

**THE NORTH WEST FEDERATION OF
FOLK CLUBS**



NEWSLETTER

15p

DEC. '80 - JAN. '81

EDITORIAL

OFFICER	REPRESENTING	NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Chairman	Central Lancashire Area	Derek Harrison	11 Walnut Grove, Penworthen. Preston	0772 748439
Tours Organiser		Dave Baird	435, Eastwood, Windmill Hill, Runcorn	0928 716632
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		Peggy McArdle	109 Cottage Lane, Ormskirk. Lancs.	0695 77611
Joint Activities Co-ordinator	North Lancashire & Cumbria Area	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
The Looall	8.30	Pickering Arms, The Wall, Warrington	Chris Roach	02572 8055
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
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				
Old Dog	8.30	Old Dog Inn, Alma Hill, Upholland	Neill Hurst	0744 25038 (work)
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
Wigan	8.30	Park Hotel, Market Square, Wigan (Alternate Weeks)	Joan Blackburn	0942 823889
FRIDAY				
Dicconson	8.30.	Dicconson Arms, Wroughtington	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	Mike Billington	061 881 8729
Crown	8.30	Crown Hotel, Hawes, Sedburgh (summer only)	Peter Waller	0587 20828
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

So here we are again with our Christmas issue of the Newsletter, so let me first of all wish all our readers and our Member Clubs a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. In order to ensure that in the future your Newsletter can always arrive on time, we have decided not to have a one-month issue again, and instead all the issues will be two or three months. A year will now be 5 issues therefore as follows: Dec/Jan, Feb/Mar, April/May, June/July/August and Sept/Oct/Nov.

Before telling you what we have in store this month, I'd like to mention a little about Dick Gaughan's special conference (see our September issue). I believe that replies from this area so far have been the poorest of all regions, so I must stress again the importance of replying, even if you are unable to attend the conference yourself. The date has now been fixed for the weekend of Feb 28/Mar 1 next year; ideas & suggestions will be welcomed. Further details will be sent to all those who have responded and we shall in due course have a full report on the conference and its achievements.

In this issue we've two new contributors, our new Gossip John who will I think put a new slant to this humorous column and our new Tours Organiser who has supplied an article on his intentions - there's a form to fill in here too, so please make sure your club organiser has filled his form in.

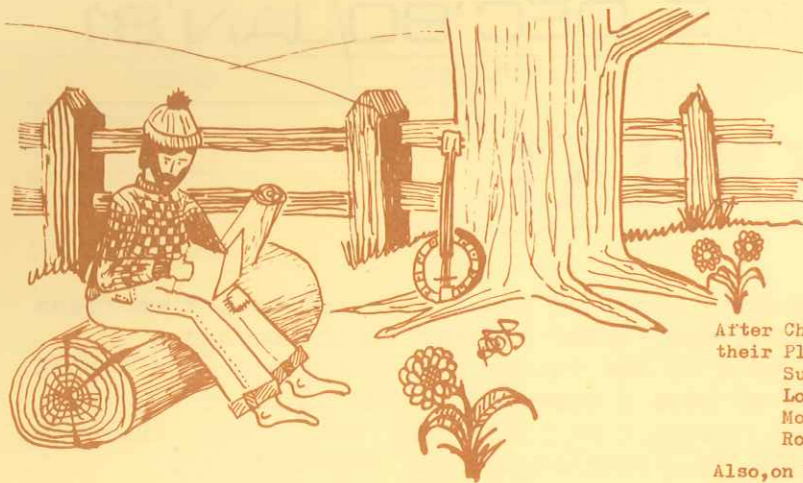
Joan Blackburn has contributed two articles herself this month, namely her Song Exchange, and an article on the current disagreement between the Performing Rights Society and the EFDSS on behalf of the folk songwriters. Ian Wells has as usual been to Ilam Folk Festival, and presents a review of it on page 12.

There are of course all our usual features of Song of the Month, Club of the Month etc and last but by no means least the Calendar for December & January.

At this stage I must thank as usual my typists, Elaine Derbyshire & Chris Roach, together with my two artists, Chris Woolley for our festive cover, and Ron Baxter for incidental illustrations. Copy Date for next issue (Feb/Mar) is JAN 4th.



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OUT & ABOUT

Cont'd:

After Christmas, the Mummerys are to be seen performing their Plough Play on two days only:
 Sunday 11th January (Allin Southport)
 London/Windmill/Shakespeare/Queens
 Monday 11th January (All in Southport)
 Rose & Crown/Rams Head/Black Horse/Beaconsall

Also, on the 9th January, they are guests of the Dioconson Arms at Wrightington, this being a Friday Night.

...ooOoo...

There seem to be a lot of clubs with a Christmas Party this year, so many in fact that it would not be possible to give details of them all here. Suffice it to say that you should look in the Club Dates on pages 15 & 16 for full details of all of these. Please also note that there are a number of clubs closed for 2-3 weeks over Christmas, so consult the diary for which clubs are open when.

...ooOoo...

