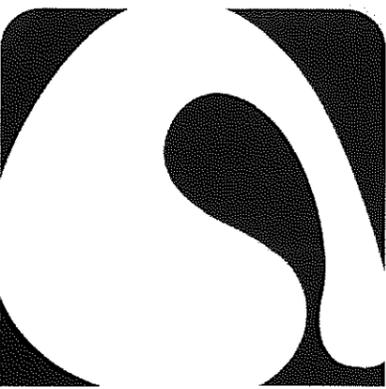


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CD's or tapes for review (or reviews of) and live reviews to

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Please note that the copy date for the next issue is April 10th 2009.



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EDITORIAL

Please note in particular the announcement of a long overdue Annual General Meeting (advert page 54) of the North West Federation of Folk Clubs. This has been prompted by the decision of Paul and Kath Holden, who have worked tirelessly for the magazine for over 25 years, to retire from their posts. After much deliberation I have also decided to stand down as editor. I urge all federation clubs to try and send a representative to the AGM and to consider nominations for the federation officers.

With the worst of the winter hopefully behind us it is time to get out there and support your local club or folk venue. Take a pen and a notebook with you and do a review of your club or a North West artist at work. We also, unusually, seem to be short of CD reviews as well as live reviews so there is another excellent opportunity to make a contribution to your magazine.

Looking forward very much to hearing the reformed Garva - a very welcome return for one of the North West's all time great bands - go for it fellers!

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CHAIRMAN'S JOTTINGS

The folk world lost one of its most enduring masters recently with the untimely death of John Martyn.

At the age of 60 he packed more into his life than most, but he was a flawed genius, for as well as being at home in the blues, jazz and rock genres, his booze and drugs habit saw him slide down the slippery slope that saw him lose a leg to amputation, a legacy of his hard drinking which started on most days during the morning.

He hated the music business and all it stood for, but Eric Clapton was a devotee and making music was what John Martyn was all about.

A Lifetime Achievement Award at the Radio 2 Folk Awards in 2008, followed by an OBE in the New Years honours list said much about his musical pedigree, but gaining the respect of his peers, I suspect, meant a whole lot more.

His 70's alliance with Island Records made him a household name, Solid Air (1973) and Grace and Danger (1980) were outstanding albums which included "Sweet Little Mystery", and his most famous offering, "May You Never". He was working on a new album at home in Ireland right up to his death.

He really didn't care about his excesses and felt no remorse, but his intelligence continued to shine through everything he did.

John Martyn was his own man, who lived his life exactly the way he wanted to on his own terms. Each one of us would surely say Amen to that.

Cheers for now
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
7.00 - 8.00pm (Rpt) BBC Radio Scotland - PIPELINE presented by GARY WEST
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
8.00 - 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

6.00 - 7.00pm Salford City Radio - SALFORD FOLK presented by ELEANOR WALK & DAVE MATHER
8.00 - 10.00pm BBC Radio Scotland - TRAVELLING FOLK presented by ARCHIE FISHER
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
8.00 - 9.00pm BBC Radio Lancashire - THE DRIFT presented by PHIL BROWN

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
7.00 - 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 4226000
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
Salford City Radio	FM 94.4		Tel:- 0161 793 2939
Chorley FM	FM 102.8		Tel:- 01257 262661
Downtown Radio		MW 1026	Tel:- 02891 815555
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 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 94.4
FM 92.4-94.7/MW 810
FM 95.8/MW 1485

FM 99.7
FM 95.5

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

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 on 3 programme, also Radio 3, now on Friday 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 Sunday 10.00pm -12.00pm and 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 it's 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

LIVE REVIEWS



LORELEI LOVERIDGE live at the Astley Arms, Dukinfield on January 6th 2009



"Lorelei Loveridge is playing the Astley Arms in Dukinfield on January 6th" said an e-mail. I had her CD, I'd seen her live before, I loved her music and her presence, "I'm going", I decided. I hadn't been in Tameside for a while; I asked work colleagues if they knew the venue, or at least

the road. "Leave the motorway where that shopping centre is" ... er... "Go past that pub where they have the quiz on Thursdays" ... ummm...they didn't get how unfamiliar I was with "Ducky".

I checked a route planner, and set off. Left the motorway and arrived at a pub called the Astley Arms - it seemed too small, quiet, as I entered. The kind lady at the bar explained pityingly to me that this was the "bottom" Astley, and I was probably looking for the "top" Astley (the next day a friend was to enlighten me that Dukinfield is the proud owner of a "top", "middle" and "bottom" Astley). Like Goldilocks, I found the Astley that was just right: a beautifully imposing white building at the top of a hill, next to an impressive church.

I hadn't paid full attention to the e-mail: it was a folk night, with a number of artists doing their things; Lorelei was their guest singer. I surprised myself by enjoying everybody who sang, though I don't know why I was surprised, I dip in and out of the folk scene quite frequently and am always moved by the sincerity of the performers and the beauty of their songs. Lorelei, of course, was no exception. She is a world traveller of the most open-hearted and generous persuasion, and her songs are of people, events and emotions experienced across many continents and in many times. Her sweet, strong, sensual vocals combined effortlessly with a guitar sound layered with feeling, purity and depth. Poised and impassioned, she sang about a young girl torn between home and the love of a freedom fighter; she challenged our perception of those who do battle for "their" land; we celebrated the intensity of India; and witnessed the beauty and tragedy of a Nepalese village. In an unnervingly poignant "Not Like Us", Lorelei held up a mirror to the "boys with stones" who have grown up to send deadlier missiles across their borders, and I found myself recalling recent images I'd seen in Gaza streets and hospitals. "Some of Us" touched me deeply when I first heard it, and all but tipped me over the edge this time, reflecting the unbearable pain of loss in many forms. It must surely speak to so many who are moving through their own grief.

In her songwriting, not a word is wasted, wrongly chosen, or misplaced. As she sang to us, she was so supremely sure that every note would emerge perfectly on key, in tune, with the sweetest expression, and so it did. But it wasn't simply the beauty of the songs themselves that made Lorelei's presence spellbinding: in between her gifts she regaled us with tales of her travels: occasions she'd witnessed, people she'd met, moments she'd shared. As with her songs, so with her impromptu eloquence; every next word the perfect choice to take us with her on her many journeys. So many of her reflections of Middle-Eastern culture resonated with me, sending me back

to my own travels among the Arab diaspora; I longed to head right back there.

Lorelei has called her latest album *Bakhoor* (incense). See it, feel it, smell it, be it - incense can move anywhere. *Bakhoor* will take you to many places, in many times. Lorelei took us there from Dukinfield - where will you travel from? Don't miss her world; don't miss her.

Debbie Busby

CHRIS & SIOBHAN NELSON Live at Gregson Lane Folk Club on Thursday 29th January 2009



A raw January night was considerably warmed up by Chris and Siobhan Nelson playing to a full house at Gregson Lane FC. Refreshingly acoustic based, the duo are well known for their eclectic mixture of traditional English, Appalachian and modern folk classics. Underpinned by a driving fiddle, melodic viola and, unusually, mandola and a tenor guitar all played with verve and gusto by Chris, Siobhan's voice rings out as the primary instrument.

An acapella 'Saturday Rolling Around' had the audience foot tapping from the start moving through 'Bone Lace Weaver' (tune by Roy Harris, words circa 1650) to the poignant and evocative story of the working grind faced by Lancashire cotton weavers leavened only by the annual Wakes Week in Barry Wake's 'Living in a Shadow'. The collaboration with Wake, a Southampton based singer/songwriter/musician is long established culminating in the trio's 2008 release of the CD 'Ebb and Flow' a collection of beautifully crafted songs. Wake's narrative folk songs in traditional style, usually with an accessible chorus (always appreciated by the singalongs of the club), featured during the evening. 'Along the Way' inspired by the D Day landings, tales of misery in the early C20th copper mining community in 'Mazey Days' and 'Appalachian Sunrise' written especially for the Nelsons following a visit they made to a folk/fiddle/dance festival in the Appalachian mountains all evoked sounds and images from far flung places and distant times.

The performance resonated with Siobhan's crystal clear vocals both accompanied and acapella on a diverse range of songs, some of the 'woman sending her man packing' variety as in the 'Bold Dragoon' accompanied by sensitive playing of the mandola from Chris, and a tale of a 'bunny boiler' stalker in the 'Loyal Lover'.

Residents of the Bothy FC in Southport, Chris and Siobhan are experienced and informative, ably linking songs and tunes with witty introductions. Their set list is astonishingly varied incorporating contemporary arrangements with traditional themes all delivered with excellent musicianship and integrity. One of the many highlights was the incomparable 'Unquiet Grave', a song from their previous incarnation as part of the group 'Cluster of Nuts'. This song is dark and atmospheric telling the tale of a young girl pining for her dead love for 'twelve months and a day'. It was very well received by the audience who appreciated Chris' 'James Bond theme tune' style introduction.

The enjoyment factor was enhanced following the interval with an acapella version of 'Cathy Shaw' by Roger Watson, the story of a cross dressing Derbyshire coal miner made good by marrying the gaffer's son after being exposed in an accident down the mine. The Derbyshire link was strengthened in 'Scarecrow' - the John Tams war song was beautifully sung and packed with emotion listened to with rapt attention by a visibly moved audience. Chris

joked that Siobhan usually has to 'lie down in a darkened room after singing this song.'

The tenor guitar, described by Chris as a 'fiddle players guitar' with the same tuning, was used to great effect in Tim Hart/Maddy Prior's 'False Knight on the Road', 'Oregon' a tale of the spread of European immigrants through N.America and 'Knoxville' played with foot tapping zest.

An excellent evening of music was enhanced by the superb support of Gregson Lane FC resident Stuart Swarbrick. Stuart makes his Takamine (tuned to CGCGCD Csus2) do the talking. His clear resonating voice singing his narrative choice of songs from John Tams' 'One More Day', Dylan's 'Boots of Spanish Leather' through Chris Woods' 'Come Down Jehovah' to the country feel of the 'atheist spiritual' 'Sixteen Tons' was well received by an appreciative audience. It always amuses me to see the 'guitar guys' (and girls) agog as Stuart paces the stage, hands blurring across the guitar. His performance of the Chris Woods signature song 'One in a Million' was outstanding, as was his dark, dark rendering of Dylan's 'Masters of War'. This man deserves to be heard far and wide.

Another brilliant Gregson Lane evening aptly summed up by Graham Dixon - 'I think it's difficult to get anything better than that, don't you?'

Margaret McGrenerly

FESTIVAL REVIEWS



ALL TOGETHER NOW?

"All Together Now? - Working life and culture in Liverpool" was an all day event organised by the North West TUC on Saturday January 24 at the wonderful Novas centre on Greenland Street, Liverpool, a brilliant community facility in the developing cultural quarter of the city.

The aim of this free event was to debate the links between art and culture and collective campaigning and action and to look beyond Capital of Culture '08. There was a very varied programme of speakers conversation film and music. The event attracted over 300 people.

The Programme started off with a series of Keynote Speaker including Brendan Barber, General Secretary, TUC, Frank Cottrell-Boyce, playwright and screenwriter (Brookside, 24 hour party people, millions, Welcome to Sarajevo), and Phil Redmond, Deputy Chair of the Liverpool Culture Company and the Culture Collective

The musical interludes throughout the day featured well received sets from local artists and bands (including The Trestles, Alun Parry, and Claire Mooney). The day also included a series of CONVERSATIONS including using music as a campaigning tool. There was a particularly good and well-attended workshop entitled 'Whatever happened to the protest song?' Well the general conclusion is that they are still around but perhaps not in the form we recognised in the 1960s and they can make a difference, inspire people to action and raise the spirits in difficult times. The workshop began with Peter Hooton (lead singer of

The Farm - 'All Together Now' - who was chairing the session) playing Otis Redding's version of the Sam Cooke classic, 'A Change Is Gonna Come', so symbolic of Barack Obama's successful presidential campaign Ian Prowse, Amsterdam (and formerly of Pele), radical local radical singer and political activist Alun Parry, and Alan O'Hare, The Trestles all made interesting and stimulating contributions to a lively debate. At the end of the session each panel member was asked to name their top 5 'protest' songs - songs that cut across many genres and music movements. However, one political singer and songwriter received notable mentions from several of the panel - Irish activist, Damien Dempsey.

This was a thoroughly engaging, engrossing and enjoyable event and such was the level of interest that there are likely to be more planned to build not only on the achievements of the Liverpool Year of Culture but the cooperation and people reconnection that it engendered. If you want to be included on the mailing list for future events then email: ATHornton@TUC.ORG.UK

Lewis Jones

JOHN'S DIARY CHAT



Hello again. Well the month of March is here and it will not be long before we start seeing the young shoots of Spring showing their heads in the garden. Hopefully it will signal a much better climate for us all as we creep out of our imposed hibernation. It's also a good time to look back at those resolutions you made at New Year. How many have you given up on? How many never even got off the ground? To those of you who are still 'on track' with your resolutions - well done. Keep at it. It's never too late to resolve to do something. As I have often suggested in this column - "Why not make a point of visiting a folk festival for the first time, or perhaps visit a folk club that you have never been to before".

The last quarter has provided Angela and myself with some interesting and varied musical entertainment together with an excellent holiday abroad, I will speak more about the holiday further down this page.

In October and November we attended two concerts in memory of Judy Hancock and John Wright who died so tragically early last year. The first was at Porkies Folk Club, Poynton where a whole myriad of performers turned out to celebrate the life of Sad Pig's Judy Hancock. The Royal British Legion club was packed to capacity. Judy's singing partner of many years, Dave Hughes, his wife Jean, Judy's husband Dave, their respective families, the club patrons and the likes of Mike Silver, Johnny Coppin, Paul Millnes, Ken Powell & Ruth Fuga, Dave and Linda Green all helped make an extremely sad occasion a wonderfully happy one as well. This night of celebration of Judy's life brought many a tear to the eye as reminiscences were expressed and exchanged by performers and audience alike. All singers performed with the utmost expertise and sensitivity. The main benefactor of the night was a health safety organisation entitled "First Response". This group works in partnership with the NHS ambulance service. Its personnel are trained volunteer 'Emergency Responders' who specialise in being first to the scene when anyone needs urgent medical attention. The proceeds of the night amounted to £3,100. Dave Hughes and the team wish to express their grateful thanks to everyone who made the night such a joyous success.

In November, John Wright's Band was the principal act at the John Wright memorial concert held at Melling Tithebarn. The band's leader Pete Abbott was absolutely excellent. I had not seen him in action for many a year. In fact it was at Preston when he was a guest performer at a Ken Nichol CD launch night. Pete was ably assisted by Dave Walmisley and Gregor Borland. It was unusual but very enjoyable to see and hear all John W's songs being sung by other voices. Well done to Dot Skinner and Paul Robinson for all their efforts in putting the concert together at this feature venue. Another sell-out event. I am sure the proceeds went to a very worthy cause.

In January we spent a couple of weeks on the island of Fuerteventura, which is the second largest of the Canary Isles. We were delighted to spend two half days with a great folkie mate Stewart Lever, the organiser of Lymm Folk Club and Lymm Folk Festival. We knew that Stewart was staying in El Cotillo, in the north west of the island. We made a point of visiting the resort so we could play some music with Stewart, firstly on the beach at the El Torino Beach bar and thereafter at the El Toston bar in the centre of the village. Stewart has a residency there promoting folk and acoustic music. It was quite apparent that he is very popular attracting many holidaymakers and locals into this popular harbour side bar/cafe. I sang a few songs as well and we had a fine time. El Cotillo is a natural paradise with small harbours similar in many respects to those in Cornwall. It is absolutely idealic. We stayed overnight in Stewart's apartment situated right on the beach about a hundred yards away from the ocean. Many thanks Stewart for your wonderful company and hospitality.

Club News

The negatives first - Jeff Blythin at Rhyl FC informs me sadly that the folk club and venue (R.A.F.A. club) closed down on 30th December. Financial problems at the venue being the reason.

Pauline Westall at the Open Door FC informs me that it will be closing on 29th March, caused mainly because the licensee is retiring in April. Last guest at the club on the final night will be Tony Gibbons.

Val Simpkin, the Festival and Events Officer at Lancaster City Council has the unfortunate job of informing everyone that Glasson Maritime Folk Weekend is no more. Lack of finances being the problem. How short sighted? How sad is that?

Positives next - Sale Folk Club is a new name in this magazine's listings with Don & Heather Davies being the organisers. A Tuesday night venue, you can find the club at the United Services Club, Southern Road, off Mersey Road, Sale, Manchester, M33 6HQ. The club website is at www.salefolkclub.co.uk

Bromley Cross Folk Club is the other new entrant into our listings. This club meets every Friday at The Railway, 37 Chapeltown Road, Bromley Cross, Bolton, BL7 9LY. Chris Nash is the person to speak to on - 01204-593224, or visit <http://www.bromleycrossfolkclub.org.uk/>

If you like fiddle music then get along to Mellor Brook Community Centre, Blackburn on 14th March when BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Award winners Jeana Leslie and Siobhan Miller will be the principal guests for Shamrock Promotions at the 2nd Mellor Brook Fiddle Day. Jeana and Siobhan hail from Scotland and are both students of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. Special guests will be The Palatine Fiddlers. On 28th March, support to Roy Bailey at the same venue will be Patrick Gallagher. Sid Calderbank's show on 17th April is entitled 'A Lancashire Garland'. Niamh Parsons pays a rare visit there



The Folk Arts Network of the North West

FOLKUS - PROGRAMME OF EVENTS SPRING 2009

SATURDAY 31ST JANUARY 2009

The Annual Folkus Kendal Ceilidh

Castle Street Centre, Castle Street, Kendal, Cumbria.

Festival Ceilidh Band & Guests. 8-11pm Only £10 including hot pot. Junior 11-16yrs £5. Licensed Bar. Free Parking
Info & Tickets office hours 01539 739154 or Joyce Eldred 01539 734625

FRIDAY 6TH - SUNDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2009

THE 6TH FOLKUS RESIDENTIAL WEEKEND OF MUSIC MAKING

A feast of music making. From beginners to experts all standards are catered for on a variety of instruments, taught by friendly experts. All at the beautiful Waddow Hall, Clitheroe, Lancashire.

Just a few residential places remaining. Limited number of day pupils welcome.

Details from Folkus 01253 872317 email: alanbell@folkus.co.uk visit our website www.folkus.co.uk

SATURDAY 14TH MARCH 2009

Music making for Guitarists

Friendly and expert tutors will teach beginners, players of intermediate skills and those seeking to advance their skills base.

We are pleased to have Ken Nicol (lead guitarist with Steeley Span) as the tutor for advanced players. Plus guitar song accompaniment. Garstang High School, Bowgreave, Garstang, Lancashire.

10.30am - 4.30pm. Drinks available. Packed lunch advisable. Info Folkus office 01253 872317 email: alanbell@folkus.co.uk

SATURDAY 14TH MARCH 2009

Mellor Brook Fiddle Day - Music from the North of England.

FOLKUS is sponsoring tutors who include Robin Shepherd, Nikki Williamson, Julian Taylor.

Evening concert featuring Jeana Leslie & Siobhan Miller - **Winners BBC 2 Young Folk Award 2008.**

Details Julian Taylor 01254 240076 Email: soundpost@fiddlemusic.co.uk

SUNDAY 29TH MARCH 2009

Rotoro- Estonian Folk Music

In partnership with Spot On Rural Touring, Folkus is co-sponsoring the appearance of the famous Estonian Folk Troupe - Rotoro.

The Barlow Institute, Bolton Road, Edgeworth Tel: 01204 852922 or Spot On Rural Touring 01254 674777

THURSDAY 7TH MAY - SATURDAY 9TH MAY 2009

The Big Whistle Weekend

Folkus is sponsoring tutors.

