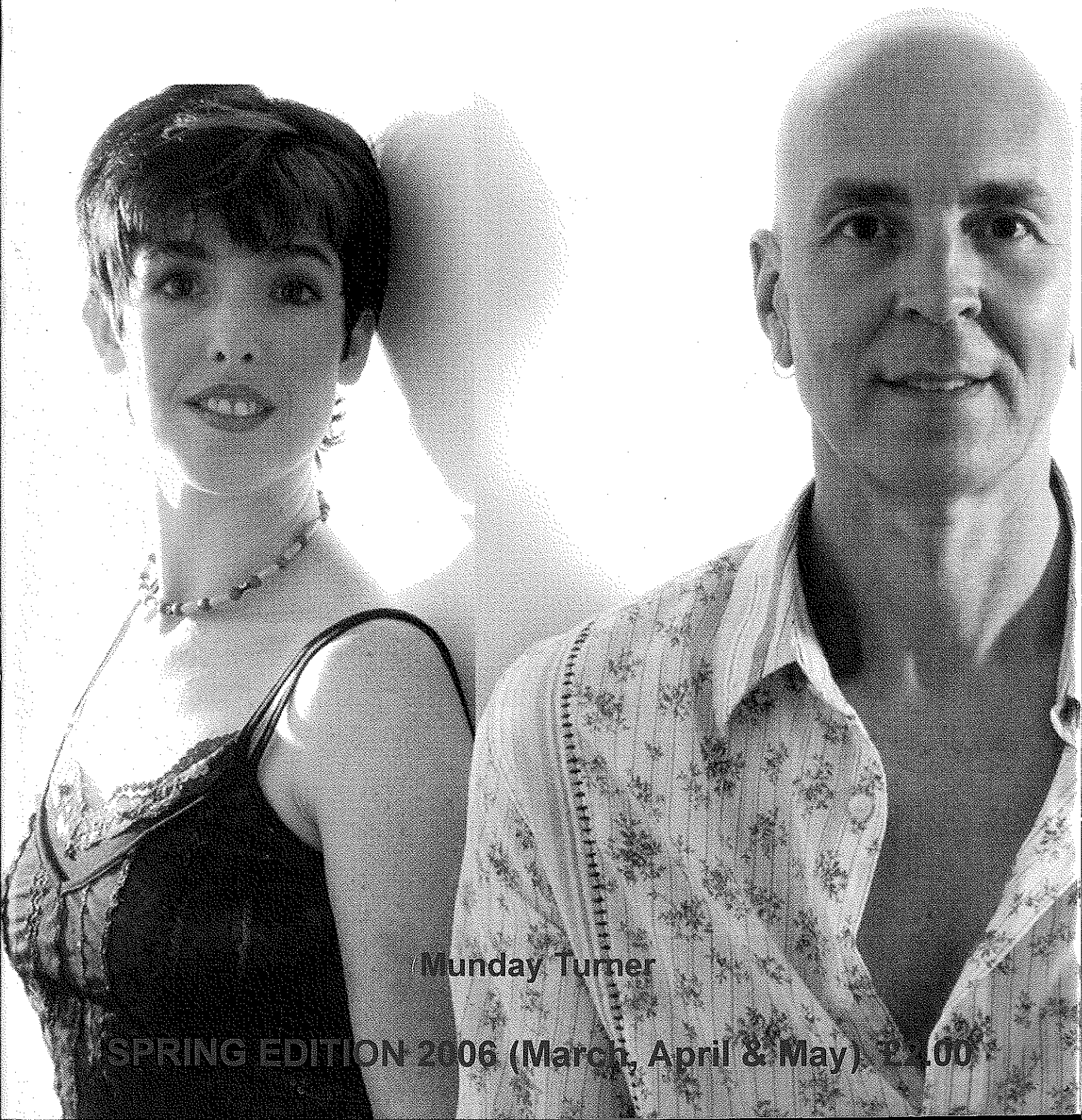


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ISSN 1350-8083

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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  
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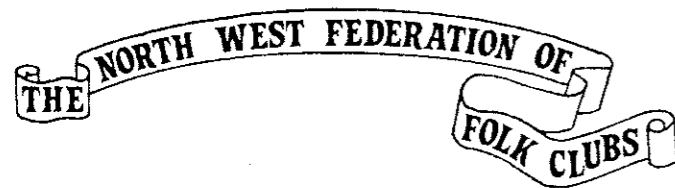
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Please note that the copy date for the next issue is April 10th 2006.



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## EDITORIAL

I have been greatly impressed with the amount of folk music on BBC Four recently and I urge you all to write to the BBC to congratulate them on Folk Britannia and an ongoing range of other folk programmes. Go to www.bbc.co.uk/bbcfour for lots of information about the programmes and a chance to 'Have Your Say'. This is a great leap forward for folk-kind and needs to be encouraged with all your might.

While on the subject of encouragement please support all our local presenters of folk on the radio by listening and then sending in comments, suggestions and in particular, congratulations for a job well done. Also doing well, but in need of support of the financial kind is Radio Britfolk (see p45 for further details). I am still waiting for all the local radio stations to be available on the Internet but I am pleased to see that they are growing in number. Happy listening.

Ken Bladen

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

## CHAIRMAN'S JOTTINGS

At long last the music world is waking up to what we all knew a long time ago that Folk music is alive and well and beating hard on the door to be accepted by a wider public.

I'm not just talking Cable and Satellite channels here, but mainstream television and radio in all its unashamed glory. The likes of Eddi Reader, Eliza Carthy and Kate Rusby have all recently been featured for their outstanding achievements in the folk genre and Seth Lakeman has been rightly lauded for his innovative writing and performing since his nomination for the Mercury Music Prize.

BritFolk radio continues to flourish and surely it's only a matter of time before folk has its own dedicated channel, both audio and visual.

Nothing though comes easily and without a price to pay, so continued lobbying, cajoling and persuasion is needed to keep our music in the forefront of people's consciousness and maybe the long cherished dream of so many will be realised sooner rather than later.

Cheers for now

David Jones

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## What Folk programmes are on the radio TODAY?

compiled by Rob Dunford

### SUNDAY

8.10 - 8.55am  
1.00 - 3.00pm  
6.00 - 8.00pm  
7.00 - 8.00pm

8.00 - 10.00pm

9.00 - 10.00pm  
9.00 - 10.00pm  
10.00 - 11.00pm  
10.00 - 11.00pm

### MONDAY

7.00 - 8.00pm  
7.00 - 9.00pm  
8.00 - 10.00pm  
8.00 - 9.00pm

### TUESDAY

8.00 - 10.00pm  
9.00 - 10.00pm

### WEDNESDAY

8.00 - 9.00pm

### THURSDAY

7.00 - 8.00pm

8.00 - 9.00pm  
8.00 - 10.00pm  
10.00 - 12.00pm

### SATURDAY

7.00 - 8.30pm  
9.00 - 10.00pm  
9.00 - 10.00pm  
10.00 - 11.00pm  
10.00 - 12.00pm  
10.00 - 12.00pm  
10.00pm - 1.00am

RTE - MO CHEOL THU presented by CIARAN MAC MATHUNA  
BBC Radio Scotland - THE REEL BLEND presented by ROBBIE SHEPHERD  
BBC Radio Scotland - CELTIC CONNECTIONS presented by MARY ANN KENNEDY (Rpt)  
BBC Radio Merseyside - FOLKSCENE presented by STAN AMBROSE and GEOFF SPEED  
BBC Radio Shropshire - SUNDAY FOLK presented by GENEVIEVE TUDOR also on BBC Radio Stoke  
BBC Radio Cumbria - NORTHERN FOLK presented by ALISTAIR ANDERSON  
BBC Radio Lancashire - THE DRIFT presented by PHIL BROWN (Rpt)  
RTE - THE LATE SESSION presented by AINE HENSEY  
DOWNTOWN RADIO - FOLKAL POINT presented by MAURICE LEYDEN

BBC GMR - THE PARLOUR presented by ALAN KEEGAN  
BBC Radio Derby - FOLKWAVES presented by MICK PEAT and LESTER SIMPSON  
RADIO MALDWYN - THE FOLK PROGRAMME presented by YVONNE & JOHN HART  
BBC GMR - SOUNDS OF FOLK presented by ALI O'BRIEN

BBC Radio Scotland - CELTIC CONNECTIONS presented by MARY ANN KENNEDY  
MANX RADIO - THE FOLK SHOW presented by JOHN KANEEN

BBC Radio 2 - FOLK ROOTS & ACOUSTIC MUSIC presented by MIKE HARDING

BBC Radio Shropshire - FRETWORK presented by NONNY JAMES also on BBC Radio Stoke  
BBC Radio Lancashire - THE DRIFT presented by PHIL BROWN  
BBC Radio Scotland - TRAVELLING FOLK presented by ARCHIE FISHER  
BBC Radio Ulster - FRIEL'S FANCY presented by EAMONN FRIEL

BBC Radio Scotland - TAKE THE FLOOR presented by ROBBIE SHEPHERD  
BBC Radio Scotland - PIPELINE presented by GARY WEST  
RTE - CEILIDH HOUSE presented by KIERAN HANRAHAN  
RTE - FAILTE ISTEACH presented by DONNCHA O'DULAING  
BBC Radio Scotland - TRAVELLING FOLK presented by ARCHIE FISHER (Rpt)  
BBC Radio Ulster - FOLK CLUB presented by COLUM SANDS  
BBC Radio Wales - CELTIC HEARTBEAT presented by FRANK HENNESSY

### RADIO FREQUENCIES

MW 567  
MW 810  
MW 810  
FM 95.8  
MW 1485  
FM 96.0  
FM 94.6  
see below  
FM 95.5  
MW 567  
MW 1026

FM 95.1  
see below  
MW 756  
FM 95.1

MW 810  
MW 1368

FM 88 - 90.2

FM 96.0  
FM 94.6  
FM 95.5  
MW 810  
MW 1341

MW 810  
MW 810  
MW 567  
MW 567  
MW 810  
MW 1341  
MW 882

The frequencies quoted are those forming the basis for reception in the North West. Expanded station details are shown below:-

BBC Radio Cumbria	FM 95.6 (North/West), 95.2 (Kendal), 96.1 (South), 104.1 (Whitehaven), 104.2 (Windermere)	Tel:- 01228 592444
BBC Radio Derby	MW 756 (North), 837 (South), 1458 (West)	Tel:- 01332 361111
BBC GMR	FM 95.3, 104.5, 96.0 (Buxton)	Tel:- 0161 2002000
BBC Radio Lancashire	FM 95.1, 104.6 (Saddleworth)	Tel:- 01254 262411
BBC Radio Merseyside	FM 95.5, 103.9, 104.5	Tel:- 0151 7085500
BBC Radio Scotland	FM 95.8	Tel:- 0141 3398844
BBC Radio Shropshire	FM 92.4 - 94.7	Tel:- 01743 248484
BBC Radio Stoke	FM 96.0	Tel:- 01782 208080
BBC Radio Ulster	FM 94.6, 104.1	Tel:- 02890 338000
BBC Radio 2	FM 92.4 - 95.4	Tel:- 08700 100222
Downtown Radio	FM 88.0 - 90.2	Tel:- 02891 815555
Radio Maldwyn		Tel:- 01686 623555
Manx Radio	FM 89.0, 97.2, 103.7	Tel:- 01624 682600
Radio Wales		Tel:- 029203 22000
RTE (Radio Teilifis Eirann)	via ASTRA Satellite	Tel:- 003531 2083111



## RADIO XTRA

The range of programmes has broadened to include several which, whilst not wholly devoted to folk, frequently include it and have potential to reward the discerning listener. These include BBC Radio 3's **Late Junction**, Monday to Thursday, usually 10.15pm -12.00 midnight, presenters Fiona Talkington and Verity Sharp, and the **Andy Kershaw** programme, also Radio 3, Sunday 10.15 - 12.00 midnight. Both for details on the above and for information on occasional programmes/items/short series with a folk flavour on Radios 2, 3 and 4, the Radio Times is always worth close scrutiny. Frequencies: Radio 3 90.2-92.4 FM; Radio 4 92.4-94.6 FM, 198 LW; BBC information : 08700 100 222.

Of variable folk content is BBC Radio Scotland Monday to Friday 10.00-12.00 midnight with Iain Anderson and BBC Radio 2 Monday to Thursday 10.30-12.00 midnight, presented by Mark Radcliffe. Radio Na Gaeltachta FM 93.5/94 (Tel: 00353 91 506677), broadcasts on Astra Satellite Channel 22 and carries a range of Gaelic Music/Language programmes including Lan A Mhale, 7.00-8.00pm Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

Note that local radio programmes may be subject to temporary alteration in day, time and delivery (AM, FM or DAB) when, for example sports coverage takes precedence.

Most regional/local programmes to a varying degree provide diary dates for clubs, concerts and festivals. The reliable standards set by for example, GMR and Radio Shropshire/Stoke for comprehensive and regular listings can, it is hoped, apply across the board. E.mail, website and Internet details are routinely given during programmes or can be found via the main telephone numbers and on-line searches. The number of programmes available on the Internet is increasing - some are retained for short period access - and it is understood that the whole of BBC Radio output should by now be accessible. The main BBC website is at [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk).

Telephone numbers for radio stations, plus directions to other forms of contact, have been provided so that event organisers and artistes can fulfill the important role of promoting their activities in the region. Given the propensity for radio programmes to devote much air time to new albums, the listing of programmes is also intended to complement the extensive CD review feature in Folk North West.

To demonstrate an interested and active profile of folk listeners, do liaise with any and all programmes, stations and producers. The North West is favoured with a wealth of programmes, which praise and constructive comment will help maintain. It is essential for listeners to provide feedback to the programme producers, for, as the song goes "You don't know what you've got till its gone".

Over the last couple of years, the North West's seen a good area get even better, with the addition of not only GMR's "Sounds of Folk" programme but also Radio Lancashire repeating "The Drift". Speaking to folkies in other regions and looking at the situation elsewhere, we've certainly got what many other regions haven't (and envy).

It is all well worth nurturing, not least for regional flavour.

**Rob Dunford**

## LIVE REVIEWS



### PEDIGREE CHUMS at Gregson Lane Folk Club on 10 November 2005



The Pedigree Chums consist of Paul Reade (Husband of Singer/songwriter Kath), Stephanie Emmett, and husband & wife Will & Chris Lingard. We booked the 'Chums' after a storming floor-spot got a very positive audience reaction at one of our singers' nights back in 2004. So imagine

my concern when they turned up in October - a whole month before they were scheduled to play. I was actually singing when they walked in and I immediately panicked thinking that I'd given them the wrong date. I hadn't, they had just turned up to give our audience a taster (kind of a 'live - in person flyer') of what to expect.

I couldn't make my mind up as to whether this was a good idea or not and I suspected that it would possibly de-value the coming event. I needn't have worried! On the 'Big night' the audience arrived early and in large numbers expecting to be thoroughly entertained and they certainly were.

The 'Chums' have a vast repertoire of songs (+ a couple of tunes) all of which beg the audience to sing along or tap their feet. They adopt a simple but very effective format with half the songs being performed unaccompanied and the rest being performed with the support of Will on guitar and Chris on accordion - with Will or Steph giving us the 'sensible' introductions and Paul making us all chuckle with his amusing descriptions of some of the songs on which he takes the lead\* (\*good sentence to use in a review of a band thus named).

The older members of the audience were all in agreement that it was like being in some sort of time warp and that we had all been transported back to an era when audiences instinctively joined in on every chorus on every song and the feedback from our younger members (who I initially felt may not appreciate this style) was very positive indeed - it may have taken them a song or three to get into the spirit of things but by the end of the night they were joining in with everything.

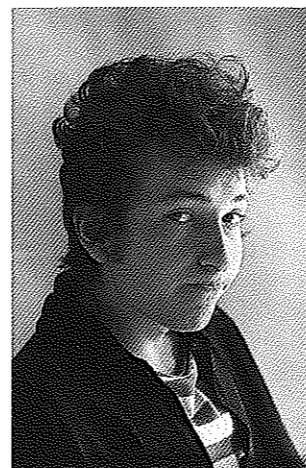
As for the songs they sang - too many to list (And I'm sure that the 'Chums' have another couple of hours-worth that they could pull out of the bag if needed) my favourites were: - The Holmfirth Anthem, Shallow Brown, Pleasant & Delightful, Raglan Road, Shenandoah and Salvation Band.

Chris, Will and Paul are from Burnley and Stephanie is from Skipton - the band use Skipton Folk Club as their base - this definitely Yorkshire's Gain & Lancashire's Loss - I hope that we see a lot more of them over here in the Red Rose county.

The evening was hosted by our very own John Poulton who despite being 'High as A Kite on Strepils & Vocal Zones managed to keep his voice long enough to do two short but amazingly entertaining spots.

**Graham Dixon**

### BOB DYLAN at the Manchester Evening News Arena on 16 November 2005



It was over 40 years ago I heard my first Bob Dylan record - 1964, The Times They Are A Changin' vinyl LP. It was like nothing I heard before - a songwriter doing songs about poverty, racial prejudice, and anti-war. It captured the hope and fear of the early 1960s still very much in the throes of the Cold War and the fight for civil rights in the USA. Some of the songs - in particular, 'The Lonesome Death of Hattie Carroll' and 'The Ballad of Hollis Brown' - brought tears to my eyes. They also shocked and frightened me. It was a marked departure from the early 60s chart music to which I was accustomed. It was probably Dylan that started my interest in folk music and political songs especially.

So forty years later I went along to the MEN in the heart of Manchester to see the great idiosyncratic icon. I didn't quite know what to expect. For a start the MEN is far from intimate, especially when you are almost the length of a football pitch away from the stage with no working screens to show close up and replays. It took until the second or third song to work out which Lowry like figure on the stage may have been Dylan. We worked out by process of elimination that he was the one sitting down at the piano dressed in black and wearing a hat

One thing that has been a constant theme throughout Dylan's career is his ability to shun predictability and this gig was no different. From the very outset Dylan, accompanied by a highly accomplished set of backing musicians, started to run through a small selection of the type of huge repertoire most performers couldn't contemplate.

Starting with 'Maggie's Farm' and 'She belongs to me', through 'Lay Lady Lay' and 'Girl from the North Country', and ending fittingly with the stunning 'All along the watchtower', Dylan vibrantly rearranged many of his familiar classics. While most were instantly recognisable, one or two fell into the hard to recognise bracket, until about the second verse or chorus.

Even in his heyday Dylan's voice sounded worn and torn. What's hard to tell with Dylan's voice is whether his performance is affected by the normal wear and tear process or is just deliberate affectation. The band - two-thirds the way through a 30 plus date European tour - performed tightly together, with Stu Campbell's lead guitar outstandingly resonant. Bob, however, hasn't forgotten how to use his harmonica, which still featured prominently through the evening.

For those with any expectations that Dylan would actually communicate with the audience they will have been disappointed. He broke his silence only once, just before starting the encore, and that was to introduce the band. But it was a night to say: I've been part of the experience that is Bob Dylan, someone who has been one of most influential popular folk and rock lyricists and pioneers of the second half of the 20th century - albeit someone who remains as enigmatic and recalcitrant as ever.

Dianne Jones writes: I don't have to go back forty years to recall crying at a Bob Dylan song. By the start of the second song, when the words "she wears an Egyptian ring, she's an

artist, she don't look back" rang round the arena, I was in tears. The whole evening was an emotional journey I had waited forty years to take. Dylan held my attention, my heart, and my mind, like no other performer. He did not disappoint.

**Lewis Jones**

### MOONCOYN at Garstang Unplugged, the Kenlis Arms, Garstang on 17 November 2005



This was a concert in aid of 'Sing For Someone Else's Supper' and raised £271.35p. The money was presented to Graham Hulme of the Garstang Oxfam Group at the end of the evening. As Graham explained, a quick scan through the "Oxfam Unwrapped"

catalogue shows how such an amount can help tackle hunger and disease - for example - 11 goats to provide milk and manure, safe drinking water for 375 people or training for 7 community health workers so they can improve their knowledge and skills in hygiene and health.

The main guests of the evening were Mooncoyn, a six-piece ceilidh and concert band, with a line up that includes guitars, fiddle, drums, bouzouki, and bass. They have been playing their own exciting brand of contemporary and traditional songs, all over the North West and beyond for many years and this appearance in Garstang showed what a versatile and entertaining group they are.

Their set ranged from the traditional to the modern, from close harmony to the best of folk rock. Standout songs are almost impossible to choose in such a varied selection, but 'The Woodlands of England', 'Slip Jigs and Reels', and a beautifully judged 'Moonlight Shadow' stay in my mind.

Support came from 'Trouble at Mill' who included 'I Don't Like Mondays' in their set. Locals Peter Salisbury and Stuart Williamson - with Denis Wane - opened with original songs and some by Jackson Browne, and Garstang Unplugged organisers Pete Hardman and Caroline Lovett, who introduced the two halves of the evening. Thanks are given to Alice, Andrea and Terry at the Kenlis Arms, and to Stan Harvey, the Mayor of Garstang, for their support, and to all the performers who gave their talents to the event for free.

'Sing For Someone Else's Supper' is the brainchild of Graham Dixon from 'Trouble at Mill'. After the success of fund raising events for the Tsunami Appeal earlier in the year, a more permanent campaign was organised to raise money for existing charities working in Africa. You can find out more about Mooncoyn at [www.mooncoyn.co.uk](http://www.mooncoyn.co.uk). There is more information, and a lot of pictures from this event and others on [www.garstangunplugged.com](http://www.garstangunplugged.com) and [www.singforsomeoneelssupper.ukart.com](http://www.singforsomeoneelssupper.ukart.com).

**Don Moore**

### PEGGY SEEGER, MARTIN CARTHY, NORMA AND MIKE WATERSON at the Runcorn Arts Centre on 29 November 2005

The Runcorn Arts Centre is a relatively new venue but as well as already having attracted a number of prominent folk performers to the town, it is also actively engaging the local community, including its young people, in music and other forms of artistic expression. The latest visitors to this impressive and intimate 400-seat theatre included four more highly prominent and decorated folk performers whose long association with the British scene has made them a rare combination of pioneers and revivalists. Anyway, amidst all the

media talk of another British folk revival, established folkies will know that Seeger, Carthy and the Watsons have remained a cornerstone of the tradition through several decades and it was a rare treat to see them perform together on the same bill.

It was Carthy and the two Watsons who took the stage first to open this auspicious double bill. Carthy's inimitable voice and guitar were immediately thrust into the limelight with a rendition of song that he acquired when he was 17 years old. It was about the travails of Johnny Tarr and was originally collected by Cecil Sharp at the beginning of the last century. Norma was the first of the Watsonson duo to step forward with an unaccompanied rendition of 'The Trees They Do Grow High'. The song illustrated her well-made point that traditional music covers much the same ground as the themes of more modern songs - life, death, love, and tears. Although, it has to be said, an awful lot - like this one - tend towards the grave and heart rending rather than the cradle and heart warming. The other Watsonson, Mike, flat cap and cupped hand around right ear, lightened the mood in sardonic fashion with a tale about the type of family feud that makes Romeo and Juliet look like a comedy!

The threesome continued to alternate in a similar vein through the set. Norma reminisced about her fond memories in Montserrat (as a disc jockey!) in the cross over years between the 1960s and 70s, particularly recalling calypsos at Christmas and the more recent misfortune that has befallen the people of that beautiful island. This was a prelude to a song with which she became familiar whilst out there; its theme was venereal disease, its tune the Streets of Laredo. Mike returned with a thought-provoking ditty that reminded us that Ann Widdecombe's withering comment - about Michael Howard having 'something of the night' about him - could have been linked to his parents' place of origin. Mike believes they may have come from Transylvania, which could explain the alleged 'vampirical' tendencies (and other types of behaviour) of the now former leader of the Tory Party.

Not to be outdone, Martin Carthy pontificated on the height of English monarchs past. At 6' 2", Henry VIII was probably the tallest. Charles I reputedly started out a 4'6" until Oliver Cromwell rather pointedly cut him down a size and established the, albeit short lived, English Republic. The mood became more sombre as Norma beautifully delivered a song based on an anonymously written poem about the Battle of Flodden. The sentiment was to remember those that died in war so we could avoid the same mistakes in future. The lesson obviously hasn't struck home yet. Meanwhile, Mike railed against the loss of the treasured 'tea ladies' and their unremitting replacement by automaton vending machines, which produce insipid drinks untouched by any living hand. In this song, however, the humans revolt!

The first half of the concert drew to a close with an interesting trilogy - Carthy's humorous tale of the demons of hell, Mike's lament to forgotten heroes of the sea - the fishermen whose industry was decimated after the cod wars - and Norma leading sensitively, with a strong contribution from the audience, on 'My flower, my companion and me'

Peggy Seeger has made a name for herself in her own right but is still perhaps best remembered for her influential partnership with Ewan MacColl. The Watsonson Carthy axis is a difficult act to follow and it seemed strange that she was following rather than preceding them on this tour. Her songs included stories of a gambler's wife and a criminal hung in public at Newgate (the song ingeniously worked a reference to the Mersey into the story despite its geographical remoteness).

The Cat went fiddle di fee' (or something like that) is a children's song. Unsurprisingly, children always seem to handle difficult cumulative choruses far better than their adult counterparts. Adults are perhaps more self-conscious. Anyway, this was no different on this occasion and there weren't enough children in the audience to help the adults make a better job of it. Accompanied by her favourite banjo, Seeger then sauntered into a medley of lullabies, some of which had originated as women's work songs and others were about George W Bush and ecology.

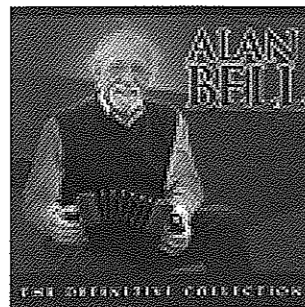


Peggy Seeger's repertoire always incorporates a welcome helping of political material. The song about staff sergeant Jimmy Massey was undoubtedly the pick of the bunch. He fought in Iraq and quit the army in disgust upon his return to America. In a similar political vein was a song written by union activist and feminist, Molly Jackson, who was closely associated with the National Mineworkers of America (NMU), followed by a very exhausting song about the dangers of nuclear power (one she first sang with MacColl).

At the end of the evening everyone joined in for the encore, 'Friends carry me over', an uplifting tribute to one of Peggy's friends and how she dealt with terminal cancer. In contrast to the first half, Peggy Seeger's set sometimes appeared disjointed and rambling. Nonetheless, overall it was a highly enjoyable experience from four veterans of the folk scene who have not only made enormous individual and collective contributions but still have much to offer.

Lewis Jones

**ALAN BELL BAND, with support from Rob Kentell and Matt Harwood, at Gregson Lane Folk Club on 8 December 2005**



How I review a legend. How do I review a performance by someone who has spent a lifetime in music, and has worked so hard for the things we all love best? The answer is to do it honestly and to bring an open mind to the task.

Most of the songs came from Alan Bell's 'Definitive Collection', which has recently been issued on CD by Greentrax Recordings. This represents a lifetime of compositions for, and about, the north west of England. 'The Lakeland Fiddler' celebrates Bill Irwin, rescued from potential oblivion by the careful preservation of his tune books. 'Windmills' reminds us of a feature of the Fylde in days long past, whilst 'Alice White' tells of a navvy's wife who lived as hard a life as the men in the work camps as the railways crossed the bare hills of Westmorland.