The Celebrated Ratcliffe Stout Band are on tour in the area in early December, and can be seen at the following Federation clubs: Sunday 7th Dec., RAVEN F.C., Chester
 Monday, 8th Dec., TURNKEY FOLK CLUB, Wigan
 Tuesday, 9th Dec., BLACKPOOL FOLK CLUB.

The duo are to be joined by poet Bob Devereux from Cornwall on the tour, and will be presenting a "mini-panto" entitled Yellow Dwarf as part of their act. Looks like a guest not to be missed!

...ooOoo...

Another Duo on tour during December are Bobby Eaglesham & Dave Tullough, and they can be seen as follows:

Monday, 1st December, PRESTON FOLK CLUB
 Tuesday, 2nd December, BLACKPOOL FOLK CLUB
 Wednesday, 3rd December, CONCORD F.C., Droylesden

...ooOoo...

GARSTANG FOLK CLUB have reached a crisis point with falling attendances and lack of funds. Their final night may be the Xmas Party Night with Roger Westbrook on December 23rd, apart from their A.G.M. which is to be on January 6th, 1981 at 8.15pm in the Eagle & Child Hotel in Garstang. If YOU care about Garstang Folk Club, you should turn up at the AGM, and see what can be done to try to save the club.

...ooOoo...

There are still a few LEADER/TRAILER deletions available (all perfect, in grey booklet sleeves) at a special price of £2.85 each. Titles available:
 LEE 4057 Far Canadian Fields
 LEE 4062 Come Day, Go Day, God Send Sunday (John Maguire)
 LEE 4045 Lonnie Austin & Norman Woodliff
 Prices are inclusive of postage, so send cheque or P.O. made payable to N.W.F.F.C. to the Editorial Address.

...ooOoo...

NOW ON SALE: 1981 Federation diaries, assorted colours with gold lettering, only 35p each plus 12p postage. Send cheque or P.O. (stamps also accepted) to Editorial Address; also available from most Federation Folk Clubs.

...ooOoo...

The LAFS (Leyland & Area Folk Society) Magazine 1980 is still available. A well written & illustrated booklet, it describes all the various activities of LAFS & its members together with articles on our cultural heritage. Price 50p (including postage) from J. Lewis, 47, Wilby Grove Cres., Bamber Bridge, Preston.

CLUB OF THE MONTH: BLACKPOOL Folk Club



Nineteen years ago in a small downstairs room of the Talbot Hotel, three people ran a Folk Evening. They were Stuart Robinson, Pete Rodger and Geoff Gleeve. Then along came Brian Osborne and Alan Bell and a group was formed called The Taverners. Geoff left the group to work away after a short time but the other four began to attract more people to listen to this 'new music' and they eventually moved to a much larger room upstairs. These were fun days when long wooden benches from the bowling green were brought upstairs, often padded with newspapers, not only for comfort but because sometimes they were wet. Two hundred or more people were packing the room to see a guest every week - The Johnstons, Christy Moore and even Billy Connolly. Sadly the Talbot was pulled down during the mid-sixties and the club moved up/down the road to the Kings Arms. Here the Club continued to go from strength to strength reaching at one time a membership of 800 - thankfully they did not all come at once, but many were the nights when we had to turn people away even from a singers night. Coach trips to Manchester Free Trade Hall and the M.S.G. were regular events and we had two folk trips on Lake Windermere.

Because of structural alterations to the Kings Arms the club moved at short notice to the Raikes Hotel.

Interest suddenly began to wane - the 'revival' of the sixties was over; or perhaps other factors were to blame, they certainly have not helped! The position of the Raikes makes it difficult for people without their own transport to reach; the lack of natural atmosphere in the room doesn't help (but could that be achieved??); interest within the Resident Group seemed to dwindle until the bottom was reached in April and May of 1980 when there were only 7, yes, 7 paying customers; there has never been in 19 years an organising committee, just three regular enthusiasts of whom only one is left. However, the enthusiast and one of the Resident Group rallied together to try and save the Club from imminent disaster and organised a few fund-raising events in an effort to gain more support. Unfortunately family commitments do not allow the sort of time that is needed for two people to try and revitalise interest in the Club.

One would expect that with loyal support from the Resident Group/Organisers at any Club the guests, floor singers and audience would be made to feel welcome and inevitably this must lead to enthusiastic membership for the Club, and not expecting people to turn up just to see a 'big name guest'. If initially there is no enthusiasm then support cannot be expected!

However, Blackpool Folk Club is still solvent at the time of going to press and thanks must be made to all floor singers and people who have helped out over the years. Apologies to all our friendly Landlords for all the times we have gone on too long.

We would like to think we can look forward to many more years at Blackpool Folk Club and perhaps with the help of friends old and new we may do so. An effort is made by some to make all visitors feel welcome - so here's to the future - Keep Folk Music Live!



PERFORMING RIGHTS

In the June 1980 issue of "Newsflow" (a news sheet distributed by the EFDSS to its members), an article by Leslie Hyner, Secretary of the EFDSS, requested that all programme returns which would normally be made to the Performing Right Society (PRS) should henceforth be sent instead to Cecil Sharp House as, apparently, the PRS have not been accepting programme returns or making royalty payments in respect of premises where the amount due to them in the way of licence fees is less than £80 per annum.

