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SUMMER EDITION 2009
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Bakhoon

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING HERE AND ELSEWHERE

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Fantastic CD. So listenable, there's so much in it. The front cover is fantastic: 36
small pictures. Every time I look at the CD, I'm seeing something different. They're
telling me a story. Oh, India is my favorite. I'm just so envious of the life she's led.
- Ali O'Brien, 'All O'Brien's Sounds of Folk' on Oldham Community Radio, Oldham, UK •
**Finally Lorelei Loveridge, our visitor from Canada,
entertained us royally with some from her latest album of which I
Need To Go and Home Is Where The Heart Is, accompanied by
Zoe Mulford, were outstanding.** - Don and Heather Davies, Sale Folk
Club, Sale • Wow!! I'm sincerely enjoying these songs and can't
believe how well she tells a story in the lyrics. A lot of
singer-songwriters think they have that ability but really don't. Lorelei
does and it's clear she's actually spent time in some of these places.
Lived it. Not just travelled through in a 5-star. - Daniel Thompson,
MyExpatriot.com Radio DJ, Dubai, UAE • **Don't miss her
world; don't miss her.** - Debbie Busby, Acoustic Collective,
Dukinfield Folk Club

www.loreleiloveridge.com

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



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EDITORIAL

Well it is with some considerable emotion that I write as editor of Folk North West for the last time. I have really enjoyed working on the magazine from the Autumn Issue 1997 when I helped Nigel Firth to put that issue together so as to be able to "fly solo" for the Winter Edition 1997. How the years fly by!

I must pay tribute to all my colleagues who have worked together to keep you up to date on folk activities in the North West. Paul and Kath Holden have been the backbone of the magazine for the past 25 years. They have ensured that we continued to remain viable through seeking out advertising, managing subscriptions and distributing each issue of the magazine to the member clubs. Kath also ensured that the finances were kept in order (it is rumoured that she is going to work for a political party to control their expenses).

Lewis Jones has done a fantastic job sorting out the quarterly jumble of e mails I send him and putting the relevant information into each section of the magazine so that I can then easily paste it into the final copy. He has also contributed many excellent reviews and new ideas for the magazine.

John Owen has my admiration for being fantastically successful in persuading you all to part with your most closely guarded secrets for the Diary Dates and Advance Dates and setting them out in a clear and logical fashion.

Dave Jones has kept us supplied with reviews and photos for the front cover and kept us in order. Mark Dowding has kept the website up to date and full of interest. Well done both.

Thank you all and good fortune. Ken Bladen

CHAIRMAN'S JOTTINGS

For the Folk North West magazine and organisation this issue marks the end of an era. After 25 years the couple who have lived and breathed this magazine are retiring.

Kath and Paul Holden had become synonymous with FNW as they continually strived to keep it viable as well as being the link to all of our subscribers and advertisers.

Kath has worked tirelessly in her dual roll of Subscription Secretary and Treasurer. All those of you who subscribe I know will miss her friendliness and gentle reminders to keep your subs on track. In her treasurers role she has been responsible for keeping FNW solvent !!

Paul has regularly cajoled people to advertise within our pages, not always an easy task, especially in these tough financial times, but he has always come up with the goods, again bringing in much needed revenue.

When I first joined FNW over 10 years ago, they made me feel very welcome and from that day on we became firm friends.

I shall miss their collective wisdom on all matters to do with FNW, but I'm sure like me you will wish them all the very best on a well earned retirement.
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
7.00 - 9.00pm 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

12.30 - 6.00am BBC Radio Scotland - CELTIC ZONE with various presenters
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

MW 810
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

LIVE REVIEWS



KIERAN HALPIN 'House Concert' at Wheatsheaf Inn, Nomansheath, Cheshire on 18th January 2009



One of the nice things about the Folk scene is all the friends that you make by visiting different Festivals and over the past few years we have made the acquaintance of Jim Bell and Charlotte Tommins through Chester

and Fylde Festivals. They have become great supporters of our own Festival at Banbury.

So when we got an invite to attend the "Gathering" in January this year, which is an event to celebrate Charlotte's birthday, we were delighted to join in the fun, especially as this was no ordinary party, but featured singer/songwriter, Kieran Halpin, in an intimate pub venue near Malpas.

How we have managed to miss Kieran before, I don't know, as he has a pedigree spanning some 30 years, with 17 albums to his name. His song writing is prolific and artists such as Vin Garbutt, Dolores Keane, Tom McConville, Niamh Parsons, The Battlefield Band, Flossie and the late great John Wright, who was a close friend of Kieran's, have covered his songs.

On arrival, Derek was cajoled by Jim into being MC, in the absence of Dave Jones, who was attending Celtic Connections as a "stand in" for Alan Bell. The afternoon was kicked off by local musician, John Parsons, whose gentle renditions of numbers such as Richard Thompson's 'Beeswing' and 'Hey! Sandy!' written by Harvey Andrews set the tone for an extremely pleasant afternoon.

Then came Kieran, whose songs have a passion and intensity, which really hit home, with their thought provoking lyrics and sensitive guitar accompaniment. Kieran has just returned from a year touring Australia and New Zealand with his family and his 2,000 miles of travel was summed up in a new song 'Found Australia'.

His song, 'The deal we made with god', dedicated to his partner Maggie, is a touching love song and a contrast from some of his more hard-hitting material. This is the title track of Kieran's new album, released in February (contact his website www.kieranhalpin.com to order a copy). Also on this album is Kieran's song written for John Wright, 'So-long John!' which he also performed at the Gathering, bringing a lump to many a throat, when he sang, "Some will miss the singer, many will miss the song, but I will miss my Friend, So-long John!"

Of course being a party, there was also a delicious buffet at half-time and Charlotte received some interesting presents, not least a penguin umbrella, but everyone was eager to get back to Kieran. In the second half, Kieran performed some of his better known numbers, such as 'Nothing to show for it all' and 'The Perfect Time.' For his encore, Kieran finished up with 'No Turning

Back' with the line, "No turning back, before you get much older." With birthdays like these - it's worth getting older!

Mary Droscher

(Ed - Derek and Mary Droscher are the Organisers of Banbury Folk Festival, which is on 9th - 11th October. www.banburyfolkfestival.co.uk)

ELBOW JANE -Live At Pacific Road - Friday 7th March 2009



The evening saw the launch of Elbow Jane's latest CD '3-Side Island'. The title of the CD comes from the Wirral Peninsula which has water on three sides.

The concert opened with 'Long

May You Stand' taken from the band's previous CD 'England Stone' and written by Richie Woods and Kevin Byrne. Since writing this song, it has taken on a different meaning for members of the band as Kevin explains it reminds him of the one time he met singer John Wright and how warm and bright he was but he died before they could meet again.

Next they moved on to 'Hope and Glory' off the new album, again written by Richie about the trials and tribulations of Liverpool and it's Capital of Culture year 2008. Then came a song of Joe Topping's called 'Leaves on the Line' about how the little things in life mean such a lot. A few small mistakes can build up to something huge and end in the breakdown of a relationship.

They then decided to do a Simon and Garfunkel song 'Still Crazy After all These Years' sung superbly by Richie, his voice strong and haunting, sending cold shivers down my spine, and Joe's playing of the mouth organ adding an excellent touch.

Next was 'Ecclesiastes' that Kevin and Richie have been singing since they were 19 years old, it is a song based on the Old Testament which moved on to another of Richie's new songs 'Take Some Time', the lyrics of which are made up of general comments in everyday life and talks about the credit crunch and how ambitions can turn to dust.

Joe's song 'Lord Willing' is about Cyril a 94 year old man who had been married for 60 years when his wife died. Cyril's family were concerned that after such a long time together he may not be able to go on without his wife but Cyril felt that he was too busy to die. He still had things to do in his life but a year later whilst visiting his wife's grave and telling her how much he was missing her, he lay down on the grave and went to sleep never to awaken.

To liven things up again, Kevin's song 'Sole Survivor' was next written with the Duchess of York in mind and tells the old tale of when the ravens leave the Tower of London, the monarchy will fall and perish.

