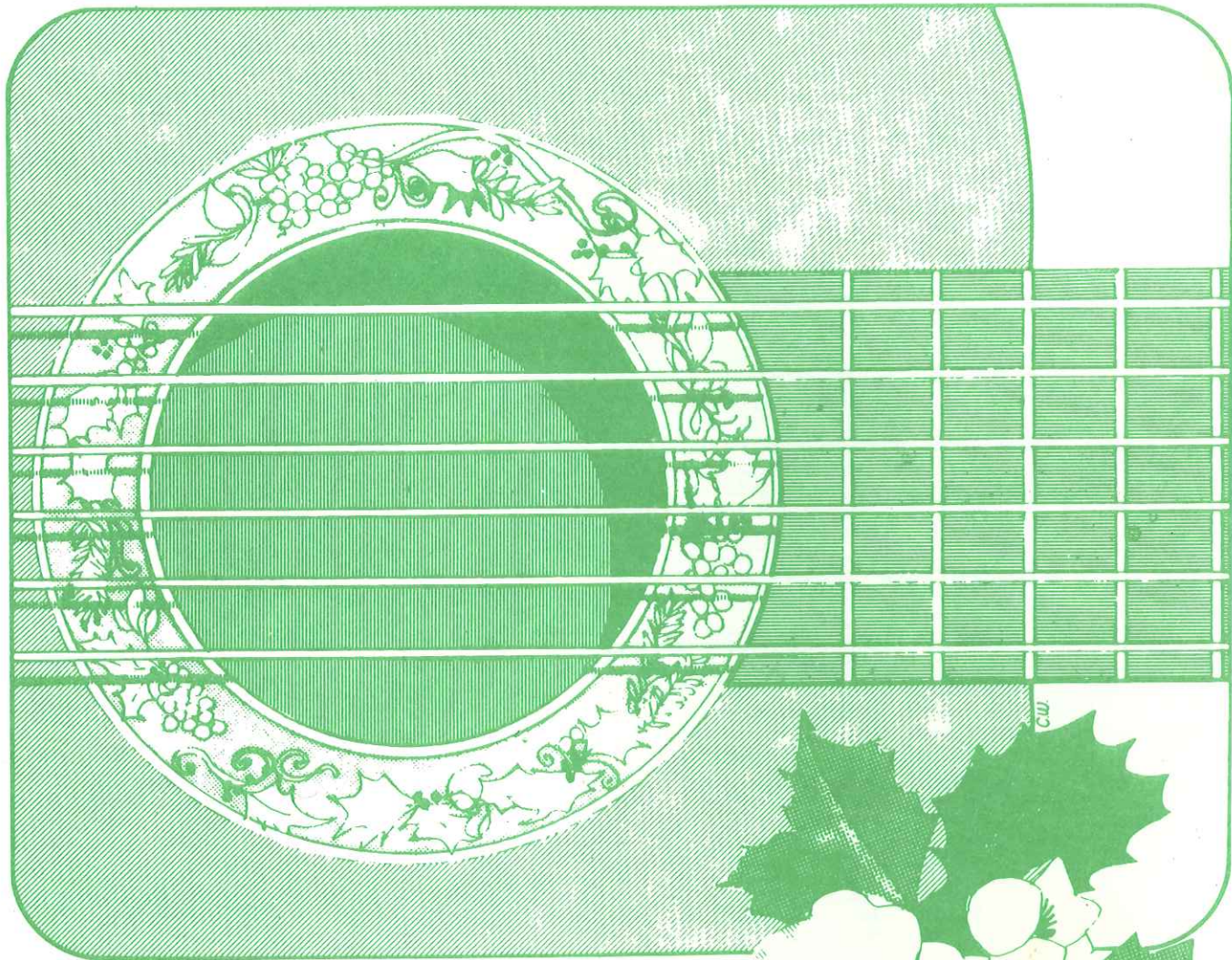


THE NORTH WEST FEDERATION OF
FOLK CLUBS



NEWSLETTER.

OCT. — NOV. 1980

15_p

OFFICER	REPRESENTING	NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Chairman	Central Lancashire Area	Derek Harrison	11 Walnut Grove, Penworthen. Preston	0772 748439
Tours Organiser		<i>Temporarily vacant</i>		
Treasurer		Marie Tarpey	126 Ferryview Walk, Castlefields, Runcorn.	09285 60080
Publicity Officer		Nigel Firth	3 Cromford Drive, Pemberton, Wigan, WN5 8JU.	0942 215621
Minute Secretary		Position Vacant		
Membership Secretary	North Lancashire & Cumbria Area	Peggy McArdle	109 Cottage Lane, Ormskirk. Lancs.	0695 77611
Joint Activities Co-ordinator		Duncan Campbell	25 Clarendon Road Lancaster. LA1 2DQ	0524 35214
Youth Organiser		Dave Tarpey	126 Ferryview Walk Castlefields. Runcorn.	09285 60080

THE AIM OF THE FEDERATION shall be the promotion of Folk Music in the North-West by:-

1. The 'block booking' of artists for tours.
2. Joint Publicity of the Member Clubs.
3. The general support of the Member Clubs.
4. The joint organisation of concerts and ceilidhs within our area.
5. The support of Festival Organisers within our area.
6. The organisation of events to attract under 18s to Folk Music.