For the benefit of those who may be unfamiliar with the system of royalty payments, a very simplified explanation would be as follows: the PRS issue licences to premises whose proprietors wish to arrange musical entertainment, in return for a licence fee. The revenue thus received is distributed among those composers and authors whose works are performed. This information is obtained by means of a "programme return", which states the titles of the songs, the composers and the publishers, and should be signed by the licensee of the premises and is normally returned to the PRS to be analysed by their computer. In theory, each performance of a song should earn the composer a royalty.

Computer time is, of course, expensive, and eats up a lot of the licence revenue, so the PRS have apparently been disregarding programmes from "under £80 per annum" premises. Many folk venues fall into this category. It follows that, while the PRS are quite willing to accept licence fees from folk venues, they seem unwilling to distribute that revenue for music performed at those venues. Why?

To be fair, the problem seems purely an administrative one. The PRS gives the impression of being a typically impersonal over-large organisation, out of touch with its "grass roots". And while I'm sure that its individual officers would not wish to seem unfair, the system as currently operated is most unfair at its "bottom end", where both the EFDSS and the many authors of songs performed in folk venues are losing out on the overall-considerable royalties to which they should be entitled.

So, how to remedy the situation? One possible solution would be to de-centralise the administration, and have several regions, each responsible for programme returns and royalty payments in respect of premises under their jurisdiction. Whether or not this or any other possible system would be more economical than the present one may be better decided by a commission of inquiry.

As I am a member of both the EFDSS and the PRS, and as both organisations look after my interests in different fields, it pains me that on the borderline of their separate functions, they have difficulty in coming to an amicable and fair agreement. It seems that an independent commission of inquiry may be the only way of solving the problem. However, the PRS would doubtless not agree to such a commission without a lot of weight being brought to bear on it.

Do any other readers have strong feelings on the subject? If so, write in to the Editor expressing your views as to what could be done.

Joan Blackburn

SONG OF THE MONTH Come Away to the Hills

by Ruth Byrne

The Cities of England are grim, dirty... places The noise & the Bustle too much for me now. I re-member the Days of my Youth in the Country when I rose in the morning to milk & to plough. Come a-way to the hills & the high lonely places the grassy green fells & the bracken so high, where the clear mountain air makes life taste much sweeter-- and Larks sing to greet us when we pass by.

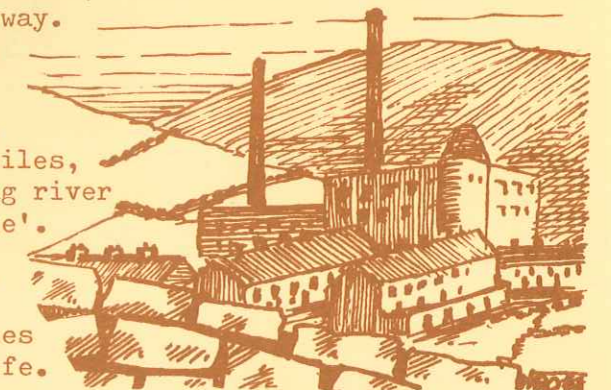
The cities of England are grim, dirty places,
The noise and the bustle too much for me now.
I remember the days of my youth in the country,
When I rose in the morning to milk and to plough.

CHORUS: Come away to the hills and the high lonely places,
The grassy green fells, and the bracken so high,
Where the clear mountain air makes life taste much sweeter,
And larks sing to greet us when we pass by.

City folk are like sheep that are lost on the fellside,
With no common-sense - where the mob-rule holds sway.
But the shepherd that guided the sheep I remember,
Would never allow them to roam or to stray!

I'll go back to my village up high in the valley,
Where friends and relations will greet me with smiles,
And the trees and the stones and the sweet rushing river
Will fold themselves round me and say 'stay awhile'.

I will end my days here in peace and contentment,
Away from the turmoil, the noise and the strife.
I will walk in the hills and remember the old times
And enjoy this fair country for the rest of my life.



Do you write songs, poems or monologues? - If you do, why not enter one for the Song of the Month Competition? If your composition is selected, it will be published in the Newsletter and you will receive a year's free subscription, and a chance to enter for the Song of the Year. I shall expect to receive lots of entries for next issue and I look forward to reading them all.

THE EDITOR

AGENDA by the Chairman

Thirty folk clubs from the North-West are members of the Federation and yet at the last meeting only the Turnkey, Ormskirk, Preston, St. Helens, Rainford, Dicconson, Triton & Rhyl sent representatives. If your club is a member of the Federation are you prepared to come along & speak for your club or give your views on the folk scene? Your Folk Club Organiser not having the time or inclination may welcome a willing volunteer.

There is a lot of talk right now about the state of the folk scene, as to whether it is in permanent decline or just going through another difficult cycle. If you feel inclined to moan about trends in the folk scene generally, here is a chance to influence the situation. If you don't wish to take up the gauntlet - fine, but you've lost the right to moan.

