CD, is by way of celebrating that milestone. I've watched their progress from those early days and have seen them transform themselves into a highly respected group whose musicianship and singing is of the highest quality.

It's always difficult to do cover versions by well known artists, especially someone of the quality of Jackson Browne, but thanks to Ruth's precise vocals, I could hear myself asking, Jackson who? 'My Opening Farewell', sets the tone for the CD. Danny O'Keefe wrote, 'Into the West', for all those who left their countries to go where they perceived 'the grass was greener', how many truly found their dream?

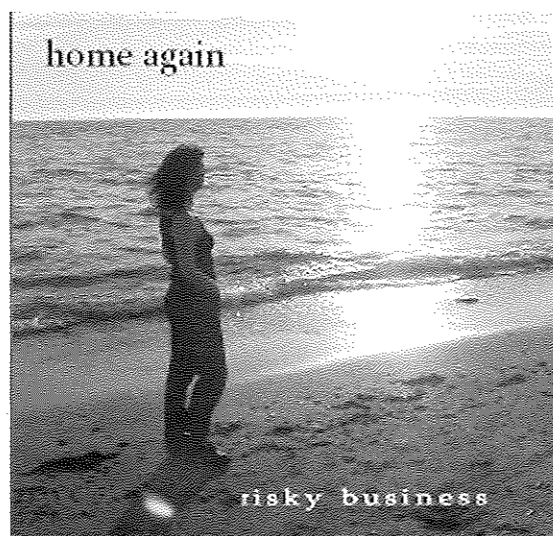
is used in this context in a broken romance situation. Another of Dave's songs, 'My Mountain', gives Ruth another chance to shine with her outstanding voice. We all look to someone when we're feeling down, in the hope that whoever it is will help us to draw fresh strength.

Rosie Hardman was one of the real stars of the folk scene back in the 1970's. Her songs, I know, provided much to so many and her larger than life frame, voice and personality marked her out as a 'must see' performer. 'Dark Side Of The Moon', tells of the consequence of lost love, the hurt and pain that never really goes away. My personal favourite on the CD is, 'I Would Be Stronger Than That', which explains how a woman is desperate to leave her partner, but keeps hoping he'll change and stays. Meanwhile her friend has the opposite view, but vows to support her friend's stance.

The final four songs were all written by Dave, who has the uncanny knack of making you look at yourself in any given situation. At every turn the subject of the song has been suppressed, but as life continues on she wonders who will be there at the 'End Of The Day'.

A change of tempo and subject matter as Ken sings, 'Midnight Trains'. Dreams play tricks with our mind during the dark night hours. 'Going Home Again', is a warm feeling for all those who travel. Despite enjoyment on our travels we really do wish for home and the old familiar feelings and surroundings. We do all sorts of strange things to ourselves in the hope of regaining that which is most precious to us. You ask just what am I prepared to give? The answer, 'Everything I Have'.

Ruth, Ken & Dave seem to know instinctively just which songs suit their style, something I'm sad to say that can't be said about all performers. Their quest for perfection only helps enhance what they achieve through diligence and talent. Each successive CD has marked a giant step forward in their careers and I feel it's only a matter of time before they have to make the decision whether or not to go professional and I'm positive it won't be a decision they'll regret.



See the Risky Business website www.riskies.co.uk for further details about the band and their merchandise. The CD is £13 inc p&p and can be ordered from Risky Business, 37 Grafton Street, Millbrook, Cheshire, SK15 3EW. Cheques made payable to R Fuga.

David Jones

SAW DOCTORS - Live In Galway (Shamtown Records SAWOC010CD)

Some years ago (ok, twenty-five or so) I remember catching up

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with Lindisfarne and The JSD at the Greyhound in Croydon. Another band that would have been comfortable in the same setting would be the Saw Doctors. You see this kind of band was the type that you wanted to stand up to enjoy with a pint in one hand and a girlfriend in the other. Swaying along to the likes of "N17", "Joyce Country Ceilidh Band" and the obligatory "I Useta Lover" there is a kind of caution to the wind attitude with the vocals that is totally endearing and unlike some precious bands that I know from the field of folk the Doctors convey well on the silver disk when recorded live.

To say they are punchy is a bit of an understatement as the raw energy fair slaps you around the head. It sounds like the band had a great time and the audience an even better one. In this complacent world we call 'folk' a good kick up the backside is what we sometimes require and the lads produce it in spades. Come to think of it - as someone famous once said - hit me with your shovel Mick!

Pete Fyfe

STEELEYE SPAN - They Called Her Babylon (Park Records PRKCD70)

There's nothing like feeling comfortable in the knowledge that what you see is what you get and that couldn't be truer of the opening track from Steeleye Span. The trademark violin of Peter Knight soaring majestically above the rhythm section and now, firmly established in his role as guitarist Ken Nicol (even though his settings are [thoughtfully] lodged in Bob Johnson territory) creates the dynamic tension we have come to expect from the band. Likewise Maddy Prior's vocal on 'Van Dieman's Land' nestles snugly alongside the riff-laden bass of husband Rick Kemp and rugged interjection from Hastings finest drummer/percussionist Liam Genockey. If (judging by the sleeve credits) the main arrangement of this particular track belongs to Ken then more power to his elbow for tapping on the tricky danceable tune interpretation of the main melody at the end of the song. Even without the visual to accompany it you can just see Maddy dancing.



Now, Dave Brubeck had a lot to answer for when he utilised the rhythm 5/4 for his classic jazz instrumental 'Take Five' and dare I say it that Mr Knight has now done the same for the folk world. The standout track featuring this awesome rhythm and those oh, so dusky vocals (maybe the band should think seriously about releasing it as a single this Christmas!) is the hypnotic 'Bride's Farewell'. The track is innovative and not a little inspiring and will, I'm sure create a sense of smugness amongst the British folk community that we can lead the rest of the world in the art of producing real music for real music lovers.

I don't know why but the documentary series The Tower (about the Tower Of London) comes to mind when I hear the stately pomp-rock treatment of the title track and for some reason I keep expecting a solo trumpet to accompany the crashing chords or maybe that's just the delirium of writing this review at 2:57am - now how sad is that? Still, it's given me a chance to listen to the whole album undisturbed and whilst I suppose there are those that would say in general the album is slightly ponderous it's hard to find a band that can roll with the punches after 35 years in the business!

Pete Fyfe

BRAM TAYLOR - The Night Is Young (FELLSIDE FECD183)

This is Bram's best CD for quite a while in my very humble opinion. It is a well-balanced mixture of traditional and contemporary songs beautifully performed by singers and musicians alike. The accompaniments are never overbearing and do what they should, complement the song. Bram's clear voice and perfect diction (diction is something I have an obsession about. I can't stand "missing words" in a song - it totally loses its impact) bring the songs to life.

The traditional songs include "Bogie's Bonnie Belle", "Annan Water", "Banks of green willow", "Come all you fair and tender ladies" and - wait for it - "The Holy Ground". I flicked through the songs on the CD cover and thought OK this time he's gone really crackers. However, I think over the years many of us have lost the real song and Bram has tried to rediscover it. It is done in a very gentle way and no raucous chorus and definitely no fine girl you are. It made me think, I have to say, how very dismissive we can become of songs that at times are overdone and destroyed. It's something subjective I suppose, so you will have to judge for yourselves. Next best to traditional is the evocative Burns song "Ay Waukin' O", simply sung with Bram providing the concertina backing.