The Member Clubs

FOLK CLUB	TIME OF START. (PM)	ADDRESS	ORGANISER	ORGANISER'S PHONE NO.
SUNDAY				
Rainford	8.15	Golden Lion Hotel, Rainford	Bob Leeming	0744 88 3424
Travellers	8.30	Traveller's Rest Hotel, Crab St. St. Helens	Vince Ludden	0744 21414
Poynton	8.00	Poynton Folk Centre, Park Lane, Poynton	Eric Brock	0625 872626
Raven	8.30	Raven Hotel, Farndon, Nr. Chester	Dave Russell	097 883 2303
Prescot	8.30	Royal Oak, Warrington Rd. Prescot	Eddie Cooney	051 480 1282
Leigh	8.00	The Courts Hotel, Church St. Leigh	Jacqueline White	0942 678758
MONDAY				
Turnkey	8.15	Turnkey Cellars, King St. Wigan.	Nigel Firth	0942 215621
Preston	8.15	Lamb Hotel, Church St. Preston	Derek Harrison	0772 748439
Knowl Brow	8.15	Knowl Brow, Liverpool Rd. Skelmersdale	Niell Hurst	0744 25038 (work)
The Triton	8.00	The Triton Hotel, Paradise St. Liverpool.	Doreen Richart	051 521 6020 (work)
Southport Mummies	8.15	Coronation Hotel, King St. Southport (Monthly)	Malcolm Howarth	0704 20990
TUESDAY				
Garstang	8.15	Eagle & Child Hotel, Garstang	John Topping	09952 2689
Buck i' th' Vine	8.30	Buck i' th' Vine, Burscough St. Ormskirk.	Ian McArdle	0695 77611
Blackpool	8.00	Raikes Hall Hotel, Leamington Rd. Blackpool	Jean Denny	0253 855855
WEDNESDAY				
Concord	7.30	Concord Suite, The Precinct, Droylesden, M/C	John Bridgewood	061 370 6111 X29
Brewery	8.30	Brewery Arts Centre, 122a Highgate, Kendal.	Neil Johnston	0539 25133
Winwick Folk Club	8.15	Winwick Hospital Staff Social Club	Len Saunders	0744 35833
Folk at the Malt	8.30	Malt Shovels, Stamford St. Altrincham.	Susie Stockton	061 928 1936
THURSDAY				
Liverpool Trad.	8.15	Cross Keys, (corner of Earl St. & St. Paul's Square) Nr. Liverpool Stadium	Alan McMahon	-
Stable Room	8.00	Morris Dancer, Kelsall, Nr. Chester	Susie Stockton	061 928 1936
Fleetwood	8.15	Queen's Hotel, Beach Rd. Fleetwood	Ron Baxter	03917 3738
Poynton	8.00	See Sunday for details		
Wellgreen	8.30	Wellgreen Hotel, Grove Lane, Hale, Cheshire	John Seed	026 04 423
FRIDAY				
Dicconson	8.30	Dicconson Arms, Wrightington	Derek Gifford	07744 33541
Coronation	8.15	Coronation Hotel, King St. Southport	Laurie Hardman	0704 27155
Roebuck	8.30	Roebuck Hotel, Leyland	Ron Strickland	0772 313876
St. Philip's	8.30	St. Philip's Community Centre, Dean St. Radcliffe	Connie Taylor	061 723 3350
Bee	8.30	Bee Hotel, Bodfer St. Rhyl	Bryon Jones	0745 37284
Lancaster Folkstir	8.00	Yorkshire House Hotel, Lancaster. (nr. bus station)	Peter Henderson	0524 66395
Briton's Protection	8.30	Briton's Protection, Gr. Bridgewater St. M/C (nr. Central Station)	Mike Billington	061 881 8729
SATURDAY				
Bury	8.15	Old Blue Bell, Bury	Jean Seymour	061 761 1544
Geoff Dormand	Varies	Various events in Wirral Area	Geoff Dormand	051 639 7928

EDITORIAL

Welcome to another issue of the Newsletter. If this arrives rather late, I'm sorry, but with the last one only a month away, it gives us very little time to prepare. Only 16 pages I'm afraid this time, but we hope to go back to at least 30 pages on a regular basis as from next issue.

So what have we got lined up for you this time? Firstly, Ian Wells & "spectator" review the FYLDE Folk Festival, one reviewing the Saturday and the other, Sunday. Still on festivals, Susie Stockton has been to quite a few festivals this summer, and has put down her observations on these which I've collated, together with a few thoughts of my own in the article on page 11.

Pete Rimmer is back with us this month to review some recent record releases, a feature I hope to make a regular part of the Newsletter.

Club of the month is Rainford, and Bob Leemings Tongue-in-cheek article about it is to be found on page 5. Song of the Month also features, Joan Blackburn being the chosen author this time.

All our regular features are here again such as SONG EXCHANGE, AGENDA (The thoughts of chairman Derek), Gossip John and Out & About, as well as a short CONNEXIONS.

Last but by no means least are two months clubs dates, and a good time to remind club organisers that closing date for the next issue is November 1st (this for the December/January issue).

Finally my thanks must go to my two typists, Elaine Derbyshire & Chris Roach and my two artists, Chris Wooley & Derek Blackburn for all their excellent work once again.

That's All - see you all next month

Nigel Firth



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OUT & ABOUT...

The North-West Federation of Folk Clubs have a special concert on Sunday October 5th at the Golden Lion Hotel in Rainford, when VIN GARBUTT is their guest. The concert will also feature the residents from the Rainford, Preston and Turnkey (Wigan) Folk Clubs. It starts at 8.15pm and tickets will be £1 on the door, or in advance from most Federation Folk Clubs. For more information please contact Bob Leeming on Rainford 3424 or Nigel Firth on Wigan 215621.

...oo0oo...

On Saturday October 4th, Steve & Les Chilcott (one of the regulars at the Briton's Protection) are presenting a concert at the Scout & Guide Hall in Ellesmere St., Astley. It features Bob Fox & Stu Lookley together with local artists and is compered by Harry Ogden. I'm told that food will be available, and there is to be a late bar provided by CAMRA. Sounds like a good night, and all for £1.25 on the door.

...oo0oo...

I notice that Graham & Eileen Pratt are on tour in the area in October, and they are a duo well worth making the effort to go and see them. There are 3 chances that I know of to go and see them: October 10th, BEE folk club, Rhyl; 12th, Leigh Folk Club; 14th, Buck 1' th' Vine, Ormskirk.

...oo0oo...

On October 13th, BRIAN PRESTON (née Dewhurst) makes a welcome return to the Preston Folk Club at the Lamb Hotel, a club he ran himself for a number of years.

...oo0oo...