This may all sound very rhetorical, but the truth is that there a number of important decisions about to be taken on behalf of the Federation that on present evidence will be taken by VERY FEW people. A sample of the next meeting includes:

- A series of Folk Concerts leaning heavily on the talents of club residents
- A youth Concert
- A part professional/part federation booking agency
- A discussion on whether entertainers, organisers or audiences are instrumental in closing clubs.
- Use of the media

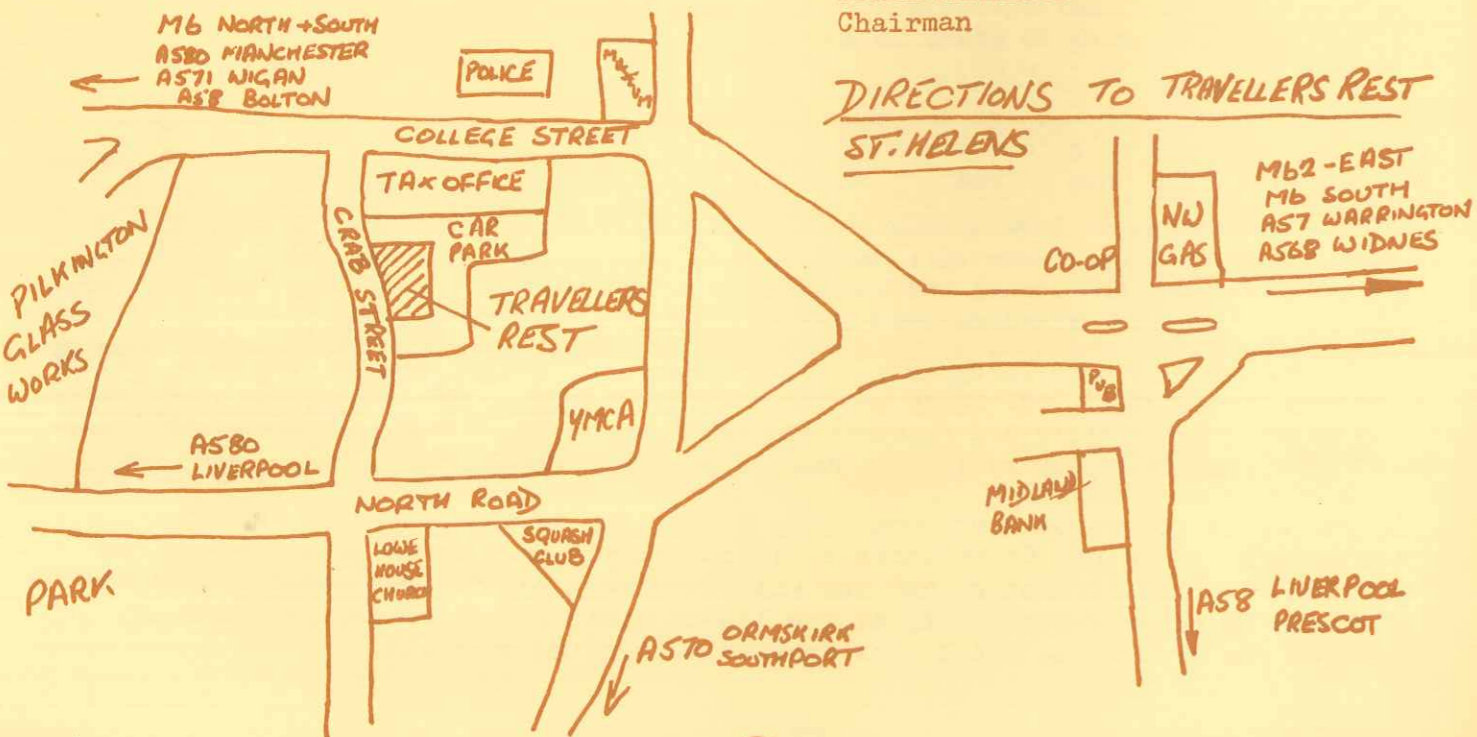
If these things are not of interest to the Federation Members, then are we to dismantle the structure and go back to being individual members? - I certainly hope not!

Our next get-together is a rather more informal occasion which will be combined with a singaround and is to be held in the club room of Travellers Rest, Crab St., St. Helens (see map below) on TUESDAY JANUARY 20th at 8pm. Make sure your club organiser knows about this and sends a representative along.

A final point is that we are at present short of people to actually run the Federation, and if you think you can help in any way, please contact myself of Nigel Firth.

DEREK HARRISON
Chairman

DIRECTIONS TO TRAVELLERS REST ST. HELENS



OUR NEW TOURS ORGANISER:

A while ago I phoned Nigel Firth to ask who the Tours Organiser for the Federation was, and was told that there was no-one actually doing the job at that time. After some thought, I rang back and said that I would do it - here I am putting my plans to paper for all to see.