Other songs celebrated the fishing industry of old Fleetwood, the ships, the men and their wives. Away from the sea, Alan's versatility as a songwriter was proved in 'Letters From Wilfred' based upon the letters to his mother by Wilfred Owen from his service in the First World War. 'Bread and Fishes' has travelled the world since it's first outing in 1968, whilst the final and much loved 'So Here's To You' still rings in my ears, as it does

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after every hearing.

All in all, this performance confirmed what we knew. The voice may be a little aged, the fingers on the concertina, a little stiff, yet Alan Bell fills the stage. When he sings, his experience and artistry flows; I have never known the audience so quiet and attentive. All that has been said before remains true; he stands modestly, yet graciously before us, with a fine body of original songs, and in between he talks to us like we were old friends. It's a simple formula, done to perfection.

The band was good too. Eddie Green's bass, guitar and banjo blended with son Andrew on guitar. Sue Jennings fiddle, played in a lyrical and truly northern style, complemented Alan's songs and delighted when allowed to solo in the breaks.

Rob Kentell and Matt Harwood opened the first and second half of the evening. Rob's very much a traditionalist, with songs like 'John Barleycorn' and 'She Moves Through The Fair', yet the pair are just as happy to sing the Child ballad, 'Fair Margaret and Sweet William' to Rob's own tune, and Matt's 'Tenth in Line Maybe' as he assesses his CD collection. It was a personable performance from a duo in process of capturing a style of their own.

I can't summarise the Alan Bell Band in a couple of sentences. It wouldn't do them justice. If you want to hear good original songs, presented by masters of their craft, you must see the Alan Bell Band.

Don Moore

**DAR WILLIAMS, LYNN MILES and ALANA LEVANDOSKI, at Mr Kite Benefit, The Met, Bury. Friday, 20th January, 2006.**



Mr Kite's first offering of the New Year set a standard that even he's going to be hard pushed to beat. This was an exciting combination of two of my favourite women singer songwriters, and a new one with the potential to become a favourite.

First up was Alana Levandoski. She's from Manitoba in Canada, and has performed and written with some of Canada's greats. On this performance, featuring songs from her debut cd 'Unsettled Down', she deserves the reputation she has as one of the emerging talents of Canadian Music. 'Red Headed Girl' was her standout song.

Next up was fellow Canadian, Lynn Miles. I was really excited to see her, as her 'Love Sweet Love' cd has never been far away from my player since it was released in spring 2005. It's also sent me into her back catalogue, and I can't find a duff track there either. I came to see her with high expectations, and went home truly satisfied, with my expectations exceeded. If I had been given the choice of her songs for the set list, it would have differed little from the songs she played, but I would have asked for more. Standout songs are really difficult to pick, but for me 'Flames of Love' would take some beating.

Last on the bill was Dar Williams. I have to be careful with the superlatives because I've used so many already, but here's an artist at the height of her powers, with a wonderful back catalogue, a new cd 'My Better Self', and an audience hanging on her every word. Songs about contemporary life have always featured strongly in Dar's work, and the new songs are no exception. Although she doesn't preach, her position is clear, and the songs are relevant to our world today. Although the standout songs for me were from older material, 'The

Babysitter's Here' and a wonderfully brittle version of 'February', the newer material is just as strong.

Thanks to Steve Henderson, as always, for bringing such a wonderful bill to the North West. Any of these women could headline an evening on their own; to see all three together was a real treat. Looking at Steve's website, we've a lot more in store this year.

Don Moore



Hello again everyone. At the time of writing it is a few weeks into 2006 so may I wish you all a very healthy and prosperous 'folkie' New Year.

It is with a heavy heart that I commence by informing you that Parkgate Folk Club and Brass Tacks' 'gang' lost a great friend just before Christmas when Mary Gray, aged 57 died very suddenly after a short illness. Recently retired from the teaching profession Mary was a lovely woman and from many years back was a great and very close friend of Buddy and Mike Woods. A strong supporter of many of the local folk music venues on Wirral, Mary was an essential part of our social gatherings and gave much pleasure to us all with her never-ending smiles and chat. Mary was also a very 'level headed' person who added 'sense' to insensibility when some of us were occasionally, should I say 'less restrained'. Her two sons, John and Stephen, survive Mary. Thanks Mary for the good times we had. You will forever remain in our memories.

Since I last chatted to you, Angela and I have had a week in the Lakes. Bedecked with pre-Christmas trimmings, Bowness/Windermere is one of our favourite haunts with its excellent time-share accommodation, shopping and scenery of course. Where did we go for folk music? Well, I must say that our one and only 'folk' visit to a venue in Windermere - (Should I tell you where? - No I don't think so!) - was a severe disappointment.

Have you ever attended a venue where there is a bold sign outside advertising a folk music session? Gone in with your instruments, waited for the musicians to arrive and then been completely ignored all night, by a ring of 'very talented diddley diddley merchants'? Well that is what happened to us. It was particularly galling as the first musician to enter the lounge bar set up her musical ring alongside our table. Saw my guitar parked alongside. Said not a homely word to either of us, but, when space became available on the other side of the room, moved there to make up a more comfortable ring of music. We remained in the venue for well over ninety minutes and at no time were we invited to join this motley crew of 'muso's'. I know I should have been more pro-active but, I have tried breaking in to such groups before and one does not always get the response you expect. If anyone who was present there reads this, please take note and - 'buck up'. Oh by the way the venue was...???? Oh no, better not!

On New Year's Eve a number of us attended Stratford-upon-Avon Youth Hostel for a Keith Donnelly musical extravaganza where the buzzword was "Odd". The activities included a homemade pantomime the author of which was the hilarious KD. Participants were the volunteer residents with yours truly playing a cameo of 'The King'. Which one? Well Elvis of



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course. There was an 'Odd-portunity Knocks' competition where volunteers dressed and performed as they wished in 'odd mode'.

Led by Angela, the girls from our gang - all dressed as Santa - commenced proceedings with a superb rendition of 'There's no business like show business'. Kate Westlake (previously of Bromborough Folk Club) did her hilarious 'I touched him on the feet/knee/navel/head/nose/funny thing' turn etc, with me getting all worked up and doing a poor impression of Phil Cool. Music and comedy was provided by Keith (a very good guitar player by the way), and an excellent young trio called Isambard who did a good set. Together with the usual sessions we had a super start to the New Year.

#### Club news

Well down to business. I commence by reporting that, by default - unpaid subscriptions - four clubs have been removed from this edition. It is best that I do not identify them as it may embarrass the organisers. However, the better news is that there are always other venues 'chomping at the bit' to become a part of this publication and reap the rewards of the publicity we push out. Five names join us this time. Specific venue and contact details are in the club list.

They are - Skipton Folk Club. Are we storming the borders do you think? Sheila Kelsall tells me it is a cosy and compact club with guest nights alternating with singers' nights each week. Sheila advises that the club is closer to Blackpool than it is Scarborough. Coincidentally, you may be interested to know that on 25th April the club will hold a 'War of the Roses' singers' night hosted by Pedigree Chums. Lancky and Yorky songs will abound I am sure. But don't spill any blood please!

Folk at the Rugby Club is a new name based at Old Aldwinians Rugby Club, Droylsden. This is mainly a singers' night venue with occasional guest nights.

I have no programme yet for Chorlton FC but Friendly Folk FC has as its first advertised gig Abbe Lathe and friends at Worden Arts on 4th March. Additionally, a rejoin to our membership is Dave Newton at The Castle FC, Runcorn. A change of licensee there has caused the club to reopen. Dave's first guest night will see Lynn and Barrie Hardman as guests on 8th March with all other Wednesdays as singers' nights but watch this space for future guests as well. Well done to all of you and welcome to FNW.

There are many talented performers identified in the centre page calendar this quarter. Please don't get back to me over this if I do not mention your favourite but some that took my eye-are: -

In March, Coope, Boyes and Simpson team up with Rachel Unthank at the Worden Arts Centre (on 5th). Mick Groves (ex-Spinners) does a solo gig at the Everyman (14th) and Andy M. Stewart (23rd) pays a rare visit to the region at Biddulph. Karen Matheson, the beautiful lead singer of Scottish super-band Capercaillie appears solo at Kendal's Brewery Arts Centre (9th). Also this month at Maghull on 14th there will be a concert in memory of Dave Day who passed away ten years ago. A super guy sadly missed.

June Tabor performs a new project at the Philharmonic and at Brewery Arts on the 14th and 17th and will be accompanied by Iain Ballamy and Huw Warren. Described as - 'leading lights of the jazz and folk world'. The trio will perform a delightful programme of traditional English and Welsh folk as well as their own original material. Iain Ballamy is one of Europe's most notable jazz saxophonists and composers. Huw Warren

is one of the leading and most original musicians on the current new music scene'.

A new name to me - Fred Loader - appears at Cross Keys on 29th. Fred is described by Kevin Tarpey on the club website as - "One of the best musicians on the local folk scene. Virtuoso level on guitar and mandolin! Great singer. Doesn't write songs as far as I know but has a great repertoire. Covers Bob Dylan, Donavon, James Taylor, Ry Cooder, Paul Simon, etc. He's also the best slide guitarist I've ever seen".

On 19th March - the day before my birthday by the way - is "Extravaganza 10" promoted by Open Door. Principal guests will be Dave Webber and Anni Fentiman, Bill Whaley and Dave Fletcher and Steve Turner.

The brilliant Limerick, singer songwriter Mick Hanley (yes he of 'Past the Point of Rescue'), has been booked by Patty Batty at Westhoughton for the 3rd and Mike Silver appears at Parkgate on 16th (an extra special night) and The Bothy on 19th. Don't forget that Westhoughton closes on 31st March but on 2nd and 9th June you can get a dose of James Keelaghan and Eric Bogle respectively at the Douglas Valley Golf Club.

Fundraising events will take place at Playhouse 2 on 11th and at Leigh on 25th. A number of homegrown acts will entertain at Playhouse 2 with Ruth and Ken (ex-Risky Business) getting involved.

At Leigh, this is the annual memorial concert in memory of Joe Roberts one of the club founders. The venue is St Joseph's Hall, Chapel Street, Leigh commencing at 7-30pm and tickets will cost £7-50. All proceeds go to support McMillan Nurses. Anthony John Clarke, Bram Taylor, Pennygate and Calico will provide the entertainment. Ring Pauline on 01942-604603 or Des on 01942-674868 for tickets.

In April, a super group called Lazarus will perform at the Worden Arts Centre on the 2nd. Lazarus is made up of Dave Swarbrick, Kevin Dempsey and Maartin Allcock. Great to see Dave out on the road again after severe health problems.

John Renbourn and Robin Williamson are booked for Brewery Arts on the 11th and, at the Clarence on 12th, the new Brian Bedford Band (ex Artisan) are the special guests. The superb Fiona Simpson makes the first of a number of appearances in the region - at the Prospect on 24th. Fiona can also be seen at the Old Manor on 21st May and at Swinton on 3rd July. Don't miss this lovely lady; she is a brilliant performer with a voice to die for. April also sees Julie Felix appearing at Parkgate on 27th and at Porkies on 2nd June. Stewart Lever shouts long and hard about the talents of Ron Trueman-Border who he has booked for the Railway on 27th. 422 are a young five piece super group who won the BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Award in 1999. Frighteningly talented they can be seen at John and Ailsa Booth's Northwich club on 21st. That is one I must really try to get to. On the 28th, Folk at the Rugby Club have another fundraising event when the main guest will be Dave South. The venue for this gig will be the Bush Inn, Moorside Road, Droylsden.

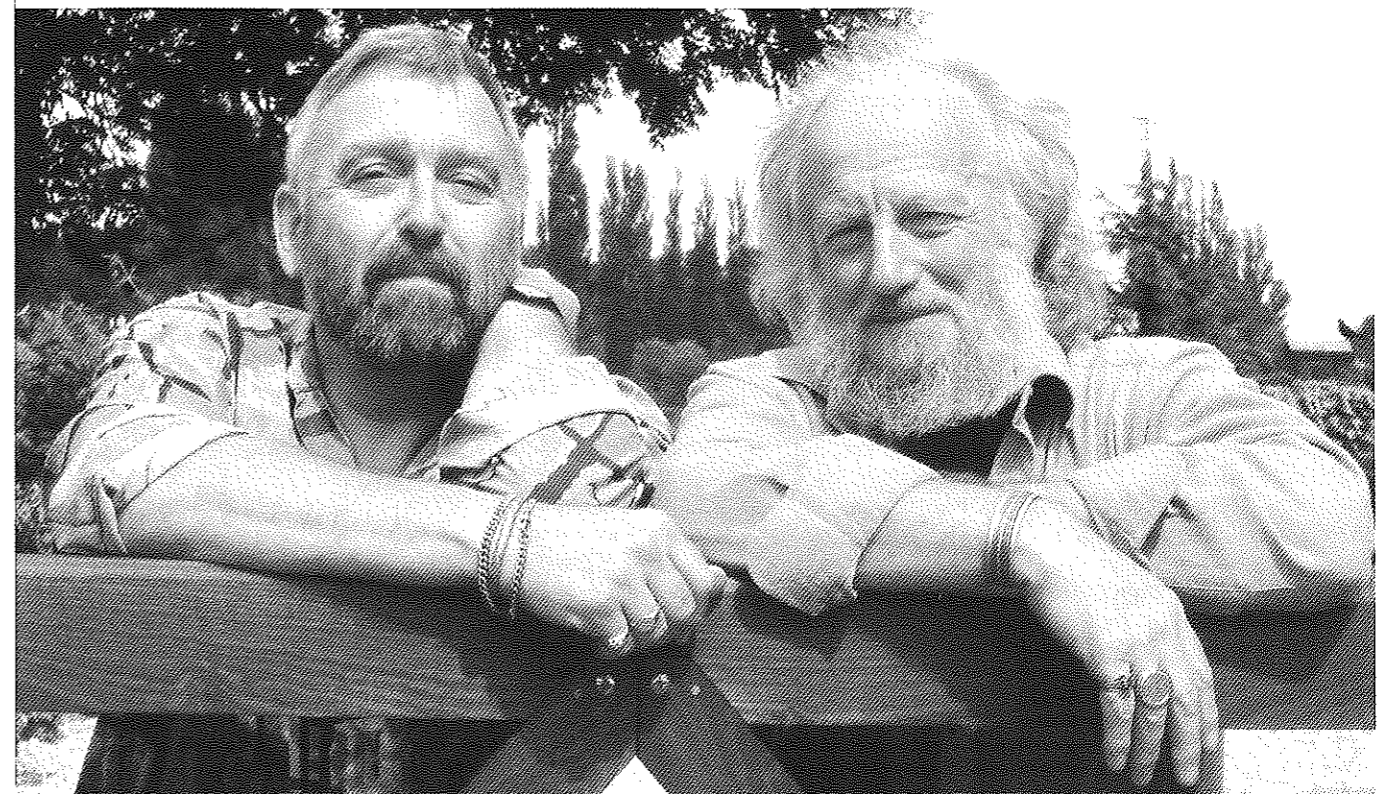
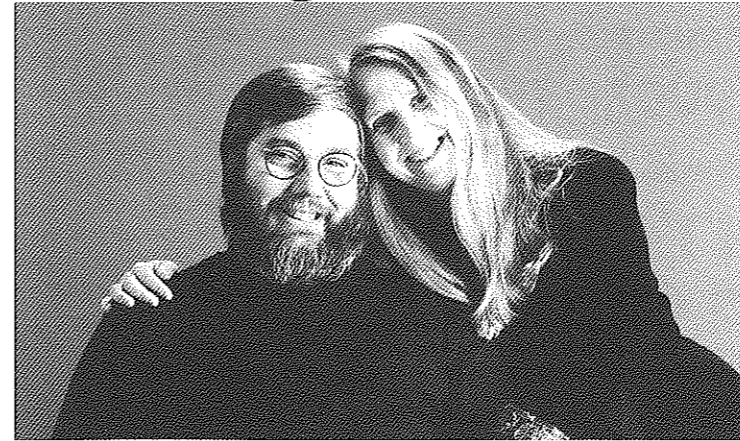
In May, another ex-Spinner Hughie Jones will have them singing 'all things seawards' at Clive's place the Bothy on 14th and, if you like Andy Irvine, well he is due to appear at Ann and Eddie's - the Clarence on 10th.

Unfortunately, I was unable to list anything for Accrington Town Hall, Standish, nor Rhyl and some other venues failed to provide me with details of their upcoming programmes. Hence the

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**Steve Turner**

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odd gaps in the centre pages.

#### Late News

'Ormskirk Comes Alive' organisers have arranged three events that do not appear in the centre pages. They are - 'Gallimaufry Barn Dance' on 31st March at Aughton Village Hall. A great family night is promised there. Vin Garbutt fulfils a previously cancelled booking on 12th May and Martin Carthy is top of the bill on 30th June. Visit [www.ormskirkcomesalive.co.uk](http://www.ormskirkcomesalive.co.uk) for more info on these events or give Pete Rimmer a ring at 01695-585400.

Some of you may also be interested to know that you can catch an open mic night at the Three Sisters Wine Bar, Railway Road, Ormskirk every Monday starting at 9pm. This is an Abacus Music promotion. Give Pete a ring if you 'wanna show it off'.

#### Performers

I learned the other day that Joe Topping has left the John Wright Band but bad news is usually followed by good and so it is in this case. He is joining Elbow Jane and one of their first gigs together will be on 27th May at Birkenhead's Pacific Arts Centre. Additionally, Joe T is now performing as a duo with his colleague from the John Wright Band - Joe Wright. Joe's T and W are also performing together on the same bill as Elbow Jane at the aforementioned Pacific Arts Centre gig. Can't be bad. You can also catch the two Joe's at the opening gig of the second Wirral Folk on the Coast Festival in Arrowse Park on the afternoon of Sunday 4th June and The Prospect, Runcorn on 5th June. The Tom Topping (Family) Band, huge in talent and numbers (7) can be seen at Porkies on 3rd March. If you have never seen this bunch you are missing a treat. Folk music and comedy at its very, very best.

Folk mega star Eric Bogle is back in the country this year and, with his colleague John Munro, is due to appear at Parkgate on 8th June. Eric and John also appear at Westhoughton the following night and at Leigh on 29th July.

I have heard from John Robinson, publicity manager for Julie Ellison that she is due to appear on 18th May at a non-member venue - "Garstang Unplugged", Kenlis Arms Hotel, Barnacre, near Preston. The concert will be preceded by a guitar workshop. More info can be obtained from the club on 07971-883383 or 01995-602795.

Trouble at Mill aficionados can find Graham Dixon and the gang performing at Walmer Bridge Village Hall on 18th March, ring 01772-613460 and at the New Hall Tavern, Samesbury on 4th May.

#### Festivals

The festival season gets off with a bang soon and the ones I have been given details of are: Poynton, Holmfirth, Wirral Folk on the Coast, Lymm, Droylsden and Saddleworth and Glasson. Doubtless there will be advertisements in this edition for the bigger of these festivals.

Poynton FF (April 14 to 16) -- The principal guests at Poynton are Dougie MacLean, Bellowhead, the Doonan Family Band and the Mrs Ackroyd Band. They will be supported by the Alan Bell Band, Fiona Simpson Band, Sad Pig of course, Pete Abbott, Bernard Cromarty, Carolyn Francis, Peeping Tom Ceilidh band and that wonderful Wirral band Brass Tacks. Now I wonder who could be in that band? Ring Dave Hughes for tickets on 01625-430149.

Holmfirth FF (May 5 to 7) -- I am told that it was touch and go whether or not this festival was to take place in 2006, but I am delighted to report that it is safe. Apparently there had been

plans mooted to shelve the festival for a year and then relocate it in 2007 to another site. Local businesses and residents were understandably concerned by this news but along came saviour Gill Noppen-Spacie who tells me that she plans not to imitate the usual pattern but to provide great attractions in the form of The Strawbs, John Martyn and The Peatbog Faeries (tbc) with other acts still to be booked. The Nook and Old Bridge Hotel will be focal points and the Holme Valley Business Association and forty-two local businesses have pledged financial support. I love good news don't you?

Wirral Folk on the Coast Festival 2 (June 4 to 11) -- this festival was a superb success last year and was extremely well attended. Financed to a large degree by ERDF funding and engineered by Wirral Tourism Board with the assistance of Wirral folk venue organisers, it will take place on eight consecutive dates with events each evening and free open air concerts on the preceding and concluding Sunday afternoons at Arrowse Park and Vale Park respectively. The line-up is a very strong one indeed and consists of - the Kate Rusby band, (it's great to see Kate in this region for a change), Eric Bogle/John Munro, Uiscedwr, Family Mahone, Joe Wright and Joe Topping, Elbow Jane, Miv Cameron Band, Reckless Elbow, Cream of the Barley, John Dowling Bluegrass Band, (in 2002 John won the World Banjo Championship in Nashville), John O'Connell, Lifeboat Ceilidh Band with caller Arthur Marshall, Alison Parker and the Third Man, Eddie Morris, Phil Chisnall, Roger Parker, Tansky, Brass Tacks and a number of other club resident performers. See advert in this edition for further details or just give me a ring on 0151-678-9902.

Four Fools Folk Festival (June 23 to 25) - The Festival once again takes place at Lostock Hall Community High School. With the completion of the new dining area, disabled access to all areas is much improved and access to the rooms in use will be direct from the caravanning and camping areas. A superb line up of guests with returning favourites Cara, Muldoon's Picnic and including Dave Fletcher & Bill Whaley and Martin Wyndham-Read, Niamh Parsons, Pete Coe, Janet Russell, Alistair Anderson, His Worship & The Pig will ensure a fantastic weekend of music and song. In addition Newburgh Morris are, for the fifth year running, hosting a weekend of dance to combine with the festival. To date, 10 dance sides have signed up to dance on the Saturday 24th June in the historic Lancashire market town of Chorley and at the festival site over the weekend. Last year's Saturday Night Ceilidh was excellent and this year's promises to be even better with a much improved seating area and outside patio area to provide a brief respite from the whirling and twirling to the music of the Hekety under the direction of Pete Coe. There is still space for more dance sides so please contact the festival office at [four.fools@virgin.net](mailto:four.fools@virgin.net) or ring 01257 263678.

Lymm Festival (June 29 to July 6) -- there will be a change here as Stewart Lever is not hiring a marquee this time. Although a great success in 2004 and 2005, last year John made a slight loss on this venture. Tightening belt time has meant that a two hundred-seat hall has been booked at Statham Lodge instead, so that should save a couple of thousand and be fun into the bargain. See the 'Advanced Dates' column in this edition for listed guests.

Droylsden Festival (June 30 to July 2) -- will have John Tams and Barry Coope as their principal guests, but don't forget this festival's two fundraisers before that, scheduled for 1st March and 28th April.

Saddleworth Festival (July 28 to 30) - the special guests headed by Eric Bogle and John Munro are Roy Bailey, Colvin Quarmby (this is a band not an individual), Tom McConville, Stanley



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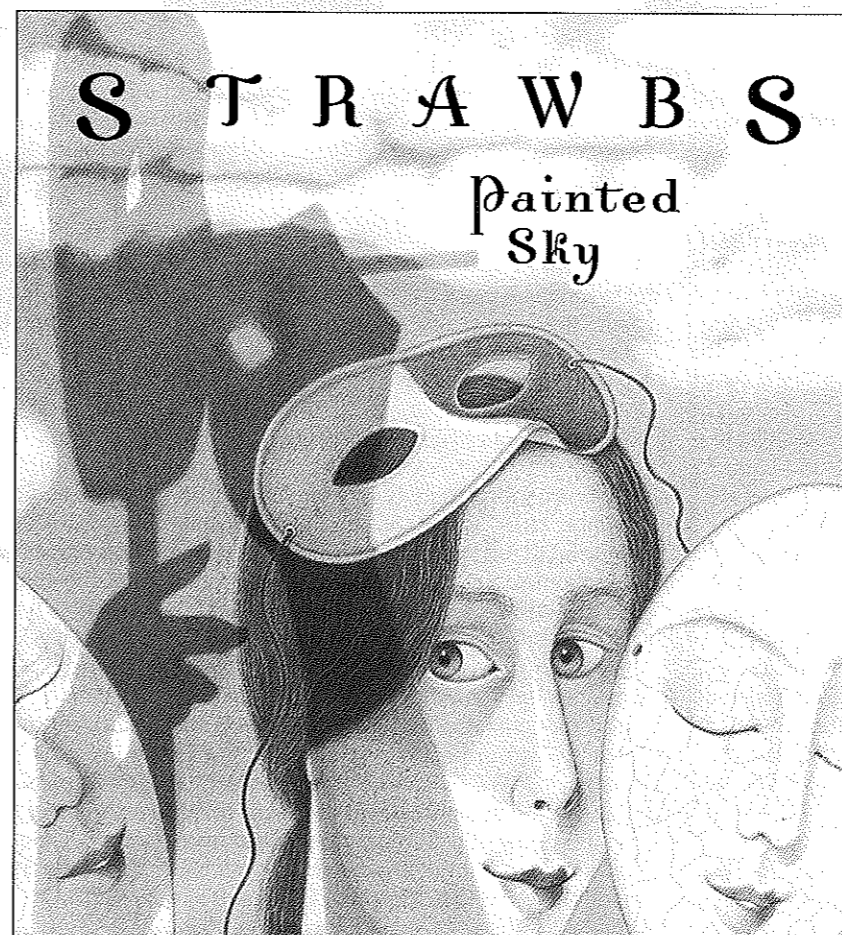
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Accrington, Jugopunch and Uiscedwr, pronounced 'ish-ka-dooer'. This talented trio are former BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards winners in 2002 and since then have been joined by one of the folk world's best guitarists Kevin Dempsey.

Glasson Festival (June 30 to July 1) - I recently learned about this event from Glynis Johnson at The Platform. This will be the third festival at this location, which apparently used to be the old port of Lancaster. Top acts booked so far include Martin Carthy, Johnny Dickinson, Back of the Moon, Abbe Lathé. Ticket line 01524-582803.

#### Other news

The price of a 'dine and sing' evening at Rattan and Rush Acoustic Tea Room will increase slightly as and from April. The price goes up to £20. For music only nights, generally the price will remain the same at £8.

You may be interested to know that (as I write) our very own Ali O'Brien, BBC Radio GMR 'Sounds of Folk' and Saddleworth Festival director has been requested to be a member of the judging panel for the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards. Hope you have/had a good time Ali.

You may see this next item elsewhere in the magazine but I make brief reference as follows: -

Saturday 22nd April the Four Fools club is organising a 'Sing for Cyril' day of celebration in respect of Cyril Tawney. It will take place at The Crown Hotel, Platt Lane, Worthington, near Standish, which is a great real ale pub with excellent food as well. 11am to 11pm, the event will run as a 'Big Sing' with themed sessions and surprise guests dropping in. Tickets are £10 for the whole day and £7 from 7pm onwards. If you fancy getting sponsored to take part throughout the whole 12 hours then you will qualify for complimentary tickets. Ring Ken or Angie Bladen on 01257-263678 or email four.fools@virgin.net for further details.

Tony Gibbons at Maghull tells me that everyone is welcome to the 'Dave Day Remembered' bash on 14th March when songs, tunes and memories of Dave will be contributed and exchanged throughout the evening.