There are one or two rare visitors to the North-West to be seen over the next couple of months, and here are some I've particularly noticed:

DEREK BRIMSTONE, an extremely funny man can be seen at a number of clubs: Oct 27th, Turnkey Folk Club, Wigan

Oct 30th, Stable Room, Kelsall
~~Nov 10th, Lamb Hotel, Preston~~



Nov 26th, Folk at the Malt, Altrincham

BILL CADDICK, on a very rare solo gig these days at two of our clubs: Nov 7th, Dicochson Arms, Wrightington
 9th, Leigh Folk Club

'FRISCO FIRE BAND, a group of musicians from San Francisco who are appearing at Poynton Folk Club on October 5th, and finally...

ROARING JELLY, that very funny group from Derby are at the Turnkey Folk Club, King St., Wigan on October 13th; tickets are available from the club, and there will be admission on the night. Contact Nigel Firth, Wigan 215621 for more details.

...oo0oo...

Leigh Folk Club's resident group, TURNPIKE, double as a ceilidh band, so they are able to have Mini-Ceilidhs from time to time at their usual venue. The next one is on the 16th November, and those of you who have been to the club will know it really is a mini-ceilidh!

...oo0oo...

And also at:

~~Wigan Folk Club, November 1st~~
 Wealgreen, October 30th

...oo0oo...

Subscription rate is £1.50 for 6 issues. Write, enclosing cheque (payable to NWFFC) to Editorial Address

CLUB OF THE MONTH: GOLDEN LION, Rainford



With Golden in its title and serving Greenall's beer, the Rainford club has had to be colourful and throughout its nearly ten year history has presented the full spectrum of folk oriented entertainment. Whether you like the blues, traditional rural greens or industrial greys, or contemporary reds you will find something to interest you, though we do discourage blue humour, (excluding rudeness to Margaret Thatcher)

The wide range offered has been influenced by the club's residents, Cyder Pie, who, in various shades have been with us from the beginning until last summer when they moved on to bigger things. We hope that is the reason and not because they were "browned off" being at the same club for such a long time. We wish all members of Cyder Pie success in their new ventures.

After many successful years keeping out of the red the club has just been through a black period with losing Cyder Pie and a change of management at the pub, the combined effect of which could have led to an early grave. However, the club is once again in the pink after its renaissance with new resident Steve Higgins. We believe that Steve will mature with the club and like Cyder Pie will in turn go on to bigger things.

Rainford is a village between St. Helens and Ormskirk, the Golden Lion is in the centre and the club is in a one-time bowling pavilion at the rear of the pub suitably decorated in rustic charm circa. 1960 but with exceptional acoustics. The size and location of Rainford present particular problems for successful club operation. The village itself does not provide a sufficiently large audience and it is necessary to attract from a wider area. Experience has shown that to do this it is essential to book bigger name performers to create enough cash flow to support the up-and-coming.

The board of directors of the club, (we do not have anything so common as a committee) have directed that this policy shall continue; that the club shall run every two weeks until we see how things go and that a star guest shall be booked every four weeks. The servants of the board, particularly "the organiser" a term coined by agents to describe the God-father in the folk club Mafia, will endeavour to carry out the wishes of the board.

You could become a director of the club by showing your face a few times, expressing interest in the club's continuation and finally pledging support. You then have a say in the policy of the club - and who should be booked.

The club is on Sunday at 8.15pm. but beware, you do not have to predict what time 8.15pm. actually means. This confounded board have directed that it should mean G.M.T. or B.S.T. depending on the time of year. It should not be B.F.C.T. (British Folk Club Time) which seems to vary depending whether more than ten have arrived, the resident composing his programme, the guest arriving - or the bitter being changed.

Singers are welcome, preferably by prior arrangement to prevent there being too many on one night and particularly if you are looking for a booking so that a reasonable length of time can be arranged for you to present yourself adequately.

The God-father (Bob Leeming)

Geoff Dormand tells me he is helping to organise two concerts in the Wirral Area over the next two months. The first of these, on October 26th, features SILLY WIZARD in concert at the Floral Pavilion in New Brighton in conjunction with Wirral Leisure Services. This will be the first English concert for the new line-up of the band, with Doug MacLean replacing Johnny Cunningham on fiddle. Tickets for the concert are £1 and £1.50 and are available from the Pavilion Box Office, tel: 051 639 4360.

The other concert is to be held in Bromborough Civic Hall on November 6th and features Harvey Andrews together with Jones & Co and Roger Parker. The concert is run with the assistance of Bebbington Arts Association, and tickets will be £1 (20p discount for Arts Association members).

Information and tickets for both events are available from Geoff Dormand, 6, Marlwood Ave, Wallasey, Merseyside. (please enclose SAE when writing) or tel 051 639 7928.

...oo0oo...

I gather that POYTON's new Thursday night ceildhs with folk song are proving to be quite popular, although Eric Brook says he still has room for more people to come along and enjoy themselves.

...oo0oo...

I notice that most clubs seem to have a regular Singers' Night in their programme, although they may call it a Comealys, a Singaround or a club night. If you've never been to one, and only go when your local folk club has a guest booked, why not give it a try? You'll find most clubs get a good variety of singers along and these can often be better than the guests, and of course its usually cheaper to get in. Go on, give them a try - and if you sing, why not try a song or two as well?

...oo0oo...

Malcolm Howarth tells me that the next practice for the Southport Mummies is to be on Wednesday October 15th at the Coronation Hotel in Southport. After that, practices will move to a new venue, yet to be decided. The Christmas Tour begins on November 21st, and will be every Friday, Saturday & Sunday thereafter. The tour will include Foraby, Southport Centre, Ormskirk, Burscough, Croston & possibly Charnock Richard. The play of course is the White Boys play from the Isle of Man, and the tour finishes on December 14th.

...oo0oo...

Have you ever wondered what clubs there were to choose from as you get out to the fringes of the Federation? If so, the guide you are looking for is the Cheshire Cat Flyer which lists all known clubs in Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Clwyd Merseyside, Lancashire, Gwynedd and Anglesey. The cost of the guide is 35p, and it is available from Susie Stockton, "Ashdene", 7, Greenside Dr., Ashley Heath, Hale, Altrincham, Cheshire (enclose remittance & 9½ x 6½ S.A.E.)

...oo0oo...

The Leyland Area Folk Society have produced a guide to all their activities and the members thereof. Lavishly illustrated, it is available at any of their events in the Leyland area, and a review will follow in next month's issue of the Newsletter.