Concerts featuring, Battlefield Band, Malinky, Bog Trotters, Partners in Crime, Salsa Celtica.

Details: The Bury Met. 0161 761 2216

SATURDAY 9TH - SUNDAY 17TH MAY 2009

Garstang Walking Festival

Folkus is sponsoring Capt. Cooper's Motley Crew to entertain.

Saturday 9th May The Tithebarn, Garstang. 9pm. Details of Festival: 01995 602125

FRIDAY 15TH MAY 2009

"Borrowdale Johnny," Downham Village Hall, Downham, near Clitheroe. In partnership with Spot On Rural Touring.

Folkus is co-sponsoring this original musical composition by Striding Edge,

who will later provide the music and call at a Ceilidh.

Details Spot On Rural Touring 01254 674777 or 01200 440146 8pm tickets £6 adult £3 junior £15 family

FRIDAY 22ND - SUNDAY 24TH MAY 2009

Chester Folk Festival. Folkus workshops.

Saturday 23rd Fiddle Workshop with Carolyn Francis 10.30am - 12.30pm

Sunday 24th Whistle Workshop with Phil Brown 10.30am - 12.30pm Details: Festival office 07005 977045

SATURDAY 23RD MAY 2009

Ireby Folk Festival, Ireby, Cumbria.

Folkus Mandolin workshop. 11am - 1pm. Venue TBC

Details Charles Devlin 0169 737 1645



LOTTERY FUNDED

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on 2nd May. Support on this night will be provided by Niamh Boadle.

Some gig venues at Northwich FC have still to be decided. I refer specifically to the Singers Nights on 24th April and 5th June, and the evening with Gus Glynn on 5th June. Best ring John and Ailsa Booth before travelling on any of those dates. Maghull FC has some new names (to me) appearing in the form of Pat Sherry and Stuart Douglas (10th March) and Nathan Rogers from Canada. If you think the surname is familiar well yes, Nathan is Stan's son who appears on 12th May. On 21st April the club celebrates its 27th birthday. Well done to you all. Tony Gibbons has some very exciting news to share, but see under Artists below. Nathan can also be seen at Folk at the Prospect FC in Runcorn on 15th June.

Angie Bladen at Four Fools FC informs me that the club will be holding a very rare guest night on 13th March when Tom McConville, Claire Mann and David Newey will be the guests.

On 29th March, Chorlton FC announces - "the Whaley Bridge Folk Train will leave the platform at Manchester Piccadilly Rail Station at 11-30am bound for The Railway pub, Whaley Bridge". Music in the pub and return. Ring or visit the club for more information.

You can also try this 'Folk Train bit' on 28th May when the Glossop version "will leave the platform". Ring Paul Roberts - Acoustic Collective FC - for further information on 07930-340-260.

Ian Chesterman at Wrexham FC is proud to announce that Archie Fisher will be the club guest on 3rd April. This is a Friday and not the usual Thursday club night. Give Ian a ring urgently to book your tickets. Also the club will close for the summer break with a Singers Night on 21st May.

Eric Cox at Biddulph up in Arms FC wishes to inform everyone that all nights now start at 8pm. All gigs will have invited guest performer support slots commencing at that time with the main act starting at 8-30pm/8-45pm. Bring your own drink at those gigs that take place at Biddulph Town Hall. You can also get £2 off per ticket when you attend a gig and book another one in advance at the same time.

Eric Cox has arranged a very strong line up of artists this quarter with Martyn Joseph standing out as the biggest enticement for me to drive south (on 5th March) and have a look see. On 15th May an act described as 'incredible' entitled the Hot Club of Cowtown appears at Biddulph Town Hall. They hail from Texas and specialise in mixing Django Jazz with red-hot country swing music. They will be even presenting a Western Swing workshop prior to the gig starting at 7-30pm. So all you dancers get along there 'partners' and give it plenty of 'yahoo's'. Contact number for Eric is 01782-514-896.

Roger Parker at Folk at the Manor FC tells me that Marje Ferrier has stood down as one of the resident performers. Her place is taken by that stalwart of the Wirral folk scene, that lovely man Brian Lupton. Brian brings to the club a wealth of experience being a folk club and concert organiser in his own right.

Peter Hood at Midway FC welcomes two new performers to the club resident's list. They are Chris Baker who is a great performer of traditional material with guitar accompaniment. And how about this name? - Grant Baynham. Yes the man himself, part of the duo Quicksilver (with Hilary Spencer). A brilliant guitarist, singer and all round comic. Remember all those years ago when he was a very important part of Esther Rantzen's 'That's Life' programme on BBC 1 TV? A supremely talented man.

Peter informs that his club is doing exceptionally well with a lot of new people regularly attending. There have been a number of full house nights at this 70 seater venue with the most memorable night being The Churchfitters evening. Peter describes the night as being 'fantastic' and he strongly recommends this quartet of experienced performers, three of whom are English and one French, but all of whom amazingly reside in France. I can also support his recommendation. They are superb.

If you fancy the look of Wigan FC's Folk'n'Verse day, scheduled for Easter Monday the 13th April, then get along to The Boulevard, 17-19 Wallgate, Wigan WN1 1LD. It all starts at 1pm and Joan Blackburn tells me it will be a 'Big Singaround'. Burnley FC celebrated their 2nd anniversary at the Kettle drum Inn, Cliviger recently and Alex Nearney wishes to point out that despite what some think the venue is not 'located in the wilds' but is a mere two and a half miles up the hill from Burnley Football Club stadium. Recently, the folk club experienced two wonderful nights when firstly Brian Peters was the special guest. Brian is a very experienced performer who I first saw at Whitby Festival many years ago performing as a duo with Gordon Tyrrall. Brian still performs with Gordon periodically and he is a multi-instrumentalist with an excellent voice. If you favour traditional folk music, then Brian is your man. Alex adds that Pat Sherry and Stuart Douglas produced an excellent night with their varied selection of material. Their ability to harmonise was also a feature that created a genial atmosphere.

The new club - Bromley Cross FC - (I mentioned it earlier) seems to have got off to a wonderful start as I received an email from Chris Nash who states that the club's first guest night with Roger Kirkpatrick was a wonderful success having been a sell-out night. Their second guest night featuring the Bolton Bullfrog himself - Bernard Wrigley - also proved to be a complete sell-out. Great news.

Artists

And now the surprise and exciting news from Tony Gibbons. Garva, that wonderful five-piece band that not too long back specialised in presenting Irish songs and tunes, has reformed. It all happened by accident. Tony needed to gather a band of musicians in advance of his regular Christmas booking at Lymm FC. Tony contacted four musicians and the band went down that well on the night that they decided to form again, as Garva. Simple as that. No Shay Black of course but the make up of the band consists of four of the five original members. "So who are they"? I hear you ask. They are - Tony G himself, John Murphy, Kevin Webster, Steve Higham and Liam Murphy (John's son). The uniqueness of this quintet is that John and Liam both play Uilleann pipes. Anyone who remembers the original Garva will know what a special band it was. Well Tony and Co. now want to show a new generation what they missed.

If you wish further info. then give Tony a ring on 01744-607566 or email gibbonstony@hotmail.com

When Scolds Bridle recently appeared at Porkies FC, Dave Walmisley (formerly Risky Business) appeared as a guest artist. Dave went down so well with the audience that he has been invited back by Dave Hughes to do similarly on the Lyrta Celtica night, the 6th March. Tanglefoot on their last tour before disbanding appear at Porkies on 19th June. This is one of their many bookings so have a good look at the centre page diary and the Advance Dates pages for more. There excellent website is well worth a look as well - <http://www.tanglefootmusic.com/>

BROMLEY CROSS FOLK CLUB 2009

www.bromleycrossfolkclub.org.uk

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Support Act : Emily Roe & Friends

Sept 18 Tom McConville & David Newey - £7

Great Geordie fiddler & singer with talented guitarist songwriter
www.tommcconville.co.uk to hear Tom play & sing
Support Act : Seat of the Pants

For details and directions see www.bromleycrossfolkclub.org.uk

Phone 01204 852217 or go to website for tickets

In May, Eric Bogle accompanied by John Munro begins his farewell tour of England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Eire. His website shows 79 gigs ending in mid-September.

Ken Powell and Ruth Fuga (Mr & Mrs Powell actually), formerly the other two thirds of the excellent Risky Business, were our special guests at the Hungry Horse FC last October. They gave us a wonderful night. Ruth has a voice to die for and Ken is a brilliant guitarist with vast experience. His voice complements Ruth perfectly. We have them booked for the Wirral Folk on the Coast Festival this June and Ken will also be presenting a guitar-making workshop. The pair have been absent from the scene over recent times but are now back refreshed having set up their "Powell Guitars" business and are keen to spread the word about themselves as a duo and as principal guitar making specialists. Visit <http://powellguitars.com/> for further information and/or see advertisements in this issue.

Festivals

The demise of Glasson Maritime Festival I have already mentioned earlier in this article. Very regretful to see such an established event go to the wall.

The aforementioned Wirral Folk on the Coast festival is well ahead with preparation. Like last year it will all start on the evening of Thursday 4th June with a very convivial "Sing in the Festival night" in the main lounge bar of the OC Centre, 28 Bridle Road, Bromborough - free admission. All muso's cordially invited to take part and audience as well of course. Visitors to the festival can camp for free (provided they have weekend tickets) from 6pm that evening. The venue is absolutely superb and even though I say it myself it must be one of the most idealic festival spots in the country. All on one 4½-acre site, this festival is attracting many enthusiasts from far and wide. It is therefore important to ring the box office early to book your tickets. Top of the bill is Show of Hands with Miranda Sykes. The internationally know Gordon Giltrap, that brilliant guitarist, is number two in the listings and like SOH only appears on one occasion. The large free fringe of music and dance with a wide variety of workshops including belly dance, guitar building, clogging, song writing are planned together with a variety of dance teams. Even Punch and Judy will be there. Last year's Craft Fair was a great success and it will be repeated again only larger this time. All the main concert performers are outlined on the festival website at www.wirralfolkonthecoast.com with more information to be added as I speak. You can also download a ticket booking form from the website and/or ring the box office direct on 0151-652-0734 or for further enquiries telephone - 0151-678-9902.

Lymm Folk Festival, which is actually part of the Lymm (town) Festival itself, but organised by Stuart Lever takes place from 25th June to 3rd July. The performers will be Chris While and Julie Matthews, Bob Fox, Kerfuffle, Bernard Cromarty, Full House, Vicki Swan and Jonny Dyer, The Perfectly at Home String Band and on the final night there will be a ceilidh with the band - Marmalade.

Droylsden Festival takes place over the weekend of 26th to 28th June and it has Anthony John Clarke as the principal artist on the 27th. You can see this excellent performer at the Fairfield Golf and Sailing Club, Booth Road, Fairfield, Audenshaw M34 5GA commencing at 8pm. Tickets from 0161-432-4830. I have no further info. to present to you about this festival.

Arts Centres/Theatres

In the centre pages diary Pacific Arts Centre, Birkenhead is shown as presenting two events away from that location (indicated by

**). The events are - The Essence of Ireland on 1st May and Kate Rusby on 9th May. These acts are booked to appear at the brand new Floral Pavilion Theatre, New Brighton. At the Pacific AC itself the show entitled 'Poetry of the Blues' (6th March) will be presented by Michael Gray and I understand that it will have a major Bob Dylan theme to it.

If you fancy seeing Roy Bailey with Tony Benn performing their "Writing on the Wall" show then get along to The Lowry, Salford Quays on 8th March. But note that it all kicks off as a matinee performance starting at 2pm. On 24th May at the same venue the show "Wine, Women and Song" will feature Matraca Berg, Suzy Bogguss and Gretchen Peters.

Those of you who read this magazine regularly will know the Friends of Folk organisation led by Jim Minall promotes folk music at various locations in the Preston area. This quarter I am aware of four events that will take place as follows - 14th March - Preston Guild Hall lounge, 6th April at Preston Charter Theatre, 24th May and 24th June both at Preston Guildhall Foyer Bar. Have a glance at the centre pages calendar to establish who the performers are.

If you are a club or venue that presently does not take any copies of FOLK NORTH WEST to sell to your punters then could I implore you to do so? Just in case you are not aware, the system is - you ring Kath Holden and request whatever amount of magazines you require each quarter. That quantity will be posted to you. All you have to do is sell them to all and sundry and send a cheque, for whatever amount you have sold, back to Kath's address. If you have any unsold copies by the time they go out of date then just discard them, as it is not cost effective to run a sale or return policy. Production of the magazine is made by a small team of volunteers who are listed on page four of the mag. FOLK NORTH WEST is a non-profit making organisation and monies received is used for production of the magazine and its further development. If you are not a club or venue organiser but would like to receive your personal copy of the magazine every three months (by mail order) then just ring 01942-258-459 speak to Kath and place an order. Well that is all from me until next time. I look forward to speaking to you in the Summer edition.

John Owen

ARTICLES



POLITICAL SONGS NOW - AND THEN

January 20th. The deadline date for Folk North West has passed, and I'm feverishly finishing off the article you're reading now in the hope that the editor will be lenient. Looks like I'm late again with my assignment - probably a hangover from my student days in the dim and distant past.

January 20th. The newspapers, TV and all the media are full of this date as well. By the time you're reading this, the significance of the actual date may have faded in your memory, although I'm sure the events that follow haven't. This is the date when Barack Obama is to be sworn in as the 44th US president, replacing the unlamented George W Bush.

"A chorus of disapproval", an article in the Guardian, catches my eye and gets me thinking - www.guardian.co.uk/music/2009/



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Dylan Owen:- THE OSSIE BARD!
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His songs have been broadcasted BBC Radio Lancashire, Radio Merseyside, Radio Birmingham and out on t' world wide web. Appearances include Fyde Folk Festival (including the Singer Song Writer work shops), Middlewich Folk Festival, Oswaldtwistle Folk Festivals, Pubs and Folk Clubs.

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jan/16/popandrock-urban. The title summarises it very well - in the eight years of Dubya "You could construct a decent box-set of anti-Bush songs - Songs in the Key of W, perhaps - covering ground from Bright Eyes to Eminem, Pink to Public Enemy, Jay-Z to Elbow. Neither Nixon nor Ronald Reagan attracted such consistent and wide-ranging personal opprobrium". The article goes on to make the point though that, in spite of the volume of dissent, it has had little effect compared with protest songs of the 1960's and goes on to ask the question "what went wrong with the protest song?"



For a lot of us on the English folk scene, our first encounters with the music in the 1960s were through the protest songs of Bob Dylan, Tom Paxton, Phil Ochs and others around at that time, and political songs generally have always had a place in the repertoire. This has tended to go in phases: the obvious one was in the 1960s with the Civil Rights movement and the Vietnam war. The issues were mainly American, but we still identified with them - even those of us who weren't overtly leftist still had a

strong sense of justice and fairness, and many still have - another hangover from student days in the 1960s.

In the 1970s, we were busy singing and having a good time, but the 1980s saw a resurgence of political activity and songwriting, which was much more home-grown this time. A lot of us were horrified at the activities of Margaret Thatcher and the values she represented. What with the miners' strike, Greenham Common, equal opportunities issues such as gay rights, to say nothing of long-standing causes such as anti-apartheid, political song flourished, to the extent that some folk clubs instigated a policy of "political song only". Personally, I became much less involved in the folk scene then - because I got involved in politics! With most of my time taken up with party meetings, electioneering, canvassing, pushing leaflets through letterboxes and four years as an elected councillor, I just didn't have the time. When I did go to a folk club, I found the friendly convivial atmosphere a welcome relief from the cut and thrust of politics, and it was somewhat ironic to be frowned upon occasionally for singing traditional songs rather than another one about Nelson Mandela!

But back to the present day. Following the most disastrous American presidency in history, and the British government's sycophantic support of it, how have we on the folk scene responded?

My first impression is that, whilst in conversation a lot of people express their opposition, some very vociferously, to Bush, Blair and their cronies, there is not much actual topical political song around, although there are exceptions. One of singer/songwriter Kath Reade's songs, about hurricane Katrina's devastation of New Orleans, and lack of response from the Bush administration because the victims were poor and black, has been well received and taken up by a few other singers locally:-

"...four days later it was still the same, no help coming could they hear how long does the richest country on the earth need to get its ass in gear"

What some have done though is to resurrect some of the old anti-war songs. Unfortunately these songs are still relevant and can be applied to Iraq, Afghanistan and all the other wars we are

being led into just as they were to Vietnam. To quote another of Kath Reade's songs:-

"Nothing ever changes
The blood will always run into the sand
Nothing ever changes
But I admire that flower in your hand"

One thing I do find interesting is that many of the songs that were felt to be hard-hitting when they were first written can sound rather naive today. It was similar in the 1960s when earlier songs such as "Where have all the flowers gone" seemed almost innocent to us, compared with Dylan songs like "Blowing in the wind", which in turn has also lost a lot of its impact. And who would nowadays want to resurrect the 1980's anthem "... we are a gentle angry people, and we are singing, singing for our lives ..."? Some songs though can always seem relevant and hit the mark, like Bob Dylan's "Masters of War": one of my favourites is Ewan MacColl's "Ballad of Accounting":-

"... did you read the trespass notices, did you keep off the grass
did you shuffle off the pavement just to let your betters pass
did you learn to keep your mouth shut, were you seen and never heard
did you learn to be obedient and jump to at a word ..."

Perhaps a lot of the "fire in our bellies" has turned to embers, as it does when we get older, or maybe a lot of us are now using folk clubs as a retreat from today's unpalatable realities, as I did in the 1980s. Lets not be too pessimistic though: as the Guardian article pointed out, in Obama the musical dissent finally found a rallying point - let's hope he can live up to expectations.

Paul Reade

FOLK CAMPS 40 YEARS



It's Saturday evening, 22nd November 2008, at Cecil Sharp House in London, the headquarters of the EFDSS (English Folk Dance and Song Society). Outside it's cold, very cold, but inside, on the spacious dance floor, some 200 people are swinging their partners to the music of 'Mr. Gubbin's Bicycle', an English ceilidh band built around the talents of that Sultan of Squeeze, John Kirkpatrick. It was a great night. I know because I was there.

However, the excellence of the evening was not only due to the talents of Mr. Kirkpatrick and company. The swirling mass of humanity on the dance floor was there for a reunion and a very special one at that. We were all members of the Folk Camps Society and this was our 40th Anniversary Reunion. The room was alive with enthusiastic dancers, many of them also enthusiastic singers and musicians. When this bunch get together it's almost impossible for it not to be a great night. Indeed, Mr. Kirkpatrick himself reminded us that he, as a mere nipper, had attended the very first folk camp in 1961.

In the early years the folk camps were a venture run by the EFDSS and the guiding light back then was Bill Rutter, the energetic organiser for the EFDSS South West Region. At John K's invitation we gave three rousing cheers in honour of the late Mr. Rutter.

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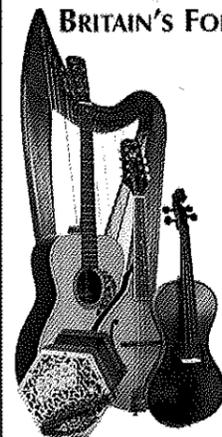
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Chester Folk Festival

FRI. 22nd - MON. 25th MAY 2009

(SPRING BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND)

The Village of Kelsall, nr. Chester

Lau • Brass Monkey • Keith Donnelly
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Crowfoot • Quicksilver • Brian Peters
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Doc Harvey & The Philistanz

The Boat Band • Asha

Bill Whaley & Dave Fletcher

Flossie Malavialle • Dan McKinnon
Aardvark Ceilidh Band • All Blacked Up
The Time Bandits • The Waite Collective
Full House • Roy Clinging & Neil Brookes
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www.chesterfolk.org.uk

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REDMAYNE

40th ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

(The 2nd One night Tour!)