The harmony trio Vocal Point, who were such a success at Fylde Festival Fringe in 2005, wish to develop their act and, in a few months time, will have a vacancy for an additional member. They are particularly looking for someone who is willing to add their instrumental skills to the band in the form of fiddle and/or woodwind. This would be a non-singing role although an ability to help with harmony forming would be an asset. The successful applicant should be able to commute to Dovecote, Liverpool and Greasby, Wirral for weekly rehearsals. Interested parties should ring 0151-678-9902 for further details.

I end this column in the manner I started by mentioning the very sad news I received from Brian Preston at Longridge who informs me that Ken Eccles, a good friend and stalwart of the northern folk scene passed away on New Year's Day after a short-illness. Aged 74, Ken and his wife ran Preston Folk Club for many years between the 60's and 80's. Being an artist of some calibre Ken designed many of the album covers for Folk Heritage records in the 70's. His favourite performers were Vin Garbutt and Dick Gaughan. Ken will be greatly missed. He is survived by his wife Mavis, his son David and daughter Ruth.

Well that's all for now folks. Have a super Spring season. We will speak again in June.

John Owen

## ARTICLES



### FOLK CLUBS - A COMMUNITY

Let's start with what (I hope) is a fairly non-controversial statement - a folk club is the probably best place to hear folk music. That may sound like a statement of the obvious, but in my opinion the relaxed, laid back atmosphere of a good folk club is ideally suited to the style of the music rather than the more formal concert setting such as at a festival.

Having said that, the question is why do so many clubs seem to be struggling? There have always been peaks and troughs, clubs come and go, but this time the malaise seems deeper. All sorts of reasons spring to mind: -

Falling attendances mean clubs have to have more singers' nights / local guests to make ends meet, which can cause attendances to fall even more.

Do we actually have an audience who come just to listen? So many clubs these days seem to consist of singers performing to themselves, and whilst this is in the *raison d'être* for the many free "session" evenings, the audience is a key element of the folk club.

Thankfully the old "traditional v contemporary" argument seems to have faded somewhat, but is the club still perceived as "too traditional" / "not traditional enough" etc?

Are the floor singers good enough? One of the strengths of folk clubs is that people are encouraged to perform, but let's face it - the downside of this is that some singers could be putting audiences off. New singers are encouraged, but they are expected to improve, and there's really no excuse for performers to get up when under-rehearsed.

Are younger people encouraged to perform? There is currently a revival of acoustic singer / songwriters, but the problem for us is that folk clubs have a pretty bad image among these up-and-coming musicians, so they have their own sessions in a "parallel universe" to the folk scene.

I suppose we should ask, "Does it matter"? So what if folk clubs fold - if they're past their "sell by" date we can still hear the best of folk in our usual week at Whitby each summer, which is much better than dragging yourself out on a cold January evening to hear the same old performers at the local singers night. I don't think any of us could really countenance that - folk clubs are the bedrock, the "roots" of the folk scene, and if you cut off the roots the plant will very quickly die.

Having ranged through all these thoughts, and other more obscure ones, I managed to shrug off this pessimism, as it occurred to me that not all clubs are struggling, and with a few exceptions folk clubs have always been rather transient entities - as one door closes another opens.

One advantage of living on the edge of the Pennines is that it's relatively easy to visit clubs in both Yorkshire and Lancashire, and although some clubs have problems, others appear to be thriving. Two in particular stand out: the Bothy Folk Club in Southport ([www.bothyfolkclub.co.uk](http://www.bothyfolkclub.co.uk)), and Gregson Lane Folk Club ([www.gregsonlane.co.uk](http://www.gregsonlane.co.uk)). At both clubs recently I counted 50 - 60 people on singers' nights, and even more for guests, so I sounded out the organisers of both clubs as to why they thought they were doing well.

My initial thoughts had been that it was due to good residents

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12<sup>th</sup> May Vin Garbutt in Concert £8

Some of you may remember that we booked Vin Garbutt last year. Unfortunately due to ill health he was unable to come. We are glad to say he is now back in action and he was very keen to fulfil his booking with us in the North West. Vin is without doubt one of the most popular acts on the folk scene due to his great sense of humour and fine song writing.

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July 2006

### Ormskirk Comes Alive 2006

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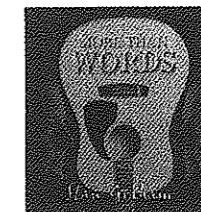
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(both clubs have a goodly number of resident singers) together with an "open" policy for performers: no "traditional only" etc. The main reasons however seemed to be much more basic. Singers and audience are made to feel welcome and involved in the club, and the organisers present the night with gusto and enthusiasm. At Southport they always start and finish bang on time, whether there are 10 or 100 people in, rather than the attitude of "I suppose we'd better start now hadn't we?", which I must admit to being guilty of myself at times.

Graham Dixon from Gregson Lane pointed out that the club was in dire straits financially up until about three years ago. They could only afford a couple of "proper guests" a year and relied on singers' nights and local guests who were very good, but over-exposed in the area. He called a meeting to discuss the future of the club, fully expecting that no one would turn up and he would pack the club in. Fortunately he was pleasantly surprised - people were delighted to be involved and input their ideas, and as a result they elected a committee and wrote a constitution (which also allowed to them apply for lottery funding). Since then the club has gone from strength to strength - the audience are involved through the committee and support of charities such as "Sing for someone else's supper". They are even involved in booking guests, the policy being simply that one or more of the regulars recommends that guest.

A final quote from Clive Pownceby of Southport which I think sums up what makes a good folk club: "... involve the audience, make 'em feel valued as friends - which most of us are or have become. It's a community not a concert crowd."

Paul Reade

## IT'S PACE EGGING TIME

Pace-egging Song from Ormskirk



(Chorus)

Here's one, two, three jolly lads all in one mind,  
We are come a pace egging and we hope you'll prove kind,  
And we hope you'll prove kind with your eggs and strong beer  
For we'll come no more nigh you until the next year.

The first that comes in is Lord Nelson you'll see  
With a bunch of blue ribbons tied round by his knee.  
And a star on his breast that like silver doth shine  
And we hope he remembers it's pace egging time.

And the next that comes in it is Lord Collingwood,  
And he fought with Lord Nelson 'til he shed his blood.  
And he's come from the sea old England to view'  
And he's come a pace egging with the whole of his crew.

And the last that comes in is old Tossopot you'll see,  
He's a valiant old man and in every degree.  
He's a valiant old man and he wears a pigtail  
And all his delight is a-drinking mulled ale.

Come ladies and gentlemen, sit by the fire  
Put your hands in your pockets and give us our desire.  
Put your hands in your pockets and treat us alright,

If you give nought we'll take nought farewell and goodnight.

If you are a folkie of a certain age (like me) you probably first discovered the pace egging song on that wonderful 1965 Topic album, 'Frost and Fire' by the Watsons. Like me you were probably baffled and enthralled in equal measure and trawled through A. L. Lloyd's erudite sleeve notes for enlightenment. What could it all mean?

Pace egging is one of the many customs that pop up all over England and clearly have pagan roots, even if they are hovering around a Christian festival (in this case, Easter). The word pace is said to derive from Pasch, the old English word for Easter. The association with Christian festivals is, in some ways, one of the easier things to explain. Faced with the problem of supplanting existing beliefs and practices, the early Church opted for the strategy of 'Christianising' what was already there rather than trying to eradicate the old and start again. What was already there amounted to a fertility religion, widespread in its following but not particularly well organised. Springtime was an obvious focus for this belief system as new life sprung forth all around in response to the lengthening days and the rising temperatures. And if we were looking for symbols of new life what could be more obvious than an egg? Even townies, separated from the cycle of life by our supermarket lifestyle, would probably come up with that one, if asked.



Pace egging 1939

It seems only natural to human beings, having settled on a symbol, to seek to embellish it in some way in order to emphasise its importance. So it was with the egg. This humble item was decorated in Spring in various ways. The egg might be wrapped in onion skins and then boiled until hard. This resulted in the eggshells having a beautiful, mottled golden sheen. Alternatively, other naturally occurring dyes might be used such as gorse blossom for yellow, cochineal for red or logwood chips for purple. Over the years many ingenious ways of decorating the eggs were developed. Some fine specimens can be seen in the Wordsworth Museum in Grasmere in the Lake District. These were made originally for the poet's children.

Once decorated, the eggs were given as gifts and either eaten, or used in one of the various games connected with pace egging. Giving and eating an egg in this ceremonial way conferred life, health and fertility on the recipient, or rather, the participants hoped that it did. This appears to be a very ancient and widespread practice, going back at least 3,000 years and stretching over a vast area from the British Isles to China. We continue the tradition today in the giving of chocolate Easter eggs, though very few people would be aware of the antiquity of the practice.

The origin of the games associated with pace eggs is a bit of a

mystery. Why would people assemble on the top of a slope and roll their eggs down, seeing whose egg rolled furthest or who could roll most accurately between two posts? Why would they play a kind of 'conkers' game, knocking their eggs together to see whose could remain unbroken longest? My guess is that these games arose as the fertility significance declined. We humans have a naturally competitive spirit and we will make a competitive game out of almost anything. In the absence of municipal swimming baths and squash courts you had to make your own fun.

In the North of England, pace egging has become associated with a version of the Mumming Play. These primitive dramas were once enacted in thousands of locations all over England and typically took place around the end of December. The plays invariably involved a combat, often a series of combats, between St. George and some other challenger or challengers. It is not always St. George; other heroes such as Robin Hood may put in an appearance instead. The challenger is often the Turkish Knight (Turks were not popular figures in England from the time of the crusades onwards) but again, there are plenty of alternatives.

At some point in the distant past the mumming play migrated from mid-Winter to Spring and became tacked on to the pace egging customs, the mummers becoming known as pace eggers. Any speculation as to why and when this happened is just that, speculation. Gentle reader, with your indulgence I will have my six penneth of speculation. We know that there was a widespread custom of going from house to house 'begging' for eggs at pace egging time, the eggs thus given being taken away and decorated in the way already described. Around mid-Winter the mummers would perform in the street or public house and expect some recompense in the form of money, food or drink. Perhaps some entrepreneurial type had the bright idea of tacking the mumming play on to the pace egging custom, as an attention getter, perhaps increasing the likelihood of a payback. Once a good idea is born it would soon be copied over a wide area. Well, maybe, maybe not, but the combining of a fertility custom with a hero combat drama is a bit odd, isn't it? After all, there is no mention of eggs in the play at all, so the combination seems somewhat artificial.

Finally we come back to our starting point, the pace egging song. This is the heroes calling on song, a way of introducing the characters of the mumming/pace egging play to the audience. What is interesting about the song is that St. George and the Turkish Knight don't get a mention, being replaced by the unlikely personages of Britain's Trafalgar heroes, Lords Nelson and Collingwood. These are clearly interlopers of fairly recent introduction, designed to appeal to the audience and keep the performance up to date in the same way that Jack Ketch, the hangman, was introduced into the Punch and Judy puppet play. On the other hand, Old Tossopot was a very traditional and widespread character in the pace egging play, a drunken buffoon, the clown of the show. His salient feature was a prominent straw tail stuffed with pins or perhaps even fishhooks. The audience would delight in challenging any visitors to grab Old Tossopot's tail. Grabbing the tail was actually not that difficult; letting go, however, was not so easy once a dozen fish hooks had dug into your hand. The Health and Safety Executive would have a fit today at such antics.

The Pace Eggers are reputed to still perform their ancient Easter drama at a few locations such as Midgley in Yorkshire and Bury in Lancashire but if you are lucky enough to witness a performance my advice to you is keep well away from Old Tossopot.

Brian Bull

(Ed:- for more information try "The Lancashire Pace-Egg Play - A Social History" by Eddie Cass; FLS Publications 2001. ISBN 0-903515-22-9 priced at £13.95)

## STILL SINGING FOR SOMEONE ELSE'S SUPPER

Last year, TROUBLE at MILL [www.troubleatmill.com](http://www.troubleatmill.com) and many of the regulars at GREGSON LANE FOLK CLUB [www.gregsonlane.co.uk](http://www.gregsonlane.co.uk) decided to try and raise a few quid to provide food for some of the African people who are starving due to (what seems like) the endless famine over there. A couple of concerts were arranged but a large proportion of the money came from simply asking pub landlords if it was OK to hold an interval raffle or having a collection during encores (It is amazing how much people will throw into a bucket to get an extra song from the likes of Ken Nicol, Robb Johnson & Anthony John Clarke.)

I would like to ask other clubs and performers to please try and support this initiative during 2006. If you are playing in a pub please ask the landlord if he would mind you having a raffle during the interval - all the publicans we have asked have been more than keen to assist and more often than not they have donated a prize. Another plus is that local newspapers are happy to publicise the event usually by giving it a paragraph more than the bog-standard 'What's on' entry.

During 2005, a total of £3228.68 was raised - I realise that this is peanuts when compared to the likes of Band Aid but nevertheless I'm a firm believer that every little helps. You will notice from the 'Total Page'

[www.singforsomeoneelse'ssupper.ukart.com/total.htm](http://www.singforsomeoneelse'ssupper.ukart.com/total.htm)

that some of the monies came from non-Gregson Lane/Trouble at Mill sources - this was the whole idea behind the initiative. The page also informs you as to how the money has been used - I pay any monies that I'm involved in raising to CAFOD and ask for it to be 'earmarked' for 'IMMEDIATE FAMINE RELIEF'. Other events have chosen to pay their monies to OXFAM, Christian Aid or similar - it doesn't really matter - the important thing is that it's getting there to the job for which it is intended.

Finally - If you decide to 'Come on Board' - you will be more than welcome! Please post details of your event on the calendar on the website <http://server.com/WebApps/calendar-add.cgi?cal=106097> and afterward please let me know how much you have raised, and through which agency you have sent your donation, so that I can add your figure to the running total. Thanks for reading this - and it is important to say "PLEASE DON'T SEND ME ANY ACTUAL MONEY - I'M NOT A CHARITY".

Graham Dixon  
Gregson Lane Folk Club.

## LETTERS



Dear Ken

I am very pleased indeed to be able to report that Andy M Stewart (<http://www.andymstewart.com>) who, you might recall, was scheduled for a major and quite dangerous operation on his spine just before Christmas 2005, came through it all A-OK (apart from the minor hiccup of a punctured lung in the course of them poking around en route to the spine!). Andy is now recuperating until late April 2006 and all appears to be well again.

I am therefore open to offers of work now for Andy from May 2006 onwards through 2006 into 2007 and I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Anyone who had booked Andy for gigs in December 2005, and also in January to April 2006 and who subsequently had to cancel their gig, might like to get in touch when I'd be pleased to try to re-arrange dates if possible.

Cheers

Stoneyport Agency: email. [jb@stoneyport.demon.co.uk](mailto:jb@stoneyport.demon.co.uk)  
Tel. 0131-208 0003; mobile 07968 131 737

Dear All

Just a note to confirm that this year's Swaledale Squeeze will be taking place from 19-21 May based once again at Grinton Lodge (Youth Hostel) in Swaledale. I'm in the process of finalising details and will forward them to all recent past participants and enquirers as soon as I can.

If anyone feels they may have dropped off those lists, or if they have a new email or postal address since last year, please could they let me know.

As many of you are aware, I've had trouble recently with my email addresses - so - I have sorted out a new one especially for Swaledale which is: [swaledalesqueeze@onetel.com](mailto:swaledalesqueeze@onetel.com) (please don't use my telco address - that one became defunct some months ago though some still trickle through. I don't know why and I'm not going to ask!)

Best wishes to you all - further details soon.

Jane Edwards

## OBITUARIES

### KEN ECCLES

13th October 1931 - 1st January 2006

It is with great sadness that I inform you of the passing of my good friend and stalwart of the northern folk scene Ken Eccles.

Ken and his wife Mavis ran Preston Folk Club for many years from the late 1960's to the mid 1980's. He was an avid collector of obscure tapes, records, CDs and a great source of material to many artistes. His favourite acts were Vin Garbutt and Dick Gaughan.

An artist of calibre and reputation he drew many of the album covers for Folk Heritage Recordings in the 1970's. He was a gentle giant of a man, who would have had to have been surgically removed from his beloved pipe, and always found something good in everyone.

Ken died after a short illness - he was diagnosed with a very aggressive brain tumour in October - his wife of fifty years Mavis, his son David and daughter Ruth survive him.

Brian Preston

## PRESS RELEASES



### NO CLITHEROE THIS YEAR

It is with great regret that the Management Team of the Clitheroe Great Days Festival has announced that there will be no festival in 2006.

The 2005 Festival was, in many ways, the biggest and best to date. The Children's Festival on the Friday, together with new projects and old favourites, resulted in a three-day event that was well received by both local residents and visitors to the town. But whilst the Festival has grown steadily in recent years, the organizing committee of volunteers has not.

The Festival Directors are acutely aware of the status of the Great Days in comparison with other UK festivals, the majority of which receive substantial funding and often operate with at least one salaried worker. Despite the growth from a one-day folk event into a well-established feature of the local calendar, the event has born a human cost and is unsustainable at the current level of support.

There is plenty of potential for future development, but in order to secure a more viable future, there is now a necessity to review, evaluate and look forward. The Festival Directors have therefore decided to take a break in 2006 and not to organize a Festival weekend in June. We wish instead to engage with those individuals and organizations that have supported us in the past and are keen to see the Festival move forward. We wish to explore possible partnerships and sustainable developments, and we cordially invite you to join us in this process by sending ideas for the future of the Great Days Festival to:  
Clitheroe Great Days of Folk Ltd, PO Box 33, Clitheroe BB7 1GP.

### FOLK MUSIC HITS AN ALL TIME HIGH

The largest increase in audiences, CD sales and festival visits in the English music world belongs to the Folk scene. There are over 350 folk festivals in England every year, hundreds of clubs and arts centres programming folk, roots and acoustic music and now virtually every county has its own folk development project. The last time the folk scene of England boomed in this way was in the 1960's. FolkArts England, the country's leading folk development project will bring together activists from this exciting development at the annual Folk Arts Network Conference.

The 2006 Folk Arts Network Conference took place from 3-4 February at the Palace Hotel, Buxton, Derbyshire and was aimed at anyone who runs projects and workshops in the Folk Arts genre, works in Folk development, has an education programme at their festival or for anyone wanting to learn how to do it. The Conference brought together organisations and individuals to tackle key issues, meet like-minded people and learn from the "experts" with a packed programme of seminars, sessions, presentations, debates and networking opportunities. It is also usually a great social occasion!

The Conference's keynote speech this year was from David

## WESTHOUGHTON FOLK CLUB

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Westhoughton Folk Club

Visit our Website: [www.folkclub.org.uk](http://www.folkclub.org.uk)

Oliver, Folkworks Programme Leader at the Sage Gateshead, who was due to talk about his passion for "Folk in Education and Participation for all".

For more information about how it went and future events visit the FolkArts England website [www.folkarts-england.org](http://www.folkarts-england.org), email [info@folkarts-england.org](mailto:info@folkarts-england.org) or call the FolkArts England office on 01629 827014.

## INSURER WARNS OF DOWNLOADS DOWNSIDE

In December 2005, a leading UK insurance company warned music lovers that millions of songs that they have downloaded legally from the Internet may not be covered under their household insurance if their iPod or MP3 player is lost or stolen.

Under the vast majority of household insurance policies, digital music is only covered if buyers can provide receipts to prove their purchases, but research conducted by insurance company NIG shows that most people fail to retain this paperwork. In a national survey conducted by GfK NOP on behalf of NIG, of those people that download music, 84% are unable to provide accurate proof of the value of the music they've downloaded.

Buyers can store their receipts electronically, but insurance company NIG, part of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group, says that this may not be enough. Adrian Harris, NIG's Director of Personal Lines says that the solution is incredibly simple. "All we ask is that people print all their electronic receipts and store them safely. With this physical proof of ownership, we can process claims quickly and ensure that the household receives back the amount that they are claiming."

## BLUERIDGE LAUNCHES NEW DESIGN IN UK

Gremlin Music has announced the introduction into the UK of the Blueridge BG-40 and BG-140, featuring the famous dreadnought design. Both guitars boast recognisable Blueridge features and new adjustments that make them such great guitars.

Blueridge, one of the leading guitar brands in the USA, has always taken pride in the craftsmanship, style and quality of its guitars. The attention to detail, superior workmanship and professional tone quality make Blueridge guitars market leaders. Visit [www.hobgoblin.com/local/blueridgeintro.htm](http://www.hobgoblin.com/local/blueridgeintro.htm) for further information on Blueridge guitars.

## COTHRECORDS NEWS

First off, Gill Redmond (cello) and Sarah Matthews (fiddle and viola) have been busy in 2005 recording a superb new album titled "Personally Speaking" which will hopefully be available to buy from the end of February. Gill and Sarah have been quietly generating a strong following after their performances at the likes of Sidmouth and Whitby festivals and are tutoring individually and as a duo at the "Strings at Witney" workshop weekend and concert. As a special offer if you would like to advance-order the album, you can do so online for the discount price of £10.50 (Normal Price £12.50) and we will send you a

copy as soon as they are available. Gill and Sarah have also been participating in a folk string quartet called "Folklet" (well what else?) keep your eyes peeled for a couple of appearances this year. It'll be worth seeing because they sound, well, awesome!

Sarah Matthews (fiddle and viola) and Doug Eunson (melodeon and vocals) have also been touring as a duo recently and have had rave reviews whenever they've performed. They will hopefully be recording an Album later this Year, and have plans for appearances at a number of Folk Clubs around the country, a regular concert in the round with Keith Kendrick and Sylvia Needham and invited guests at the Beresford Arms in Ashbourne, and a tour of Ontario, Canada in the summer.

Cross o'th Hands will be appearing on Keith Kendrick's new album being recorded at Wildgoose records in late January, which we are looking forward to immensely. We also have some festival appearances in the pipeline for 2006 (subject to confirmation) including a welcome return to Cornwall for the Cornwall Folk Festival. We are still keen to get the "Derbyshire Born and Bred" show out on the road again, so if anyone out there is interested, please get in touch!

Graft (the noisy band!) are getting a regular ceilidh dance event going at the Community Hall in Belper, keep an eye on the gig guide for details. The first one was a great success despite clashing with a concert by Poozies just a hundred yards away! The next event was intended to be at the end of January, but this has had to be postponed (if you were planning to come, please note the change of date) and has been rearranged for March 4th. If you are in the area please do support it.

## CLADDAGH RECORDS NEWS

Claddagh Records announced a number of releases towards the end of 2005 (for more information visit [www.claddaghrecords.com](http://www.claddaghrecords.com)). These included:

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF COLEMAN. Various artists. CTS 001. A double CD collection of music from the North Connacht region, it includes many of the great musicians of the area. Dave Bulmer and Seamus Tansey have assembled it and every track on it has been donated to raise funds for a Coleman cenotaph.

BURNING TIMES. Christy Moore. SONY BMG 82876739682. One of the striking aspects of the Planxty concerts in 2004 was that although we were looking at a group who had provided us with some of the best musical memories of our lives, each of the artists was actually better than they were thirty years ago. The same can still be said of Christy. Here we have a great bunch of songs played with Declan Sinnott, and written by some of the best songwriters around. I saw them together recently, and much of what appears here was on the set list that night. They had a thousand people in the palms of their hands. The album is just as gripping.

13. The Bridies. BBL 002. The Bridies are four young women who play an assortment of instruments. This is their second album and is a selection of tunes and songs. The girls spent the first three months of this year writing and recording their new album in Las Vegas. To date there has been a tremendous reaction to the new album, especially the song 'A Nice Bitta Ham' taken under the wing of Gerry Ryan and played constantly on his morning Radio Show on RTE.

WOMAN OF THE HOUSE. Cherish the Ladies. ROUNDER 11661 7063 2. With their latest release on Rounder Records and produced by famed musician and composer Phil

Cunningham, Cherish the Ladies cements their reputation as one of the finest ensembles of Celtic musicians on either side of the Atlantic. The group recorded much of 'Woman of the House' in Scotland with many of their talented friends from the festival including Kate Rusby, Sharon Shannon, Eddi Reader, Karen Matheson, Liz Kane and Laoise Kelly. The resulting combination of reels, jigs and heart-rending ballads is a glorious celebration of a thriving musical tradition.

IN PLAY. Liz Carroll & John Doyle. 744182. The famous Chicago fiddler is joined by the ex-Solas guitarist in a selection of traditional and contemporary music. They are both among the most respected traditional musicians in Irish music today and that their first duo recording is nothing short of brilliant is really no surprise.

COME WEST ALONG THE ROAD. Various artists. (ALL REGIONS DVD) RTEDVD99. This DVD contains more than 2 hours 20mins of traditional music from the archives of RTE. While some of the artists would not be well known, there are quite a few famous names there - Denis Murphy & Julia Clifford, Darach Ó Catháin, Liam O'Flynn, Planxty, Tulla Ceili Band, Paul Brady, The Dubliners and Joe Cooley to name but a few.

## ELLISON LAUNCHES NEW RANGE OF ACOUSTIC GUITAR WORKSHOPS

Julie Ellison has updated and extended her popular acoustic guitar workshops in preparation for her 2006 tour. Alongside her extensive and varied performance career, Julie has been teaching acoustic guitar professionally for over 15 years and has built an enviable reputation as a respected and popular workshop leader.

Julie ran workshops at numerous festivals in 2005 and participants were encouraged to give feedback on the sessions. In addition to comments such as "The best guitar workshop I've been to", "What I learnt in one hour would otherwise take weeks" and "This may rectify years of bad practice", attendees also suggested new topics for future sessions. This feedback has provided important input to the re-worked range of workshops, adding and extending material that reflects the interests of participants.

Printed handouts, outlining information covered during the workshops, also provide participants with memory jogging reference material after the workshop. Much of this material is condensed from a series of tuition books and DVDs currently being developed by Julie and her record company Acoustyistics Ltd.

Workshops may be held as stand-alone events, as a session within a festival or as a session held prior to a concert performance by Julie. To discuss workshop content, customisation of workshops or new workshop topics contact Julie directly; Tel: 01709 881339 or email: [julie@julieellison.co.uk](mailto:julie@julieellison.co.uk).

To receive details about Julie's forthcoming tuition books and DVDs contact John Robinson; Tel: 01709 881339 or email: [john@acoustyistics.co.uk](mailto:john@acoustyistics.co.uk).

## LEADING MUSIC CENTRES TO CHAMPION MUSIC MANIFESTO

Music education received another huge boost in November as Schools Minister Andrew Adonis and Culture Minister David Lammy announced that three of the country's leading music organisations will work directly with children, parents, teachers

and musicians to realise the aims of the Music Manifesto. The Hallé Orchestra Manchester, Roundhouse London and The Sage Gateshead will share in £2 million for the development of a range of innovative projects designed to inspire more young people to access high quality music provision. In addition each pathfinder will create models for providing access to music teaching and learning that can be replicated across the country.

Arts Council England played a central role in brokering the partnerships with these organisations. The involvement of these organisations, as music champions, signals the ongoing progress being made to meet the aims set out in the Music Manifesto. These include ensuring that young people have access to a range of musical experiences, that every primary school child has the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, that our most talented young musicians are being nurtured and that we are developing a world-class workforce in music education.