WANTED: An artist, particularly for heading drawings & cartoons. Also artwork for Adults. No fee I'm afraid, but out of pocket expenses will be refunded. Contact Editorial Address or telephone Wigan 215621.

Regarding last months AIRwaves BBC Radio Merseyside's Folk Scene is now broadcast on Sunday at 8pm & repeated on Tuesday at 6.30pm. The VHF Frequency is 95.85 MHz.

SONG EXCHANGE

Conducted by JOAN BLACKBURN

If there is a song you would like the words, music and/or chords of, write in to "Song Exchange", c/o Joan Blackburn, 4 Rosewood Close, Abram, nr. Wigan, Lancs, WN2 5XT. Readers' replies should be directed to the same address.

REQUEST from Jim Bradshaw of Wigan for the words of a song whose chorus goes something like:

I'm an otter in the water, swimming around,
Hobble-down, bobble-down, swimming around.

Readers' help would be appreciated.

REQUEST from Louis Green of Ulverston, Cumbria for "Lord Franklin". Apologies for not printing this in the September issue, Louis, but your letter reached me, via the Editor, after the copy date, so I'm printing now the version as given in "Folk Songs From Spin No. 2", published 1969. There are no notes given for the song, which appears to be traditional.

LORD FRANKLIN



It was homeward bound one night on the deep,
Swinging in my hammock I fell asleep;
I dreamed a dream and I thought it true,
Concerning Franklin and his gallant crew.

With a hundred seamen he sailed away,
To the frozen ocean in the month of May,
To seek that passage around the Pole,
Where we poor sailors do sometimes go.

Through cruel hardships his men did go,
Their ship on mountains of ice was drove,
Where the Eskimo in his skin canoe
Was the only one who ever came through.

In Baffin Bay where the whalefish blow,
The fate of Franklin no man may know,
The fate of Franklin no tongue can tell,
Lord Franklin along with his sailors do dwell.

And now my burden it gives me pain,
For my long-lost Franklin I'd cross the main;
Ten thousand pounds would I freely give
To know on earth that my Franklin do live.

I dreamed we neared the English shore,
I heard a lady weep and deplore;
She wept so loud she seemed to say:
Alas that my husband is so long away.

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RECORD REVIEWS



- PETE RIMMER LOOKS AT SOME RECENT RELEASES

Here we go with a few words about some new album releases. Les Barker has been poking fun at the Folk Scene for a number of years, putting into poems what many of us would like to say about those endless melodian-Bodran fights that abound at festivals, the endless Irish Jig and the hackneyed chorus songs.

For his new album, DOGMATIC (Avada AVA 111, details below), Les is joined by various heavy friends such as Martin Simpson, Hot Vultures, Paul Downes & Phil Beer, all of whom add inspired touches to Les's unique performance.

SMOKIN' (Avada EP, AVEP 108) by the ARIZONA SMOKE REVUE came as a bit of a surprise - its a 4-track EP. I must admit I've not, as yet, seen them live, but judging from this effort (a live recording), they are well worth some attention. The Review are Bill Zorn, Phil Beer, Paul Downes & John Vickers. On this record they play music by such notables as Dan Fogelberg, Bruce Springsteen & Steve Ashley; their version of Springsteen's "Worksong" is especially good. I look forward to an album.

BERT JANSCH has, as you will know I am sure, been around for many years playing fine guitar music and writing some great songs. Many folk people over the years have failed to note Bert's influence on traditional song. Way back in the sixties he recorded many of these; in fact his Jack Orion album on Transatlantic was totally traditional, something virtually unheard of then. His influence along with John Renbourn has been great.

His progression has been steady, always trying something different as for example "L.A. Turnaround", an album with country musicians, and his last album "Avocet", a totally instrumental set.

For the past couple of years he had been working regularly with Martin Jenkins (ex Hedgehog Pie, Dando Shaft etc) and Nigel Smith, Bass player extraordinaire, who at one time played with the Ralph McTell Band. They have been doing a fair amount of work both in this country, the USA, Australia & Japan. Their new album, 13 DOWN on Kicking Mule is a mixture of traditional and contemporary with a few instrumentals thrown in for good measure. It's a good mixture and for Jansch fans it will, once again, prove very popular.

LP DETAILS:

DOGMATIC by Les Barker Album AVADA AVA 111

Side 1; Pulling a ~~hat~~ out of a Rabbit/Quasi B. Goode/The Peking Swallow/When Jones' Ale caught fire/The Irish Tune/Napoleon at your service/The Undersea World of Jacques Cousteau.

Side 2; The Heckmonwike Rapist/Nashnol Front Song/Flat Earth/Moby Nigel/Nigel's Blues/Dream/Beware of Young Ladies who have Three Breasts/Eval Schmeaval

SMOKIN' by Arizona Smoke Revue EP AVADA AVEP 108

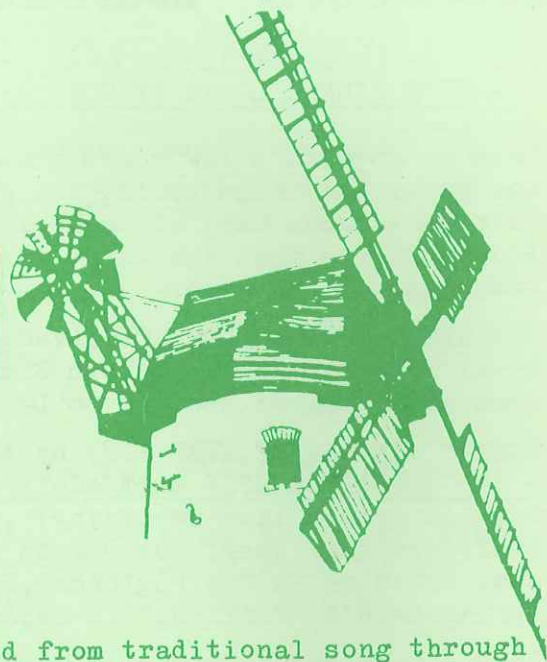
Side A; Morning Sky/Feeling Lazy all tracks recorded live
Side B; Worksong/Same Old Man

• There will be more L.P. Reviews next month

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REVIEW:

8th fylde folk festival



A single person could not do justice to the 8th Fylde Folk Festival. Even on Saturday, when we went, the publicity boasted that you could be in five places at once. We settled for the main afternoon concert, compered by Pat Ryan, followed by the evening music hall.

