

FOLK NORTH WEST



John Wright 1947 - 2008

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CD's or tapes for review (or reviews of) and live reviews to

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Tel:- 0151 639 4285

Please note that the copy date for the next issue is July 10th 2008.



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EDITORIAL

Well the festival season is well and truly here. There seems to be a good line up at many festivals and some indication that the weather will be better than last year. Congratulations to Geoff Pickles on completing 21 years of sterling service with Cleckheaton Folk Festival at this years event. Nice to see that they are going to produce a CD commemorating the 21 years and that they intend to call it 'Mixed Pickles'.

I read an interesting article the other day about PRS and how they go about their business. I hadn't realised fully that they were a private company and that to be on the board you have to have an annual royalty income of over £70,000, no chance then of folk representation on that board. Also they can only legally collect royalties on behalf of their members and not on behalf of people who are not members. Furthermore they can only collect monies for work that is registered with PRS. PRS cannot collect royalties for any unnotified work, therefore any artist making a recording and the work is brought to the attention of PRS through that recording then if the work is not registered then royalties cannot be collected. Quite how we as organisers of clubs or festivals can sort all that out I am not sure. It seems that someone like the Association of Festival Organisers need to get involved to find out exactly what PRS are entitled to do or ask for.

I urge you to support Rosemary Tawney's efforts to collect recordings of Cyril's concert and club appearances. A great idea to place his archive in the Vaughan Williams Memorial Library at Cecil Sharp House. I just wish I had a recording of one memorable late evening session at The Wadebridge Festival in Cornwall where Cyril was assisted by us up to the room and nudged awake when it was his turn. He came out with some absolute gems I have never heard him do before or since. Ah well here's hoping he was "captured" elsewhere.

Ken Bladen

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CHAIRMAN'S JOTTINGS

To demonstrate the esteem in which he was held the cream of the U.K.'s contemporary music artists are out in force on Friday 5th September at the Journal Tyne Theatre in Newcastle-upon-Tyne for a special benefit concert to mark the life of the much missed John Wright.

Every single person approached to take part readily agreed and it promises to be a spectacular event and you can see the line-up elsewhere in this edition.

So much store is put by the traditional folk song that contemporary music is often looked upon as a poor relation, but without it the overall feel of the folk scene would be sadly lacking.

If you are free on that date I would urge you to come along and enjoy an evening of top class music as well as an opportunity to say goodbye to a truly great performer.

David Jones



What Folk programmes are on the radio TODAY?

compiled by Rob Dunford

SUNDAY

1.00 - 3.00pm BBC Radio Scotland - THE REEL BLEND presented by ROBBIE SHEPHERD
6.00 - 8.00pm (Rpt) BBC Radio Scotland - GLOBAL GATHERING presented by MARY ANN KENNEDY
8.00 - 9.00pm (Rpt) BBC Radio Lancashire - THE DRIFT presented by PHIL BROWN
8.00 - 10.00pm BBC Radio Shropshire - SUNDAY FOLK presented by GENEVIEVE TUDOR
also on BBC Radio Stoke.
10.00 - 11.00pm RTE - THE LATE SESSION presented by AINE HENSEY
10.00 - 11.00pm Downtown Radio - COUNTRY CEILIDH presented by TOMMY SANDS

MONDAY

7.00 - 8.00pm Oldham Community Radio - SOUNDS OF FOLK presented by ALI O'BRIEN
7.00 - 9.00pm (via) BBC Radio Derby - FOLKWAVES presented by MICK PEAT and LESTER SIMPSON

TUESDAY

8.00 - 10.00pm Chorley FM - CHORLEY FOLK presented by JAMES BLATCHLEY
8.00 - 10.00pm BBC Radio Scotland - GLOBAL GATHERING presented by MARY ANN KENNEDY
9.00 - 10.00pm (Rpt) BBC Radio Merseyside - FOLKSCENE presented by STAN AMBROSE/GEOFF SPEED
9.00 - 10.00pm MANX RADIO - THE FOLK SHOW presented by JOHN KANEEN

WEDNESDAY

7.00 - 8.00pm BBC Radio 2 - FOLK ROOTS & ACOUSTIC MUSIC presented by MIKE HARDING
9.00 - 9.50pm RTE - THE ROLLING WAVE presented by PETER BROWNE

THURSDAY

8.00 - 10.00pm BBC Radio Scotland - TRAVELLING FOLK presented by ARCHIE FISHER
9.00 - 10.00pm BBC Radio Lancashire - THE DRIFT presented by PHIL BROWN
9.00 - 10.00pm BBC Radio Merseyside - FOLKSCENE presented by STAN AMBROSE/GEOFF SPEED

FRIDAY

7.00 - 8.00pm (Rpt) Oldham Community Radio - SOUNDS OF FOLK presented by Ali O'Brien

SATURDAY

3.00 - 4.00am (Rpt) BBC Radio 2 - FOLK, ROOTS & ACOUSTIC MUSIC presented by MIKE HARDING
7.00 - 8.30pm BBC Radio Scotland - TAKE THE FLOOR presented by ROBBIE SHEPHERD
7.30 - 10.00pm BBC Radio Wales - CELTIC HEARTBEAT presented by FRANK HENNESSY
8.00 - 9.00pm RTE - THE SOUTH WIND BLOWS presented by PHILIP KING
8.00 - 10.00pm BBC Radio Ulster - FOLK CLUB presented by COLUM SANDS/SIOBHAN SKATES
9.00 - 10.00pm BBC Radio Scotland - PIPELINE presented by GARY WEST
9.00 - 10.00pm RTE - CEILIDH HOUSE presented by KIERAN HANRAHAN
10.00 - 12.00pm (Rpt) BBC Radio Scotland - TRAVELLING FOLK presented by ARCHIE FISHER

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

BBC Radio Derby	FM 95.3, 104.5, 96.0 (Buxton)	MW 1116	Tel:- 01332 361111
BBC Radio Lancashire	FM 95.5, 103.9, 104.5	MW 855, 1557	Tel:- 01254 262411
BBC Radio Merseyside	FM 95.8	MW 1485	Tel:- 0151 7085500
BBC Radio Scotland	FM 92.4 - 94.7	MW 810	Tel:- 0141 3398844
BBC Radio Shropshire	FM 96.0		Tel:- 01743 248484
BBC Radio Stoke	FM 94.6, 104.1	MW 1503	Tel:- 01782 208080
BBC Radio Ulster	FM 92.4 - 95.4	MW 873, 1341	Tel:- 02890 338000
BBC Radio 2	FM 88.0 - 90.2		Tel:- 08700 100222
BBC Radio Wales	FM 93.9 - 95.9, 103.7 - 103.9	MW 882	Tel:- 029203 22000
Chorley FM	FM 102.8		Tel:- 01257 262661
Downtown Radio		MW 1026	Tel:- 02891 815551
Manx Radio	FM 89.0, 97.2, 103.7	MW 1368	Tel:- 01624 682600
Oldham Community Radio	FM 99.7		Tel:- 0161 6244004
RTE (Radio Teilifis Eirann) via ASTRA Satellite, LW 252		MW 567	Tel:- 003531 2083111

RADIO FREQUENCIES

FM 92.4-94.7/MW 810
FM 92.4-94.7/MW 810
FM 95.5
FM 96.0
FM 94.6
MW 567/LW 252
MW 1026
FM 99.7
see below
FM 102.8
FM 92.4-94.7/MW 810
FM 95.8/MW 1485
MW 1368
FM 88 - 90.2
MW 567/LW 252
FM 92.4-94.7/MW 810
FM 95.5
FM 95.8/MW 1485
FM 99.7
FM 88 - 90.2
FM 92.4-94.7/MW 810
MW 882
MW 567/LW 252
MW 1341
FM 92.4-94.7/MW 810
MW 567
FM 92.4-94.7/MW 810



RADIO XTRA

LIVE REVIEWS



ALTERNATIVE THERAPY-Live at the Boathouse Folk Club, Parkgate-31st January 2008



Despite the dreadful weather the chance to see Alternative Therapy at the Boathouse was the best reason ever to leave hearth and home and brave the elements; no one was disappointed, the room was charged with a mixture of anticipation, nostalgia and above all that "can't wait for this" factor"

As soon as the threesome took to the stage you knew it would be a treat from the opening "hellos" it was obvious that what was to follow was going to be memorable, with Dave Shannon, Sam Bracken and to lower the average age Elaine Bracken!!

They opened with Mary Magdalene, such sensitivity from Elaine's singing sent a glow to one's soul, a fine song, masterfully sung... what a start!! As ever Dave's humour was on top form putting a whole new meaning to "hip joints" which had us in tucks of laughter.

The singing of Shady Grove was delivered superbly, the tune is so melodic and played so effortlessly, the guitars rang out and the soulful playing of the flute by Elaine added that extra dimension that glued the whole thing together, the vocals were tight and delivered with the skill that only those getting inside the song can bring, great harmonies, no easy options here full of originality notes blending and complementing the melody and the emotions of the song; this was to be the format for the whole evening.

A set of tunes Willow/Kerfunten/Michael McGoldrick once again showed that knowing your trade makes for perfection. The set was driving and you wanted to dance your feet off! The County Down was for me, sung with so much feeling that I could feel the emotion in the song pass to me, so many left their homelands for a better life leaving all they loved and those who loved them behind. Salty Dog followed and looking around the room everyone was animated, smiles, feet tapping and during the instrumental jaw dropping appreciation for the seemingly effortless fingerpicking, the sparks flying off the fret board was enough to keep everyone spellbound MAGIC!!!!

The second half opened with Killing the Blues, I first heard this sung by Sean Keane and it has always been on my list of favourites it was lovely to hear it once more.

Time for a change of tempo with Good Time Charlie's Back in Town, don't you just love it when with a single strum you're off in another direction. I love ragtime and Dave and Sam are just amazing, looking for all the world that it was just a little something they learnt in minutes certainly left me with a 100% good feel factor, the set of jigs that followed were driven along with the rhythm from Dave and Sam with Elaine on flute.

P stands for Paddy is a song that takes me way back, I hadn't heard it for ages, I love the traditional guitar work on this and Elaine taking centre stage with mouth music at the end of the song was so energetically done I was in fear of her having to have

a whiff of oxygen in order to carry on. Next came Doc Watson's Deep River Blues, once again switching tempo of the whole evening everyone joining in, I don't know, it just transported you back to the days before PA's in the folk clubs of yesteryear and how you got there early so you could sit at the front and hear more clearly and if you were a player watch all the chords and hopefully remember them so you could pick up your guitar and have a go before going to bed!

Amazingly the last song of the evening was upon us (how did it go so fast!!!) Heart of Saturday Night by Tom Waites, you were right in there with Elaine as she describes the event of the special feelings that was Saturday night just as I remember it when I was young, great stuff, with harmonies from Dave and Sam to die for.

There was no way that anyone was letting them go without an encore, just one of those night you don't want to end The chose of a Gillian Welsh song was, for me, the icing on the cake. One More Dollar relates the tale of leaving home to try and get enough cash in the hope that you can then return for good but alas it never comes true Gillian's songs are always heartfelt and Dave, Sam and Elaine put their hearts and souls into it, pure joy.

It had been a rare night leaving you totally fulfilled, every element of their delivery confirmed how much they love doing what they do and that spilled over into the whole room. As everyone started to leave the club it occurred to me, not for the first time, how glad I am to have to be involved with folk music even after 45 years I still get that wonderful buzz from night's such as these.

A big thank you to Alternative Therapy we look forward to having them for a return visit in the not too distant future.

Buddy Woods

TOM BLISS at Gregson Lane, Lancashire on 28 February 2008



I must say what an absolutely brilliant show Tom Bliss gave us - we chose not to use the PA (unusual for us on Guest Nights) but it really wasn't needed - you could have heard a 'pin drop' as the audience sat quietly - totally enthralled by Tom's entire performance.

By way of introducing himself he immediately interacted with the audience by way of conducting a 'Show of hands' survey asking them to indicate whether they would like 'Original,' 'Traditional' or 'Covers' this was a masterstroke that straight away grabbed the attention and the affection of the crowd therein.

We had songs, tunes and poems - linked by anecdotes often amusing occasionally sad but always thought-provoking. I was also very impressed that after the show (and the well deserved encore) when most artistes would be busy either making a dash to pack up their instruments and leave or stand by the door pointing their merchandise out to the departing crowd, Mr Bliss spent some quality time with one of our young resident duos giving them the benefit of his experience re the best way to produce/market/distribute their recently recorded (not yet released) CD.

Graham Dixon

DAN DONNELLY, supported by Niamh Boadle, at Garstang Unplugged, Kentis Arms, Barnacre, Garstang 20 March 2008

Dan Donnelly must be the modern equivalent of a strolling

troubadour of old. He's from Belfast, but a long term Brooklyn resident, and he turned up at Garstang alone, having hitched from Aylesbury with guitar, pedals and luggage, and then intended to hitch to his next gigs in Rochdale and Gosport.



In person he's amiable and softly spoken, yet once into his stride the music just keeps coming. His battered Takamine accompanied him through a set comprising his own songs with the odd cover thrown in. They're literate and lyrically complete songs too, mainly upbeat. Dan filled the

accompaniment by judicious use of his loop pedal, giving us a bass line, percussion, rhythm and lead in a well practised routine which added to the performance rather than being a 'techie's show off' piece.

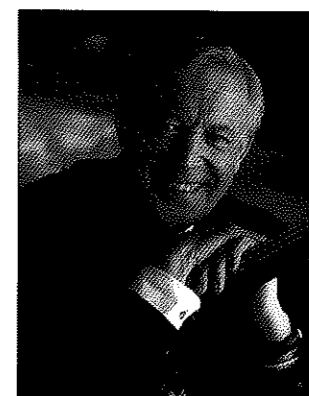
Songs were mostly Dan's own. The exceptions included Thin Lizzy's 'The Boys Are Back in Town', which started eccentrically, then turned into a storming group piece with the loop pedal. The Clash's 'Police on My Back' followed later, and then Fleetwood Mac's 'The Chain' again benefited from the loop. Dan's own songs were drawn largely from his two CDs. Of these the standout songs were 'Pretty Vagrant', 'Brooklyn Song' which evokes Dylan's take on the 'Girl from the North Country', and the opener 'Love Will save the Day'.

Support came from Niamh Boadle. She's been around so long it hardly seems fair to remark on her age, yet for one who is 14 at the end of March, she's a phenomenon in her own right. Niamh showed her versatility with guitar in DADGAD part of the time, bodhran and fiddle. Niamh played the traditional English 'Two Sisters' using the bodhran exploiting the expressive qualities of this essentially rhythm instrument, with pitch changes and tonal variations to fit the song. The fiddle accompanied 'The Female Highwayman' whilst the guitar on 'The Banks of the Roses' was particularly well played.

Dan's a regular visitor to the UK. He's toured with Seth Lakeman and 'The Levellers' and he's supporting 'The Oyster Band' on their forthcoming tour. After Gosport, he's off to Belfast, Copenhagen, and Hamburg, all in a week. He's a busy man, but worth catching ...if you can.

Don Moore

VAL DOONICAN at Hawth Theatre, Crawley on 9 April 2008



So large was the queue eagerly waiting to collect their tickets for this matinee performance that I thought I'd stumbled across a splinter group of anti-China lobbyists trying to extinguish the Olympic flame. Instead it turned out to be the faithful followers of the iconic Irishman Val Doonican, a real life living legend (and at 81 years of age still looking as fit as a fiddle). Making his entrance introduced by Richard Rogers and his musicians, Val's bright and breezy style topped by his

elegantly debonair double-breasted suit would have been enough to impress the Queen.

Now, it's no secret that I've been a fan of Doonican's for over 40 years and without wishing to sound rude, I thought it important to catch him while I still can. I wasn't disappointed and nor

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**, Tuesday to Thursday, usually 11.15pm - 01.00am, presenters Fiona Talkington and Verity Sharp, and the World and Roots programme, also Radio 3, now on Monday 11.15pm - 01.00am. 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 10.30pm-12.30am with Iain Anderson. 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, Radio Shropshire/Stoke and Radio Lancashire 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.

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".

The North West remains a good region in which to hear folk music on the radio, even more so with Community Radio development. Hearing comments from folkies in other areas and looking at the situation elsewhere, we've certainly got what many other regions have not (and envy) - It is all well worth nurturing, not least for regional flavour.

Rob Dunford

were any of the audience that greeted his selection of popular ballads and old fashioned folk songs including "Froggie Went A Courting" and "Time, Time, Time" taught to him by the legendary Burl Ives. In fact his repertoire consisted predominantly of other established artists greatest hits such as Simon & Garfunkel's "Feelin' Groovy", The Carpenters "Close To You" and Perry Como's "And I Love You So". Having honed his craft over the years, providing the audience with what 'they' want, he revisited some of his own classics such as "Paddy McGinty's Goat", "Walk Tall" and "Delaney's Donkey", whilst drawing on his fellow countryman 'Count' John McCormack for an inspired rendition of "Danny Boy".

Regaling tales of his time (circa 1950) on radio advertising Donnelly's Sausages, set to the tune of the Mexican Hat Dance, and his performances for Workers Playtime he enthralled an eager audience hanging on his every word. On stage for nearly two hours he finished with the encore "Wind Beneath My Wings" (not a dry eye in the house) dedicated to his wife and received a well-deserved standing ovation for his efforts. In this climate of ever changing tastes in music isn't it nice to know that we can still rely on the tried and tested and long may Val continue - Slainte! www.valdoonican.co.uk

Pete Fyfe

(That reminds me, I must dig out my vinyl copy of 'Val Doonican Rocks...But Gently', which I bought for my mother about 40 years ago! Honestly, it isn't mine but I haven't the heart to get rid of it. Sadly, Daniel O'Donnell still makes Doonican sound like a demented punk rocker - Deputy Ed)

TINY TIN LADY at Garstang Unplugged at the Kenlis Arms, Barancre, Garstang, on Thursday, 17th April, 2008. Support - James Tattington.



Tiny Tin Lady have been making a name on the festival circuit, playing at Cropredy and many other places around the country. They've been gaining praise from both reviewers and such luminaries as Ralph McTell, Fairport Convention and Robert

Plant, so it was exciting to see what they could do for Garstang's audience.

The band is Danni Gibbins and Beth Reed-Gibbins on guitars and vocals. Kat Gilmore on fiddle and vocals, and Helen Holmes on bass complete the line up. Dani writes most of the group's songs. Together they make a full sound, with driving rhythm, fine bass lines, with fiddle harmonies and hooks to swell the effect. The combination is much more than compelling than mere description can make it seem.

Whilst some of their set came from 'The Sound of Requiem' their cd released in 2005, it was the new songs which showed how the group had grown and matured in the intervening time. With titles like 'Growing Pains', 'Anti Social Sciences', and 'Seven Weeks of Strip Poker', these are modern songs, which added to their verve and instinctive feel for a good melody line, made for an excellent set. I hope the next cd is able to capture the sheer joy of their stage performance.

Support came from 'Unplugged' regular, James Tattington. He seems a thin and diffident figure until he starts, then he comes alive. With a unique guitar style that ranges from eccentric to fast, he gave us two of his own songs, and some surprising covers. The opener, Jack Penate's 'Learning Lines' made everyone sit up and listen, whilst his own songs 'The Future's Moving Fast' and 'Running Fast in the Wrong Direction' are well thoughtful and well crafted. Kate Bush's 'Hounds of Love' was treated as

it has never been before. It was a great debut.

All in all, the Garstang audience got a full evening of excellent music. Tiny Tin Lady have clearly generated a growing fan base of their own, and on this showing, we shall be hearing a lot more from them in the future.

Don Moore.



FOLK MEETS FACEOLOGY (IAW FRIENDS of FOLK)

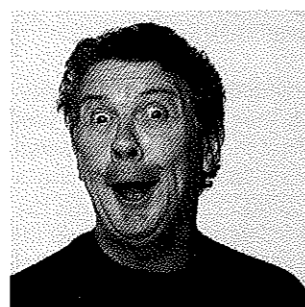
PHIL COOL & KEN NICOL at Walmer Bridge Village Hall on 8 March 2008

photo by Chris Bates



I caught a plug for this concert, during the afternoon, on BBC Radio Lancashire and, having played at the venue myself, a couple of times I knew that there would be a warm welcome from Tommy Shorrocks and his team at Walmer Bridge. It's a first class venue excellent facilities and great acoustics. Expecting there to be a few folks for the 'announced' seven o'clock start only to find an almost empty car park. This shocked me initially because I know, of old, the pulling power of

Ken Nicol when he treats us to a show on the outskirts of his hometown. We got to the ticket desk at about ten to seven and immediately spotted the anomaly - the large poster in the foyer informed us that the actual start time was eight o'clock and we weren't the only ones to turn up over an hour early. The constant stream of people arriving thereafter suggested that it would be worth the wait and by the time Ken & Phil promptly took to the stage the room was packed to the rafters with the committee having to bring in extra tables and chairs to accommodate those people who had turned up on spec.



The 'duo' welcomed the audience then Phil left the stage to leave us in the very capable hands of Ken who kicked off with a very impressive tune from his latest album 'Initial Variations' He went on to sing one of his 'standards' 'Two Frets From The Blues' then performed another tune from the album before inviting Phil back on stage to join him.

I'm not sure whether it's down to reputation or a natural stage presence but as Phil walked back on stage and picked up his guitar he looked sternly at the audience, immediately grabbing the attention of everyone present, and simply flicked his eyebrows which caused fits of laughter, not only from the audience but from Ken. I expected this to turn into comedy show but far from it - Phil sang some self-penned songs with Ken providing a superb

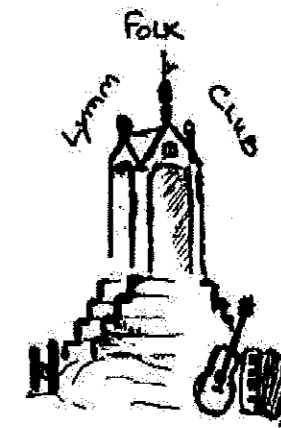
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guitar accompaniment to each and every one. This is not to say that Phil is not an accomplished guitarist in his own right but to have your playing embellished by being accompanied by one of the finest guitarists in the business must give you quite a buzz. Phil is a great wordsmith and I particularly liked two of his compositions - 'Cabbage Hall Fields' and 'Valentines Day' and his 'Ode to a Fylde Guitar' (Sorry if I didn't catch the title) done in a Jake Thackery voice, was fabulous.