Launched in 2004, the Music Manifesto was developed in collaboration with music educators, the music industry, musicians, and arts groups. Around 370 individuals and organisations have already pledged their support to the Manifesto and are working in a variety of ways to make sure that more music for more people is a reality. The work of the Pathfinders will complement this ongoing activity.

## SVART KAFFE

Mix French accordion moustaches and West-Swedish fiddle tradition with song, harmonica and mandola to get Svart Kaffe, Swedish folk music in a traditional and modern style. After several concert tours in Canada, France, Sweden and Wales, Svart Kaffe have released their new CD, Tretår (Nomis Musik).

On this album you will find traditional and modern songs, polskas, waltzes and incantations. The founder of Svart Kaffe, Jean-Pierre Yvert plays the accordion, willow flutes and sanza. Jean-Pierre, French born and bred, has over the years become something of an ambassador for Swedish folk music in France. In October 2004 he moved to Sweden. Jean-Pierre is also part of the group Nord-Sud and works with the story teller. For more info visit [www.svartkaffe.com](http://www.svartkaffe.com)

## BETH GEORGE



Australian singer songwriter Beth George is no stranger to a variety of styles. She grew up listening to her father play the classical mandolin and the jazz banjo. Beth picked up the mandolin at eight years old and the acoustic guitar at nine. It was from these beginnings that her creative expression took on a distinctly roots/folk flavor.

Beth studied music at Box Hill College of Performing Arts, Melbourne and Southern Cross University, Lismore, near Byron Bay. During this time she loved jamming and performing with a diverse mix of musicians. Subsequently Beth sang professionally with a number of bands throughout the East Coast of Australia ranging in style from acid jazz, folk, jazz and blues.

1997 saw Beth travel and perform throughout Ireland and in London. Beth was intrigued to discover more about the music of her ancestry, Irish/Celtic folk. She met and performed with

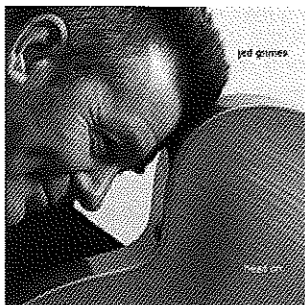
traditional Irish musicians and explored Celtic singing.

On return to Australia Beth caught the attention of music critic Michael Dwyer, who described her as a "magnetic solo performer" (The Age, 2000). A radio interview on 3AK followed with George Deniakian stating, "Beth has the voice of an angel".

2001 brought with it interesting collaborations. Beth met Paul Hester (renowned drummer for Split Enz and Crowded House) in a local Melbourne café and after hearing her voice which he described as "pure as the driven snow" they recorded two of Beth's originals.

In the same year Beth began collaborating with musician and future husband Peter Ziersch. Peter's skills as a musician and producer/engineer allowed Beth to continue to develop her song arrangements. Peter's visionary arranging/producing deepened the transformation of Beth's original sound. This musical marriage resulted in the co-produced debut album "Flying Not Falling".

### JED GRIMES TOURING 2006



"A spectacular musical pedigree....a charismatic quality that shines right through his music." Geoff Wall, Folk On Tap

"Jed Grimes brought his usual mix of great guitar, good songs well sung and Northern charisma to the Festival. He delighted a packed concert marquee with his spot at the Waterson Carthy gig, and

surprised another packed marquee when he joined The Doonan Family on stage for a blinding solo on 'Bring It On Home!'. Great stuff as always, delivered with his usual charm, and an asset to any festival." Kim Headley, Artistic Director, Broadstairs Folk Week "A deep understanding of both the traditional and contemporary music genres. Jed Grimes brings folk music firmly into the 21st century". Mel McLellan, BBC Radio 2 Website. "Fantastic guitar, great songs, and the best guitar workshop Priddy has ever seen: he came as a respected performer, and left as a friend". Peter, Festival Director, Priddy Folk Festival.

2005 has been a great year for Jed Grimes. Hard on the heels of the storm of critical praise and award nominations for his work as producer and arranger on the debut album of his band The Hush, Jed released his long-awaited solo CD 'Head On'. This was greeted with similar critical acclaim for its radical approach to traditional music and dense, detailed arrangements: a slew of rave reviews, interviews on national radio and folk press led to a full date-book for Jed throughout the year at festivals, arts centres and clubs throughout England and Scotland.

A Jed Grimes solo concert appearance is something you can take to the bank: a fistful of original, unique arrangements, great songs with wonderful chorusses, his precise, driving and occasionally flamboyant guitar work and his powerful, emotional singing.

Jed's ease with any audience from Cropredy (1700+) to the most intimate club setting bespeaks his years of road experience: spontaneous Geordie insouciance allied to a deep knowledge of and respect for the tradition, and his confident raconteurship ensure a thoroughly entertaining experience for all. His unique ability to engage an audience in an interactive

way has led to many gigs as festival compere.

Jed's passion and skill in delivering workshops adds another strand to his festival appeal: in '04/05, budding and experienced players alike enjoyed the benefit of Jed's hands-on tuition and words of musical wisdom at festivals such as Stainsby, Wimborne, Shetland, Broadstairs, Warwick and Priddy. At Broadstairs Folk Week, his workshops have evolved into something of an institution, many aspiring guitarists returning year after year to pick up where they left off the previous August, and often continuing their learning experience by email between festivals!

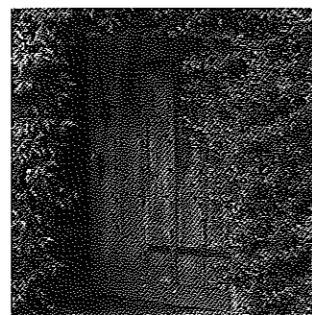
Currently immersed in work for the follow-up to Head On, Jed is available for performances at festivals, arts centres and clubs from February 2006.

CONTACT: Blue Guitar Music, 31, Stanley Street, North Shields, Tyne & Wear NE29 6RH

email: jed.grimes@onetel.net web: <http://www.jedgrimes.co.uk>  
Current CD releases: HEAD ON BG 022 Solo album. HEDGEHOG PIE...LIVE! BG 023 Re-mastered concert performances by Jed's legendary folk/rock ensemble. DARK TO THE SKY/ The Hush MWMCD SP54 Twice nominated at Radio 2 Folk Awards 2003. Songs of the North east in a tuneful jazz/world beat setting, arranged and produced by Jed Grimes. Features the vocals of Bob Fox.

### The Neo-Folk album of 2005 - still gaining momentum into 2006!

Enter The Mysterium by Peter Ulrich



"this beautiful folk album... a mystical journey led by former Dead Can Dance percussionist Peter Ulrich... in the true tradition of a medieval wandering minstrel... Using instruments as diverse as hammered dulcimer and a Chinese wood drum, Ulrich's music transports the listener from the deep forests of Olde England to the Arizona mountains by way of

Jerusalem's hot, barren sands. Buried within every track is an unmistakably English folk sound, evoking images of virginal ladies in long green dresses being swept off their feet by handsome forest bandits... Pure Magic."

Tradition Magazine reviews, December 2005.

"Enter The Mysterium might be the most eclectic, inventive record to date in 2005, a magnet for folk, world and dream pop fans."

Cosmik Debris reviews, September/October 2005.

"Peter Ulrich... resembles a minstrel from the middle ages, yet one adapted to the new times... Neofolk with medieval reminiscences... sometimes dark, some other times of a more festive hue, yet always attractive."

Amazings.com reviews, September 2005.

"'At Mortlake' is a fantastic song: the lyrics, the melody, the instruments, the voice, the effects and the atmosphere create a perfectly 'mysterious' union... 'Enter The Mysterium' is a small work of art"

Folkroddels.be reviews, June 2005, translated from the original.

"It takes a little getting used to this CD... but the instrumental ether into which the pagan spiritual concepts are placed is richly rewarding. There are wonderful atmospheres right

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- |        |                               |
|--------|-------------------------------|
| 02 MAR | SINGERS NIGHT (£1)            |
| 09 MAR | STEVE TILSTON (£6)            |
| 16 MAR | SINGERS NIGHT (£1)            |
| 23 MAR | HARVEY ANDREWS (£7)           |
| 30 MAR | CHARLIE READE'S BIG SPOT (£1) |
| 06 APR | DAVE PUGH (£3)                |
| 13 APR | SINGERS NIGHT (£1)            |
| 20 APR | PHIL HARE (£5)                |
| 27 APR | RON TRUEMAN-BORDER (£5)       |
| 04 MAY | SINGERS NIGHT (£1)            |
| 11 MAY | ANNE ENGLISH'S BIG SPOT (£1)  |
| 18 MAY | SARA GREY & KIERON MEANS (£5) |
| 25 MAY | SINGERS NIGHT (£1)            |

### ADVANCE DATES:

01 JUN ED RENNIE; 08 JUN BIG SPOT DOMINIC COLLINS; 15 JUN PETE ABBOTT; 22 JUN SINGERS; (LYMM FESTIVAL: 29 JUN NELSON PEACH; 30 JUN ALLAN TAYLOR; 01 JUL LES BARKER; 02 JUL LAST NIGHT'S FUN; 04 JUL FESTIVAL CEILIDH; 05 JUN IRISH NIGHT WITH GARVA; 06 JUL BERNARD CROMARTY)

Contact/Tickets: Stewart Lever 07919 270916  
e-mail: [stewart\\_lever@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stewart_lever@yahoo.co.uk)

**CLUB RESIDENTS (as on 15th January 2006)**

**BACUP** – Brian Eastwood, Boo Long, Joe Caswell, Mark Almond, Barry Mairs, Steve Brooks, John Dean, Will Scribble, Tom Winstanley, Keith Winfield, Bernadette O'Connor, Lynn and Barry, Martin Willingham, Pete Benbow

**BIDDULPH** - Liz Holland, Jeff Parton, His Worship and the Pig

**BOTHY** - Clive Pownceby, Steve Freedman, Pete Rimmer, Bill Hackney, Alison Younger, Chris & Siobhan Nelson Ray Rooney, Nev Grundy, Bev Sanders, Kevin Littlewood

**BURNLEY** - Korrigan, Wench All, Barbara, Mike and Steve

**CASTLE** – Tony and Anne, Dave and Cheryl

**CLARENCE** - Liz Moore & Sue Bousfield, Andrew Green, Rebecca Green, Ross Campbell

**CROWN** – Kieron Hartley, Jeff Monks, John Keithley, Dave Wild

**EVERYMAN** - Chris & Hughie Jones, Shirley Peden

**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 RUGBY CLUB** – Lynn & Barrie Hardman, Dave Jones, Crumbly Fruit Cake, David South

**FOLK IN THE BARN** - The Occasional Three

**FOUR FOOLS** – Pat Ryan & Ken Howard, Mal Gibbons, Geoff & Lindsey Smith, Gill Coyne, Tom & Ann, Angie Bladen

**GREGSON LANE** - Trouble at Mill, Celtic Fringe, Smithereen, Caroline Lovett

**HALE & HEARTY** - Frank & Sheila Lewis, Steve Black, Bob Hellon, Dave Summers, Ken Lawson, Roy Wilcock & Bridget Guest, John Hodgson, Roy Adams

**HOWCROFT INN** - Micron (Mick Unsworth & Ron Callow)

**LONGRIDGE** - Ron Flanagan, Brian Preston

**MAGHULL** - Tony Gibbons, Loctuptogether, Back in Business, Joe Ryan, Clover, Jane Day, Bob Tyrer, Paul Robinson, Kate Bradbury, 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** - Stewart Lever, Nick & Lin Tysoe, Bernard Cromarty, Nelson Peach, Don & Heather Davies

**RED BULL** - Peter Hood & Linda Edwardes, Peter Fox & Anne Yates, Ged Derby, Pete Farrow, Pete Roberts, Helen Kennedy, John Ashurst (poet)

**RHYL** – Rum Bum & Concertina

**ST ANNE'S ACOUSTIC ROOTS** – Sue Arrow

**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, Sacked Paddy

**WESTHOUGHTON** - Auld Triangle

**WOODEN HORSE** - Quartz, Loctuptogether, Back in Business, Rob Peacock, Mark Dowding

**WREXHAM** – Offa

(Please send alterations or additions to John Owen by email on [johnowenbtacks@aol.com](mailto:johnowenbtacks@aol.com))

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	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	Royal Oak, 172 Manchester Road, Werneth, OL9 6BN	Pauline Westall 0161-681-3618
Walshaw	9:00 PM	Walshaw Sports Club, Sycamore Road, Tottington, Bury	Frank Brough 01204-413909
Walton (and Fridays)	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	8:30 PM	Bacup Conservative Club, Irwell Terrace, Bacup, OL13 9AW	Paul Edwards 01706-872810
Conwy	8:30 PM	Malt Loaf, Rosehill Street, Conwy	Denis Bennett 01492-877324
Folk at the Prospect	8:30 PM	Prospect Inn, Weston Road, Weston Village, Runcorn	Roger Hanslip 01928-731567
Four Fools	8:15 PM	Spinners Arms, A6 road, Adlington, Lancashire	Ken & Angie Bladen 01257-263678
Red Bull	8:30 PM	Red Bull, Hillgate, Stockport	Peter Hood 0161-432-4142
Swinton	8:30 PM	White Lion, 242 Manchester Road, Swinton	Ged Todd 01942-811527
TUESDAY			
Brindley Arts Centre	8:00 PM	High Street, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 1BG	Box Office 0151-907-8360
Crown	8:30 PM	The Crown, Heaton Lane, Stockport	Kieron Hartley 0161-291-8243
Everyman	8:30 PM	Everyman Bistro, Hope Street, Liverpool	Christine Jones 0151-709-3336
Folk at the Forum	7:30 PM	Forum 28, Duke Street, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, LA14 1HH	Box Office 01229-820000
Howcroft Inn	8:30 PM	Howcroft Inn, 36 Pool Street, Vernon St, Bolton, BL12JU	Ron Callow 01606-863283
Longridge	8:30 PM	British Legion, Townley Road, Longridge, Nr. Preston PR3 3EA	Ron Flanagan 01772-785179
Maghull	8:30 PM	Maghull Community Ass'n, Green Lane, L'pool Rd North, Maghull	Tony Gibbons 01744-607566
Skipton (n.m. = new member)	8:30 PM	Swan Inn, Carleton in Craven, Nr. Skipton, N. Yorks.	Sheila A. Kelsall 01535-665889
Urmston Acoustics	8:30 PM	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	9:00 PM	Alison Arms, Preston Road, Coppull Moor, Chorley	Derek Docherty 01257-791262
Burnley	8:30 PM	Waggon and Horses Club, Colne Road, Brierfield, Nelson	Phyl Watson 01282-774077
Castle (n.m.)	8:30 PM	Castle Hotel, Castle Road, Halton Village, Runcorn, WA7 2BE	Dave Newton 01928-771776
Clarence	8:30 PM	Clarence, Preston New Road, Blackpool	Ann Green 01772-683027
Cross Keys	9:00 PM	Running Hill Gate, Uppermill, Near Oldham	Jim Schofield 01457-833897
Folk at the Rugby Club (n.m.)	9:00 PM	Old Aldwinians Rugby Club, Manchester Road, Droylsden	Brenda Judge 0161-432-4830
Red Bull	8:30 PM	Red Bull, Hillgate, Stockport	Peter Hood 0161-432-4142
Walton	8:30 PM	County Ward Labour Club, 39 Hale Road, Walton, Liverpool	Lillian French 0151-474-0979
THURSDAY			
Biddulph	8:30 PM	Biddulph Arms, Congleton Road, Biddulph	Eric Cox 01782-514896
Chorlton (n.m.)	9:00 PM	SW Manchester Cricket Club, Ellesmere Rd, Chorlton C-Hardy	Jozeph Roberts 0161-848-9621
Earby	7:30 PM	Station Hotel, Colne Road, Earby, BB18	Sharon Hobson 01282-841727
Fleetwood	8:30 PM	Steamer Hotel, Queens Terrace, Fleetwood, FY7 6BT	Mike France 01253-776607
Gregson Lane	8:30 PM	Gregson Lane Sports & Social Club, Gregson Lane, Hoghton	Graham Dixon 01254-853929
Parkgate	8:15 PM	Boathouse Pub/Restaurant, 1 The Parade, Parkgate, Wirral	Eddie Morris 0151-677-1840
Railway	8:30 PM	Railway Hotel, Mill Lane, Heatley, Lymm, Cheshire, WA13 9SQ	Stewart Lever 07919-270-916
South Lakes Music Promotion	8:30 PM	Ulverston Sports & Social Club, Priory Road, Ulverston, Cumbria	Nick McDermott 07743-555227
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			
Bollington	8:30 PM	Dog & Partridge, Palmerston Street, Bollington	Arthur Wakefield 01625-573596
Carlisle Folk & Blues	8:00 PM	Sunset Suite, Carlisle Football Ground, Warwick Road	Myrna Rae 01697-72305
Folk in the Barn	8:15 PM	Rosehill Barn, Rosehill Theatre, Whitehaven, Cumbria	Terry Haworth 01900-604765
Hale & Hearty	8:30 PM	Kings Arms, Hale, Milnethorpe, Cumbria	Frank Lewis 01524-734440
Leigh	8:00 PM	Conservative Club, Railway Road, Leigh	Pauline Dowsett 01942-604603
Northwich	8:15 PM	Harlequin Theatre, Queen St, Northwich	John Booth 01606-79356
Pacific Arts & Exhibition Centre	8:00 PM	Pacific Arts & Exhibition Centre, Pacific Road, Birkenhead, Wirral	Box Office 0151-647-0752
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	9:00 PM	Costigan's Pub, Bodfor Street, Rhyl	Jeff Blythin 01745-588072
Southport Arts Centre	8:00 PM	Lord Street, Southport, PR8 1DB	John Sprackland 01704-540011
Westhoughton	8:15 PM	Westhoughton Golf Club, Long Island, Westhoughton	Pat Batty 01257-230508
SATURDAY			
Barnoldswick	8:00 PM	Fosters Arms, Gisburn Road, Barnoldswick, BB18	Sharon Hobson 01282-841727
Buffet Bar	9:00 PM	Platform 1, Stalybridge Rail Station, Stalybridge	Jim Schofield 01457-833897
Brewery Arts Centre	8:00 PM	122A Highgate, Kendal, Cumbria, LA9 4HE	Box Office 01539-725133
Burnley Mechanics	8:00 PM	Manchester Road, Burnley, Lancashire, BB11 1JA	Box Office 01282-664400
Citadel Arts Centre	8:00 PM	Waterloo Street, St Helens, WA10 1PX	Aby Jeffers 01744-762305
Friends of Folk (n.m.)	8:00 PM	Worden Arts Centre, Worden Park, Leyland, PR25 2DJ	Jim Minall 01772-422416
Philharmonie Hall	7:30 PM	Liverpool Philharmonic Hall, Hope Street, Liverpool	Box Office 0151-210-2895
Platform	8:00 PM	Station Buildings, Central Promenade, Morecambe	Glynis Johnson 01525-586823
Rattan & Rush Acoustic	7:45 PM	Rattan & Rush Tearoom, Market Street, Kirby Stephen, Cumbria	Penny & Paul 01786-372123
Standish	8:15 PM	St Ann's Parish Hall, Church Lane, Shevington, Standish, Wigan	David Jones 01254-54877

	26th FEBRUARY to 1st APRIL		
	5th March	12th March	20th March
<b>SUNDAY</b>			
Bothy	LYNNE HERAULD & PAT TURNER Singers Night	Singers Night	MIKE SILVER Singers Night
Folk at the Manor	Singers Night	Singers Night	PETE COE Singers Night
Kings Lock	Singers & Musicians		
Mr Kite Benefits @ the	COOPE, BOYES & SIMPSON with RACHEL UNTHANK		
Worden Arts Centre, Leyland	PEDIGREE CHUMS	Singaround	EXTRAVAGANZA 10 Singaround
Open Door	closed	Singaround	closed
Walshaw	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Walton	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Wooden Horse	Singers Night	<b>HIS WORSHIP &amp; THE PIG</b>	Singers Night
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>6th March</b>	<b>13th March</b>	<b>20th March</b>
Bacup	JIM GANSLER & TOM O'GORMAN Singers Night	Singaround	KIMBERS MEN Singers Night
Convy	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Folk at the Prospect	Singers & Musicians	Singers Night	<b>BANDERSNATCH</b> Singers & Musicians
Four Fools	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians
Red Bull	Singers Night	Singers Night	SARA GREY Singers Night
Swinton	Singers Night	Singers Night	DEREK GIFFORD Singers Night
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>7th March</b>	<b>14th March</b>	<b>21st March</b>
Crown	CLIVE LEYLAND Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Everyman	Singers Night	Singaround	Singers Night
Folk at the Forum	Singers Night	MICK GROVES	Singers Night
Howcroft Inn	tba	<b>DAI THOMAS</b>	EMILY SMITH tba
Longridge	Singers Night	Singers Night	PETE COE Singers Night
Maghull	Singers Night	DAVE DAY REMEMBERED	Singers Night
Philharmonic Hall	Singers Night	JUNE TABOR	Singers Night
Skipton (new member)	ALLAN TAYLOR	COPPER KETTLE	JILL FIELDING BAND
Urmston Acoustics	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Wigan (Fox & Goose)	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>8th March</b>	<b>15th March</b>	<b>22nd March</b>
Alison Arms	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Burnley	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians
Castle (rejoin member)	LYNN & BARRIE HARDMAN	Singers Night	Singers Night
Clarence	JOHN WRIGHT BAND	Singers Night	JANET RUSSELL Singers Night
Cross Keys	BRIAN PETERS	ROBIN LAING	LYNN & BARRIE HARDMAN Singers Night
Folk at the Rugby Club	ANN ENGLISH	DAVE GIBB	FRED LOADER Singers Night
	COUNTRY NIGHT FUND-RAISER for DROYLSDEN FOLK FESTIVAL	Singers Night	
Red Bull	Music Session - English		
Walton	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>9th March</b>	<b>16th March</b>	<b>23rd March</b>
Biddulph	PETE COE	BOB FOX	ANDY M. STEWART Singers Night
Brewery Arts Centre	KAREN MATHESON		CARA DILLON Singers Night
			JULIE FOWLES/EMILY SMITH

	26th FEBRUARY to 1st APRIL		
	5th March	12th March	20th March
<b>THURSDAY (cont'd)</b>			
Earby	9th March	16th March	23rd March
Fleetwood	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
Gregon Lane	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Pacific Arts Centre	ANTHONY JOHN CLARKE KATHRYN TICKELL	KEITH MITCHELL	RECKLESS ELBOW Singers Night
Parkgate		* MIKE SILVER	HARVEY ANDREWS
Philharmonic Hall		DAVEY ARTHUR & the FUREYS	
Railway	Singers Night	Singers Night	HARVEY ANDREWS Singers Night
South Lakes Music Prom.	STEVE TILSTON		CHARLIE READ - Big Spot Singers Night
Wigan (Seven Stars)	THE MIDDEN	Singaround	Singaround
Wrexham	JOHN WRIGHT BAND	Singers Night	Singers Night
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>3rd March</b>	<b>10th March</b>	<b>17th March</b>
Bollington	Singers Night	Singers Night	QUICKSILVER Singers Night
Brewery Arts Centre	OYSTERBAND	JUNE TABOR	EMILY SMITH (tbc)
Carlisle Folk & Blues	MALINKY	BOB FOX	
Folk in the Barn (* = Theatre)		* St PATRICKS CONCERT with CRAOBH RUA	HARRIET BARTLETT
Hale & Harty	Singaround	Singaround	
Leigh		SCOLDS BRIDLE	
Northwich	MARTIN SIMPSON	29th Birthday - Singers Night	Singers Night
Platform		UISCEDWR	CARA DILLON Singers & Musicians
Porkies	TOM TOPPING BAND	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians
Preston	Singers & Musicians		KARINE POLWART Singers Night
Southport Arts Centre		Singers Night	Singers Night
Walton	MICK HANLY	THE ANIMALS & Friends (ticket only)	JOHN TAMS & BARRY COOPE (ticket only)
Westhoughton		11th March	VIN GARBUTT (ticket only)
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>4th March</b>	<b>18th March</b>	<b>25th March</b>
Barnoldswick	OYSTERBAND		1st April Singaround
* & ** Biddulph (Town Hall)	Singers Night		
Buffet Bar	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Brewery Arts Centre	ABBIE LATHE & friends		ANTHONY JOHN CLARKE BRAM TAYLOR & CALICO
Friends of Folk (new member)			BORN TO RUN PETE ABBOTT
* Leigh			
Playhouse 2	HOMEGROWN - SAFRA fundraiser	SWING COMMANDERS	
Rattan and Rush	THE AMAZING MR SMITH		
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>2ND APRIL to 6TH MAY</b>		
	<b>2nd April</b>	<b>9th April</b>	<b>16th April</b>
Bothy	JUDY COOK (USA)	Singers Night	EASTER EXTRAVAGANZA
* & ** Biddulph			JOHN PEARSON Singers Night
Folk at the Manor	Singers Night	Singers Night	COLIN HENDERSON Singers Night
			ANDY IRVINE PHIL MCGINITY

	<u>SUNDAY (cont'd)</u>	<u>2nd April</u>	<u>9th April</u>	<u>16th April</u>	<u>23rd April</u>	<u>30th April</u>
Kings Lock	Singers & Musicians					
Mr Kite Benefits @ Worden Arts	LAZARUS					DAI THOMAS
Open Door	CRAIG & WILLOUGHBY	Singaround	CHRISTINE COLLISTER	Singaround	Singaround	
* & ** Porkies			JILL FIELDING BAND	POYNTON FOLK FESTIVAL		
Walshaw		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singaround	
Walton	Singers Night	Singers Night	MARIE LITTLE	Closed - Easter	Singers Night	Singers Night
Wooden Horse	Singers Night	Singers Night	10th April	17th April	Singers Night	Closed - Bank Holiday w/e
<u>MONDAY</u>						1st May
Bacup	BRACKENRIGG	Singaround	Singaround	IAN ALVESTON	Singaround	JILL FIELDING BAND
Conwy	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Folk at the Prospect	ROBIN LAING	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	FIONA SIMPSON	Singers Night
Four Fools	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians
Red Bull	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Swinton	DICK MILES	Singers Night	Singers Night	PHIL HARE	Singers Night	tba
<u>TUESDAY</u>						2nd May
Brewery Arts Centre			JOHN RENBOURN & ROBIN WILLIAMSON	EASTER CEILIDH with FAGIN'S POCKET		
Crown	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
Everyman	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	closed	Singers Night	Singers Night
Folk at the Forum			tba		RORY McLEOD	
Howcroft Inn		closed			tba	
Longridge	AULO TRIANGLE		Singers Night	TRIO THRELFALL	Singers Night	Singers Night
Maghull				Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Philharmonic Hall	Singers Night	Singers Night	KATH READE	Singers Night	War of the Roses' Singers Night	JOHN MARTYN
Skipton	Singers Night	Singers Night				BEN & ROBIN
Urnston Acoustics	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Wigan (Fox & Goose)	Singers Night	Singers Night				Singers Night
<u>WEDNESDAY</u>						3rd May
Alison Arms	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Burnley	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians
Castle	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Clarence	JUDY COOK (USA)	BRIAN BEDFORD BAND	BRIEGE MURPHY	BRIEGE MURPHY	Singers Night	tba
Cross Keys	TOM BROWN & IAN GOODIER	BERNIE PARRY	PHIL HARE	PHIL HARE	TOM & BARBARA BROWN	JOHN CONNOLLY
Folk at the Rugby Club		Singers Night	Singers Night		Singers Night	
Platform (free afternoon concert)					TOM & BARBARA BROWN	
Red Bull		Singers Night	Music Session - English			
Walton	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
<u>THURSDAY</u>						4th May
Biddulph	MICHAEL WESTON KING	6th April	13th April	PETE MORTON & Friends	27th April	STEPHEN FEARING (Canada)
Burnley Mechanics				WATERSON/CARTHY		