A couple of songs with a loosely nautical theme (because one's a riverboat) are "Robin D" by Willard Gayheart and "Song for Bowdoin" by Larry Kaplan with an infectious chorus. Hugh Williams song "Struck it right" provides a note of optimism, and whilst in Wales, a lovely song by Ian Chesterman, the hidden gem of Wrexham, "Next time around". One song I haven't heard before hails from Canadian writers Maureen Ennis and Mike Murphy. "If I should leave you" is a simple melodic love song and contrasts really well with the following track "Wisdom guide me" sung acapella. I think Eileen McGann would be well pleased with this.

Brendan Graham's "Isle of Hope" tells the story of 15-year-old Annie Moore, the first Irish immigrant to arrive on Ellis Island used as a processing centre for entry into America. It's a very moving song with a gentle chorus and a sympathetic (but never sentimental) string accompaniment. What can I say that hasn't been said before about the Bogle/Munroe song "Marking Time", except that it's beautifully performed.

The final, and also the title, song is "The night is young" from the pen of Colum Sands, based on an Irish proverb that goes "where the heart is, the feet will follow". What a superb song to finish on. A line from the song is used on the CD cover which is an excellent photograph of orange and brown sunset over Pennington Flash, a local bird sanctuary and peaceful place. "Long may the sun shine wherever you are, but you still need the darkness to show you the stars".

Bram I feel has come back to his roots and has chosen carefully both his material and musicians and produced a CD I can and do listen to over and over again. All credit to Bram and Steve Lawrence - acoustic guitar, bouzouki, mandola, whistle and percussion, Stewart Hardy - fiddle and viola, Ian Kellet - piano

and keyboard, Simon Haworth - fretless bass, Bob Hallard - bass guitar and harmony vocals, Michael Hallard - harmony vocals, Linda and Susan Adams - harmony and chorus vocals. The CD is of the high standard that one takes for granted from Paul Adams and the Fellside label.

Kath Holden

VARIOUS ARTISTS - 'Dark Was The Night' (Deep Sea Records SeeD 8002)

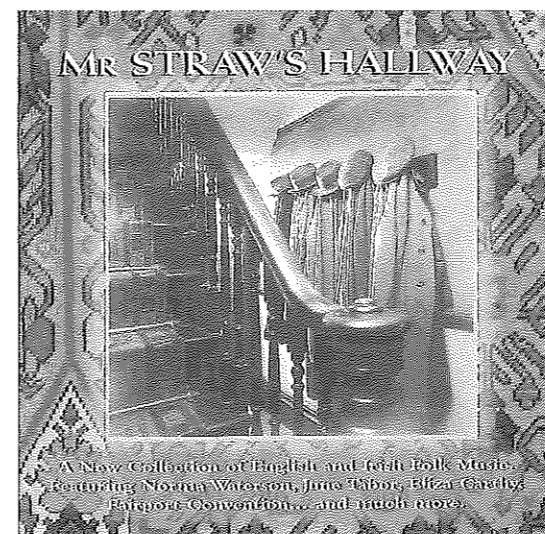
David Suff is well known as being the man behind numerous box sets famed for providing superb coverage of folk artists such as Shirley Collins. In addition, he rescues and re-releases lost classics such as The Albion Band's 'Rise Up Like The Sun'. Less well known is that he's previously lavished upon us tribute records to Richard Thompson and Joseph Spence. Now arriving at the musical platform is 'Dark Was The Night', David's tribute to the blues music of Blind Willie Johnson.

The beauty of this album is not that it is faithful to the sound - but it is in parts. Nor, is that there are some unusual interpretations - but there are some of those. It is the ability to seesaw between approaches without losing sight of the fact that these are just great songs. No surprise that folk/blues man, Martin Simpson, pops up twice with renditions of 'I Can't Keep From Crying' and the oft-covered 'Nobody's fault But Mine'. Mind you, the arrival of the sorely missed Bob Copper performing 'Soul Of A Man' is a surprise - but why should it be? After all, folk and blues have been musical bedfellows for many years. Helen Watson and Julie Murphy separately supply a contemporary feel to their contributions whilst quirkiness is left in the hands of the likes of The Henrys with Mary Margaret O'Hara. There's even my old mate, Woodhead, contributing a feisty title track with The Positively Testcard. Don't let these less well know names put you off, this is chock full of top quality material. Unlike many other CDs of this ilk, my 'filler sniffer' wasn't able to detect any such problem. The sleeve notes reminded me of the fact that 'tribute records, tribute records...sometimes, it feels like the world is filling up with tribute and compilation records'. True, the world would be a better place if they were all as good as this.

Steve Henderson

VARIOUS ARTISTS - Mr Straw's Hallway (Terra Nova Records TERR CD019/020)

Well, I'm at a loss (for the first time in ages) as to guess at whom this double CD is specifically aimed at. OK so it has some familiar names Fairport, Norma Waterson & Martin Carthy, Gordon



Giltrap & Ric Sanders etc and although there are some quite intriguing inclusions (looking at the sleeve predominantly from

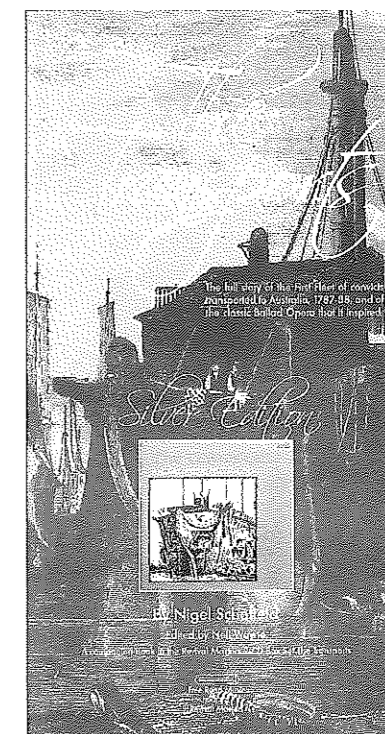
the record company's own back catalogue) but to be quite honest I proffer the question - why? Don't get me wrong, there are plenty of good tracks including the quirky 'Everything Glows' sung by Eliza Carthy and written by Les Barker but the whole album is such a muddle it makes you wonder why they bothered.

As I've stated, there is nothing wrong with the artists performances it's just that it comes across as "...let's put these tracks together just for the sake of it..." I'm sorry to be so negative in a review (I swore I wouldn't when I started out writing reviews) but record companies please take note if you issue a CD with no direction (there wasn't even an accompanying press release!), don't expect your intended market to follow.

Pete Fyfe

VARIOUS ARTISTS - The Transports (Free Reed Music FRDCD 2122)

I know that the opening few bars may sound like an out take from Ivor The Engine (just a quirk of fate I suppose) but once you're into the music full on 'The Transports' has to be one of the most ambitious folk music projects of the 70's. Given the financial green light from Free Reed Records main man Neil Wayne Peter Bellamy was able to flex his not inconsiderable musical muscle on one of the main folk opera's of the day.