The interval arrived - it didn't seem like a full hour since the pair took to the stage but it was. Pie and Peas followed by Apple Pie and Cream was a nice touch. The obligatory raffle was drawn much to the delight of the ten or so prizewinners then it was everyone sitting comfortably and we'll start the second half.

Again Ken kicked off with a tune then he surprised us by picking up his ukulele gave an almost George Formby-esque song that he had written entitled 'It Could Have Been Me' this had the crowd giggling and I think (I may be wrong here) that fact delighted Ken so much that he decided to finish of this slot with another humorous composition 'Holiday In Stornaway' which had the audience laughing and joining in with the refrain as they could almost feel the icy cold rain of North West Scotland running down the back of their necks. This could be turning into a comedy show after-all (I suspect that maybe some of the audience were kind of expecting that anyway).

As Ken left the stage Phil came back on - far from Cool though! He got the strap of guitar in a right tangle and then got the ends of the strings caught in the stage curtain. I honestly don't know whether this was by accident or whether it was a deliberate and well-rehearsed routine but it was hilarious and set the scene for what was to come. Phil went to great lengths to explain that he is not an Impressionist but a Faceologist and he treated us to some classic Phil Cool comedy with skits on Bob Dylan, Woody Guthrie, Bill Clinton, John Major, Tony Blair, Paul McCartney and Rolf Harris to name but a few- he certainly has got an amazing ability to alter his face - you can actually tell who he is mimicking before he opens his mouth to speak. His penultimate caricature was old George W himself, at which point he brought Ken back on stage who played his banjo to accompany the American President on 'I'm an Oil Man' I've got to say that seeing the normally, immaculate, debonair, cool unruffled Ken Nicol not only playing banjo but playing 'Straight-man/foil' as half of a comedy duo was a treat and he did it very well indeed.

At this point I was laughing that much that I can't remember which was the last song and which was the encore but we got Ken and Phil singing a song about being miserable - Phil in Johnny Cash character and also 'Walking With My Baby Down By The San Francisco Bay' as a tribute to Psychedelic Sid Kavanagh a past mutual acquaintance of them both.

All in all a first class event and I think it will have made one or two 'Folk Virgins' appreciate the genre and one or two 'Folkies' appreciate the value of not taking the art form to seriously. Thanks to Jim Minall and the Friends Of Folk team and the committee at Walmer Bridge (who host some great events) for giving us an evening to remember.

Graham Dixon



Out and about
Hello everyone and welcome to this the summer edition of Folk North West. At last I hear you cry!! It has been a very long

time coming hasn't it? You have doubtless wondered when the better weather would appear again but, now it is caravan cleaning time, it certainly signals the best period of the year for a folkie, particularly if you are a festival-goer like Angela and myself. Let us hope that this summer will be one hundred percent better than 2007. Don't throw your Wellingtons away though.

Since we last spoke Angela and I have paid visits to - the Chester 'Folk Survivors' Day of Music - which is a fund-raiser for the main festival, (which by now will have taken place over the recent Whit Bank Holiday weekend). This festival is superb and a place where each year we once again meet many of our long-standing friends and acquaintances on the folk scene.

We also visited - Alexander's Bar, Chester, (not a member venue listed in this magazine), to help celebrate their tenth anniversary. The venue is principally a wine bar located in a courtyard close to the city walls. Graham Bellinger and Mick Green of Root Chords are the principal drivers of this acoustic initiative. It has some amazing young and diverse talent performing there at the open mic sessions on a Sunday. A few weeks before we had the pleasure of seeing Steve Knightley perform there, solo. Steve's support act was Jenna, an excellent young female performer. It is a venue that seems to be well supported by local university students therefore the audience often has a different feel to it. Very much worth a visit if you are ever in the area.

Our most recent visit to Chester saw us meet up with Dave Russell and Chris Lee who along with Nick Mitchell run the Raven FC at the Cross Keys, Lower Bridge Street, (again, this venue is not a listed member of FNW magazine). The club celebrated its 30th anniversary over the weekend of the 18th to 20th April. Dave is the founder member of the club all those years ago and is part of that excellent band Full House. Their full complement consists of Dave, Chris, Nick, Mark Woolley and Ian Jones.

Club news

A club with a new name and a new location is Conwy FC. They have all moved next door to the Royal British Legion, Rosehill Street, Conwy LL32 8AF. The new title is Clwb Gwerin Conwy FC.

Frodsham FC stalwart organisers Alton and Carol Alexander have stood down and their place has been taken by Grace Woods who hails from Warrington. Her contact details are 01925-740422 and gracewoods@btinternet.com

Christine Jones at the Everyman FC tells me that her husband Hughie is making a good recovery following recent surgery for the removal of a lung. He is really on the mend and hopes to be back singing in the not too distant future. Great news indeed. The club has been able to keep going despite Hughie's absence thanks to the efforts of their excellent set of residents and friends. The club closes for the summer break on 29th July and re-opens on 2nd September.

Leigh FC has a different night lined up on Saturday 7th June when Calico, the resident band, will have the St Helens Youth Band as their special guests. The event takes place at St Joseph's Hall, Chapel Street, Leigh. Pauline Dowsett has further info and tickets at 01942-604603.

The Singers & Musicians night scheduled for Thursday 5th June at the Hungry Horse Acoustic FC will be moved to the OC Sports and Leisure Centre, Bridle Road, Bromborough as part of the "Sing-In the Festival" celebrations at the start of the Wirral Folk on the Coast Festival weekend. Contact details - 0151-678-9902.

Artists

Les Barker emailed me with his newsletter and reports that he is also doing fine following his hospitalisation after a mild heart attack. He says it was very much like heartburn in the first instance and, as it was lingering, he decided to visit his doctor. From there he was referred to hospital where he remained for a week "attached to too many cables". Les was then sent back to his home in the Welsh hills and told not to climb any hills. Tricky hey? Unfortunately Les's planned tour of Australia has had to be postponed for twelve months. There is a possibility that by-pass surgery may be needed in the near future. All the very best Les. Keep making us laugh and we look forward very much to seeing you again at festivals quite soon, (see below).

Brian Preston wishes to advise that he will be doing a rare solo acoustic gig locally on Sunday 13th July. It is at the Open Door FC at the Royal Oak Hotel, Manchester Road, Werneth, near Oldham. Contact number 0161-681-3618.

One of Brian's cohorts at Longridge FC Barbara Flanagan brings to notice a duo (knew to me) - Pamela Ward and Paul Cherrington who will appear there on 15th July. Before that they are booked by Roger Hanslip on 19th May at Folk at the Prospect, Runcorn. In 2007 Pamela and Paul released a new CD entitled "Sail on By" the title track of which was entered into the 2007 UK song writing contest. After a break from the folk circuit for several years this duo are back performing at clubs, arts centres and festivals as well as continuing with their performances at Music for Hospitals.

A newly formed band of 'seasoned campaigners', who I strongly recommend are Celtic Notes. They are, Pete Massey, Paddy Nagle (formerly Tullamore Dew-o) and Sean Gilligan. They have over thirty years experience in performing at clubs and festivals. Some of you may remember Paddy and Sean as the core of the folk group The Wild Geese. In the 70's Paddy and Sean were instrumental in running the Mucky Duck FC at the Oaklands Hotel in Chester. It was there that a strong friendship was formed with Pete who also sings with Gordon Morris as The Marrowbones. As the name suggests they perform mainly Irish songs and tunes with more than an element of comedy, mainly delivered by Paddy.

We had a couple of great nights in February when Celtic Notes performed at Brian Lupton's Spinney FC in Birkenhead and at the OC Sports and Leisure Centre, Bromborough. The latter being a late stand-in opportunity when the Irish band originally booked cancelled their commitment. Contact details if you are interested are Paddy Nagle at 01352-720045.

Festivals

The glorious summer festival season is upon us and as ever I implore those of you who have never visited a folk festival to do so this year if you can. They are fantastic affairs, full of colour, splendour and diversity of music and dance. I promise you would have a wonderful time if you did 'take the plunge'.

Festival information that I have been provided with is as follows: Two festival fundraising events take place in early June. The first one on 5th June is organised by Brenda Judge at Acoustic Folk at the Nursery - 'Country meets Blues and Folk' with Keith Northover, Dave Jones and Lynn and Barrie Hardman. Ring Brenda for tickets at 0161-432-4830. Droylsden Festival itself takes place over the weekend of 27th to 29th June. Vin Garbutt is the main guest on the 28th at Fairfield Golf Club.

On Friday 6th June - a Saddleworth Festival fundraiser is scheduled at Greenfield Conservative Club, 66 Chew Valley Road, Greenfield, Oldham, OI3 7DB; contact no. 01706-844657 (Pete and Jan Shevlin). Saddleworth Festival takes place over

the weekend of 18th to 20th July with the main guests being - Chris While and Julie Matthews, Nancy Kerr and James Fagan, Mawkin Causley, Anthony John Clarke, Kerfuffle, Elbow Jane, Bill Whaley and Dave Fletcher, Mary Humphreys and Anahata, Flossie, Stanley Accrington, Roy Clinging and Neil Brookes. More information at www.safra.org.uk

Our own festival on Wirral, the 4th Wirral Folk on the Coast Festival, (5th, 6th, 7th & 8th June), will take place all on one site at the beautiful location of the OC Sports and Leisure Centre, 28 Bridle Road, Bromborough. Weekend tickets are selling very well at present and we are sure the whole weekend will be a great spectacle. Our special guests are Martin Carthy, Chris While & Julie Matthews, Harvey Andrews, Jez Lowe, Johnny Silvo, Anthony John Clarke, Keith Donnelly, Les Barker, Tom Topping Band, Joe Topping, Fiona Simpson, Colin Henderson and many others. Weekend tickets are priced at £49 with free weekend camping thrown in. Day tickets are £25 with individual concerts tickets available as well. The Box office telephone number is 0151-652-0734 and the festival website is - www.wirralfolkonthecoast.com

Over the same weekend, Simon Goodfellow presents the Alison Arms Folk Festival when his guests will be - The Houghton Weavers, Pete Morton, Heather Dale (Canada), His Worship and the Pig, Dave Gibb plus workshops and singarounds. Website for this event is - www.alisonarmsfolk.co.uk

The hugely popular Middlewich Folk and Boat Festival is often a draw for Angela and myself particularly as it mixes folk music and dance with the canal boat fraternity - another of our pursuits. Between 13th to 15th June, Liz Rosenfield has the usual large cast with the headliners being - June Tabor, Chris and Kelly While, Martin Simpson, Anthony John Clarke, Rory Ellis, Peatbog Faeries, Kirsty McGee and Mat Martin, The Churchfitters, Uiscedwr, Nick Harper and Family Mahone plus a large eight site fringe. Contact www.midfest.org.uk

The folk element of the week-long Lymm Village festival is organised by Stewart Lever. He has a great line up that commences on 26th June until 3rd July. Guests will include Vin Garbutt, Kerfuffle, Harvey Andrews, Steve Tilston, Flossie, Fir Play, Steve Turner and of course Stewart himself. Contact details are - 07919-270-916 and www.lymmfolkclub.org.uk

A new two-day festival is scheduled to take place at Mold, North Wales on 15th and 16th August. The aforementioned Les Barker is one of the principal architects of this venture. Special guests will include, Steve Tilston, his daughter Martha, Les himself, Crasdant, Fernhill, Jez Lowe, Bella Hardy, Eileen McGann and Dave K (Canada) and Sian James. Festival website address is www.tegeing1.com

Arts Centres

Some of the artists that took my eye this quarter can be found at Bury Met. This venue has a large contingent of folk performers scheduled. The Groanbox Boys appear on 7th June. This duo is Cory Seznec and Michael Ward-Bergeman who are New York and London based. They play a highly unique blend of what they call Old Time Mountain Gypsy World, Folk, Blues music on accordion guitar, banjo, harmonica and odd pieces of percussion including their self-made "Freedom Boot".

Martin Simpson and Andy Cutting team upon 19th June. Martin was the winner of the best album and best original song in the 2008 Folk Awards and Andy (a former partner with Chris Wood) won BBC Radio 2's Musician of the Year award this year.

The Jenna Reid Trio appears on 26th June. Jenna is one of Scotland's most prominent young musicians. She was a winner

Nor is Robin, as some later tried to make him, some kind of revolutionary, a champion of the peasantry like Wat Tyler. He is loyal to the king, but the only king mentioned in the ballads is 'Edward, our comely king' not Richard the Lionheart. Which Edward was it then? Interestingly, in 'the Gest', the king makes a journey north to investigate the lawlessness of his forests and the poetic details correspond to a real journey made by Edward II in 1323. So the tales arose in Edward II's reign then? Not necessarily I'm afraid. The appearance of Edward II could just as easily be a revision of an older story to give it a more contemporary feel for the medieval audience.

Legend

Inevitably with Robin Hood, the question arises 'does the legend have any basis in fact'? Certainly there were outlaws living in the forests in medieval times but was there one called Robin Hood? Over the centuries ancient records have been trawled and trawled again to investigate this point and no-one has yet come up with a definitive answer. Numerous persons with the surname Hood, Hod or Hode crop up in the records of the time but one is particularly intriguing. The records of the assizes held in York in 1225 and again in 1226 mention Robert Hod, fugitive. Here we have a real outlaw living at the right time in Yorkshire. Well maybe, maybe not. It could be just another red herring, of which there are many on the trail of Robin Hood.

What confuses the issue still more is that there were other legendary outlaws whose stories circulated in common currency in medieval times: Hereward the Wake, Eustace the Monk, Fulk fitz Warin, Adam Bell, Clim of the Clough and William of Cloudesle, all of them hovering in that twilight land between fact and fiction. Parts of their stories infiltrated Robin's stories. At the same time Robin became such an archetypal figure for an outlaw or bandit that other real bandits sometimes adopted his name as a pseudonym, indeed bandits were sometimes generally referred to as 'Robinhoods'. With all this confusion our chances of unmasking the original Robin Hood, if there ever was such a person, must be just about nil in the 21st century.

As time moved on the other legendary outlaws fell out of favour leaving Robin as the clear front runner. In the fifteenth century the legend got a major shot in the arm with the injection of what a Hollywood Director would call 'the love interest'. Up to this point the stories had been totally male orientated. Women barely got a mention, no, not even a walk-on part. Cue Maid Marian. Scene: the May Games.

The May ceremonies were very ancient, more ancient even than the legend of Robin Hood. The central characters in early medieval times were the King and Queen of the May, symbolic male and female figures in what was originally a springtime fertility rite. It appears that the pagan May Queen became Maid Marian (which perhaps means 'little Virgin Mary') and was thus made more acceptable at a time when the Games were taken over by the Church to become a parish fundraiser for the poor and needy. Since there was no longer an explicit May Queen, the May King's position became superfluous. Who should now preside over the Games in his place? Since the Games have become a fundraiser we need someone who is good at extracting money from people. Who could possibly fit the bill better than Robin Hood? Thus Robin and Marian found themselves working side by side at a charity event. From then on they were inseparable.

It was probably the May Games that gained Robin his reputation for robbing the rich to give to the poor. At the Games he and his helpers, his Merry Men, unburdened people of their contributions to provide for the relief of the sick and needy. In order to achieve this he played the genial host (as he does in The Gest) and

provided entertainment including Morris Dancing.



It was also about this time that Friar Tuck was recruited into Robin's band. Interestingly, there really was an outlaw called Friar Tuck. Warrants were issued for his arrest in 1417 after he and his gang had committed robberies and murders in Sussex. The name 'Friar Tuck' was an alias; his real name was Robert Stafford. His gang terrorised Sussex and Surrey for many years and no doubt his exploits were widely known at the time.

His name and status as an outlaw was tacked on to that of another Friar who was part of the May Games. This Friar had no name, as far as we know, but played a role in the Morris dances of the time and Morris dances were a feature of the Games. The friar seems to have been co-opted along with Marian at around the same time. Perhaps it came about at the Games when the friar aided Robin and his Merry Men to collect the money for the poor... perhaps. Anyway, the earliest specific reference to Friar Tuck as part of Robin's band is in a fragment of a play, which survives from 1475, and he stayed the course from then on.

Plays and ballads

Plays about Robin Hood appear to have been as common and as popular as the ballads in the fifteenth century (and probably earlier). Sadly, hardly any of them survive but there are enough references to them for us to know how popular they were. And such was Robin's popularity that he even invaded the Mummings Play in some versions, supplanting the more usual St. George as the hero.

From the fifteenth century onwards Robin's legend continued to expand as more songs and ballads were written about him. Professor Child's great collection of ballads includes thirty three in which Robin is the hero. Some of them are re-workings of the old medieval ballads but many of them are on new themes, some introducing new characters. These new stories and characters came and went; the only one to make a lasting impression was the ballad of 'Robin Hood and Allen a Dale' which introduced a new member of the band to take a more long term place amongst the outlaws.

The May Games served not just to boost Robin's popularity but to improve his image too. He was no longer a common thief but a do-gooder, a friend of the poor. However, this presented a problem. How could such a noble man have become an outlaw in the first place? He needed an excuse for taking to the forest. Oh! of course, this noble man was a nobleman, a wronged nobleman, none other than the Earl of Huntington. Various writers contributed to this ennoblement, including Anthony Munday, a contemporary playwright of Shakespeare. In the oldest known ballads however, Robin was no such thing; he was a yeoman (as our quotation at the beginning of this article makes plain), not an Earl.

At the same time Barnsdale was eclipsed by Nottingham and Sherwood. Association with the Robin Hood legend was clearly a prestigious prize and the tiny hamlet of Wentbridge in the remote area of Barnsdale could not compete with the important city of Nottingham and the royal forest of Sherwood. And the timeframe for the legend hardened into the reign of Richard the Lionheart, an idea that first surfaced in the writings of a Scottish historian called John Major in the sixteenth century.

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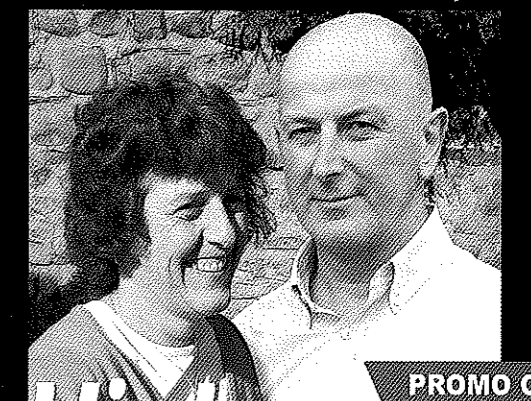
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E.mail:- angie@jubileeconcertinas.org

Web site: www.jubileeconcertinas.org
or Mike Bartram on 01744 817 127



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Thus, over the centuries, the legend gradually took on the shape we are more familiar with today, a shape that has been solidified by countless Film and TV versions. Meanwhile Robin has survived competition from Westerns, Sci-Fi, Spy Movies and countless special effects fantasies. My bet is that Robin will still be drawing his bow when Roy Rogers, Star Trek, James Bond and Shrek are long forgotten.

Brian Bull

**GUITAR
WORKSHOP**
by Jim Ronayne



DANNY BOY

Tuning -: EADEAE

Although the tuning most widely associated with Davey Graham is of course DADGAD; Davey released a great little album on the Kicking Mule label in 1977. It was produced by a friend of mine, John Renbourn, and was appropriately called "The Complete Guitarist" (catalogue number SNKF 138.) On the album, Davey introduced this tuning for playing fiddle tunes, and recorded some absolutely wonderful arrangements using it such as The Road to Lisdoonvana, The Fairies Hornpipe, and The Gold Ring.

With the bass strings tuned to EAD, the tuning is especially useful for playing in the keys of A major and E major where the RH thumb can play a simple pedal on the bass strings and the melody on the treble strings rarely needs to go beyond the fifth fret

In the finest organic traditions of the "folk process" the tuning eventually filtered down amongst us, which is a nice way of writing that myself and no doubt, many other guitar players immediately "nicked" it the month that Davey released the album. Among them was the wonderful Italian guitar player Franco Morone. Franco recorded two beautiful tunes in this tuning on his CD The South Wind, Turkey in the Straw and Flower of Edinburgh.

As you are about to discover for yourselves, it's really a wonderful little tuning and so typical of Davey's genius and innovation. I first arranged and recorded this version on a little CD called Into the Light that was released in 2000.

As always a downloadable recording of the tune, and a PDF file of the music are freely available from my website www.jimronayne.co.uk

Study Notes

The study notes are marked with circled numbers above the tablature throughout the piece

1/ The second string is tuned DOWN to A and the third string tuned DOWN to E.

2/ I have only indicated the ornamentation hammer on's (h) and pull off's (p) up to Bar 7 after which they are indicated in both the notation and the tablature by a slur sign. In practice once the basic music / tablature is learned further ornamentation mordents and trills can be added as your own familiarity with the piece and your own interpretation develops, and as always I would positively encourage you to do that.

3/ In Bar 2 I have added a strum symbol to indicate that the way I play it on the recording, with my thumb, index finger and middle finger playing each string immediately after each other arpeggio style. It's just like running a plectrum down across the strings rather than plucking them all at the same time. It's a particularly useful technique when playing in open tunings so as to let the sympathetic strings really ring out. The same applies to all other chords with more than two notes throughout the piece.