	<u>THURSDAY (cont'd)</u>	<u>6th April</u>	<u>13th April</u>	<u>20th April</u>	<u>27th April</u>	<u>4th May</u>
Earby	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
Fleetwood	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Gregson Lane		CAPTAIN COOPER'S MIC		CAITLIN CARY & THAD COCKRELL		
Mr Kite Benefits @ Bury Met					JULIE FELIX	
Pacific Arts Centre			Singers Night		RON TRUEMAN-BORDER	Singers Night
Parkgate		DAVE PUGH				JEZ LOWE and the BAD PENNIES
Railway	LANDERWATSON					Singaround
South Lakes Music Prom.						ANTHONY JOHN CLARKE
Wigan (Seven Stars)	Singaround					
Wrexham	CATHRYN CRAIG & BRIAN WILLOUGHBY					
<u>FRIDAY</u>						
Bollington	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Brindley Arts Centre						
* & ** Folk at the Rugby Club					EDUARDO NIEBLA EXPERIENCE	
Folk in the Barn					FUNRAISER - DROYLSDEN FF	
* Gregson Lane	BRAM TAYLOR				tba	
Hale & Hearty	CHRIS LAYHE & OYSTER					
Leigh	Singaround					
Mr Kite Benefits @ St.Bede's Club, Clayton-Le-Woods					CAPTAIN COOPER'S MOTLEY CREW	
Northwich	** Singers Night	Singers Night - venue tbc		4 2 2	Singers Night	EDDIE WALKER
Playhouse 2					BATTLEFIELD BAND	CATHRYN CRAIG & BRIAN WILLOUGHBY
Porkies	VIN GARBUTT	POYNTON FOLK FESTIVAL				Singers and Musicians
Preston	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians	Singers and Musicians	RALPH McTELL
Southport Arts Centre		BELLOWHEAD			Singers Night	Singers Night
Walton	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	29th April	6th May
<u>SATURDAY</u>						
Barnoldswick						Singaround
Brindley Arts Centre						TOMMY EIMMANUEL
Buffet Bar	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Brewery Arts Centre	ANGIE PALMER	SNAKE DAVIS/HELEN WATSON	DAVE BOWIE/MARK GRESWELL			
Platform		BELLOWHEAD				
Playhouse 2	DANA GILLESPIE	POYNTON FOLK FESTIVAL				
* & ** Porkies						
Rattan and Rush	CHRISTINE COLLISTER					HARVEY ANDREWS



	7th MAY to 10th JUNE			
	7th May	14th May	21st May	28th May
<b>SUNDAY</b>				
Bothy	Singers Night	HUGHIE JONES Singers Night	SARA GREY & K. MEANS Singers Night	28th May Singers Night
Folk at the Manor	Singers Night		FIONA SIMPSON Singers Night	Singers Night
Folk in the Barn	Singers & Musicians			tba
Kings Lock	Singers & Musicians			
Open Door	Singaround		Singaround	SARA GREY & K. MEANS Singers Night
Philharmonic Hall	STEELEYE SPAN Singers Night			
Rattan & Rush				PAUL TIERNAN & Guest Singers & Musicians
Walshaw	Singers Night			
Walton	Singers Night			
Wooden Horse	Singers Night	Residents Charity Night		Singers Night
<b>MONDAY</b>				
Bacup	Singers Night	15th May BANDERSNATCH Singers Night	22nd May Singers Night	29th May Singers Night
Conwy	Singers Night			JIVA Singers Night
Folk at the Prospect	JOHN MCCORMICK Singers & Musicians			JOE TOPPING & JOE WRIGHT Singers & Musicians
Four Fools	Singers & Musicians			
Red Bull	Singers Night			
Swinton	Singers Night	JOHNNY SILVO Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
<b>TUESDAY</b>				
Crown	Singers Night	16th May Singers Night	23rd May Singers Night	30th May Singers Night
Everyman	Singers Night	BRIAN PETERS Singers Night		
Howcroft	GEOFF HIGGINBOTTOM Singers Night		ED MCGURK Singers Night	
Longridge		HIS WORSHIP & THE PIG Singers Night		
Maghull	JOHNNY SILVO Singers Night		JAN HILL Singers Night	
Skipton				
Urmston Acoustics				
Wigan (Fox & Goose)	Singers Night			
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>				
Allison Arms	Singers Night	17th May Singers Night	24th May Singers Night	31st May Singers Night
Burnley	Singers and Musicians			
Castle	Singers Night			
Clarence	ANDY IRVINE Singers Night	ANTHONY JOHN CLARKE Singers Night	SARA GREY & K. MEANS Singers Night	tba Singers Night
Cross Keys	MIV CAMERON BAND Singers Night	tba Singers Night		ED RENNIE Singers Night
Folk at the Rugby Club				
Philharmonic Hall	Music session - English			MARY BLACK Singers Night
Red Bull	Singers Night			
Walton	Singers Night	18th May Singers Night	25th May Singers Night	1st June Singers Night
<b>THURSDAY</b>				
Biddulph	11th May Singers Night	CLIVE GREGSON Singers Night		ALLAN TAYLOR Singers Night
Earby	Singaround			Singaround

	7th MAY to 10th JUNE			
	7th May	14th May	21st May	28th May
<b>THURSDAY(cont'd)</b>				
Fleetwood	11th May Singers Night	18th May Singers Night	25th May Singers Night	1st June Singers Night
Gregson Lane	JILL FIELDING BAND Singers Night			
Parkgate	* JAMES KEELAGHAN Singers Night		VIN GARBUTT Singers Night	PETE ABBOTT Singers Night
Railway	ANN ENGLISH - Big Spot Singers Night			WIRRAL FOLK ON THE COAST ERIC BOGLE & JOHN MUNRO Singers Night
Wigan (Seven Stars)	Singers Night	SARA GREY & K. MEANS Singers Night	Singers Night	DOMINIC COLLINS - Big Spot Singers Night
Wrexham	Singers Night	Singers Night		CLIVE GREGSON Singers Night
<b>FRIDAY</b>				
Bollington	12th May Singers Night	19th May Singers Night	26th May Singers Night	9th June Singers Night
Carlisle Folk & Blues		MIV CAMERON BAND Singers Night		
Folk in the Barn		VIN GARBUTT Singers Night		
Hale & Harty				ARROGANT WORMS Singers Night
Leigh		Singaround		
Mr Kite Benefits @ Bury Met		HARVEY ANDREWS Singers Night		
Northwich		BOBCATS Singers Night	SHOW OF HANDS ** Singers Night	
Pacific Arts Centre	Singers Night		KARINE POLWART Singers Night	
Philharmonic Hall				WIRRAL FOLK ON THE COAST LIFEBOAT CEILIDH BAND plus FAMILY MAHONE Singers and Musicians
Platform			LADYSMITH BLACK MAMBAZO MICHAEL MCGOLDRICK Singers and Musicians	
Porkies				JULIE FELIX Singers and Musicians
Preston	Singers and Musicians			
Southport Arts Centre		ALTAN (tbc) Singers Night		Singers Night
Walton	Singers Night			JAMES KEELAGHAN Singers Night
**Westhoughton			20th May Singers Night	3rd June Singers Night
<b>SATURDAY</b>				
Barnoldswick	13th May Singers Night		27th May Singers Night	10th June Singers Night
Buffet Bar	Singers Night			
Burnley Mechanics				LUNA SA Singers Night
* & ** Folk in the Barn				
Floral Pavilion, New Brighton		TANNAHILL WEAVERS Singers Night		WIRRAL FOLK ON THE COAST KATE RUSBY BAND & ELBOW JANE Singers and Musicians
Mr Kite Benefits @ Bury Met		ELIZA GILKYSON Singers Night		
Pacific Arts Centre			JOE TOPPING, JOE WRIGHT & ELBOW JANE Singers Night	
Playhouse 2	EDDIE MARTIN BLUES BAND Singers Night			PAUL TIERNAN & Guest Singers and Musicians
Rattan and Rush	CLIVE GREGSON Singers Night			

NB: \* = Not usual night \*\* = Not usual venue

TO BE INCLUDED IN THE CALENDAR INFORMATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY JOHN OWEN BY NO LATER THAN SUNDAY 9TH APRIL, 2006.

THE NEXT CALENDAR IN THIS MAGAZINE WILL COVER THE DATES - 28TH MAY TO 9TH SEPTEMBER.

## ADVANCE DATES FROM JUNE 2006

**BACUP**  
 June 5 Singaround  
 June 12 Redmayne  
 June 19 Singaround  
 June 26 Derek Gifford  
 3rd July to 28th August - summer break  
 Sept 4 Singaround  
 Sept 11 Bill Lloyd  
 Sept 18 Singaround  
 Sept 25 Eddie McGurk

**BIDDULPH**  
 July 15 Folk in the Park  
 (Biddulph Grange Country Park)  
 July 18 Kristina Olsen (USA) & Loud Mouth  
 Women (Biddulph Town Hall)  
 July 27 Eric Bogle (Biddulph Town Hall)

**BOLLINGTON**  
 July 13 Brian Peters  
 Sept 15 Paul & Christine Nebel  
 (Other dates - Singers Nights)

**BOTHY**  
 June 4 Bandersnatch  
 June 11 Singers Night  
 June 18 Smith & Hewson  
 June 25 Singers Night  
 July 2 Ken Nicol  
 July 9 Singers Night  
 July 16 Gina Le Faux & James Raynard  
 Sept 10 Hoover the Dog  
 Sept 17 Singers Night  
 Sept 24 Jezz Hall  
 Oct 1 Singers Night  
 Oct 8 Steve Gillette & Cindy Mangsen (USA)  
 Oct 15 Singers Night  
 Oct 22 Tom Lewis  
 Oct 29 Singers Night  
 Nov 5 Dana & Susan Robinson (USA)  
 Nov 12 Singers Night  
 Nov 19 Dave Arthur Band -  
 Rattle on the Stovepipe  
 Singers Night  
 Nov 26 tba  
 Dec 3 Three Sheets to the Wind  
 Dec 10 Hot Pot Supper  
 Dec 17 closed  
 Dec 24 closed

**CARLISLE FOLK AND BLUES**  
 June 2 Arrogant Worms  
 June 16 Joe Wright & Joe Topping (tbc)  
 June 30 tba  
 July 14 tba  
 Sept 1 tba  
 Sept 15 Helen Watson & David Hughes  
 Sept 29 tba  
 Oct 13 Michael Marra  
 Oct 27 tba  
 Nov 10 Dana and Susan Robinson  
 November 24 Dick Gaughan

**CLARENCE**  
 June 7 Les Barker  
 June 14 tba

June 21 tba  
 June 28 John Connolly

**CROSS KEYS**  
 June 7 Joe Stead  
 June 14 Bandersnatch  
 Sep 6 Eddie McGuirk  
 Sept 13 Steve & Christi Nebel  
 Sept 20 Kieran Halpin  
 Sept 27 Kimbers Men  
 Oct 4 Donal O'Connor  
 Oct 18 Anthony John Clarke's  
 50th birthday gig

**EVERYMAN**  
 June 27 Shep Woolley

**FOLK AT THE MANOR**  
 June 11 Bob Fox -  
 (Wirral Folk on the Coast Festival 2)  
 June 18 Rum, Bum & Concertina  
 Aug 20 The Bogtrotters (tbc)  
 Oct 15 Last Night's Fun (tbc)  
 (Other dates - Singers nights)

**FOLK AT THE PROSPECT**  
 June 5 Joe Topping and Joe Wright  
 July 3 Brackenrigg  
 Sept 4 Anthony John Clarke  
 (Other dates - Singers nights)

**FOLK AT THE RUGBY CLUB**  
 June 7 Singers Night  
 June 21 Singers Night  
 June 30 to July 2 Droylsden Folk Festival  
 June 30 John Green Memorial  
 Singaround - Old Aldwinians  
 Rugby Club, Manchester Road,  
 Droylsden - 8-00pm start  
 July 1 John Tams & Barry Coope @  
 Fairfield Golf and Sailing Club,  
 Booth Road - 7-30pm start  
 July 2 'Come and Sing' -  
 Open air concert @ The Bush Inn,  
 Moorside Road, Droylsden  
 12-30pm start

**FOLK IN THE BARN**  
 June 9 Cloudstreet  
 June 23 Stef White and Kersten de Ligny  
 July 7 Singers & Musicians  
 July 28 Chris While & Julie Matthews (Theatre)  
 Aug 11 tba  
 Aug 25 tba  
 Sept 8 tba  
 Sept 22 Allan Taylor  
 Oct 6 Colum Sands

**GREGSON LANE**  
 June 8 Pete Abbott  
 June 22 Singers Night  
 July 6 Andrew Green  
 July 20 Singers Night  
 Aug 3 Singers Night  
 Aug 17 Singers Night  
 Aug 31 Singers Night  
 Sep 14 Tom Bliss  
 Sep 28 Singers Night  
 Oct 12 Penny Black  
 Oct 26 Singers Night

Nov 9 Angie Palmer  
 Nov 23 Singers Night (Lancs)  
 Dec 7 Jon Harvison  
 Dec 21 Singers Night - Xmas Special

**LEIGH**  
 June 16 Vangel  
 July 29 Eric Bogle/John Munro  
 Admission by ticket  
 X11 Apostles Parish Hall  
 Westleigh Lane, Leigh

**LONGRIDGE**  
 June 6 Singers Night  
 June 20 Saggy Bottom Girls  
 Aug 15 Alistair Hulett  
 Oct 17 Brian Preston's  
 60th Birthday Party

**MAGHULL**  
 June 13 Brass Tacks  
 July 11 tba  
 Oct 10 Bram Taylor  
 (Other dates - Singers nights)

**PARKGATE**  
 NB: \*\* = extra nights  
 Following are all ticket only nights:-  
 June 8 Eric Bogle/John Munro \*\*  
 Sep 28 Tanglefoot  
 Nov 9 The McCalmans \*\*  
 Nov 30 Allan Taylor & John Wright

**PORKIES**  
 June 2 Julie Felix  
 July 7 tba  
 Aug 4 Zinghari Swing  
 Sept 9 Tanglefoot  
 Oct 6 Paul Millnes Band  
 Nov 3 Chris While & Julie Matthews  
 December 1 Kieran Halpin & Anthony Kaley

**RATTAN AND RUSH**  
 June 3 & 4 Paul Tiernan with guest  
 June 19 The Strawbs @ Penrith Playhouse

**RAILWAY**  
 June 1 Ed Rennie  
 June 8 Dominic Collins - Big Spot  
 June 15 Pete Abbott  
 June 22 Singers Night  
 June 29 Lymm Festival - Nelson Peach  
 June 30 Allan Taylor  
 July 1 Les Barker  
 July 2 Last Night's Fun  
 July 4 Festival Ceilidh  
 July 5 Garva - Irish Night  
 July 6 Bernard Cromarty

**RED BULL**  
 June 12 John Kirkpatrick  
 June 26 Harriet Bartlett

**SKIPTON**  
 June 6 Singers Night  
 June 13 'Sing for someone else's Supper'  
 Charity Night  
 June 20 Chris Dinsdale  
 June 27 Singers Night  
 July 4 Singers Night - (American)  
 July 11 Chris Emmott & Paul Reade

July 18 Singers Night  
 July 25 Andy Hill  
 Aug 1 Club Anniversary Party Night  
 'A Bit of a Do'

Aug 8, 15, 22, & 29 Singers Nights  
 Sept 5 Kevin Loughran  
 Sept 12 Singers Night  
 Sept 19 Jon Harvison  
 Sept 26 Singers Night  
 Nov 21 Bob Fox  
 Dec 5 Tom McConville

**SWINTON**  
 June 5 Anthony John Clarke  
 June 19 Pat Ryan & Ken Howard  
 July 3 tba  
 July 17 Geoff Higginbottom  
 (Other dates - Singers Nights)

**WESTHOUGHTON**  
 June 2 James Keelaghan  
 June 9 Eric Bogle/John Munro  
 (both ticket only)

**WOODEN HORSE**  
 June 4 Singers Night  
 June 11 Joe Topping & Joe Wright  
 June 18 Singers Night  
 June 25 Closed - Four Fools Festival

**WREXHAM**  
 June 1 Clive Gregson  
 June 22 Mick Ryan & Pete Harris  
 (last night before September)



# The Jill Fielding Band

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throughout... I was completely enthralled... the journey delighted me"  
indie-cds.com reviews, June 2005.

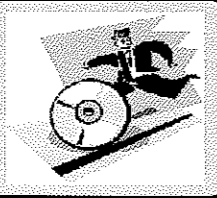
"The exotic instrumentation lifts what are, sometimes, fragile songs into a dreamy, lush magic carpet ride, which never fails to enthrall. Despite the disparate influences, the album flows seamlessly in and out of the different vibes, nowhere better than on the lengthy, but indispensable 'The Witchbottle of Suffolk' where so many different worlds collide! A remarkable album, not just for the medievalists amongst us, but for anyone interested in the explorations of sound and texture."  
Zeitgeist reviews, April 2005.

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## CD REVIEWS



**COPPER KETTLE** Two Guitars and a Song (Own Label)



Brian Firth and Michael Forsyth aka Copper Kettle hail from Mirfield in West Yorkshire, this is the first time I've heard them and it struck me immediately how much like Foster and Allen they sounded. Michael writes their material which covers many and diverse subjects.

The cut in fish quotas has a lot to answer for, decimating our fishing industry beyond repair, once the sea is in your blood it's there for life, a highly thought producing song, "Farewell to the Sea". Perhaps a fairytale setting in the mind, but no, this place really exists in Eire, 'Castle', was once home to the Guinness dynasty. They say if you remember the sixties you weren't really there, but to blame that particular decade for the current ills of the world seems to me to be more than a little far fetched.

'A Farmers Plight' was brought to the fore during the foot and mouth outbreak. Many farms went to the wall as the heart was torn out of the industry, I fear it will never return. Cowardice was deemed to be 'beyond the pail' during the First World War and many squaddies were executed as a result. The futility of it all is spelt out in 'I Didn't Want To Go To War'.

Children around the world have been exploited and forced to work in terrible conditions for a pittance for the past 150 years. Will this exploitation ever be eradicated? I fear not. 'Children Of

The World' explains. 'The Stranger' tells of a chance meeting between two people and what the conversation might have been if a word between them had been spoken.

So many marriages and relationships break down. 'Boulevard of Broken Dreams' tells of the regret that nearly always accompanies such events. In private moments we all reflect on the state of the world. 'Have You Ever Wondered' is one person's innermost thoughts about what is happening to our planet. Leaving friends and family behind to work away from home is tough for many people and 'Away From home' deals with the problems being away from home create. Private Horace Waller was awarded a posthumous V.C. He was a 'Yorkshire Lad' and a very brave one at that.

Two weeks a year was once all the holiday people were given or could indeed afford 50 years ago. Many spent the time at the seaside either in the sea or simply walking along 'The Shore'. 'In This World' deals with that most distressing of all ills, Alzheimer's Disease. There but for the grace of God... During World War Two so many children were evacuated. For many it was a time of exploration and coming to terms with the reality of life, for others it was a stressful time, as they missed home and family. 'The Peace Between the Wars' is the poignant final track.

Overall the sound was pleasant but something kept nagging at me, eventually I realised that apart from the two guitars and the two voices and a little extra guest musicianship the album for me was over produced on both instruments and voice, which was a pity because the material deserved to be heard in its unfettered state, free from artificial additives. Copper Kettle are obviously a duo with vast experience and a night in their company either live or on CD would certainly leave you with food for thought.

You can find out more information about the duo at [www.copperkettlefolk.com](http://www.copperkettlefolk.com)

David Jones

**ROISIN DEMPSEY** Spirit Of An Irish Christmas (Tara Records TARACD 4014)



I love Christmas! It always brings back fond memories of my youth and particularly of singing soprano in the school choir. It also reminds me of all those great Christmas carols and songs, and the warm glow I get whenever I hear the lyrics of 'God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen' and 'Good King Wenceslas'.

Roisin Dempsey has impressive credentials having worked with Anuna, The Chieftains, Michael Crawford and Secret Garden and lots of this experience has rubbed off on this, her first solo recording. Along with producer David Hayes (keyboards & backing vocals) she crosses several musical boundaries with influences as diverse as Johnny Mathis and Canada's Loreena McKennit.

If you like your carols infused with Celtic melodies (think of the old Horslips Christmas recording) then this album will appeal to you. The arrangements of the songs are light, with percussion driven rhythm, and the inclusion of Declan Masterson on Uilleann Pipes, whistles and bouzouki is a brilliant masterstroke. The

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songs are treated with respect, including a beautifully understated 'When A Child Is Born', and co-joining the melody of 'Greensleeves' with the lyrics of 'What Child Is This' will bring a wry smile to anyone who knows either. As a seasonal offering this is a well-crafted release although personally I'm looking forward to a recording that isn't tied down to a theme. Details from [www.roisindempsey.com](http://www.roisindempsey.com)

Pete Fyfe

**FREAKWATER Thinking Of You (Thrill Jockey Records THRILL150)**



When folk music arrived in America with the immigrants from over here, it mutated into the sometimes saccharin country music of today. Of course, it was a long process taking in all sorts of forms on route. Central to the stream of change was the

folk music from the eastern part of the US. In particular, music historians tell us about the influence of The Carter Family. Freakwater's music has always taken us right back to that period with it's simple feel.

'Thinking Of You' is their fifth or sixth record in a career that has pretty much staggered from pillar to post. Take, for example, their recent, first tour of Europe (including these shores). It reached as far north as Leicester and, when asked why they didn't come further north, 'that's an idea' was their response! The music revolves around the sweet vocals of Janet Bean - think Julie Andrews meets Emmylou Harris - and Catherine Irwin whose vocals sounds like she gargles with something only slightly less rough than broken glass. A vocal mix that - perhaps, surprisingly - gels into a perfect blend. Typically backed by sparse arrangements of acoustic guitar and fiddle, they are just fabulous.

The opening harmonies of 'Sap' grab your ears and don't let go with that 'I know that I can make you laugh, I believe I know enough to make you cry' lyric. Pure poetry. A track like 'Loserville' has lyrics that are very much contemporary in feel but the past is never far away. 'Jack The Knife', for example, has a murder ballad lyric that will strike a note with followers of traditional folk. For the first time, this album has some electric guitar here and there from their labelmates, Califone. However, it doesn't intrude on that rootsy, old timey feel and I, for one, have my fingers crossed that they don't leave a similar six year gap until they release their next record. Who knows, they may even discover the M6 next time they're over. That's assuming they make it over here again!

Steve Henderson

**ALISTAIR HULETT AND SEVERAL OF HIS FRIENDS Riches and Rags (Red Rattler - RATCDO06)**



Riches and Rags has eleven tracks, four written by Alistair Hulett, four from others and three traditional. Alistair is a fantastic songwriter and musician, his work is well written, painstakingly researched and consummately played but he does not fall into the trap of the vast majority of singer

songwriters, by only playing his own material. I believe that even the prolific only have so many good songs in them. If he likes another writer's song, Ali will sing it, and more power to him for doing so. On this album his several friends include Nancy Kerr, James Fagan and Gavin Livingstone.

The Fair Flower Of Northumberland: Is given a Cajun Walztime treatment that took several plays to take my fancy. But once bitten I was well smitten. Criminal Justice is one of Alistair's songs and has a short and bouncy almost reggae beat about police fitting up and the wrongful imprisonment of a political activist. Another Hulett composition, Rags and Riches has almost a ragtime feel to it. And one that he almost forgot about, after mislaying it for years:

The Recruited Collier & The Dark Eyed Sailor are two traditional tracks that get the full traditional treatment, simple but very affective showing off Alistair's percussive, clean guitar technique. While Stealin' Back To My Same Old Ways is a Will Shade song, from The Memphis Jug Band days of 1928. Another of Alistair's compositions, Shot Down In Flames, he first recorded in the 1980's with his band 'Roaring Jack' during his time in Australia, and Militant Red is the last self-penned track on this CD. It's a love song that puts forward the notion that nothing is more attractive than a woman who wants to overthrow the dominant paradigm.

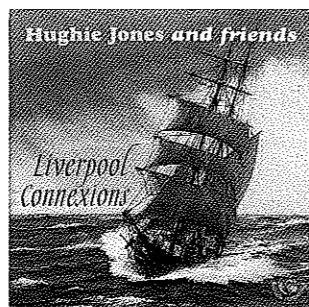
A great song from an unusual quarter is Old King Coal, which features accordion wizard John Kirkpatrick. There's also The First Girl I loved, a Robin Williamson song and Trouble In Mind, written by Richard M Jones. Ali learned the latter from English guitar player John Hayday who sang it in the folk clubs of New Zealand.

Another classic album from the passionate mesmerising voice, nimble fingers and professionalism of Alistair Hulett, aided and abetted by a few friends who just happen to be sensational musicians. Just one mistake I noticed, I will buy the first person to tell me what it is a CD of their choice. Here is a clue. Purchase well recommended and you will have to do so to observe, listen and win your prize.

The album is available in the UK by mail order only for £13.00 incl. P&P. Cheques to Alistair Hulett at Flat 2/1, 66 Kenmure Street Glasgow G41 2NR. For more details call 0141 429 5276

Brian Preston

**HUGHIE JONES Liverpool Connexions (Fellside Recordings FECD198)**



Hughie Jones (along with the rest of The Spinners) was where my own connexion with folk music really began. Therefore I always look forward to receiving the latest offering from one of Liverpool's finest.

Now, if Jones was to follow the current trends on the folk circuit he'd have to sing in an earnest, well-measured tone with a sterile backing. But - Hughie being Hughie - he delivers the material in a jaunty style, making the majority of these songs far more accessible to a wider audience. Even Shep Woolley's "Down by the Dockyard Wall" takes on a new complexion - in fact I'll have to watch out the next time I'm performing it with Shep, or I'll get a slap on the wrist for giving it a different edge.

As the sleeve notes rightly point out, Liverpool has produced many fine songs (and bands if memory serves me right), and on this album Hughie really achieves a 'feel' for the area. Characters such as 'Seth Davey' and the influence of Joseph Williamson, on his own composition 'The Moles of Edge Hill,' all play their part in the county's rich tapestry.

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On another classic, the Stan Kelly song 'Liverpool Lullaby' (which I first heard sung by Cilla Black!), I was struck by the starkness and beauty that the lyrics conveyed and, once again, Hughie's unaccompanied interpretation brings this vision of the struggling mum, coddling her baby, vividly to life. This is an album of 'folk songs' performed by a folk singer, and as long as there's the likes of Hughie Jones, the world will remain a better place. To order copies of the CD contact [www.fellside.com](http://www.fellside.com)

Pete Fyfe

**NANCY KERR & JAMES FAGAN Strands of Gold (Fellside FECD199)**



Nancy Kerr and James Fagan are a duo that exhibit great perception - both in performance and choice of material - as this, their best album to date, displays. The first thing that strikes you when first playing this CD are the clean lines both in voice and instrumentation, a definite plus when you start

listening to twelve tracks and a great compliment to the recording engineer.