Spredthick are a duo, whose opening set ranged from traditional song through Hoagy Carmichael to a Beethoven sonatina on the mandolin! Yorkshire Relish have a more traditional repertoire, with multi-instrumental support, and did an excellent set, which ended with "My Lass's a Yorkshire Lass" complete with clog dance.

Nic Jones exemplifies the more introverted folk performer. As always his guitar work was excellent and his voice pleasant and tuneful. He still includes whaling songs, though somewhat apologetically and his best song was one by Paul Metzler, about a gold miner in New Zealand. Finally, Cosmotheka: this dynamic duo thoroughly enjoy themselves with songs exhumed from the Music Hall as did the audience.

The Jack Easy Music Hall was held in the Sea Cadets Hall, equipped with a balcony and upstairs bars that gave the right atmosphere. It was ably chaired by Jeff Lyneham, in evening dress and equipped with gavel. Somerville Gentleman's Band got us off to a good start: they are a quartet of all singing multi-instrumentalists with infectious enthusiasm. Phil Brown followed: he is supposed to be a Fylde favourite, but I couldn't see why. He is manic, but his timing is sloppy. Then came Cosmotheka - a different programme from the afternoon and just as good. Their choice of lesser known songs is amply justified by their successful performance of them. When they finished with "Let's All Go Mad" the audience did just that.

Somerville Gentleman's Band wound us all up again after the interval. The Bispham Barnstormers then regaled us with a cod Victorian melodrama: "Way Down Upon De Swanee Ribber Or Up De Creek Wid'out a Paddle". This was an amusing slice of ham but I found it slightly too long. Spredthick raised the tone with another smooth chunk of good musicianship.

Then came an unadvertised appearance of Dr. Sunshine's Pavement Show. I now understand why I have never seen a description of their act - I was soon laughing too much to hold a pen. They played the audience like a virtuose instrumentalist and indeed, they made Roaring Jelly, who followed as top of the bill, seem quiet and restrained!

All in all, a good evening was had by the packed audience. One pleasant feature was the absence of the schoolboy smut beloved of some fold "comedians" - there was just traditional, honest vulgarity!

IAN WELLS

A REVIEW OF SUNDAY WILL BE FOUND ON PAGE 9

FYLDE - A Sunday View

Sunday Dawned bright & sunny if a little cool and a large crowd was attracted to the Folk Festival. I saw very little of the afternoon concert, as I spent most of the time in the singaround run by Derek Gifford and his fellow residents from the Dicconson Arms. It was slow to get off the ground but there was soon a good crowd all anxious to participate in the singaround. The craft stalls seemed an odd mixture as there were 3 record stalls out of about twelve stands and very few true craft stalls.

The evening concert started promptly to a sell out crowd (the first time I believe) and Rosie Hardman was the first guest to appear on the stage. I've never been a particular fan of Rosie's since she started singing her own songs in preference to the traditional ones she used to do so well. However I have to admit that I was impressed by the songs she chose and her rendering of them. The winner of the Dialect Competition followed, with a monologue about a chap sailing from Fleetwood to land on the beach at Dunkirk, bumping into Hitler and persuading him not to invade. It could so easily have been one of the "Sam Small" monologues that Stanley Holloway used to do, and there can't be a much higher accolade than that!

Martin Carthy followed a short interlude performed by the winner of the worst Singer in the World Contest (come back Ron Baxter - all is forgiven) and from the start seemed to take a dislike to the audience. He was in a "I'm going to sing what I want to sing, whether you like it or not" mood, and brilliant though he can be, I didn't enjoy his spot at all. Spredthick were on next, a duo who perform a wide range of musical items from music hall to blues - good it may be, but folk it certainly isn't.

The final act and top of the bill was Vin Garbutt who was easily the best act for me - last on because no-one could have followed the set he gave. Within a couple of minutes the audience, whose attention had previously been wandering, was totally engrossed in what he had to say. There's no doubt he is a genuine all-round entertainer - not only does he do extremely funny introductions, but he's a very fine singer and musician as well.

Taken all round then, I was disappointed with some of the festival, but generally was impressed and recommend you go next year. "SPECTATOR"

CONNEXIONS: Latest Tours News

You may have wondered why this feature didn't appear in the last issue, the reason being that John Beresford, our Tours Organiser had resigned, and as at the last issue no replacement had been found. The following information has been received recently and I publish it in the hope that club organisers will respond where they can.

- Bert Jansch and his band have unfortunately had a tour of the States cancelled at very short notice, and as a result BERT JANSCH and MARTIN JENKINS are free to take club bookings during October.
- Duck Baker, an excellent finger picking guitarist has a few dates in December.
- For either of the above, please contact Pete Rimmer on Southport 67852
- Dave Walters is looking for a possible tour in the area in January/February, and for bookings you should contact Kathy Templeman, 86, Forest Rd., Kew, Surrey Tel; 01 948 0010
- Finally a group originally from the Shetlands and now based in Edinburgh, HOM BRU are interested in a tour in the area, and you should contact John Barrow on 031-226 3645 or 031-225 4911 for further details.

As we go to press I hear that we may well have a new Tours Organiser eager to bring people into the area, so watch for details in next month's issue.

Nigel Firth



GOSSIP JOHN...

Taffy Thomas (of Magic Lantern fame) caused quite a stir at Sidmouth festival where he was compering one event and appearing in another at the same time. This allowed him just 15 mins to get to the other venue, sing, and return in time to continue compering. He therefore chose the only practical solution - a motor bike which rode onto the stage to save those precious seconds. He wins our prize for the most unusual feat at a Folk Festival!

I gather that Eric Bogle, who is now back in Australia, was none too pleased with some of the combinations of venues arranged for him by his agent, K. Wyatt-L*wn. One particular conjunction found him one day in the North-West, then up to Montrose in Scotland, down to Cornwall and back to the North-East. These were all on consecutive days, being a total mileage in excess of eleven hundred miles in just three days. He opted not to do the booking in Cornwall!