Most of you will know my name as a performer, but there is another side to Dave Baird. I have been around the Folk Scene since 1967 doing most things from an apprentice raffle ticket seller at my local club to a professional performer in pubs, clubs, boats & trains up & down the country, as well as being a full-time tour organiser for over five years in Glasgow, so I am certainly not a newcomer to the job.

The job of running a folk club these days is not an easy one, with the cost of guests, advertising, phone calls etc etc. My intention is therefore to form a small "agency" dealing at first with local acts. By local I mean within 60 miles of Warrington, thus cutting travelling expenses & if I can guarantee performers anything from 5 nights upwards at a reduced fee it can only help the North West folk scene. By having a central phone number for member clubs and guests alike, it again can cut your costs, as will advertising supplied from a central point.

If I seem to be obsessed with saving you money, then you are right. If you can bring a guest along at a cheaper fee with reduced advertising costs, then you ought to be able to stabilise your entrance charge. This in turn will bring more people into the clubs and result in prosperity & popularity for the North-West Folk Scene.

Now for all this, all I want from you is your complete support in all aspects of the "agency" and the tour fee when you use the agency services to provide a guest for your club. The "agency" will be run on a low profit margin to provide performers for The Member Clubs, not to make either me or the Federation millionaires!

I have put together a questionnaire for you to complete and return to me as soon as possible, readers, performers as well as Club Organisers. I shall be pleased to clear up any questions by letter or telephone.

DAVE BAIRD (TOURS ORGANISER)

- Club Organisers - please see loose form enclosed

FORM FOR READERS OF THE NEWSLETTER TO COMPLETE & RETURN:

Which clubs do you frequent ?
.....
Which guests would you most like to see at any (or all) of these clubs ?
.....
Do you find admission prices either TOO LOW / ABOUT RIGHT / TOO HIGH * in the clubs you usually visit ?
Give your name & address here, if you like
.....
Any other relevant comments may be included on a separate sheet.
* Delete which does not apply

FORM FOR PERFORMERS TO COMPLETE & RETURN :

(please include posters & demo tape is possible)
Name
Address & Phone No.
.....
Type of Act
Fee £.... Transport Yes/No *
Own P.A. Yes/No *
RETURN COMPLETED FORMS TO:
Dave Baird, Tel:
435, Eastwood, 0928 716632
Windmill Hill,
Runcorn

SONG EXCHANGE

Conducted by JOAN BLACKBURN

If you would like the words, music and/or chords of a song, 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.

I have received a letter from Louis Green, expressing thanks for printing his request in the last issue. Louis says he has collected hundreds of folk songs over the last twenty-five years, and "while I have no desire to take over the excellent service that your magazine performs in this connection I am prepared to let anyone who is interested have the words of any song in my collection. I'd have to charge something to cover postage, paper etc." Louis then lists some of the titles in his collection: Turtle Dove; Shady Grove; Scarlet Town is Burning Down; The Caves of Tomorrow; John o' Dreams; The Summer Time is Coming; The Congo River; Travelling People; Coulters Candy; The Beltane Fire; Andrew Rose; The Band Played Waltzing Matilda; The Recruiting Sergeant; Rossendale; Kilgarry Mountain; Roddy M'Cauley; Wild Mountain Thyme; The Day We Went to Rothesay-O; Bonny Lass o' Fyvie-O; Fiddlers Green; and many more. If anyone wishes to write to Louis for the words of any of the above, his address is: 15 Alexander Road, Ulverston, Cumbria.

THANKS to Dave Crolley of Bootle, for supplying the words of "The Otter Song", requested by Jim Bradshaw last issue.

REQUEST from Graham Dunn of the Travellers Folk Club, St Helens, for "Red is the Rose" - the words are reproduced below, courtesy of "Ireland's Own" magazine. The lyrics, as far as can be ascertained, were written by Finbar & Eddie Furey, and the tune is "Loch Lomond".

RED IS THE ROSE

Come over the hills to your bonny blue-eyed lass,
Come over the hills to your darling,
Let you take the road, love, and I'll make a vow
That I'll be your true love for ever.

Chorus: Red is the rose that in yonder garden grows,
Fair is the lily of the valley,
Clear is the water that flows from the Boyne,
But my love is fairer than any.

By Killarney's clear lakes I've oftentimes trod,
The moon and the stars they were shining,
The moon it shone bare on her head of golden hair,
And she vowed she'd be my love for ever.

Repeat Chorus.

It's not on the parting of my sister Kate,
It's not on the grief of my mother,
It's all for the love of my bonny Irish lass
Who is leaving old Ireland for ever.

Repeat Chorus.



GOSSIP JOHN...

EDITOR'S NOTE: We now have a new Gossip John, and this will be his first column. I hope you'll give him chance to find his feet.

Gossip John writes:

Several weeks ago on TISWAS, I caught Mike Harding playing bass concertina. He set the following quiz question for viewers: "Captain Cook made three journeys to Australia - which one did he die on?" Answers please, on the back of a used Raquel Welch, to the Anglo-American Tea Society, Boston.

I gather that KICKING MULE are about to release a concertina tuition album with Lea Nicholson playing English Concertina. He is backed on the record by Russ Ballard and Rod Argent (of "Argent" fame)!