James Taylor's 'Shower the People' closed the first set and what a beautiful rendition of the song it was. The second set started with Lennon and McCartney's 'Something', a very romantic song but not an easy one to sing so close to Liverpool but Elbow Jane pulled it off magnificently. They then moved in to another new track from the album 'So the Story Goes' which Richie wrote about his Grandad being shot in the back in the war.

Next came a tribute to John Lennon 'Catcher in the Rye' based on an idea that after Mark Chapman's death, they meet again and John can't believe Mark's not in hell and Mark can't believe John's not in heaven. Joe takes the part of Mark Chapman and Richie, John Lennon. (It's allowed when you've written it) They then moved on to 'St Theresa' from 'England Stone' which has also been covered by Joan Osborne, next came the title track off the latest CD '3-Side Island' which again is sung by Richie and speaks of family attachment. 'Walk Beside Me' came next, sung by Joe, showing how inevitable it is to say goodbye.

'One Beat Away' is about a nation obsessed with chasing money, working hard and wanting material things but not actually communicating, followed by a blues number, James Taylor's 'Steamroller Blues' sung and played brilliantly by Richie on guitar with Joe on mouth organ.

The ever popular 'England Stone' followed, this started life by being a song about the Mersey Tunnel being built but then moved onto other things, martyrs, war and then people in general so each verse has it's own story.

All too soon the concert was at an end and the last song was 'Dead and Gone' a McGuinness Flint hit that the audience clapped and sang along to. Of course the boys weren't going to be allowed to finish there and so to resounding applause and shouts for more they returned to the stage to do one more. 'Lean on Me' which Joe is getting himself quite a reputation for singing.

All in all a memorable concert from a band destined, I feel, for greater things and a new CD that takes them onto another level not forgetting of course Kevin's impersonation of 'Eagle' from the Muppets which has to be seen to be believed, an impersonation that is far too good to be healthy for anyone, quite sad really.

Anne Jones

LONNIE DONEGAN BAND (featuring Peter Donegan) at Viking Club, Selsey on 12th April 2009



The first thing that strikes you as you enter the Viking Club in Selsey is how kitsch it all is. If you didn't know better you'd think you were in a roadhouse in Texas and all that was missing were the brawls and broken glass. Well, there may well have been some broken glass (but I

didn't see any) and whilst some of the audience were wearing cowboy shirts they were more civilised and it was obvious they were here to witness the son of a legend... and I don't use that term lightly.

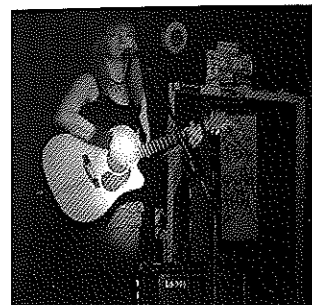
Re-creating that raunchy country-rock 'feel' Peter Donegan proves a more than capable front man utilising guitar, banjo, and piano aided by Lonnie's original band members. Starting with 'Jack O' Diamonds' in a whirlwind delivery of licks that would make your fingers smart lead guitarist Paul Henry shone like the proverbial beacon joined by Eddie Masters on bass and Chris Hunt's drums. Scarcely pausing for breath we were treated to many standards including "Battle Of New Orleans", "Tom Dooley" and of course "My Old Man's A Dustman"... all classics and all revered by a more than eager crowd. The hits came fast and furious and Peter's own compositions nestled comfortably within the set which, before long sadly was all over. Personally

Rob Dunford

I can't wait to see the band again and preferably sooner than later. www.peterdonegan.com

Pete Fyfe

Val Marshall at Garstang Unplugged at the Kenlis Arms, Barnacre, Garstang on Thursday, 16th April, 2009.
Support - Jamie Brewer.



Val Marshall's visit to Garstang was an all too rare trip to the right side of the Pennines by the Hull based singer and songwriter. Even better, she brought her regular band, John Cox, on guitar, and Dave Holley on mandolin, dobro and lead guitar.

The songs were Val's own. They're an upbeat collection, drifting between Americana, modern folk, and alt-country. It's an eclectic mix of subjects too, with a fine interpretation of the universal truths which go into a great song. The voice is pleasantly toned; no particular accent, but more importantly, no pseudo mid-Atlantic phrasing. It's always clear and in tune. Dave and John provided a full accompaniment, in a varied set, which never palled.

Then there were the songs themselves. 'Cupid's Butterfly' rolls lazily; a tale of a lost romance. 'Who's Crying Now' is more reflective. 'Can't Let Go' takes the pace up again. 'Diamonds and Pearls' is a song written for a friend's wedding. The trouble with listing song titles is that you can't get a flavour of them from titles alone. They really exist to be heard, and this lot are well worth the effort. My own favourite of the set, 'Love's Ghost', the title track from the latest cd, is almost perfect when heard live. Val explains 'it makes me think of Californian canyon light, sierras, a hitcher by the road and a girl driving with her heart full of sadness but determination to start again elsewhere'. Dave's dobro solo was the icing on the cake. Pure joy.

Jamie Brewer is one of those individuals, almost unique, who can fret the instrument held conventionally or across the knee, with both hands, in a variety of tunings, and beat a rhythm all at the same time. It was virtuosity exemplified, particularly in his versions of Eric Roche's arrangements of 'She Drives Me Crazy' and 'Jump'. He made it all look simple; even re-tuning in mid set. Not only could he do this with a six string, but also with a twelve string. 'How does he do that?' was the question most asked by those who hadn't seen him before.

It was an excellent evening. Garstang Unplugged's belated first guest night of the year has set a standard that's going to be difficult to beat.

Web references <http://www.myspace.com/valeriemarshall> <http://www.myspace.com/jamiebreweracoustic>
<http://www.garstangunplugged.com>

Don Moore.

STEELEYE SPAN at the Ashcroft Theatre, Croydon on 22.April 2009

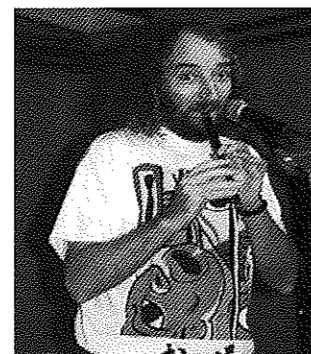


With a sold out (well, I couldn't see any unoccupied seats) Ashcroft Theatre in Croydon the jubilant return of the godfathers of folk Steeleye Span took to the stage opening with one of their earliest established traditional re-workings "The Blacksmith". With Maddy Prior in good voice this song proved an automatic crowd pleaser with the majority of 40 something's making up the audience. Perhaps more widely regarded as the 'fiddle' player with the band it was Peter Knight's mandolin featured on another song "Lovely On The Water" with its very Russian sounding arrangement that made you aware that here was a truly unique group. Catchy hooks and choruses have always been staple fare with fans of the band and they didn't disappoint tonight with "Seagull", "Thomas the Rhymer" and of course, the chart-topper "All Around My Hat" being well received.

New boy - since 2004 - Ken Nicol has provided the band with some tremendous songs including "They Called Her Babylon" and "The Scullion King" along with some bravura electric guitar riffs/solos and a spell-binding finger-picked acoustic guitar accompanying Maddy's "I Live Not Where I Love" and listening to members of the audience during the break I wasn't the only one suitably impressed. In the engine room providing some very arty drumming was Liam Genocky and, standing in for Rick Kemp was folk-rock seasoned veteran Pete Zorn on bass (although you wouldn't have noticed the join). So, all in all a great night out and hopefully it won't be another four years before I catch up with the band again. <http://steeleye.freeservers.com>

Pete Fyfe

VIN GARBUTT (supported by Vocal Point) at the Hungry Horse Acoustic Folk Club, Little Stanney, near Ellesmere Port on 23 April 2009.



Over a professional career that spans 40 years, Vin Garbutt has remained one of the outstanding entertainers on the UK folk circuit, mixing his inimitable brand of humour with the knack of writing and picking some excellent modern folk songs firmly embedded in tradition.

Starting the evening, however, were resident trio Vocal Point (Sue Farley and club organisers

Angie and John Owen) who deserve a special mention for producing consistently fine opening sets from a wide a varied repertoire of music. On this occasion that included a couple of John Denver songs, then the traditional 'I'll Fly Away' followed by Sue's stunning unaccompanied interpretation of Tanglefoot's 'For the day', and finishing up with the anthemic 'World in one City', Heswall composer Steve Connolly's contribution to Liverpool's year of culture.