The cast list of singers and musicians at the time read like a who's who of the folk community including Dave Swarbrick (a replacement for the original violinist!) Nic Jones, A L Lloyd and Martin Carthy and providing the backdrop was perhaps one of the most inspired castings, arranger Dolly Collins whose approach to the subject matter provided the music with it's English-ness. A quick reference point - if you were looking for one - would be the film The Wicker Man where the same kind of instrumentation was employed. Casting my mind back I must admit to forgetting how enjoyable some of the solo vocal performances were on the original recording. Two prime examples are 'Us Poor Fellows' by Nic Jones and a particularly jaunty 'Robber's Song' from Bert Lloyd. On this digitally re-mastered first disk they are a joy to acquaint oneself. It's obvious that a lot of time and effort from Mr Wayne has gone into re-mastering this classic album as the recordings are totally clean and blemish free making it sound as fresh and exciting as

it was back in the 70's. Unfortunately, and without meaning to sound uncharitable, I'm sorry to say that the 2004 version sounds a little disjointed. This is meant as no disrespect to the musicians and singers involved, each marks their own territory with an individual performance that is just that, an individual performance taking away from the cohesive concept of the original recording. I suppose that given the situation (gathering a large cast together in one studio) the practicalities were insurmountable but this does leave the listener with a feeling that the slight variation in recording quality is a bit of a distraction.

If I was to put aside what I've just said, two of the best tracks (individually speaking) on the album are 'The Still & Silent Ocean' beautifully arranged and sung by Steve Tilston with fiddle accompaniment from Tom McConville and a polished performance of 'The Green Fields Of England' by Coope Boyes & Simpson. I'm sure that all of the artists involved each had a valid reason for wanting to contribute primarily as 'friends' or in tribute to a much missed fellow singer/musician and I can't fault their commitment. On a more positive note; the accompanying book written by Nigel Schofield (with help from Neil Wayne) has become a welcome addition to these Free Reed box sets and is required reading. All in all, it's a pretty impressive package!

Pete Fyfe

AMY WADGE - Woj (Manhaton Records - Hatman 2014)
www.manhatonrecords.com

Amy Wadge is not a native of Wales but has clearly taken the country to her heart and it's clear that the Welsh nation has reciprocated. For the last two years she's won the best female vocal artist at the Welsh Music awards, ahead of the likes of former Catatonia lead singer, Cerys Matthews. She's built up a strong following and is undoubtedly one of the UKs brightest emerging talents. Not only is she a stunning vocalist, adept guitar and piano player, an outstanding live performer, but she writes all her own material. Although she has recorded a couple of earlier albums, 'Woj' is her first major release. She has been signed to the same label for which Eric Bibb records, so they obviously know quality when they see it.



50 Much of 2003 was taken up with touring, including slots at the Glastonbury and Cambridge Folk Festivals and Cardiff's Mardi

Gras. While the Wales rugby team was making an unexpected impact in the Rugby World Cup in Australia, Amy was winning over new admirers at the 'Wales Rocks Sydney' showcase, and then headlined the prestigious Lorient Festival in France.

The songs and their arrangements are varied but there is a theme of personal experience around love, hurt and life. Unlike many albums that start off with one or two good tracks then fade away in quality, this CD is consistently good throughout. 'Open', occupies the heart-rending territory of Chris While and Julie Matthews at their best, while 'Paris', written for her sister, has an accompaniment that brings the feel of the Eiffel Tower right into the middle of your living room. One of the strongest songs is the powerfully confrontational, 'Prophet', which she has reworked and developed from any earlier version.

'Valley Boy' is an energetic love song about the good qualities that South Wales can instil. You can take the boy out of the valley but you can't take the valley out of the boy. 'Adre Nol', the only song on the album that contains a verse in Welsh, (which Amy is currently learning) describes the feeling that the place you've settled and people you are with are what you've always longed for. It brought back a number of personal memories for me - and a few emotional tears - as she's singing about the part of Wales where I was born and brought up, but the message of the song is universal.

There are not many artists these days that make me sit up and listen but Amy Wadge undoubtedly one such performer. She writes and performs music that not only takes the senses by storm but also caresses them at the same time - hairs standing up on the back of the neck for most of the way through. There's not a bad track on the album. It's one of the most refreshing albums that's hit my CD player in a long time; like a boomerang, it still keeps finding it's way back in there ahead of all others and I've not tired of it yet. So, if you're looking for one of the outstanding albums of 2004, there's no need to look any further.

Lewis Jones

(You can find out more information about Amy on www.amywadge.com You can see how good a live performer she is by viewing the Acoustic Routes www.acousticroutes.co.uk website. They have videos of three songs recorded at her gig in Cambridge earlier this year, including 'Paris' and 'Adre Nol').

DVD REVIEWS



KATE RUSBY - Live From Leeds (Pure Records PRDVD15)

To those of you who have not fully succumbed to DVD technology, I make no apologies for this review. I'm sure that you will be starting to look in this direction soon as the price of DVDs capable of recording just like your video is already tumbling to sensible levels. More importantly, the medium offers the potential for seriously good entertainment for music fans. Take, for example, this one...

On the music CD front, Kate Rusby's last release didn't rank amongst her best despite there being some good music on 'Underneath The Stars'. So, it's pleasing to find her first DVD providing a timely reminder of the quality in her overall career. The main element of the DVD is a live recording of The Kate Rusby Band at Leeds City Varieties. This ensemble features many of the artists who support on Kate's recordings with Ian Carr, Andy Cutting and that loveable rogue, John McCusker at



The Folk Arts Network of the North West

FOLKUS SUMMER PROGRAMME

Folkus will be providing tutors for workshops or supporting music making events at various festivals throughout the North West during the summer.

For full details of a festival and the Folkus workshops contact the festival or Folkus

29th - 31st May Chester Folk Festival

Contact: 01352 762931

25th - 27th June - Chorley Folk Festival

Contact: 01257 263678

26th - 27th June - Dent Festival

Contact: 01254 78196

10th July - Ormskirk Comes Alive

Contact: 01695 585400

9th - 11th July - Furness Tradition Festival

Contact: 01229 - 587120

16th - 18th July - Bampton Live

Contact: 01228 534664

16th - 18th July - Saddleworth Folk & Roots Festival

Contact: 01457 87039

27th - 30th August - Nantwich Folk Roots & Festival

Contact: 01270 610751

3rd - 5th September - Fylde Folk Festival

Contact: 01253 872317

25th September - Barlick (Barnoldswick) Unplugged

Contact: 01282 852898

A full programme of Folkus autumn music making workshops and other events will be published late summer.

Information: **Folkus**, 55 The Strand, Fleetwood, Lancashire, FY7 8NP

Tel: 01253 872317 Fax: 01253 878382

email: alanbell@fylde-folk-fest.demon.co.uk



the forefront. All this in the most delightful setting of the venue best known for The Good Old Days - well. If you're old enough to remember this TV programme! The concert has a relaxed feel that probably owes much to the 'home' territory which Leeds offers.

Having seen her live on many an occasion, I can assure you that this is a concert of the highest quality which is all you can ask for from a DVD - or is it? Well, no, actually. Completing the entertainment is, firstly, an extended interview with Andy Kershaw exploring her musical background from childhood to partnership with Kathryn Roberts and beyond. Followed by casual, around the house rehearsal sessions with Cutting and McCusker and, even, an impromptu backstage performance of 'Our Town' with Laura Cantrell recorded in the Cambridge Festival bar. All this added to a concert that lasts nearly an hour and a half and includes 'I Courted A Sailor', 'The Fairest Of All Yarrow', 'Who Will Sing Me Lullabies', 'Withered And Died', 'The Yorkshire Couple' and 'The Cobbler's Daughter' amongst others. The net result is, in effect, a 'best of...' collection which surpasses her own '10' CD as a retrospective of a career which has a long way to run.