Listening to them in the comfort of your own home is, for me, just like seeing them live. Vocally and instrumentally, they blend together as one with just knowing glances between them. They are a couple who are totally in tune with each other as well as transmitting the joy they feel to their audience.

"Strands of Gold" is a mixture of songs and tunes that blend seamlessly together with some of the songs performed faithfully as the writer intended. "Barbara Allen" is one such track and Nancy, as always, interprets the song superbly. More than forty years on, Ewan MacColl's "Thirty Foot Trailer" remains a classic and is performed in such a way that it demands you join in.

James wrote two of the instrumentals on the CD, "Three Magpies" and "Satellite" and, performs them with his usual flair and dexterity. "Convicts Unlimited" would be a good alternative title for the Alistair Hulett penned, "Sons of Liberty", a song that brings into sharp focus the often vexed subject of transportation.



John Schumann, of the Australian band Redgum, wrote "Peter the Cabby", a song that encapsulates the very essence of being a native 'Bruce'. To balance that out, the "Lads of Alnwick" is Nancy's way of celebrating, instrumentally, all that is good about her North East heritage. "Locks and Bolts" came via Cecil Sharp's folk songs of the Southern

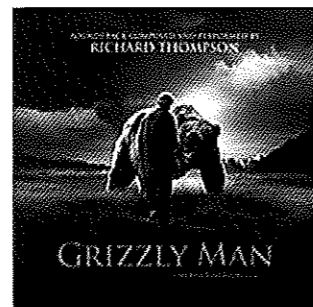
Appalachians, a good solid ballad. But by far my personal favourite is "Farewell to the Gold" written by Paul Metsers and popularised by Nic Jones on his celebrated 'Penguin Eggs' album. It's a song that brings out the very best from this duo in every way.

James and Nancy continue to push themselves in the pursuit of excellence but, for me, this album encapsulates everything that is good both in traditional music and its presentation. The Observer voted their 2002 album 'Between the Dark and Light'

as one of the top ten English Folk albums of all time. I just hope they get to hear this one because it too will be knocking on the door to be honoured amongst its peers.

David Jones

**RICHARD THOMPSON Original Soundtrack - Grizzly Man (Cooking Vinyl COOKCD360)**



The film soundtrack is a funny old thing. With a popular film, tracks never heard in the film can make a small fortune for the musicians that provided them. I remember hearing that Nick Lowe's bank account was filled to the roof with a single song on the soundtrack of 'The Bodyguard' after years of hard work for the likes of Elvis Costello. A strange old world.

So, Richard Thompson's soundtrack to the Werner Herzog film 'Grizzly Man' is an interesting venture. Whether there are fortunes to be made or not, it is unlike many other soundtracks in that Richard gets the opportunity to provide all the music. However, don't expect an album packed full of his insightful lyrics with their bittersweet tendencies and droll humour. Instead, you'll find that this is Richard at his instrumental best and, hence, a record most suited to those who admire his guitar work.

Soundtracks tend to fall into two categories. Those that gather tracks already available elsewhere and those with music specifically created for the film. This, very firmly falls into the latter category. There are nineteen tracks of atmospheric acoustic and electric guitar work, adorned here and there with strings. The mood is generally pretty mellow in keeping with a film that draws upon the natural world. That mellowness also being typical of the fine art of composing for film where a mood needs to be created but not necessarily one that intrudes into the action on screen. Towards that end, there is just one vocal track, 'Coyotes', which is sung by Don Edwards at the close of the album. It's gentle stuff and the guitar pickers out there should find it perfect listening material.

Steve Henderson

**STEVE TILSTON Of Many Hands (ADA Recordings ADA106CD)**



Do you know - I'd got myself convinced that I have a blind spot for Steve Tilston and, then, one of those tracks that just throws you pops up. Anyway, more of that later.

I'm sure that many of you will know Steve's work - great finger picking guitar style and a fair decent line in his own compositions. 'Of Many Hands'

is the album of traditional songs that he's threatened for a number of years. So, with his own song-writing pen placed to one side, here it is.

He draws from American traditions on songs like 'Going To The West' but the majority of the songs are pulled from the traditions on this side of the water. There's delightful stuff here like 'One Night As I Lay On My Bed' with the lovely Nancy Kerr adding exquisite fiddle to a beauty of a track. Up pops old pal,

Maggie Boyle, with flute on 'The Streams Of Lovely Nancy' - no, there's no Nancy on this one if you see what I mean. However, she appears elsewhere as does James Fagan, Chris Parkinson and the mighty Martin Simpson. For example, Nancy, Chris and Martin combine with Steve to great effect on 'Barby Allen' and you get the feel that everyone had a good time recording this album.

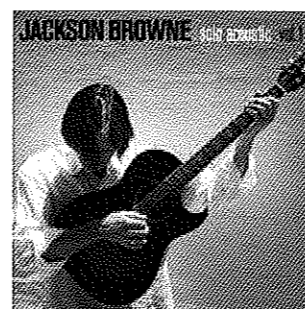
Now, back to that track. Every now and again, a track on a record seems to hit me like a pimple on the bum. You're pretty much enjoying yourself and, then, it arrives. So, why did we need to hear yet another version of 'The Leaving of Liverpool'? I know that folk music takes old songs and massages them into reinterpretations that make everyone love them even more. But, I'm afraid, this is a song that has me reaching for the 'skip' button on the CD player. Like 'The Irish Rover', 'Hi Ho, Silver Lining' and a handful of others, I get one of those 'if I hear that one more time' moments. Other than that, it's a delightful record. Just needs the 'programme CD to miss track' option to be taken.

Steve Henderson

**CD RE-ISSUES & COLLECTIONS**



**JACKSON BROWNE Solo Acoustic, Volume 1 (Inside Recordings/EMI CDANGE01)**



Anyone lucky enough to see one of Jackson Browne's acoustic shows last year would have seen an array of guitars sat behind him. All suitably tuned to avoid him having to tune the guitar to the song and, hence, select what he played in any sequence he chose. For the show I saw, it took until the second half for this format to come alive but come alive in spectacular manner it did.

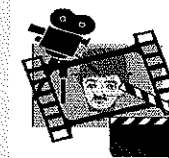
With the release of this record, it would appear that Jackson was pleased with the results too.

Those of you sniffily wondering whether a rock musician has slipped through the editorial nets will find a songwriter out of the top drawer. With acoustic and piano to hand, he is from a class of artist that seems pretty thin on the ground these days. The record comes in at over an hour with twenty live tracks including Browne classics like 'Fountain Of Sorrow', 'Your Bright Baby Blues', 'Lives In The Balance', 'The Pretender' and, the regularly covered, 'Take It Easy' made famous by The Eagles. For those sat smugly thinking they have his best already on the CD shelves, be aware that the unreleased 'The Birds Of St Marks' makes a debut appearance here. For those of you out there who are unfamiliar with his material - shame on you - he lyrically falls between romance and politics. Though some of you may lean towards one or the other, rest assured that this is just wall-to-wall quality in a format that any person of taste would appreciate.

Steve Henderson

(Ed:- Less CD reviews this month so now is your chance to rectify this by reviewing your favourite CD or letting me know on four.fools@virgin.net if you would be interested in reviewing CD's I have recently received [you get to keep them!])

**NEWSREEL**



**BRIDGEWATER FEATURES MAJOR PERFORMERS**

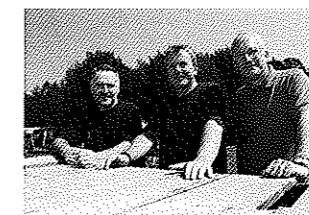
Manchester's Bridgewater Hall has a typically eclectic season between now and May, which welcomes some of the world's best performers to the city in a programme of concerts that has something for every musical taste.

We welcome back to The Bridgewater Hall American singer songwriter and folk's shining star Joan Baez (Monday 13 March). One of Ireland's most important and influential artists Christy Moore plays two dates supported by Declan Sinnott (Thursday 13 & Friday 14 April). Also appearing during the spring season is Billy Bragg, supported by Seth Lakeman (Friday 28 April).

Legendary American country star Don Williams makes his last visit to the UK for his farewell tour stopping off at The Bridgewater Hall (Thursday 11 May) and one of the most well known and revered African music acts Ladysmith Black Mambazo returns to the Hall to perform their captivating Zulu harmonies in what will surely be a sold out concert (Tuesday 16 May).

For further information and to book tickets visit [www.bridgewater-hall.co.uk](http://www.bridgewater-hall.co.uk) or call the Box Office on: 0161 907 9000.

**COOPE BOYES & SIMPSON NEWS**



We spent quite a bit of time in the studio towards the end of last year and now the results are starting to become available.

In Spring we hope to be launching a live album of Private Peaceful, the performance that brings together Michael Morpurgo's readings of his

award-winning book and Coope Boyes & Simpson's songs and music. Keep an eye on the website for further news about this and details of the live performances in Lincolnshire and at Hay-on-Wye Literature Festival.

A small number of copies of the English version of Seeds of Peace: Passchendaele Suite II, the epic double album of Peace Concerts Passendale's Tenth Anniversary performance, has now arrived. Combining songs and music specially composed for Peace Concerts with older traditional and existing material, it's a work of rare breadth and scale - and a fitting tribute to the extraordinary vision that underlies Peace Concerts Passendale. Please let us know if you'd like more information about this

In early December, BBC Radio 2's Mike Harding Show featured new recordings of tracks from The Beatles' Rubber Soul, including Coope Boyes & Simpson's version of the George Harrison song, 'Think for Yourself'. Following numerous requests, this it's hoped to release the songs as a CD in the near future.

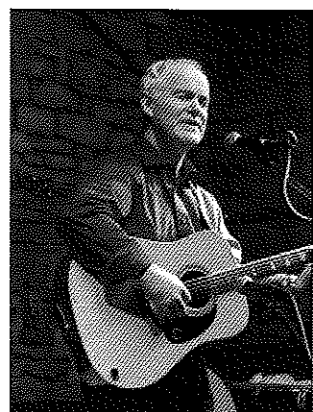
We'll put a note on 'Latest News' on our website as soon as we have more information about this.

We've got quite a few special concerts lined up through the year. In March, we're at Worden Arts Centre for a night with Mr Kite - it's a lovely venue, which has the added advantage of raising money for charity with each performance, and you get to hear Rachel Unthank too! In June, we're at Chelsea Festival with a specially devised programme of "Soldiers Songs" and the same weekend will be including some of the songs from Where You Belong, the song cycle written about the past, present and future of the people of Belper in a concert at Belper Folk Moot. We're also working with Broadstairs Folk Week, Sedbergh Book Town Festival and the Victor Hugo Festival in Guernsey on a range of projects and will pass on news about these as they develop.

Finally - what will always be a highlight of our year - the unique experience that is Blue Murder is back in action this summer. We're already confirmed for a concert at Sidmouth, a first appearance at Towersey and a trip to Brosella Folk and Jazz Festival in Brussels (where the band first appeared in 1988, trying out the sound system that Prince was due to use on his European tour). It's Brosella's Thirtieth Birthday this year, so we're looking forward to a double celebration there and taking part in some great singing in rare company here.

Full concert and event details on  
www.coopeboyesandsimpson.co.uk

## TWICE AROUND THE HOUSES...AND BACK



Jonathan Kelly was a very famous and very popular artist on the folk circuit in the late sixties and early seventies, although not a traditional folk singer he is in a similar category to Cat Stevens and made a great impact on the folk circuit. Jonathan released five successful albums with his most famous being "Twice Around The Houses". This album (re-released about 4 years ago on CD) contains his most remembered song, the wonderful "Ballad Of Cursed Anna"

Jonathan drifted from the folk scene and music towards the end of the 1970s but the good news is that he has just returned to the concert stage after nearly a 30-year absence. He performed at two highly successful concerts - both were sell-outs within a few days.

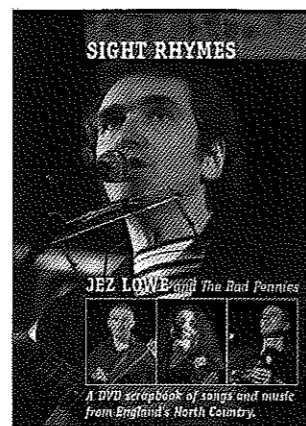
Due to the huge success of these concerts Jonathan is exploring the possibilities of performing at venues throughout the country. If you are interested in booking Jonathan, then please contact Gerald Sables by email at gsables@hotmail.com

You can find more information about Jonathan's recent concerts at his website www.jonathankelly.co.uk

## LOWE RELEASES DVD AND LANDS MAMMOTH TRIP

Looks like a busy year for Jez and the Band that will take him right up to the "Around the World in 40 Days" tour for the whole band, which started in early February. This mammoth trip will

take them to gigs across the USA, on to New Zealand, and then ending up in Australia, in time for their summer festival season.



Meanwhile Jez thanks everyone who has sent congratulations on the recent release of the SIGHT RHYMES DVD, which made it out in time for Christmas in the UK.

SIGHT RHYMES includes around a dozen "live" performances by Jez and the band, from a variety of sources, including the Roslin Chapel show earlier in 2005. There are also a bunch of featurettes, spotlighting the recording of Honesty Box and Doolally, film of the group at home in North East England and on tour abroad, archive footage of

the history of the group, plus some solo performances by Jez, as well as a narrative by him throughout. Songs include Sugar Water Sunday, Old Bones, The Bergen, Doninni Doolally, Cursed Be The Caller, Dover Delaware, Greek Lightning, Regina Inside, You And Your Golden Vanity, Propping, and more. It's a unique glimpse into the world of Jez Lowe, his songs, and how they came to be.

SIGHT RHYMES is priced £11 including standard postage delivery. You can buy online at www.jezlowe.com/cd.html or by sending a cheque to Lowe Life Music, PO Box 25, Horden, Peterlee, Co Durham SR83YZ. All enquiries to the Lowe Life Office 01423 339168.

Tantobie Records are still in a spin, following Jez's placing in several end-of-year "best of the bunch" lists, notably on W-UMB, Boston Folk Radio's listener's poll, and on Canada's Galaxie Satellite Radio's 2005 "most played" list - in both cases, The Bad Pennies were among a very few UK acts to feature on these lists, alongside the likes of Richard Thompson, Kate Rusby and (curiously) The Beatles!

Jez has come up with "around twenty" new songs for the BBC Radio series, THE RADIO BALLADS, that started in late February and he's one of several prominent UK writers involved in this project. Watch out for some of the new songs being included at "live" shows in the coming months.

Meanwhile, both Jez and Kate Bramley are continuing their involvement with the internet station Radio Britfolk, which you can hear at any time around the world at www.radiobritfolk.co.uk. Kate has a regular weekly show at the moment, and Jez's has been working on The Alex Glasgow Story - a look at the life and music of one of North East England's foremost writers, composers and dramatists, who's songs are very much part of the folk tradition in that part of the world. Radio Britfolk has loads of great stuff that is worth checking out.

On 4 MAY Jez and the Band appear at South Lakes Music promotions, Ulverston Sports Club, Priory Road, Ulverston. All correspondence is to South Lakes Music Promotions, PO Box 69, Ulverston, LA12 7WZ. Contact number is 07743 555227

Visit www.jezlowe.com for regular updates background information, and mail-order details for CDs, books, and the new DVD.

You can also contact Jez and the band, and the Tantobie/Lowe Life Music office by email from that site.



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## CRUEL SISTER WINS MOJO FOLK ALBUM OF THE YEAR!



In its end-of-year polls, MOJO Magazine made the debut album by Rachel Unthank & The Winterset Number One in its Top Ten Folk Albums of the Year. Fending off competition from the likes of Eliza Carthy, Seth Lakeman, Spiers and Bowden, Chris Wood and Kate Rusby, the top spot was awarded after Colin

Irwin's four-star review back in June 2005, describing Cruel Sister as "joyous...refreshingly forthright and in yer face".

Following the huge success of debut album Cruel Sister, Rachel Unthank & The Winterset turned their acclaim into bums on seats, with a major 16-date UK tour in February. The tour was hugely ambitious for a band that had played together only once this time last year. And what a year it has been. The release of Cruel Sister prompted tips for Folk Album of the Year from BBC Radio 2's Bob Harris, 4 star MOJO Magazine reviews, praise from Kate Rusby, airplay from Verity Sharp, Bob Harris, Andy Kershaw and Mike Harding, a summer of electrifying festival performances and a fRoots magazine bracketing Rachel Unthank with Martins Simpson and Carthy, and Chris Wood as representing "a new era of substance over style as the story of a songs reigns once more in a stripped-down fashion that perhaps is truer to the spirit of the source singers of old" Colin Irwin, fRoots. fRoots also ran a full-page article the following month, and described Cruel Sister as "simply gripping".

Singing in their own lilting Geordie accents, and lost in the stories of the songs they sing, sisters Rachel and Becky Unthank are servants of the traditions they keep alive; belonging to a rare breed of selfless performer - those who perform to let tradition breath through them.

For more information visit [www.rachelunthank.com](http://www.rachelunthank.com)

## MOORLAND FOLK



Moorland Folk are Dave Higginson (Lead Vocals, Guitar), Des Powell (Bass, Vocals), and Dylan Owen (Lead Guitar, Vocals, Banjo) Moorland Folk play purely for fun, and it shows! Great songs and stories, catchy rhythms, spine tingling harmonies, brilliant lead guitar and choruses you can't fail to join in with. All with that unique

Moorland Folk sound. They thrive on the highs of a good gig and enjoy live music in the raw, unpredictable and impromptu. They say they are more into the relaxation and "therapy" of sharing a fine song, than into musical correctness, and they don't take themselves too seriously

For further details visit [www.moorlandfolk.btinternet.co.uk](http://www.moorlandfolk.btinternet.co.uk)

## ANDI NEATE

Since her debut at the Mean Fiddler in London nearly 17 years ago, Andi has been described as having the subtlety of Suzanne Vega and Ani DiFranco's stage presence, together with her own distinctive vocal style. This year saw the release of her third solo album "Paper Animals", which while retaining her unique

charm and powerful melodies, promises to show a whole new dimension to Andi's song writing.



Over the last couple of years, Andi has played memorable sets at Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club (London), The Spiegel Tent (Edinburgh Fringe) and Glastonbury Festival, supporting both Stephen Frost (whose line is it anyway) and Hazel O Connor. She has also appeared at the Ullapool guitar Festival supporting John Renbourn, Isaac Guillary and Clive Carrol, supported Wolfstone at the Eden Court Theatre (Inverness), Horse MacDonald at Celtic Connections and Grammy Nominee Eliza Gilkyson. In the

studio Andi has recorded with Irelands Mickey Harte for his number one selling album, and with The Bhundu Boys on a soon to be released CD.

As well as her own solo career, Andi has played fiddle with Edinburgh band Salsa Celtica, appearing at events including The Cork Jazz Festival, The Tbilisi Arts Festival (Georgian Republic), Edinburgh's Millennium Hogmanay Celebrations and the opening of the Royal Museum of Scotland. She also has worked on a number of different Theatre productions including The Edinburgh Lyceum's "Comedy of Errors", Stella Quine's controversial production of "The Hang-mans reel", and Donna Rutherford's internationally acclaimed piece "The Whole Truth Nothing but The Truth", which was performed, among other venues, at the Royal Court Theatre in London.

Last year held many exciting new adventures for Andi. As well as her annual visit to Glastonbury Festival, and reappearance at the vibrant and expanding fourth Prague Fringe Festival, Andi headed over to the Falkland Islands for her first performance in the Southern Hemisphere. In July, she flew to Italy to perform at the Kals'art Arts Festival, Palermo, Sicily, and October saw her arrival in Canada for a tour of Ontario.

For more information visit [www.andineate.co.uk](http://www.andineate.co.uk) or email [andineate@yahoo.com](mailto:andineate@yahoo.com)

## SHARKEY ALLAYS FEARS OVER LICENSING ACT

Feargal Sharkey, Chair of the Live Music Forum set delegates' minds at rest over the new Licensing Act at The Association of Festival Organisers (AFO) Conference (11-13 November). Settled in a comfortable armchair Mr Sharkey was interviewed by Steve Heap, Director of FolkArts England, on the impact of The Licensing Act on live music. Using personal accounts and answering questions from the floor Feargal took away a great deal of the concern previously felt by festival organisers. He said he was certain that the Act had every opportunity to improve live music and especially at festivals but it would need some serious monitoring.

Over 220 delegates from 70 folk, roots, traditional music and community festivals, 57 organisations plus 10 freelance individuals gathered at the Park Inn, Telford for the biggest Annual AFO Conference to date. Around 30 different topics and issues were dealt with over the weekend including Funding Advice, Insurance, Marketing, Workshops at Festivals, Technical and Welfare Needs, Stewarding, Ticketing plus 1:2:1s and a soapbox session for delegates to raise any

burning issues.

David Oliver, Chair of FolkArts England and Folkworks Programme Leader (Learning and Participation) at The Sage Gateshead opened the Conference with a rousing keynote speech titled 'Getting People Participating' on the importance of involving everyone in actively learning folk music and dance. Other highlights included Eugene Carr from Patron Technology (USA) who gave an informative and exciting presentation on the development of eMarketing and Julia Payne, from The Hub, who demystified the world of audience development.

On Saturday night delegates had the choice of two Showcase Concerts. The AFO Showcase featured performances from Julie Fowlis, The Coal Porters, Johnny Dickinson, James Raynard and BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Awards winner 2005 Lauren MacColl. The FolkWISE Showcase ran simultaneously and had a line-up of performers including Bill Caddick, Eddie Walker and Pete Coe who kept the audience entertained throughout the night.

The Trade and Agents Market was open for business all weekend with 14 agents representing folk, roots and traditional music artists and 9 trade stands selling everything from tickets and wristbands to Indian Cuisine.

On Friday 11 November, before the Conference, over 20 delegates came along early and spent the day on a FolkArts England Training Day on Event Stewarding led by Sue Torres from Wicked Events. They covered Basic Crowd Management, Communications, Health and Safety, Stewards Welfare and more in an intensive day with presentations and practical exercises.

Both the Conference and Training Day were subsidised by FolkArts England thanks to Arts Council England funding. Plans for next year's Conference (10-12 November 2006) are already underway. This Conference, described by Alan James, Head of Contemporary Music, Arts Council England as "the Conference choice of our sector" is growing every year and speakers, topics and festival issues to be discussed are already being gathered.

For more information about FolkArts England and future conference and events visit [www.folkarts-england.org](http://www.folkarts-england.org) or call 01629 827014.

## LES BARKER'S WELSH MUTATIONS



Les Barker's latest newsletter reveals that January was a productive month. "I've finished writing the next book, and I'm about to begin several days of printing and stapling. Those of you on the book list should get your copy shortly. We now have 11 tracks in for the next serious album, though one or two still need a little more work. Hopefully that will be ready for pressing by the end of this month and available a month later."

Les has just written his first Welsh poem, though he "needed plenty of help from the dictionary and I'm not entirely sure I've got the grammar right. They seem to keep sticking superfluous pronouns in from time to time and I'm not entirely sure when I need to do it. And mutation's always a problem: Words change their initial letter in several different ways for a lot of different reasons. There's a lot of thinking involved, and when you get to my age, thinking and speaking simultaneously is out of the

question. I'm probably a suitable candidate for president of the United States."

Forthcoming dates in and around the region include:

MARCH 30 Boar Hound, Macclesfield, 01625 614791; APRIL 14 Boar's Head, Middlewich, 01606 834726; 15 Folk Festival, Poynton, (Mrs Ackroyd Band) 01625 430149; JUNE 7 Clarence, Blackpool, 01772 683027; 10 Festival of the Peak, Carsington, 01773 853428; 24 Belper Folk Festival (Mrs Ackroyd Band), 01773 829016; 28 Corks Wine Bar, Otley, 01943 467189; JULY 1 Railway Hotel, Heatley, 07919 270916; SEPTEMBER 2/3 Fylde Festival (solo and with Mrs Ackroyd Band) 01253 872317 [www.fylde-folk-festival.com](http://www.fylde-folk-festival.com)



## ANDERSON JOINS SELECT BAND

At the recent Annual General Meeting of the English Folk Dance and Song Society (EFDSS), Alistair Anderson was awarded the Society's Gold Badge, joining a select band of concertina player recipients including John Kirkpatrick and William Kimber.

## RADIO BRITFOLK APPEALS

[www.radiobritfolk.co.uk](http://www.radiobritfolk.co.uk)



Radio Britfolk is a new and exciting web-based radio project developed by a group of professional folk musicians; it aims to become a world-wide shop window for folk music from the UK and Ireland.

Wherever you are in the world you can tune into Radio Britfolk via the Internet and find programmes offering a balance

of traditional and new music from Wales, Ireland, Scotland, and England with all genres and styles of folk music represented. Radio Britfolk is fully licensed by PPL and PRS and backed by over one hundred and sixty professional folk musicians who have signed up to support the project.

Amongst the performers contributing programmes are Jez Lowe, Kate Bramley, Jacey Bedford, Tim Moon, Ben Sands, Mick Tams, Henry Ayrton, Genevieve Tudor, Sylvia Needham, Keith Kendrick, and Vicki Swan.

Imagine an on-line folk festival with main stage shows, themed shows and documentaries often with a strong local slant, programmes showcasing lesser known music and artists, plus workshops and tutorials. Each programme is supported by web-based content so you can find links to artists, music instrument makers and record companies.

Potential programme makers are encouraged to submit proposals for shows to the Radio Britfolk executive programming team. The details of how to submit a programme idea are all in the FAQ section on the website. Many programmes are presented by well-known musicians and established broadcasters; interested parties with a good idea are encouraged to get involved subject of course to the

usual quality controls that are in place for all Radio Britfolk programming.

Radio Britfolk started broadcasting on July 1st 2005 presenting a programme of fully licensed folk shows supported by additional web content. The station is now receiving five hundred hits per day with upwards of seven thousand people having logged in to listen to the 'Billboard' the stations only paid for programming output. Here you can listen to three hours of back-to-back tracks submitted by artists and record companies.

Behind the front page of available programmes the listener will find a message board and web pages devoted to news, reviews, links and much more. Listening to the front page of programmes is completely free - and new programmes appear on a weekly basis.

Radio Britfolk is a volunteer not-for-profit project co-ordinated by professional musicians. Membership is low-cost and subscribers cannot only listen to last week's programme schedule but they can also select from an ever-expanding array of archive programmes.

Dave Webber & Anni Fentiman have highlighted how Radio Britfolk needs funds to cover the licences required to make it legal, so they are asking folk music enthusiasts to consider taking out membership for this worth project (for as little as £2 a month).