Vin's opening song, 'The Turner', took us back to the days when he began his working life, serving a six-year engineering apprentice at ICI Wilton in his hometown of Middlesbrough. It was his experiences in this trade that gave him the motivation to become a folk singer and he has stayed firmly entrenched in his North Eastern homeland. This was followed by the beautiful yet un sentimental 'Morning informs', a wonderful contemplative ballad.

Having had a career that has spanned 40 years, it's not surprising that his repertoire is so extensive. 'England my England' may have been written in 1986 but it demonstrates its modern relevance through recurring cycles of unemployment, recession and the adverse impact that has on many of our communities and their members.



The Folk Arts Network of the North West

FOLKUS - PROGRAMME OF EVENTS SUMMER 2009

THURSDAY 7TH - SATURDAY 9TH MAY

The Big Whistle Weekend

Folkus workshops. Concerts - Battlefield Band, Mainiky, Bog Trotters, Partners in Crime.
Info: 0161 761 2216 email: post@themet.biz

SATURDAY 9TH - SUNDAY 17TH MAY

Garstang Walking Festival

Folkus is sponsoring entertainers **Capt. Cooper's Motley Crew**
The Tithebarn, Garstang Saturday 9pm. Info: 01995 602125 email: garstang@wyre.gov.uk

FRIDAY 15TH MAY 2009

"Borrowdale Johnny," Downham Village Hall, Downham, Clitheroe. 8pm **A Folkus/Spot On Rural Touring.**
joint sponsorship - a show by **The Striding Edge Band**, plus Ceilidh
Tickets £6 Adult, £3 Junior, £15 family Info: 01200 440046 or 01254 674777 email: spoton.lancashire@btinternet.com

FRIDAY 22ND - MONDAY 25TH MAY 2009

Chester Folk Festival. Folkus workshops. Saturday - Carolyn Francis - Fiddle. Sunday - Phil Brown - Whistle
Info: Festival office 07005 977045 email: festival@chesterfolk.org.uk

SATURDAY 23RD MAY 2009

Ireby Folk Festival, Ireby, Cumbria.

Folkus workshop. Roger Purves - Mandolin. Info: Charles Devlin. Tel: 0169 737 1645 email: irebyfestival@tiscali.co.uk

FRIDAY 19TH - SUNDAY 21ST JUNE

Middlewich Folk & Boat Festival. Folkus tutors for Guitar and Bodhran - Saturday. Whistle & Fiddle - Sunday
Tickets: Box office 0709 239 0501. Info: Tim Turner 01606 835832 email: tim@midfest.org

FRIDAY 26TH - SUNDAY 28TH JUNE

Dent Folk Festival - Buck Bank Farm, Sedburgh, Cumbria.

Folkus workshops. Fiddle. Info: Alec Lyon 015396 - 20125 email: abylon@talk21.com www.dentfolkfestival.co.uk

FRIDAY 26TH - SUNDAY 28TH JUNE

Traditions Festival - Lostock Hall Community Centre, Lostock Hall, Preston, Lancashire
Folkus artists support. Info: Angie Bladen: 01257 263678 email: traditionsfestival@madontrad.org.uk

THURSDAY 9TH - SUNDAY 12TH JULY

Furness Folk Festival, - Ulverston Cumbria.

Folkus Fiddle workshop. Saturday 11th July An EFDSS & Folkus special project. **Alan Bell's "Cape Famine to Dent"**.
A Trail of Songs & Slavery. Info: 01229 582704 email: kermode@mypostoffice.co.uk

FRIDAY 17TH - SUNDAY 19TH JULY

Saddleworth Folk Festival

Folkus workshops. Saturday: Derek Gifford - Guitar. Fred Rose - Bodhran. Sunday: Roger Purves - Mandolin,
Robin Shepherd - Melodeon. Info: Ali O'Brien. Tel: 01457 878591 or 01706 844657 email: info@safra.org.uk

FRIDAY 17TH - SUNDAY 19TH JULY

Brampton Live Festival

Folkus workshops. Saturday Rusty & Stu Wright - Guitars. Phil Brown - Whistle. Sunday Carolyn Francis - Fiddle.
Fred Rose - Bodhran. Info: Box office Tel: 01228 618700 email: sue.emerging@btinternet.com

SATURDAY 22ND AUGUST

"Lancashire Folk in the Park" 2pm - 4pm - A musical feast of Lancashire songs & stories old and new.
The Bandstand, Stanley Park, Blackpool. An EFDSS & Folkus joint promotion. Featuring Gary & Vera Aspey, Penny Black.
Info: Folkus 01253 872317 email: alanbell@folkus.co.uk

SATURDAY 5TH & SUNDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER

Fylde Folk Festival - Marine Hall, Fleetwood, Lancashire. Info: Folkus tutors Rusty & Stu Wright. Tel: 01253 885203
email: rustyandstu@poulton165.fsnet.co.uk Festival Box Office Tel: 01253 770547 Festival info: Tel: 01253 872317
email: alanbell@fylde-folk-fest.demon.co.uk www.fylde-folk-festival.com



**FOR FURTHER DETAILS OR INFORMATION ON FOLKUS CONTACT:
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TEL: 01253 872317 FAX: 01253 878382 email: alanbell@folkus.co.uk**



'Punjabi girl' reflects the internationalism of his music; an important element of Vin's work is to draw attention to political, social and environmental injustice whether that is in this country or in some of the less publicised struggles abroad. Vin closed his first set fittingly with Keith Hancock's 'Absent Friends', a hidden gem and one of the best songs to have emerged from the modern folk scene; by rights Keith should be rolling in royalties if this song had received the commercial recognition it deserves. Vin did it more than complete justice.

Vin went from strength to strength in his second set, which included 'When the tide turns' from 30 years ago, followed by Rudyard Kipling's poem 'If', which Vin has put to music, and 'Filipino Maid' based upon how appallingly domestic staff are treated in Hong Kong but still find time to smile. The evening swayed between humour and pathos - not necessarily in equal amounts and drew to an apt finish with the much recorded but arguably never bettered version of Brian Bedford's 'Wings'.

The combination of Vin Garbutt's exceptional side splitting wit and wonderful musical talent are unrivalled on the British folk scene. Although many singers with a comedic flair have emerged from the folk scene, very few were either adequate singers or competent musicians. Vin Garbutt manages to exceed on all counts! A peerless legend and icon.

Lewis Jones

AMY WADGE at Theatre Clwyd, Mold on 24 April 2009



Amy Wadge has a burgeoning musical reputation. Although better known in her adopted home of South Wales, this Bristol born singer, songwriter, musician and one time actress has been spreading her wings in recent

years not only as a solo performer but also in collaborations with the Hummingbirds (who have been compared favourably with the Dixie Chicks) and as a co-broadcaster on a weekly show with Frank Hennessy on BBC Radio Wales.

This was one of her only all too infrequent visits to North Wales (in the company of her husband who first met many moons ago while appearing in a play at this very venue). Wadge has grown in musical stature and maturity since the recording of her groundbreaking full debut album 'Woj' and has since produced two more critically acclaimed albums, the most recent being 'Bump', written and recorded in the late stages of pregnancy - hence the affectionate title.

This intimate venue suited Amy's informal and relaxed style which endears her to her growing band of admirers. Her set contained mostly self composed songs, accompanying herself to great effect by alternating between acoustic guitars, piano and the occasional use of backing tracks. She immediately launched into one of her best songs from 'Bump'; 'These Are The Songs' evokes memories of adolescence and early adulthood when artists like Jackson Browne and Joni Mitchell produced iconic albums that helped save our lives (perhaps literally in some cases as well as metaphorically) - "These are the anthems, on which we all survive" resonates with us all.

The opening set featured further extracts from 'Bump', including the plaintive and poignant, 'One More Day' and 'I wanna be

loved', a self reflective song that expresses how unattractive she felt she looked during pregnancy. We were also treated to some of her earlier songs including the emotive pre 'Bump', 'Nothing' and 'Freefall', one of the stand out tracks from 'No Sudden Moves'. Fittingly, she closed an excellent first set with a new song, 'I got you' about her baby daughter, Mali.