4/ In Bar 4 the last F# note is a tied note, that is only played once and held for the duration of the tie. It is therefore only indicated once in the tablature. I have marked similar examples accordingly.

5/ In Bars 17 and 18 I have noted the left hand fingering i.e. the index finger (1) holds down the B note on the second string second fret. The middle finger (2) plays the F# on the first string second fret and the little finger (4) frets the G at the first string fourth fret then slides up to fret the A on the first string fifth fret.

Summary

As I indicated by marking the tempo as "Ad lib" there are no "right or wrong" tempo's to play this tune. In concert I'd typically start with this arrangement of Danny Boy and then run it into something like The Gold Ring or The Hunter's Purse

Q & A's

a The recordings for the lessons for the magazine are played on my Fylde Oberon, DI'd using a Headway H1/G2 FEQ preamp pick up fitted by Roger Bucknall at Fylde Guitars. For CD recordings I use a pair old AKG C1000's blended with the DI signal. I use D'Addario Phosphor Bronze Custom Light strings 0.11 to 0.52 gauge. Live, I play through an AER 60watt amp, which I find gives the best "acoustic" amplified sound that I have found so far.

b Yes,...there is a possibility that Keith Offord and I may be running another Fingerstyle Folk Guitar course at Burton Manor this year and provisionally, a weekend in November is under negotiation as I write. Please monitor Burton Manor web site for confirmations of date's www.burtonmanor.com. If you are interested please book early. Following last year's experience, places will be strictly limited this year.

Have fun with this one

Finally, just a brief thank you to everyone who sent either a sympathy card or e-mail following my Mum's bereavement in February. They were all very much appreciated.

Jim Ronayne
www.jimronayne.co.uk

LETTERS



Hello Folk North West,

I'm presently teaching English in China and have the discovered the love that Chinese people have for stories, songs and singing. English speakers are employed to teach pronunciation in Chinese schools/colleges and this is an option for an individual

Danny Boy

Trad arr. Ronayne

Tempo -: Ad Lib

Ⓢ = refer to attached study notes

looking for a fresh or different challenge.

I believe that Folk performers, with a year or so to spare, have a lot to offer in English education in China. Chinese students are enthusiastic, polite, friendly, love singing and hearing about other cultures. It's an option I wanted to bring to people's attention.

David Elisha PGCE MSc BSc (Folk and Jazz fan)
www.oldjoanna.com

Hi
I really enjoyed reading your Folk North West magazine. I hope you are able to help because I would like, if possible, to correct the info re FOLKWAVES as follows.

Folkwaves goes out LIVE on BBC in the East Midlands (not Radio Derby as shown). The East Midlands is BBC Radios Derby, Leicester, Lincolnshire and Nottingham. Folkwaves is also available on the web either Listen Live, or Listen Again, then it's simply go to one of the four stations website details as follows:

BBC Radio Derby FM104.5 etc, as you have it - www.bbc.co.uk/derby; BBC Radio Leicester FM 104.9 - www.bbc.co.uk/leicester; BBC Radio Lincolnshire FM 94.9 - www.bbc.co.uk/lincolnshire; BBC Radio Nottingham FM 103.8 - www.bbc.co.uk/nottinghamshire

Thanks a lot.

Celia @ PR Promotions
Tel : 01773 853428
www.prpromotions.org.uk

Dear Ken,

Our policy for booking people at Gregson Lane is simply that at least one of our regulars asks for them. The next step is often trying to contact a potential artiste through their website. I find it extremely annoying when artistes do not include a contact telephone number on their site (I think it's some sort of 'Superstar Syndrome'). If I'm trying to sort out the diary, in time for publication of our next publicity leaflet, I haven't got time (or the inclination) to mess around hoping that an email will be answered. So as far as I'm concerned - No telephone number - I stop there.

What is just as frustrating is when enquiring about the availability of a duo or band is being asked 'What dates are available' and then 'Can you pencil four in and I'll get back to you when I find out if the 'others' are available'? Again this not acceptable - If a band feel 'professional' enough to charge for their services - then surely they can be professional enough for their contact to know what dates are available - it's not difficult - try using a Yahoo group calendar where band members can input any dates on which they know they will be unavailable.

Graham Dixon

Dear Ken

This is a brief appeal to the radio-listening community amongst your readers for any feedback on radio programmes relevant to all or part of our membership region which I may or may not have adequately covered in the listings on page 5 and supplementary column on page 6.

In particularly, any programmes emanating from the "grass roots" community Radio sector that merit inclusion. For example, I refer to Folk North West's Autumn 2007 edition, being aware of but without confirmation or "listened in" corroboration of potential

programmes on All FM (South Manchester) and Cheshire FM (Winsford - North Cheshire), respectively 96.9 and 92.5 FM.

Any comments from readers/listeners would be greatly appreciated on these or any other stations which may have inadvertently been overlooked. Programme presenters are of course more than welcome to contribute accordingly. Contact either via the editor or Webmaster Mark Dowding (see Page 4).

Many thanks
Happy listening
Rob Dunford

OBITUARIES

JOHN WRIGHT 1947 - 2008



Of the many pieces I've written for various music magazines and in my professional life as a sports journalist this is by far the most difficult of them all. For in the space of five short weeks I experienced the absolute high and then plumbed the darkest depths of human emotions.

The high, was watching my two closest friends John Wright and Barbara Benbow getting married, such a happy, highly charged affair surrounded by their closest and dearest friends. As you might imagine singing and dancing were the order of the day and yes, we watched incredulous as John threw more than a few shapes on the dance floor. So imagine my utter horror to get an early morning phone call just a month later to tell me John had collapsed whilst in hospital awaiting tests and was in a coma. In those circumstances all you can do is wait and pray for a positive outcome. Sadly, there was to be no happy ending and a blocked artery to the brain bringing on a stroke took from us a rare talent at the peak of his powers.

John Wright was born in Bournemouth before moving up to Manchester at an early age. His professional life was certainly never dull as he joined the Household Cavalry in which he remained for nine years, starting his love affair for everything equine. Even from an early age with a stint in the local church choir, music played a large part in John's life and during his time in London with the Household Cavalry, in his spare time he could be found singing around the pubs and clubs of the capital.

In complete contrast following his time in the forces, John's love of open spaces and the rural idyll drew him into being a shepherd and he worked on farms in Derbyshire, Yorkshire and Northumberland delivering countless numbers of lambs in the springtime. It was during this period he listened to many hours of music on the radio and was drawn towards traditional folk song and with the backing of friends he ventured out into the public domain with his new found music. There was plenty of encouragement and that led to him recording a cassette tape, just 100 of them, but they were snapped up rather quickly.

Although John enjoyed singing traditional songs throughout his life it was the contemporary songwriting of many and varied artists across the globe that was to prove his first love. As he so often said, "when you don't write songs yourself, you are more than grateful to those who do".

It was during 1993 that he dipped his toe into the professional music business forming the John Wright Band and thus gaining momentum not only in the UK but in Europe as well.

The one thing John was never fully aware of was his unique voice and clarity of delivery both in music and diction. I watched him and had the pleasure of joining him on stage on a number of occasions and he always blew me away with his stage presence and disarming delivery, even when he felt under the weather he never failed to deliver.

John was the only singer I've heard who could produce three different emotions in one breath and his ability to hold a note at perfect pitch marked him out as a truly top class exponent of his art.

He was completely at home in the smallest folk club as well as on the international festival stage and enjoyed a huge following especially in Friesland in the north of Holland where he enjoyed almost cult status.

His finest and proudest moment came in 2005 when those closest to him joined a sellout audience in the Vredenburg Music Theatre in Utrecht, Holland for the recording of his DVD. That evening of song, allied to a second disc telling the story of his life and added to that some 14 CD's and you have some measure of this extraordinary performer.

I miss his friendship and his willing ear and thoughtful words when I needed them and it was those particular qualities that brought us close together in the first place and the fifteen subsequent years are ones I will always cherish.

John Wright bestrode the world of contemporary music like a gentle giant and the genre and life in particular is the poorer for his passing.

David Jones

FESTIVAL NEWS AND MUSIC EVENTS



LIVERPOOL WORKING CLASS MUSIC FESTIVAL 2008

Bringing the finest radical musicians to Liverpool in its European Capital of Culture Year, to express the city's working class ethos through music, and to celebrate Liverpool's proud history of working class resistance. A festival of music celebrating the life and experiences of working people

The aim is to ensure that Liverpool's working people are represented culturally in Liverpool's European City of Culture year. As well as the 3 day festival itself, there will be projects that spin off from it, such as a Live CD project and a Live DVD project, raising money for progressive political campaigns, as well as involving local music technology students. The event will take place at Liverpool's legendary Picket venue, now situated in Liverpool's independent quarter. It will start on 19 September through to 21 September.

The impressive line up include many stalwarts of the political and socially responsible folk scene whose track records in supporting working class causes are second to none - Chumbawamba, Dick Gaughan, Leon Rosselson, Attila The Stockbroker, Roy Bailey, The Men They Couldn't Hang, The Alun Parry Band and Chanje Kunda. Also playing the festival are Al Baker, Claire

Mooney, Tracey Curtis and Aidan Jolly. More are expected to confirm soon.

To contact the festival, email festival@workingclassmusic.org.uk and visit www.workingclassmusic.org.uk

BERT LLOYD CENTENARY EVENT ANNOUNCED

February 29 2008 marked the centenary of the birth of A.L. (Bert) Lloyd, the renowned English singer, folklorist, journalist, and writer. To mark this anniversary, the English Folk Dance and Song Society has published a biography, by Dave Arthur, entitled Bert: The Life and Work of A.L. Lloyd.



To launch the publication and to celebrate Bert Lloyd's life and work, the English Folk Dance and Song Society will host a day of concerts at its London headquarters, Cecil Sharp House, on Saturday 15 November 2008.

Guests confirmed so far include folk luminaries Frankie Armstrong, Martin Carthy, Bob Davenport with Roger Digby, Will Duke, Dan Quinn and Alex West, Roy Harris, Louis Killen, Maddy Prior, Dave Swarbrick, Norma Waterson, Martyn Wyndham-Read with Iris Bishop and, from the current explosion of young singers and musicians, Lisa Knapp and Sam Lee.

Bert Lloyd (Albert Lancaster Lloyd, 29 February 1908 - 29 September 1982) was not only a world-famous scholar but also a spellbinding singer who inspired many of today's leading folk performers, giving generously of his time and material. He continues to influence new generations of singers through his books and recordings.

Bert's daughter Caroline Clayton and her husband Ted are pleased to support the occasion, all proceeds from which will be donated to the English Folk Dance and Song Society's Vaughan Williams Memorial Library. Visit: www.efdss.org for further details or phone 020 7485 2206.

DENT FOLK FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES OUTSTANDING LINE-UP

The Sixth Dent Folk Festival takes place from the 27 to 29 June in an outstanding setting on the edge of the beautiful Yorkshire Dales village of Dent. Weekend Tickets are £50.00, individual event tickets are also available. Alongside the main concerts are a whole host of free events for all the family from street theatre to craft workshops.

This year's Dent Folk Festival will feature more than 20 musical acts performing on two stages. Among the artists playing at this annual event are Rachel Unthank & The Winterset, The Michael McGoldrick Quartet, Shoo-glenifty, John Tams and Barry Coope, Chumbawamba, Kris Drever, Rory McLeod, Ruth Notman, Bellevue Rendezvous, and Edey, Power and Randall. A truly outstanding line up that reads like a who's who of British folk music!



Alongside the phenomenal music, there will be real ale from The Black Sheep Brewery, great food from Johnny Baghdad, storytelling, street theatre, puppet shows, informal, music sessions, dance displays, stalls and the legendary late night

ceillidh!

There are some new additions to the festival this year: a free stage in The Black Sheep beer tent featuring music from friends of the festival and children's crafts in a fantastic Native American Tipi care of 4 Winds Lakeland Tips.

Full details of the festival are available at www.dentfolkfestival.co.uk. Tickets are available online or from the box office on 01524 582803.

BEVERLEY CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Beverley & East Riding Folk Festival began in 1983 to bring high quality folk music to the beautiful, historic town of Beverley. Over the years the festival has grown and expanded and now attracts up to 8000 visitors each year, programming a dynamic mix of musical genres. From 20-22 June they celebrate their 25th anniversary. Beverley Folk Festival is expecting a massive demand for tickets after three of its major acts booked to appear at this year's event swept the board at the BBC RADIO 2's FOLK AWARDS.

The beauty of the festival lies in its fresh, relaxed and informal atmosphere. Only minutes from the town centre, the festival is a must for those who love music and like to share the experience with like minded people.

Children up to the age of eleven are admitted free of charge, which makes it a perfect and low cost weekend for all the family to enjoy. If that isn't enough, read through the list below for the fantastic main programme line-up confirmed to date. We can't wait to see you and celebrate the longest weekend of the year in style.



Roy Bailey, Mike Waterson, Eleanor McEvoy, The Favours

To add a lighter side to the festival we welcome for the first time the charismatic John Shuttleworth who will be bringing his documentary film "It's Nice up North" to educate festival audiences about the merits of the North of England. Dave Tordoff will also be giving his version of the high life in Goole as seen by a laser screeding contractor! See him to believe him.

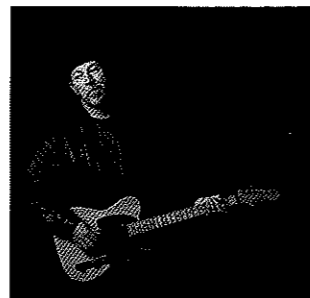
Other artists include Bernard Wrigley, Kasai Masai, The Hut People, Forro Porro, Rachel Harrington, Edwina Hayes, Wheeler Street, The White Horse Ceillidh Band and Cassandra Wye. For more information, contact the Festival Hotline on 01377 217 569 or check out the website www.beverleyfestival.com

SHREWSBURY FOLK FESTIVAL

Preparations for the 2008 Shrewsbury Folk Festival are well underway and another great artist line-up is taking shape. You can find out almost everything you need to know about the festival at www.shrewsburyfolkfestival.co.uk, which takes place on 22-25 August.

There will be no basic changes to the festival site (West Mids Showground) or its venue and marquees for 2008. So you can expect to spend your Bank Holiday in our colourful and

adventurous world. But it wouldn't be Shrewsbury if we didn't seek to accentuate the positive and eliminate the negative, so expect more showers, bigger bars with more choice, coloured camping zones, better dance facilities, improved main stage seating and a whole lot more.



Great Britain, The Tim Van Eyken Band, Kerr Fagan Harbron, Rory McLeod, New Rope String Band, and The Demon Barber Roadshow.

Others appearing include Ian Bruce, Steve Tilston, John Wesley Harding, Elbow Jane and The Wilsons.

TOWERSEY FESTIVAL BURSTING WITH OUTSTANDING TALENT

Oxfordshire's Towersey Festival offers five nights and four days (21-25 August) of fantastic concerts, workshops and dances and the 2008 line-up is simply bursting at the seams with outstanding talent. This year's guest list includes Bellowhead, Show of Hands, Kathryn Tickell Band, Lunasa, Salsa Celtica, Blowzabella, Chris Wood, Whapweasel, Park Bench Social Club, Ruth Notman and Last Orders.

Towersey 2008 also presents exciting new collaborations between some of the Folk scene's finest musicians. Fellow Folk Awards winner Andy Cutting on accordion and the fantastic Andy Seward on bass will join BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards 2008 winner Martin Simpson.

Meanwhile, The Poozies are making a welcome return to the Festival, complete with two stunning new recruits. Three of the original members, Sally, Patsy and Mary, will be joined by Eilidh Shaw's faultless fiddle and Mairead Green's delicately dexterous accordion to create a sound that is still as fresh and delightful as ever. Continuing the collaborative theme, hot new band Faustus boasts a trio with top class credentials; Saul Rose is a member of Waterson:Carthy, whilst Benji Kirkpatrick and Paul Sartin are from super-group Bellowhead. Finally, fine young ceillidh band Mawkin will be joined by the honey-voiced Jim Causley in a unique performance simply too good to be missed.

Towersey's line-up also presents five of the greatest male voices of the Folk world. In addition to BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards 2008 winner Martin Simpson, The Festival will also be welcoming Chris Wood, Roy Bailey, Jez Lowe and Leon Rosselson to its stages. All five are exponents of outstanding thought-provoking new material and first class performance.

As well as offering an eclectic mix of concerts, dances and workshops, Festival goers can also relax on the colourful Towersey's Showground, browse the international trade market, craft and music fairs and be refreshed by a great selection of food and drink from around the world. The Festival is renowned for being one of the most relaxed and family friendly festivals of its kind; it provides great value for money and offers a truly sensational festival experience. What's more, Early Bird ticket discounts are available until 31 May (inc.) and if you buy 9 tickets of any one type, you get one more absolutely FREE. Its enduring

TEGEINGL Yr wyddgrug Mold, Flintshire

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Maghull Day of Music

8th November 2008 Saturday 1pm to 11.30pm
Maghull Town Hall, Hall Lane,
Maghull, Merseyside.

ISAMBARDE - VIN GARBUTT
TANNAHILL WEAVERS
FIONA SIMPSON - JONNY SILVO
MARIE LITTLE - ELBOW JANE
RORY McLEOD - TONY GIBBONS
THE MAGHULL FOLK CLUB HOUR

Admission strictly by ticket only
Tickets £14.00
Joe Ryan 0151 531 9273 - Jane Day 0151 526 6661
Mikki Boardman 0151 526 1082

Plus - Friday 7th November 8pm
CHRIS WHILE & JULIE MATTHEWS
Friday Concert Tickets £5.00



popularity is demonstrated by the fact that it sold out again last year, so visitors are encouraged to buy tickets early.

Towersey Village Festival also provides dedicated Youth and Children's programmes, which offer a wide range of events, workshops and activities. The Shooting Roots youth project caters for those between 12-25 years, whilst the Children's Festival offers activities for the younger ones including storytelling, puppets, crafts, music and much more. For Full Season ticket holders, the Festival has three great camp sites that are all well equipped with toilets and hot showers. The site is within easy reach of the M40 and main line railway stations.

For a great August Bank Holiday Weekend, Towersey Village Festival offers the chance to experience the magic of this little village with big ideas.

Latest news and information, money saving offers and tickets are available online at www.towerseyfestival.com. Alternatively, the Festival Box Office number is 01629 827016.

TENTERTEN FOLK FESTIVAL

A full weekend festival of folk song, music and dance from 3rd to 5th October at Tenterden, situated in the ancient Weald of Kent, about 12 miles west of Ashford, is an ideal setting for this friendly, family folk festival. It features one of the widest High Streets in the country lined with historic and listed buildings, numerous friendly pubs and restaurants and green verges



The Askew Sisters, Jim Bainbridge, Tony Carling, Pete Castle, The Claque (Barry Lister, Dave Lowry, Sean O'Shea and Tom Addison), The Committee Band, Les Elvin, Doug Eunson and Sarah Matthews, Lisa Fitzgibbon and Jon Fletcher's

Power Folk duo, Derek Gifford, Keith Kendrick, Mawkin, One Sheet Short (Keith and Derek), The Rattiaz, Chris Roche, Ticklish Allsorts Show

One of the highlights of this year's Festival is likely to be the special Sunday afternoon concert in The Tenterden Club, which will feature two groups of popular young folk musicians.

The Askew Sisters are Emily and Hazel Askew from London, who like many of the young performers on today's folk scene come from a family where their parents are very interested in folk music and took them to Sidmouth Festival when they were very young. They became members of the English Folk Dance and Song Society's Hobby Horse Club and retained their interest and passion for folk song and dance into their teens and continued to attend summer schools and festivals as performers. When younger they learned a variety of instruments but now Emily plays fiddle and Hazel melodeon. The majority of their repertoire is English tunes and songs. Looking at their gig list for this year they seem to be appearing at most of season's popular folk festival including Tenterden. www.askewsisters.co.uk

Mawkin are another very popular and busy young band comprising Dave Delarre (guitar) and his brother Jamie (fiddle), Danny Crump (bass guitar) and Alex Goldsmith (melodeon). Dave and Jamie also come from a folkie family who were involved in organising the Moreton Folk Festival. Their music is very upbeat and energetic played fast and for fun. Although they have been influenced by jazz, rock and funk they have also picked up much from traditional English folk musicians such as Johnny Cunningham, Andy Cutting and John Kirkpatrick.

In the summer of 2006, Mawkin released their first full-length album 'The Fair Essex' which received rave reviews. www.mawkin.co.uk

Both these groups should have wide appeal, not only to regular festival visitors but also to new audiences of all ages.

Festival information:

More details of Tenterden Folk Festival 2008 guests, accommodation and camping are now being posted on our website at www.tenterdenfolkfestival.org.uk.

STOKES BAY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Capercaille, Bellowhead, Karen Tweed's Circa Compania, Dick Gaughan, The Shee, Michael McGoldrick & Friends, Gretchen Peters, The New Rope String Band, Martyn Joseph, Show of Hands, Devon Sproule and The Fabulous Fezheads. These are just some of the artists appearing at Hampshire's great new Stokes Bay Music Festival that incorporates the Wickham Festival

The 4-day Summer Festival (31 July - 3 August) features a host of top-name artists performing in a spectacular seafront setting with stunning views across the Solent to the Isle of Wight.

As well as 40 hours of great live music there's a host of other attractions including the 'Groovy Movie' solar-powered cinema tent, street theatre, storytelling, children's entertainers, dance displays, Punch & Judy, craft stalls, an exotic food fayre, real ale bars and much, much more. Visit www.stokesbayfestival.co.uk for full details. Day & Weekend Season Tickets are now on sale (and selling fast) from <http://www.ticketsouth.co.uk>

A SUCCESSFUL 15TH FESTIVAL FOR CELTIC CONNECTIONS

Celtic Connections annual stint came to a close on 3 February, after an extremely successful 15th festival. This was the festival's second year of principal sponsorship with international energy company ScottishPower.