Friday 8th May 2009. Start 8 pm

The Servite Hall, 500 Bury New Road,

Corner of Cavendish Road

Salford M7 0WP

Tickets £5

Call 0161 285 8607

In 1968 the folk campers decided to stand on their own feet and become an independent organisation. Thus was born the Folk Camps Society and hence our celebrations 40 years on at Cecil Sharp House. The society was set up as a charity and non-profit making organisation whose main purpose is to promote and further the enjoyment of traditional dance, music and song.

The idea, like most great ideas, is simple. Hire a field and a marquee or village hall and pitch camp. Don't forget your musical instruments. Now the fun can begin. This is a plain, old fashioned, do-it-yourself folk experience. Unlike a folk festival there are no booked guests. We, the members, do all of the singing, playing, calling and dancing. In this we are simply doing what traditional singers and musicians always did - performing for their friends. And because the numbers are at maximum 120 (including kids), in no time at all you have a community. A folk community. Heaven! If only life could be more like a folk camp.

In the early days camping facilities could be pretty rough and ready, as my family and I discovered when we went to our very first folk camp at Wetton in the Peak District in 1975. No sooner had I arrived than I was asked to assist in digging the 'bog' pit for disposal of the camps' effluent (if you know what I mean). The toilets were old-fashioned chemical jobs, the opposite end of the spectrum to your five star hotel.

That wasn't the only job either. Everyone shares in the essential work of running the camp, including cook's duty. Well, you have to eat don't you? Our first cook's duty was a little daunting but we survived. In fact, we more than survived - we enjoyed it. The well thought out menus and cook's instructions helped. I must say the standard of food, which is turned out day after day by amateur folk camp cooks, is nothing short of remarkable. And once the music started we were hooked. It was the best holiday we'd had ever had and that was down to the people who were there sharing it with us. We rediscovered the virtue of making your own entertainment rather than paying some professional to do it for us. We'd never had so much fun in our lives. Our two kids were queuing up for more and we went back year after year.

The 'bog' pit is a thing of the past along with the chemical toilets and I don't think anyone really misses them. Nowadays we hire portable loos which the folk camp pioneers would regard as the lap of luxury. But although things tend to be rather more 'comfortable' these days the spirit of folk camping hasn't changed. Just watch the gusto with which any practical problem is tackled. The DIY brigade is there in force in no time.

Now please don't get the idea that we're a society of folk music experts. There are, in our ranks, some very expert musicians, callers and singers to be sure, but there are also many beginners and improvers and every year there are always a number who are attending for the very first time and perhaps with little or no 'folk' experience. We are, as they say, a broad church. The 'experts' will run workshops to pass on their expertise to whoever is interested. And there are bound to be some activities during the week that hardly qualify as folk but are enjoyable nevertheless. There's likely to be a guided walk over the hills or through the woods; there might be some sunbathing on the beach, there could be a craft workshop of some kind; there is almost certain to be a game of football or cricket or rounders. It all depends on who's there and what they have to offer. Consequently, each camp tends to be a little bit different.

Each camp has a small team of volunteer staff to co-ordinate everything; a leader to co-ordinate the fun, a musician to co-ordinate the many musicians present, a caterer to co-ordinate the cooks and a warden to co-ordinate the essential practical

tasks. As you can see, we are very co-ordinated. But in case visions of Stalag 17 come to mind let me say it's more like one big party. Even the work can be fun.

You might expect that an old fashioned idea like folk camps is doomed to fade away in the electronic age. It doesn't seem that way. Our camps for 2009 are already well on the way to being fully booked (but we'll try and squeeze you in somewhere if we can). You can find out more from our website, www.folkcamps.co.uk which gives details of where and when the camps take place.

Here's to the next 40 years.

Brian Bull

THE BARBARY ORGAN

You will notice a French advertisement in this edition on page 41, which probably requires a little explanation. In September we spent two brilliant weeks in the Vaucluse area of Provence. We stayed in a gite, which was an extension of the owner's house and workshops, perched on top of a hill. Rolling vineyards, olive and cherry trees covered one side and woodland on the other. Straight across the valley was Mont Ventoux in all its glory. We assumed the owner was a carpenter from what we had seen, but as we got to know our hosts we discovered that Didier had spent the last 20 years making Barbary Organs, well known and loved in France.



He and his wife, Anne, were delighted to find our shared interest in music and tradition and invited us to lunch. Before we sat down to a wonderful Provencal lunch with them, Didier took us into his workshop to explain his craft. I speak some French and Anne some English so we managed quite well.

The Barbary Organ is a smaller version of the Barrel Organ (and it doesn't come with a monkey), and also a relative of the traditional fairground organ. The ones we saw were exquisitely made, a joy to behold and to hear. The main difference though is how the music is generated. Holes are made in a long length of concertina'd card, which is propelled through the air supply by turning a handle. Other organs tend to have circular "music storers".

Didier and Anne are delighted to do workshops and thus the advertisement. Anne also has a studio where she gives Yoga classes. So you can invite them to your Festival or go and stay in their gite and have a really laid back holiday, with superb markets to shop for food and quality wine straight from the producers, just a stroll down the hill.

If you visit their website displayed on the advert (page 41), click on the American flag for an English version.

Kath Holden

TRADITIONS FESTIVAL

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Will Noble & John Cocking

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Ralph Jordan & Irene Shettle

Weekend Tickets:- Under 11 Free.

£45, OAP/Under 16 £25 (before 1st June 2009),

£50, OAP/Under 16 £30 (after 1st June 2009).

(Cheques payable to 'FOOLISH FRIENDS' please)

Camping/Caravanning £5 per person available for
ticket holders only. Tickets and information

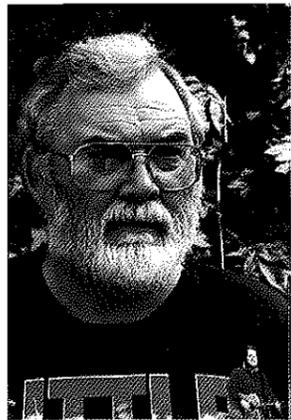
(LARGE SAE please) from:- Angie & Ken Bladen,

36, The Oaks, Eaves Green, Chorley, Lancs. PR7 3QU.

Tel(01257 263 678)

e.mail:- traditionsfestival@madontrad.org.uk

Website:- www.madontrad.org.uk



I would like to congratulate my 29 world wide fans on receiving, and possibly reading, all 100 copies of Codger Ramblings. This epistle, started exactly 100 months ago, has run non-stop every month ever since. I had no idea (and to be honest no real inclination at the onset) to keep this monster alive for so long. It now goes out to over 1,000 recipient's world wide - I would imagine however that the actual readership is a considerably lower figure. I expect a lot go straight into the Junk Email bin; never to see the light of day. But it started in

October 2000 to let my world wide fan club know what I was up to; and I guess all 29 of you still get it. Whether you are daft enough to read it is of course a completely different matter. The whole collection, yes every word, can be found on my web site. www.joestead.com (Although this month won't be there yet). But feed back has generally been good and I've found it a useful long term tool to not only keep in touch with friends worldwide but also as a reminder that both Kimber's Men and Joe Stead are available for employment. There is nothing worse than continually phoning people to get work.

An old Cherokee Indian is reported to have told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people. He said, "My son, the battle is between two 'wolves' inside us all. One is Evil. It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, lies, resentment, inferiority, false pride, superiority, and ego. The other is Good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith. The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather: "Which wolf wins?" The old Indian simply replied, "The one you feed."

The political highlight of the last month for me was to see George Bush being attacked by a pair of shoes. The sincerity of the insult, like the shoes, went unfortunately completely over his head; but it was an enjoyable little episode nonetheless. Something he will doubtless recall over dinner many times with his cohorts as if the matter was a joke. To think that an idiot was for 8 years the most powerful man on the planet is a sobering thought and a reflection on American society. Now thankfully Blair is a thing of the past and Bush will join him before the next Ramblings hit your computer screens. All we need now is to see an end to Mugabe's rule in Zimbabwe and three of the world's most hated leaders will be confined to history.

I'm off to America in February for what I suspect will be my farewell tour. I seem to go every 4 or 5 years now which means I will be in my seventies if I go again. Gigs in the US are very different from the gigs here in UK insofar as the distances travelled can be enormous. Last time (four years ago) I drove 900 miles to my first booking! This interlude in my professional singing career will probably see a break in the Ramblings for a month as I will be away from February 15th until April 8th. Perhaps I'll issue a blank March 2009 Ramblings; should bring in a few angry letters if I do! For many years every time I've been across the pond I've been invited by Ralph Litwin to perform on his television series "Horses sing none of it"; and I've never quite made it. But this time I'm finding the time. I'll probably never get another chance.

Joe Stead

LETTERS



Dear Ken

At this time of year, we would normally be making contact with you to place an advert for the forthcoming Glasson Maritime Weekend (formerly, Lancaster Easter Maritime Festival). However, have to advise you that, after 20 years, the City Council is not staging the event again. As we have always had support from many people through your magazine and they might well be planning on attending again, we'd be very much obliged if you could mention that it won't be happening this year, or in the future, sadly.

With best wishes and thanks for your previous support

Val Simpkin Festivals & Events Officer Lancaster City Council Cultural Services

Dear Ken

I recently picked up a copy of your magazine at the Bury Met, and I am writing to request to be added to your radio listings. I co-present Salford Folk on Salford City Radio, which airs live on Thursdays between 6pm and 7pm. We play a variety of traditional and current folk and acoustic music, and a selection of the best comedy from the past 50 years. The station broadcasts on 94.4fm within the Salford area, and worldwide at www.salfordcityradio.org

My co-host, Dave Mather, is a member of local folk/comedy act Cracked Flag, who have been on the local folk scene for the past twenty years, and have appeared with the likes of the Oldham Tinkers, the Houghton Weavers, Bob Williamson and Bernard Wrigley. A recent guest on our show was Norman Prince, formerly of the Houghton Weavers and BBC Radio Lancashire, who performed two monologues for Remembrance Day. Guests confirmed for future shows include Bernard Wrigley, The Houghton Weavers and Dave Spikey.

If you would like further information, we can be contacted via our Facebook group: Salford Folk on Salford City Radio, or Dave's mobile number is 07895 850 403.

Best wishes

Eleanor Walker

Dear Ken

Most of you are aware that Sandra's partner Dave has been battling leukaemia since last spring. Sadly, Dave has lost that battle. The good part is that he made it home for the last few days, with Sandra, family and friends around him, and was comfortable in the end.

We know that many of you were moved to respond to our solicitations to join the bone marrow registry, whether in Canada, the United States or Britain, and we thank you for that. As we always maintained, if you're not able to help Dave you might be able to help somebody else, and that is certainly something from which we can all draw a measure of comfort.

We also want to thank you for the outpouring of support that has come in over the past ten months. We are privileged to be part of such a caring community.

If you'd like to send a message to Sandra please sign the guestbook at www.tannahill.com. You can also send mail to Sandra Swannell, c/o Tanglefoot, Box 1023, Owen Sound, Ontario, N4K 6K6.

We wish you all health, happiness and fulfilment in the coming year. We'll see you out there.

Tanglefoot

Hi Folks

Some of you may have seen this already, but better twice than not at all. Another petition, but with a fitness slant: <http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/morris/>

The petition was created by Lee Ingram and reads:

'We the undersigned petition the Prime Minister to make 'Morris Dancing' part of its Change4life project in England. Sign away - it can only do you good!
Cheers

Keith Kendrick keith@keithkendrick.com 07885 345367

Make the mighty Morris part of the governments fitness plans... <http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/morris/> The petition was created by Lee Ingram and reads: 'We the undersigned petition the Prime Minister to make 'Morris Dancing' part of its Change4life project in England.'

Dear All

May I please remind you all that this year's Swaledale Squeeze takes place from 15-17 May. This is a residential weekend of concertina playing (workshops, sessions, ceilidh, concert and an optional walk in the Yorkshire Dales) based at Grinton Lodge (Youth Hostel) near Reeth. Our guest tutors this year are Alistair Anderson (English), Iris Bishop (Duet) and Claire Keville from Co. Galway (Anglo) and they will be joined by our team of regular tutors: Dave Ball (English), Pauline de Snoo (English), Harry Scurfield (Anglo), Carolyn Wade (leading the Concertina Band) and Paul Walker (English and Anglo).

All those on the mailing list will receive information automatically but if there's anyone else out there who would like more details (or has changed their email address) please do contact me and I'll send the details shortly. Please remember to email me direct (and not reply to 'the list'). I have now moved to Scotland and my new email address is: wrenbeck@googlegmail.com

Best wishes to all - I hope you've been enjoying the snow!!

Jane Edwards
Dear NWFFC

Please renew my subscription to the magazine for 2008-09.

I should like to ask you to include the details of date, time, place and phone number for ALL NW Folk Clubs, not just those who subscribe; to censor the venues as you do currently diminishes the folk scene and deprives your subscribers the chance of these venues.

Surely a small folk club is better than none at all, and grateful clubs, grown from small beginnings, may well join later. Surely it is sanction enough to not publicise the CONCERTS (money making) venues of non-affiliated clubs, and yet still allow

Ruth Fuga & Ken Powell

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SHAMROCK PROMOTIONS

Sat 14th March Jeana Leslie & Siobhan Miller <i>The 2nd Mellor Brook Fiddle Day</i>
Sat 28th March Roy Bailey <i>special guest: Pat Gallagher</i>
Fri 17th April Sid Calderbank <i>A Lancashire Garland</i>
Sat 2nd May Niamh Parsons <i>special guest: Niamh Boadle</i>
Sun 14th June Eric Bogle & John Munro

MELLOR BROOK COMMUNITY CENTRE
7, Whalley Road, Mellor Brook, Blackburn BB2 7PR

ticketline **07871 153 880**

further details www.mellorbrook.org

these little clubs to grow to flourish. Censorship of these clubs existence is vindictive, counter productive, and diminishes us all.

A little kindness and generosity would go a long way in defending and improving the folk scene.

Please print this letter so that the issue may be debated.

Thank you for your time and your marvellous magazine

Yours sincerely
Dave Bradbury

OBITUARIES

DAVEY GRAHAM 1940 -2008



Although I saw David several times in concert, and his playing was a great influence on me, sadly I never got to know him personally. In contributing the guitar workshop column for the magazine over the last 4 years, I realised that I had referred to David and his influence far more than any other single guitar player, in hindsight, I'd like to think that I got the balance about right.

Amongst his many different albums, he brought out an album in 1977 called "The Complete Guitarist" (SNKF 138A) produced by John Renbourn, and it's very difficult to find a phrase or description more appropriate to describe his genius. So absolute was David's influence that amongst guitar players there is an argument that in terms of fingerstyle acoustic guitar there was what David recorded and then there is everything that came after. Depending upon your viewpoint, it is a quite compelling argument. Added to this, apart from the actual players and their styles there are few "new" guitar tunings that can't be tracked back to some derivative of David's DADGAD tuning.

Innovative to the point of genius, he remains probably the most influential guitar player of the last 40 years. Jimmy Page, Martin Carthy, Bert Jansch, and John Renbourn all freely acknowledge their debt to him and there can be few greater endorsements than from that quartet.

I hope that guitar players especially, but also musicians everywhere will offer up a little prayer of thanks for David's contribution to the music that we hear in our folk clubs today, and give thanks that such an innovative musician left us such a rich legacy.

Our thoughts of course are with his immediate family at this time.

RIP David
We will miss you

Sadly, I suspect we will not see his like again.

Jim Ronayne

FESTIVAL NEWS AND MUSIC EVENTS



MIDDLEWICH 2009 FESTIVAL LINE-UP SET

Middlewich Folk and Boat Festival, which this year takes place from June 19 -21, has produced a strong line-up for the event while holding weekend ticket prices at last year's levels.

Friday night kicks off with the ever-popular (and now patron of the Festival) Mark Radcliffe and the Family Mahone, who will be supported by Stan's Magic Foot.

Saturday afternoon features Blue Murder (Norma and Mike Waterson, Martin Carthy, Coope, Boyes and Simpson and a special guest), supported by Ashley Hutchings' Rainbow Chasers and Gina LeFaux. Saturday evening brings Ade Edmondson and the Bad Shepherds, with support from Cave and Ella Edmondson. Plus the Ceilidh with All Blacked Up.



Sunday Afternoon has Thea Gilmore, supported by Rachel Harrington and Andrea Glass, while Sunday evening the event will be brought to a close by Jim Moray and his band, with support from Isambarde and Zoox.

Plus of course all the usual Fringe events, sessions, dance, children's entertainment, boats, stalls, workshops, beer and food. Full weekend tickets are £70, with the usual concessions, with Saturday day tickets at £35 and Sunday tickets at £33. Full details plus booking facilities can be found at www.midfest.org

INGLETON FOLK FESTIVAL FUND RAISING DAY

The Ingleton Folk Festival held on the First weekend of October is now approaching it's 9th year. The success of the festival hinges upon a lot of people giving their time, money and support to the event

One of the main money raisers is the Festival funding event, which consists of 12 hours of music and good times, to be held on the 7th of March 2009. This year I have been asked to take over from Jeff who has done a great job for 3 years, so I am hoping to at least match his organising skills...

So here I am writing to all musicians (and listeners) who have supported the event in the past, and any new ones who may wish to come along. Musicians this year will benefit from:

- " Free meal in the Three Horseshoes on the Saturday
- " A chance to sell CD's at the manned sales table
- " A possibility of being asked to perform at the festival itself

There is no guarantee of the third point, but the organisers will be there listening in.

The event this year will start at 12.00 in the Three horseshoes, Ingleton, where there will be performances interspersed with sing-arounds and music sessions until 6pm. The events continue at the Ex Serviceman's Club from 7pm to midnight

LYMM FOLK & ACOUSTIC CLUB



Spread Eagle Hotel
Lymm, WA13 0AG
Lymm Rugby Club
Crouchley Lane
Lymm, WA13 0AT

www.lymmfolkclub.org.uk

Thursdays 20.30 hrs - on the dot!

(All performances at the Spread unless indicated otherwise)

- 05 mar ember £7 (lymm rugby club)**
12 mar singers night £1 (lymm rugby club)
- 19 mar tom bliss £6**
26 mar big spot: john barber £1
- 02 apr isambarde £8 (lymm rugby club)**
09 apr big spot: mike bartram £1 (lymm rugby club)
- 16 apr pepper street £5**
(bernice carters, john condy & mick hare)
23 apr singers night £1
- 30 apr paula godby £5**
(mc, barley mow, warrington)
07 may singers night £1
- 14 may barbara & peter snape £5 (lymm rugby club)**
21 may singers night £1
- 28 may ruth fuga & ken powell £6**

advance dates:

04 JUN SINGERS NIGHT £1:11 JUN GRAHAM BELLINGER&THE DEPORTEES £4:
18 JUN BIG SPOT: GEOFF BIBBY, SUE & DEREK BRADBURNE £1
25 JUNE TO 3 JULY LYMM FESTIVAL 2009:25 JUN FULL HOUSE £6,26 JUN BERNARD CROMARTY £6;27 JUN VICKI SWAN & JONNY DYER £7;28 JUN BOB FOX £9;29 JUN BIG SPOT: ANDREW WALPOLE £1;30 JUN CHRIS WHILE & JULIE MATTHEWS £12 (lymm rugby club);01 JULY KERFUFFLE £9 (lymm rugby club);02 JULY THE PERFECTLY AT HOME STRING BAND £7;03 JULY FESTIVAL CEILIDH WITH MARMALADE BAND £5 (lymm methodist church)
09 JUL BIG SPOT: MAGHULL'S FBI BLUES £1;16 JUL PAUL PEARSON & CHRIS £4;23 JUL SINGERS NIGHT £1;30 JUL STEWART LEVER £5 (in aid of Warrington Bereavement Support);06 AUG SINGERS NIGHT £1;13 AUG KIT HAWES £4;20 AUG BIG SPOT: LIZZIE NUNNERY £1;27 AUG BERNARD CROMARTY £5;03 SEP SINGERS NIGHT £1 (lymm rugby club);10 SEP CELTISH £8 (lymm rugby club)
17 SEP NANCY KERR & JAMES FAGAN £10 (lymm rugby club)

contact/tickets: Stewart Lever 07919 270916
stewart_lever@yahoo.co.uk

www.stewartlever.co.uk

with performances by various artists. There will be raffles and donation buckets to assist with the cause. For accommodation go to www.ingleton.co.uk. Camper vans can be parked locally, and bunkroom accommodation is available on request (first come first served)

So. Performers, if you would like a spot at the fundraiser events, please contact me on andy.ive@btinternet.com, or 015242 61124. And please feel free to spread the word to performers and music lovers everywhere. More details on www.ingletonfolk.co.uk

Hope to see you there.