After the interval, Amy continued a great evening with another song from her second album; 'USA-we'll wait and see' was recorded (and sung on this occasion) in both English and Welsh and exudes the romantic wanderlust and upside of America. Then we had 'Tell her' that was written for her grandparents who have been married for 67 years without spending a night apart, before returning to another bilingual composition, 'Adre Nol', which provokes that deep longing and yearning for home (Hiraeth) often experienced by Welsh people when living away from their homeland.

One of Amy Wadge's greatest attributes is produce lyrics that can caress or tear the heart strings. 'Shattered' certainly reflects the latter while the stunning, 'Hold me', one of her newest songs straddles both. Amy has recently signed up to a song publishing company and if there is any justice in the industry, 'Hold Me' should be snapped up.

Drawing to the close of the evening, we were treated to another recently written song, the beautiful 'Waiting for the love of my life to walk in', co-written with Henry Priestman, who has had recent commercial success with his long overdue debut solo album. The obligatory and welcome encore saw Amy revive one of the best and most original music covers of recent years - her gut wrenching version of the Manic Street Preachers' 'Design for life' before ending with the breathtaking 'Breathe'. This capped another brilliant performance from an artist who may be diminutive in size but grows in musical stature by the day. Visit www.amywadge.com for further information.

Lewis Jones

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS



ACOUSTIC MUSIC NIGHT FOR L'ARCHE, Preston at Ribchester Parochial Hall, 21st February 2009.



Village halls are a much underused resource according to several reports. For acoustic musicians and their followers, they represent an opportunity to bring the music to a wider audience and, as on this occasion, to raise

funds for a worthy cause. The L'Arche Preston Community began over ten years ago. The house at is a home for adults with learning disabilities and assistants, who live together as a family.

First up was the indomitable Trouble at Mill, with a Latin version

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Nov 20 Bandersnatch - £7

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Dec 4 Singers & Musicians Night - Free

Dec 18 Pete Coe - £8

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

Phone 01204 852217 for tickets or go to the website

of 'Old MacDonald', in tribute the Ribchester's Roman origins. Just what the centurion at the gate would have made of it is pure speculation. I blame Preston Grammar school! In keeping with the evening's theme of singer songwriters, 'Call Across the Wall' told of crossed lines which linked common feelings of Israeli and Arab in the Middle East, caught up in conflict beyond their control. 'We Remember a Lancashire Hero' stayed in the same area, in tribute to a local soldier, dying so sadly far from home.

Mike Kneafsey from Clitheroe continued with a set of original, melodic and upbeat songs. They feel to be northern songs, where reality isn't too far away. 'Raincatcher' set in a 'black and white town where the money goes round'. 'Whitley Bay Blues' and 'Red to Blue' reflected social change and ordinary life, with minimum wage lurking in the background. It's strong and punchy in style, thoughtful in content, and never trite.

Ben Needham and Robin Perry followed with a set including their own songs. They have a gentler style, with a more traditional feel. Standout songs for me were 'Something Like That', a revisit to the writer's 17 year old self with the stark reality of the past, and 'St Samantha's Day' which I look forward to hearing again. Ben told me that their usual set includes their own songs as well as contemporary material.

After the break, Patty da Silva, with Chris Murphy on guitar, mandolin, and keyboard, and Steve Ripley on guitar and backing vocals were far more than the sum of their parts. The set ranged from a soft jazz feel to the fringes of country. Patty's songs were both confessional and stories. 'I Don't like Being Alone', 'Gone Tonight' and 'How Come' stay in my mind. It was a well balanced and mellow set contrasting well with rest of the evening.

Peter Aldridge, the organiser with partner Karen, was a gracious host. His own set included 'Make a Stand' reflecting a hoped for change in the White House and the world; 'London Town' a mellow song with an undercurrent of searching for a centre, through personal promise and hardship. He's always interesting with the guitar underpinning and driving the melody. Songs have an underlying theme of the coincidental nature of relationships, and with redemption lurking somewhere within reach, but elusive. 'My favourite of the set was 'Dance' a softer meditation on an open future, holding the moment and 'dancing away in the dance'. 'Trouble at Mill' finished the evening with help from L'Arch residents, who enjoyed the evening as much as we all did. And they raised over £800.

Don Moore

JOHN'S DIARY CHAT

Hello to you again. As I write we are not too far away from the beginning of May and the super summer festival season. My favourite time of the year. We have already booked our places at Chester and Fylde and of course our own festival on Wirral now only needs fine tuning as the weeks draw near to the first weekend in June. More about festivals later.

In the last quarter, we have experienced some really exciting and enjoyable visits to folk music events. I am particularly thinking of the 'Chester Folk Survivors Day of Music' that took place again at Hoole Village. This is a fundraiser for the main Chester Festival over the Whit Bank Holiday weekend. The brilliant young band 4-2-2 headlined along with Robin Laing. As well as a main stage set, Robin did his 'Whiskey Set' with

those who could cram into the small classroom location all treated to two free tots of whiskey - 50% proof or more. His knowledge of the 'we dram' is astounding and linked to songs about whisky it made for a set with that 'extra bit of punch'. Yes, I could swear that many of the punters left the room at the end looking and feeling unsteady on their feet but with a warm glow inside.

Our first visit to Southport's "Folkport" was all the more enjoyable as we travelled from the Wirral and back at no cost at all, using our Merseytravel train passes for only about the third ever time. Located at Southport Arts Centre the top act was "Show of Hands" who were as brilliant as ever. We really enjoyed the "Anna Massie Band" as well. Scolds Bridle gave a super set in the crowded café of the theatre, so much so that we now have Sue and Liz booked to appear at our own festival. My better half was particularly taken by the Lynn Heraud song - 'The Menopause'.

In March we ventured into deepest Lancashire for the purpose of seeing the folk/comedy quartet "The Lancashire Hotpots". More correctly speaking it was the edge of Merseyside as, we visited 'The Citadel Theatre' in St Helens. It's hard even now to comprehend that St Helens is not in Lancashire. Just like Widnes being in Cheshire, it is bazaar? It was standing room only on this night as we nudged shoulders with punters dressed in belt and braces and cloth caps, mimicking The Hotpots, (my review of the night should be elsewhere in this edition). Suffice it to say that we had a marvellous night and were well impressed with the comic wordsmith skills of this band that have gone from performing in pubs to arts centre/theatre status, by-passing folk clubs in the process. A couple of weeks later we were all in 'Lancky mode' again when we had the Houghton Weavers back at our own Hungry Horse club.

On 3rd April we changed cultures somewhat when we had the fortune of being able to get tickets at the last minute to see folk icon Archie Fisher at Wrexham FC. A Scotsman performing in Wales was a good mix and with residents Yardarm and Barry Evans providing support it was a super night at this friendly club with a wonderful singing audience. You would expect this in Wales wouldn't you? Many thanks to Goff Jones and Ian Chesterman for making us so welcome.

Club News

Changes first - 'Folk at Hillbark' has ceased and has moved to the Recreation Centre, Thingwall, Wirral where Dave and Anne Jones (congratulations to you both on your recent wedding) will be holding folk concerts on an ad hoc basis, usually on a Friday night, hence the club title - 'Folk on Friday'. There will probably be an advertisement for the club in this edition.

Liz Rosenfield at 'The Kings Lock', Middlewich, has had to move venues as the pub has closed. They have all moved to 'The Big Lock Inn' on the other side of town. What a great name for a pub, hey? Arrangements are still the same - first Sunday of each month. Same resident performers with occasional guest nights.

Simon Goodfellow, 'Alison Arms FC', Coppull tells me that the pub has closed. The new venue can be found at The Oak Tree, 130 Preston Road, Coppull, PR7 5ED and the name reverts to its former name - 'Coppull Folk'.

The Acoustic Collective FC has moved from the Astley Arms in Dukinfield to The Wharf Tavern, 77-79 Caroline Street, Stalybridge, Sk15 1PD with a slightly different set-up - Guest nights, Singers Nights and Singarounds. 8-30pm start on guest nights, 9pm other nights.



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Please contact The Sage Gateshead for full written details, enrolment forms, prices and discounts that may apply to you.