Steve Henderson

NEWSREEL



BREWERS DATES

In June, the Brewer Arts centre in Kendal hosts a range of music events including:

The Kendal International Guitar Festival runs from 4 - 6 June; Festival Ticket £45 (Free entry to all concerts, discounted entry to workshops & master classes). Performing at the festival will be some of the very finest guitarists currently available on the live circuit. Featuring a full weekend of concerts in our theatre, more informal gigs in the Malt Room, master classes and workshops, and free gigs in the bar this event promises to be a must for all guitar and music enthusiasts no matter what style or interest. For more information on individual artists please contact box office for additional publicity. Artists include Pierre Bensusan; Aziz Ibrahim, Eduardo Niebla, Les Wilson, Hans Theessink; John Renbourn, Wilco Johnson; Eric Roche; Jerry Donahoe, Johnny Dickinson, and Gordon Giltrap

On 13 June, in concert at 3pm: is June Tabor with Huw Warren, piano; Mark Emerson, violin and viola; Tim Harries, double bass. Tickets £10.50/£9.50conc/£9 fob. June Tabor is without doubt one of the most sublime vocalists on the UK circuit today. She is forever pushing the boundaries and experimenting with new styles and her re-working of traditional tunes is always an inspired combination of interweaving language, music and story. As much at ease with a traditional British ballad as with Cole Porter or A.C. Jobim, Tabor touches souls with her unerring ability to cut to the emotional quick. Her latest album, An Echo of Hooves, and its rapturous reception from all quarters, offers solid proof that June Tabor is a unique singer who has earned herself a place amongst the all-time greats. Accompanied by some truly exceptional musicians, this concert promises to be a real treat. Lunches available in the Green Room restaurant before the performance.

Tickets on sale at the Brewery Box Office, 01539 725133

COOPE BOYES & SIMPSON ARE DESERT ISLAND CHOICE

A rare Coope Boyes and Simpson instrumental track was one of the eight pieces of music chosen by the Children's Laureate, Michael Morpurgo for his Desert Island Disks selection of BBC Radio 4 recently. "The Burning Mill at Messines" which features Lester Simpson on bagpipes, Barry Coope on keyboards, Jim Boyes on guitar, together with Flemish musician Willem Vermandere and his band, was recorded live in the parish church at Passendale in Flanders in 1994, as part of the Peace Concerts Passendale performance We're Here Because We're Here: Concert Party Passchendaele. The tune was written by Pipe Major John Spoore, to commemorate the heavy losses suffered by the First Battalion of the London Scottish Regiment at the first Battle of Messines in November 1914, and was the climax of the three-hour concert.

Coope Boyes and Simpson first met the programme's guest, Michael Morpurgo, when they sang at an international conference on Children's Literature in Peace and War at the In Flanders Fields Museum in Leper in September 2000. The programme for the Conference included songs growing out of the experiences of the First War that Coope Boyes and Simpson had written for Peace Concerts Passendale and excerpts from Michael's books. He enjoyed the trio's singing and song writing so much that in November 2002, he invited them to provide the music - mainly acappella songs this time - for Some Desperate Glory, a memorable evening of First War poetry with readings by Oscar-winner, Jim Broadbent, Jane Lapotaire, Susannah Harker, Samuel West, Chewetel Ejifor and Saeed Jaffrey. Fittingly for such a collection of actors, the concert took place at Her Majesty's Theatre in London's West End, temporarily displacing the run of Phantom of the Opera.

Michael Morpurgo was awarded the Children's Laureateship in 2003. He and the trio will be meeting up again this year for a specially devised performance of songs and readings from his new book, Private Peaceful at Rotherham Children's Book Festival on the 29th June, with songs and music from Coope Boyes & Simpson. It's at the Civic Theatre, Rotherham, Box Office: 01709 823621 / 01709 823640.

CONTACT - Georgina Boyes 01709 375 063; georgina@nomasters.co.uk; www.nomasters.co.uk; www.coopeboyesandsimpson.co.uk

JEZ LOWE DOWN UNDER

Jez is has completed his Australian and New Zealand tour, and has told us that the weather was great and the gigs even better; Jez appeared at the Folk in The Foothills Festival at Jamberoo, New South Wales and as well as two solo sets, he joined Kristina Olsen for a couple of duets during her final spot. He included two unidentified new songs in his own concert slot. The Australian magazine Tradandnow featured a two-page interview with Jez in a recent issue, along with the music to Spitting Cousins, appropriately enough. He then moved on to Wellington, New Zealand for the first of four shows on the North Island, before returning for a concert in Sydney at the Almost Acoustic Club in Rozelle. Four shows with James Keelaghan followed that, with Kristina Olsen joining them for the first of these at Cobargo on April 7th. This was reunion of the Three Nations Tour, the first performance since their UK tour in 2003.

Kate Bramley's band Sweetgrass toured the UK in April. The band is now well known in America for their distinctive mix of Celtic and bluegrass influences. Simon Haworth is leaving the Bad Pennies to take up a permanent post at the Rosehill Theatre in Whitehaven. Its an exciting time for Simon who has been with

the band since 1998, and although we're extremely sad to see him go we wish him all the best with his new job. Rumour has it that he may be back with the Pennies for some special guest appearances later in the year.

So, from May 2004 Sean Taylor, on fretless bass percussion and backing vocals, joined the band. Sean hails from Cramlington, was brought up in the folk scene, and his father still runs Cramlington Folk Club. After studying Jazz at Newcastle, Sean went on to become musical director for The Drifters and has toured with many ensembles, perhaps best known as a member of 'Cuig', with whom he was signed to Green Linnet. He has recently worked with Vin Garbutt on two albums, and also plays across Europe with the North Country Dance Band.

"Golden Days and Friendly Faces" - an CD bringing together a long list of talent from the North East of England, is now released as a charity album benefiting Motor Neurone Disease research. As well as tracks by Prelude, Vin Garbutt, Bob Fox and many more, the album features Jez Lowe and The Bad Pennies' live version of "Sedgefield Fair", recorded at the Trimdon Grange Festival in 2002.

Jez has been spotted sneaking an increasing number of new songs into his live sets over the last few months and we were beginning to wonder whether a new release was in the pipeline. Jez and associates are keeping very quiet on this front however so we have no concrete news to report as yet!

For more details and regular news updates, check out www.jezlowe.com. This website has recently been upgraded so please do check out the site and sign in at the guestbook.