Andy Ive
Minister in charge of t'music.

BEVERLEY INTO SECOND QUARTER CENTURY

Beverley Festival will be bringing a new and exciting programme of events to its weekend this year (19-21 June) as it re-launches into its second quarter century. Its usual innovative line up of musicians this year includes one of this country's finest and most popular songwriters, Billy Bragg; Celtic dance icons The Peatbog Faeries; the legendary Irish acoustic band Lunasa; and expat Scot Eric Bogle with John Munro.

From the USA comes the king of Old Time Fiddle playing Bruce Molsky, Blues and Gospel maestro Spencer Bohren, and fellow countryman New York City's angriest yodelling banjo player Curtis Eller! They will all be participating in this year's special Americana mini-fest over the weekend. From closer to home comes The Demon Barber Roadshow, nominated as Best Live Act in the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards. The show combines music, dance and song and features some of this country's finest young exponents of English traditional dance - morris, clog and rapper. The festival also welcomes some of the leading young female performers on the scene today including The Anna Massie Band from Scotland and Belinda O'Hooley & Heidi Tidow. In addition,



many other great artists will be joining them and heading to the historic market town of Beverley this June to make the festival a must for all music lovers.

With the "Festival Village" becoming increasingly popular as a green field location adjacent to the campsite and main concert venue, and with demands to expand the number of events within it, this year sees the arrival of a new Alternative Marquee which will include a top programme of comedy and the spoken word as well as hosting acoustic sessions.

In addition to the new marquee the Family and Youth events will see a greater expansion and the festival favourite Wold Top Marquee will be back again to host the Late Night Festival Club and concerts and featuring our popular local Wold Top Festival Ale.

For anyone wanting a great weekend away - look no further,

come and relax in the shadow of Beverley's historic Minster and sample some first rate music and fine ales straight off the Yorkshire Wolds!

For further details or to book online go to - www.beverleyfestival.com or contact the Festival Hotline on 01377 217569

SHREWSBURY FOLK FESTIVAL 28 - 31 AUGUST

Shrewsbury Folk Festival will have a lot to offer in 2009, most of the artists have been booked and we have a fantastic line up for you. The festival has a reputation for the diversity of its programming and this year will be no different, a chance to see your favourites and celebrate the tradition, but an opportunity to discover new artists and new music.

Our line up includes Proclaimers, Eric Bibb, The Dhol Foundation, Seth Lakeman, Show of Hands, The Chair, Spooky Men's Chorale, Patrick Street, Chris Wood and Megson. Also watch out for artists that have never appeared in the UK before and a few who are rarely seen here. These will include the Dust Poets from Canada, Krista Detor, Mark Erelli, Ollabelle and Chris Smither from the USA and Hoven Drogen from Sweden.



The festival attracts people of all ages and people from every possible background, whether our visitors are couples, singles or families Shrewsbury has a big welcome for everyone. There are a huge amount of activities for children and young people and an exhausting array of concerts, dances, singarounds, sessions, displays and fun for everyone.

FOLKWORKS SUMMER SCHOOLS 10th - 15th August 2009 Durham City

Three Summer Schools providing a unique opportunity to work closely with some of the finest performers/tutors in the field of folk music, song and dance; to enjoy making and hearing great music mixed with fun and relaxation - and the chance to make new friends.

Junior Summer School (Wednesday 12th - Saturday 15th August) is for students aged 10-13 years and the tutors include: Nancy Kerr, James Fagan, Emily Ball and others yet to be confirmed.

Youth Summer School is for ages 14-25 at the College of St. Hild and Bede, Durham. Tutors include: David Oliver, Ian Stephenson, Joey Oliver, Karine Polwart, Luke Daniels, Martin Meehan, Sam Pirt, Sarah Kekus, Sophy Ball and others yet to be confirmed.

Adult Summer School for ages 20 at Collingwood College, Durham. This year we continue ADVANCED BAND option for experienced musicians. Tutors include: Alistair Anderson, Brian Finnegan, Carolyn Robson Carly Blain, Karen Tweed, Kerry

"HUNGRY HORSE ACOUSTIC FOLK CLUB"

www.hungryhorseacoustic.com

EVERY THURSDAY -- 8-15pm start at
The Rake, Rake Lane, Little Stanney, near Chester, CH2 4HS
Tickets ring:- 0151-678-9902 or 07981-639-336



MARCH		
5th	CATHRYN CRAIG & BRIAN WILLOUGHBY	£7-00
19th	HOUGHTON WEAVERS - (with Vocal Point)	£9-00
APRIL		
2nd	KIERAN HALPIN - (with Vocal Point)	£7-00
16th	BLACKHEART - (with Ali Parker & Jim Gallagher)	£5-00
23rd	VIN GARBUTT	£10-00
MAY		
7th	CLIVE GREGSON - (with Vocal Point)	£7-00
21st	COLIN HENDERSON & ANDREW JONES	£5-00
JUNE		
4th	"Sing in the Wirral Folk on the Coast Festival" (at the OC Centre, 28 Bridle Rd, Bromborough)	free
5th, 6th & 7th	5th WIRRAL FOLK ON THE COAST FESTIVAL (at the OC Centre, 28 Bridle Rd, Bromborough)	box office 0151-652-0734
11, 18 & 25th	All - Singers & Musicians Nights	free
JULY		
2nd	GRAHAM BELLINGER & the DEPORTEES	£5-00
16th	ERIC BOGLE with JOHN MUNRO	£10 & £12
AUGUST		
6th	PAMELA WARD & PAUL CHERRINGTON	£5-00
13/20/27th	All - Singers & Musicians Nights	free
SEPTEMBER		
3rd	HARVEY ANDREWS	£7-00
17th	ANTHONY JOHN CLARKE -- New CD Launch	£7-00
OCTOBER		
1st	ELBOW JANE	£7-00
15th	BRAM TAYLOR	£6-00
NOVEMBER		
5th	WELCOMME, FINNAN & CHRIMES	£6-00
19th	TOM TOPPING BAND	£8-00
DECEMBER		
3rd	FIDDLESTONE	£6-00
17th	CHRISTMAS PARTY NIGHT	free
All other THURSDAYS are "Singers & Musicians" Nights 8-15pm start - FREE ADMISSION		

CLUB RESIDENTS (as on 25th January 2009)

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

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

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

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

EVERYMAN -- Chris & Hughie Jones, Shirley Peden

FOLK AT HILLBARK – Tom Topping Band

FOLK AT THE MANOR -- Gill & George Peckham, Roger Parker, Mike Hignett, Brian Lupton

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

FOLK ON FRIDAY (ex- Leigh) – Pauline Dowsett, Des Cooney, Julie Houlton, Steve Eckersley & Bernadette Heaton

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

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

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, Marie Nicholls, John Owen, Sue Farley & Angela Owen, Andy Eades.

KINGS LOCK – Liz Rosenfield, Ian Murfitt, Brian Ayling, Stephen Dent, Richard Sherry, Jeff

LONGRIDGE -- Ron Flanagan, Brian Preston

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

MAGHULL -- Tony Gibbons, Loctuptogether, Joe Ryan, Jane Day, Bob Tyrer, Paul Robinson, Kate Bradbury, Mark Miller, Graham Saggars, Tommy Dewhurst, Martin Blackmore, Robin M: FBI Blues

NORTHWICH -- Jamie Anderson, Brenda Yates, John & Ailsa Booth, Iain Bowley & Tom Fra 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
MIDWAY -- Peter Hood & Linda Edwardes, Anne Yates, Peter Fox, John Ashurst, Ged Derby,

John Keithly

ROOM AT THE TOP -- Mark Dowding and others

SALE – Don and Heather Davies, Sue and Ed Bentham, Terry McKenna, Mick Hare, John Cc Bernice Carters

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

WIGAN – Geoff Newman (Tuesday), Joan Blackburn (Thursday)

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

WREXHAM – Offa

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

NORTH WEST FEDERATION OF FOLK CLUBS				
		ARTS CENTRES and THEATRES		
SUNDAY	Time		Organiser	Tel. no.
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	The 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
Ciwb Gwerin Conwy	8:30 PM	Royal British Legion, Rosehill Street, Conwy, LL32 8AF	Andrew Knight	07774-488841
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
Midway	8:30 PM	The Midway, 263 Newbridge Lane, Stockport, SK1 2NX	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	The Narrow Boat, 38 Victoria Street, Skipton, BD23 1JE	Sheila A. Kelsall	01535-665889
Swinton	8:30 PM	The White Lion, 242 Manchester Road, Swinton, M27 4TS	Ged Todd	01942-811527
TUESDAY				
Acoustic Collective	9:00 PM	The Astley Arms, 1 Chapel Hill, Dukinfield, Cheshire SK16 4BT	Paul Roberts	07930-340260
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
Sale (new member)	8:00 PM	Southern Road, Mersey Road, Sale, Manchester M33 6HQ	Don Davies	0161-432-4317
Urmston Acoustics	8:30 PM	The Nags Head Hotel, 1 Lostock Road, Urmston, M41 0SU	Martin Kavanagh	0161-748-5497
Wigan (& Thursdays)	9:00 PM	The Fox & Goose, 37-39 Wigan Lane, Wigan, WN1 1XR	Joan Blackburn	07833-301336
WEDNESDAY				
Alison Arms	9:00 PM	The Alison Arms, Preston Road, Coppull, Chorley, PR7 5CQ	Derek Docherty	01257-791262
Biddulph up in Arms	8:30 PM	The Biddulph Arms, 171 Congleton Road, Biddulph, ST8 6QJ	Eric Cox	01782-514896
Burnley	9:00 PM	Kettledrum Inn, 302 Red Lees Road, Cliviger, Burnley, BB10 4RG	Alex Nearney	01282-436467
Clarence	8:30 PM	The Clarence, 88 Preston New Road, Blackpool, FY4 4HG	Ann Green	01772-683027
Garstang Unplugged	8:00 PM	The Kenlis Arms, Ray Lane, Barnacre, Garstang, PR3 1GD	Don Moore	01995-602795
Ye Olde Vic	8:30 PM	Ye Olde Vic, 1 Chatham Street, Stockport, Cheshire, SK3 9ED	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	The 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	The Nags Head Inn, Mount Street, Wrexham, LL13 8DW	Ian Chesterman	01978-357307
FRIDAY				
Bollington	8:30 PM	The Dog & Partridge, 97 Palmerston Street, Bollington, SK10 5JX	Arthur Wakefield	01625-573596
Bromley Cross (new member)	8:00 PM	The Railway, 37 Chapeltown Road, Bromley X, Bolton, BL7 9LY	Chris Nash	01204-593224
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
Folk on Friday (ex-Leigh)	8:00 PM	Conservative Club, Railway Road, Leigh, WN7 4AX	Pauline Dowsett	01942-604603
Frodsham	8:30 PM	Conservative Club, 74 Main Street, Frodsham, WA6 7AU	Grace Woods	01925-740422
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	The 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				
Shamrock Promotions	8:00 PM	Mellor Brook Comm. Centre, 7 Whalley Road, Blackburn, BB2 7PR	Janet Aspin	01254-812131
ARTS CENTRES & THEATRES				
Accrington Town Hall	7:00 PM	Blackburn Road, Accrington, Lancashire, BB5 1LA	Box Office	01254-380293
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	Market Street, Bury, Lancashire, BL9 0BW	Box Office	0161-761-2216
Friends of Folk	8:00 PM	Various locations	Jim Minall	01772-422416
Mr Kite Benefits	8:00 PM	Various locations	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	Hope Street, Liverpool, L1 9BP	Box Office	0151-709-3789
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
The Citadel	8:00 PM	Waterloo Street, St Helens, WA10 1PX	Box Office	01744-735436
The Platform	7:30 PM	Station Buildings, Central Promenade, Morecambe, LA4 4DB	Glynis Johnson	01524-582803

3rd MAY to 6th JUNE
(NB: Always check with organisers before travelling)

	3RD MAY	10TH MAY	17TH MAY	24TH MAY	31ST MAY
SUNDAY	JOHN PEARSON Singers Night	DAN McKINNON tba	DAN McKINNON Singers Night	Spring Bank Holiday Singers Night	TOM DOUGHTY Singers Night
Folk at the Manor	Singers Night				
Friends of Folk				KEN NICOL & PHIL COOL	
Kings Lock	Singers Night			"Wine, Women & Song" closed - Bank Holiday	Singers Night
Mr Kite Benefits	closed - Upton Festival				1ST JUNE
MONDAY	4TH MAY	11TH MAY	18TH MAY	25TH MAY	
Wooden Horse					
BAWUP					
Ciwb Gwerin Conwy	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Folk at the Prospect	NANCY KERR & JAMES FAGAN	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Four Fools	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Midway	Singers Night	BRIAN PETERS	Singers Night	Singers Night	NELSON PEACH
Room at the Top	closed - Bank Holiday	Singers Night	Singers Night	closed - Bank Holiday	Singers Night
Skipton Folk Unplugged	BEN NEEDHAM & ROB PETTY	PAMELA WARD & PAUL CHERRINGTON	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
	JOHNNY SILVO	Singers Night	LYNN & BARRIE HARDMAN	Singers Night	2ND JUNE
TUESDAY	5TH MAY	12TH MAY	19TH MAY	26TH MAY	
Acoustic Collective	Singers Night	PETER ALDRIDGE	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Everyman	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Longridge					
Maghull	Singers Night	WARD & CHERRINGTON	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Ring O'Bells	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Sale (new member)	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Urmston Acoustics	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Wigan	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
WEDNESDAY	6TH MAY	13TH MAY	20TH MAY	27TH MAY	3RD JUNE
Alison Arms	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Biddulph up in Arms	Singers & Musicians	FAUSTUS	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians
Burnley	Singers Night	JON BRINDLEY & CHRIS HOWARD	NANCY KERR & JAMES FAGAN	closed	LES BARKER
Clarence	Singers Night				
Garstang Unplugged		Music Session - English		Singers Night	
Ye Olde Vic	7TH MAY	14TH MAY	21ST MAY	Music Session - English	4TH JUNE
THURSDAY					
* & ** Acoustic Collective					
Acoustic Folk at the Nursery				GLOSSOP FOLK TRAIN	
Bury Met	Big Spot - DAVE JONES BATTLEFIELD BAND		Singers Night		Singers Night
Chorlton	Singers Night		Singers Night		Singers Night
Dabbers	Singaround		Singers & Musicians		Singers & Musicians
Earby	Singers & Musicians		Singers & Musicians		Singers & Musicians
Garstang Unplugged	SARAH MacDOUGALL DUO		FAIRPORT CONVENTION		
Bury Met			PETE RIMMER & friends		
Gregson Lane	Singers Night				Singers Night
Heaton Mersey	Singers Night		COLIN HENDERSON & ANDREW JONES		Singers Night
Hungry Horse Acoustic	CLIVE GREGSON			Singers & Musicians	** "Sing in the Festival Night" WIRRAL FOLK ON THE COAST w/e

	7TH MAY	14TH MAY	21ST MAY	28TH MAY	4TH JUNE
THURSDAY cont'd					
Lymm	Singers Night	** BARBARA & PETER SNAPE	Singers Night	RUTH FUGA & KEN POWELL	Singers Night
Pacific Arts Centre		SHOW OF HANDS			
Parkgate					
Southport Arts Centre - @ Old Links Golf Club, Churchtown					* ERIC BOGLE & JOHN MUNRO
Wigan	Singaround	BOO HEWERDINE			
Wrexham	tba		Singers Night		Singaround
FRIDAY	8TH MAY	15TH MAY	22ND MAY	29TH MAY	5TH JUNE
* & ** Biddulph up in Arms		HOT CLUB OF COWTOWN	Singers Night	ALTERNATIVE THERAPY	Singers Night
Bollington	Singers Night	BOB FOX			
Bromley Cross (new member)		BRIAN PETERS & GORDON TYRRALL			
Bury Met (Big Whistle Weekend)		CHRIS WOOD	HOT CLUB OF COWTOWN		
ditto					
ditto					
Carlisle Folk & Blues		TANIA OPLAND & MIKE FREEMAN		MICHAEL MARRA	
Folk on Friday (ex-Leigh)		Singers Night	MARIE LITTLE	Singers Night	COCKERSDALE
Frodsham	TOM BROWNE	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	GUS GLYNN
Northwich	JEZ LOWE	Singers Night	tbc		(Venue to be confirmed)
Porkies		Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	PAUL MILLNES
Preston					STEVE JINSKI
South Lake Music Promotion					WIRRAL FOLK ON THE COAST
Wirral Folk on the Coast					FESTIVAL -- (Day 1)
Festival weekend - (day 1)					SHOW OF HANDS
					CHRIS MORETON
SATURDAY	9TH MAY	16TH MAY	23RD MAY	30TH MAY	6TH JUNE
Bury Met		SALSA CELITICA			
** Pacific Arts Centre		KATE RUSBY			
Platform			JOHN WRIGHT'S BAND	DICK GAUGHAN	
* Sale (new member)					
Wirral Folk on the Coast					WIRRAL FOLK ON THE COAST
Festival weekend - (day 2)					FESTIVAL -- (Day 2)
					GORDON GILTRAP
					THE CHURCHFITTERS
					MIKE SILVER
					LES BARKER, KERFUJFFLE
					SHONA KIPLING
					& DAMIEN O'KANE
					STANLEY ACCRINGTON
					CHRIS MORETON

NB: * = Not the usual night

** = Not the usual venue

Space in the next "Diary Dates Calendar" - Summer edition - of this magazine will cover the period - Sunday 24th May to Saturday 5th September 2009. Club Organisers/Venue Managers are asked to ensure information for this calendar is forwarded to folksingerjohn@aol.com by 13th April 2009.