This is likely to be the last Gossip John, as the Editor tells me he's so far had no takers to replace me when I stand down after this issue.

(If you think you could take over writing this column, please write to me c/o the Editorial Address; all will be treated in the strictest confidence - ED)

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FESTIVAL ROUNDUP

by

Susie Stockton & Nigel Firth

Loughborough as always offered much with a line up including traditional and revival singers and musicians; multifarious dance teams and ceilidh bands completing the line up. As ever there were more events than you cope with (up to five to choose from at any one time), so eventually you give up and spend the time in the bar sampling the delights of Ruddles or Youngers IPA or Sam Smiths. Seriously though, without Roy Harris at the helm or a really big revival name on the guest list the festival as a whole seemed to lack that special something it usually shows. Attendance seemed to be somewhat down on last year too - let us hope that Roger Watson (next year's director) can revitalise it.

Sidmouth was of course rather dance orientated, but there were some excellent song sessions, most notable of which was a singaround at the Anchor Inn led by Charley Yarwood. Charley is a shantyman who has served his "apprenticeship" with Jim Mageen and Stan Hugill. On the Friday night there was an unusual concert featuring top folk singers performing Rock 'n' Roll. Amongst these were Nic Jones, Sean Cannon, Dave Walters, Alex Atterson, Helen Watson, Martin Bloomer, John Heydn and Taffy Thomas. The late night extra concert provided an opportunity to see some excellent acts, most notable being Tundra (Doug and Sue Hudson) and Six Hands in Tempo who had a rapturous reception.

Ballisodare in Ireland was blessed with unheard of fine weather and a lot of good music. Jimmy Crowley and Stokers Lodge chose the festival to give their farewell public performance together. The sound system this year (unlike last) was the only let down - it was poorly adjusted and the feedback was very bad. Ralph McTell gave up on the Friday night as a result and had to do an extra set on Saturday to make up for everyone's disappointment. A group from Quebec called Barde did a floor spot; they're a four piece group which included Liza Ormstein on fiddle who was very impressive. Earl Oki gave a brilliant performance as always - it might not be folk music, but it is outstanding nonetheless.

Pontardawe is unusual as festivals go, in that it is one of the very few to really involve the local community in the event. As well as the usual craft stalls, there were games stalls provided by Scouts and others. Whilst the miscellaneous stalls ranged from home made jams to the local branch of the Woman's Lib! There was a large Breton contingent and rather too many similar types of group such as Ossian, Ar Log and Silly Wizard, which made the concerts rather samey. There were only two, bright spots on the concerts, one of whom was Ray Fisher who did two superb sets which were well appreciated by the packed audience. The other was Dave Walters who had replaced Vin Garbutt on the bill (he was ill) and impressed many people. The singarounds were undoubtedly the highlight of the festival though and Saturday night's shanty session with Jim Mageen and Stan Hugill was brilliant, despite the room which rapidly became more like a sauna bath.



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SONG OF THE MONTH

The Old Market Hall © JOAN BLACKBURN, 1980



When I do my shopping on each Saturday,
I join all the crowds as they're jostling their way;
The first place I head for, that centre so rare,
The old Market Hall in the old Market Square.

Chorus: Now they're threatening to pull it all down,
The Market of old Wigan Town;
The Councillors plan and the Councillors plot
To change our fair Wigan to something it's not;
You may change every brick, every stone,
But just leave our Market alone!

It's stood here in Wigan for many a year;
Through war and through peace it's survived every tear;
It may not have beauty, but character rare,
The old Market Hall in the old Market Square.

It's the pride of fair Wigan, and second to none,
Except p'raps the Pier, though that's nearly gone,
And strangers to Wigan, they wonder and stare
At the old Market Hall in the old Market Square.

For modernisation the Councillors plan,
Behind their closed doors, closed to each Wigan man;
We call for a referendum, the only way that's fair,
For the old Market Hall in the old Market Square.

This month's author, Joan Blackburn, says of her song: "The Council want to pull down the hundred-year old Market Hall and build a new one, without taking account of the strong local feeling that it's a part of our heritage, and should be preserved. I wrote the song to put my own feelings (and those of many others) into words"

Do you write songs or poems? - If you do, why not enter one for the Song of the Month Competition? If your Song or Poem is selected, you will receive a Year's free subscription and a chance to enter the Song of the Year. I shall look forward to reading all your entries.

AGENDA by the Chairman

Undoubtedly you will all have heard by now Dick Gaughan's plan to stage a one day conference in London. The aim of which seems to be to get folk music to a wider audience but not to discuss what it is or how it should be performed. Dick has been prophesying problems for a long time, and no doubt will receive support from those professionals who are now feeling the pinch. He can expect to receive support from member clubs of the federation for a conference to discuss the problems of folk clubs and folk music. But surely, to ban any mention of what or how folk music is performed may be missing the very heart of the matter.

Make no mistake, folk clubs in the North West are not exactly a 'growth industry', but there are few areas that have done as much to get 'folk to a wider audience'. Lancashire music at least, like Tyneside includes a local ingredient relevant to people in those locales. If you went down to the tap room where some of the esoteric material sung by Southern based singers, sounds remarkably like a sheep in the final stages of labour - you would never emerge. Seriously, we all know folk music deserves a place alongside the minority art forms, enjoying the subsidies they have, and need, for survival.

What is 'wrong with the clubs?' The fashionable era started in the mid sixties, songs reflected the radical mood among student groups. Protest songs were fashionable because civil rights were in fashion. Woodstock was more romantic than Wigan, but yet at the time the feeling was genuine and the songs relevant. Then we had the 'Come-all-ye's', rollicking chorus songs..... "four sweaters singing songs about dead sailors....." Next came the Finger in the ear syndrome - singers in shepherds smocks who had never been within thirty miles of a whiff of sheep shit - but still performed in the cause of romantic escapism. Then there was the excitement and power of folk - rock, passing like an express train, leaving a blurred image. Right now there is lots brewing within the Celtic tradition. But what is happening to us, do we know where we're going or why?