Some Of The Tour Dates In Or Around The North West:
MAY 29 SOLO, Chester Festival, The Olive Tree, Old Chester Road, Kelsall Nantwich; CW5 6BH, 01352 762931, £16 day ticket £11 eve ticket plus conc available, 1pm, 5pm, 7pm. JULY 3 BAND, Cleckheaton Festival, Town Hall, Bradford Road Cleckheaton, BD19 3RH, 01924 404346, Weekend Ticket £30, 1pm; JULY 4 SOLO, The Junction, The Junction News Lane, Rainford Merseyside WA11 7JU, 01744 882876, 8.30pm; JULY 7 BAND, Thirsk Festival, Town Hall, Westgate, Thirsk, North Yorks, 01845 523833, £8, 8pm; JULY 10 BAND, Ormskirk Comes Alive Festival, Comrades Club, Southport Road Ormskirk, L39 1LN, 01695 585400, £10, 7.30pm; AUG 14 BAND, Cropredy Festival, Main Field, Cropredy, Oxon- Organisers: Woodworm Records, PO Box 37, Banbury, Oxon OX16 8YN, FAX 01869 337142, TBC, 1pm,

MARTYN FEATURED ON BBC FOUR

BBC Four was recently due to broadcast an in-depth look at the life and genius of the singer-songwriter John Martyn, whose drawling vocals and virtuoso guitar playing have inspired many.

Contributors to this intimate portrait included Phil Collins, the late Robert Palmer, Ralph McTell, Chris Blackwell, Danny Thompson, John's ex-wife Beverley Martyn and younger generation fan Beth Orton. The documentary also contained classic performance archive, including the Old Grey Whistle Test (dating back from 1973) Sight & Sound in Concert (1977) and Later With Jools Holland, alongside home movies and family photos of Martyn as a child.

Martyn is the consummate musician's musician - his songs feature highly in any audiophile's collection and his music has been an inspiration over decades to many household names. His refusal to compromise about who he is, or the music he makes, has meant major commercial success has eluded him - but made him treasured all the more intensely by his fans.

In profiling his journey, the film looked at his traumatic and often dramatic life. When filming began Martyn was facing one of those life-changing moments that seems to have pervaded his career. A seemingly mundane leg injury led to a gross infection and the only prognosis was to have it amputated below the knee. The film follows him pre and post leg-amputation, observing the effect it has on his life and those around him, whilst simultaneously dipping into the past and learning more about his career - from the folk clubs in the Sixties, to his best-loved album Solid Air, to his continuing musical experimentation.

RADIO LABOURSTART

The BBC World Service - the largest radio broadcaster on earth, with tens of millions of listeners recently ran a feature story about Radio LabourStart, which prides itself with the laudable aim of broadcasting "news, views and songs to fan the flames of discontent".

BBC Go Digital presenter, Tracey Logan interviewed (and photographed), LabourStart editor, Eric Lee, with the foreign representative of the Iraqi Federation of Trade Unions, Abdullah Muhsin. Radio LabourStart's "studios", as the BBC reporter discovered, consist of a spare bedroom in a North London home.

Radio LabourStart broadcasts news, features and music that includes songs by Woody Guthrie, Bob Dylan, Phil Ochs, Billy Bragg, Pete Seeger, Bruce Springsteen, Tracy Chapman, Peter Gabriel, Stevie Wonder, Ewan MacColl, Joan Baez, Malvina Reynolds, Ramblin' Jack Elliott, and many others.

As usual they run the latest daily news broadcast from the Workers Independent News Service as well as feature stories that you won't hear elsewhere, such as those covering Cesar Chavez, the struggle at the Duane Reade drugstore chain in the US, and about plantation workers in Nicaragua.

They've even got a programme called "Tool Time" with some ideas about how you can better cope with the Internet sites that demand passwords. To tune in on the web to Radio LabourStart, visit: <http://radio.labourstart.org>

ATTILA THE STOCKBROKER

Hi everybody! Loads of news: it's time for my second US tour - alongside spot-on radical Massachusetts songwriter DAVID ROVICS www.davidrovics.com - really, really looking forward to it and to meeting lots of kindred spirits! By the time we get back, 'Zero Tolerance', my 3rd album with my band Barnstormer, will be ready, and we'll have plenty of new songs for the next Barnstormer German (and Prague) tour at the end of April There are some UK gigs as well.

Then gravel-voiced urban folk singer Rory Ellis from Melbourne - a man from the same streets, and pubs, as Mick Thomas/ Weddings Parties Anything - joins me for a few shows and then it's time for GLASTONWICK 2004, our 9th Annual Beer, Music, Poetry and More Beer Festival, on May 28-29 with a brand new line up (apart from Otway!) all details below

And then DAVID ROVICS and I embark on our 3rd UK tour together. Loads of gigs are already confirmed but there are still some free dates between June 14-24: once again, if you would like to put us on, please get in touch.

MAY/JUNE UK TOUR with DAVID ROVICS; June 3rd BRADFORD 1 in 12 Club protag@neish.demon.co.uk; 4th GLOSSOP The Globe darren@poyzer.com; 19th MIDDLEWICH FOLK & BOAT FESTIVAL TBC; All other dates between 14th to

24th June are still available - if you'd like to book us get in touch! In July/August I'll be doing the Tom Paine Festival, Music Port in Whitby and the Wasted punk festival (formerly HITS) in Morecambe and more, in August the Antwerp Book Fair...

website www.attilathestockbroker.com. You'll also find all track listings for the CDs there.

LES BARKER ROAD TRIPS

Les Barker tells us that Summer has arrived and departed. He's been out to exploring some more local footpaths. Les says; "There are millions of them. Flowers are beginning to bloom in the garden. I know which ones are daffodils, crocuses and snowdrops. The rest are a mystery to me. I've also explored the road from Minera to Liangollen, which is very interesting - vertical with passing places and a steam railway at the other end." He's also installed a loft ladder and started making the loft fit for a huge model railway. "It'll take a while."

Les, and his merry troupe of followers in the Mrs Ackroyd Band, will be in and around the North West in the coming months:

JULY: 3 Folk Festival, Cleckheaton, (Mrs Ackroyd Band) 01924 404346; 17 Folk Festival, Saddleworth, 01457 870391 (solo and with Mrs Ackroyd Band); AUGUST: 14 Folk Festival, Saltburn, 01287 622623 (Mrs Ackroyd Band); 23-27 Folk Week, Whitby, 01757 708424 (solo and with Mrs Ackroyd Band); 29 Folk Festival, Bridgnorth, 01746 768813 (Mrs Ackroyd Band); SEPTEMBER: 18-19 Black Sheep Festival, Otley, 01943 464858; 25 Station, Dewsbury, (Mrs Ackroyd Band) 01924 518753; NOVEMBER: 5 Golf Club, Westhoughton, 01257 230508 (Mrs Ackroyd Band), 01257 230508; 12 Day of Folk, Maghull (Mrs Ackroyd Band); DECEMBER: 17 Harlequin Theatre, Northwich, 01606 79356. Visit Les's website for further details: www.mrsackroyd.com On his website you can also listen to download an MP3 of Les performing the wonderful 'An odd kind of ultimatum', written by Mr Barker and George W Bush!

The sales of the Guide Cats double CD have now raised over £10,000 for the British Computer Association of the Blind. So popular has it been that they've arranged a special show on Friday 16th July 2004 - The Les Barker Show, Guide Cats in Concert - Live Cats for the Blind at The Clarendon Suites, Birmingham. Nonny James, one of the artists to appear on the CD, is the MC and she'll be joined by Genevieve Tudor, Ryan Kelly (Jazzer in the Archers), Sic Transit (Clive Lever & Don Thompson) and other Guest Appearances. Tickets £9.00. Box Office: Mondays to Fridays between 9am & 4pm, Tel: 0121 454 2918 or visit www.bcab.org.uk for further information.