ADVANCE DATES FROM JUNE 2009



ACOUSTIC COLLECTIVE

June 12/13/14 Whaley Bridge
Water Weekend
June 27/28 Dentsdale Music &
Beer Festival
July 17 - 19 Saddleworth Festival
Sept 25/26 Dukinfield Music Festival

ACOUSTIC FOLK AT THE NURSERY

June 4 Singers Night
June 18 Singers Night
June 26 to 28 Droylsden Folk Festival - Anthony John Clarke
@ Fairfield Golf & Sailing Club
various events at other venues
July 2 Singers Night
July 16 Singers Night
July 30 Singers Night
Aug 13 Big Spot - Keith Northover
Aug 27 Singers Night

BIDDULPH UP IN ARMS

** = Biddulph Town Hall
June 10 John Tams & Barry Coope **
July 9 Eric Bogle & John Munroe **
July 22 Vin Garbutt **

BOTHY

June 7 Singers Night
June 14 Annie Dearman, Vic Gammon & Steve Harrison
June 21 Singers Night
June 28 Jackie Oates & James Dumbleton
July 5 Singers Night
July 12 Tom Bliss
July 19 Singers Night
July 26 Robb Johnson
Summer break - Informal Singarounds
Sept 6 Allan Taylor
Sept 13 Singers Night
Sept 20 Down Trodden String Band
Sept 27 Singers Night
Oct 4 Skyhook
Oct 11 Singers Night
Oct 18 Quicksilver (Hilary Spencer & Grant Baynham)
Oct 25 Singers Night
Nov 1 Peg Leg Ferrett
Dec 13 Sarah McQuaid

BROMLEY CROSS

June 19 Martin Carthy
Sept 18 Tom McConville & David Newey

BURY MET

July 9 Tanglefoot

CARLISLE FOLK & BLUES

June 12 Jon Brindley
June 26 Brooks Williams
July 10 Cara Luft & Hugh McMillan
Sept 4 Singers Night
Sept 18 James Keelaghan trio
Oct 2 Jack McNeil & Charlie Heys

CLARENCE

June 3 Les Barker
June 10 Kieran Halpin

EVERYMAN

July 14 Bill Whaley & Dave Fletcher

FRIENDS OF FOLK

June 24 Peter Knight's Gigspanner
with Roger Flack & Vincent Salzfaas
@ Preston Guild Hall foyer

FOLK AT THE PROSPECT

June 15 Nathan Rogers (Canada)
July 13 Bill Whaley & Dave Fletcher
Aug/Sept tba
Oct 12 Kenny Spiers & Judy Dinning
Nov 16 Anthony John Clarke
Dec 14 Sarah McQuaid
(other dates - Singers Nights)

FOLK ON FRIDAY

June 19 Eric Bogle

FRODSHAM

June 5 Cockersdale
July 3 James Dewdney
August 7 Adrian Schofield (tbc)
Sept 11 Derek Gifford
Oct 2 Colum Sands
Nov 6 Bella Hardy & Chris Sherburn
Dec 4 Grant Baynham
(other dates - Singers Nights)

GARSTANG UNPLUGGED

June 20 Music and Beer Festival
June 24 Singers Night
July 29 Singers Night
Aug 26 Singers Night
Sept 17 Jeff & Vida (duo)
Sept 30 Singers Night
Oct 15 Angie Palmer (duo)
Oct 27 Singers Night
Nov 19 The Carrivick Sisters (duo)
Nov 25 Singers Night

GREGSON LANE

June 4 Singers Night
June 18 Elbow Jane
June 26 Will Kaufman presents Woody Guthrie -
Hard Times & Hard Travelling
July 2 Singers Night
July 16 Marie Little
July 30 Residents Night Special
Aug 13 Singers Night Special
Aug 27 Singers Night Special
Sept 10 Alistair Hulett & Phil Snell
Sept 24 Singers Night
Oct 8 Brian Preston
Oct 22 Singers Night
Oct 30 Friday Night 21st Birthday Special with
The McCalmans
Nov 5 Desi Friel
Nov 19 Singers Night
Dec 3 Derek Gifford
Dec 17 Christmas Singers Night

HUNGRY HORSE ACOUSTIC

June 4 Sing in the Festival Night
@ The OC Club, Bromborough
5th WIRRAL FOLK ON THE COAST FESTIVAL
Show of Hands with Miranda Sykes, Gordon Giltrap, Mike
Silver, Kerfuffle, Anthony John Clarke, Les Barker, The
Churchfitters, Shona Kipling & Damien O'Kane, Elbow Jane,
Stanley Accrington, Joe Topping, Ruth Fuga & Ken Powell,
Chris Moreton, The Bogtrotters, Fiddlestone, Welcomme,
Finnan & Chrimes, Loctuptogether, Shellback Chorus & more
June 11 Singers & Musicians Night
June 18 Singers & Musicians Night
June 25 Singers & Musicians Night

July 2 The Deportees
July 9 Singers & Musicians Night
July 16 Eric Bogle & John Munro
July 23 Singers Night
July 30 Singers & Musicians Night
Aug 6 Pamela Ward & Paul Cherrington
Aug 13 Singers & Musicians Night
Aug 20 Singers & Musicians Night
Aug 27 Singers & Musicians Night
Sept 3 Harvey Andrews
Sept 10 Singers & Musicians Night
Sept 17 Anthony John Clarke (New CD launch night)
Sept 24 Singers & Musicians Night
Oct 1 Elbow Jane
Oct 8 Singers & Musicians Night
Oct 15 Bram Taylor
Oct 22 Singers & Musicians Night
Oct 29 Singers & Musicians Night
Nov 5 Welcomme, Finnan & Chrimes
Nov 12 Singers & Musicians Night
Nov 19 Tom Topping Band
Nov 26 Singers & Musicians Night
Dec 3 Fiddlestone
Dec 10 Singers & Musicians Night
Dec 17 Christmas Party Night

LYMM

June 4 Singers Night
June 11 Graham Bellinger & The Deportees
June 18 Big Spot - Geoff Bibby
Sue & Derek Bradburn
Lymm Festival - June 25 to July 3
June 25 Full House
June 26 Bernard Cromarty
June 27 Vicki Swan & Jonny Dyer
Jun 28 Bob Fox
June 29 Big Spot - Andrew Walpole June 30
Chris While & Julie Matthews
@ Lymm Rugby Club
Kerfuffle @ Lymm Rugby Club
The Perfectly at Home String Band

July 1
July 2
July 3 Festival Ceilidh with Marmalade Band
@ Lymm Methodist Church
Big Spot - Maghull's FBI Blues
July 9 Paul Pearson & Chris
July 16 Singers Night
July 23 Stewart Lever
July 30 (In aid of Warrington Bereavement Support)
Aug 6 Singers Night
Aug 13 Kit Hawes
Aug 20 Big Spot - Lizzie Nunnery
Aug 27 Bernard Cromarty
Sept 3 Singers Night @ Lymm Rugby Club
Sept 10 Celtic @ Lymm Rugby Club
Sept 17 Nancy Kerr & James Fagan

MAGHULL

Jun 2 Nathan Rogers (Canada)
Oct 6 Colum Sands
(other nights - Singers Nights)

NORTHWICH

June 5 Gus Glynn (venue tbc)
Jun 26 Kerfuffle
July 3 Steve Turner
(other nights - Singers Nights)

PARKGATE

June 4 Eric Bogle & John Munro
June 25 Allan Taylor
July 30 Nancy Kerr & James Fagan
Aug 27 Chris While & Julie Matthews

Sept 24 Mike Silver
PLAYHOUSE 2
Oct 22 Uiscewdwr
Oct 24 Norman Prince
Nov 7 Helen Watson with Dave Bowie (double bass)
Mark Cresswell (guitar)
Nov 21 Swing Commanders
Dec 19 St Agnes Fountain

PORKIES

June 5 Paul Millnes
June 19 Tanglefoot
July 3 Ken Nicol & Phil Cool
Aug 7 tba
Sept 4 Allan Taylor
Oct 2 The Churchfitters
Nov 6 Nothing by Chance
(Keith Donnelly & Gilly Derby)
Tom Topping Band

SALE

June 6 Jez Lowe
July 7 Tanglefoot
Oct 17 Johnny Silvo
Nov 14 Real Time

SHAMROCK PROMOTIONS

June 14 Eric Bogle & John Munro
Nov 13 John Spiers & Jon Boden
Dec 5 Ailie Robertson Band
Dec 27 Swing Commanders

SKIPTON FOLK UNPLUGGED

June 1 Singers Night
June 8 Charity Night for Folkheart
June 15 Singers Night
June 22 The Wilsons
June 29 Singers Night
July 6 Singers Night
July 13 Singers Night
July 20 Bob Fox
July 27 Kevin Hall

SOUTH LAKES MUSIC PROMOTION

June 5 Steve Jinski
Oct 2 Angie Palmer Band
Dec 4 Bernard Wrigley

THE PLATFORM

June 26 Cara Dillon

WIGAN

July 2 to 5 Wigan FC Reunion &
45th Birthday Celebrations

WREXHAM

June 12 Lyra Celtica
June 26 Bandersnatch



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Fletcher, Martin Dunn, Peter Tickell, Rachel Newton and others yet to be confirmed.

For more information and enrolment packs please visit www.thesagegateshead.org, call 0191 443 4627 or email sue.griffiths@thesagegateshead.org

The Summer Schools culminate in Folkworks Durham Gathering from 13-15 August - three days of music featuring artists booked for the Folkworks Summer Schools. Events take place Durham City at the Gala Theatre and outdoors - catch up with full details of venues and all artists on our website www.thesagegateshead.org.

BROADSTAIRS FOLK FESTIVAL HOLIDAY WITH SENSE

The credit crunch will make it even harder to go on holiday in 2009 but this could be the year to combine your holiday with a resolution that makes a real difference. Sense - the national charity working with people who are both deaf and blind - is currently looking for volunteers who are interested in folk music to help children and adults have a holiday to remember this summer. The charity will pay for accommodation, food and the cost of activities whilst on the holiday.

Every year Sense organises one week holidays all over the UK for more than 120 deafblind children and adults. This year's holiday at the Broadstairs Folk Festival in Kent, will be right at the heart of the action, staying in a camp site in Yurt!

To find out more about Sense Holidays e-mail holidays@sense.org.uk or call 0845 127 0060 or visit www.sense.org.uk

WHAT'S NEW AT TOWERSEY 2009?

27 - 31 August 2009 will see thousands of people gathering in this Oxfordshire village for a 5-day celebration, a holiday with a difference or, for some, an annual pilgrimage to meet friends, catch up on the year and enjoy what has become know as the landmark music event in 'the little village with BIG ideas'.

We like to keep an eye on the future, whilst celebrating the past. We modernise whilst retaining the old things that our visitors enjoy. We have planned venue upgrades and we often lead the way in festival development. Most of all at Towersey our customers can expect quality and value for money in presentation, facilities and artistic programming. We will pack full this 5-day festival with music, dance, song, entertainment, hands on workshops for all ages, colour, spectacular presentations and wall to wall festival atmosphere from morn' 'til late.

We have welcomed many generations to Towersey from our early days in the 1960's to the present time. Make 2009 your first or come back for the umpteenth time...but don't miss it.

We work over 3 main sites in the village - The Playing Field, which in 2009 will house our bigger and upgraded Concert Stage featuring The Waterson Family, The Spooky Men's Chorale, Karine Polwart Band and many more, our Major Ceilidh Venue (The Old Swan Band and Florida already confirmed) and an improved Children's Centre, with more venues and bigger outdoor space.

For our Season ticket holders and campers on Site 2 and 3 we will open a new 'Chill Out Zone', a gathering point in the middle of the site for that 'coffee and book moment' the 'meet you there

place', the visual arts, the get away from the hubbub space or just a spot to 'chill'.

Alongside all of this we have an ever increasing and energetic young audience getting the Towersey bug. So, Shooting Roots is opening it's doors even wider. A new and bigger space, dance floor, workshop rooms, performance stage, lights, PA and programme 'for young people by young people'. And, settled on Site 2 and next to our recently reloacted box office, the famous Festival Dance House (FDH) will welcome The Imagined Village and many other Headline Artists. Visit www.towerseyfestival.com for updates.

ROY BAILEY AND ALUN PARRY HEAD FESTIVAL FUNDRAISER

Roy Bailey appears at Southport Arts Centre on Friday 24 April at 7 p.m. in a worthy fundraiser for the 2009 Liverpool Working Class Music Festival, which will be on 11-13 September at The New Picket, Jordan Street, Liverpool. Following the success of the inaugural event in September last year as part of the Liverpool Year of Culture, the organiser and founder Alun Parry is planning to make it an annual event. Alun, a fine radical folkster in his own write, supports Roy on the 24th.

The 2008 Festival attracted iconic performers such as Dick Gaughan, Roy Bailey, Leon Rosselson, The Men They Couldn't Hang, and Attila The Stockbroker, amongst others.

Although the line up is yet to be announced you can be sure of equally attractive line up. The festival's aim is to promote songs of struggle, protest and social justice, as well as songs that tell our story.

Roy also appears at The Lowry in Salford Quays on 8 March with Tony Benn in their subversive anthology of dissent in the guise of the highly acclaimed "Writing on the Wall" show.



Alun Parry is acknowledged as one of Liverpool's leading acoustic based performers and songwriters. His albums Corridors of Stone and Liverpool 800 and his work to promote live music have received widespread critical acclaim. Alun releases his latest album, 'We Can Make The World Stop', in August followed by an autumn tour to promote it. Gig dates and more information about the festival can be found at <http://www.parrysongs.com/gigs.cfm>

One to note is that Alun will also be supporting Billy Bragg on May 22nd at the he New Picket in Liverpool, along with David Rovics and Attila The Stockbroker. Visit www.parrysongs.com

ARTIST CORNER



BRIAN BULL

Brian Bull first became interested in English traditional songs while bluffing his way through a degree course at Imperial

THINGWALL RECREATION CENTRE Sparks Lane Heswall Wirral CH61 7XE

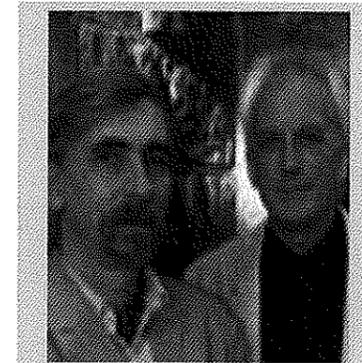
Welcome to our new venue in the heart of one of the Wirral's most vibrant communities.

As you can see we have three of the top names on the folk circuit today, as we continue to strive to bring you the best music on offer. Thingwall Recreation centre provides a concert hall with great acoustics and comfortable seating as well as a conservatory bar off the main hall.

So come along and join us for what promises to be a series of evenings with good music in a convivial atmosphere.

For Tickets and further information please contact Dave & Anne Jones on 0151 648 2014 (daytime) 0151 639 4285 (evenings)

John Tams & Barry Coope



Friday 13th March
2009

John & Barry continue apace collecting awards along the way. John's writing and unique presentation, allied to Barry's keyboard wizardry and soaring harmony vocals make an evening in their company a real occasion.

TANGLEFOOT



Friday 12th June
2009

Sadly for the legion of UK fans this is Tanglefoot's final tour as they plan to disband at the end of 2009. Since their inaugural tour their music has been an annual feature in clubs and at festivals across the UK. So FOOTHEADS don't miss this opportunity to say goodbye to Canada's Finest

WHILE & MATTHEWS



Friday 20th February
2009

The most accomplished folk roots duo in the UK today. Chris & Julie continue to set the standards the rest can only aspire to, as they continue to write and perform new songs whilst not forgetting the material that has served them so well down the years

College, London in the early sixties. With a little help from his friends he started and ran a folk club which hosted all the great names of the time, meanwhile singing and playing guitar with the resident group, 'The Wayfarers'. In the late sixties he and his wife settled in North Wales and, despite the commitments of a young family and the essential day job, he took up the English concertina to complement the guitar playing.



For many years he's been too busy to sing much outside his local club but now that the day job is history he is getting around the folk festivals a bit more and also working part time as Events Manager for the Folk Camps Society, organising their folk holiday events. He has been a regular on the guest list at Chester, Upton and Four Fools Festivals (now the Traditions festival).

He would describe his style as an attempt to synthesise all that he admires in the music of Nic Jones and Alistair Anderson, his favourite musicians. So if that's your kind of music too then you have some idea what to expect from him.

BROOM BEZZUMS



Broom Bezzums is a young folk duo with a fast-growing following of dedicated fans. They delight in a whirlwind of strong musical performances and engaging, cheeky off-the-cuff patter. They are originally from the North East of England although now based in Germany.

I've just seen them at Celtic Connections in Glasgow where they went down very well.

We are looking for UK booking for the boys from 2/11/09 until 20/11/09 with bookings building already. Don't miss them £150 x 80% of door if greater. A snip!

The press proclaims the pair as "congenial, quick-witted and fun-loving", describing their music as "very soulful - a breathtaking fireworks display of technically impressive playing". fRoots magazine described Andrew's self-penned songs as "quite outstanding".

So be prepared for angry worker's songs, groovy instrumentals and lover's lilt - all performed with verve and surety, and with a rapport that just leaps out at you from the stage.

Mark Bloomer: Vocals, guitar, mandolin Andrew Cadie: Vocals, fiddle, guitar, Northumbrian pipes

Listen to them at www.myspace.com/broombezzums
Bob Gilchrist Oscar Music Agency, Glasgow

CARMINA



Celtic jazz-folk pioneers Carmina have released five albums to date and toured all over the world appearing at festivals and venues such as Labadoux, Zwolle, Glastonbury acoustic stage, Edinburgh, Sydney St Patricks Day Parade, Cork Jazz, Madrid Jazz Festival and many more. Their new album My Crescent City is out now.

Carmina are set to play at Dartmouth Music Festival May 8, and Folkwoods Festival, Eindhoven, Noord-Brabant August 15.

Carmina would love to be considered for your 2009 festival. If you'd like any more information or a copy of the album please advise. Carmina are happy to do both full band sets or 3 member acoustic sets.

Carmina appeared live on BBC Lincolnshire Jan 27, BBC Leicestershire Jan 29, BBC Nottingham Jan 31 and live on Janice Long's show on BBC WM on Feb 7.

'absolutely fantastic' - Janice Long - single review of TwentyThree

Celtic jazz-folk pioneers Carmina have released five albums to date and toured all over the world appearing at festivals and venues such as Labadoux, Zwolle, Glastonbury acoustic stage, Edinburgh, Sydney St Patricks Day Parade, Cork Jazz, Madrid Jazz Festival and many more. Their new album My Crescent City is their second collaboration with Irish music legend Donal Lunny, who produced the album. Hailed as 'absolutely gorgeous - a masterpiece' (Frank Hennessey, Celtic Heartbeat); 'a musical feast - 9+/10' (www.folkforum.nl) ***** - Top 5 Folk Albums of 2007' (Nottingham Evening Post), the album is out on i&e records in association with Long Tale Recordings (worldwide digital distribution) and Real World Music Publishing, and has received reviews and airplay internationally.

"a magical, softly-hued pastoral sound...the quality of musicianship of the people with whom Pippa & Rob surround themselves could not be higher - the beauty of their music is quite overwhelming..."
Bristol Evening Post

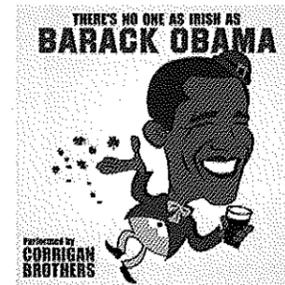
The album line-up boasts some big names on the British and Irish jazz scene as well as two young stars of Irish Traditional music. Singer and songwriter Pippa Marland has "a wondrous voice, capable of enchanting and emoting" (Time Out) and also adds alto and soprano saxes and whistles to the mix of instruments. She and masterful arranger and songwriter Rob King (acoustic guitar, mandola, bodhran), compose the songs around which the band weave their magic. The line-up includes Nic France (drums and percussion); Geoff Castle (keyboards); Diarmaid Moynihan (uilleann pipes, whistles); Chris Haigh (fiddle); David Goodier (double bass) and Brian Morrissey (bodhran, banjo, whistles). The album was recorded and mixed at Westland and Windmill Lane Studios in Dublin which gave the band the opportunity to call in long-time Carmina guest, Irish sax maestro Richie Buckley, and Australian born but current Dublin resident Paul Williamson on flugel horn and trumpet. Donal Lunny produced the album and also guested on bouzouki, acoustic guitar, bodhran and

backing vocals. The result is an album which crosses musical boundaries effortlessly, blending styles organically into a subtle and original sound.