With approximately 120,000 attendances at Celtic Connections 2008, many events at this year's festival sold out, including Steve Earle, K.D Lang, Teenage Fanclub, Peatbog Faeries, Capercaille, Skipinnish Showcase and Dick Gaughan's 60th Birthday concert. The festival started and ended with sell-out shows in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, with a full house for the opening concert Common Ground and the festival finale Transatlantic Sessions.

Festival fans attended 300 concerts, ceilidhs, talks, free events, late night sessions and workshops, which took place in 14 venues across Glasgow over 19 days in January and February.

Festival organisers succeeded in creating a diverse and ambitious programme; in addition to staging top traditional music and celebrating home-grown talent, Celtic Connections further explored the links between Celtic and world music. The festival connected with a wide range of musical genres, including classical, blues, Americana and jazz. Celtic Connections 2008 brought musicians from all over the world to Glasgow, and acts from as far afield as Senegal, India, Serbia, Croatia, France, Bulgaria, Italy, Russia as well as Canada and the USA appeared in Glasgow during this festival.

The Celtic Connections Education Programme enjoyed a successful 10th anniversary. This year 15,000 school children from all over Scotland attended 9 free concerts at the Glasgow

NORTH WEST FEDERATION OF FOLK CLUBS ARTS CENTRES and THEATRES				
SUNDAY				
Bothy	8:00 PM	Park Golf Club, Park Road West, Southport, PR9 0JS	Clive Pownceby	0151-924-5078
Folk at the Manor	8:30 PM	The Old Manor Club, Withens Lane, Wallasey, CH45 7NF	Roger Parker	0151-678-1962
Kings Lock	8:30 PM	King's Lock Inn, 1 Booth Lane, Middlewich, CW10 0JJ	Liz Rosenfield	01606-834969
Open Door	8:45 PM	Royal Oak, 172 Manchester Road, Werneth, OL9 6BN	Pauline Westall	0161-681-3618
Wooden Horse	8:30 PM	The Junction, News Lane, Rainford, WA11 7JU	Jim Coan	01772-452782
MONDAY				
Bacup	8:30 PM	Bacup Conservative Club, Irwell Terrace, Bacup, OL13 9AW	Helen Slater	07717-613205
Clwb Gwerin Conwy	8:30 PM	Royal British Legion, Rosehill Street, Conwy, LL32 8AF	Denis Bennett	01492-877324
Folk at the Prospect	8:30 PM	Prospect Inn, Weston Road, Weston Village, Runcorn, WA7 4LD	Roger Hanslip	01928-731567
Four Fools	8:15 PM	Crown Hotel, Platt Lane, Worthington, nr Standish, WN1 2XF	Ken & Angie Bladen	01257-263678
Red Bull	8:30 PM	Red Bull, 14 Middle Hillgate, Stockport, SK1 3AY	Peter Hood	0161-432-4142
Room at the Top	8:30 PM	Red Lion Hotel, Ashbrow, Newburgh, WN8 7NF	Mark Dowding	01257-464215
Skipton Folk Unplugged	8:30 PM	Narrow Boat, 38 Victoria Street, Skipton, BD23 1JE	Sheila A. Kelsall	01535-665889
Swinton	8:30 PM	White Lion, 242 Manchester Road, Swinton, M27 4TS	Ged Todd	01942-811527
TUESDAY				
Acoustic Collective	9:00 PM	Old General, 73 Crescent Road, Dunkinfield, SK16 4EU	Paul Roberts	07930-340-
Crown Folk & Acoustic	8:30 PM	Crown, 154 Heaton Lane, Stockport, SK4 1AR	Kieron Hartley	07957-492917
Everyman	8:30 PM	Everyman Bistro, 5-9 Hope Street, Liverpool, L1 9BH	Christine Jones	0151-709-3336
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, 604 Green Lane, Maghull, L31 2JH	Tony Gibbons	01744-607566
Ring O'Bells	8:30 PM	Ring O'Bells, Pit Lane, Farnworth, Widnes, Cheshire, WA8 9HW	Jean Finney	0151-424-3672
Urmston Acoustics	8:30 PM	Nags Head Hotel, 1 Lostock Road, Urmston, M41 0SU	Martin Kavanagh	0161-748-5497
WEDNESDAY				
Alison Arms	9:00 PM	Alison Arms, Preston Road, Coppull, Chorley, PR7 5CQ	Derek Docherty	01257-791262
Biddulph up in Arms	8:30 PM	Biddulph Arms, 171 Congleton Road, Biddulph, ST8 6QJ	Eric Cox	01782-514896
Burnley	9:00 PM	Kettle drum Inn, 302 Red Lees Road, Cliviger, Burnley, BB10 4RG	Alex Nearney	01282-436467
Clarence	8:30 PM	Clarence, 88 Preston New Road, Blackpool, FY4 4HG	Ann Green	01772-683027
Garstang Unplugged	8:00 PM	Kenlis Arms, Ray Lane, Barnacre, Garstang, PR3 1GD	Don Moore	01995-602795
Red Bull	8:30 PM	Red Bull, 14 Middle Hillgate, Stockport, SK1 3AY	Peter Hood	0161-432-4142
THURSDAY				
Acoustic Folk at the Nursery	9:00 PM	Nursery Inn, 258 Green Lane, Heaton Norris, Stockport SK4 2NA	Brenda Judge	0161-432-4830
Chorlton	9:00 PM	SW Manchester Cricket Club, Ellesmere Road, Chorlton M21 05G	Jozeph Roberts	07833-735-729
Dabbers	8:30 PM	Oddfellows Arms, Welsh Row, Nantwich, Cheshire, CW5 5ET	Lynne Barnes	01270-628041
Earby	7:30 PM	Station Hotel, 123 Colne Road, Earby, Barnoldswick, BB18 6XL	Sharon Hobson	01282-841727
Gregson Lane	8:30 PM	Sports & Social Club, Gregson Lane, Hoghton, PR5 0FD	Graham Dixon	01254-853929
Heaton Mersey	8:30 PM	Heaton Mersey Sports & Social Club, Halewood Road, SK4 3AW	Kieron Hartley	07957-492917
Hungry Horse Acoustic	8:15 PM	The Rake, Rake Lane, Little Stanney, Ellesmere Port, CH2 4HS	John Owen	0151-678-9902
Lymm	8:30 PM	Spread Eagle Hotel, 47 Eagle Brow, Lymm, Cheshire, WA13 0AG	Stewart Lever	07919-270-916
Parkgate	8:15 PM	Boathouse Pub/Restaurant, 1 The Parade, Parkgate, CH64 6RN	Eddie Morris	0151-677-1840
South Lakes Music Promotion	8:30 PM	Sports & Social Club, Priory Road, Ulverston,	Nick McDermott	07743-555227
Wrexham	8:30 PM	Nags Head Inn, Mount Street, Wrexham, LL13 8DW	Ian Chesterman	01978-357307
FRIDAY				
Bollington	8:30 PM	Dog & Partridge, 97 Palmerston Street, Bollington, SK10 5JX	Arthur Wakefield	01625-573596
Carlisle Folk & Blues	8:00 PM	Sunset Suite, Carlisle Football Ground, Warwick Road, CA1 1LL	Myrna Rae	01697-72305
Folk at Hillbark	8:00 PM	Hillbark Hotel, Royden Park, Frankby, Wirral, CH48 1NP	David Jones	0151-639-9350
Frodsham	8:30 PM	Conservative Club, 74 Main Street, Frodsham, WA6 7AU	Alton Alexander	01928-733050
Leigh	8:00 PM	Conservative Club, Railway Road, Leigh, WN7 4AX	Pauline Dowsett	01942-604603
Northwich	8:30 PM	Harlequin Theatre, Queen St, Northwich, CW9 5JN	John Booth	01606-79356
Porkies	8:30 PM	Royal British Legion, Georges Road West, Poynton, SK12 1JY	Dave Hughes	01625-430149
Preston	8:30 PM	Moorbrook Inn, 370 North Road, Preston, PR1 1RU	Rob Malaney	01257-231463
Rhyl	9:00 PM	RAFA Club, 17 Windsor Street, Rhyl, Denbighshire, LL18 1BW	Jeff Blythin	01745-588072
SATURDAY				
Armoury Folk & Acoustic	8:30 PM	Armoury Inn, Shaw Heath, Stockport, SK3 8BD	Kieron Harley	07957-492917
Barnoldswick	8:00 PM	Fosters Arms, Gisburn Road, Barnoldswick, BB18	Sharon Hobson	01282-841727
ARTS CENTRES & THEATRES				
Brewery Arts Centre	8:00 PM	122a Highgate, Kendal, Cumbria, LA9 4HE	Box Office	01539-725133
Brindley Arts Centre	8:00 PM	High Street, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 1BG	Box Office	0151-907-8360
Burnley Mechanics	8:00 PM	Manchester Road, Burnley, Lancashire, BB11 1JA	Box Office	01282-664400
Bury Met	8:00 PM	The Met, Market Street, Bury, Lancashire, BL9 0BW	Box Office	0161-761-2216
Folk at the Forum	7:30 PM	Forum 28, Duke Street, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, LA14 1HH	Box Office	01229-820000
Friends of the Forum	8:00 PM	Various locations	Jim Minall	01772-422416
Mr Kite Benefits	8:00 PM	Principally @ Worden Arts Centre, Worden Park, Leyland, PR25	Steve Henderson	01772-621411
Pacific Arts Centre	8:00 PM	Pacific Road, Birkenhead, Wirral, CH41 1LJ	Box Office	0151-647-0752
Philharmonic Hall	7:30 PM	Liverpool Philharmonic Hall, Hope Street, Liverpool, L1 9BP	Box Office	0151-709-3789
Platform	7:30 PM	Station Buildings, Central Promenade, Morecambe, LA4 4DB	Glynis Johnson	01524-582803
Playhouse 2	8:30 PM	Newtown Street, Shaw, Oldham OL2 8NX	Barrie Cottam	01706-663117
Rose Theatre	8:00 PM	Edge Hill University, St Helens Road, Ormskirk, L39 4QP	Box Office	01695-584480
Southport Arts Centre	8:00 PM	Lord Street, Southport, PR8 1DB	Emma Burrows	01704-540011

25th MAY to 28th JUNE 2008

(NB: Always check with organisers before travelling)

SUNDAY	25TH MAY	1ST JUNE	8TH JUNE	15TH JUNE	22ND JUNE
Bothy	Spring Bank Holiday Singaround	Singers Night	LESTER SIMPSON	Singers Night	STEVE TILSTON
Folk at the Manor	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	JEFF WARNER (USA)	Singers Night
Kings Lock	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	ANTHONY JOHN CLARKE	Singaround
Open Door	Singaround	JON BRINDLEY	Singaround	CARA DILLON	STEVE EARLE
Mr Kite Benefits					
Philharmonic Hall	TANNAHILL WEAVERS				
4th Wirral Folk on the Coast Festival (Day 3)			HARVEY ANDREWS JEZ LOWE, LES BARKER ANTHONY JOHN CLARKE TOM TOPPING BAND FULL HOUSE JOE TOPPING COLIN HENDERSON		
Wooden Horse	closed	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	ibc
MONDAY	26TH MAY	2ND JUNE	9TH JUNE	16TH JUNE	23RD JUNE
Bacup	Singaround	Singaround	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Clwb Gwerin Conwy	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Folk at the Prospect	Singers Night	Singers Night	MARK DOWDING	Singers Night	Singers Night
Four Fools	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Red Bull	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Room at the Top	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Skipton Folk Unplugged	Singers Night	Singers Night	Charity Night	WHITNEY GIN	Singers Night
Swinton	Singers Night	JOHNNY SILVO	Singers Night	STANLEY ACCRINGTON	Singers Night
TUESDAY	27TH MAY	3RD JUNE	10TH JUNE	17TH JUNE	24TH JUNE
Acoustic Collective	Singers Night	SHAKE THE ROOTS	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Crown Folk & Acoustic	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
Everyman	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Longridge	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	JOHN CONNOLLY	Singers Night
Maghull	Singers Night	ALLAN TAYLOR	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Ring O'Bells	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Urmston Acoustics	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
WEDNESDAY	28TH MAY	4TH JUNE	11TH JUNE	18TH JUNE	25TH JUNE
Alison Arms	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Biddulph up in Arms	Singers Night	SOLAS	STEPHEN FEARING	DAVE KELLY & CHRISTINE COLLISTER	
Brewery Arts Centre		BEN NEEDHAM & ROBIN PETTY		PAMELA WARD & PAUL SHERRINGTON	
Burnley					
Bury Met	THE WAILIN' JENNYS				tba
Clarence	closed	TOM KITCHING & GREN BARTLEY	PENNY BLACK	BOO HEWERDINE	
Garstang Unplugged	Singers Night				Singers Night
Red Bull	Music Session - English				Music Session - English

THURSDAY	29TH MAY	5TH JUNE	12TH JUNE	19TH JUNE	26TH JUNE
Acoustic Folk at the Nursery		COUNTRY MEETS BLUES & FOLK		Singers Night	
Brewery Arts Centre		THEA GILMORE		SIMPSON & CUTTING	JENNA REID TRIO
Bury Met	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Chorlton	Singers & Musicians	Singaround	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians
Dabbers	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	JULIE ELLISON	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians
Earby	Singers & Musicians	Singers Night	Singers Night	STANLEY ACCRINGTON	Singers & Musicians
Garstang Unplugged					
Gregson Lane					
Heaton Mersey	Singers & Musicians	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians
Hungry Horse Acoustic	Singers & Musicians	** Singers & Musicians	ALLAN TAYLOR	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians
Lymm	KEN POWELL & RUTH FUGA	Big Spot - JOHN CONDY	ANTHONY JOHN CLARKE	Big Spot - HARRY WELLS	LYMM FEST (1) - FLOSSIE JAMES KEELAGHAN
Parkgate	TANGLEFOOT				
South Lakes Music Promotion		KITCHING & BARTLEY			
FRIDAY	30TH MAY	6TH JUNE	13TH JUNE	20TH JUNE	27TH JUNE
* Acoustic Folk at the Nursery					Droylsden Folk Festival
Bollington	Singers Night	Singers Night	VIN GARBUTT	Singers Night	
Bury Met	JEZ LOWE & the BAD PENNIES				
Carlisle Folk & Blues		JAMIE RT and ANDY HILLHOUSE	Singers Night	Singers Night	JOHN CONNOLLY
Frodsham	WELCOMME, FINNAN & CHRIMES				
4th Wirral Folk on the Coast Festival (Day 1)		MARTIN CARTHY JOHN O'CONNELL ZOE MULFORD (USA) PHIL CHISNALL			
* Lymm Festival (Day 2)		PETE MORTON	Singers Night	Singers Night	FIR PLAY
Northwich		JOHNNY SILVO & FIONA SIMPSON	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	TOM DOUGHTY
Porkies	Singers & Musicians	Singers Night	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians
Preston	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	ROB COLOUOUN	Singers Night
Rhyl				TAM WHITE & MIKE HERON	
Southport Arts Centre					
SATURDAY	31ST MAY	7TH JUNE	14TH JUNE	21ST JUNE	28TH JUNE
* Acoustic Folk at the Nursery					VIN GARBUTT
Armoury Folk & Acoustic	GEOFF MONKS	Singers & Musicians			SULLY & CLAIR
Barnoldswick					
* & ** Biddulph up in Arms		GROANBOX BOYS			SIMPSON & CUTTING
Bury Met					
Garstang Unplugged	GL FOLK FESTIVAL with ANTHONY JOHN CLARKE				
* Gregson Lane	Celtich - MOONCOYN and Residents				MUSIC & BEER FESTIVAL
* Leigh		CALICO & St Helens Youth Band			
* Lymm Festival (Day 3)					
Platform	CARA DILLON				HARVEY ANDREWS
4th Wirral Folk on the Coast Festival (Day 2)		CHRIS WHILE & JULIE MATTHEWS JEZ LOWE, JOHNNY SILVO KEITH DONNELLY FIONA SIMPSON VOCAL POINT			

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

29th JUNE to 2nd AUGUST 2008

	29TH JUNE	6TH JULY	13TH JULY	20TH JULY	27TH JULY
SUNDAY	29TH JUNE	6TH JULY	13TH JULY	20TH JULY	27TH JULY
* Acoustic Folk at the Nursery	Droylsden Folk Festival Open air & evening concerts				
Bothy	Singers Night	MICK RYAN & PETE HARRIS	Singers Night	JOHN KIRKPATRICK	Singaround
Folk at the Manor	GILL & GEORGE PECKHAM	Singers Night	Singers Night	PHIL HARE	Singers Night
Kings Lock		Singers Night			
* Lymm Festival (Day 4)	STEVE TILSTON				
Open Door	Singaround		BRIAN PRESTON	Singaround	Singaround
Philharmonic Hall	closed		Singers Night	Singers Night	GUITAR LEGENDS
Wooden Horse	30TH JUNE	7TH JULY	14TH JULY	21ST JULY	28TH JULY
Bacup					
Clwb Gwerin Conwy	Singers Night		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Folk at the Prospect	Singers Night	MICK RYAN & PETE HARRIS	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Four Fools	Singers Night				
* Lymm Festival (Day 5)	STEWART LEVER				
Philharmonic Hall			JACQUI MCSHEE'S PENTANGLE		
Red Bull					
Room at the Top	Singers Night		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Skipton Folk Unplugged	MIKE NICHOLSON	Singers Night	JOEL GRIFFITHS	RON ELLISON	Singers Night
Swinton	John Collinge SHANTY NIGHT			KELLY AKELL & GRAHAM SMOUT	Singers Night
Acoustic Collective	1ST JULY	8TH JULY	15TH JULY	22ND JULY	29TH JULY
* & ** Biddulph up in Arms	RUBY HIGHWAY	Singers Night	Singers Night	PHIL HARE	Singers Night
				PAT SHERRY & STEWART DOUGLAS	Singers Night
Crown Folk & Acoustic	Singaround		FLOSSIE MALAVIALLE & LOUD MOUTH WOMEN		
Everyman	Singers Night		Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
Longridge	Singers Night		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
* Lymm Festival (Day 6)	KERFUFFLE				
Maghull	Singers Night				
Ring O'Bells	Singers Night				
Urmston Acoustics	Singers Night				
WEDNESDAY	2ND JULY	9TH JULY	16TH JULY	23RD JULY	30TH JULY
Allison Arms	Singers Night		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Biddulph up in Arms		MARTHA TILSTON			
Burnley	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians
Clarence	tbw	tbw	Closed until 10 Sept		
Garstang Unplugged					
* Lymm Festival (Day 7)	VIN GARBUTT				
Red Bull					Music Session - English

	3RD JULY	10TH JULY	17TH JULY	24TH JULY	31ST JULY
THURSDAY	3RD JULY	10TH JULY	17TH JULY	24TH JULY	31ST JULY
Acoustic Folk at the Nursery	Singers Night		BIG SPOT - David South		Singers Night
Bury Met		SALSA CELTICA			
Chorlton	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Dabbers	Singaround				
Earby	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians
Gregson Lane	Singers Night		KIMBERS MEN		
Heaton Mersey	Singers Night				
Hungry Horse Acoustic	ROY BAILEY & VOCAL POINT	Singers & Musicians	JOHN FINNAN FRANK WELCOMME & ANDY CHRIMES	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians
Lymm	Lymm Festival (Day 8) STEVE TURNER	Singers Night	Big Spot - KATE BRADBURY with TONY GIBBONS	Big Spot - STEPHEN BENNET	NANCY CUNLIFFE (tbc)
Parkgate					HIS WORSHIP & THE PIG
Wrexham	closed until late September				
FRIDAY	4TH JULY	11TH JULY	18TH JULY	25TH JULY	1ST AUGUST
Bollington					
Bury Met				DERRIN NAUENDORF	
Carlisle Folk & Blues	RACHEL HARRINGTON (USA) with ZAK BORDEN				
Frodsham	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	GRAHAM DUNN	Singers Night
Northwich	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	BRACKENRIGG	Singers Night
Porkies	HIS WORSHIP & THE PIG KEN POWELL & RUTH FUGA				LYRA CELTICA
Preston	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians
Rhyl	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	PETE KAY	Singers Night
Southport Arts Centre			ANDY FAIRWEATHER LOW		
SATURDAY	5TH JULY	12TH JULY	19TH JULY	26TH JULY	2ND AUGUST
Armoury Folk & Acoustic		FOLK IN THE PARK		DAVE WILDE	Singers & Musicians
Barnoldswick	Singers & Musicians				
* & ** Biddulph up in Arms					
NB: * = Not the usual night					
** = Not the usual venue					

3rd AUGUST to 6th SEPTEMBER 2008

(NB: Always check with organisers before travelling)

	3RD AUGUST	10TH AUGUST	17TH AUGUST	24TH AUGUST	31ST AUGUST
SUNDAY	3RD AUGUST	10TH AUGUST	17TH AUGUST	24TH AUGUST	31ST AUGUST
Bothy	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
Folk at the Manor	Singers Night	Singers Night	ZOE MULFORD	Singers Night	ROGER PARKER
Kings Lock	Singers Night				
Open Door	Singaround				
Wooden Horse	Singers Night	BERNARD CROMARTY	ANGELCYNN	Singaround closed	Singaround
MONDAY	4TH AUGUST	11TH AUGUST	18TH AUGUST	25TH AUGUST	1ST SEPTEMBER
Bacup					
Clwb Gwerin Conwy	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Folk at the Prospect	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Four Fools	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Red Bull					