DICK GAUGHAN AT THE BOTHY

On Sunday 20th June 2004 the Scottish legend, Dick Gaughan, the man with a strong commitment to folk music and socialist politics alike, pays a welcome visit to the Bothy Folk Club in Southport. Don't miss this opportunity to see one of the most consistently excellent folk music performers on the folk circuit. Tickets are now on sale - ring Clive Pownceby on 0151 924 5078.

JOSH RITTER

The up and coming young American singer/songwriter, Josh Ritter pays a welcome return to the UK in May and June, having gone down a storm as support on the Joan Baez tour earlier this year. (See review in this edition). Ritter writes his own material and has the writing instincts of Bruce Springsteen and Steve Earle. He is an excellent live performer and should be put immediately on your 'gigs not to miss at any cost' list. In June he

plays two gigs in the North West; June 6: Manchester, Academy 3 and June 11: Liverpool, Academy 3. Full details of his tour itinerary www.joshritter.com

CLUNIE MUSIC

Firstly an apology that it's been so long since the last newsletter. My only excuse is that I've been travelling a great deal, which is a good thing because travel means gigs!

For those of you receiving this by snail mail it will have been even longer since you received a newsletter from us. Postal newsletters drain the financial resources somewhat - especially to overseas addresses - so, if you have an email address please, please email me at cluniemusic@hotmail.com and tell me so I can add you to the email mailing list. Thanks.

Ciaran Dorris & Heather Innes. We've finally done it! We are the proud owners of our first duo CD "Waiting for the Calm". It's taken us over a year since we started recording but it has been worth it. I'm very proud to be on this CD with its excellent production by Ciaran and by Stuart Duncan of Redbarn studios. You can obtain a copy of "Waiting for the Calm" from www.cluniemusic.com or by sending a cheque for £12 sterling to me, Heather Innes, at Auld of Clunie Farmhouse, Blairgowrie, Perthshire. PH10 6RH. This includes postage and packing. Two exciting tours coming up for us in July and September are with two actors from Gateway Performance Productions, Atlanta, USA who have choreographed a Mask Theatre and Mime show inspired by "Waiting for the Calm".

The July tour is throughout the Highlands and Islands of Scotland and the September tour in Ireland covers the whole of Ireland and is coinciding with a professionally organised PR tour of Irish radio and television to launch "Waiting for the Calm" officially in Ireland.

Caim. Not long back from Florida, USA Jacynth and I are almost ready to head off on our travels again - this time for a couple of Scottish tours. One of these is with Shakhachi flute player, Robert Jonas from Boston, USA and the other with Thomas Loeffke, our Celtic harpist from Germany.

While Thomas is in Scotland we're hijacking him for some studio work on our next CD which will be a folk music album this time, with the addition of some dance sets of tunes to compliment Jacynth's Irish dance workshops.

June 2004 may see us in Canada - we're waiting to hear from our Canadian agent on that one. We do know though that we will be in Canada twice in 2005 - the first time to do some Canadian gigs before and after we sing at JulianFest in Wisconsin, USA in May and the second time to hopefully return to Western Canada again for the end of the summer season. Return trips to Florida, USA and Australia are also being planned for 2005.

Closer to home - we're looking forward to a return visit to Scargill House in Yorkshire in August and next year to a retreat week on Holy Island in April. One of the perks of the job in all this for us is the many friends we've made around the world in the past few years, and the many homes where we feel "at home" on the road.

Dúlamán. Dúlamán is having a break at the moment while Seoirse researches and arranges new music and looks for at least one new musician to add to the ensemble to play his new music ideas.

Freeloaders. Freeloaders play regularly at the Athol Palace Hotel,

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Pitlochry and are venturing into the folk scene again, this time at Falkirk Folk club in May. I hear whispers of a new Freeloaders CD to be ready in time for the May gig.

Peace Concerts

Al's "Peace Now" band, which changes line up depending on which continent he's in at the time, have two gigs lined up to raise money for Habitat for Humanity. May 15th 2004, they will be at Boreland Farm, Fearnan in Perthshire, Scotland and February 26th, 2005 the Peace Concert will be happening for the first time in Gainesville, Florida, USA. Al's Peace Concerts are here to stay so we have set up a new Peace Concert page on the website.

Discography (where you can purchase our CDs). Caim: Caim, Sung Prayers in the Celtic Tradition. £13, cassette £8; "The Land I Call my Home" £13, cassette. £8; "Creator of the Tides" £14; "New Life From Ruins" £14. Ciaran Dorris & Heather Innes: "Waiting for the Calm" £12. Dúlamán: "Tabhair ar ais an Oíche Aréir" £13; "Dúlamán a tSleibhe" £14

Purchase CDs at www.cluniemusic.com or by sending a cheque to Heather Innes at Clunie Music. All prices include postage & packing.

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Waistcoat Sale: All featured waistcoats in our shop are £25.00. First come first served. They are hand-woven and a real work of art in their right. Have a look in the on line shop or reply to this email for more information.

Bulletin Board: If you're are a band or a promoter, Folking.com offers: a free bulletin board for you to post gig details, album releases and PR events. If you're a fan it's a great place to share you're views with other like-minded people.

The Events Diary: Artists and promoters can automatically add their "gig" dates to this free service. All you need to do is to go to the events diary at www.folking.com/events and type in the details of your event. Once you have done this your gig will automatically be added to the calendar. Don't forget to register first for this free service before you add the gig or festival details. If you're a fan you can customise your own gig diary by adding all the gigs you plan to go to into your own personalised diary.

The Database: This is a unique section of the site that allows artists and fans alike to add information into any of the following categories: Albums, Artists-Groups, Ceilidh, Dance, Festivals, Folk Clubs, Magazines, Movies, MP3 Downloads, Music Resources, Music Shops, Organisations, Promoters, Radio Shows, Recording Studios and Venues.

Auctions & Classified Ads: This section of the site is under used. It has the potential to be the Ebay of the folk world. It's free and very easy use, so if you're looking to sell something within the folk genre then why not check it out.

Please Spread The Word About All These Free Services. For further information go to: www.folking.com

FOOT STOMPIN' CELTIC MUSIC

Foot Stompin' Celtic Music website upgrade: We've just had a major upgrade to our website adding more functionality to our forum and artist pages. On our 'Music Type' pages (in Shop) you can now view what other peoples preferences were when buying particular CDs. Very interesting indeed.

New this month at Foot Stompin' Celtic Music website: Out for

the Night - Battlefield Band: This record is not out yet so get it here first! Scotland on Sunday said that "the instrumental tracks that shine brightest, melding Alasdair White's fiddle with Mike Katz's various pipes in ever-changing rhythmic settings over keyboards, guitar and bouzouki. A clean production and a great variety of texture - they are all multi-instrumentalists - sustain interest through the 15 tracks".

Karine Polwart - Faultlines: Karine Polwart has the kind of voice that commands attention. Rich and powerful, folksy with a country, bluesy feel. On this her first and long overdue solo album she has written all the songs and they are great, proving her credentials as talented and thoughtful writer. The opening track "Only One Way" is a taster for a very fine album indeed.

Annie Grace 'Take Me Out Drinking Tonight': Annie Grace made her initial impression on the Scottish music scene as the singer (and piper) in the band Iron Horse. This gentle-paced solo album features her arrangements of familiar traditional songs such as Bonny At Morn, Farewell to Lochaber and Jock o' Hazeldean, ranged alongside versions of contemporary songs, including Michael Marra's title track and Jim Mulhern's Magdalen Laundry.