The touring band is drawn from the recording ensemble and features Pippa Marland, Rob King, Geoff Castle, Chris Haigh, Diarmaid Moynihan and Nic France / Roy Dodds / Ian Beestin. All the band are multi-instrumentalists and they present "a superb mix of jazz, folk and celtic crossover music" (Jack McGowran, Director, Cork Jazz Festival)

www.carmina.co.uk
www.myspace.com/carminamusic

CORRIGAN BROTHERS PERFORM AT OBAMA INAUGURATION



"O'Leary, O'Reilly, O'Hare and O'Hara...there's no one as Irish as Barack O'Bama!" London-based Irish band The Corrigan Brothers were invited to perform their hit song "There's No One as Irish as Barack O'Bama" at the Presidential Inauguration Ceremony in Washington DC on January 20th.

President-elect Obama heard their song during his election campaign and invited the Notting Hill based act to perform at the day parade on the Irish American float, and again in the evening at Barack's inauguration party.

In addition to writing the song the band have also researched Obama's Irish family tree and found out that his great, great, great grandfather, Falmouth Kearney, was born in Moneygall, County Offaly before emigrating to the US in 1850. The brothers personally traced Barack Obama's Irish descendants back six generations and have now found his Irish relatives in the UK and Eire.

The huge success of the song on the Internet, where it's had over million viewers on You Tube, has prompted them to get a record deal with Universal Records and the song is out now. Since then, they have appeared on TV shows all over the world with their catchy song. Notable performances include; The Late Late Show in Ireland, BBC1's Andrew Marr Show, CBS's Early Show in New York and MSNBC's Hardball Show. The band has also appeared in Newsweek magazine.

The Corrigan Brothers, who were brought up in Limerick and are now based in London, played live on election night in Moneygall, where Obama's Irish roots originate from Ger Corrigan says of the background to the song: "We heard that Obama's ancestors were from Moneygall via the local rector Canon Stephen Neill and it inspired us to come up with something about his link to Moneygall, just for the pure fun of it."

As the great man himself said recently to ITN: "There's a little village in Ireland where my great-great-great grandfather came from and I'm looking forward to going there and having a pint." Not since JFK has there been as much global excitement and hope for an incoming U.S. President, and not since JFK has there been a more Irish President than Barack O'Bama!

DAMIEN BARBER

Those of you who have checked out our video footage of the York Theatre Royal gig in May will have noticed 'Swampy' beatboxing with the clog & break dancers. Swampy also performed at the

Folk Awards and is all set to join us at a number of festivals this year. Check him out in our videos:

Damien & Mike's debut album is now available via our website and should be in the shops in the next few weeks. Organisers and media please contact Damien direct for your promo copy.

"Damien plays a hell of a concertina and shows all the signs of becoming a strong, strong singer" Peter Bellamy 1991

DEMON BARBERS

What a great start to the year! Demon Barbers were all so happy to have been nominated for Best Live Act and to be invited to perform at the Radio 2 Folk Awards that it didn't occur to them that they might actually win!



They were up against some stiff competition with Seth Lakeman, Bellowhead & Lau all being previous winners at the awards.

There's some footage of them performing and also being presented with the award on the Radio 2 website

STEVE FORBERT



Sweet, disillusioned, magically perceptive songs. ...his gorgeously ragged voice makes every song a soulful lament, making him a sort of male Billie Holiday with his singersongwriter rock genre... Mr Forbet's hope spun lyrics are delectable." Stephen Merritt New York Times, his debut record, 'Alive On Arrival', was released in 1978. Like a lot of other talented singer/songwriters who happened to play acoustic guitar and a harp-on-a-rack, Forbet was hailed by critics and promoters alike as yet another 'next Dylan'. Despite

that awkward baggage, "Alive On Arrival" was extremely well received, and 1979's follow-up, "Jackrabbit Slim", proceeded to crack to top 20 on the strength of it's remarkable hit single, "Romeo's Tune."

For great artists fantastic music and amazing live shows. Andy Cooper - Mob +44(0)7825 512 168 - Tel +44(0)1332 384518 andy@tomtommusic.co.uk - www.tomtommusic.co.uk

CLIVE GREGSON

More than 25 years as a performing musician and Clive's on as fine form as ever and following the release of a Best of Clive Gregson compilation last autumn, will be celebrating a brand new release in spring 2009.

Born and raised in Manchester but based in Nashville, Clive Gregson is an accomplished singer, musician and record

producer of world-renown. He first attracted attention back in 1980, when his now legendary band Any Trouble burst onto the music scene. Their come-back album Life in Reverse is out now!



In 1985, he formed the groundbreaking partnership with Christine Collister and toured with the Richard Thompson Band. He's also toured with Eddi Reader, Boo Hewerdine, Nanci Griffith and Dennis Locorriere. He's one of the most respected songwriters of his time, producing a steady stream of stunning albums throughout his career. Mary Chapin Carpenter named Clive Gregson as one of her favourite songwriters. Melody Maker described Any Trouble, as

the most exciting new rock 'n' roll group since The Pretenders and according to Guitar Player, he is one of the 1000 great guitarists.

Artists who have recorded his songs include Kim Carnes, Fairport Convention, Claire Martin, Norma Waterson and Nanci Griffith, who recorded I Love This Town on her number one chart topping album.

Clive plays the Hungry Horse Folk Club at Ellesmere Port on 7 May (see diary pages) and then on 23 May the Playhouse 2 at Shaw near Oldham tel 01706 847494. Clive also returns to the UK for more dates in November. Visit www.clivegregson.com & www.myspace.com/clivegregson for further information and music samples.

ISAMBARDE

Coventry based Isambarde - the trio - played their first local gig in April 2002. With a powerful blend of traditional and contemporary folk songs, taking the English tradition forward into the 21st century, they've made a lot of friends and drawn a lot of attention during the last seven years. Young they may be, but they've served their apprenticeship at clubs and festivals all over the country, collecting songs, tunes and friends along the way.



"For me Isambarde walked away with the crown for the best performance. This was the 2nd year for Isambarde at Chester Folk Festival and the band just gets stronger and stronger." - Green Man Review

"Isambarde are a folk band with tremendous energy and enthusiasm. They are the unusual and winning combination of Chris's driving guitar, Emily's incisive fiddle playing and Jude's lyrical oboe coupled with great full on vocal harmonies.

They play a great set and are an asset to any festival bill. Book 'em!!" - Phil Beer

Jacey Bedford Tour Management agency@jacey-bedford.com
Phone UK(01484)606230 www.jacey-bedford.com
10 Park Head, Birdsedge, Huddersfield, HD8 8XW. England

MARK GWYNNE JONES

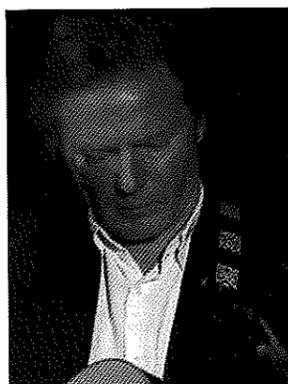


The king of mind-altering verse.. A powerful act capable of transforming the mundane into magical landscapes and leading an audience through bewildered innocence to laughter and dance.

Mixing contemporary narratives with ethnic percussion, piano, kora and flute, the Psychicbread underscore and empower the spoken word. The sound is fresh yet the form is an old one. It is that of the Griot or bard. For this show draws on an ancient tradition yet tackles the complexities of our changing world with a beautiful and savage humour.
Generally available

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REG MEUROSS



One of Britain's finest singer songwriters showcasing material from his new CD Dragonfly; a collection of modern folk songs written around stories gathered from three years of rural touring in England.

Reg has released five solo albums to date featuring the cream of British folk/acoustic & country musicians. On Dragonfly, he's enlisted the talents of Jackie Oates, Barney Morse-Brown, John "Rabbit" Bundrick, Simon

Edwards, Tim Harries and Roy Dodds. 14 beautiful, moving and uplifting new songs covering diverse stories like that of the real Dick Turpin: Lizzie Loved a Highwayman; the tragedy of two young lovers from Bowes: Martha Went Down to the Well and the story of Private Harry Farr, the first WWI Soldier executed for "desertion" to receive a pardon; And Jesus Wept.

Reg supports Hank Wangford on several dates in March in Cumbria and the North East including: 12th - Greenhead Village Hall, Brampton. Contact 01434 320481; 14th - Tebay Sports and Social Club, Penrith, Cumbria. Contact 015396 24203; 15th -



Wirral Folk on the Coast Festival

Fri 5th, Sat 6th & Sun 7th June 2009

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with Miranda Sykes

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ANTHONY JOHN CLARKE * KERFUFFLE
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Melmerby Village Hall, Cumbria. Contact 01768 881291; and 21st - Watson Hall, Castle Carrock, Carlisle, Cumbria. Contact 01228 670054; www.regmeuross.com & www.myspace.com/regmeuross

LIAM ROBINSON



Liam Robinson performs traditional English folk songs and accompanies himself on concertina, melodeon and banjo. His repertoire is drawn from his native Lincolnshire and also includes a broad variety of sea songs and shanties.

Liam is a renowned leader of workshops, seminars and teaching sessions on traditional music, dance and song. He appears regularly at festivals, concerts and events across the UK, Europe and the USA.

Contact (+44) 01522 560 163 liam@minimorris.co.uk www.myspace.com/liamrobinsonlincs www.minimorris.co.uk

STEVE TILSTON



On Steve Tilston's most recent CD Ziggurat, he deftly weaves his mastery on a dozen new insightful songs of love, loss, war and gold plus reworking 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 others. He's also renowned for the way he takes a favourite traditional "old chestnut" and makes it his own.

His career was recently marked by the release of Reaching Back a 5-CD boxed-set retrospective. But not one to stand still and with "Madame Muse" at his heels, Steve is "reaching forward" with this new collection. Tours solo or with Dave Bowie &/or Chris Parkinson. These include: March 7th the Playhouse 2 at Shaw near Oldham tel 01706 847494; March 26th - Parkgate FC on The Wirral (see diary pages); April 24th - the Dog & Partridge at Bollington and on July 4th at The Llandudno Arts and Music Festival. You can get further details at: www.stevetilston.com & www.myspace.com/stevetilston

STEPHEN FEARING

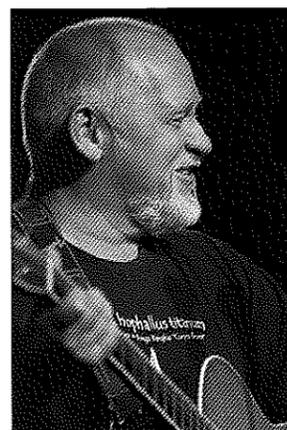


Stephen Fearing is one of Canada's most respected performers. His latest album Yellowjacket on True North Records is his eighth solo release. A stunning guitar player with a smooth, intimate and powerful voice, over the last twenty years he's penned some of the most literate, stirring and

emotionally charged "folk" music you're likely to hear. Beguiling Eyes was covered by Gregson & Collister and more recently up-and-coming jazz star Gwyneth Herbert.

Without question Stephen Fearing is one of the finest singer-songwriters working today and a joy to work with. He counts fellow Canadian James Keelaghan and our own Martyn Joseph as fans. In 2007 Stephen won a Juno (Canadian Grammy) for Yellowjacket and English Songwriter of the year (Canadian Folk Awards) also for Yellowjacket in 2006. He has a busy time ahead touring and recording with Canadian super-group Blackie & The Rodeo Kings but will release his "Best Of" collection early next year. You can see him at Biddulph Folk Club on 4 May Tel: 01782 514896. Visit www.stephenfearing.com and www.myspace.com/stephenfearing for more information.

BOGLE TO START LAST UK TOUR



Eric Bogle and John Munro's 2009 UK tour begins in May. And to avoid any doubt that this is to be Eric's last UK tour, it's to be entitled the "Waltzing Matilda No More", tour.

One of Australia's eminent singer/songwriters, Eric Bogle has been sharing his unique Scotsman-goes-down-under view since the late-'70s. His songs, including "And the Band Played Waltzing Matilda," "Leaving Nancy," "Nobody's Moggy Now," and "Little Gomez," have been covered by a growing list of artists, including

June Tabor, the Pogues, Mary Black, Donovan, Billy Bragg, and the Dubliners. The Fureys' rendition of "No Man's Land (Green Fields of France)" spent 26 weeks on the Irish music charts, including ten weeks at the top position. The son of a bagpipe player, Bogle wrote poetry at the age of eight.

Influenced by Elvis Presley and Lonnie Donegan, he taught himself to play guitar and joined a series of rock and skiffle bands. A career in music was the furthest thing from Bogle's mind, however. After leaving school at the age of 16, he worked a variety of jobs, including manual labourer, export clerk, and bartender.

Moving to Australia, in 1969, to work as an accountant, Bogle soon connected with a folk club in Canberra and became immersed in the country's acoustic music scene. His first song to capture international attention, "And the Band Played Waltzing Matilda," was inspired by watching an ANZAC march in Canberra, and was originally 15 minutes long. "No Man's Land (Green Fields of France)," which was written after a visit to a military cemetery in northern France, reflected Bogle's continuing fascination with World War I.

Dates in and around the North West include: JUNE 4th Wirral Parkgate Folk Club; 14th Mellor Brook (Lancs); 19th Leigh (Lancs) Folk Club; and 21st Beverley & East Riding Folk Festival

Visit Eric's website for more details: <http://ericbogle.net/>

MULDOON'S PICNIC

Muldoon's Picnic are a five-part harmony singing group based in the lovely green city of Glasgow. Their repertoire is highly eclectic and ranges from the sublime to the ridiculous: everything

DIDIER BOUGON Facteur d'Orgues de Barbarie



Le Ragas Les Hautes Brigières

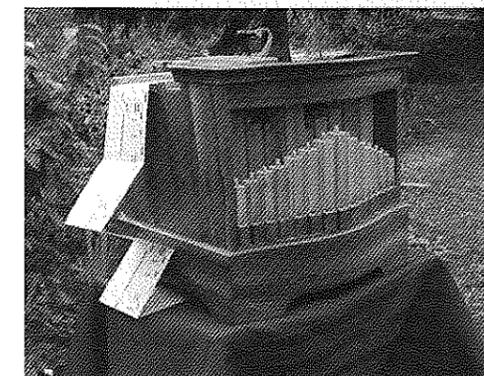
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String Band
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Strawhead
Young'uns**

Triban
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Shake the Roots
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John Prentice
Hissyfit
Zoe Mulford
Tony Downes

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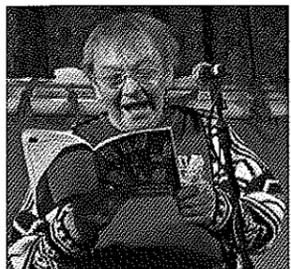
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or visit our website at :
www.safra.org.uk



from folk songs to world music to spirituals to barbershop to music hall to sea shanties to Victorian parlour music, mostly in their own arrangements. They appear in the North West at the Traditions Festival from 26-28 June at Lostock Hall, Preston.

Visit www.muldoonspicnic.org.uk & www.virtualfestivals.com/the-traditions-festival-2009 for further information.

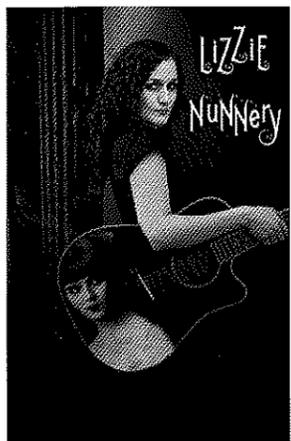
LES BARKER FOR POET LAUREATE



Les Barker reports in his February newsletter. "There was a surprising development last month; There's a petition for me to be made Poet Laureate at <http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/LesBarkerPoet/> It comes somewhere after restoring flowers to roundabouts in Loughborough. I'm not entirely sure I'd want the job; it depends on the job description. But I'm probably fairly safe."

The deadline for signing the petition is 9 April. Around 500 had already signed up at time of going to press.

LIZZIE NUNNERY



Lizzie Nunnery has stories to tell and a voice to make you listen. Songwriter, playwright and surely one of the most refreshing and creative new talents to emerge from Liverpool City of Culture, often accompanied by Norwegian musician Vidar, her future is bright.

Lizzie is a 26-year-old singer songwriter. Following the self-release of her EP, "Monkeys and Devils," in 2006 she has played a host of venues around the UK including supporting J.D Souther, Little Feat, Jim Moray and Tobias

Froberg. She has made several appearances on BBC Radio, including a live performance on BBC Radio 3.

She was the BBC Liverpool unsigned artist of the month for November 2006 and is also an award winning playwright, with her most recent stage play "Intemperance," receiving a 5 star review in the Guardian.

She is currently under commission to BBC Radio 4 to write a play with songs entitled "The Singer". Her eagerly anticipated second EP, "Hungry" was released in March 2008.

On 1st March she appears at the Bothy Folk Club in Southport, on 10th March at Mellow Folk, Slater Street, Liverpool and on 6th June at Wirral Folk On The Coast Festival.

For a taster of 'Hungry' and further details of gigs etc go to: www.myspace.com/lizzienunnery

CHUMBAWAMBA



The well known rebellious band Chumbawamba are back on tour in March, which includes a couple of North West gigs. Their harmony voices, guitars, brass & accordian are combined with a mix of traditional English folk, a-cappella song and skewed pop; from great tales of history rebellion to cutting contemporary satire.

On 4th they are at the Live Lounge at Baby Blue, Edward Pavillion, Albert Dock, Liverpool and the following day at the Burnley Mechanics tel 01282 664400. Visit www.chumba.com for further details.

RACHEL HARRINGTON PLAYS MIDDLEWICH



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. She 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.

You can see her at the Ironworks, Oswestry on 14 May, the Middlewich Folk and Boat festival on 21 June and, on 26 June, she performs at the Southport Arts Centre. Visit www.rachelharrington.net and www.myspace.com/rachelharrington

TANNAHILL WEAVERS CELEBRATE 40 YEARS TOGETHER

The Tannahill Weavers are one of Scotland's premier traditional bands. Their diverse repertoire spans the centuries with fire-driven instrumentals, topical songs, and original ballads and lullabies. Their music demonstrates to old and young alike the rich and varied musical heritage of the Celtic people. These versatile musicians have received worldwide accolades consistently over the years for their exuberant performances and outstanding recording efforts that seemingly can't get better... yet continue to do just that.

The Tannahills have turned their acoustic excitement loose on audiences with an electrifying effect. They have that unique combination of traditional melodies, driving rhythmic



accompaniment, and rich vocals that make their performances unforgettable. This year they celebrate 40 years of making what they describe as "pretty good music". They play the Met at Bury on 9 April.

Visit www.tannahillweavers.com and www.myspace.com/tannahillweavers for more details.

VIN "VIRGINIA" BARRETT



Born in Manchester, Vin moved with her family to a small Cheshire village when she was a teenager. Signing up at Chester College to study English and drama, she began busking to make a bit of extra cash. This led to fronting a rock and blues band, 'Hank and the Wolf' The band spent their first year in France and Spain playing covers with a few originals thrown in. However, Vin's love for writing songs was beginning to develop.

A few years in a noisy rock band, and she began to crave a more acoustic, laid back accompaniment, creating a platform for the voice and melody. Today's performances are uncluttered and spacious; Vin's voice and fingerpicked guitar style complemented to superb effect by guitarist, Stewart Lupton.