Dave and Anni say "We hope you will consider supporting Radio Britfolk and if any of you have an urge to make a radio programme, why don't you make one for Radio Britfolk, the website gives details of how you go about it." You can listen to Radio Britfolk at [www.radiobritfolkhome.co.uk](http://www.radiobritfolkhome.co.uk) and for information about membership and becoming a friend visit [www.radiobritfolkhome.co.uk/join.aspx](http://www.radiobritfolkhome.co.uk/join.aspx)

## FOOTSTOMPIN NEWS

**New CDs at Foot Stompin' Celtic Music (10% discount on all sales after first purchase.)**

Karine Polwart - The Pulling Through EP 2005: Brand new five track CD featuring multi award-winning composer and singer Karine Polwart. It's no surprise that Karine's edgy songwriting in Scots and English has won her acclaim on the UK folk-roots scene. Thoughtful and touching music and a tantalising taster for her next release due in the New Year. £5.39 (£5.99 for first time customers)

Orkneytwister - Saltfishforty: The 'salty' boys are back with another exciting album of traditional and original music from Orkney. More energy-packed music featuring fiddle, cello, mandola, and guitar combined with gutsy vocals, which the lads - Douglas Montgomery and Brian Cromarty - performed and recorded in halls, sheds and bedrooms around Orkney! A great follow-up to their debut Goose Music £11.25 (£12.50 for first time customers)

Tribute - Marie Fielding (fiddle), Owen Fielding (piano) and Duncan Black (accordion) are a trio of excellent musicians and their timing and execution on this lilting album is quite simply brilliant! You will hear tunes old and new on this album and tributes to many people including: Scott Skinner, Jim Johnstone, Jimmy Blue, John Gibson, Willie Hunter, Ronnie Cooper, The Hamefarers, Ian Powrie, Manus McGuire and Rabbe Burns." £11.69 (£12.99 for first time customers)

Sirius - Aidan O'Rourke: A lovely full -sounding album of great

themes and gorgeous playing featuring Blazin' Fiddles' own Aidan O'Rourke with an all-star guest list which includes fiddlers Charlie McKerron, Harald Haugaard and Gordon Gunn, Phil Bancroft and Fraser Fifield on saxophones. Celtic Connections Festival, as part of their New Voices series, originally commissioned this music. £11.25 (£12.50 for first time customers)

Inside the Thunder - Dougie MacLean: One of Scotland's most gifted and successful contemporary singer-songwriters, his innovative work has created a modern interpretation of this music but its fundamental value remains rooted in the ancient Scots culture. This release features a selection of brand new songs written by Dougie. £12.59 (£13.99 for first time customers)

Over The Waves To Shetland - Da Fustra: Shetland's favourite dance band and they are back with another fine offering which will have you dancin' your socks off! 20 tracks including the Shetland Eightsome Reel! £11.25 (£12.50 for first time customers)

Travellers' Tales (Volumes 1 & 2): Songs, stories and ballads from Scottish travellers. The contribution of Scots travellers to our oral culture cannot be overstated. As carriers, creators and re-creators this has been widely acknowledged, documented and demonstrated. These outstanding "field" recordings illustrate this fact to a remarkable degree. Duncan Williamson and Stanley Robertson are masters of their art and these recordings do them and their material full justice. Each CD is £11.69 (£12.99 for first time customers)

**Books (10% discount on all sales after first purchase.)**

Tom Anderson Collection (Volumes 1 & 2): Tom Anderson was a Shetlander through and through, born in 1910 on a croft at Eshaness in the north of Mainland. He learned to play the fiddle from his grandfather; and although he became an insurance agent by profession, his life - his real life - was in the conservation of traditional Shetland fiddle - playing and passing it on to younger generations. His career as a musical mentor really took off when he retired in the early 1970s and began teaching traditional fiddle playing in local schools. Today, hundreds of pupils all over Shetland have studied it in school as a direct result of his efforts. Volume 1 (with a foreword by Magnus Magnusson) has 60 compositions including slow airs, marches, hornpipes, reels, waltzes, strathspeys and jigs. Bowings are provided for all the tunes and all the melodies come with chord symbols appropriate for piano, accordion, or fretted stringed instruments. Volume 2 (foreword by Aly Bain) contains a total of 70 compositions and, as in Vol 1, bowings and chord symbols are provided for all the tunes. The bowings are based for the most part on Tom Anderson's own manuscript instructions. Each volume £10.79 (£11.99 for first time customers)

Corrina Hewat Scottish Harp (book & CD): Corrina is one of the leading players of the Scottish harp today and tours and teaches worldwide. This book and CD with arrangements of Scottish tunes and her own compositions reflect influences from her traditional and jazz music scenes. A lively CD is included with the book to help learn the tunes. Corrina has recorded a highly acclaimed solo CD My Favourite Place and plays with the band Bachue, and is a Musical Director of Scottish 'big band' The Unusual Suspects £12.59 (£13.99 for first time customers)

Dash o Doric - One for the Road: Hilarious stuff. Norman Harper and Robbie Shepherd are back with a third collection of stories which show the wit and wisdom of North-East Scotland

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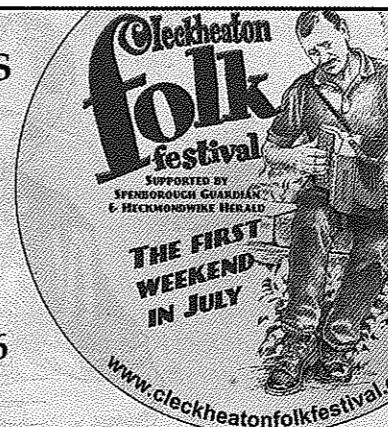
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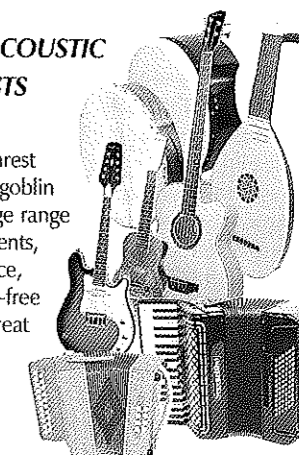
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at their finest. Consider this example about the Banffshire congregation who welcomed a new English member and were horrified to discover that at the end of every hymn or prayer the newcomer would cry "Praise the Lord and Hallelujah!" The beadle scurried up to the new man's pew and hissed "Jist behave yersel. We dinna praise the Lord here".

Come, Gie's A Sang: 73 traditional unaccompanied songs. The songs chosen for this collection include classic ballads, broadside ballads, music hall songs, bothy ballads, love songs, laments and political songs. The words and melodies have been transcribed from the performances of seventy-three different singers, and reflect in the texts and the musical settings, the regional and individual variations of their pronunciation and singing styles. The book is rounded off with biographical information on the singers, and notes on the songs. £11.69 (£12.99 for first time customers)

The Caledonian Companion (book and CD): Collection of Scottish Fiddle Music and Guide to its Performance by Alastair J. Hardie. This edition includes an accompanying CD The Fiddler's Companion.

The Caledonian Companion presents a collection of Scottish Fiddle Music, much of which is not otherwise currently available in a modern edition, with a significant proportion being published here for the first time. It also sets out to elucidate a range of Scottish fiddle techniques: bowing, fingering, phrasing, ornamentation, etc., essential to the idiomatic performance of the style. With many illuminating and entertaining historical notes The Caledonian Companion will appeal to the solo fiddler, the folk enthusiast and the classical violinist intent on broadening his/her musical horizons. £22.50 (£25.00 for first time customers).

Let's Have a Ceilidh: A pocket-sized guide to the 20 most popular Scottish dances, which you might expect to encounter at a ceilidh. The music in the appendix is specially chosen to highlight the steps and is ideal for musicians learning to play for these dances. The celebrated Radio Scotland broadcaster Robbie Shepherd lends his enthusiastic and friendly style to enliven the pages of tuition. He also has added an introduction, which offers a brief and fascinating history of Scottish country and old tyme dancing. Each volume £8.09 (£8.99 for first time customers).

Merlin Music Session Books: A series of Session Books in 4 volumes each containing one hundred great session tunes. Designed especially to make learning and playing easy, the books are spiral-bound and hard-backed in A5 landscape format with one tune per page. Compiled and arranged for all melody instruments with accompaniment chords. Each volume £9.89 (£10.99 for first time customers).

#### Hall of Fame Hero: Flora MacNeil MBE



Unanimously ranked among the finest singers ever to emerge from Scotland, Flora MacNeil MBE has been a vital force throughout the revival of Gaelic music that began after World War II, and continues to thrive today. Heiress to a vast treasure-trove of ancient ballads and work-songs preserved through generations of her family, she spearheaded the rescue of Gaelic singing from the Victorianised, pseudo-classical straitjacket that was threatening

to strangle it, and brought it to the world in all its original, unadorned glory.

Flora was born in 1928 on the island of Barra, one of Gaelic song's most important strongholds. There were singers on either side of her family, but this was a time when the menfolk were often away at sea for long periods, leaving the women to raise the children and tend the croft, singing all the while, to assuage their labours and most of Flora's repertoire was passed on through her mother, Ann Gillies.

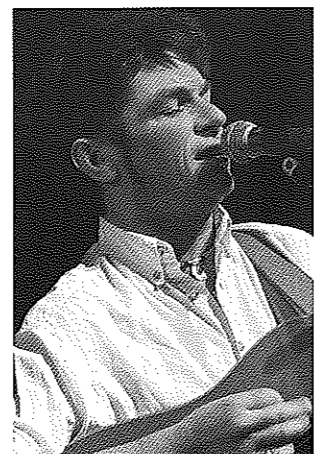
In these pre-television days (Flora's family didn't even have a radio until the 1950s), Ceilidhs with the neighbours were a regular occurrence in the MacNeil household, and from earliest childhood she remembers 'soaking up' literally hundreds of songs, as if by osmosis. Clearly, the music was in her blood: by age four, famously, she was already tackling the sophisticated poetry of 'Mo Run Geal Og' (My Fair Young Love), one of the greatest of the 'Orain Mor', or 'big ballads'.

Following in the footsteps of countless young islanders before her, Flora left her beloved Barra in 1948 to find work in Edinburgh. The wealth of songs carried in her head soon began to find a public platform in the burgeoning round of Ceilidhs and concerts that marked the first stirrings of the Scottish folk revival. These brought her to the attention of Hamish Henderson, who recorded her singing as part of his landmark 1950s collecting project with Alan Lomax. He also invited her to perform at the inaugural Edinburgh People's Ceilidh in 1951, an event whose seismic repercussions, in bringing live, authentic, traditional Scottish music to an international audience, are still being felt today.

Since then, Flora has sung on many of Europe and America's most illustrious stages, mesmerising audiences everywhere with the strength and sweetness of her voice, her profound interpretative empathy, and her magically subtle handling of ornamentation. She has also recorded two classic albums, *Croabh nan Ubhal* in 1976 (reissued in 1993) and *Orain Flora* in 2000. One of the last true carriers of a living oral tradition, she has not only inspired growing numbers of talented successors. Every contemporary Gaelic singer from Karen Matheson to Julie Fowlis cites her as a formative influence that helped to shape the very musical context in which their careers have flourished

Foot Stompin' Celtic Music. Read the news and reviews. Discuss the articles and CDs. Hear the Scottish music from Scotland's bright stars at [www.footstompin.com](http://www.footstompin.com)

#### NEW DOM DUFF CD AVAILABLE!



Native Breton speaker, Dom Duff is from Pagan county (Bro Bagan), a little place on the Northwest coast of Brittany. His first release *Butter street* was awarded "best Breton CD 2004" and his new CD; "Lagan" was also nominated for "best CD 2005 contest".

"Lagan" features 12 great new songs in Breton, and some fantastic guests - including Welsh based singer, Julie Murphy, Nolwenn Korbel (Breton female singer), Joyce Bacon and Estonian Sille Ilves on vocals, the amazing Nicola Hayes

(Melbourne fiddle player), and Dominique Braud (fretless bass). You can listen to two samples at [www.domduff.com](http://www.domduff.com) where you can also buy the CD online.

#### FOLKING DOT COM TEAMS UP WITH GOOGLE

[www.folking.com](http://www.folking.com) has now teamed up with Google to bring you a truly comprehensive Folk and acoustic music search engine. The service now lets you to either search the whole of [folking.com](http://folking.com) for your favourite music related subject or widen the search field (which includes us as well) to the whole of Google. The search bar is now an integral part of the Folking front page so why not set [folking.com](http://folking.com) as your favourite or home page and use it as your main search engine.

Secondly we have also created a rotating banner advertising system so if you're a promoter, artist or venue and looking to widen the coverage of your festival, event or your music we can let the thousands of people that visit the site each week know about what you are up to. Drop me a reply to this email if you are interested in our advertising rates. We can create a banner for you or modify an existing one. Advertisers will get their banner featured on every page of our website (excludes the message forum).

Recent visitors to the site will also note that the format has changed. All our latest news can now be found on our message forum. This now means that we can provide details of competitions, recommended events and features (including new MP3 and album releases and video clips) far quicker than we have been able to in the past.

Darren... the folkmaster@folking.com and the Folking Team

#### NORTH SEA GAS



Scotland's North Sea Gas have been performing for 25 years, from arts centres to oil rigs, concerts to clubs, festivals to theatres. They have played to audiences all over Great Britain, Europe, Scandinavia, and North America. With a combination of

guitar, mandolin, bodhran, banjo, whistle, fiddle and bouzouki, complementing strong vocal harmonies and a sure, light and entertaining touch in introducing songs and tunes, an evening of sheer pleasure in good music well sung and played is always guaranteed.

With 2005 marking the 25th anniversary of the band, their new CD "Lochanside" was released in May and a compilation CD, encompassing the music of the past 25 years, was also expected out later in the year. The band is led by founder Dave Giffillan on lead vocals, guitar and banjo, well-known for his tongue-in-cheek humour. Ronnie MacDonald, "Mac", on lead and harmony vocals, guitar and bouzouki is joined by newest member Tim O'Leary on fiddle, whistle and vocals. Together, they will be pleased to entertain you with poignant or rousing songs and great instrumentals.

North Sea Gas is generally available in the UK and Ireland when not touring abroad :email [jb@stoneypport.demon.co.uk](mailto:jb@stoneypport.demon.co.uk) or [heather@stoneypport.com](mailto:heather@stoneypport.com); website: [www.stoneypport.demon.co.uk](http://www.stoneypport.demon.co.uk) Tel 0131-208 0003

You can also visit [www.northseagas.co.uk](http://www.northseagas.co.uk) for more information about the band.

#### FACELESSCO

Just to remind you about our interactive street walkabouts and crowd gathering shows for your town events next year! Let our Green Man join you in your celebrations of spring, our ghostly and enchanting Short Ships entertain the crowds at your maritime festivals, our Bureaucrats bring order and disorder to your event!

Book early! More details of these, and our other acts, on our website, [www.facelessco.com](http://www.facelessco.com) or call Hayli Clifton on 01924 215790

#### HENNESSY INSPIRED NO 1 'FOLK' SINGLE

Folk influenced duo, Nizlopi's pre Christmas No1 song 'JCB' includes the line "Singing 'Don't Forget Your Shovel If You Want To Go To Work'". This line is taken directly from Christie Hennessy's song 'Don't Forget Your Shovel', a song widely regarded as Ireland's alternative national anthem.

Few people realise that Hennessy wrote the song in response to Enoch Powell's outburst in the early 70's. Powell, a UK Conservative Minister at the time, advocated giving money to the Africans to go back to Africa, and a shovel to the Irish to dig their way back to Ireland. Christie wrote the song as a protest.

Even Christy Moore missed the significance when he first recorded the song. Moore admits today the song helped launch his career. Moore mistakenly recorded "Don't Forget Your Shovel" as the final line in the song instead of "Don't Get Yourself A Shovel" (if you don't want to go back).



Coincidentally, like Luke from Nizlopi, Christie Hennessy is also severely dyslexic. He 'writes' his songs by singing ideas onto cassette tapes then gradually pieces them together. Christie was delighted to sanction the use of the line when Luke first approached him.

Christie released his new album 'Stories For Sale' in Ireland this autumn coinciding with a two month Ireland wide tour that finished in his hometown of Tralee on 29th December. The album

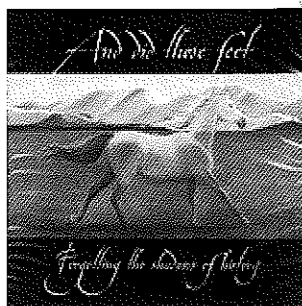
will be released in the UK in March 2006 on independent label MVine.

Some Christie Hennessy facts

- Christie is unable to read or write, yet has a house full of books;
- Christie has recorded five double and triple platinum albums;
- John Peel was an early fan;
- Christy Moore, Frances Black and Maire Brennan from Clannad achieved their first no 1 singles covering Hennessy's songs;
- Hennessy wrote 'All the lies that you told me', a favourite with many artists on the folk circuit; and
- Stories for Sale is Christie's 8th album

Artist Website: [www.christiehennessy.com](http://www.christiehennessy.com)

## AND DID THOSE FEET



Forgetting the Shadows of History is the third CD to be released by the group 'And Did Those Feet'. The name And Did Those Feet is taken from 'And Did Those Feet In Ancient Times', better known as the words to Jerusalem by William Blake.

The nucleus of the group comprises founder and composer Richard Ellin. The principle

vocalist is Ina Williams who possesses one of the finest voices to be found in Wales. Cecilia Jones completes the trio providing solo performances and vocal accompaniment to complement Ina's voice perfectly, the two beautifully layered and at times melding into one.

The music of And Did Those Feet moves between spiritual, pastoral, contemporary, light classical, Welsh language and there's poetry too. There is no mistaking that the music here comes from England's green and pleasant land, but most of all the album brings to the listener the beauty of the human voice in all its glory.

The charm of And Did Those Feet is that it has always been able to adapt to its performance surroundings by adding musicians and vocalists to suit the venue or occasion. This flexible use of personnel, instruments and vocalists is well displayed in their previous albums, "Spirit of the Age" and the critically acclaimed "Hymn for a Glad Tomorrow". For further information visit [www.terranovamusic.com](http://www.terranovamusic.com)

## SULTANS OF SQUEEZE



Sultans of Squeeze (John Kirkpatrick and Chris Parkinson) have been nominated for best duo in the Radio 2 folk awards 2006.

John Kirkpatrick has been at the very forefront of innovative folk in Britain since the late 1960s, and has played with, among others, the Albion Band, The Albion Country Band, Steeleye Span, The Richard Thompson Band, Brass Monkey, and Band Of Hope, as well as establishing himself as a brilliant solo act. It is a pedigree second to none.

Whatever the musical context, John has gained wide acclaim not only for his virtuosity and musicianship, but also for the essentially English quality of the sound that characterises all his work. 'Concertina & Squeezebox' magazine in the USA has said of John that he "has certainly had more influence upon English diatonic reed playing than anyone of his generation."

Chris Parkinson has played music since the age of five, starting with the harmonica, and moving on to piano, guitar, concertina, tin whistle, melodeon, piano accordion and keyboards, and even a little time playing the fiddle. He plays traditional folk music of UK, Europe and beyond, and is also no mean hand at blues, rock & roll, and even a bit of jazz.

Chris is also a founder member of the much travelled and highly acclaimed, The House Band. He is in great demand both for live performance and studio session work, and has worked with countless people from the folk scene and beyond; - Martin Carthy, Norma Waterson, Ralph McTell, Mike Harding, and Steve Phillips, the highly regarded blues singer and guitarist, and member of the world-renowned Notting Hillbillies.

If you have already booked them for 2006 then you shall have a fabulous night, if not then get in there quick as dates are going fast! Contact Sue Webster, Speaking Volumes Huntingdon Hall, Crowngate, Worcester, WR1 3LD. Tel: 01905 611323 Fax: 01905 619958; email: [chris@speakingvolumes.co.uk](mailto:chris@speakingvolumes.co.uk)

## CREAM OF MANCHESTER IN CUMBRIA

After the roaring success of 2005's inaugural Irish Music On The Move tour, some of the finest purveyors of Irish traditional music on these shores will again spend a weekend of concerts, workshops, performance and spreading the craic in Cumbria from 3rd - 5th March 2006.

This early St Patrick's Day style treat will take place at a couple of specially selected venues in north and south Cumbria. The Irish traditional group Congress will headline the concerts. The workshops will be provided by members of the band and by the other musicians coming from Manchester. Those not involved in providing workshops or performing in the concerts will probably have a 'fringe' session or two and everyone will get together for a big session after each concert.

There is a large community of amateur and semi-professional musicians in Cumbria with an interest in Irish music and this event will give them the opportunity to improve their skills, listen to the bands and join in with the best of sessions.

Congress itself is made up of some of the finest Irish, and second generation Irish traditional musicians based in the UK. The band comprises Seamus Curley, vocals, guitar, mandola, Mat Walklate flute, harmonica, whistle, uilleann pipes and vocals (regarded as one of the top Irish music tutors in the North West of England) Andrew Dinan fiddle (a former all Ireland champion on the instrument) Cormac Byrne bodhran (Cormac is a member of the dynamic young Irish folk act Uisceadhr, winners of BBC's Young Tradition award) Anthony Haller double bass. After the concerts the band will perform informal sessions on all three days.

3rd MARCH Forum 28, Barrow-in-Furness, 28 Duke Street, Barrow-in-Furness, LA14 1HH; Tel 01229 820000; email [forum28@barrowbc.gov.uk](mailto:forum28@barrowbc.gov.uk)

4/5th MARCH Forum 28, Barrow-in-Furness The Village Hall, Lazonby, Penrith, Cumbria CA10 1AQ. Tel. 01768 897 124; email [heaven@agents-uk.com](mailto:heaven@agents-uk.com) Visit [www.heavenentertainment.co.uk](http://www.heavenentertainment.co.uk)

## SWANSON'S WATERSHED

Marsha Swanson is a singer/songwriter from London. With a distinctive English folk-tinged voice and direct delivery, there is a deceptive simplicity to her songs. Her music reflects inspiration from classic singer-songwriters such as Carole King and John Martyn, through to the modern atmospheric soundscapes of Fiona Apple & Beth Orton.

As well as working alongside Steve Sidelnik (drummer/programmer to Madonna) Marsha has also collaborated with

## SKIPTON FOLK CLUB

Swan Inn, Carleton-in-Craven, Near Skipton  
(off A59 from Clitheroe just before Skipton turning)

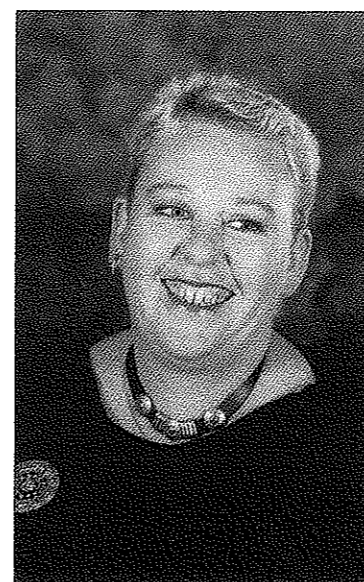
Every Tuesday 8:30

Info./directions: 01535 665889 / 01282 426859  
or visit [www.skiptonfolkclub.co.uk](http://www.skiptonfolkclub.co.uk)

- Feb 28 Allan Taylor
- Mar 14 Copper Kettle - highly recommended
- Mar 28 Jill Fielding Band - a great reputation
- Apr 11 Kath Reade "... a songbird ..."  
(Stirrings Magazine)
- Apr 25 "War of the Roses" - the Pedigree  
Chums' Lancashire & Yorkshire night
- May 2 Ben Needham & Rob Petty - brilliant  
young duo
- May 23 Ian Hill - varied programme  
guaranteed
- Jun 13 "Sing for someone else's supper"  
charity night
- Jun 20 Chris Dinsdale - fine singer with a  
touch of blues

All other Tuesdays - Singers' Nights  
Singers, musicians, poets and all always welcome  
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## Kath Reade Singer / Songwriter



QUARTET



Kath Reade

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LANCASTER EASTER

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Good Friday to Easter Monday

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Shanties and Matters Maritime

Featuring the World's biggest  
gathering of sea song and shanty  
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Incorporating the Glasson Maritime  
Weekend on the Saturday and Sunday

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For further information and to be placed on  
the Festival mailing list contact David Wright,

tel. **01524 582810** or

email: [vsimpkin@lancaster.co.uk](mailto:vsimpkin@lancaster.co.uk)

For accommodation information contact Lancaster  
Tourist Information Centre, tel. 01524 32878

Latest developments and updates at  
[www.shanty.co.uk/lancaster](http://www.shanty.co.uk/lancaster)

**BEWARE THE PRESS GANG!**

Lancaster Easter Maritime Festival

LANCASTER  
CITY COUNCIL  
Preserving City, Coast & Countryside

Kenn Ramm, featuring as a guest vocalist and co-writer on Ramm's "Euphoria Project." Obviously Marsha's abilities are much sought after and in 2005 Marsha made the bold move to be acknowledged as a solo artist.

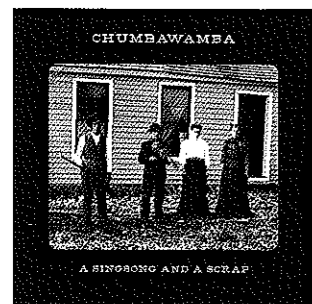


The conception of Marsha's debut album "Watershed", released on 6th March 06 via Proper Distribution, began with an extended development deal with Ruth Rothwell at Universal Publishing. This allowed the time and space for Marsha to nurture her own individual sound and style. During this time whilst working in a rehearsal studio in Shepherds Bush, she met a

group of like-minded musicians who form the current line up both on the album and live.

"Watershed" is available to buy online via [www.marshaswanson.co.uk](http://www.marshaswanson.co.uk) along with her two singles. Marsha Swanson begins a new UK tour on 2 March at The 12 Bar Club in London, followed by numerous dates around the country and live performances for BBC Radio sessions.

#### CHUMBAWAMBA'S 'SINGSONG AND SCRAP'

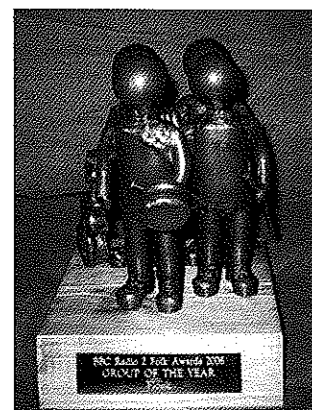


'A Singsong and a Scrap', the new acoustic Chumbawamba album is, for the first time, a collection of songs, pure and simple. Songs with a radical voice, songs with those signature Chumbawamba four-part harmonies and catchy choruses, but songs nevertheless - songs without drum-loops or samples, without backwards cymbals or synth sequencers. Mind you, 'A Singsong and a

Scrap' won't fit too neatly into any categories, since it stands with its eight legs in different camps: traditional English music; 'unplugged' pop; choral secular music; jangly acoustic singalongs... this and that, and that and this.

'A Singsong and a Scrap' is Chumbawamba's first release on the No Masters label and sees them joining northern-based writers and musicians such as Mike Waterson, Coope Boyes & Simpson, The Fraser Sisters and Ray Hearne in No Masters Co-operative. For the latest info on Chumbawamba visit [www.chumba.com](http://www.chumba.com)

#### IT'S NO FLOOK



Flook win Best Group in the BBC Folk Awards. In their 10th Birthday Year, and with new album Haven receiving 5-star reviews.