	MONDAY (Cont'd)	4TH AUGUST	11TH AUGUST	18TH AUGUST	25TH AUGUST	1ST SEPTEMBER
Room at the Top	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	closed	Singers Night
Skipton Folk Unplugged	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Swinton	J.P. SLIDEWELL	Singers Night	Singers Night	tbc	Singers Night	
TUESDAY	5TH AUGUST	12TH AUGUST	19TH AUGUST	26TH AUGUST	3RD SEPTEMBER	2ND SEPTEMBER
Acoustic Collective	PHIL MAYER	Singers Night	Singers Night	PATCHWORK	Singers Night	DAVE TUXFORD
Crown Folk & Acoustic	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
Everyman	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	closed	Singers Night
Longridge	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Maghull	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Ring O'Belts	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Urmston Acoustics	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
WEDNESDAY	6TH AUGUST	13TH AUGUST	20TH AUGUST	27TH AUGUST	4TH SEPTEMBER	3RD SEPTEMBER
Alison Arms	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Burnley	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians
Clarence						
Garstang Unplugged						
Red Bull						
THURSDAY	7TH AUGUST	14TH AUGUST	21ST AUGUST	28TH AUGUST	5TH SEPTEMBER	4TH SEPTEMBER
Acoustic Folk at the Nursery						
Bury Met						
Chorlton	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	GORDON GILTRAP
Dabbers	Singaround	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Earby	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians
Gregson Lane	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers & Musicians
Heaton Mersey	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers & Musicians
Hungry Horse Acoustic	STANLEY ACCRINGTON	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	ANTHONY JOHN CLARKE
Lynn	Singers Night	tba	Big Spot -	Singers Night	Singers Night	
Parkgate			MICHELLE HOLDING			
South Lakes Music Promotion	CATHRYN CRAIG & BRIAN WILLOUGHBY			HOUGHTON WEAVERS		VIN GARBUTT
FRIDAY	8TH AUGUST	15TH AUGUST	22ND AUGUST	29TH AUGUST	6TH SEPTEMBER	5TH SEPTEMBER
Bollington						
Carlisle Folk & Blues						Singers Night
Friends of Folk at the - King George's Hall, Blackburn						JACQUI McSHEE's PENTANGLE
Frodsham	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	COLIN LAMBERT & Friends
Northwich	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	BLACKHEART
Porkies	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	ELBOW JANE
Preston	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers & Musicians
Rhyl			THE WARDMANS			REAL TIME
ARMOURY FOLK & ACOUSTIC	9TH AUGUST	16TH AUGUST	23RD AUGUST	30TH AUGUST	6TH SEPTEMBER	5TH SEPTEMBER
Barnoldswick				quest tba		
Southport Arts Centre			NORLAND WIND			Singers & Musicians
NB: * = Not the usual night						
NB: ** = Not the usual venue						
The next "Diary Dates Calendar" in the autumn edition of this magazine will cover the period - 24th August to 6th December 2008						
Club Organisers/Venue Managers are asked to ensure information for this calendar is forwarded to folksingerjohn@aol.com by Sunday 13th July, 2008						

ADVANCE DATES FROM SEPTEMBER 2008



ACOUSTIC COLLECTIVE

Sept 2 Dave Tuxford
 Oct 7 Trebuchet
 Oct 28 Jock (Biggles Wartime Band)
 Dec 2 Ruth Fuga & Ken Powell
 (other dates - Singers Nights)

ACOUSTIC FOLK AT THE NURSERY

Sept 11 Singers Night
 Sept 25 Singers Night

ACCRINGTON TOWN HALL

Sept 7 Blackheart
 Oct 12 The Gathering - Legends of Folk Rock @ Civic Theatre, Oswaldtwistle

ARMOURY FOLK & ACOUSTIC

Sept 27 Kevin Tarpey & Steve Wooley
 Oct 24 tba
 Nov 29 Nelson Peach
 Dec 27 tba

BIDDULPH UP IN ARMS

Sept 10 Ruth Notman Trio
 Sept 24 The Churchfitters
 Oct 4 Kerfuffle
 Oct 29 Vin Garbutt
 Nov 12 Megson
 Dec 10 Steve & Martha Tilston

BOTHY

Sept 7 Muldoon's Picnic
 Sept 14 Singers Night
 Sept 21 Duck Baker
 Sept 28 Singers Night
 Oct 5 Janet Russell & friend
 Oct 12 Singers Night
 Oct 19 Singers Night
 Oct 26 Ron Taylor & Jeff Gillett
 Nov 2 Singers Night
 Nov 9 Coope, Boyes & Simpson "In Flanders Field"
 Nov 16 Singers Night
 Nov 23 Blue C Party Raf Callaghan's Birthday
 Nov 30 Bob Fox
 Dec 7 Andy Clarke
 Dec 14 Hazel & Emily Askew
 Dec 21 Christmas Party
 Dec 28 Closed

BURNLEY MECHANICS

Sept 30 Kate Rusby
 Oct 10 Lancashire Hotpots
 Oct 30 Lau

BURY MET

Sep 4 Gordon Giltrap
 Sept 12 Lancashire Hotpots
 Sept 20 Eliza Carthy
 Sept 27 Drever, McCusker and Woomble plus Heidi Talbot & Boo Hewerdine
 Oct 3 Michael McGoldrick Trio
 Oct 4 Eliza Gilkyson
 Oct 9 Kathryn Tickell
 Oct 11 Tom Russell

Oct 24 Karen Matheson
 Oct 25 Don Ross & Andy McKee
 Oct 30 Genticorum
 Nov 7 Cara Dillon
 Nov 20 Lisa Knapp

CARLISLE FOLK & BLUES

Sept 5 Singers & Performers Night
 Sept 19 tbc
 Oct 3 Steve Tilston
 Oct 17 Column Sands
 Oct 31 Bob Fox & Stu Luckley
 Nov 14 Chris While & Julie Matthews
 Nov 28 Tom McConville / Dave Woods
 Dec 12 Lucy Kaplansky (USA)

CLARENCE

Sept 10 Steve Tilston

DABBERS

Sept 4 Singaround
 Oct 2 Singaround
 Nov 6 Singaround
 Dec 4 Singaround

FOLK AT THE MANOR

Sept 21 Alastair Artingstall
 Oct 19 Dave Gibb
 Nov 16 Strangeworld
 (other dates - Singers Nights)

FOLK AT THE PROSPECT

Sept 22 Scolds Bridle
 Oct 27 Andrew Lobb
 Nov 24 Steve Tilston
 Dec 8 Redmayne
 (other dates - Singers Nights)

FRIENDS OF FOLK

Sept 5 Pentangle
 Oct 3 Swarb's Lazarus
 Nov 7 Tannahill Weavers

FRODSHAM

Sept 5 Colin Lambert & Friends
 Oct 3 Fyrish
 Oct 31 Halton Soulers
 Nov 14 Quartz
 Dec 12 Stanley Accrington
 Dec 26 closed

GARSTANG UNPLUGGED

Sept 24 Singers Night
 Oct 16 Andrea Glass
 Oct 29 Singers Night
 Nov 13 Anthony John Clarke
 Nov 26 Singers Night
 Dec 11 Boo Hewerdine

GREGSON LANE

Sept 11 Scolds Bridle
 Sept 25 Singers Night
 Oct 9 Mike Kneafsey
 Oct 23 Singers Night
 Nov 6 Trio Threfall
 Nov 20 Singers Night
 Dec 4 Alternative Therapy
 Dec 18 Christmas Singers Night
 Jan 29 - 2009 Chris & Siobhan Nelson
 Feb 26 Full House

March 26 Anthony John Clarke
 April 23 Jason Dunkley & that Girl Sue
 May 21 Pete Rimmer & Friends
 June 18 Elbow Jane
 July 16 Marie Little
 Sept 10 Alistair Hulett & Phil Snell
 Oct 8 Brian Preston

HUNGRY HORSE ACOUSTIC

Sept 4 Anthony John Clarke Band
 Sept 11 Singers & Musicians Night
 Sept 18 The Churchfitters
 Sept 25 Singers & Musicians Night
 Oct 2 Fiddlestone
 Oct 9 Singers & Musicians Night
 Oct 16 Ruth Fuga & Ken Powell
 Oct 23 Singers & Musicians Night
 Oct 30 Singers & Musicians Night
 Nov 6 Chris While & Julie Matthews
 Nov 13 Singers & Musicians Night
 Nov 20 Pete Morton
 Nov 27 Singers & Musicians Night
 Dec 4 Jez Lowe
 Dec 11 Singers & Musicians Night
 Dec 18 Christmas with Celtic Notes

LEIGH

Sept 19 John Howarth (tba)
 Nov 21 Bandersnatch
 Nov 29 Ashton on Mersey Showband

LONGRIDGE

Sept 2 closed
 Sept 16 closed
 Oct 7 Singers Night
 Oct 21 Bram Taylor
 Nov 4 Singers Night
 Nov 18 Amazing Dick & the Saggy Bottom Girls
 Dec 2 Singers Night
 Dec 16 Christmas Party Night

LYMM

Oct 9 Martin Simpson

MAGHULL

Sept 9 Jon Brindley

NORTHWICH

Sept 5 The Blackhearts
 Sept 19 The Churchfitters
 Oct 3 Isambarde
 Oct 31 Anthony John Clarke
 Nov 7 Time Bandits
 Nov 21 Full House
 (All other nights - Singers Nights)

OPEN DOOR

Sept 7 Tania Opland & Mike Freeman
 Sept 28 Geoff Higginbottom
 Oct 12 Extravaganza 15 - Alternative Therapy Ruth Fuga & Ken Powell Dan McKinnon (Canada)
 Nov 9 Rob Malaney
 Nov 23 Askew Sisters
 Dec 7 Steve Turner

PARKGATE

Sept 25 Mike Silver
 Oct 30 Vin Garbutt
 Nov 27 Harvey Andrews
 Dec 11 Guest - tba

PHILHARMONIC HALL

Oct 3 Stephan Grossman
 Oct 18 Christy Moore & Declan Sinnott
 Oct 19 ditto

PLATFORM

Sept 19 Brian Kennedy
 Sept 27 Jacqui McShee's Pentangle
 Oct 17 Sharon Shannon

PORKIES

Sept 5 Elbow Jane
 Oct 3 Alternative Therapy
 Nov 7 Alan Bell Band
 Dec 5 Bernard Wrigley
 Dec 19 Christmas Party

RED BULL

Oct 27 Lynn Heraud & Pat Turner

RHYL

Sept 5 Real Time

ROSE THEATRE

Oct 26 Ruth Notman
 Nov 21 Jez Lowe

SKIPTON FOLK UNPLUGGED

Sept 1 Singers Night
 Sept 8 Fyrish
 Sept 15 Singers Night
 Sept 22 Quartz
 Sept 29 Singers Night
 Oct 6 John Kelly
 Oct 13 Singers Night
 Oct 20 Singers Night
 Oct 27 Loctup Together
 Nov 3 Tom McConville
 Nov 10 Singers Night
 Nov 17 Singers Night
 Nov 24 Steve Turner

SOUTH LAKES MUSIC PROMOTION

Sept 4 Vin Garbutt
 Oct 2 Mad Agnes
 Nov 6 The Queensberry Rules
 Dec 4 Dave Gibb

WOODEN HORSE

Sept 14 George Papavgeris
 Sept 21 Singers Night
 Oct 12 Residents Night
 Nov 9 Barry & Ingrid Temple

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CLUB RESIDENTS (as on 20th April 2008)

ACOUSTIC COLLECTIVE – Ann English, John Keighley, Geoff Monks, Paul Roberts, Pete Roberts, Jim Schofield, Jan & Pete Shevlin, Chris Turner, Linda Wild

ACOUSTIC FOLK AT THE NURSERY – Lynn & Barrie Hardman, Dave Jones, Crumbly Fruit Cake, David South

ARMOURY FOLK & ACOUSTIC – Kieron Harley, Glyn Davies, Steve Moran

BACUP -- Brian Eastwood, Helen Slater, Mark Almond, Pete Benbow, John Kearns, Barry Hardman, Rose, Ray

BARNOLDSWICK -- NowThen

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

BURNLEY – Korrigan (Dave Grimshaw, Alex Nearney, Keith Cocker & Paul Morris), Steve Cook

CROWN FOLK & ACOUSTIC -- Kieron Hartley, Ann Fitton, Mike Musgrave, Steve Moran

EARBY – Station Folk

EVERYMAN -- Chris & Hughie Jones, Shirley Peden

FOLK AT HILLBARK – Tom Topping Band

FOLK AT THE MANOR -- Gill & George Peckham, Roger Parker, Marje Ferrier, Mike Hignett

FOLK AT THE PROSPECT -- Chris Hanslip, Carol & John Coxon, Eric Rafferty & Tony Toy

FOUR FOOLS -- Malc Gibbons, Geoff & Lindsay Smith, Tom & Ann, Angie Bladen

FRODSHAM – Alton & Carol Alexander, Eric Rafferty, Stuart Baxter, Harry Leather, Syd Hayden, Jill Smith, Willie Gilmour, Pete Massey, Gordon Morris

GARSTANG UNPLUGGED -- Pete Hardman, Caroline Lovett

GREGSON LANE -- Trouble at Mill, Celtic Fringe, Smithereen, Caroline Lovett, Rob Kentel, Chris Lomax, John Poulton, Ken Kershaw, Jamie & Simon Blatchley, Mark Claydon

HEATON MERSEY – Kieron Hartley, Mark Williams

HUNGRY HORSE ACOUSTIC – Alison Parker & Jim Gallagher, Ian Dawson, Marie Nicholls, John Owen, Angela Owen and Sue Farley.

KINGS LOCK – Liz Rosenfield, Ian Murfitt, Brian Ayling, Stephen Dent, Richard Sherry, Jeff Leigh – Pauline Dowsett, Des Cooney, Julie Houlton, Steve Eckersley, Jim & Bernadette

Heaton

LONGRIDGE -- Ron Flanagan, Brian Preston

LYMM -- Stewart Lever, Nick & Lin Tysoe, Bernard Cromarty, Nelson Peach, Don & Heather Davies

MAGHULL -- Tony Gibbons, Loctuptogether, Joe Ryan, Jane Day, Bob Tyrer, Paul Robinson, Kate Bradbury, Mark Miller, Graham Saggars, Mike Bartram, Tommy Dewhurst, Martin Blackmore

NORTHWICH -- Jamie Anderson, Brenda Yates, John & Ailsa Booth, Iain Bowley & Tom Francis, Bill Pook

PARKGATE -- Eddie Morris, Bob Burrill, Buddy Woods, Mike Woods

PORKIES -- Dave Hughes

PRESTON -- Rob Malaney, Hugh O'Donnell, Tom Walsh, Dave Peters, Len Deevey, Nick Caffrey

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

RHYL -- Rum, Bum & Concertina

ROOM AT THE TOP -- Mark Dowding and others

URMSTON ACOUSTICS -- Keith Northover, Joe & John, Martin & Mandy Kavanagh,

WOODEN HORSE -- Quartz, Loctuptogether, Back in Business, Mark Dowding

WREXHAM – Offa

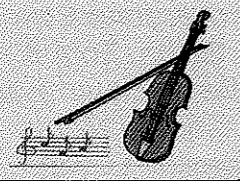
Please notify changes or additions via email to - folksingerjohn@aol.com

Royal Concert Hall; with many of them experiencing live music for the first time at the festival. The festival launched with an education concert featuring John McCusker and friends (all of whom performed in Common Ground that evening), with the performance inspiring Mexican waves and lots of dancing. The Unusual Suspects, Josh White, Jr. and Alison Brown were amongst other acts performing in schools concerts.

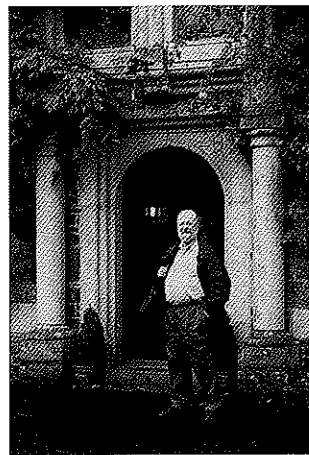
Bethan Nia, Debra Salem, Maggie Adamson, Neil Ewart and Suzanne Houston, John Langan and Feolta are the winners of the Danny Kyle Open Stage 2008. Culture Minister Linda Fabiani presented the six successful acts with their awards after they performed at the final night showcase concert. Every year at Celtic Connections the Danny Kyle Open Stage offers up-and-coming talent the chance to compete to win a support slot at next year's festival.

Celtic Connections continues to attract visitors from all over the world, expanding the international profile of the city as a tourist destination and affirming Glasgow's place on the cultural map. The results of an economic impact survey (carried out at the 2007 festival) revealed that Celtic Connections generated a total of £6.9million of new output to Scotland. Celtic Connections 2009 will run from Wednesday 14th January to Sunday 1st February 2008.

ARTIST CORNER



CYRIL TAWNEY - LIVE RECORDINGS NEEDED



Rosemary Tawney, the widow of Cyril, is seeking recordings of Cyril Tawney's concert and club appearances for inclusion in his Archive, which will be held by the Vaughan Williams Memorial Library at the English Folk Dance and Song Society in London, and wonders whether any Folk North West readers can help. She has already received several very useful items but there are still some gaps to be filled, particularly by the many traditional songs in his repertoire, which were not recorded commercially.

She's also keen to have examples of his more quirky items, for her own pleasure and for the Archive - here are some examples to jog memories:

Music-hall songs - Married on Pension Day, With Me Little Bit Of Hair On The Top etc.

Popular songs - She Wears Red Feathers (yes, the Guy Mitchell hit), also the Andrews Sisters songs Her Bathing Suit Never Got Wet and Three Little Sisters.

Most of all in this category she would love to have a recording of Baltimore Oriole, a beautiful, bluesy Hoagy Carmichael song which Cyril rarely sang in public. Here's a reminder of the opening lines: "Baltimore Oriole, took one look at that mercury, forty below, no life for a lady, to be draggin' her feathers around in

the snow".

Approximately £3,000 has been raised so far for the preservation of Cyril's archive in the Vaughan Williams Memorial Library, and income is still coming in from donations and sales of the Commemorative Booklet, which can be ordered via Cyril's website.

They have no recordings of the themed presentations, which he occasionally gave at Festivals and Arts Centres: "Tawney in Depth", "Hands to Dance and Skylark" and "Royal Navy Humour" so anyone who could provide copies of these would be very much appreciated. Even if the songs you have are covered elsewhere, Cyril's introductions were very much a part of his performances and the live sessions will help to complete the record of his career. Visit www.cyriltawney.co.uk for further information or contact Rosemary via email at: tawney3@tiscali.co.uk, phone 01392 426 055 or write to her at 10 Sivell Place, Heavitree, Exeter, EX2 5ET, UK.

STEVE TILSTON



Steve Tilston has been back in the studio working on a new album. Entitled Ziggurat, hear Tilston deftly weave his mastery on a dozen new insightful songs of love, loss, war and redemption - plus the reworking of a couple of gems from the tradition.

Steve Tilston is one of this country's greatest song-writers with many of his songs considered modern folk-song classics and

covered by the likes of Fairport Convention, Dolores Keane, John Wright and many others. He's also renowned for the way he takes a favourite traditional "old chestnut" and makes it his own. His career was marked last year by the release of Reaching Back a five-CD boxed-set retrospective. Not one to stand still, Steve is "reaching forward" with this new collection and will be touring in the autumn (and beyond) to celebrate.

Dates in and around the region include:

June 22 Bothy Folk Club, at Park Golf Club, Park Road West, Southport www.bothyfolkclub.co.uk

June 29 Lymm Folk Festival www.railwayfolkclub.co.uk tel: 07919 270916

August 15 Tegeingl (the festival of hidden folk) @ Mold Rugby Club, Mold www.tegeingl.com

Visit www.stevetilston.com & www.myspace.com/stevetilston for more information

CHRIS WOOD

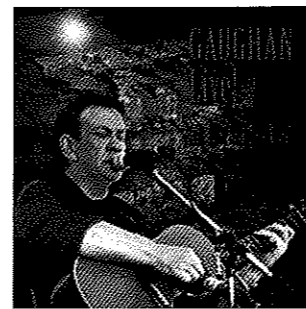


Chris Wood is an uncompromising writer and multiple BBC Folk Awards winner! With gentle intelligence he weaves the tradition with his own contemporary parables, his writing has been said to share the same timeless quality as Richard Thompson at his best, with the release of " Trespasser" Wood has raised the bar for English music a few notches higher!

"Trespasser is my album of the year," said Billy Bragg. Billy's judgement is far wrong in this case. And you can see Chris

live when he is scheduled to perform at the St. Bede's Club in Chorley on 5 October www.englishacousticcollective.org.uk for more details.

DICK GAUGHAN



The inimitable Scottish socialist singer, Dick Gaughan celebrates his 60th year with a series of UK dates including The Picket in Liverpool on 19 September. Gaughan has also recently issued his first Live CD in 23 years. The last was recorded in Edinburgh. This one was recorded in December at the Trades Club in Hebden Bridge in Yorkshire. Titled "Gaughan Live!

At the Trades Club" it was released at the beginning of April by Greentrax Recordings (Cat Number: CDTRAX 322). You can buy it from www.musicscotland.com for a fraction over a tenner.

RUTH NOTMAN



Ruth Notman started out on the live circuit at just 13 years old performing at folk clubs and venues in and around Nottingham and Derby and soon began securing slots at leading Festivals. In 2006 Ruth reached the finals of the BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Award and shortly afterwards signed a record deal.

Threads was released in November 2007 and created quite a stir, receiving great reviews including 4 Star reviews in The

Guardian and Mojo Magazine and airplay on many local and national radio stations including BBC Radio 2 and 3. Ruth's pure and powerful voice conveys stories of love, loss, adventure and heartache, weaving through simple stripped down ballads and soaring above complex arrangements. She's been in demand for festivals this summer. Her North West dates include:

7 June, Mellor Brook Community Centre, Blackburn; Janet Aspin (tickets) 07871 153 880.

28 June, Dent Festival, Cumbria, (with Hannah Edmonds0

30 August, Fylde Festival, Fleetwood

10 September, Biddulph Folk Club, Biddulph Town Hall, Staffordshire

Visit: www.myspace.com/ruthnotman1 for further details and her some of songs and radio clips.