The last Richard Digance Single "A Nightingale sang in Berkely Square" featured JON LORD of Deep Purple as one of the backing musicians (rumour has it his fee was a bottle - or was it a case - of Vodka). We don't know whether the Vodka came from Vladivostok or Varrington however.

BUCKTHORN, the Southport-based four-part harmony group who are residents at the Coronation Folk Club, have found a new member who is apparently Welsh (can't all be perfect I suppose) and female. More details of this next issue.

ANOTHER LET-DOWN BY ROARING JELLY - so the headline in the local press might have read after they should have appeared at the Turnkey Folk Club in Wigan recently. I gather that one of the group's members had changed his shifts, so they rung round to cancel and if there was no reply they wrote (or so they said). No such letter was ever received in this case, and it was only pure chance that the organiser found out, some two hours before they were due to appear! Fortunately, JOLLY JACK from Rochdale were able to step in at the last minute and a good time was had by all. Despite this, it's a situation that should not have occurred - what do you think?

Letter to the Editor



Following my recent comments about attendances at singers' nights, I have had a letter from N.J. Haworth of Hale whose unfortunate experience may throw some light on the problem. Due to lack of space, I am only able to quote briefly from this. Mr. Haworth tells me he has been a regular attender at clubs for 7 years. His main criticism is as follows:

"It is common in the majority of Folk Clubs for the organisers and friends to be in a clique of their own and this is understandable. However in this club this clique (which is the majority of people) spend the night outside the club room congregating at the bar."

"One of the singers summed the situation up nicely at a time when 7 people were in the club and some 20 people were outside talking. He said 'I'm not sure whether this is a Social Club or a Folk Club' "

Mr. Haworth concludes:

"Might I suggest that if you want to encourage people to go to singers' nights you attempt to ensure that your Member Clubs run singers' Nights that enhance rather than detract from Folk Music."

Food for thought for Organisers? -ED.

REVIEW:

by IAN WELLS

Ilam festival has a special appeal for us as the discovery of it started our move into active involvement with the Folk Scene. We have a private tradition: leave work at lunchtime, have a pint of Robinsons at the Cat and Fiddle then take the narrow yellow over Axe Edge that gives a superb view over the upper Dove and Manifold Valleys. Ilam is essentially a one day festival (Friday night is just a bonus for campers) but has a guest list that would satisfy many three day organisers.

The lunch time concert opened with Jolly Jack who rapidly stirred us out of that sober, midday mood that can ruin the atmosphere. Bob Fox and Stu Luckly did a good set in spite of a string breaking at a dramatically appropriate point in "The Contest between the Brockly Cages".

An unadvertised addition to the bill were The Arizona Smoke Revue. I'm not sure about this act: they clearly enjoy their music, being all good performers, their material reflecting their diverse backgrounds, but they seem to confuse energy with volume. This caused problems later on when their arena spot drowned out the singers tent. Dereck Brimstone followed them with dry humour and good singing. Last and definately not least: Martin Carthy, the man of whom everything has already been said.

The singers tent had a long and lively list of featured and spontaneous acts. Amongst local artists, I caught Conkers (Droylsden) who did a nervous but good set, Ian McArdle (Buck, Ormskirk) who demonstrated instrumental vigour and vocal fluency, and Pat Ryan who sang three songs superbly. The outstanding experience was ELECCAMPANE, and experience it certainly was. The programme note called them "an electric folk-theatre group" - factually correct but about as descriptive as saying Martin Carthy plays the Folk-guitar. Their "Dr. Electron's Travelling Circus" sequence had clowns, patent medicine, a magician, a dancing bear and climaxed with a fully visual version of "Rawtenstall Annual Fair"! The troupe of six have flair, dedication, versatility and energy - seize any chance you can to see them.

The evening concert was heavily Scottish. There was a tremendous opening from Battlefield with instrumental vigor applied to an unhackneyed selection of tunes. Cosmotheke continue their triumphal procession round the festivals and performed their selection of less usual Music Hall songs with their customary panache. Graham Cooper sang songs from the wilderness between contemporary folk and pop before reverting to M.C.

Cilla Fisher and Artie Tresize gave a beautifully performed act ranging from "Gypsy Laddie" (a less well known version) to John Kirkpatrick's "Laundrette Song". The Scottish influence was still evident as Silly Wizard closed the concert.

The evening concert was jammed solid, the lunchtime one merely full, the arena always occupied, the singers tent often packed out and the sun shone all day - what will David J. Brindley do next year to top this? One thing is certain, we'll be back.

ILAM Festival of Folk Music, Art and Crafts

RECORD REVIEW

STONEGROUND BAND : SUNSTRUCK

NUT 11 (Nut Records, Front Door, Basford Hall, Leek

Side 1 : Mediterranean Lady/ Antalya/Black is the Colour
Fighting & a-Fueding/Plainsong.

Side 2 : Sensuous Lady/Bombay Rag/Blind Joe
More than a friend/Plymouth Farewell.