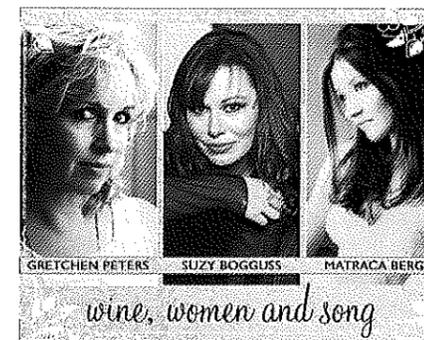
The musical comparisons have ranged from Joni Mitchell and Carole King, all the way to Nick Cave and Tom Waits, but Vin sounds most of all like herself.

There is a unique and timeless quality about her songs. They feel familiar, yet fresh and different. She has a beautiful, warm, distinctive voice and is a fine lyricist. Her songs evenly distribute pure poetry; raw sensuality and kitchen sink irony.

Although generally categorised as British acoustic/contemporary folk/blues/jazz, Vin recently won thousands of new listeners from the world of dance music, as collaboration with deep house band, Mettle Music climbed high in the UK Dance chart. 'Capture' was then released on to 'Bar De Lune's 'Celtic Beats' album, sitting comfortably alongside Sinead O Connor and Sarah McLachlan.

Vin is currently in the studio working on another album. For further information including latest gigs, visit her website: www.vinbarrett.co.uk

"WINE, WOMEN AND SONG"

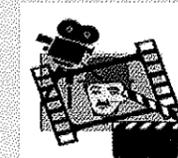


"Wine, Women and Song" featuring Matraca Berg, Suzy Bogguss and Gretchen Peters is special event that takes place on Sunday May 24th, 2009 in one the Mr Kite benefit concerts that this time takes place The Lowry, Salford Quays. Tickets £19 are available from Box Office on 0870-787-5793 or online at www.thelowry.com or phone 0870 787 5780.

What happens when you put three women - three critically acclaimed singer songwriters, three old friends, three artists with three unique voices - on a stage together with some guitars and a bottle of good cabernet? You get Wine, Women and Song.

All these artists have won Country Music Association awards for their contributions to the world of music and return to the UK following their highly successful tour of 2007. Each one could entertain you for the evening, appearing together makes for a night that Maverick magazine described as 'pure magic'. More at www.mrkite.org/benefits.htm

NEWSREEL



LIVING TRADITION: NEWSLETTER

LIVING TRADITION SUMMER SCHOOLS: (Advance Notice) We founded the Living Tradition because we were activists working with this music and we firmly believe that a continued involvement as activists is essential to the relevance of the magazine. The Living Tradition Summer Schools are not the only thing that we do - most of our writers and many readers are also actively involved in events and teaching - but it is a core part of our wider commitment to encourage the 'passing on of traditions'. At this time of year, many of you will be looking forward to summer holidays. We spent many years where a festival was at the heart of our annual holiday. Our summer schools offer a similar experience. Check out what we have on offer at www.livingtradition.org.uk/summerschools/

READERS OFFER CDs: The Listening Post. We started selling CDs as a 'service' to our readers, many of whom found it hard to find this specialist music in the shop. Much of what we sell is surprisingly difficult for us to find and at times but we want to continue to help make these available. We have stocks of lots of wonderful recordings on our shelves. Many of these are listed in the 'Reader Offers' section of our website. Can I encourage

you to have a look through these. Could I also put in a plug for our own 'Tradition Bearers' recordings. Our 'Scots Songs & Ballads' series has been recognised as a real treasury of Scots traditional songs, sung by some of the best singers of this generation. We are selling these as an 8 CD set at a special price. There are also recordings from other noted singers including Chris Foster, Steve Turner, Sara Grey and Kieron Means.

The next issue of Living Tradition is our January/February edition, out early in January. We wish you all the best for the festive season and we hope that 2009 is a good year for all of us. Pete Heywood, Editor www.livingtradition.org.uk

FIRE, FEASTS & FROLICS



The English Folk Dance and Song Society are delighted to present an exhibition of work from serial-archivist Doc Rowe. For over forty years, Doc Rowe has been consistently recording and filming cultural tradition and vernacular arts, folklore, song and dance of Britain and Ireland. Continual documentation of annual events, using a wide variety of media, has resulted in a unique archive of images, film, video and audio recordings on past and contemporary popular culture and vernacular art. With its particular emphasis

on seasonal custom, the collection has won international recognition.

Starting in 1963, with a Mayday visit to Padstow in Cornwall, a passionate interest in people's art and celebration has led Doc on annual visits to events such as the Abbots Bromley Horn Dance in Staffordshire; the Haxey Hood Game in Lincolnshire; the Burry Man of South Queensferry in West Lothian. This exhibition is seen foremost as a celebration of the diversity, vitality and richness of the organic, living vernacular and participatory arts found in the contemporary folk culture of these islands - generally unknown, overlooked and, all too often, trivially treated. This exhibition also features models created by Doc and his partner, Jill Pidd.

The exhibition runs from Friday 30 January to Saturday 25 April, Tuesday to Saturday, 10am to 5pm. Admission Free. Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, Camden, London NW1 7AY

FIDDLES ON FIRE The Sage Gateshead Saturday 11th - Sunday 12th April 2009

It's certainly going to be an egg-citing Easter Weekend at The Sage Gateshead as the third Fiddles on Fire festival kicks off in style! Join us for a cracking collection of fiddle events including large scale concerts, an egg-tensive workshop programme, intimate recitals, dancing, sessions in The Fiddle Lounge, free performances and loads more.

The whole building is set to come alive with fiddle music representing a huge variety of styles and traditions. There is a strong Nordic influence this year with players from Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark - while we're joined once more by old favourites and new friends from other parts of the world.

This egg-stravagant line-up includes: Aly Bain and Phil Cunningham, Blazin' Fiddles and Friends, Harald Haugaard Trio,

Bruce Molsky, Annbjørg Lien, Frigg and Baltic Crossing, Paddy Glackin, Tim Kliphuis, Ilana Cravitz, Emma Reid, Ellika Frisell, Methera, Stewart Hardy and Frank McLaughlin, 'Hungarian Dances' with author Jessica Duchon and Northern Sinfonia's leader Bradley Creswick, plus many more.

The concert programme sits side by side with a workshop programme, inviting players of all abilities (including absolute beginners, beginners, intermediate, advanced, those new to folk fiddle music and children) to come and learn new tunes, styles and techniques; plus a unique opportunity for violin teachers to experience first-hand the revolutionary approach to string teaching in the Nordic countries. Just before the final concert of the festival begins, hundreds of participants expected to take part in workshops and sessions over the weekend are invited to storm Hall One stage for The Big Fiddle!

Tickets start from £8 - book online at www.thesagegateshead.org, in person at The Sage Gateshead's Ticket Office or by calling 0191 443 4661.

Concert listings:

Saturday 11th April

Hall Two, 11am
Sound Bites: Fiddle Family Concert!

Is it a fiddle? Is it a violin? Who are its cousins? This concert for children and their families is an exciting and entertaining exploration of the fiddle and the music it plays. There'll be familiar tunes, new ones and some surprises and you'll hear music to make the heart sing and the feet tap... maybe we'll even find the answers to those questions along the way.
Tickets: £8

Hall Two, 12.45pm
Annbjørg Lien

Annbjørg is one of Norway's most outstanding fiddlers and renowned for her mastery of the Hardanger fiddle - a stringed instrument very similar to the violin, but with strings on two levels: the bottom strings resonate under the influence of the top four, producing a haunting sound. Annbjørg has a solid basis in traditional music, but is never afraid of crossing musical borders. Her collaborations with musicians from all over the world and the inspiration she takes from other cultures have made her a top performer of world music as well as Norwegian folk music. "Start out with a razor-sharp Hardanger technique. Add a fearless sense of musical adventure. Top it off with the ability to weave the threads of Norwegian, Celtic, jazz, and avant-garde musics into a wild, dazzling sonic tapestry. Mix these ingredients together and you get Annbjørg Lien." *RootsWorld*
Tickets: £8

Northern Rock Foundation Hall, 1pm
The Fiddle Lounge

Free fiddle session space with impromptu performances. Everyone is welcome to drop in and play or just come and listen.
Free

Hall Two, 2.30pm
Bruce Molsky

"He may have been born in the Bronx, but Bruce Molsky's musical spirit was formed somewhere between the hills of Kentucky, the Mississippi Delta and a Bulgarian village wedding" says *The Herald*. This gives a pretty good idea of Molsky's music - old-time fiddle tunes, Delta blues, Appalachian soul, cowboy ballads, plus

a good dose of a broad range of cultures from the folk music of Eastern Europe to the haunting strains of Irish music to the barn-storming fun of Balkan dances. A nimble-fingered fiddler, Molsky is also quite at home with the guitar or banjo in hand or singing, and presents all of this music with an engaging on-stage manner overlaid with great knowledge and enthusiasm.
Tickets: £8

Hall Two, 4.15pm
Harald Haugaard Trio

Harald Haugaard is one of the most sensational musicians on the Danish music scene, an electrifying musical force, deeply rooted in the tradition of Danish folk music but also constantly breaking boundaries. He is known for his work with the folk-fusion band Serras, the techno-folk band Sorten Muld and particularly for his duo with Morton Høirup.

For this concert, we are delighted to welcome him to Fiddles on Fire with his new trio. Haugaard's style as fiddler is playful, light and elegant but also dramatic, melancholic and sometimes diabolic. He is an engaging performer of wonderful music that is full of life. *fRoots* declared him one of the three best fiddlers in the world!
Tickets: £8

Gateshead Heritage Centre, St Mary's Church
(next to The Sage Gateshead), 5.15pm
Stewart Hardy and Frank McLaughlin

Fiddle virtuoso Stewart Hardy and Scottish guitarist/piper Frank McLaughlin possess a rare musical kinship, holding listeners spellbound with their interplay as they explore music rooted in the traditions of Scotland, the Borders and Northumbria, while incorporating sensibilities from the worlds of classical, blues, klezmer and jazz. Stewart Hardy is one of the most exciting fiddle players in the North East of England. Much in demand as a session player and fiddle tutor, he spent six years as an influential member of the very popular John Wright Band and has performed throughout the world in other contexts, playing many genres of music. Frank McLaughlin is a first-class guitarist and piper who has worked with many top musicians on the Scottish scene.
Tickets: £8

Hall Two, 6pm
Bradley Creswick and Jessica Duchon: 'Hungarian Dances'

A unique event uniting author and passionate soloist in an enthralling mix of words and music. Author Jessica Duchon reads from her novel 'Hungarian Dances', the powerful story of a Hungarian gypsy violinist who becomes a leading classical soloist - richly musically illustrated by Northern Sinfonia's Leader, Bradley Creswick, who loves this musical repertoire. The novel is alive with the music of Ravel's 'Tzigane', Bartók's 'Romanian Dances', Dohnányi's 'Andante Rubato alla Zingaresca', Brahms' 'Hungarian Dance no.2' and pieces in Gypsy style by Hubay and Scarlataescu.
Tickets: £10

Hall One, 8pm
Aly Bain and Phil Cunningham

Aly Bain is one of Scotland's supreme traditional style fiddlers. His playing is unique - driving, impassioned and pure - with vibrant, unmistakable tone. As a founding member of Boys of the Lough, Aly has toured extensively in America, Europe and the UK. He's received an MBE and four doctorates in recognition of his work. Phil Cunningham is a world famous accordion player and composer (he was nominated in 1996 in *The Scotsman* as one of Scotland's most influential people). In recent years

Phil's workload has included numerous commissions for TV and film and an increasing amount of work as musical director for television and large theatrical events. Together Aly and Phil make a magical partnership, voted 'Best Duo' at the 2005 BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards. They are "simply the best traditional musicians you are ever likely to hear" (*The Herald*).
Tickets: £16.50

Hall Two, 10.30pm
Frigg and Baltic Crossing: Late Night Dance Concert

Late night concert with energetic music from two hugely exciting bands. Frigg describes itself as "hot fiddles from cool Scandinavia". With members from Norway, Denmark and Finland (including three members of the Järvelä family of JPP fame), the band plays exciting Nordic music with that characteristic 'swing' that sets it apart, putting a contemporary twist on traditional heritage. Baltic Crossing's members hail from the UK, Finland and Denmark, combining fiery Scandinavian fiddles, bubbling Northumbrian pipes, and a driving guitar and double rhythm section, using its strong affinity for old dance music and respect for each other's traditions to bring a new youthful energy to the folk music of Europe.
Tickets: £10 (club style/standing)

Sunday 12th April

Hall Two, 12.45pm
Paddy Glackin

Paddy Glackin is one of the leading Irish fiddlers of the late twentieth/early twenty-first century: he was the original fiddler with the group Seachtar, which became better known as The Bothy Band. In fact, Glackin left The Bothies when the band turned professional, and to this day, Glackin has not given up 'the day job' as a producer for RTÉ: however, music has remained a passion, and he has played with artists as diverse as Van Morrison, Paul Brady, Kate Bush and John Cage. He grew up in Dublin, but his father was from Donegal, and his style reflects the traditions of Donegal. We are delighted that this low-key but hugely influential talent is joining us for the festival.
Tickets: £8

Northern Rock Foundation Hall, 1pm
The Fiddle Lounge

Free fiddle session space with impromptu performances. Everyone is welcome to drop in and play or just come and listen.
Free

Hall Two, 2.30pm
Tim Kliphuis

Dutchman Tim Kliphuis ranks among the world's finest jazz violinists, and he has often been dubbed the successor of Stéphane Grappelli. Tim's music blends gypsy swing, classical and folk into a "swingly, zingy mix" (*The Herald*) that crosses boundaries in a fresh style with wide appeal. Tim's "funky slurs" and "whooping hoedown flourishes" (*Time Out*) and his "elegant tone and carefree spirit" (*The Scotsman*) have charmed audiences around the world. Tim teams up with jazz guitarist James Birkett, who is a specialist in the classic swing of Eddie Lang and Carl Kress (the two founding fathers of jazz guitar, who both played with The Paul Whiteman Orchestra in the 1920s). A hot forty-five minutes of Grappelli favourites, timeless classical themes and famous Celtic folk tunes all thrown together.
Tickets: £8

Hall Two, 4.15pm
Ilana Cravitz: Klezmer Fiddle

Klezmer is the traditional celebration music of East European Jewry, played at weddings, bar mitzvahs and many other 'simkhes', or happy occasions. In turn euphoric and heart-wrenching, its beauty and high emotion make it mesmerising music, whether at the gatherings it is associated with or in the concert hall. Ilana Cravitz is a klezmer fiddler, specializing in this celebratory repertoire that has been played for hundreds of years by Jewish musicians. She is an outstanding performer, specialising in klezmer ceildhs, and a recognised authority and teacher of klezmer traditions. She is the latest link in a musical chain stretching back centuries, having learned aurally from living exponents of the tradition and through recorded sources dating back to the dawn of the recording era.

Tickets: £8

Hall Two, 6pm
Emma and Ellika and Methera: Musical Dialogues from England and Sweden

The superb Anglo-Swedish fiddler Emma Reid, born in Northumberland, embodies the strength of the connections between Swedish and English traditional music - in her own playing style, her choice of repertoire, and in the musicians she works with. Some of those appear alongside her at this concert, including Methera (of which she is a member) and her Swedish fiddle teacher, the acclaimed performer Ellika Frisell. Ellika is one of the

foremost exponents of Swedish folk music, but she is also fascinated and influenced by South Indian classical music and Iranian folk music. To have pupil and teacher on stage together should create a very special live atmosphere. Methera unites the rich texture of the string quartet with the depth and integrity of traditional music from England and beyond. The musicians weave old and contemporary tunes into the tapestry of the string quartet.

Tickets: £10

Hall One, 7.45pm
Blazin' Fiddles and Friends
Blazin' Fiddles; Bruce Molsky; Annbjørg Lien; Harald Hugaard; Aidan O'Rourke with the Folk and Traditional Music Degree's fiddle ensemble and members of Folkestra

The Big Fiddle, 7.45pm
Blazin' Fiddles and Friends, 8pm

Scottish group Blazin' Fiddles features five fiddlers plus guitar and keyboards. Drawing on the traditions of each player's home region, the music ranges from searing solos to barn storming ensemble pieces. Blazin' Fiddles have been raising the roof of venues from village halls to the Royal Albert Hall for more than ten years: help them to celebrate with a gala-style concert taking advantage of the amazing range of fiddlers assembled for the festival - Bruce Molsky, master of the American old time fiddle; Annbjørg Lien, goddess of the Norwegian fiddle and long time collaborator of band member Catriona Macdonald; and Harald Hugaard, Danish fiddler extraordinaire. The concert opens with a new work from band member Aidan O'Rourke, commissioned by Folkworks, especially for the fiddle ensemble from the Folk and Traditional Music Degree run by Newcastle University in conjunction with The Sage Gateshead, plus members of Folkestra, one of The Sage Gateshead's outstanding regional youth ensembles. The fiddle ensemble, who meet under the direction of Catriona Macdonald, will also perform some of their own exciting repertoire. The concert is preceded by The Big Fiddle overture at 7.45pm - all fiddle players who take part in workshops and sessions over the weekend are invited to come

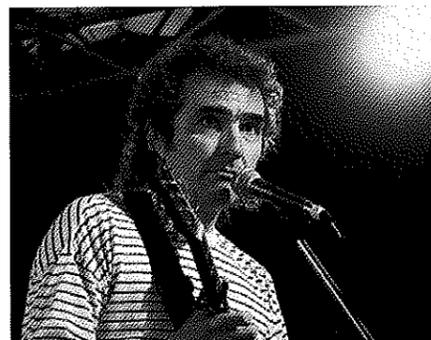
together on the Hall One stage for some storming tunes!
Tickets: £16.50

Fiddles on Fire festival continues Wednesday 15th - Saturday 18th April at Kings Place, London - in the stunning new venue close to King's Cross station: see their website for more details www.kingsplace.co.uk.

THE GAINSBOROUGH PACKET

BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art is delighted to announce a solo exhibition, The Gainsborough Packet, by Becks Futures Prize winner and locally based artist Matt Stokes. The Gainsborough Packet engages with folk traditions, contemporary music videos and popular culture, and is produced with a particular sensitivity to the shared legacy of folk music in Camden, London and NewcastleGateshead. The film is the culmination of a year's research and development, which began with Stokes's discovery in the Tyne & Wear Archives of a letter written in 1828 by an ordinary man named John Burdikin living in Newcastle upon-Tyne. Tracing the adventures of Burdikin's life, the letter was the inspiration for lyrics, music and a 16mm film created by Stokes and his collaborators on the project. For The Gainsborough Packet, Stokes has collaborated with musician Jon Boden from acclaimed folk-big-band Bellowhead, composer Alistair Anderson, who is one of the UK's leading exponents of the folk tradition and co-founder of The Sage Gateshead's Folkworks, and Tim Kerr, an iconic figure of the US punk and early hardcore scene. (Wed 4 March - Sun 10 May 2009)

JEZ LOWE'S MIDNIGHT MAIL



As we write Jez is in New Zealand, where his tour with Kate Bramley started at Auckland Folk Festival last weekend. It's an unusual tour for the pair, as they do not usually perform as fully-fledged duo, and they are taking the time to perform a carefully selected repertoire that includes songs from Kate's solo album LITTLE CANAAN, alongside some rarely performed Jez Lowe songs like YOU AND YOUR GOLDEN VANITY, DRY SEASON LAND and even a new song or two, one of which, entitled BARE KNUCKLE seems to be making quite an impression on those who have heard it so far. The tour continues through New Zealand for another ten days, before Jez and Kate make their way to Australia for club and festival dates until early March.

Upon his return to the UK, Jez will be immediately involved in Shrewsbury Festival's DARWIN PROJECT, a coming-together of some of the leading folk writers and performers of the day, which culminates in a special concert at Shrewsbury Theatre on March 20th. Keep an eye on Jez's website at www.jezlowe.com for the chance to win a pair of tickets for this very special show, in a competition that will be coming up soon.