DEREK HARRISON.

LAST MONTH'S AGENDA: The Editor writes:

Since last month's agenda, as originally written by the Chairman, did not take up the space I'd allocated for it, I attempted to expand the article. Unfortunately this was done hurriedly without any preparation and a badly phrased article resulted. Indeed I had completely changed the sense of the fourth paragraph which should have read as follows:

"While on the subject of children, it is obvious at the major festivals that children can enjoy being part of the Folk Scene. This suggests that there could be a need for singarounds held locally, where children can be brought along, perhaps Sunday lunchtime sessions - friendly landlords obliging."

and not as stated last month. Sorry Derek it won't happen again.

NIGEL FIRTH.

....oooOooo....

ADVERTISING RATES:

Display Adverts (ie as pg 14) are £2.00 per 1/8 page and pro rata up to full page. An extra charge of £0.50 per 1/8 is made on adverts over 1/8 page, where copy & artwork has not been supplied in readily useable form. There are discounts for all member clubs of the Federation. Small Ads (private sales only, no clubs or groups) are £1 each.

TURNKEY

FOLK CLUB

KING ST., WIGAN.
Mondays, 8.15 pm

FORTHCOMING GUESTS

October 6th;
CILLA FISHER & ARTIE TRESIZE

October 13th:
ROARING JELLY (Tickets now on sale from club or by post @ £1.50 ea from: 3, Cromford Dr., Wigan, WN5 8JU)

October 27th:
DEREK BRIMSTONE

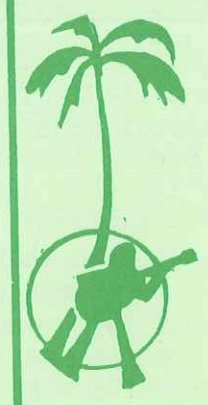
November 3rd:
STRAWHEAD

November 17th: ROY HARRIS
November 24th: BRIAN PRESTON

Remaining nights are Singers' Nights Residents:
HERITAGE TONY HEWITT
Enquiries: Nigel Firth 0942 215621

Girl Singer REQUIRED

FOR TRADITIONAL FOUR-PART HARMONY GROUP BASED IN THE SOUTHPORT AREA. PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE AN ADVANTAGE IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT:
Keith Miller Laurie Hardman
Formby 74840 Southport 27155



BERMUDA FOLK CLUB

1st. & 3rd. Sundays each month.

Enquiries welcome from professionals touring U.S.A. and Canada. Complimentary copies of club's newsletter available on request to clubs, folk publications, and professional artists.

Howard Evans
Rose Cottage
Tee Street
Devonshire 4-21
Bermuda

PAUL METSERS

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Original, Traditional and Contemporary songs
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Pauline Brocklehurst,
"The Bungalow",
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* * C E I L I D H B A N D * *
Weddings & Funerals - our speciality
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Pete Rimmer
6, Burlington Rd.,
Birkdale,
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Tel: 0704 67852

DON'T LEAVE IT UNTIL ITS TOO LATE, AND JOIN THE LONG LIST OF CLUBS THAT HAVE CLOSED IN THE NORTH-WEST.

For only £15, Nigel Firth (Turnkey FC) and Ron Baxter (Fleetwood FC) will NOT sing at your club.

"PROTECTION RACKET"
(which is the name of the duo) cannot be heard at the TURNKEY CELLARS, King St., Wigan, or the Queens Hotel, Beach Rd Fleetwood, but many far better singers can, so go along in complete safety.

Bruce Cook (Luthier)

Makers of Stringed Instruments
Repairs and Re-frets undertaken
Supplier of Luthier's Equipment

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OCTOBER DATES

SUN Res.	RAINFORD Steve Higgins	TRAVELLERS Vince Brennan & Graham Dunne	POYNTON See (a) below	RAVEN King's Ransom	PRESCOT Pheasant Pluckers	LEIGH Turnpike
5th	Vin Garbutt	Folkways	Frisco Fire Band	Singers	Club Open	Ted Edwards
12th	No Club	Ushers Well	Alan Bell's Folk (Band)	Yardarm	No Dates to Hand	Graham & Eileen Pratt Roger Watson *
19th	T.B.A.	Heritage	Ad Hoc	Singers		Tony Rose
26th	No club	Singers' Night	Earl Okin	Marie Little		
MON. Res.	PRESTON Kaliel Band	TURNKEY Heritage & Tony Hewitt	TRITON Black Dog	KNOWL BROW	POYNTON Dave Hughes	
6th	Singers	Cilla Fisher & Artie Trezise	Packie & Bonnie	Club Closed	Every week	
13th	Brian Preston *	Roaring Jelly	Singers	No further details to hand.	a	
20th	Blue Water Folk	Singers	Tom Gilfellon		Club night (Singers' night)	
27th	Singers	Derek Brimstone *	Spinners			
TUES. Res.	GARSTANG	BLACKPOOL Taverners	BUCK i' th' VINE Spring Heel Jack			
7th	Singers	Singers' Night	Singers *			
14th	John Bull Band	Richard & Anne	Graham & Eileen Pratt			
21st	Singers	Rosie Hardman	Singers			
28th	Howard Bond	Pete Smith	"			
WED. Res.	WINWICK Reynardine	BREWERY	CONCORD Conkers	FOLK AT THE MALT		
1st.	Singers	Vin Garbutt	Cyril Tawney	Yardarm		
8th	Singers	No club	Galadriel	Singers		
15th	Ushers Well	Arizona Smoke	Faith Pethrick	Dick Gaughan		
22nd	Singers	Revue	Rosie Hardman	Singers		
29th	Singers	Battlefield Band	To be arranged	Heather Whittaker		
THURS Res.	L. POOL TRAD. See (b) below	POYNTON	FLEETWOOD Scold's Bridle	WELLGREEN Pete Wilmot	STABLE ROOM	
2nd	Faith Pethrick	Every week	Singers	Eddie Walker	Club meets monthly	
9th	Singers	Folk Dance with	Roger Watson	Hamish Imlach		
16th	Club swap		Bernie Brewin	Arizona Smoke Revue	(23rd)	
23rd	Singers	Local Singers	Graham & Shelia Nelmes	Dave Hughes	Derek Brimstone & Stoneground	
30th	Peta Webb & Webb's Wonders.		Singers	Derek Brimstone		
FRI Res.	DICCONSON See (c) below	CORONATION See (d) below	BEE	LANCASTER Folkstir	ROEBUCK Roebuck Singers	BRITON'S PROTECTION See (e) below
3rd.	Singers	Eddie Walker	Singers	Singers	Comeallye every week	1st. Anniv. Special Paul Sherratt
10th	"	Pete & Chris Coe	Graham & Eileen * Pratt.	"		Singers.
17th	Roger Watson	Jim Eldon	Singers	Roy Bailey		Nic Jones
24th	Singers	The Wassailers	"	Ceilidh		Rawtenstall Roof Orchestra
31st.	Halloween Party	Singers & Residents	Halloween Night	Westmorland Packet		
SAT. Res.	BURY Various	POYNTON				
4th	Pete & Chris Coe					
11th	Scold's Bridle	Cornfield Perambulation Ceilidh Band				
18th	Jenny Beeching					
25th	Ringers Bush Band.					