Da Fustra - Dance O Da Shetland Puffins: Another wonderful collection of infectious dancing music from this popular Shetland Islands band whose name means "The rock in the foaming sea". Jigs, reels and two-steps abound over 16 toe-tapping tracks. Ceilidh dances in Shetland idiom are usually danced three times through, and the Boston Two-step always features at least three times in an evening!

Corrina Hewat - My Favourite Place: Although this is her first solo album, Hewat has been a firm fixture of Scotland's folk scene for at least a decade. She is best known for her work with the combo 'Bachue', alongside superb pianist David Milligan, and the more recent formation 'Shine', with Mary MacMaster and Gaelic singer Alyth MacCormack. "My Favourite Place" is like a jam session between Thelonus Monk, Michael Hedges and Robert Burns: a rich and effective blend of cool jazz, modern ambient music and traditional Scots song. Hewat's sultry smooth voice is a perfect foil for the sonorous and slightly surreal quality of her electric harp, on which she seems able to conjure anything from a slip jig to 9th chords over a walking bass line. On balance, the tracks are slow and spacious, which makes it a superb 'chill out' album, but there is plenty to focus on. Edinburgh itself makes a great comparison; its hoary old roots shoot up constantly through the steel, discarded bottles and cobblestones. If you like music that is simultaneous urban and ancient, then "My Favourite Place" will be yours as well

Jim Malcolm - 'Live in Glenfarg': This album was recorded live at Glenfarg Folk Club in Perthshire. It is a lovely example of Jim Malcolm's voice at its warm yet powerful best. One of Scotland's top traditional singers and songwriters, this album is the next best thing to attending one of his great concerts. Includes the Battle of Waterloo and Lochanside.

Maggie MacInnes - 'Peaceful Ground (Talamh Sìtheil)': Here Maggie is singing more of the beautiful traditional Gaelic songs from her family tradition as well as two non-Gaelic songs. Includes the title track written by Maggie and a song called "The Ewe Bughts" which is a recently discovered poem by Robert Burns and which is thought never before to have been recorded.

Tinto Summer School, 5-9th July 2004

Tinto is a fully residential summer school for young people of secondary school age. It is now in its fourth successful year and is held at Wiston Lodge, South Lanarkshire. The week is packed full of classes and fun events (including barbecue, Ceilidh and fancy dress, and an evening trip to East Kilbride Arts Centre to

see top Scottish trio Fine Friday).

Tutors this year are as ever Scotland's top traditional musicians. They are Jennifer Wrigley (fiddle), Anna-Wendy Stevenson (fiddle), Nuala Kennedy (flute and whistle), Harris Playfair (piano and band), John Morran (guitar and Scots song), and Corrina Hewat (clarsach and Scots song). It costs £165 (£82 conc). To find out more please contact East Kilbride Arts Centre on 01355 261000 and ask for a leaflet.

BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician 2004

On Sunday 25th January at Celtic Connections festival, 23 year old James Graham from Lochinver won the BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician Award 2004. He sang 4 songs including one unaccompanied which charmed the judges. When James finished his 15-minute set the audience raised the roof of the Strathclyde Suite. As part of his prize James will perform at Vancouver, Winnipeg and The Mission folk festivals in Canada, make a CD with Foot Stompin' Records and have a website designed by Tangent Multimedia.

The Six musicians who competed for the award entertained the capacity audience with some fantastic musicianship to make a very special and memorable night. The young competitors were James Graham - Lochinver (Gaelic song), Shona Donaldson - Huntly (voice, fiddle), Sarah Naylor - Skye (fiddle, voice), Rosie Morton - Edinburgh (clarsach), Tom Orr - Lanark (accordion), and Jenna Reid - Shetland (fiddle, piano, voice). You can read about them at www.handsupfortrad.co.uk/youngtrad/finalists2004.htm All will go on to have amazing careers in traditional music in the future and we wish them all the best.

The competition was preceded by a reception hosted by Maggie Cunningham, the head of BBC Radio Scotland and invited guests included John McCormick, Controller of BBC Scotland.

This Award exists to encourage young musicians to keep their tradition alive and to maximise their musical potential by the pursuit of a career in traditional music. The winner will be provided with high profile performance opportunities and the necessary tools and advice they require to launch a career in traditional music. To take part in this award please visit www.handsupfortrad.co.uk and download an application form.

For more information go to: www.footstompin.com

NEW SCORPION BAND.

After several months of hectic activity in Somerset and North Wales, our new recording The Downfall of Pears has recently been released. Featuring a beautiful cover image in the form of a ceramic tile specially made for us by Rosemary Swann; the CD takes its title from a march played by the original Scorpion Band. A sneak preview extracted from Robin's liner notes gives the history and the contents of the CD:

Concerning the life and works of the original Scorpion Band, who gave us our name, we have sadly little information. We know that they worked as a professional band in the Dorchester area in the period following the defeat of Napoleon, basing themselves in the village of Puddletown. We know also that they were a wind band, playing clarinet, trombone, cornopean - a sort of cornet - and bass drum. It seems that for a while they were in fierce competition with a long-established local band, impressively entitled the True and Original Weatherbury Band. We would like to know much more, who exactly they were and whether they prospered in their musical affairs. But beyond these bare facts the historical trail runs cold, and we know very little, save for a general conviction that they must have been mighty men, and doers of great deeds.

One final piece of information we have is the name of one of their most popular pieces. This was the French Revolutionary march "Ca ira", which had changed sides, Lili Marlene - style, during the Napoleonic Wars, and established itself in southern England under the title "The Downfall of Paris". It seems, however, that despite recent fears of invasion, curiosity about matters French was not highly developed in the Puddletown area, where the tune was traditionally known as "The Downfall of Pears".

We have always wanted to pay a musical tribute to the original Scorpion Band, as debts must be paid and the ancestors honoured, but have never been able to pursue the idea because of a shortage of wind players in the group. This situation has been transformed by the recent development of Sharon as a trombonist. A strange metamorphosis, you might think, for a highly accomplished violinist, and heaven knows it has been a hard enough apprenticeship, under the furrowed brows of our regular brass players. But she has served it conscientiously, in the dressing rooms and Green Rooms and back staircases of the land, and you can hear the results on the title track, our salutation and tribute to our illustrious forbears in the Puddle valley.

This album continues with our customary fanciful and haphazard rummaging in Britain's musical attic. We take inspiration once again from the Copper family of Rottingdean, with their sturdy song of protest against the hard economic times that followed the defeat of Bonaparte. Tim has given us another fine setting, this time of Kipling's Smugglers, and we remain outside the law with the heroic Lovell, betrayed to his doom by the iniquitous Polly. We travel north to Scotland for a set of dance tunes, introducing the muscular sound of the border pipes, and feature their more delicate Northumbrian cousin in a pair of fine Jacobite laments. Two at least of these songs have long pedigrees, the beautiful Dorset "I live not where I love", with its Elizabethan roots, and our unfortunate Friar, despatched to his watery nemesis by the robust anticlerical humour of the sixteenth century. We pay, as always, a visit to the Victorian Music Hall, with Leslie Stewart's masterly account of erotic skulduggery at Margate. Finally, we follow the travels and trials of Lord Bateman, his harsh Turkish imprisonment and deliverance by the beautiful Sophia, and her quest to Northumberland in search of him, romantic indeed if meteorologically ill - advised.