Other news - Jez is confirmed for a solo appearance at the

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Anna Massie Band
Belinda O'Hooley & Heidi Tidow
Bruce Molsky (USA)
Curtis Eller (USA)
Spencer Bohren (USA)
subject to contract

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Elbow Jane

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Old Songs Festival in Albany, New York in late June, as well as a long list of UK festivals, with and without the Bad Pennies throughout the summer.

The recent live album NORTHERN ECHOES continues to be lavished with good reviews in the music press. It is available mail-order via www.jezlowe.com along with all of Jez's other Tantobie releases and songbooks. Watch the press too for some upcoming articles on the band. UK magazine Rock and Reel are planning something for the very near future, we're told. News from Jez and Kate's tour down-under will be updated on the news pages of www.jezlowe.com as the trip continues. There's also another Badapple Theatre production on the way in May, so we'll be telling you more about that next time.

MARCH 13 - 19 - Jez solo - The Darwin Project, Shrewsbury
 MARCH 27 - House Concert, Westhoughton, Lancs.
 MAY 8 JEZ SOLO Northwich Folk Club
 MAY 30 BAD PENNIES Playhouse, Oldham

BROMLEY CROSS FOLK CLUB

Colin, the manager at The Railway, has asked if Bromley Cross Folk Club is willing to organise a singers and musicians night on the first Friday of each month. He would like it to be held downstairs on the slightly raised area which is more secluded from the rest of the pub, behind a wall, away from the pool table and television. He will turn off the "musac" as soon as we are ready to start at 8.00pm.

Mike & Kath Simmons and Heather Dunn have kindly offered to get the first night started and we know that plenty of you want to perform. So here is your chance to do your material in relaxed and friendly surroundings and even better there is no charge! The first singers and musicians night will be on Friday, 6 March from 8.00pm.

Please let your friends know. Provided we get good support this will be a regular monthly event.

Trio Threalfall are our guests on Friday, 27 March. Tickets are now available for sale to club members from Elaine and will go on general sale from Friday, 27 Feb. This is the date of our Bernard Wrigley guest night, a tickets only event which is sold out. However, there may be 1 or 2 tickets returned in the next 2 weeks, so if you or your friends want to go on a waiting list for Bernard Wrigley, please contact Elaine on 01204 885277.

This Monday, 15 Feb is the next musicians night at The Chetham, Chapeltown.

A date for your diary - look out for Estonian Bagpipers Roto:Ro who appear at The Barlow Institute, Edgworth, 8.00pm on Sunday, 29 March. More details nearer the time.

Hope to see you soon.
 Chris Nash & Nick Mallion Bromley Cross Folk Club

SPOTLIGHT ON SALE FOLK CLUB



A grand concert programme has been launched at the new Sale Folk Club. In these times of the credit crunch and with the closure of the highly rated Westhoughton Folk Club and Maghull Day of Music it is nice to report the successful opening of the new Sale Folk Club. At the time Jim Clarke, the secretary of the United

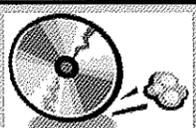
Services Club, Southern Road, Sale, Manchester M33 6HQ, was looking for ways to increase the club's revenue and he thought of folk music. The grapevine very soon brought about a meeting with Don and Heather Davies (ex Railway Folk Club) who, after an absence from the folk scene of nearly six years, were very easily tempted to make a comeback. The new club was launched in this high quality venue with both an intimate singaround room for up to 70 people and a concert room for up to 150.

Initially the club was founded on weekly singer's night in response to the apparent lack of opportunity for singers, musicians and poets to perform. It was opened on 27th October and, with between 35 and 55 performers and listeners and strong support from the United Services Club, the organisers have quickly arranged a series of monthly Special Concerts which was launched on 24th January 2009 by Bernard Wrigley, the Bolton Bullfrog.

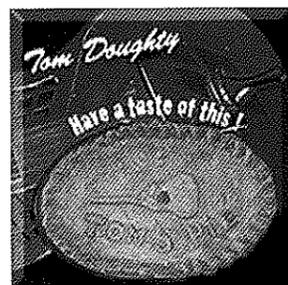
He will be followed by a formidable list of folk heavyweights including Harvey Andrews, Jez Lowe, Tanglefoot, John Wright's Band, the re-formed Garva, Anthony John Clarke, Johnny Silvo, Real Time and Vin Garbutt.

For further information and tickets see our advertisement on www.salefolkclub.co.uk or contact Don Davies 0161 4324317 or e.mail at info@salefolkclub.co.uk

CD REVIEWS



TOM DOUGHTY- Have A Taste Of This! Own label www.tomdoughty.com



"You might think it a limiting way to play a guitar - flat on your lap, making the chords and the notes using a metal and glass tube" says Frodsham-born, Northwich-based Tom in the liner notes to this, his 3rd album, neatly summing up the methodology which has informed his essentially blues-based style and content.

'Taste' makes its intentions clear from the start, as Tom lets loose a slew of stinging, atmospheric guitar lines on 'Way Down By The River.' The bulk of early acoustic blues was born of emotional unease and sorrow, but this opener is an affirmation of love and understanding whilst the following 'Journey Blues' name-checking Tommy Johnson (1896-1956) pointedly avers that life was not so for those Delta pioneers.

The songs Doughty covers, travel from Dylan through Randy Newman and nose their way into the great US songbook. ('One For My Baby') and I'm sure 'Queen Of Tarts' has its origins in a song collected by Baring-Gould that Joan Baez made her own? The original material is equally well-honed;- the graceful 'Maggie's Pies' flowing with an autumnal yet oddly comforting sadness, and contrasting with Tom's biting and magnificent 'Zimbabwe Blues' with its finger-pointing denouncement of "shattered dreams and shattered schemes."

"the limitations of (my) instrument and style of playing coupled



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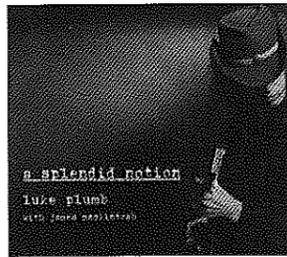
with the inexact nature of hand movement, only serve to increase (the) musical imagination" continue the notes touched upon earlier.

Tom Doughty has that musical vision in spades. With a trip to the USA fixed up for later this year, and the likes of Woody Mann and Bob Brozman singing his praises, it seems like he's fired other imaginations too.

This album has a subtle and unforced feel; it's fresh, resonant and full of promise. It knows where it comes from and where it's headed, and like Tom's faithful Donegal mongrel Frank, has plenty of bite!

Clive Pownceby

LUKE PLUMB - A Splendid Notion (Shoogleg Records: Shoogleg 08009)



My twin brother Chris and I were inspired to pick up the mandolin as our weapon of choice by the sadly departed and much missed Louis McManus of the Bushwackers Band and in an indirect way so was Mr Plumb who credits him in his sleeve notes. Now this is how I like to hear the mandolin (ie: without

chord backing from guitar or bouzouki) clutter free with the exception of tasteful percussive input from James MacKintosh and an astonishing amount of digital dexterity from the protagonist. You see, in the right hands the mandolin should be able to provide its own driving rhythm and by gentle use of dynamics alone as demonstrated magnificently on the track "The Gallowglass/Trip To Sligo/Cook In The Kitchen" you don't need to be a 'speed merchant' which Luke proves time and again. It's refreshing to see liberal use of some real traditional tunes including "Battle Of The Somme", "Drunken Landlady" and "The Snuff Wife" and with the occasional interloping of an Ed Reavey and Sean Ryan tune this is as near perfect a recording as I could wish for. More info from www.lukeplumb.com

Pete Fyfe

THE SANDS FAMILY - Keep On Singing (SCD 1056)



The Sands Family from Northern Ireland have forged quite a reputation for themselves over four decades of performing. They have a distinctive sound that has endeared them to audiences the length and breadth of the province and far beyond.

Anne, Ben, Tommy and Colum however are much more than a

"family band", they are talented singer/songwriters in their own right and also enjoy solo careers.

"Keep on Singing", is their new album as a family and there is certainly something for every taste contained in its twelve tracks. Colum sings, "Dan McGra", a traditional song which he remembers his parents singing in the 70's, it's a night visiting song with more than a touch of humour.

Mayobridge, Co. Down was where the family was brought up, the house was constantly filled with music, "In My Mother's House", is sung by Anne and harks back to those traditional Irish evenings. The people of Ireland down through the years

travelled far and wide looking for a better life, now things are reversed with many travelling to Ireland in search of their Eldorado.

Tommy wrote and performs the title track, "Keep on Singing", a dark song of how, sadly, things used to be. Again, Colum injects a smile into the proceedings with, "Look Where I've Ended Up Now".

I'm sure many of you will recognise the sentiments of, "The Cheesecake Song". Love does strange things to otherwise intelligent people.

"The Fox's Conversation", is a conversation between the aforementioned and the roosters, you can only guess what happens, a song that only Irish folklore could attest to. Children sadly grow up and flee the nest, but always return at some point. "I Will Always Love You", is a real heartfelt sentiment put so succinctly by Anne.

"I Turned Round", is a phrase used by those in the province who said they turned round before doing or saying something. Tommy wrote and sings the powerful, "Time For Asking Why", a song for America not against it. Just do as I say, but don't do as I do.

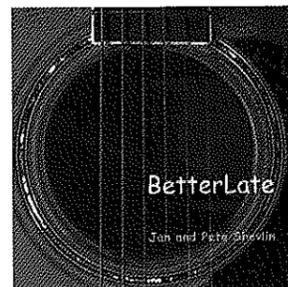
My favourite track is "The Bridge of Mayo", an old song with new words added by the Sands family. It's a spot near where they grew up. A song with an eminently singable refrain. Ben translated this traditional song from the Irish Gaelic, "The Dark Slender Boy", in this case being the demon drink.

After listening to one too many stories Tommy penned "Rambling and Roving". Is it really as bad as it seems when you're feeling low?

This CD is a delightful listen, full of twists and turns by a group who quite obviously enjoy performing. I just hope they will take some time out to tour on this side of the Irish Sea.

David Jones

JAN & PETE SHEVLIN - BetterLate (own label)



What a lovely CD! - A well-balanced mixture of traditional and contemporary material, loads of stuff you'll know and one or two less familiar. Jan's voice is crystal clear and melodic, with excellent diction (extremely important and so often overlooked). Pete's accompanying guitar is subtle, enhances and never detracts from the song, just as it should

be. Exactly the same can be said for Pete's harmonies. They are gentle, and match Jan's voice so very well.

The traditional collection include "Broome of the Cowdenknowes", "Verdant Braes of Skreen", "I wish, I wish", "Time wears awa", "Do you love an apple" and "Come all ye". There's not a lot I can say about these except they are well known and loved by those of us who enjoy the tradition, and they are beautifully executed. In the same ilk is a haunting version of "Call the Yowes" by Isabel (Tibby) Pagan which predates Robbie Burns' version although they do use a verse from Burns as well.

"Waterlily" by Karine Polwart remembers the senselessness of

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the Serbian/Bosnian war in a poignant song. On the other hand the second of Karine's songs is the "gasman song" properly named "John C Clarke", very witty and totally different, but still making a point - a house full of laughter is no bad thing.

Pete and Jan use an arrangement by Danu of Paul Brady's "Follow on" and it suits their voices and style perfectly. It's not really been one of my favourite songs but it is growing on me now. A very atmospheric song is "Arrow and heart" by Eamon Friel from Northern Ireland, whose work I have not encountered before, but it conjures up beautiful pictures of a windswept beach at dusk.

Now I know most other people like it, but I have a problem with Mary Asquith's "Closing time". It does nothing for me at all and though it's well performed, I still can't work up much enthusiasm, but that's just me. Pete's guitar on "Foolish You" by Wade Hemsworth just makes me want to dance. Apparently the said Mr Hemsworth made his second CD at the age of 79. If this song is anything to go by he must have been a lively 79! To complete the collection there is the timeless "Rosemary's Sister" by Huw Williams. There have been so many versions and this one is one of the best I have heard, not over emotive but sensitively performed.

All in all it's a cracking CD and a credit to Jan and Pete. This is their first CD; they've not waited quite as long as Wade Hemsworth, but they should have done it sooner. Such talent we've been missing.

The CD was produced by Paul Adshead at Stable Studios, Denshaw, Saddleworth, and I'm sure you could obtain a copy by emailing peteandjan@betterlate.co.uk

Kath Holden

DVD REVIEW

MORRIS: A LIFE WITH BELLS ON (Twist Films)



This is a warm film in that oh so British way and if it were available on general release would I'm sure prove every bit as popular as any Ealing movie! I first came across the trailer for it via the SEFAN website (for which, much thanks) and thought it looked highly amusing. I suppose at first glance it will be seen as a Morris Mens doffing of the cap to the World's greatest documentary "Spinal Tap" but that would be to under value the time and effort spent nurturing this little gem. Characters such as a very Henry Kipper-ish Aloysius "Pauncefoot" Stavelly, Squire of Rimpton Morris 1959-1975 and the wonderfully Squired Professor Compton Chamberlayne are textbook creations only topped by the presence of Charles Thomas Oldham as Derecq Twist the central character and Aidan McArdle as the 'Producer'.

The offices of the Morris Circle and its head Derek Jacobi (yes, I did say Derek Jacobi who hams it up with a more than accurate

portrayal of the general public's view of a stiff-upper lipped Morris dancer) are a far cry from the hallowed halls of Cecil Sharp House and look totally out of place from the traditional setting of the piece - nice touch! All of the actors have to be applauded for their performances throughout that are faultless and (dare one say it) near the Morris knuckle. By the way, the young lady playing the part of the Men's nutrition/medical officer Skye Le Cornu (Lucy Akhurst) would be enough on her own to make any red-blooded male want to sign up to Morris dancing. Both the real producers (Akhurst & Thomas Oldham) should be well chuffed with what is one of the finest comedies I have seen in a long while. Now, I hate to think how much it cost them to put the whole show on the road but I hope they make it available for general release on DVD and that every Morris side in the country obtains a copy. If, by gently poking fun at a great institution some should see this film as slanderous to the dancers efforts then I can honestly say "...get a life!"

Pete Fyfe

THE HULL STORY (MWMDVD 72)



Tribute and charity concerts appear to be two a penny in the North East (I wish they did in the South East too!) and at least everybody knows how to enjoy themselves.

For this particular concert take one of the best ever 'folk' songwriters and add some tasty musicians to the mix and you really have cause to celebrate. Alan Hull provided some of the most memorable songs and hooks in folk-rock and along with the rest of his band mates in Lindisfarne created music that is timeless.

Just scanning the sleeve notes for the songs including "United States Of Mind", "Scarecrow Song" and "River" is like re-awakening my misspent youth at the Greyhound in Croydon where I first saw the band perform. I can still vividly see Alan holding court along with the majestic sounds of Ray Jackson's tuneful harmonica and the whole audience trying to be Geordie for the night. But, I digress from what is a truly special souvenir of this more recent concert on 19th November 2005 when the massed ranks of Lindisfarne past and present drew a packed audience to the hallowed Newcastle City Hall.

Featuring an array of special guests including Tim Healey, Prelude, Ian McCallum (of Stiff Little Fingers fame) and Jimmy Nail's subtle theatrical rendering of "This Heart Of Mine" the audience must have been in seventh heaven - I know I would have been. I knew practically every song and as much as everyone else who attended that night felt proud to be part of the Tyneside tradition.

Talking of tradition, the Kathryn Tickell Band gave a tremendous performance featuring a compilation of Hull's melodies that was both inventive and smile inducing in its individuality. Of course, no show of this kind would be complete without some great singers and in this we had the glorious tones of Billy Mitchell, Ray Jackson and Marty Craggs... all seasoned professionals and of course band members in Lindisfarne finishing with a well deserved standing ovation for the anthem "Run For Home". All I can say is I wish I had been there in person... in the meantime, this DVD will do nicely. www.mawson-wareham.com

Pete Fyfe



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PRESS RELEASES



FOLK - THE BIG GATHERING

From the 20th - 23rd November, at the Eastwood Hall Conference Centre, Nottingham, over 330 delegates gathered for the Folk Industry and AFO Conference. The four-day event attracted the largest number of delegates ever for a specialist genre arts Conference. With over 80 speakers and panellists, 25 trade stands (10 of which were artists agents), countless label managers, musicians, promoters, festival organisers, local authority & venue bookers and folk activists, this was a landmark event for Folk Music.

Director of FolkArts England, Steve Heap, wrote in the agenda brochure that the credit crunch would be a challenge, but folk music had met big challenges in the past and survived and although this would be a tough one, the folk music world could pull together and get through with singer songwriters, promoters and organisers, traditionalists, development workers and activists working together to keep folk music on top, where it has been in recent years.

The Conference opened with A Practical Guide for Folk Development Practitioners, an intensive Training session, run by Paul Wilson (Wren Music) and Laurel Swift (Artistic Director, Shooting Roots). The day then moved on to Developing an Artistic Career, with key speakers from MusicLeader, PRS, record management and distribution, major artists, Arts Council England, Musicians Benevolent Fund and some of the most prominent managers and promoters in the acoustic music scene.

The second day kicked off with A Practical Training session for Creative Community Projects, lead by Joan Crump, Nikki Hampson and Damien Barber and played to a full house of prospective development workers, focusing on planning, participation, fundraising, publicity and marketing, evaluation and legacy. Meanwhile the Focus Day on Promoting Folk brought together some big professionals from the Folk and Acoustic music world, representing PR promotion, national journalists, agents and managers, venue promoters, and IT experts, who worked in 15 sessions to over 100 dedicated activists.

Friday evening saw a gathering of 200 festival organisers take the reins through to the Conference close on Sunday afternoon. With lots of valuable networking and plenty of business being done they worked through 27 different sessions with panellists and keynote speakers on IT, trustees and governance, legal issues, volunteers, festival decoration, noise at work, risk assessment, stakeholders' expectations, sustainability and many other issues.

The Conference also played host to two major Showcases. The first being led by Magpie's Nest (a London acoustic club) featured old folk, new folk, no folk and played to a packed house. The Association of Festival Organisers Showcase presented some of the scene's most exciting new artists including Heidi Talbot, John Smith and the Uiscedwr Big Band, who played to over 200 potential bookers.

The Conference was rounded off with a call to action for folk roots and acoustic music and in particular the festival scene to go out, plan 2009, in the knowledge that folk music is still on the crest of a wave. Closing the event the director said "We have

major audiences out there and credit crunch or not, we have an opportunity to further extend our audience and genre"

Delegates will be invited back in 2009, from 19th - 22nd November to see how the "folk boom" has coped with the credit crunch.

MUSIC TO OUR EARS

The Social Enterprise Loan Fund has provided a loan of £20,000 to CORE Music in Hexham, Northumberland, to purchase start up stock for a new retail outlet.

CORE Music is Community Interest Company which encourages and promotes supported musical activities to those with disabilities, poor mental health and the socially excluded. It aims to provide opportunities for involvement in music for people of all ages, abilities and personal circumstances. Profits made are reinvested in the community to provide more music based services to those who cannot afford to pay for them.

The business has just set up a store to sell musical instruments, equipment and accessories, which will not only provide an income stream, but also opportunities for volunteering and eventual employment for people interested in music and an affordable source of music equipment.

Income raised through the store will help to fund the organisation's outreach activities, such as workshops and school music groups. The new premises will also act as a base for other proposed activities including access to demo recording facilities for groups, community groups and individuals.

To find out more about CORE Music CIC and their new store visit www.coremusic.co.uk or phone 01434 601993. For more information about TSELF visit www.tself.org.uk or phone 0207680 1028.



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