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Joan Blackburn at Wigan FC tells me that they have a new Thursday night venue. It is at The Keepers, 279 Woodhouse Lane, Wigan, WN6 7TD to where they moved on 19th February. Although a little further out of town than they were hoping for, the venue has a long association with folk music sessions. Don't forget that Joan also has a Tuesday night club at the Fox & Goose, 37-39 Wigan Lane, Wigan.

From 2nd to 5th July this club celebrates its 45th Birthday and Reunion. On Thursday 2nd it will be at the normal Thursday venue (Keepers) and the rest of the weekend at the Royal Oak, 111-113 Standishgate, Wigan, WN1 1XL. Joan Blackburn can tell you more on 01942-322-140.

Nick Gausden is the new secretary at Conwy Folk Club and can be contacted on 01745-334-087. The usual format seems to be changing slightly with more guest nights programmed in advance, e.g. 6th July Pete Coe.

At Eric Cox's Biddulph up in Arms, on 2nd July a 'Young Talent Night' is scheduled entitled 'Babes in Arms'. Christine Collister has a rare booking in the region at this club on 14th July as part of a double bill with Loud Mouth Women. The double bill format is repeated a week later when Megson joins up with the great Vin Garbutt at Biddulph Town Hall to present a 'Teesside Special'.

Jean Finney has contacted me to say that The Ring o Bells folk club, Widnes is closing at the end of May. Instead Folk at The Norton, Halton Village, Runcorn, WA7 2AD is opening on Wednesday May 27th from 8.30 - 11.00pm. The organisers are Stan Hesketh 01928 560581 and Jean Finney 0151 4243672.

Festivals

Wirral Folk on the Coast Festival - Thursday 4th June to Sunday 7th June

Early visitors to the campsite that opens at 6pm on the Thursday night can enjoy an Open Mic "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 welcome as well. The venue is absolutely superb and scenically beautiful. All on one four and a half acre site, this festival is attracting many enthusiasts from far and wide. Tickets are flying out presently so it is therefore important to ring the box office early to book your tickets. There will be five concerts and top of the bill is Show of Hands with Miranda Sykes and Gordon Giltrap, with other artists including Mike Silver, The Churchfitters, Shona Kipling/Damien O'Kane, Les Barker, Stanley Accrington, Kerfuffle, finger-pick champion guitarist Chris Moreton, Ruth Fuga and Ken Powell. Local representation is provided by super group Elbow Jane, Joe Topping, Anthony John Clarke, The Bogtrotters, Fiddlestone and Welcomme, Finnan and Chrimes. In addition a large free fringe, all on this single site venue, will include a wide variety of workshops, dance teams and a craft fair. Some of the named artists on the fringe are the Shellback Chorus, Loctuptogether and Scolds Bridle. All the main concert performers are outlined on the festival website at www.wirralfolkonthecoast.com from where you can download a ticket booking form. Box office is at 0151-652-0734 or further enquiries can be made at - 0151-678-9902.

Coppull Free Festival - Friday 12th June to Sunday 14th June Since last year there is a change of venue and date for this festival and Nathan Rogers, son of Stan is the main performer. Have a look at www.coppullfolk.co.uk for more information.

Garstang Music and Beer Festival - Saturday 20th June I presume this festival takes place at the normal venue for Garstang FC, the Kenlis Arms, but I am not certain. The website

tells me it is an afternoon and evening event but I have no details of artists appearing. Ring 01995-602-795 to find out more or visit the club website and fill in the contact form at www.garstangunplugged.com

Lymm Folk Festival - Thursday 25th June to Friday 3rd July is actually part of the Lymm town festival, but organised by Stuart Lever. 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 (at Lymm Methodist Church Hall) there will be a ceilidh with the band - Marmalade. The festival is a series of concerts each night but on Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th June, as Jimmy Cricket says "There is more". On the Saturday at 11-30am you can enjoy breakfast with 'Marmalade' (free). A 'Singers Afternoon' starts at 3pm and at 8-30pm the very talented and lovely couple Vicki Swan and Jonny Dyer are the main guests. There will be a free acoustic Open Mic concert starting at 12-30pm on the Sunday and a solo-singer/songwriter competition commencing at 3-30pm. That evening Bob Fox is the main guest and the concert starts at 8-30pm. Most of the festival takes place at the Spread Eagle pub with the While and Matthews and Kerfuffle concerts taking place at the Lymm Rugby Club premises. Further details can be found at www.lymmfolkclub.org.uk

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.

Dentdale Music and Beer Festival - Friday 26th to Sunday 28th June Headliners here include Gordon Giltrap, Chris Sherburn and Denny Bartley, and Last Orders. Visit www.dentmusicandbeer.com for more details.

Traditions Festival - Friday 26th to Sunday 28th June On the same weekend as Dentdale Fest. Ken and Angie Bladen have their festival taking place at Lostock Community High School, Todd Lane North, Lostock Hall, Preston, PR5 5UR. If you wish to 'Bring your traditions to life' then this is the one for you. There are 27 acts listed on the website with names like Damien Barber/Mike Wilson, Brian Peters, John Connolly, Keith Kendrick, Kevin & Ellen Mitchell, Bryony, to the fore. Have a look at - www.madontrad.org.uk to find out more.

Folk in the Park - Saturday 11th July The 16th annual one day festival in Biddulph Grange Country Park is presented by Biddulph up in Arms FC on Saturday 11th July where the format is - bring your own chairs, tables, food and drink and enjoy five and a half hours of terrific music. It commences at 5-30pm until 11pm. A great family atmosphere is assured as people of all ages either get up and dance or sit and chill out in the town's biggest picnic area. Top of the bill is the Oyster Band with support provided by a young traditional Irish-band called 'Tri' and the Weavils - described as 'a boisterous brew of hot brass and cool guitar from Cheshire's Weaver Delta. Additionally there will be The Jalapenos - a crazy rock and roll band who went down extremely well two years ago at the same event. Tickets can be purchased from £12 to £14 dependant on how soon you purchase with £2 discounts for students and over 60's. Eric Cox at Biddulph up in Arms FC is the organiser. Give Eric a ring - see club list for his telephone number.

Saddleworth Festival - Friday 17th to Saturday 19th July Eric Bogle with John Munro, the New Rope String Band, Bob Fox, Strawhead, the Young 'uns are the headliners at this the



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12th festival at Saddleworth. See www.safra.org.uk for the full line-up and further info.

Arts Centres/Theatres

Jim Minall at Friends of Folk has scheduled the duo Ken Nicol and Phil Cool at a number of venues - 24th May Preston Guild Hall foyer bar, The Bluecoat, Liverpool on 11th June and at Bury Met on 16th July. Another duo, brothers Joe and Ben Broughton appear at the Preston Guild Hall on 11th September and at The Bluecoat on 17th September.

Still in Liverpool at the Philharmonic Hall, Dick Gaughan appears at an 'After Eight Gig' on 12th June with Michael Weston King doing similarly on 3rd July. Later in the year the Waterson Family, Joan Baez and Charlie Landsborough are booked. Now that Wirral's new Floral Pavilion Theatre is up and running there is speculation locally about the future of the Pacific Arts Centre, Birkenhead. Richard Thompson pays a rare visit to the region and appears at the Floral on 13th August. Two female led bands, Katherine Tickell and Karine Polwart appear at the Pacific on 23 September and 6th October respectively.

On 19th June at the Bury Met, Steve Henderson (Mr Kite Benefits) presents a very high quality line-up in the form of Kris Drever, John McCusker and Roddy Woomble with special guests Heidi Talbot and Boo Hewerdine.

Artists

If you like music in the John Denver style then in June there are two consecutive nights when a JD 'hearialike' appears on Wirral. He is Mark Robinson. I have just visited Mark's website and the audio clips there are just like JD. On Saturday the 27th at Thingwall Recreation Centre, Sparks Lane, Thingwall, CH61 7NE, Mark tops the bill with support acts Vocal Point and the hosts for the evening Brian Lupton and Jim Gallacher. This is a 'bring your own drink, food and candelabra night' and tickets can be booked in advance from Brian Lupton on 0151-653-3794 or just email Brian at brianandjanare@hotmail.co.uk

The following evening at Folk at the Manor, Withens Lane, Wallasey, Mark Robinson is the club special guest with no doubt support from Brian and the club residents? Again contact Brian if you would like to book in advance or Roger Parker on 0151-678-1962.