Stoneground, formerly a local duo has now become a trio and changed its name to Stoneground Band. The Band consist of John Howarth, Dave Walmisley and Mike Green and this LP on Nut Records is their first.

I was struck at once by the excellent singing and the pleasant sound they make together. Unfortunately all their songs tend to sound alike all with the same "laid-back" arrangement better suited to background music.

Side one's high spot is undoubtedly a version of the traditional "Black is the Colour" which I found excellent. This, together with Derek Brimstone's "Fighting & a-fueding" are the only highlights in an otherwise featureless set of tracks.

It would be only fair to say that they are all fine musicians, and "Bombay Rag" on side 2 is a good chance to hear their skills on a range of instruments. Judging from the words on the sleeve, I was looking forward to hearing Blind Joe, but it was only another featureless song rather than one that makes you sit up and take notice. Plymouth Farewell is an attempt to write a traditional-type song, which doesn't quite come off.

Taken all round then, not an LP I would buy, but why not go along to see them when they next appear at a Folk Club near you - perhaps you might like them and then think about buying an LP.

N.F.

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DID YOU KNOW THAT THESE SMALL ADS as above are only £1.00 per insertion. (Private sales and wants only, no clubs, trade or singers ads) Send copy to Editorial Address with remittance (cheques to NWFFC, please)

BEWARE ALL FOLK CLUBS!

CRISIS

(IAN, PHIL & ERIC)

ARE BACK!

For Bookings Contact:

IAN SUTTON or ERIC BURKE
Newton 28727 St. Helens 33463



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

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DECEMBER

SUN. Res.	RAINFORD	TRAVELLERS	POYNTON	RAVEN	PRESCOT	LEIGH
7th	Closed	Vince Brennan & Graham Dunne	Harvey Andrews	Kings Ransom	Pheasant Pluckers	Turnpike
14th	Eddie Walker	3-cornered Hat Singers' night	Ewan MacColl & Peggy Seeger	Celebrated/Stout* Ratcliffe/Band Singers' Night	<i>NO DATES TO HAND</i>	Tim Laycock Auld Triangle
21st	Closed	Xmas Party	Watersons	Strawhead		Gorton Tank
28th	Roaring Jelly	Closed	Teeside Pettlers	Singers' Night		Turnpike Mini-Ceilidh
MON. Res.	PRESTON	TURNKEY	TRITON		POYNTON	
1st	Kalied Band	Heritage & Tony Hewitt	Black Dog		Peter Hughes	
8th	Bobby Eaglesham & Dave Tullough	Singers' night	Spinners		<i>Singers' Night every week</i>	
15th	Rebec	Cel.Rat.Stout Band*	Pat Ryan			
22nd	Singers' night	Southport Mummer's*	Tony Rose			
29th	Closed	Xmas Party	Closed			
	Closed	Closed	Closed			
TUES. Res.	GARSTANG	BLACKPOOL	BUCK i' th' VINE	BREWERY		
2nd	Singers' night	Taverners	Spring Heel Jack			
9th	Strawhead	Bobby Eaglesham & Dave Tullough*	Pete & Chris Coe			
16th	Singers' night	Cel.Rat.Stout Band	Singers' Night	Jake Thackeray		
23rd	Xmas Party with Roger Westbrook	Bernard Wrigley	"			
30th	Closed	Xmas Party	Bob Chiswick			
	Closed	Woodbine Lizzie	Singers' night			
WED. Res.	WINWICK	BREWERY	CONCORD	FOLK AT THE MALT		
3rd	Reynardine		Rings Bush Band			
10th	Folkways	Thurs. 11th Houghton Weavers	Singers' Night	Singers' night		
17th	Singers' night	Bernard Wrigley	Pat Ryan	Chris & Joe While		
24th	Crises Jug Band	Closed	To be arranged	Singers' night		
31st	Closed	Closed	Closed	Xmas Party		
	"	Closed	Closed	Closed		
THURS. Res.	L'POOL TRAD	POYNTON	FLEETWOOD	WELLGREEN	WIGAN FOLK CLUB	
4th	See (a) below	Folk Dance & Song	Scolds Bride	Pete Wilmot	Joan Blackburn	
11th	Singers	Evening.	Johnny Collins	TBA	Closed	
18th	Shivery		Singers' Night	Fogey	Singaround	
25th	Xmas Ceilidh		Strawhead Xmas P.	Xmas Party	Closed	
	Closed		Closed	Closed	"	
FRI. Res.	DICCONSON	CORONATION	BEE	LANCASTER	ROEBUCK	BRITON'S PROTECTION
5th	See (b) below	See (c) below		Folkstir	Roebuck Singers (e)	see (d) below
12th	Johnny Collins	Hemlock Cock & Bull Band	Singers' night	Singers' Night	Singaround	Joe Kerrins
19th	Singers	Roy Bailey	Bill Caddick	Steve Chilcott	Weekly	Singers' night
26th	Xmas Party	Xmas Party	Singers' night	Xmas Party	ST. PHILIPS	Galadriel (Xmas Party)
	Closed	Closed	Guest TBA	Singers' Night	Res.Ushers Well	Closed
				Closed	<i>NO CLUB IN DECEMBER</i>	
SAT. Res.	BURY	POYNTON	STABLE ROOM			
6th	Various					
13th	Johnny Collins	Ceilidh				
20th	Joe Kerrins	Rock Folk †	Xmas Party			
27th	Ceilidh-Derby Hall	Xmas Party ‡				
	Closed					