JEZ LOWE



Jez Lowe has a long list of UK Festivals coming up this summer, some solo, some with the whole band. There's a list on his homepage at www.jezlowe.com along with details of how to get CDs and

songbooks by mail order. There's also a link on the front page to Jez's MYSPACE website. Forthcoming North West dates include

JUNE
7, JEZ SOLO WIRRAL ON THE COAST 0151 652 0734
15, JEZ SOLO - The Ring O'Bells, Warrington, Cheshire
22, JEZ SOLO The Junction, Rainford Lancs. 01772 452782

AUGUST
29-30 AUG, JEZ & BAD PENNIES FYLDE FESTIVAL 01253 770547

NOVEMBER
21, JEZ & BAD PENNIES Rose Theatre, Ormskirk 01695 584480

DECEMBER
4, JEZ & BAD PENNIES Hungry Horse, Chester 01516789902

EDWINA HAYES



Edwina Hayes is a singer/songwriter who has been a regular performer on the UK acoustic scene since 1999. Edwina grew up in Preston, Lancashire before moving to the East coast of Yorkshire as a teenager, where she has been based ever since. Dividing her time between the UK and America, Edwina's second home is Nashville where she is a much loved as a songwriter and artist.

She has a growing army of admirers - having been repeatedly chosen to tour with the likes

of Nanci Griffith and Jools Holland. The long queues for CD signings of her debut Warner Bros album at such performances are testimony to her popularity and her new album 'Pour me a Drink' confirms her rising star status.

Edwina kicked off 2008 with her first solo UK headline tour and released her second record 'Pour Me A Drink' on February 22nd. Edwina continues to write songs and play gigs all over the country and in America, with a Winter UK Tour planned for October/November. Before that she appears at the Fylde Folk Festival on 30 August. Visit: www.edwinahayes.com

CHRISTENE LEDOUX



Christene LeDoux has recently completed another of numerous solo tours in the UK and as always, is getting wonderful feedback. She has completed a series of tours all over Europe including; Sweden, Greece, Denmark and Czech Republic with her Stockholm based trio, "The Black Sheep Girls." - as well as solo tours all over the world.

Christene has toured with such artists as Willie Nelson, Suzanne Vega and Ireland's own Brian Kennedy. Bob Harris and Marie Crichton have featured her songs on BBC Radio, amongst many others. Have a look on her site for information and listen to her songs; www.ChristeneLeDoux.com. Christene also regularly delivers songwriting/storytelling workshops - which have gained great acclaim in the USA.

Her highly most recent CD was released late last year. "Dust

& Branches - songs from a wanderer." Dates are planned for a further UK tour for the Summer of 2008. Please see her site for the list of dates we have currently. These dates include three in the North West so far - Winelight Club, Bury on 10 June; Station Cafe Bar, Birkenhead 13 June; and The Acoustic Tearoom @ Rattan and Rush on 21 June.

TRACEY CURTIS



Having previously been a part of pop punk band Shelley's Children, Tracey's solo career was launched almost by accident when she was encouraged by her children to write a protest song against a planned bypass that would ruin their local riverside dens and rope swings.

She went in to the studio to record 'Nowhere Left to Play', planning to send it out to local radio and TV stations. With that song recorded in three minutes and a whole

hours studio time booked, she just carried on playing, and recorded all the other songs she had written at the time. This became 'The By-pass Demo'. Robb Johnson heard the demo and within a few months 'If the Moon Could Talk' was recorded for UNLABELLED, a co-operative offshoot of Robb's IRREGULAR RECORDS.

The last three years have seen Tracey taking her music to folk festivals, punk festivals, veggie cafes, folk clubs, theatres, pubs, clubs, prisons and Oxfam shops.

Her second CD 'Picture Postcards' was released on 27th November 2006 and is being promoted with tours of the UK and the USA. 2007 saw Tracey joining Chumbawamba, Attila the Stockbroker and American political singer/songwriter David Rovics on tours of the UK. The year ended with Boff and Neil from Chumbawamba taking a selection of songs from both Tracey's previous albums, reworking and re-producing for release in May.

Tracey appears in an all star line up at the Liverpool Working Class Festival on 19-21 September and The Yorkshire House Parliament Square, Lancaster on 14 November. For further information or contact: www.myspace.com/traceycurtis

EAMON FRIEL - IN FOR THE DAY



Eamon Friel is described as a 'whimsical song-writer' - although that certainly doesn't do sufficient justice to his songwriting ability -and radio presenter. He spent his first five years in London then his parents moved to Derry and he considers himself a Derryman through and through.

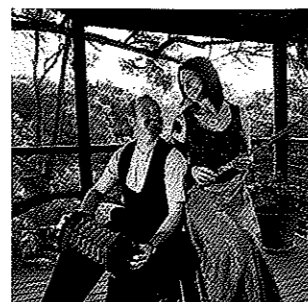
Eamon's new 4 track was released in April 2008. It's a radio promotion single only, featuring two songs from the forthcoming new album, which is due to be launched in September. There is also a song - 'The Western Wind' - from the last album, the highly acclaimed HERE IS THE RIVER. It's the track that has received major airplay since the last album's release in 2006.

The fourth song on the single is an old favourite, a live version of 'Such a Night of Stars'. The two new songs are 'The Kingdom

of Love', featuring the backing vocals of Eilidh Patterson and the title track 'In For The Day'. It's a duet with DEANTA singer MARY DILLON, sister of Cara Dillon.

Friel's disarming charm almost distracts the listener from the liting poeticism of his lyrics, perfectly counter posed with a collection of excellent musicians. One again voice and instruments are forged together - to stunning effect. If the new album is anywhere as good as his previous releases we are in for a treat. Look out for a review in one of future editions of FNW.

CLOUDSTREET



Cloudstreet produce hot harmonies & beautiful ballads. John Thompson and Nicole Murray's performances are packed with vitality, humour and excitement, as they breathe new life into some of the great songs of the Australian, English and Celtic traditions and carry the tradition forward with original songs and tunes. Driving guitar and Irish flute support their

enthraling vocals. Their trademark dazzling harmonies and their impassioned presentation are leavened with humour and great tales from their travels.

Cloudstreet makes their audience feel that they are the privileged viewers of something very special. They are running a weekend singing workshop at Maddy Prior's Stones Barn from 4-6 July. Teaching singing at Maddy's place was a highlight of last year's tour for them. The weekend was a load of fun and they loved working with the enthusiastic singers who came along. They're delighted to be invited back. Early bookings are recommended: Sing with Cloudstreet is at Stones Barn, Cumbria, CA6 6LA For further details and bookings, go to the Stones Barn web page at www.maddyprior.co.uk/sbindex.htm They come back to Cumbria two weeks later for Brampton Live, one of several festival performances during the summer months.

RACHEL HARRINGTON



Rachel Harrington is a roots musician in the truest and purest sense, an artist who truly understands and conveys the deep link between country & soul. Bob Harris has been singing her praises on his show and raving about her album 'The Bootleggers Daughter'

Rachel has been compared to Gillian Welch and has shared stages with or supported such great acts as Shawn Colvin, Be Good Tanyas, Guy Clark, David Lindley, Lucy Kaplansky and Eliza Gilkyson to name but a few. Reared among the Pentecostal pines of Oregon, Harrington's rural gospel roots shone through on her 2004 living room demo. That humble four-song EP spent 13 weeks on the AMA chart and garnered the Seattle siren stellar reviews.

By 2006, Rachel was touring with her songwriting hero, Guy Clark, winning national songwriting awards, and performing at large festivals. From the crossroads of country, folk and bluegrass, her debut CD The Bootlegger's Daughter (May 2007)

featured some of Northwest America's finest musicians, and was co-produced with two-time Grammy winner Garey Shelton. The album has made its way around the globe, praised highly by Bob Harris, reaching No. 1 on the Euro-Americana Chart, and climbing into the Top 40 on the esteemed Americana Music Association's radio chart in the US.

Rachel is touring the UK in July 2008 behind the new record as a duo, joined by multi-instrumentalist Zak Borden on vocals, mandolin, guitar and various other weapons of mass destruction. A solid songwriter in his own right, Zak has toured extensively throughout the US and UK having worked with, among many others, Casey Neill, The Watson Twins, and his platinum selling cousin, Willy Mason. During her tour she visits the North West playing

KANE DYSON & NAPPER

Mark Kane and Chris Dyson are adding the outstanding talents of banjo player, Tom Napper to their midst to form a new Irish Celtic trio, quite likely on the lines of Toms former successful trio 'Dabhand'. Tom has had great success with Dabhand as well as collaborations with Gina Le Faux, Cairon Boyle, Alistair Russell and currently with Tom Bliss. Email: chris.dyson02@hotmail.co.uk or phone 01977-614409 for further information and visit <http://napperbliss.co.uk/> for details of Tom Napper's gigs.

THE NEW ROPE STRING BAND



The Old Rope String Band (what is left of them: Pete Challoner and Tim Dalling) have joined forces with two amazing musicians (Jock Tyldesley and Vera van Heeringen) and as a four piece they are taking off from where the Old Ropes sadly stopped. They play a big assortment of things and all sorts of hoedown pan-Celtic old-timey up-beat down-home music. All this is combined with bizarre physical nonsense and clowning about. And singing. And dancing.

A skillfully preposterous blend of musical recital and circus showing that the band has lost none of what The Old Rope String Band were loved for. Newcomers Jock and Vera have effortlessly become part of the bizarre routines and musical scenarios that defy description. These firm club and festival favourites appear at the Gregson Centre in Lancaster on 27 June; Tel: 01524 849959. Visit www.newropestringband.co.uk

JANETTE GERI



A gifted singer and musician, Janette Geri's diverse repertoire weaves together traditional folk and modern elements using African rhythms and Celtic harmonies. Predominantly a guitarist, she also plays keyboards, harp and recorder on her albums producing wonderfully rich and undulating arrangements.

Of her first CD, Secret of the West Wind, Terry Reilly remarked, "Janette Geri provides a work of complete sensitivity and

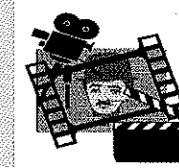
integrity. It's one thing to praise the arrangements, it's another to pay tribute to the excellent vocal delivery but something must be said about her lyrics, which really do court a subtle sense of the poetic. Recited as poetry, her words stand dramatically tall."

Upcoming Shows in and around the North West include:

31 October Chase Folk Club, Staffordshire, England
13 November The Met, Bury

Visit: www.myspace.com/janettegeri for further information and song samples.

NEWSREEL



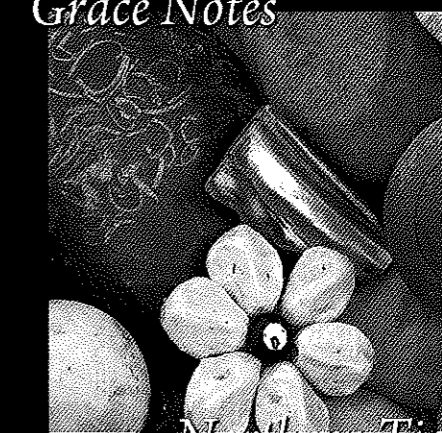
BERT LLOYD CENTENARY EVENT ANNOUNCED

February 29th 2008 marks the centenary of the birth of A.L. (Bert) Lloyd, the renowned English singer, folklorist, journalist, and writer. To mark this anniversary, the English Folk Dance and Song Society will publish a biography, by Dave Arthur, entitled Bert: The Life and Work of A.L. Lloyd.

To launch the publication and to celebrate Bert Lloyd's life and

the superb fourth album

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Nigel Schofield, Tykes' News

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or online at www.skinnymalinksmusic.co.uk

Fellside Recordings FECD209



work, the English Folk Dance and Song Society will host a day of concerts at its London headquarters, Cecil Sharp House, on Saturday 15 November 2008.

Guests confirmed so far include folk luminaries Frankie Armstrong, Martin Carthy, Bob Davenport with Roger Digby, Will Duke, Dan Quinn and Alex West, Roy Harris, Louis Killen, Maddy Prior, Dave Swarbrick, Norma Waterson, Martyn Wyndham-Read with Iris Bishop and, from the current explosion of young singers and musicians, Lisa Knapp and Sam Lee.

Bert Lloyd (Albert Lancaster Lloyd, 29 February 1908 - 29 September 1982) was not only a world-famous scholar but also a spellbinding singer who inspired many of today's leading folk performers, giving generously of his time and material. He continues to influence new generations of singers through his books and recordings.

Bert's daughter Caroline Clayton and her husband Ted are pleased to support the occasion, all proceeds from which will be donated to the English Folk Dance and Song Society's Vaughan Williams Memorial Library.

LEAP TO YOUR FEET APPALACHIAN DANCERS

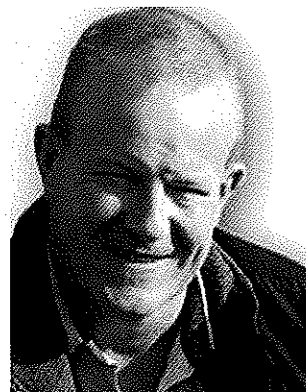


Appalachian dancing consists of traditional steps and when combined form lively dances that are exciting to perform and watch. New or experienced dancers and musicians are invited to go along to practice nights at Harvey Street Methodist Church Hall off Halliwell Road, Bolton on Wednesday evenings at 8-9.30 p.m.

There are currently a mixture of dancers ranging from those who have been in the team for over 10 years to more recent recruits! As people come and go they are constantly looking for new people who would be able to join in. If there are any musicians interested they will be welcome to join their resident musicians Soyaband who play for the Appalachian dancing as well as for ceilidhs and other events.

If you would like further information contact Margaret Ranyard 01204 842547 or Steve Ingham 0161 764 9466 They would be very pleased to hear from you and to talk you through the sorts of things they do so that you can decide if it's what you are interested in. You can also look at their website for all the information you need about Appalachian Dancing and where they perform. www.leaptoyourfeet.co.uk

SINGING PIG FARMER CHALLENGES INDUSTRY TO FOCUS ON SKILLS



Campaigning pig farmer, Richard Longthorp has set a challenge for farmers and growers in the region to get behind work to improve training. Richard, who has been campaigning as part of the Pigs Are Worth It campaign and helped record the song 'Stand By Your Ham', has said that the industry needs to be less submissive and that ignoring the skills agenda is not an option.

Richard says: "If industry is to see the skills agenda move on

at the pace and in the direction that it needs to, it must start to engage much more proactively with its Sector Skills Council, Lantra, than it has done in the past."

Animal welfare has been highlighted across agricultural livestock profiles that include profiles relating to beef, dairy, sheep, pigs and poultry farming.



ERIC BIBB Get Onboard (Telarc Records CD83675)



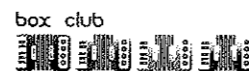
and soul'. OK, OK. I give in. In fact, I couldn't have put it better myself.

There are twelve tracks here and a variety of approaches to them with the only constant being Bibb's rich and warm vocal. Yet, it's really the quality of the song writing that gets to me and reminds me of the adage that says good songs are the heart of good music. There are highlights all over this record but let's start with 'Conversation', a duet with Ruthie Foster that takes a slow blues to places rarely heard these days. Brass blows away in the back while Eric and Ruthie converse about the need to see more of each other in a way that leaves the listener eavesdropping on their predicament whilst empathising with their hectic pace of life. It's a short but sweet blues coming after the CD has opened with the driving electric blues of 'Spirit I Am' whose title echoes the gospel that you hear later with 'The Promised Land' and 'God's Kingdom'. The latter being slow and easy and the former with a beat that gets the foot going enough to wear out your best tap shoes. There's everything you want from blues, gospel and soul here - even a track that starts with the obligatory 'I woke up this morning...!'

This must be Bibb's most complete CD to date with all the strokes being pulled for all of us folks. I'm afraid it looks like I'm going to have to mail this review to my mate Mr Beard whose been telling me this for a while. So, if there are any other sceptics out there, it's time to reach for the wallet and invest in some Eric Bibb.

Steve Henderson

BOX CLUB Box Club (Box Club Records BoxclubCD1)



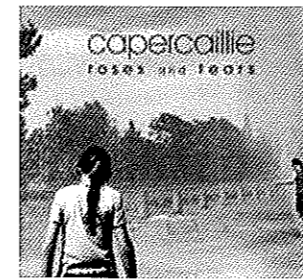
Starting with the bright and breezy "The 1st Rule", the Box Club exude a positive and fresh approach to the Celtic music scene with their quad accordion driven sound. Now, you might think that four accordions would prove to be overkill but far from it, by playing to the strengths of harmony and counter-point

melody the band really know how to rock and each member of the band; Angus Lyon, John Somerville, Mairearad Green and Gary Innes along with the rhythm section Michael Bryan (guitar), Duncan Lyall (double bass) and Martin O'Neill (drums) give their all in some great set-pieces.

With the Scottish ceilidh circuit going through something of a renaissance at the moment it shouldn't be surprising that those doffing their caps to the great Jimmy Shand are now leading the way utilising cross-cultural references to create a spirited performance that should please both purists and the general public alike. I can see many a happy Tennents induced audience getting down and dirty to the "Teabeggin Set" and, if I were a festival organiser, I'd certainly look at putting the band forward for the end of evening bash. Good fun all round... now somebody pass me another tinny. www.boxclub.co.uk

Pete Fyfe

CAPERCAILLIE Roses and Tears (Vertical Records VERTCD084)



Opening with the gently propelled groove of "Him Bo" this album will see the band's regular supporters (whilst hopefully gaining a new legion of fans) soaking up the unmistakable 'Capercaille' sound. Once again rightfully taking her place as Scotland's first lady of Gaelic/English song, I beggar anyone not to be moved by Karen Matheson's awesome

interpretation of John Martyn's powerful anti-war ballad "Don't You Go". The same could be said for Donald Shaw's thought provoking "Soldier Boy" which also provides the album with its title. The statement in both songs is evocatively understated by the rest of this artful bunch of musicians; Michael McGoldrick, Charlie McKerron, Manus Lunny, Ewen Vernal, Che Beresford and David Robertson.

With splashes of musical decoration including harmony fiddle and Uilleann pipes or the attacking triplets of the accordion, the recording will entrance you from beginning to end. OK, so there are no super turbo-charged sets of tunes though they're well capable of cranking up the speeds, the band settles into feel-good grooves such as the "Quimper Waltz" and the more traditional set piece "The Aphrodisiac". There are many reasons to applaud this recording not least for the outstanding quality of the production and dare I say that this is probably my favourite Capercaille recording to date! www.capercaillie.co.uk

Pete Fyfe

CELTIC FIDDLE FESTIVAL Equinoxe (Loftus Music LM003)



There was a time when I used to sit in on the sessions at the White Hart, Fulham Broadway and enjoy listening (and joining in) with some of the best musicians the Celtic world had to offer. In many ways this album recalls those glory days and even some of the tunes remain the same including "The Sligo Maid/The Killavil Fancy/The Sailor On The Rock" and a few of the wonderful Ed Reavey melodies for good measure.

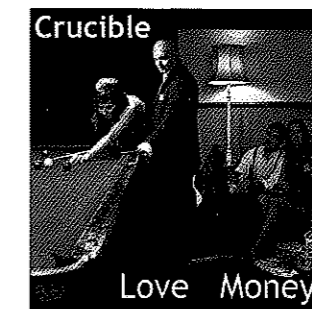
The Sailor On The Rock" and a few of the wonderful Ed Reavey melodies for good measure.

All three fiddlers: Kevin Burke, Christian Lemaire and particularly new kid on the block Andre Brunet with his solo "Jig de Valcartier/An Italian Tune/Reel de Maisonneuve" give sparkling

performances. It's an album unadorned of any frills given a real lift by Ged Foley's intuitive guitar accompaniment and for those (like myself) who enjoy their music more organic this is a little beauty! www.loftusmusic.com

Pete Fyfe

CRUCIBLE - Love & Money (Fellside Recordings FECD212)



What do you get if you mix the sounds of The Young Tradition, The Albion Country Band, the albums Rattlebone & Ploughjack and The Complete Dancing Master together... Crucible would be my guess. And what a glorious sound it is too.

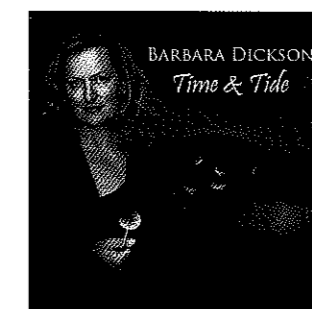
Starting with the four members (Jess & Rich Arrowsmith, Gavin Davenport and Helena Reynolds)

all getting stuck into some fine harmonies with the calling-on song "The Captain's Song" this quartet prove no slouches in the vocal stakes. Each of the members are also good musicians following with "Roxburgh Castle/Up The Walls Of The World". On the track "Three Maidens" in what could be a seriously repetitive melody the song is broken by thoughtful use of melodeon and occasional dramatic flourishes from the fiddle.

Mind you, if it's something more up-tempo you're looking for check out the lusty "Collier Lad/Highland Mary". This is a very enjoyable ensemble who are proud not only to wear their English musical heritage like a badge of honour but also don't shy away from taking a leaf out of the Faustus/Spiers & Boden photographic train of thought utilising cleverly staged modern scenarios to front their CD sleeve. Definitely a band to watch out for! www.cruciblemusic.co.uk

Pete Fyfe

BARBARA DICKSON Time & Tide (Chariot Music CTVPCD001)



The success of any true collaboration comes initially from taking your first tentative steps on a slackened tightrope (in this case since 1992) until the partnership has been cemented with a mutual trust in the person you are going to be relying on. Such is the case with Barbara Dickson and her now musical director Troy Donockley.