The following acts took my eye this time around. Po Girl (Bury Met - 10th June), Marie Little (Clarence FC - 17th June), the Mugenkyo Taiko Drummers (Bury Met - 4th June), The Deportees (Lymm FC - 11th June), Alternative Therapy (Bollington FC - 29th May), Will Kaufman performing a Woody Guthrie inspired show entitled "Hard Times and Hard Travelling" (Gregson Lane FC - 26th June), Dick Gaughan (The Platform - 30th May and Philharmonic Hall - 12th June), Cara Dillon (The Platform - 26th June), Whaley & Fletcher (Folk at the Prospect - 13th July and Everyman FC - 14th July), John Connolly (Midway - 6th July), Stewart Lever - Fundraiser in aid of Warrington Bereavement Support (Lymm FC - 30th July), Zoe Mulford (Acoustic Collective - 1st September), Pamela Ward & Paul Cherrington (Hungry Horse FC - 6th August).

...And Finally, nothing to do with folk but certainly much ado about our English heritage. At the beginning of a recent short break we decided to spend a night in Lancaster on our way up to The Lakes. We stayed at the Lancaster Country House hotel, very nice. We decided it would be interesting to pay a visit to Lancaster Castle. Without asking, complementary tickets were organised by the staff at the hotel so we toddled off to the castle shortly after checking out.

On arrival at what I thought was the front gate I had to wait for the door within the gate to be opened. With chains jangling and heavy footsteps on the other side the door was eventually opened by a bruiser of a man in black uniform. On asking if this was the entrance to the castle I was bruskiy told - 'Neh lad, if thee comes in 'ere thee'll never get owt'. Despite the Lancaster Castle sign outside, I had attempted to gain entry to the main entrance to Lancaster 'Prison'. The public entrance to the castle is at the back of this amazing structure so it was there that I eventually met my beloved. What followed was fantastic. Being the only members of the public waiting, we were given a personal conducted tour of the castle which amongst other things entailed visiting two working courtrooms, the staterooms, the museum and prison holding cells. We were even locked into one of the cells for a short while under conditions that can only be described as appalling. No windows, light, nor benches, little air, we experienced what it must have been like to have e.g. stolen a loaf of bread and to wait entombed for the arrival at court of the travelling Circuit Judge, which was usually at six monthly intervals. In the museum there were many 'items of pain' displayed, one of which was a 'Scolds Bridle' would you believe? I don't think we will ever view Scolds Bridle (the duo) in the same light now that we know what the device is. A punitive gag, used in the 16th to 19th centuries to control, humiliate and punish gossiping, troublesome women. A British invention possibly originating from Scotland made by blacksmiths. The bridle was an iron cage-like device that was placed over the head with a metal tab for the mouth. Ugh! With wonderful tales of historical merit from our guide Colin, all in all we had a thoroughly enjoyable tour. We would strongly recommend a visit should you ever be in the locale.

By the time you will have read this edition the North West Federation of Folk Clubs/Venues will have held its AGM and I must take this opportunity to thank Ken Bladen (Editor) and Kath and Paul Holden (Subscription Secretary and Advertisement Secretary) who will have stood down at the AGM. Ken, Kath and Paul have done much voluntary sterling work for many many years in the development and production of this magazine. Although I am biased it must be said that along with others they are responsible for producing this magazine to the high quality that it now is and on my own behalf I wish to thank them for all their dedication and hard work. Well done to you all. You will be hard acts to follow.

Well that's all for now. Have a great summer season. I will speak to you again in September.

John Owen

ARTICLES



BRAVE WOLFE

Come all you young men oh! let this delight you,
Come all you young men oh! let nothing fright you.
Never let your courage fail when you're brought to trial,
Nor let your fancy move at the first denial.

This brave undaunted youth did cross the ocean.
To free America was his intention.
He landed at Quebec with all his party
The city to attack, being hale and hearty.

Bold Wolfe drew up his men in a line so pretty,
On the plains of Abraham before the city.

JUBILEE CONCERTINAS

CONCERTINA WORKSHOPS AND SLOW AND STEADY SESSION WORKSHOPS

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Saturday 6th June	2pm to 5pm
Saturday 4th July	2pm to 5pm
Saturday 1st Aug	2pm to 5pm
Saturday 5th Sept	2pm to 5pm

All types of Instruments welcome.

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Saturday 13th June	2pm to 5pm
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E.mail:- angie@jubileeconcertinas.org

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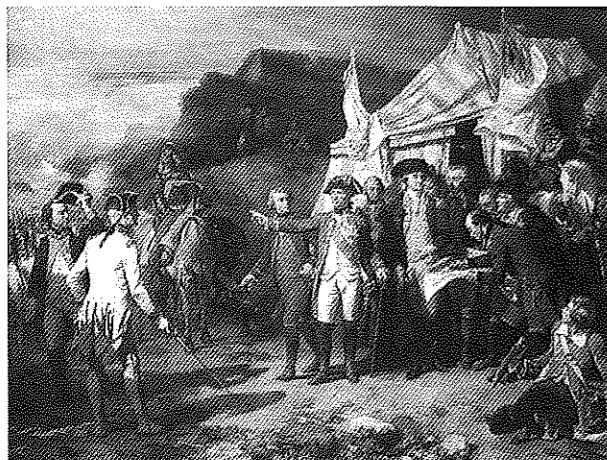
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The French came marching down in hopes to meet them.
Bold Wolfe he stood his ground, resolved to beat them.

Montcalm and this brave youth together walked.
Between two armies they like brothers talked.
'Til each one to his post then did retire,
'Twas then both numerous hosts commenced their fire.

The guns did loudly roar and the colours flying.
Down streamed the purple gore and men lay dying
And shot from off his horse fell that brave hero.
We'll long lament his loss in tears and sorrow.

He lifted up his head as the guns did rattle
And to his army he said 'how goes the battle?'
'Quebec is all our own, none can prevent it'.
Oh! then replies bold Wolfe, 'I die contented'.



We seem to have spent much of our history knocking bits off the French and them, likewise, knocking bits off us. Things boiled over for the umpteenth time in 1756 and Britain and France embarked on what became known as the Seven Years War, the first war in history to have a truly global reach. The British government saw an opportunity to grab French colonies in New France (Canada) and so it was that events moved towards one of those pivotal moments in history on September 13th, 1759, events recorded (though not entirely accurately) in the above ballad.

In the early hours of the morning on that crucial day, numerous boats could be glimpsed moving quietly down the St. Lawrence River under cover of darkness. French sentries spotted the boats but thought nothing of it, believing they were their own supply boats which they were expecting at that time. A sentry issued a challenge to the boats and was answered in perfect French, confirming their belief that the boats were their own. They couldn't have been more wrong. The answer had come from a British officer who was a fluent French speaker. In one of the leading boats sat General James Wolfe, the commander of British troops in Canada, leading a force of over 4,000 men on a daring and hugely risky attack. He had been suffering from various illnesses, including tuberculosis and was hardly fit for such an adventure but was determined to do his duty nevertheless. It is said that Wolfe was calmly and quietly reciting Thomas Grey's epic poem, 'Elegy in a Country Churchyard' to the men in his boat to calm their nerves in the face of danger.

His own nerves probably needed calming too. He knew full well that this operation was a huge gamble but had decided to risk it in order to break the deadlock of the three months old siege of Quebec. His problem was that the French troops, under General Montcalm, occupied the high ground and the walled

city of Quebec. They could sit out the siege until the oncoming winter drove the British out of the St. Lawrence River in order to avoid their ships and boats being frozen in. Wolfe's only hope was to bring the French to battle on open ground where he was sure he could defeat them. His gambit was a night time attack which would, if it failed, see his men pushed back into the river and annihilated.

The plan had been suggested by Wolfe's aides and he quickly accepted it with a few modifications of his own. Wolfe's objective was to land his men at the foot of the cliffs known as the Heights of Abraham. These cliffs were a daunting prospect, 175 ft high with just one rough, narrow track leading to the top. The French General, Montcalm, had been informed of this track but had dismissed the possibility of a British attack there with the comment 'Our enemy does not have wings'. Consequently, only a handful of French troops guarded this approach.