KEY TO SYMBOLS ABOVE:

- * See Out & About
- (a) Residents include Shay Black, Tony Gibbons, Mary Edwards, Tony Rosney & others
- (b) Residents include Martin Banks, Mark Dowling, Bill & Shelia Hunt, Derek Gifford
- (c) Residents: Buckthorn, Bernie Blaney, Richard Tynan
- (d) Residents: Mike Bowden, Steve Chilcott, Mersey Trout, Morrigan & John Croft
- § And Cheshire Folk
- (e) And Friends

† With Ballack Smithy
‡ Carrfield Perambulation Ceilidh Band
§ With Purple Gang

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JANUARY

SUN. 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 Pluckers	<u>LEIGH</u> Turnpike
4th	Closed	Gill Burns	R/dale Cowboys • Ride Again	Singers' Night	<i>NO DATES TO HAND</i>	Two Beggarmen
11th	Closed	Steve Turner	English Tapestry	Howard Bond		Therapy
18th	Gary & Vera Aspey	TBA	Whally Whyton	Singers' Night		Wassailers
25th	Closed	Singers' night	Brownsville Banned	Steve & Les Chilcott		John+Siste Adams
MON. Res.	<u>PRESTON</u> Kaliad Band	<u>TURNKEY</u> Heritage & Tony Hewitt	<u>TRITON</u> Black Dog		<u>POYNTON</u> Peter Hughes	
5th	Closed	Shindig	Closed		<i>Singers' Night Every week</i>	
12th	Gill Burns & Annie Power	Steve Turner	Dr. Sunshines Pavement Show			
19th	Howard Bond	Singers' night 1st Anniversary	Singers' Night			
26th	Andy Caven	Special Night	Dave Burland			
TUES Res.	<u>GARSTANG</u>	<u>BLACKPOOL</u> Taverners	<u>BUCK i' th' VINE</u> Spring Heel Jack			
6th	A.G.M.	Rebec	Gill Burns & Annie Power			
13th	To be decided	Singers' night	Singers' night			
20th	depending on AGM	Steve Turner	"			
27th		Peter Bond	Strawhead			
WED	<u>WINWICK</u> Reynardine	<u>BREWERY</u>	<u>CONCORD</u> <i>Kings Fish Band</i>	<u>FOLK AT THE MALT</u>		
7th	Steve Chilcott	No club during January	to be arranged	Singers' night		
14th	Singers' night		to be arranged	Stoneground Band		
21st	Derek Gifford		to be arranged	Dave Walters		
28th	TBA		to be arranged	Andy Caven		
THURS Res.	<u>L'POOL TRAD.</u>	<u>POYNTON</u>	<u>FLEETWOOD</u>	<u>WELLGREEN</u> Pete Wilmot	<u>STABLE ROOM</u>	<u>WIGAN FOLK CLUB</u> Joan Blackburn
1st	Closed	Folk Dance	Closed	TBA		Closed
8th	Gill Burns & Annie Powers	&	Taverners	Jones & Co.		Singaround
15th	To be arranged	Song Evening	Derek Gifford	Foggy		Closed
22nd	to be arranged		Steve Chilcott	Stoneground Band	Irish Night	Singaround
29th	to be arranged		Bernard Wrigley	TBA		Closed
FRI Res.	<u>DICCONSON</u>	<u>CORONATION</u>	<u>BEE</u>	<u>LANCASTER</u> Folkstir	<u>ROEBUCK</u> Roebuck Singers	<u>BRITON'S PROTECTION</u>
2nd	Bernard Wrigley	Closed	Singers' night	Closed	Singaround weekly	Closed
9th	Southport Mummers*	John Bull Band	Claughan	Guest TBA		Gentleman Soldier
16th	Singers' night	Mint Julep	Singers' night	Singers' Night	<u>ST. PHILIPS</u> Res. Ushers well 3rd team: <i>Wendy, Lizzy</i> Therapy	Howard Bond
23rd	Paul Metsers	Singers' night	Dave Burland	Guest TBA		Tim Eldon
30th	Singers' night	TBA	Singers' night	Bully Wee		Singers' Night
SAT. Res.	<u>BURY</u> Various	<u>POYNTON</u>				
3rd.	TBA					
10th	Pete Castle	Ceilidh				
17th	Inertia Reel					
24th	Gill Burns					
31st	Keith Kendrick & Barry Coope					

KEY TO SYMBOLS ABOVE:

- * See Out & About
- Special Night features singers from several Rochdale Folk Clubs

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS NEWSLETTER ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE EDITOR OR FEDERATION.

EDITORIAL ADDRESS:-
All correspondence to
3, Cromford Dr.,
Pemberton,
WIGAN WN5 8JU

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