Originally established as the spectacular Uilleann pipes player in the powerful Celtic-Rock band You Slosh, Donockley's multi-instrumental prowess - he is credited with eight instruments on this recording - provides the textural light and shade throughout the album. The addition of stalwarts Pete Zorn (Sax), Phil Cunningham (Piano Accordion) with Brad Lang (Bass) and Frank Van Essen (Violin) will I'm sure be enough to fulfil most 'folk' audiences requisite criteria and the stirring traditional tracks including "Lowlands Of Holland", "The Water Is Wide" and "Lady Franklin's Lament" will bring to mind Eddi Reader's recent reacquaintance with her Scottish heritage.

Dickson's mellow tones are well suited to the material: none more so than on the beautiful Charlie Chaplin perennial "Smile" and the inclusion of the self-penned "Palm Sunday", which will I'm sure satisfy the needs of her more contemporary fan base. This is an album that has been artfully crafted and may therefore

require more than the cursory listen Barbara's popular songs such as "January, February" or "Another Suitcase" have provided in the past. It's certainly more daring - and all the better for it. www.barbaradickson.net

Pete Fyfe

KERR FAGAN HARBRON Station House (Fellside Recordings FECD211)



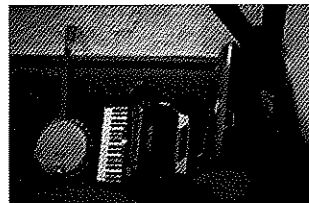
There surely can't be a finer trio on the folk scene and we should all celebrate this debut CD from Nancy Kerr, James Fagan & Robert Harbron. From the opening bars of Gustav Holst's glorious "Thaxted" leading into the up-tempo waltz song "Leaving Old England" the trio utilise counterpoint melody (including a clever overlapping Hard Times Of Old England) with soaring fiddle and concertina filling any gaps.

Breathtakingly theatrical and with no let up on dynamic content the following track "Alan Tyne Of Harrow" conveys the story of a Highwayman who buys his horse from none other than Henry Fielding... yes, City Of Vice's original Bow Street Runner... such delicious irony! The very seam of British and Australian character that runs throughout the album including Nancy's own "Break Your Fall" and Hugh MacDonald's classic "Diamantina Drover" is testament to the group that they're proud of their heritage and the English tune sets including several from the manuscripts of William Winter sound very much in the vein of William Mitchell.

And that's where the beauty of this recording lies; all of the songs have strong storylines that make you want to listen to the lyrics as much as the music accompanying them and the tunes are such that, if you're a musician, you'll want to learn them all. 2008 has already produced some very interesting folk CDs but I have to say I'd be hard pushed if this weren't my album of the year! www.kerrfaganharbron.co.uk

Pete Fyfe

ODDFELLOWS Monday Nights At Nine (Limefield Records CDLF001)



Fed up with the doom mongers saying folk clubs are dead or dying? Getting a little nostalgic for a decent sing around like the 'good old days'? Maybe, just want to hear the sound of people enjoying themselves rather than talking about the latest miserable tale of death and destruction in the papers? Well, here it is, the perfect antidote. It should come with a health warning - there are people actually enjoying themselves on this record!

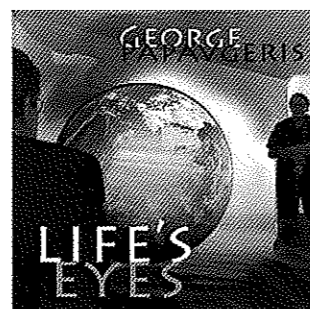
Things were stirring at the Oddfellows Arms in Middleton. Music was firmly on the agenda for a Monday night. No microphones or karaoke, just a pile of sandwiches. Local musician, John Ellis, whose CV includes extremes such as the Manchester Jazz Festival and Lily Allen, was well aware that this was no ordinary Monday night. Stumbling across the fact that Bill Leader who produced a variety of classic 60's folk recordings was local to him - in fact living less than a mile away, the rest of the plan was obvious. 'Monday Nights At Nine' is the result.

Seventeen tracks can be found on the CD including traditional jigs driven along by all and sundry on bodhran, guitar and

anything else they could get their hands on. There is the unaccompanied singing of macabre ditties such as 'The Body' alongside amusing numbers such as 'Gladiator'. Uilleann piper, Liam O'Brien, joins in with the Oddfellows crowd on two hornpipes, 'Chief O'Neil's favourite' and 'The Greencastle'. Of course, a good night in Middleton can be heard just down the road in Oldham and that attracts some tinkers to the area. Oldham Tinker, John Howarth, contributes on three tracks including the parting 'Parting Glass'. It's pure joy all the way through. Purists may moan that the sound of happiness in the background annoys them but I say pick up your glass and sing. Or, better still, send a cheque for £10 payable to Limefield Records at 364A Manchester Old Road, Middleton, Manchester M24 4EB.

Steve Henderson

GEORGE PAPAVERGIS Life's Eyes (Wild Goose WGS 348CD)



Anyone who has heard George will know that he is an archetypal protest singer in the best mould of that genre. His songs are high quality and well constructed and, more importantly, identifiable to many of us in different ways.

He starts this, his first album with Wild Goose (he has made others previously), in exactly that style with Another Day and also later

on with the topical Upwind Of Me which especially appeals to me as an anti gas guzzler protagonist and conservationist. He is also not afraid to tackle more controversial subjects like he does in Toni With an "i", which is a sensitive comment on sex changes.

One or two of the tracks are love songs, but in a wider sense than the usual heart on sleeve stuff redolent of so many average contemporary singers, of which For a Friend is the one that brought a lump to my throat! The remark in the sleeve notes says it all: 'Let those you love know it, today' (my underlining) and it's the last word in the sentence that emphasises the theme in typical Papavgeris style. Rozellas (it should be Rosellas but he's not a birder so we'll forgive him!) takes me back to Australia where his son lives and is the inspiration for this fine song.

Inevitably there are a number of his songs that are influenced by his Greek background like Tsamiko and Pieces the latter of which recalls his family, but none are quite as moving as Late Spring, which is a tribute to lost friends. Harbour Lights is also an evocative song of Greek homeliness. It's not all George though because, on Rush Hour, his more than able accompanists, Vicki Swan and Jonny Dwyer, join him in song in a song that expresses much about our unfeeling modern society.

By the way, don't be deceived into thinking that there are 14 tracks on this album even though the sleeve notes indicate it! Now you'll have to buy the album to find out what I mean! After all that praise I should point out that I do have one very minor criticism of his work in that a lot of his songs have a familiar tempo and musical style that marks his style out but also makes for a slight lack of variety. However, although the saying says that familiarity breeds contempt, there's definitely nothing contemptible here!

Also, I was slightly disappointed that the lyrics weren't printed on the sleeve insert but be reassured that they are all available on George's web site at www.folk4all.net, which is well worth

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a visit. George has a justifiably large following on the club and festival circuit and I'm sure that this album will enhance his reputation even further.

Derek Gifford

THE PUNCH BROTHERS Punch (Nonesuch Records 7559-79982-8)



Taking their name from a Mark Twain short story, The Punch Brothers announce their arrival with the dramatic 'Punch'. You'll be more familiar with their leader and mastermind behind this opus, Chris Thile, who played the lead role with Nickel Creek. However, you may well wonder why I use a word like opus to describe an act rooted in bluegrass. The answer is that this record has

some dense music that recalls the more complex end of jazz or classical music. Indeed, their UK debut at Celtic Connections caused a stir or two with audience members clamouring for them to 'play some ***** bluegrass'. But the question must be - is it any good?

Well, the record starts off with the rather wonderful 'Punch Bowl' making it worth the price of admission alone for my ears. Then, we enter the four movements of 'The Blind Leaving The Blind', the centrepiece and most controversial element of this record. There's no question that you'll need to pin the ears back for the forty minutes that encompass this piece as it is very demanding listening though it highlights the brilliance of the playing of Thile and his talented pals. If you're still with it, an instrumental slips in to change the mood before we return to more typical 'It'll Happen' at the close. Though the record starts and finishes with more familiar material, it will be the centrepiece that defines the music for the listener. This record will definitely cause some ripples because it is bluegrass, Spock, but not as we know it!

Serious music fans that have jazz players such as John Coltrane in their collection will drool over this record but the listener looking for some jolly bluegrass will hold up their hands on horror. Be patient, these guys have the talent to turn out a true popular masterpiece - let's see where it goes because for the moment, some fans will be in shock!

Steve Henderson

SKILDA Spas (L'oz Productions LOZ 52)



Skilda certainly know how to catch your attention right from the outset. Although I'm not entirely sure about the spoken introduction to the recording the first track "An nighean dubh" sounds like a mix between Jean Michael Jarre, Capercaillie and even, dare I say it... Buggles (!) Still, after you get over the initial shock, be prepared for a ride that proves exhilarating and confusing

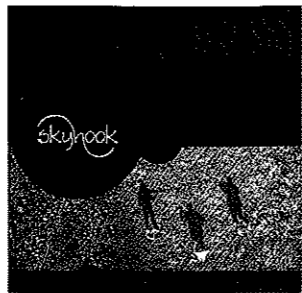
in equal measures. At least Skilda couldn't be accused of resting on their laurels utilising as they do soundscapes as a background accompaniment to their intentionally Celtic themes.

I gave up on trying to decipher any lyrics (an instant aversion I'm afraid to the Gaelic language - OK, so call me a Philistine) but must admit to thoroughly enjoying the energy in much the way I used to look forward to buying all of Enigma's albums. The

keyboard rich sound combined with fiddle and Highland Pipes propels a sense of syncopated urgency on the track "Clach Mhic Leoid" that would have a whole tent of 'Moshers' bopping away at Glastonbury Festival... and rightly so. So, put on your dancing shoes, scatter a ton of Lager cans (preferably ones that you've drunk from first) on your living room floor and boogie on down like a dancing dervish. www.skilda.com

Pete Fyfe

SKYHOOK Skyhook (Own Label SHMCD01)



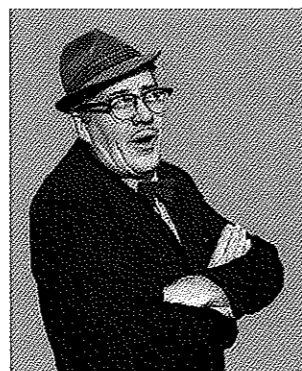
Skyhook are a trio of versatile musicians comprising Cath James (Fiddle & Viola), Eoin Teather (Vocals, Guitar & Bouzouki) and Martin Harwood (Fiddle, Guitar, Bouzouki & Piano). On my first listen through the album it occurred to me that this CD is more memorable than most due to the duetting fiddles lending a more abrasive edge to the tune sets. Accompanied by the strong

rhythms, the sound is brash in presentation and a pleasant change from the precise-ness showcased by other artists of a similar ilk.

Talking of all things brash, I thought I'd stumbled upon a long lost recording by Paul & Eddie Furey and Davey Arthur aka The Buskers (ask your mum or dad!) listening to Skyhook's version of the classic "Arthur McBride". In many ways that's how I like my songs, sung with passion and just the right side of rough to give the listener something to digest. Although there are plenty of traditional influences scattered throughout the tune sets, Cath proves no mean tunesmith herself including a beautifully crafted jig "Cronkers" which I'm sure will become a standard at many sessions. I really enjoyed the overall feel of the full package and if you have any Celtic blood flowing through your veins or a pint of Guinness to hand this'll do nicely. www.skyhookmusic.com

Pete Fyfe

COUNT ARTHUR STRONG Count Arthur Strong's Radio Show - The Complete First and Second Series (Komedia Entertainment KOMCD5 and KOMCD6)



You're having a laugh - comedy CDs reviewed in Folk North West! Well, why not, it's been a staple of various club acts up and down the country. Moreover, this is something special for you. Personally, I've found comedy rather dull over recent years despite its rise in popularity. With some noticeable exceptions like Paul Merton, it seems to me that comedy now involves having an audience with a few drinks down their neck and comedians who

resort to too much 'toilet humour'. Cheap laughs. It's a sweeping statement to say that genuine wit has become rather scarce but it is a pleasure to discover a real rib tickling series like this.

So, now available in two sets of three CDs are the first and second series broadcast on Radio Four by Count Arthur Strong. The Count is an elderly, forgetful, bumbling guy who labours under the belief that he's always right. To make it worse, he sees himself as the perfect after dinner speaker and general raconteur. Does this sound familiar? I think we all know someone like that, maybe even recognise a little of ourselves in there if old age is

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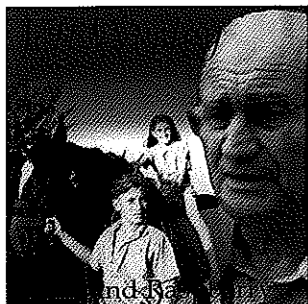
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taking charge of our memory. Therein lies the charm; like lots of good comedy, familiarity breeds a good laugh.

Arthur has some pretty fine adventures including developing his own homemade range of Piccalilli, haggling over the price of a scouring pad and his own particular take on the theory of evolution. These span across six programmes on each CD set offering three hours of entertainment. Another trait of fine comedy, the excellent supporting cast is present, with Wilf the Butcher leading the way where Arthur always has an eye for a bargain. But, for me, the piece of resistance is the way he gets the words all wrong. Long love, sorry live, Count Arthur Strong!

Steve Henderson

JEFF WESLEY Rum and Raspberry (S&A Projects SAPCD061)



Jeff Wesley is a retired farmer from the Whittlebury area in Northamptonshire. I know many of you reading this will be aware of the famous Whittlebury Song and Ale weekend started by Tom and Barbara Brown, who are also responsible for this recording, that has been a feature of the last weekend in September for over 25 years and is held at Jeff's farm which is now run by

his son Steve. It is at the Whittlebury folk club that Jeff was first 'discovered'.

The first time I heard his unaccompanied singing I marvelled at both his vocal range and how he never seemed to take a breath. He is, therefore, very listenable to! The majority of the songs are versions of traditional songs or songs that Jeff has purloined and added tunes to or written himself and all are unaccompanied. The recordings were made live at The White Lion, Wherwell in front of an invited appreciative audience by Doug Bailey of Wild Goose who just happens to live in Wherwell... how handy!! As a result the atmosphere of a night with Jeff is well reproduced with his unpretentious and amusing introductions and unusual songs.

One of the most unusual of these is Ladysmith, which is a rare song about the South African wars. Also, a number of the songs are local to Jeff such as the versions of The Tarry Sailor and Johnny Sands both learned from local singer Harry Tew and The Charwelton Murder, which was sung by Jack Dawson from Silverstone that is just down the road from Whittlebury.

There are also versions of more well known traditional songs such as Turtle Dove, Unquiet Grave, Apron Strings and My Bonny Boy (entitled here as Young and Growing) all performed in the inimitable Wesley way. The title song Rum and Raspberry however comes from a New Zealand songbook! A special song for me on this album though is The Empty Echoes which Jeff performs superbly showing his own affection for it. It was written by Northampton man the late Alan Burbidge.

This is an album for those of us who value highly our English traditional song heritage but will also appeal to a wider audience who appreciate unpretentious singing from a true man of our English soil - even if the title song is Kiwi!

This CD is available for £13.00 (including post & packing) direct from: S&A projects, Trafalgar House, Castle Street, Combe Martin, North Devon, EX34 0JD.

Derek Gifford

CD COLLECTIONS, LIVE ALBUMS & RE-ISUES



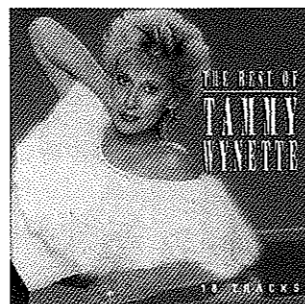
LUNASA The Story So Far...
(Compass Records 7 4475 2)

Lunasa, for those not already acquainted are one of the most stunning Celtic music groups to emerge from Ireland since The Bothy Band. Their passionate Jazz/Rock/Folk rhythms coupled

with dynamic flute and fiddle melodies will transport the listener on a magical tour from which no one will want to disembark. A best of album this surely is but then again it must have been very hard deciding on what to leave off such is the quality of all their albums. As an introduction to the band's music, calling cards don't get much better! www.lunasa.ie

Pete Fyfe

TAMMY WYNETTE Stand By Your Man ... The Best of Tammy Wynette (Sony/BMG 88697251272)



Finally, ten years after her death, we have a compilation worthy of being called the best of Tammy Wynette. Other compilations have not always reached the parts they should do. For example, missing out on 'Justified And Ancient' as recorded with Liverpoolian scallywags, KMF. Her life is a typical country music tragedy: father died when she was eight, married at 17, divorced for the

first time at 20, third child had spinal meningitis, love/hate marriage with the notorious star George Jones who gained the nickname 'No Show' Jones due to the many drunken nights when he 'forgot' he was due on stage, hospitalised several times late in her career but never gave up on touring.

Naturally, 'Stand By Your Man' and 'D-I-V-O-R-C-E' are both here - just two of her five Number One hits from the years 1968 and 1969. But don't forget the likes of 'I Don't Wanna Play House' and 'Near You' which are tear jerking classics all of their own. Of course, 'Your Good Girl's Gonna Go Bad' isn't something I'd recommend to the ladies out there but only for the sentiment because the song is great. And who could forget 'Kids Say The Darndest Things'?

The music, other than KLF, concentrates on the 60's where her relationship with producer, Billy Sherrill, was vital to a hugely productive period of her career. Indeed, the twenty tracks on this CD represent the finest of her music - truly worthy of that 'Best of' tag. Yes, there are the slushy strings and other Nashville elements that some have sneered at but, in the end, it's music of raw emotion. Stand by your Tammy.

Steve Henderson

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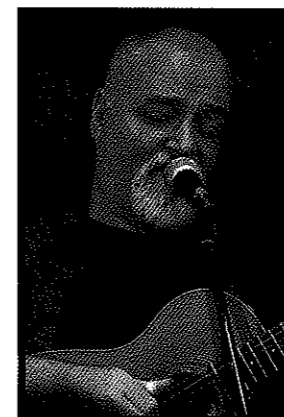
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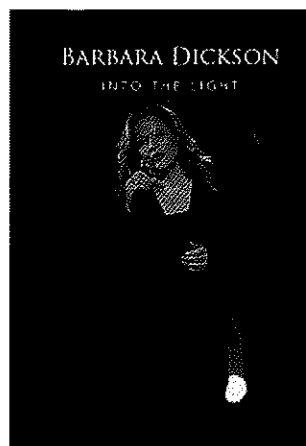
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DVD REVIEW

BARBARA DICKSON Into The Light (Chariot Music CTVPD003)



I've just spent a very enjoyable couple of hours putting my feet up watching Barbara Dickson's debut DVD release. Not only that, but I was more than a little surprised when my partner Glenys, who generally doesn't like folk music, said how much she enjoyed the concert and the interview on the bonus DVD. Of course, most importantly the concert footage is the main thrust of the film with plenty of close-ups on the musicianship and the expressive delivery of Barbara's performance.

Although the set-list is now far more structured toward her Scottish roots including "The Great Silkie Of Sule Skerry" and "The Eriskay Love Song" Dickson is always aware that she needs to include some of her established 'hits' by performing more organic versions of "Caravans" and "I Know Him So Well". In this brief review congratulations should not only be heaped on the lady herself but also the multi-talented musicians in the band, the lighting and camera crews and everyone involved in the production. The bonus disk features short interviews with each of the band members (a bit too repetitious for my taste) and a full interview between Jon Kirkman and Barbara.

This section of the disk is worth the price of the DVD alone by providing insightful and at times enlightening, well researched journalistic questions that allows Dickson to fully explain where her musical train of thought comes from. Kirkman obviously knows his stuff (his knowledge of all the artists Barbara discusses such as James Taylor, Gerry Rafferty and traditional music references including Martin Carthy and The Watsons etc are obviously very popular with him as well) bringing about the best results. In all, not only is this disk a very worthy addition to any fan collection but Barbara's thoughts on the current 'folk' music scene should be required listening to anyone involved on the circuit. www.barbaradickson.net

Pete Fyfe

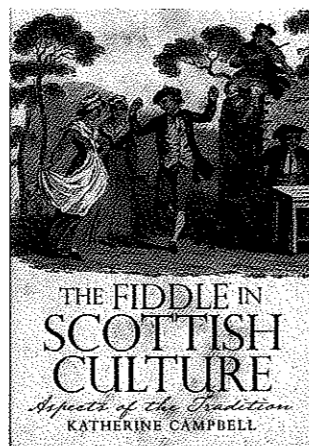
BOOK REVIEWS



THE FIDDLE IN SCOTTISH CULTURE - Aspects of the Tradition by Katherine Campbell

Katherine Campbell, from Fochabers, is both a performer and a scholar, and comes from a musical family with a background in farming. Not only is she a fine interpreter of songs and ballads of the North-East of Scotland, but also an accomplished cellist and keyboard player. She is a lecturer in ethnomusicology at the School of Celtic and Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh,

and General Editor of the Scottish Traditions series, produced by Greenentrax. All proceeds from the sale of the book go to the fund established to help support the work of the School of Scottish Studies Archives at the University of Edinburgh.



Katherine has brought together contemporary stories, songs, poems and newspaper accounts of the vital role of the fiddler in Scottish culture. The contemporary illustrations provide the reader with a feel for the period. How often have you read a reference to a tune and wondered what it sounded like? Katherine has included the music for 50 of the dance tunes and songs mentioned in the quotes.

There are the stories of the itinerant and blind fiddlers and of the fiddlers singing while playing.

There are the accounts of the dancing masters who played while teaching, of the processions where the fiddler led the way. There is a section on the role of the fiddler at weddings and dances.

For storytellers as well as musicians, the section on the trowie (fairy) tunes from Shetland makes fascinating reading. These are tunes said to have been learned from the trowes, by fiddlers who were asked to play for trowie dances and could remember the tunes when they returned from the fairy world. In some cases a fiddler travelling home from playing for a dance would fall asleep near a trowie knowe and wake to be able to play trowie tunes.