It appears that Wolfe's original plan was for his advance force to rush the defending troops guarding the path and clear the way for the main force to follow. In the darkness some of Wolfe's boats drifted past their objective and landed at the bottom of a slope further downriver. This, however, worked to the British advantage, enabling a small party led by Lieutenant Colonel William Howe, to climb the slope and mount a surprise attack from behind the French camp guarding the track. Thus Wolfe and his main force were able to climb the track and reach the top of the cliffs unopposed. As dawn broke, Wolfe's troops were establishing their line on the Plains of Abraham, their right flank stretching to a bluff above the St. Lawrence River; their left flank reaching a dense wood on the banks of the St. Charles River (a tributary of the St. Lawrence). In order to cover such a wide swathe of ground, Wolfe was forced to draw up his men in two ranks rather than the usual three and there they stood, inviting a frontal attack from the French.

Meanwhile, the French General Montcalm's attention had been elsewhere; on a highly effective British feint attack on the Beauport shore further downriver. By the time Montcalm realised that this was not the real threat it was too late. Wolfe was established on the Plains. Montcalm was stunned and now had to face what he had tried to avoid all along; a pitched battle in the open. At this point he could and probably should have waited for reinforcements (of which he had plenty) to come to his aid but it appears that the sudden appearance of Wolfe's army on his doorstep panicked him into precipitate action.

Our ballad claims that, at this point, Montcalm and Wolfe met in no man's land and talked 'like brothers' before the shooting began. Artistic licence I'm afraid. The ballad mongers probably only had sketchy details of the battle and had no hesitation in filling out the story with their own imaginations. Both men certainly had too much on their minds to indulge in a brotherly chat.

The French deployed snipers into the woods on the British left flank and these marksmen were a thorn in the side of Wolfe's men throughout the engagement. In military terms however, they constituted little more than a nuisance. Only a frontal attack could rout the British now. Montcalm spotted that Wolfe already had two small cannon in position and feared that if he was given time to bring up more he would be able to breach the city walls and enter with ease. Therefore the sooner the French attacked the better, he reasoned.

At 10.00a.m. the French columns were in position and Montcalm, mounted on horseback, ordered them to advance on the British line. The British held their fire until the enemy were less than 50 yards away, knowing that their smooth bore muskets were only really effective at fairly short range. The French line finally

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halted just 30 yards away and discharged two ragged volleys which had little effect. The British responded with a thunderous volley that shattered the French line. Wolfe had ordered his men to charge their muskets with two balls rather than the usual one and the result was devastating. While the French were still reeling from this onslaught the British took a few paces forward and fired a second crashing volley. The French line, which included many poorly trained irregulars and volunteers, was thrown into a panic and beat a disorganised retreat pursued by Wolfe and his men.

As Wolfe advanced he was hit by musket fire in the chest and stomach and fell to the ground mortally wounded. The retreating Montcalm was also hit and struggled back to the relative safety



of the city walls but to no avail. He died the following day. Wolfe's life ebbed away rapidly as he lay on the ground. He rallied briefly as he heard a nearby shout, 'They run, see how they run'. Opening his eyes he asked

'Who runs? The enemy sire', came the reply 'they give way everywhere'. 'Then God be praised', said Wolfe, 'I will die in peace'. Moments later he breathed his last. He was just 32 years old.

The entire engagement was over in about a quarter of an hour. Within a few days, on 18th September, Quebec surrendered. They had no choice. Their supply lines were now cut and the British could, if they chose, pound the city to pulp with their cannon. The capture of Quebec proved decisive. The war in Canada rumbled on for another year but eventually the French withdrew entirely and Canada became part of the expanding British Empire. Wolfe became a hero and a legend and featured in various songs, poems and paintings of the time. The place where he fell is marked by a monumental column.

But Wolfe is not remembered fondly by everyone. The 250th anniversary of the Battle of the Plains of Abraham might be expected to be marked by some kind of commemorating event and indeed, such an event was planned. It had to be abandoned in the face of fierce opposition from the Quebecois (French speaking Canadians) who still view the events of 1759 in a very different light. Yesterday can still come back to bite us sometimes.

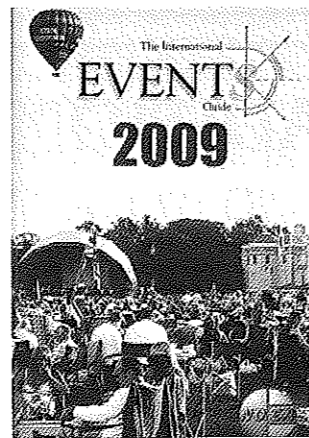
Brian Bull

BOOK REVIEWS



THE INTERNATIONAL EVENTS GUIDE 2009 (Trade Management Services)

Interesting things...industry directories! To me, the main aim of a directory is to provide promoters and in many cases the general public with just the right amount of details to obtain the information you require. For me then, I don't require loads of adverts and sound-bites from industry 'experts'. I'm glad to see that for once, no such indulgence is included here. Straight down to the nitty-gritty then and the section I'm most interested, the Events In Date Order. These are concisely categorised first in order of what kind of events (Air Shows/Art & Dance Events/



Carnivals etc) and then in calendar order (Jan/Feb/Mar etc). So far so good then although I notice the MUSIC events I'm particularly interested in aren't given any sub categories such as folk, rock, classical etc even though folk music festivals now make up a majority of the music events in the UK. Sports however are well represented with many sub categories. Possibly I'm nit-picking with some of my observations but "...in this ever changing world in which we live in..." (thanks Sir Paul!) perhaps

the inclusion of every detail - Title Of Event, Contact, Tel, Fax, E Mail etc proves a bit of over kill. Maybe (considering the directory is predominantly constructed of 'free' listings) just the basic details of dates of events and Website address would have sufficed? That said, from a promoter's point of view this is probably one of the finest resources you'll find available and a goldmine for anyone trying to obtain gigs. www.eventsbook.co.uk

Pete Fyfe

GUITAR WORKSHOP by Jim Ronayne



LORD INCHQUIN

Tuning -: EADEAE

I first heard a guitar version of this tune on John Renbourn's album; The Hermit released on Transatlantic records in 1976 (TRA336). Unlike this version, John's version is in dropped D tuning and is (not surprisingly) both harmonically and technically several levels above and beyond the version that I've arranged here, but it's well worth checking out for the more ambitious of you.

This then is very much a basic arrangement of the tune, and I've deliberately not written out all the ornamentation. First of all, the notation would look like like a spider had just crawled over the page after walking through an inkblot and secondly as with all the lessons that I've presented here, my hope is that you will take the basic arrangement and play it in your own way.

The Tuning -:

Tune your second string DOWN from B to A

Tune your third string DOWN from G to E

Study Notes -:

I've indicated the hammer on's and pull off's for the first 8 bars after which they will be obvious from the slur signs.

Where I've used chord diagrams I've also put the LH fingering on the notation stave.

In bars 9 and 34 for you can do a little bend on the C#
In bar 31, slide up to the C# from the B with your 3rd finger

h = hammer on
p = pull off

Lord Inchiquin

Trad. Turlough O'Carolan
Arr. Ronayne

22

26

30

34

38

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 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 Hardman, Rose, Ray
 BIG LOCK -- Liz Rosenfield, Ian Murfitt, Stephen Dent, Iain Bowley, Jeff Mather
 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
 BUSH ACOUSTIC - Dave Jones, Chris Morley, Christine Stephen, Steve Power, Marion Dennerley, Keith Northover, Frank Kenny, Tony Kirwin, John Routledge
 EARBY -- Station Folk
 EVERYMAN -- Chris & Hughie Jones, Shirley Peden
 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, Jim & Bernadette Heaton
 FOUR FOOLS -- Malc Gibbons, Geoff & Lindsay Smith, Tom & Ann, Angie Bladen
 FRODSHAM -- Alton & Carol Alexander, Eric Rafferty, Stuart Baxter, Harry Leather, Syd Hayden, Jill Smith, Willie Gilmour, Pete Massey, Gordon Morris, 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, Angela Owen, Sue Farley, Andy Eades.
 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 Mason, FBI Blues
 NORTHWICH -- Jamie Anderson, Brenda Yates, John & Ailsa Booth, Iain Bowley & Tom Francis, Bill Pook, Dave Ball
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 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, Mick Hare, John Condy, Bernice Carters, Carl Corbett, Eric the Cockney
 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