Complete track list: Bold Lovell; The Hard times of Old England; Derwentwater's Farewell; The Smuggler's Song; The Friar in the Well; The Downfall of Pears; The Sad Sea Waves; I Wish I Were Where Helen Lies/The Banks of Spey/ Colonel MacDougall of Dunolly's Reel/ Reel of the MacFarlanes; I Live Not Where I Love; Lord Bateman. To order the album, send a cheque for £13.00 Inc pp to: The New Scorpion Band, 38 Castle Road, Isleworth, TW7 6QS

Of course, all our previous recordings are still available, also at £13.00 each including p and p; Folk Songs and Tunes from the British Isles, The Plains of Waterloo (music and songs from the Napoleonic Wars) and The Carnal and the Crane (a Christmas album).

Best wishes from Sharon, Brian, Bob, Robin and Tim; www.new-scorpion-band.com

PETE ABBOTT GIG

Although the Steeleye Gig isn't out of the way yet (17/5) I need to profile this Concert which takes place at the beginning of June (only 4 weeks away!)

Its an excellent lineup - with Pete joined by Ken Nicol (Steeleye

Span) Joe Broughton (The Albion Band) plus the Fiddle Quintet and Clive Leyland (Bandersnatch) - and with the evening focussing on Pete's brand new album "Against the Wall" this will make it extra special

It takes place at Pendle Forest Sports Club in Fence nr Burnley at 8pm (doors 7.30pm) and tickets are £10 from me on 01282/696041 (see my website)

All profits will go to Pendleside Hospice - www.pendleside.org.uk - and the Ambulance Project I'm working towards (which needs £35,000!!) in 2004

David
www.davidlewispromotions.com

Sting returns to the 'Waters of Tyne'
21 June 2005

An announcement was made today by Lucy Bird of The Sage Gateshead, followed by a Q&A session with:

- Sting - Musician
- Bradley Creswick - Leader, Northern Sinfonia
- Philippe Petit - High Wire Artist
- David Lang - Composer
- Jules Fisher and Peggy Eisenhauer - Fisher Dachs Lighting Design
- Lucy Bird - Marketing and Development Director, The Sage Gateshead
- Simon Clugston - Performance Programme Director, The Sage Gateshead
- Mick Henry - Leader, Gateshead Council
- Tony Flynn - Leader, Newcastle City Council
- Paul Collard - Culture 10
- Jane Robinson - Arts Council England Northeast

Sting and Northern Sinfonia are to perform the traditional classic 'Waters of Tyne' - specially arranged by composer David Lang - when high wire artist Philippe Petit crosses the Tyne gorge to the upper façade of The Sage Gateshead in June 2005. Lighting for this spectacular event will be designed by Tony Award-winners Fisher Dachs Associates.

Sting - world renowned singer, composer, actor and activist - will join forces with Northern Sinfonia in June 2005 in his native Northeast. The international chart-topper, who rose to fame as the front man of band The Police and went onto global acclaim as a solo artist is to sing 'Waters of Tyne' in a spectacular event, which forms part of The Sage Gateshead's opening year of celebrations. Sting comments; "It's really exciting for me to know that this spectacular building The Sage Gateshead will enable visiting musicians to experience this vibrant area. I know how important music is to young people and I am delighted that many more of them will have the opportunity to develop their knowledge, skills and interest in all kinds of music. It will be really extraordinary to perform at this spectacular event to celebrate the opening of The Sage Gateshead."

David Lang - the prolific and enthusiastic composer - has been specially commissioned by The Sage Gateshead to arrange the traditional Northeast folk tune 'Waters of Tyne' for orchestra. Lang is musically adventurous, yet deeply versed in the classical tradition and is determined to make a music that resists categorization. Audiences around the globe are hearing more and more of Lang's work: in performances by such organizations as the Santa Fe Opera, the New York Philharmonic, the San Francisco Symphony; at Tanglewood, the BBC Proms, The Munich Biennale, the Sidney 2000 Olympic Arts Festival; and at Lincoln Center, the South Bank Centre, Carnegie Hall, and the

Barbican - with Gateshead next on his list. David Lang comments; "This is a really powerful project, with strong and varied collaborators from very different backgrounds. What I am particularly excited about is that a community should define music as central to its future, and then make such a beautiful building for that music to take place. It's an act of faith. You have to cross the river to find your future - or your love, or your self. That's where the music I am writing begins."

Third Eye - Jules Fisher & Peggy Eisenhauer Entertainment Lighting - is one of the world's leading event planning and design consultants. Jules Fisher has received sixteen Tony nominations and won seven Tony awards for Lighting Design, a record in this category. Peggy Eisenhauer of Third Eye comments; "It is our intent to transform the dynamic landscape of river and bridges with light, to present a triumphant vision of the new skyline of The Sage Gateshead. Through the use of musically programmed lighting changes we hope to reveal this spectacular building with dramatic integrity. We are thrilled to be participants in this artistic collaboration with Philippe Petit, Sting, Northern Sinfonia and David Lang, along with the artistic team of The Sage Gateshead.

It is hoped that the event will officially open the NewcastleGateshead International River Festival. Paul Collard, Creative Director, Culture10, comments: "To have someone of Sting's global standing give their creative support to this project is indicative of the scale of things we are capable of achieving here in the region. Sting's contribution epitomizes the true ethos of our Culture10 ambitions. He is an internationally renowned artist creating world-class music for a project rooted in the hearts and minds of the people of NewcastleGateshead."

Philippe Petit's inclined walk - the most technically demanding - will add another link between Newcastle and Gateshead when the world's greatest living artist of the high wire walks from Newcastle Quayside to the upper façade of The Sage Gateshead. Petit comments; "On the high wire, music is the muse that motivates me to move. I listen and let the music penetrate my being, and soon it happens: I start walking. Each of my steps, each of my heartbeats, is in concert with what I hear. For this event, in addition to Northern Sinfonia, to glorious music, I will have the pleasure of walking with the most splendid musical instrument: the human voice. My ascent on the high wire will be inspired by the exquisite, powerful range of a unique artist: Sting. I have the certitude that with the inimitable talent of composer David Lang, Sting's voice, the musicians performing, and my steps on the high wire will be united to create an impassioned mellifluous. For me, there is no better way to celebrate such a prestigious and promising home for music and musical discovery, The Sage Gateshead."

Bradley Creswick, Leader of Northern Sinfonia comments; "The merging of these art forms is something that I can't wait to be involved in; theatre, visual art, and music all taking place in this very dramatic setting - it'll be an evening to remember!"

Anthony Sargent, General Director of The Sage Gateshead comments; "It has always been central to our vision that The Sage Gateshead would invite the world's leading artists here to create, in collaboration, those extraordinary unforgettable kinds of project that arise when great minds meet. I am enormously proud that we have been able to bring this fabulously inventive team together to create an event that I'm sure no one who sees it will ever forget - truly a spectacular climax to our opening season in our wonderful new home."

For more information please contact: Amanda Wood, Head of Media and Public Relations, The Sage Gateshead(t) 0191 443 4561 (e) amanda.wood@thesagegateshead.org

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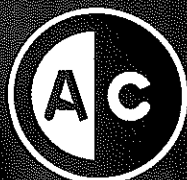
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