This book is not just for fiddlers, musicians and dancers, it is a "must-read" for anyone interested in Scottish culture and folklore. Thank you Katherine for providing a window on Scotland's heritage.

Lindsay Smith

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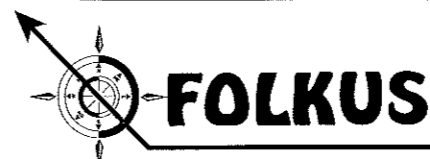
Price £20, available from Booksource, 50 Cambuslang Road, Glasgow G32 8NB, Email: orders@booksource.net

Tom Lewis - Worth The Singin' (Self-Propelled Music)



I first became aware of my fondness for sea songs when I heard "The Ellen Vannin Tragedy" by Hughie Jones of The Spinners. That love for all songs maritime has extended throughout my career until the present day where about fifty percent of my performance now includes songs of a nautical nature. Having only recently discovered song-writer and ex-sailor Tom Lewis, his book proves a handsome A4 spiral-bound tome and is the culmination of thirty years writing - not bad, as Tom points out for someone with no formal music training. His lyrics and music are very much

in the vein of a Jez Lowe at sea (that's meant as a compliment - honest!) and throughout the book he accompanies each song



The Folk Arts Network of the North West

FOLKUS SUMMER PROGRAMME OF EVENTS - 2008

MONDAY 5th MAY

Woodford Folk Festival
Woodford Centre, Cheshire. Guitar Workshop. Information: 01625-872539

SUNDAY 4th - SUNDAY 11th MAY

Garstang Walking Festival
Folkus is organising live music sessions to entertain the walkers. Details 01995-602125. garstang@wyre.gov.uk

THURSDAY 8th - SATURDAY 10th MAY

The Big Whistle Weekend
Folkusworkshops. The Met, Bury. Information 0161-761-2216

FRIDAY 23rd MAY - MONDAY 26th MAY

Chester Folk Festival
Folkusworkshops. Guitar Saturday. Fiddle Sunday. Details festival office: 07005 977045

SATURDAY 24th MAY

Ireby Folk Festival
Ireby, Cumbria. Folkus Fiddle workshop. Details Charles Devlin. Tel: 0169 737 1645

FRIDAY 13th - SUNDAY 15th JUNE

Middlewich Folk & Boat Festival
Folkus tutors for Guitar & Bodhran - Saturday. Whistle & Fiddle - Sunday.
Details of festival and workshops contact 0709 239 0501

FRIDAY 27th - SUNDAY 29th JUNE

Dent Folk Festival
Folkusworkshops. Fiddle, Guitar, and other workshops.
Details Alec Lyon 01254 - 582803. Email abyon@talk21.com www.dentfolkfestival.co.uk

FRIDAY 27th - SUNDAY 29th JUNE

Traditions Festival
Lostock Hall Community Centre, Lostock Hall, Nr Preston, Lancashire.
Folkus support of artists. Details Angie Bladen 01257 - 263678. Email traditions@virgin.net

THURSDAY 10th - SUNDAY 13th JULY

Furness Folk Festival
Ulverston, Cumbria. Folkus Fiddle workshop. Details 01229 - 582704

FRIDAY 13th - SUNDAY 18th JULY

Coldkeld Festival, Cumbria
Summer School of Ullean piping, reed maintenance plus whistle tuition. Folkus lessons, workshops & sessions.
Contact Dorothy Howard 0114 - 296272. Email: dot@tradgig.com

FRIDAY 18th - SUNDAY 20th JULY

Saddleworth Folk Festival
Folkusworkshops. Sat. Guitar & Bodhran. Sun. Beginners High Whistle, Melodeon. Details Ali O'Brien 01457 - 878591

FRIDAY 18th - SUNDAY 20th JULY

Brampton Live Festival
Folkusworkshops. Sat. Guitar & Whistle, Sun. Bodhran & Fiddle. Details: Box Office. Tel: 01228 - 534664

Folkus tutors at **Fylde Folk Festival**

SATURDAY 30th - SUNDAY 31st AUGUST

Marine Hall, Fleetwood, Lancs. Details Rusty & Stu Wright. Tel: 01253 - 885203 email: rustyandstu@poulton165.fsnet.co.uk
Festival Box Office Tel: 01253 - 770547 Festival info: Tel 01253 - 872317

THURSDAY 25th - SATURDAY 27th SEPTEMBER

Stories Across The Boundaries
Village Hall & Centre, Grasmere, Cumbria. Folkus is supporting Dan Keding (USA) Story Teller and Folk Singer.
: Taffy Thomas. Tel: 015394 35641 Email: info@taffythomas.co.uk



**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@fylde-folk-fest.demon.co.uk**



with useful and insightful thoughts on the structure of the written word. I was particularly interested to note that he had to change a lyric in "Sirensong" when he made the observation that the term Rover's Return might impinge on a British audience's association with Coronation Street! Admittedly I have always considered myself something of a Philistine when it comes to nautical terms... I couldn't tell my stem from my stern even though I regularly play onboard HMS Warrior in Portsmouth... but the romantic notion of a sea based life is never far from my thoughts as I am sure it is with most romantics but if singing these songs is the nearest I'm ever going to get then I'll still be happy. With so many good songs to choose from (my personal favourites being "The Last Shanty" and "Marching Inland") this collection of over forty songs should be a required purchase for shanty singers and purveyors of fine music everywhere. Check out Tom's website at www.tomlewis.net

Pete Fyfe

PRESS RELEASES



CONTROL OF NOISE AT WORK REGULATIONS TO COME INTO FORCE

The Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005 (Noise Regulations) came into force for the music and entertainment sectors on 6th April bringing them in line with all other sectors where the regulations have been in force since April 2006. The noise regulations will now apply to pubs and clubs, amplified live music events, orchestras and other premises where live music or recorded music is played.

Thousands of people are exposed to loud noise at work, with 170,000 people in the UK suffering deafness, tinnitus or other ear conditions, as a result of exposure to excessive noise at work. These regulations aim to ensure workers' hearing is protected from excessive noise at work, implement a European Commission Directive, and replace the Noise at Work Regulations 1989.

The regulations will introduce the following changes:

" the level at which employers must ensure hearing protection is worn and where necessary hearing protection zones are signposted is now 85 decibels (daily or weekly average exposure) and the level at which employers must assess the risk to workers' health and provide them with information and training and access to hearing protection should they wish to use it is now 80 decibels (daily or weekly average exposure).

" there is also an exposure limit value of 87 decibels, taking account of any reduction in exposure provided by hearing protection, above which workers must not be exposed.

The Regulations will require employers to:

- " assess the risks to employees from noise at work;
- " take action to reduce the noise exposure that produces those risks;
- " provide employees with hearing protection if it is not possible to reduce the noise exposure enough using other methods;
- " make sure the legal limits on noise exposure are not exceeded;
- " provide employees with information, instruction and training;
- " carry out health surveillance where there is a risk to

health.

Employees will have a duty to comply with the measures their employers introduce under the Control of Noise at Work Regulations in accordance with his or her instructions. This includes using control measures where present, wearing hearing protection when required; taking care of hearing protection and noise control equipment provided and reporting any defects or difficulties in using them. Employees also have a duty to present themselves during working hours for health surveillance where this is required.

Further information can be found by visiting: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/noise/musicound.htm>

WINNERS OF THE BBC RADIO 3 AWARDS FOR WORLD MUSIC '08

The winners of the seventh annual BBC Radio 3 Awards for World Music were announced at a ceremony at London Dingwalls on Thursday 10 April hosted by BBC Radio 3's Mary Ann Kennedy.

At Dingwalls to accept their Planet Awards were Sa Dingding, Son de la Frontera, Juldeh Camara, Justin Adams, Mayra Andrade, Francis Falceto. Bassekou Kouyate made a surprise appearance to collect his two awards and Joe Strummer's widow, Lucinda, presented Rachid Taha with his award. There was also a special tribute to Andy Palacio who sadly passed away earlier this year.

The evening included live performances from Kaushiki Chakrabarty who won an Award for World Music in 2005 and Mayra Andrade, Justin Adams & Juldeh Camara and Rachid Taha who closed proceedings with an hour long set.

The annual winner's concert will be held for the first time at the Royal Albert Hall on Wednesday July 30th as part of the BBC Proms.

The winners are:

- Andy Palacio & The Garifuna Collective (Americas)
- Bassekou Kouyate & Ngoni Ba (Africa)
- Rachid Taha (Middle East/North Africa)
- Sa Dingding (Asia/Pacific)
- Son de la Frontera (Europe)
- Justin Adams & Juldeh Camara (Culture Crossing)
- Mayra Andrade (Newcomer)
- Transgobal Underground (Club Global)
- Bassekou Kouyate & Ngoni Ba - Segu Blue (Album of the Year)
- Francis Falceto (World Shaker)

The full list of all nominated and winning artists, together with biographies and further information, can be found at www.bbc.co.uk/radio3/worldmusic/a4wm2008

ROTHERHAM DUO TAKE YOUNG ACOUSTIC ROOTS PRIZE



A full house at the Phoenix Theatre in Bawtry saw Rotherham duo Patrick Young and Catherine Binden voted winners in the Young Acoustic Roots competition on Saturday March 1st.

Drawing musicians in from around the UK, the other finalists were Izzy and Anna from The Hope Valley; Tom Moore and Archie Churchill-Moss from Norfolk and Somerset respectively and Lancashire band 4Square who were

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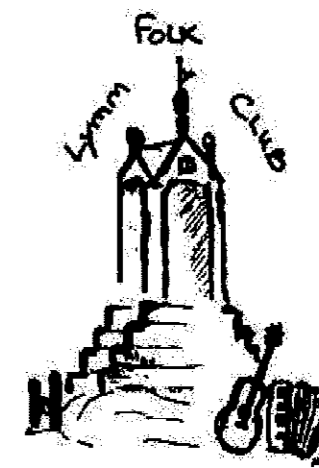
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14 AUG BERNARD CROMARTY £4

21 AUG BIG SPOT: MICHELLE HOLDING £1
28 AUG MIKE & SARAH TURNER £3

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Contact/Tickets: Stewart Lever 07919 270916
stewart_lever@yahoo.co.uk



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Singer-Songwriter
Competition, Steve
Tilston,
Stewart Lever,
Kerfuffle, Vin Garbutt,
Steve Turner

voted runners-up. The music ranged from traditional standards, renditions of favourites from the Beatles to The Dixie Chicks; modern interpretation of Morris tunes; world music and original songs.

This was possibly the best final in the competitions four-year history and the judges were hard pressed to make a decision because of the high standard. Nevertheless, promoter Pete Thornton-Smith; Cleethorpes Festival organiser Mary White and local musician Dave Mallinson from The Music Room reflected on the four acts before making their decision.

All finalists went away with prizes courtesy of the sponsors and Patrick and Catherine look forward to playing main stage at Cleethorpes Folk Festival this May Bank Holiday weekend. The evening also featured two sets from legendary singer songwriter Jez Lowe who quite rightly declared all the performers to be winners.

Next years event is planned for March 7th and for further information on this free competition then contact Pete on 01709 739093 or pete@thebpasgroup.co.uk.

FIVE CULTURE CONTEMPORARY FOLK MUSIC SERIES

Five Culture, the partnership between Five and Arts Council England, has commissioned an exclusive series of documentaries exploring the musical influences of four of the most successful artists in contemporary folk music, it was announced in February. Produced by the Proudfoot Company, My Music consisted of four, hour-long programmes which, for the first time, get under the skin of musicians; Seth Lakeman, Kate Rusby, Eliza Carthy and Athena.

The series was launched on Five on April 6th and is the latest in the Five Culture initiative which sees Five and Arts Council England encourage viewers to engage in the arts. Tom Ravenscroft, son of legendary Radio One DJ John Peel, narrated the programmes that focused on a separate artist in each episode. Meanwhile high profile contributors, including Billy Bragg, Jennifer Saunders, Stewart Lee and Willy Russell, commented on the artists and their contribution to popular culture.

Five Culture follows on from the successful three-year project, Fivearts Cities and is designed to encourage viewers to participate in the additional features planned alongside its forthcoming music projects.

Arts Council England Head of Broadcasting, Gill Johnson, said: "We're delighted that the relationship with Five - now in it's fifth successful year - has evolved to encompass an area of the arts that is supported so passionately and which reflects a diverse range of regional talent. We hope this series will inspire more young musicians and singers across the country."

SUSSEX MUSIC BY MARCUS WEEKS

In Sussex Music, Marcus Weeks points out the often surprising contribution Sussex has made to music in Britain and, indeed, worldwide. Not only homegrown talent, but also as a place that has attracted musicians from elsewhere with its inspiring landscape and people.

Discover ...

... The fascinating Copper Family who have been singing since the beginning of the 19th century, through two World Wars, and at the Albert Hall as part of the Festival of Britain. The tradition now being carried on by The Young Coppers.

... Thomas Weelkes, the scurrilous Elizabethan madrigalist who's appetite for strong liquor didn't go unnoticed - and who is commemorated in Chichester Cathedral, with Gustav Holst and the ashes of Chesney Allen buried alongside him.

... Hammerwood House ... bought in 1973 by Led Zeppelin to use as communal accommodation. However, a tour of North America took the musicians' minds off the project and they completely forgot that they owned it and it fell into disrepair - now restored and the home of the Harrison Trust dedicated to a family of musicians from Limpsfield.

Sussex Music is divided into sections covering Folk music, Classical music, the mixed bag of Popular music from Music Hall through Jazz to Rock, and places of particular importance or interest in our musical history, such as Glyndebourne; it truly has something for all tastes. This book weaves a tapestry of soundscape, from the ballads, songs and shanties of Sussex that faced the frontline of the Norman Conquests through the Regency of Brighton that welcomed Rossini and Paganini through to Liane Carroll, the winner of two BBC Jazz Awards in 2005, who was born in Hastings.

The lyrics of the county's own anthem (the only county anthem in Britain), Sussex by the Sea by William Ward-Higgs, are also reproduced. This song resounded through the Edwardian establishment of musical entertainment at the fashionable resorts.

Sussex is truly a cosmopolitan and catholic musical society, so well captured in Sussex Music by Marcus Weeks. A Sussex musician born and bred, Marcus Weeks is completely in tune with the county's ear. Brought up in Hastings, he has been immersed in Sussex music all his life. At various times he has been a composer, arranger, trombonist, conductor and bandleader, and piano tuner and restorer.

Sussex Music by Marcus Weeks, Published by Snake River Press, Price £8.99; Publication Date: 1st April 2008; ISBN: 9781906022105. AVAILABLE FROM BOOKSHOPS OR FROM THE PUBLISHER'S WEBSITE www.snakeriverpress.co.uk

HE LOVES US, YEAH, YEAH, YEAH!



Ted the Sprayer favours HMG's cellulose paint for rock stars' guitars.

'One name that covers everything' is the long-standing slogan of Manchester paintmaker HMG, reflecting the fact that over almost 80 years its high performance coatings and adhesives have been applied to virtually every kind of structure, vehicle, building, boat, furniture, painted product, even museum artefact. Yet would anyone associate the somewhat prosaic business of paint manufacturing with the heady world of rock and pop?

But in the British musical explosion of the 60's, 70's and 80's, HMG's cellulose lacquer graced the guitars of bands like 10CC, The Hollies, The Searchers, The Mindbenders, Roxy Music, Adam & The Ants, King Crimson, Ultravox, Human League, Moody Blues, Simply Red, and many more too numerous to mention, yes even The Beatles. In fact, there is little doubt that HMG's nitrocellulose paint was used to refinish John Lennon's iconic Rickenbacker 325, regarded as the 'holy grail' of guitars, in its distinctive and much-copied black.

The key to this rock & roll fantasy is Ted Lee, now in his sixties

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and living near Holmfirth, Yorkshire, who was part of the early Manchester and Merseyside music scene and known as 'Ted the Sprayer', because of his unquestionable skills with a paint spraygun and his creative capacity to transform electric guitar bodies into any colour desired.

If you wanted a custom red Strat, a black Rickie or a golden Gretsch, Ted was your man and many rock stars beat a path to his door and that of trendy music store, Barrett's of Manchester, where his specialist repair and refinishing services were also championed. And the cellulose brand he used exclusively throughout his guitar refinishing days, and later when lecturing in musical instrument technology at Leeds College of Music, was HMG Paint, or 'Marcel Guest' as it was commonly known in the early days.

"Although I was playing bass in a band called The Olympics, I started repairing and refinishing guitars in around '58, at first for mates, then it grew into a business as word spread," says Ted Lee, who is now in his sixties and planning to emigrate to Australia with his wife Brenda (yes really!). "I did some early work for Eric Stewart when he was with The Mindbenders and later for Eric, Graham Gouldman and Lol Crème when they formed 10CC. I even toured with the band, looking after their instruments. When I resprayed Lennon and Harrison's guitars in black, Tony Hicks of The Hollies wanted the same finish, then other well-known bands followed suit."

The refinishing of John Lennon's 1958 Rickenbacker 325 is still the subject of endless speculation, even a dedicated blog called Baby's in Black, but Ted is adamant he was the man who effected the original colour change and Brian Higham, who worked at Barratt's during that time and played with Manchester band Harbour Lights, supports this assertion.

Writing on the 60's music nostalgia website www.Manchesterbeat.com, Brian recalls: "In late 1962 Ted was asked to do a special job for the shop. It was to spray black a Rickenbacker model 325 that belonged to John Lennon and also a Gretsch Duo Jet that belonged to George Harrison. The Gretsch was already black but was in need of a re-spray. The job was done quite quickly, as I recall, as The Beatles were getting very busy, but despite the urgency, the job was done to Ted's usual high standard. This had all come about through a conversation between myself, George Harrison and John Lennon at The Playhouse in Hulme, Manchester, and in early 1963 we saw the first pics of John's Rickenbacker, in its new black livery. Another job well done by Ted the Sprayer."

During the 60's, 70's, 80's, even 90's, Ted worked on many other 'iconic axes', including those wielded by former Roxy Music lead guitarist Phil Manzanera, Adam & The Ants co-creator Marco Pirroni, former King Crimson guitarist Robert Fripp, Justin Hayward, singer and composer with The Moody Blues, Simply Red bass player Tony Bowers, Hollies and CSNY superstar, Graham Nash, even folk guitarist Mike Harding. Then Ted took his undoubted technical skills to Leeds College of Music, where he helped found courses related to the repair and construction of musical instruments, first as a part-time lecturer and eventually as Head of Department, until his recent retirement. Throughout, he remained loyal to HMG's cellulose lacquer, prizing its quality finish, forgiving properties and superb ageing characteristics, latterly using the company's M99 high gloss nitrocellulose, an automotive-grade product developing ultimate gloss straight from the gun.

"In the early days, I mixed my own colours, but when other lads in the same band wanted their guitars in the same shade, I started using Marcel Guest's colour matching specialist, Billy Burke, taking along bits of old guitar, catalogues and other samples,"

recalls Ted. "HMG served us well over the years and I remember John Falder (the current MD) when he was just a young chemist and cannot praise John and his staff enough for the dedication and professionalism displayed over the years."

Ted, who will soon be joining his daughter Samantha's family in Australia, concedes that his respraying activities inadvertently helped to make Fender's legendary Stratocaster now highly collectable, in its original Fiesta Red finish.

"They called it red, but most guitarists in Manchester reckoned it was salmon pink, so I ended up spraying hundreds of them in different colours which is why the original spec is now so rare," says Ted, who has accumulated much rock memorabilia of his own. "Later I met Leo Fender himself in the States, but he seemed very happy with what I'd done with his instruments and, I must say, I always worked to the highest possible standards, helped in no small way by HMG's excellent paint."

Further enquiries to HMG Paints, Riverside Works, Collyhurst Road, Manchester M40 7RU, telephone 0161 205 7631, email sales@hmgpaint.com.

TRADITIONS FOLK FESTIVAL - Fri 27th - Sun 29th June

Traditons Festival -carrying on from the Four Fools Folk Festival.

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ROD CLEMENTS - ONE TRACK MIND 2008

Never widely available even at the time of its earlier releases, copies of One Track Mind have long been sought after by fans of Rod's music, Lindisfarne rarities and classic blues. Now all the original 1994 tracks and the additional 2001 instrumentals are available once again, supplemented by two brand new recordings of early songs. The bonus tracks are A Dream Within A Dream (performed once by Lindisfarne for a radio broadcast c. 1970), and Blues For A Dying Season, recorded for the unreleased Downtown Faction album c. 1969. This will be the first time either of these songs has had an official release.
<http://www.vixenrecords.com/foxymusic>

'Long Hellos... Short Goodbyes'
at the Journal Tyne Theatre, Newcastle
Friday September 5th, 2008. 7.30pm

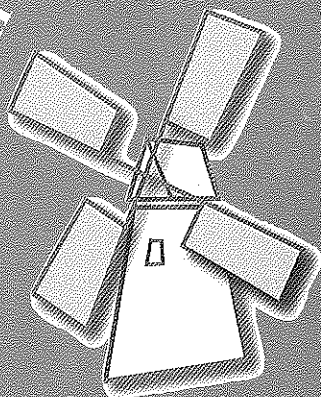
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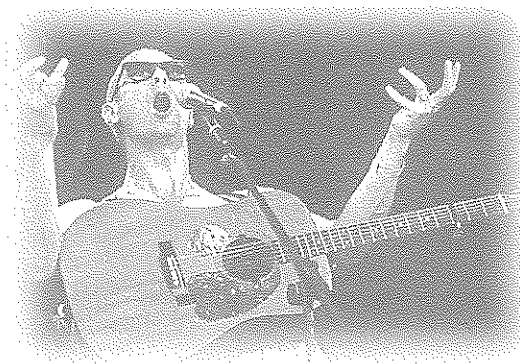
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