Having celebrated their tenth anniversary this November with ten special concerts around the British Isles, this four piece group go from strength to strength. Though their first release, Flook! Live! (1997), was already heralded as "the ultimate modern flute album" by The Irish Times, Flook only properly burst onto the international music

scene with the release of their debut studio album, "Flatfish", in 1999. This album introduced master bodhran player John Joe Kelly to Flook's line up of flutists Brian Finnegan and Sarah Allen and guitarist Ed Boyd. Flatfish was hailed as "stunning", "remarkable" and "little short of miraculous", but it was Flook's live performances that really captured the hearts of those



who watched and listened; the rapport between these four musicians, the sheer enjoyment they developed in playing together, was commented on by audiences and critics alike. "Rubai", released in 2002 and nominated for BBC Folk Album of the Year, was universally applauded by both journalists and fellow musicians and cemented Flook's reputation as one of the most exciting and innovative bands to emerge from the English/Irish folk scene. There is no shortage of virtuosity amongst the members of Flook, but the unique impact of this band stems from the wholly intuitive, almost symbiotic, exchange between the various flutes, frets and skins. Having travelled far and wide across the globe, Flook continue to hone their eclectic blend of traditionally rooted tunes with contemporary beats, and their popularity continues to grow.

The flutes of Brian Finnegan and Sarah Allen, the guitar of Ed Boyd and the bodhran of John Joe Kelly weave and spin traditionally rooted tunes into the breathtaking sound of the groundbreaking band Flook. Flook properly burst onto the music scene with the release of their debut studio album "Flatfish" (1999). Accolades followed: "stunning", "remarkable" and "little short of miraculous". Critics remarked upon their exuberance on-stage and the sheer enjoyment they developed in playing together. Their performances have an urgent energy, creating an environment in which the audience is drawn into the here and now of the music. Their latest album, "Rubai"(2002), presents these four sensational musicians at the top of their powers and a band whose collective impact is ever growing.

Flook's new album, Haven, out now "Haven swings with a blazing intensity that captures their kinetic live performances" THE OBSERVER

To book Flook, contact Adrian McNally at RabbleRouser Music, exclusive UK representation. Adrian McNally RabbleRouser Music [adrian@rabblerousermusic.com](mailto:adrian@rabblerousermusic.com) 01434 633311 07714 105091 [www.flook.co.uk](http://www.flook.co.uk)

#### Julie Fowlis and Michael McGoldrick win at BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards



Active are delighted to announce that Julie Fowlis and Michael McGoldrick were both winners at last night's Radio 2 Folk Awards.

Julie Fowlis [www.juliefowlis.com](http://www.juliefowlis.com) scooped the Horizon Award for best newcomer. This latest accolade in what has been an amazing 6 months saw Julie become the first ever Gaelic artist to win a Radio 2 Folk Award.

Julie and her band performed to a packed audience at last night's event which was recorded and will be broadcast this

#### THE SONG WRITING EXPERIENCE OF 2006

30th July to 5th August 2006  
In Northern France

This exclusive songwriting workshop will be run by award winning songwriter and workshop specialist

**STAN GRAHAM**

Explore the art of song writing with a real master of his craft.  
Ten places only available, so book early.  
The course is designed to suit all levels, musical ability is not essential.

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Email: [wyndham.read@ntlworld.com](mailto:wyndham.read@ntlworld.com)  
[maggie@music@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:maggie@music@tiscali.co.uk)  
Visit [www.lajesus.org](http://www.lajesus.org)  
[www.stangraham.co.uk](http://www.stangraham.co.uk)

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Wirral Folk on the Coast Festival 2006

## WIRRAL FOLK ON THE COAST FESTIVAL 2006 4th - 11th June

The second annual Wirral Folk on the Coast Festival is to be held at venues throughout the borough. Guests Invited so far...

Kate Rusby and Guests, The Family Mahone, Eric Bogle, Joe Topping and Joe Wright, The Miz Cameron Band, Fiddlestone, Alison Parker and the Third Man, Reckless Elbow, Uisceadhr featuring Kevin Dempsey, John Downing Bluegrass Band, Cream of the Barley, John O'Connell, Sally Williamson, Phil Chisnall, Eddie Morris, Arthur Marshall and The Lifeboat Band, Elbow Jane, Garva, Tankay, Brass Tacks, Phil McGinity and Bob Fox plus more to be confirmed...

For more information contact Rebecca Bradshaw at Wirral Council on 0151 691 8454 or [rebeccabradshaw@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:rebeccabradshaw@wirral.gov.uk)

**WIRRAL**

[www.visitwirral.com](http://www.visitwirral.com)

eu&merseyside

Wednesday in a specially extended edition of the Mike Harding show. Julie truly is a star of the future and we are absolutely delighted for her. (Mar a tha mo chridhe- Macmeanma records)

Michael McGoldrick [www.verticalrecords.co.uk](http://www.verticalrecords.co.uk) was awarded Musician of the Year. This recognition of his incredible talent was applauded by the British Music Industry. Mike and his band also performed, offering a unique glimpse of his newly released album Wired.

For further information on either of the above or to book them for the summer and autumn seasons (both are scheduling tours this autumn) then please contact [active.events@virgin.net](mailto:active.events@virgin.net)

### TOP LINE ARTISTS ANNOUNCED FOR SIDMOUTH HOBGOBLIN STAGE

Hobgoblin Music has announced the list of artists who will be appearing on the Hobgoblin stage at Sidmouth Folkweek 2006.

The artists are:

Saturday 5th	John Spiers and John Boden and Rocas
Sunday 6th	Waterson : Carthy and Lee Westwood
Monday 7th	To be announced and Thingumajig
Tuesday 8th	Julie Fowles and Blackthorn
Wednesday 9th	Lulo Reinhardt band and Kandela
Thursday 10th	Flook and All Jigged Out
Friday 11th	Martin Simpson and Martin Taylor and Richard Durrant

The Hobgoblin stage will be in the Ham Marquee.

Pete McClelland, co-owner of Hobgoblin Music said, "I am delighted with the line up of artists who will be performing on the Hobgoblin stage this year. Last year's list was outstanding, but I think we have topped it this year.

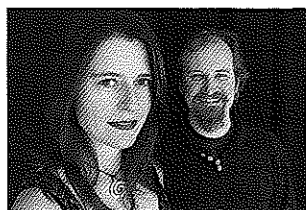
"Sidmouth Folkweek is experiencing renewed popularity. The quality of artists at this year's festival, shows that Sidmouth continues to thrive.

"Tickets for this year's festival are selling fast. We are looking forward to a big turnout of people enjoying the concerts, dances and workshops right through the festival week."

For further information, please contact:  
Tim Blythe / Loic Echaubard Beattie Communications 020 7053 6000

<http://www.hobgoblin.com>

### The Latest News from cloudstreet



Greetings to everyone (especially those who've recently joined our mailing list). You'll find all the latest news of our travels, and performances on our updated news page. Just go to [www.cloudstreet.org](http://www.cloudstreet.org) and follow the "news" link.

(1) Our New CD!

We are currently working on our fourth cd, under the working title of Dance Up The Sun. You can be part of the project by pre-ordering your copy from our website. You will not only be among the first to receive a copy, but you will also have your name

included in the CD cover artwork. If you would like to take advantage of our special pre-order price and go down in cloudstreet history, follow the "music and cds" link from [www.cloudstreet.org](http://www.cloudstreet.org);

(2) North Queensland Performance:

February sees up in Townsville, North Queensland, conducting singing workshops and gearing up to a concert at the Townsville Arts Theatre (home of Dance North) on Saturday, 25 February. Doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30 start. Tickets are available from the theatre (corner of Stanley and Walker Sts, Townsville) or by phoning (07) 4772 2549. We'd love to see you there (if geography permits), and please spread the word to all those who might be interested;

(3) Upcoming Gigs:

Our gig list has been updated to include all of our Australian performances over the next few months, as well as our UK tour dates starting in early May.

We hope this update finds you all well. See you down the road.

Nicole Murray and John Thompson cloudstreet  
[www.cloudstreet.org](http://www.cloudstreet.org) Hot harmonies & beautiful ballads

### NIZLOPI



NIZLOPI are singer/guitarist/percussionist Luke Concannon and double bassist/human beatboxer John Parker who have just had one of biggest selling singles of 2005 with the JCB Song. Producing a genre defying blend of jazz, hip hop, folk and funk the band's individual influences are as diverse as their sound. The two met when they were thirteen on the school bus in their hometown of Leamington Spa. The act went through various guises before becoming Nizlopi when they turned 18. According to Luke: "Our parents were very into folk and we grew up in that tradition of people just picking up an instrument and playing round a table. In a way our live shows are an extension of those brilliant fun moments where people get together to just play and enjoy music and celebrate life." John adds, "I studied Jazz at university and that has certainly come into play with the album. But then we throw in my beatboxing and the whole thing changes again."

### SUSANNA BENN



SUSANNA BENN's debut album is a lovely mix of acoustic, folk and crossover tracks that she has not only written and recorded herself but has also played the majority of instruments as well as singing the backing vocals.

There is no doubt there is a bright future for this exciting new talent.

[www.susannabenn.com](http://www.susannabenn.com)

Listen at <http://www.susannabenn.com/listen.html>

## LEIGH FOLK CLUB

### THE CONSERVATIVE CLUB, RAILWAY ROAD, LEIGH

Commences 8-15pm

MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup> FRIDAY

SCOLDS BRIDLE

APRIL 28<sup>TH</sup> FRIDAY

CAPTAIN COOPERS MOTLEY CREW

MAY 19<sup>TH</sup> FRIDAY

HARVEY ANDREWS

JUNE 16<sup>TH</sup> FRIDAY

VANGEL

### ST JOSEPH'S HALL, CHAPEL ST, LEIGH

MARCH 25<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY

"JOE'S NIGHT"

Commences 7.30pm. Bar

Calico's ANNUAL FUND RAISING NIGHT in memory of Joe Roberts

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All proceeds in aid of MCMILLAN NURSES

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JULY 29<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY

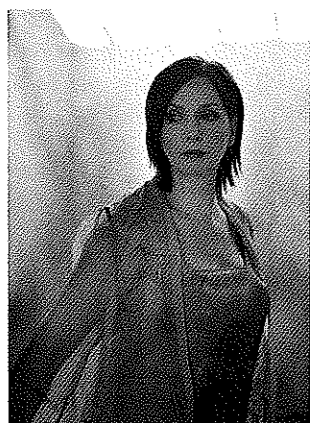
ERIC BOGLE AND JOHN MUNRO

BAR

Tickets £10.00 available now from Pauline 01942 604603 or Des 01942 674868

EMAIL: [paulinedowsett@northernboats.co.uk](mailto:paulinedowsett@northernboats.co.uk)

## MOYA BRENNAN



MOYABRENNAN has been at the pinnacle of the Irish music scene for over two decades, as solo singer, harpist and as the eminent voice of Clannad, one of the world's most revered Irish groups. To date Clannad has released over 20 albums, with renowned tracks such as the theme from "Harry's Game" and "In A Lifetime", where Moya shared vocals with Bono. Throughout her career she has received international acclaim for her sublime vocals and timeless music. As a solo artist, Moya has

collaborated with a host of musical luminaries including Joe Jackson, Bruce Hornsby, Robert Plant and Paul Brady. Her film soundtracks include "Last of the Mohicans" and "Robin of Sherwood." Line up: Harp, uilleann pipes, fiddle, bodhran etc. MP3 available. [www.moyabrennan.com](http://www.moyabrennan.com)

## SINEAD QUINN



SINEAD QUINN is currently working on her second album the follow up to 'Ready To Run' which had the hits 'What You Need Is?' and 'I Can't Breakdown' the latter a No.2 hit. Anyone who has seen Sinéad perform knows why she reached the final of Fame Academy at the expense of Lemar. Sinéad performs ahead whether performing a

solo set or with her band Sinéad is fantastic live. MP3 available. [www.sineadquinn.info](http://www.sineadquinn.info)  
contact: 07951 732166 (Friday) Sean Quinn Concorde International Artists 101 Shepherd's Bush Road London W6 7LP  
Home Office +44 (0)7951 732166 Tel: +44 (0)20 7602 8822 Fax: +44(0)20 7603 2352

## ICONIC MUSIC NEWSLETTER

Firstly, our very best wishes to you for the coming year - may you all prosper and succeed! We haven't sent out a newsletter for a couple of months because we've been snowed under with work - Iconic enjoyed a very busy 2005 and this year doesn't look as if it will be much quieter!

Musically, 2006 promises to be a vintage year: there are lots of great tours coming up from our own artists, from our associates, and from our friends. Let's start with one that's on the road right now...

## ASHLEY HUTCHINGS RAINBOW CHASERS

If you haven't yet caught this exciting new group, you're in for a real treat. Led by 'The Guv'nor' himself on bass guitar and vocals, the band features three very talented youngsters: Mark Hutchinson (guitar, vocals), Jo Hamilton (viola, guitar, vocals) and Ruth Angell (violin, vocals).

The Rainbow Chasers debut album, 'Some Colours Fly', has been getting great reviews and their live performance builds on the musical ability of each member of the group. The band has a busy schedule during February and March so there are

plenty of opportunities for you to catch them in action. For more information about Ashley Hutchings, visit his website at: <http://www.folkicons.co.uk>

## YOUNGSTERS AT CROPREDY

Talking of talented youngsters, we must mention Fairport's Cropredy Convention. One highlight of this year's festival will be a performance by BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Award winners, Bodega.

Iconic Music is proud to have played its part in Bodega's appearance at Cropredy: we instigated the collaboration between Fairport Convention and Smooth Operations (producers of the BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Award) which will see the young Celtic band perform at the festival.

Our thanks, by the way, to Smooth Operations for inviting us to attend the Young Folk Award ceremony in November. It was a truly inspiring evening and we were extremely impressed by the enthusiasm, commitment and sheer talent of all six young finalists. The venue was The Sage Gateshead and the show was managed by Folkworks - our congratulations to everyone involved in this well-run event.

## FAIRPORT'S CROPREDY CONVENTION 2006...

... takes place over the weekend of Thursday 10, Friday 11, and Saturday 12 August 2006. Be sure to mark your diaries and book your holidays now! Many of the acts have already been confirmed, including Feast of Fiddles, Steeleye Span, Flook, Dervish, and Rainbow Chasers.

As a pre-festival bonus, Fairport and their musical guests will again play two warm-up concerts at The Mill Arts Centre, Banbury. The gigs are on Monday August 7 and Tuesday August 8. Tickets for the warm-ups will go like hot cakes and are sold on a 'first come - first served' basis. To be sure of getting in, you'd better ring The Mill's box office 01295 279002 now! For more information about Fairport and Cropredy, visit: <http://www.fairportconvention.com>

## CHRIS AND KELLIE WHILE

Mother and daughter duo Chris and Kelly While are on the road again soon. The girls have been very busy with their individual projects so their long-awaited second album won't be ready for this tour. However, the concerts will feature brand new material, much of which will make it to the forthcoming CD. For more information about Chris While visit: <http://www.whileandmatthews.co.uk> For more information about Kellie While visit: <http://www.kelliwhile.co.uk>

## FOLKCAST UK

Podcasting (a term derived from 'iPod' and 'broadcasting') is becoming increasingly popular in the UK and now it has reached the folk scene.

What is it? Put simply, podcasting is distributing audio content for listening on a mobile MP3 player or on a computer: it's intended to bring music to self-selecting audiences when they want, where they want, and how they want.

In January, Ken Nicol and music journalist Phil Widdows launched 'FolkCast', the UK's first folk podcast. With the slogan "Our finger in your ear", Widdows and Ken present a one-hour show featuring folk, folkrock, singer-songwriter and roots-based music. FolkCast, they say, "brings you the inside ear on what's happening with some of the best new music, interviews with artists, behind the scenes soundseeing tours at festivals, and fun and frolics from the broad world of folk." Fun and frolics? We definitely approve of that here at Iconic!



The Folk Arts Network of the North West

## FOLKUS PROGRAMME OF EVENTS - SPRING 2006

### SATURDAY 11TH FEBRUARY

Folkus Workshops Burnley Mechanics, Manchester Road, Burnley, Lancs. BB11 1JA

Workshops with Fiddle, Whistle, Guitar & Bodhran. 10.30am - 4.30pm. Adults £12. Concessions £9. Juniors £6 Packed lunch advisable.

Info & bookings Folkus 01253 872317 or 01253 885203

### FRIDAY 24TH TO SUNDAY 26TH FEBRUARY

Folkus Spring Residential Weekend of Music Making, Waddow Hall, Clitheroe.

Workshops, concerts, sessions. Expert tutors.

An exciting weekend of music, song & dance.

Details & application forms from Folkus Office. Tel: 01253 872317 Email: [alanbell@fyld-folk-fest.demon.co.uk](mailto:alanbell@fyld-folk-fest.demon.co.uk)

### SATURDAY 4TH MARCH

Irish Music on the Move Workshops. The Village Hall, Lazonby, Penrith, Cumbria, CA10 1AQ Tel: 01768 897124

Workshops, Whistle, Bodhran, Fiddle, Accordion, Banjo, Uilleann Pipes and Step Dance.

Workshops supported by Folkus.

Details from Matt Walklate Tel: 0161 8810071

### TUESDAY 7TH MARCH

Concert featuring THE GATHERING

A superb four piece group of American performers presenting Appalachian music & song at it's best.

ONE NIGHT ONLY.

Little Theatre, Four Lane Ends, Thornton, Cleveleys near Blackpool.

7.30pm Tickets £8. £7 Concessions

Info & tickets Box office 01253 770547

Info Folkus 01253 872317 Presented by Folkus in partnership with Wyre Borough Council

### SATURDAY 11TH MARCH

Folkus workshops, Hoole Community Centre, Westminster Road, Hoole, Chester

Bodhran, Fiddle, Guitar & Whistle.

Workshops 10.30am - 4.30pm

Adults £12. Concessions £9. Juniors £6.

Packed lunch advisable. Info & bookings

Folkus 01253 872317 or 01253 885203

### SATURDAY 25TH MARCH

Nantwich Fiddle Day

A celebration of Fiddle playing with workshops and performances with Guy Fletcher. Supported by Folkus.

Plus - Special Youth workshops and sessions with Shooting Roots. Details from Claire Smith: 01270 583426.



FOR FURTHER DETAILS OR INFORMATION ON FOLKUS CONTACT:  
THE SECRETARY, 55 THE STRAND, FLEETWOOD, LANCASHIRE FY7 8NP  
TEL: 01253 872317 FAX: 01253 878382 email: [alanbell@fyld-folk-fest.demon.co.uk](mailto:alanbell@fyld-folk-fest.demon.co.uk)



### FRIDAY 14TH TO SUNDAY 16TH APRIL

Poynton Folk Festival

Folkus will be staging workshops on Saturday on Guitar & Fiddle & on Sunday Whistle & Bodhran.

For Info Tel: 01625 872539 or 01625 430149

### FRIDAY 14TH TO MONDAY 17TH APRIL

Lancaster Maritime Festival

Folkus is supporting the appearance of Folklorist Roy Palmer, who will be presenting maritime songs and stories during the weekend. Festival Info Tourist Information Centre 01524 32878

### SATURDAY 6TH MAY

Folkus workshops Castle Street Centre, High Lorrimer, Endmoor, Kendal LA8 0EP

Guitar, Bodhran, Fiddle, Whistle 10.30am - 4.30pm.

Packed lunch advisable.

Info & bookings Folkus 01253 872317 or 01253 885203

### FRIDAY 12TH MAY TO SUNDAY 14TH MAY

Pathways Festival

In partnership with Wyre Borough Council, Folkus has organised music and song sessions to entertain people during this weekend of walking the pathways of Wyre. Full details of the festival from

The Discovery Centre, Garstang.

Tel: 01995 602125

### SATURDAY 13TH MAY

Ireby Folk Festival, Ireby, Cumbria.

Folkus Fiddle workshop. Am. For details of the festival and the workshop contact Charles Devlin Tel: 016973 71645

### SATURDAY 13TH MAY

Irish Music on the Move.

Slaidburn Village Hall, Slaidburn, Lancashire.

Folkus is supporting a day of music making workshops followed by a Ceilidh.

Full details from Matt Walklate 0161 8810071

### SATURDAY 27TH & SUNDAY 28TH MAY

Chester Folk Festival.

Folkus beginners Guitar workshop. Sat, Bodhran workshop Sunday. Details of festival and workshop Tel: 07005 977045

Produced in a professional studio in Preston, each FolkCast comes out on the first Saturday of each month. January's show is still available online and features Ken Nicol, Chris While, Ashley Hutchings, Pete Marsh, Steeleye Span, Big Al Whittle, Three Blind Mice, Silverwheel, Jim Fidler and Skip.

FolkCast has impressed us so far - we recommend it highly. You can download the show and find out more here: <http://www.folkcast.co.uk>

#### NETRHYTHMS

As we've told you before, Nethrhythms is one our favourite websites. This month's Nethrhythms is jam-packed with reviews of recordings and live shows, there's a vote for your favourite album, and a first-class emailed newsletter you can sign up for. Take a look: <http://www.nethrhythms.co.uk>

#### JACQUI McSHEE'S PENTANGLE

Jacqui and her band will be out in March on their customary Spring/Easter tour. 19 Mar The Half Moon, Putney, London; 0208 780 9383 On 1 May, Jacqui McShee's Pentangle will play the MADD Mayfest in Faringdon, Oxfordshire; phone 01327 249806 for more details.

#### FOLK BRITANNIA

'Folk Britannia' is the title of a series broadcast on BBC4 television at 9pm on three consecutive Fridays starting 3 February.

The first broadcast covered the 1950s politicised folk scene and the skiffle boom: the second examined the 1960s electrification of folk by bands like Fairport Convention and Pentangle: the third saw folkrock entering the mainstream in the 1970s and the political edge returning to music during Thatcher's era. Find out more at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/bbcfour/music/features/folk-britannia.shtml>

#### RALPH McTELL: ON TOUR

Ralph's Spring tour gets underway in April. There is an additional concert in the 'Walk Into The Morning' series on 5 May at the Arts Centre, Southport (phone 01704 540011).

#### RALPH McTELL: TIME'S POEMS AND LONDON SHOW DVD

Ralph's complete song lyrics, preludes to songs, and poems are now available in a large-format hardback book. The book is beautifully produced and renowned playwright, author and musician Willy Russell has contributed the foreword. Illustrated by Peter Thaine, 436 pages and printed on sustainable paper, Time's Poems costs £25 and is available from Ralph's website.

Ralph's sixtieth birthday gala concert in London's Royal Festival Hall on 26 November 2004 was a tremendous success. Among those joining Ralph onstage were Bert Jansch, Cara Dillon, Wizz Jones, Maartin Allcock, Chris Parkinson, Sam Lakeman, Dave Pegg, Graham Preskett, and the London Community Gospel Choir.

The entire concert was filmed and Leola Music has now released it as a DVD so you can savour the wonderful atmosphere and great music at home. The DVD is available from Ralph's official website at: <http://www.ralphmctell.co.uk>

#### PJ WRIGHT ALONE ...

Iconic artist PJ Wright not only has a debut solo album out, he's got a new website where you can buy the CD and catch up with his news: <http://www.hedgeofsound.com>

February will be busy for PJ: he is special guest artist on Fairport Convention's annual Winter Tour and will be opening

the shows with a 25-minute solo acoustic set on all 30 dates.

#### ... AND WITH DAVE PEGG

Now for something really new! PJ Wright is teaming up with Fairport bassist Dave Pegg this summer. The pair will be touring larger folk clubs and small arts centres with a show titled 'A Night Off with Peggy and Peej'. Both the chaps are singers and accomplished players of anything with strings - expect to see Peggy's mandolin getting some welly - and both are great raconteurs so you can look forward to a lively and amusing musical evening.

Iconic is delighted to be booking this show for PJ and Dave - watch our website for further information: <http://www.iconicmusic.com>

#### FAIRPORT CONVENTION

The Fairports take to the road for their annual Winter Tour in February. As usual, the tour kicks off in the Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury and covers most of the country so there's bound to be a venue near you! (2 March Warrington, Parr Hall 01925 442345) There's loads of info on all things Fairport at: <http://www.fairportconvention.com>

#### SETH LAKEMAN

An act we have been really impressed by in the last couple of years is Mercury nominee Seth Lakeman. Our last outing to see him was on a much bigger stage with big lights and big sound when he supported the Levellers last December - he certainly impressed the audience in Birmingham!. He will be releasing a new album in March. Titled 'Freedom Fields', the release coincides with Seth's national tour. The dates are:

30 Mar Leeds Met 0113 2444600 31 Mar Carlisle Brickyard 08700 600100

Find out more on Seth's website: <http://sethlakeman.internet-today.co.uk/>

## "Folksingerjohn Promotions"

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for bookings ring  
0151-678-9902 or  
07981-639-336

email:

[folksingerjohn@aol.com](mailto:folksingerjohn@aol.com)

# Sing For Cyril

**Saturday 22nd April 2006 from 11am to 11pm  
Crown Hotel, Platt Lane, Worthington, Nr Standish, WN1 2XF**



**Guests Appearing:- Scolds Bridle, Cockersdale, Quartz,  
Hughie Jones, Dave Fletcher & Bill Whaley  
Dave Webber & Anni Fentiman, Stormalong John**

**Get yourself sponsored.**

**Wonderful Real Ales, Great Food.**

**Join us in a celebration of Cyril Tawney**

**Ticket Prices Day £10.00 Evening (from 7pm) £6.00**

**All proceeds to R.N.L.I.**

**Further details and sponsor forms from:-**

**Angie & Ken 01257 263678 e.mail:- [four.fools@virgin.net](mailto:four.fools@virgin.net)**

# PACIFICROAD ARTSCENTRE

## MARCH

- 2 KATHRYN TICKELL
- 3 PAUL LEEGAN - THE LONNIE  
DONEGAN TRIBUTE BAND
- 4 BOB, BOB, BOB & BOB
- 7 THE BLUES CARAVAN TOUR
- 9 WHO'S WHO - A 60'S  
MUSICAL HAPPENING
- 10 WISHBONE ASH
- 16-18 WEST KIRBY LIGHT OPERATIC
- 23 RECKLESS ELBOW
- 25 LIVERPOOL MOZART ORCHESTRA
- 29 SAM BROWN

## APRIL

- 1 BEST OF BRITISH
- 6 FEAST OF FIDDLES
- 7 THE MANFREDS
- 8 OPERA SCENES 2
- 21 HAYSEED DIXIE
- 22 MCCARTNEY
- 27 ONCE MORE INTO THE BLEACH
- 28 TONY HADLEY
- 29 WIRRAL SCHOOLS BIG BAND

## MAY

- 3 3 MEN & BLACK
- 4 TANNAHILL WEAVERS
- 5 PLUS SUPPORT
- 10 FLOYD UNCORKED
- 12 HANDSOME FAMILY
- 13 ROLLIN STONED
- 17 JAMES TAYLOR QUARTET
- 18 SOFT MACHINE
- 20 LIVERPOOL MOZART ORCHESTRA
- 23 BATTLE OF THE BANDS
- 24-25 A SUMMER SHOWCASE
- 26 KARINE POLWART
- 27 JOE TOPPING, JOE WRIGHT  
AND 'ELBOW JANE'

## JUNE

- 1 DAVID KNOPFLER
- 2 PLUS SUPPORT
- 9 FOLK ON THE COAST FESTIVAL

## JULY

- 1 WIRRAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
- 4 ROYAL LIVERPOOL  
PHILHARMONIC CHOIR



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