KEY TO SYMBOLS ABOVE

- 4 * Organised by NWFFC See Out & About
- * See Out & About
- (a) Residents for the month not yet fixed
- (b) Residents include Shay Black, Tony Gibbons, Mary Edwards, Dick Hebden, Alan Howard, Alan McMahon, Tony Rosney
- (c) Residents include Linda Bailey, Martin Banks, Mark Dowding, Derek Gifford, Phil Hartley, Bill & Shelia Hunt, Mike Hughes
- (d) Residents: Buckthorn, Bernie Blaney, Richard Tynan
- (e) Residents: Mike Bowden, Steve Chilcott, Mersey Trout, Morrigan & John Croft

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NOVEMBER DATES

<u>SUN.</u> Res.	<u>RAINFORD</u> Steve Higgins	<u>TRAVELLERS</u> Vince Brennan & Graham Dunne	<u>POYNTON</u>	<u>RAVEN</u> Kings Ransom	<u>PRESCOT</u> Pheasant Fluckers	<u>LEIGH</u> Turnpike
2nd	Therapy	To be arranged	Battlefield Band	Singers	Club Open, but	Leon Rosselson
9th	No club	To be arranged	Therapy/Whitenancy	Andy Caven	no more details	Bill Caddick
16th	To be arranged	Singers' Night	Bernard Wrigley	Singers	to hand	Turápike Ceilidh*
23rd	No club	Gentleman Soldier	Jake Thackeray	Martin Simpson		Wayfarers
30th	Bernard Wrigley	Donal McGuire	Oldham Tinkers	Singers		Peter Bond.
<u>MON.</u> Res.	<u>PRESTON</u> Kallied Band	<u>TURNKEY</u> Heritage & Tony Hewitt	<u>TRITON</u> Black Dog	<u>KNOWL BROW</u>	<u>POYNTON</u> Peter Hughes	
3rd.	Wassailers <i>Gifford</i>	Strawhead	Cyril Tawney	Club Closed	Every week	
10th	Derek Brimstone	Singers	Spinners	No more details	a club night	
17th	Tom McConville	Roy Harris	Singers	to hand	(Singers night)	
24th	& Kieron Halpen Singers	Brian Preston	Brillig			
<u>TUES.</u> Res.	<u>GARSTANG</u>	<u>BLACKPOOL</u> Taverners	<u>BUCK i' th' VINE</u> Spring Heel Jack			
4th	Singers	Singers	Howard Bond			
11th	Stoneground Band	Steve Chilcott	Singers			
18th	Singers	Brian Preston	Nic Dow			
25th	Sullivan	Strawhead	Singers.			
<u>WED.</u> Res.	<u>WINWICK</u> Reynardine	<u>BREWERY</u>	<u>CONCORD</u> Conkers	<u>FOLK AT THE MALT</u>		
5th	Geeton Tank (prov)	No Wednesday	To be arranged	Singers.		
12th	Singers' Night	Club, but see	To be arranged	Steve Turner		
19th	Singers' Night	Thursday &	To be arranged	Singers		
26th	To be arranged	Saturday	To be arranged	Derek Brimstone.		
<u>THURS.</u> Res.	<u>L'POOL TRAD.</u> See (b) overleaf	<u>POYNTON</u>	<u>FLEETWOOD</u> Socad's Bridle	<u>WELLSGREEN</u> Pete Wilmot	<u>STABLE ROOM</u>	<u>BREWERY</u>
6th	Singers	Every week	Ian Hartland	Andy Caven	Club meets	
13th	"	Folk Dance	Therapy	Dave Walters	monthly	
20th	Ar Log	with	Nic Dow	Brownsville Band		Bert Jansch & John Renbourne
27th	Singers	Local Singers	Singers' Night	John James	No club	
<u>FRI.</u> Res.	<u>DIGCONSON</u> See (o) overleaf	<u>CORONATION</u> See (d) overleaf	<u>BEE</u>	<u>LANCASTER</u> Folkstir	<u>ROEBUCK</u> Roebuck Singers	<u>BRITON'S PROTECTION</u> See (e) overleaf
7th	Bill Caddick	Andy Caven	Pete Castle	Singers	Singaroun? weekly	Steve Turner
14th	Singers	Nic Jones	Singers	Strawhead	ST. PHILIPS (£, over)	Singers
21st.	Wassailers	Pete Bellamy	"	Singers	Reg. Ushers Well	Curates Egg
28th	Singers	Singers & Resident	T.B.A.	John James	T.B.A.	Ringers Bush Band
<u>SAT.</u> Res.	<u>BURY</u> Various <i>Gifford</i>	<u>POYNTON</u>	<u>BREWERY</u>			
1st.	Derek Brimstone					
8th	Steve Turner	Cornfield Perambu- lation Ceilidh Band				
15th	Tim Laycock					
22nd	T.B.A.					
29th	Jim Eldon.		McCalmane			

KEY TO SYMBOLS:

* See Out & About
For all remainder, see overleaf

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED
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OR OF THE FEDERATION

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