NORTH WEST FEDERATION OF FOLK CLUBS				
		ARTS CENTRES and THEATRES		
SUNDAY	Time		Organiser	Tel. no.
Big Lock (new venue)	8:30 PM	Big Lock Inn, Webbs Lane, Middlewich, CW10 9DN,	Liz Rosenfield	01606-834969
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	Old Manor Club, Withens Lane, Wallasey, CH45 7NF	Roger Parker	0151-678-1962
Wooden Horse	8:30 PM	The Junction, News Lane, Rainford, WA11 7JU	Jim Coan	01772-452782
MONDAY				
Bacup	8:30 PM	Bacup Conservative Club, Irwell Terrace, Bacup, OL13 9AW	Helen Slater	07717-613205
Clwb Gwerin Conwy	8:30 PM	Royal British Legion, Rosehill Street, Conwy, LL32 8AF	Nick Gausden	01745-334087
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	White Lion, 242 Manchester Road, Swinton, M27 4TS	Ged Todd	01942-811527
TUESDAY				
Acoustic Collective	9:00 PM	Wharf Tavern, 77/79 Caroline Street, Stalybridge, SK15 1PD	Paul Roberts	07930-340260
Bush Acoustic (new member)	9:00 PM	Bush Inn, 120 Moorside Street, Droylsden, Manchester, M43 7HL	Dave Jones	0161-355-1295
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
Sale	8:00 PM	Southern Road, Mersey Road, Sale, Manchester M33 6HQ	Don Davies	0161-432-4317
Urmston Acoustics	8:30 PM	Nags Head Hotel, 1 Lostock Road, Urmston, M41 0SU	Martin Kavanagh	0161-748-5497
Wigan	9:00 PM	Fox & Goose, 37-39 Wigan Lane, Wigan, WN1 1XR	Geoff Newman	01942-517-605
WEDNESDAY				
Biddulph up in Arms	8:00 PM	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
Coppull Folk (ex- Alison Arms)	8:30 PM	Oak Tree, 130 Preston Road, Coppull, PR7 5ED	Simon Goodfellow	01942-418030
Folk at The Norton	8:30 PM	The Norton, Halton Village, Runcorn, WA7 2AD	Jean Finney	0151-424-3672
Garstang Unplugged	8:00 PM	Kenils 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	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
Wigan	9:00 PM	The Keepers, 279 Woodhouse Lane, Wigan, WN6 7TD	Joan Blackburn	07833-301336
Wrexham	8:30 PM	Nags Head Inn, Mount Street, Wrexham, LL13 8DW	Ian Chesterman	01978-357307
FRIDAY				
Bollington	8:30 PM	Dog & Partridge, 97 Palmerston Street, Bollington, SK10 5JX	Arthur Wakefield	01625-573596
Bromley Cross	8:00 PM	The Railway, 37 Chapelton 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 on Friday (ex- Leigh)	8:00 PM	Conservative Club, Railway Road, Leigh, WN7 4AX	Pauline Dowsett	01942-604603
Folk on Friday (new venue)	8:00 PM	Thingwall Recreation Centre, Sparks Lane, Thingwall, CH61 7XE	Dave Jones	0151-639-4285
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	Moorbrook Inn, 370 North Road, Preston, PR1 1RU	Rob Malaney	01257-231463
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

24th MAY to 27th JUNE				
(NB: Always check with organisers before travelling)				
SUNDAY	24TH MAY	31ST MAY	7TH JUNE	21ST JUNE
* & ** Acoustic Collective				
Big Lock	Bank Holiday Singaround			WHALEY BRIDGE WATER WEEKEND
Bothy		TOM DOUGHTY		ANNIE DEARMAN VIC GAMMON STEVE HARRISON COPPULL FREE FESTIVAL
* Coppull Folk (ex-Alison Arms)			Residents Night	Singers Night
Folk at the Manor	Singers Night			
Friends of Folk @ Preston GH	KEN NICOL & PHIL COOL			
Mr Kite Benefits @ The Lowry	"Wine, Women & Song" with MATRACA BERG SUZY BOGGUSS & GRETCHEN PETERS			
Pacific Arts Centre				DIANE JONES
Shamrock Promotions				ERIC BOGLE & JOHN MUNRO
Wirral Folk on the Coast Festival weekend - (day 3)			ANTHONY JOHN CLARKE SHONA KIPLING & DAMIEN O'KANE ELBOW JANE JOE TOPPING THE BOGTROTTERS RUTH FUGA & KEN POWELL FIDDLESTONE WELCOMME, FINNAN, CHRIMES Singers Night	MARY HUMPHRIES & ANAHATA
Wooden Horse	closed - Bank Holiday			
MONDAY	25TH MAY	15TH JUNE	8TH JUNE	22ND JUNE
Backup	GRAHAM ROBINSON	Singaround	TJ & MURPHY	DONAL MAGUIRE
Clwb Gwerin Conwy	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Folk at the Prospect	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Four Fools	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Midway	NELSON PEACH	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Room at the Top	closed - Bank Holiday	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Skipton Folk Unplugged	Singers Night	Singers Night	Charity Night for FOLKHEART	THE WILSONS
Swinton	Singers Night	no programme supplied		
TUESDAY	26TH MAY	2ND JUNE	9TH JUNE	23RD JUNE
Acoustic Collective	KEVIN TARPEY	Singers Night	JOZEPH ROBERTS	ALAN CLARKE
Bush Acoustic (new member)	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
Crown	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
Everyman	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Longridge		Singers Night	JOHN KELLY	Singers Night
Maghull	NATHAN ROGERS (Canada)	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Ring O'Bells	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Sale	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Urmston Acoustics	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Wigan	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround

WEDNESDAY	27TH MAY	3RD JUNE	10TH JUNE	17TH JUNE	24TH JUNE
Alison Arms	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Biddulph up in Arms			** JOHN TAMS & BARRY COOPE		RACHEL HARRINGTON
Burnley	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians
Bury Met	closed	LES BARKER	PO GIRL KIERAN HALPIN	KATHRYN WILLIAMS MARIE LITTLE	BOB FOX
Clarence					PETER KNIGHTS GIGSPANNER
Friends of Folk @ Preston GH	Singers Night	Singers Night	Music Session - English	Music Session - English	Singers Night
Garstang Unplugged	Music Session - English				
Ye Olde Vic	28TH MAY	4TH JUNE	11TH JUNE	18TH JUNE	25TH JUNE
* Acoustic Collective	GLOSSOP TRAIN				
Acoustic Folk at the Nursery	Singers Night	Singers Night	Music Session - English		
Bury Met		MUGENKYO TAIKO DRUMMERS	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Chorlton	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Dabbers					VIN GARBUTT
Earby	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians
Friends of Folk @ The Bluecoat				ELBOW JANE KEVIN SEISAY	
Gregson Lane		Singers Night	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians
Heaton Mersey	Singers & Musicians	Singers Night	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians
Hungry Horse Acoustic	Singers & Musicians	"Sing in the Festival Night" at WIRRAL FOLK ON THE COAST w/ie	GRAHAM BELLINGER & the THE DEPORTEES	BIG SPOT - Geoff Bibby Sue & Derek Bradburne	FULL HOUSE
Lymm	RUTH FUGA & KEN POWELL	Singers Night			
Parkgate	closed	* ERIC BOGLE & JOHN MUNRO			ALLAN TAYLOR
Wigan	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
* & ** Acoustic Collective	29TH MAY	5TH JUNE	12TH JUNE	19TH JUNE	26TH JUNE
Bollington	ALTERNATIVE THERAPY	Singers Night	WHALEY BRIDGE WATER WEEKEND	Singers Night	DENTDALE MUSIC & BEER FESTIVAL
Bromley Cross		Singers & Musicians	LYRA CELTICA	MARTIN CARTHY	BANDERSNATCH
Carlisle Folk & Blues	MICHAEL MARRA		JON BRINDLEY		BROOKS WILLIAMS
* Coppull Folk (ex-Alison Arms)			COPPULL FREE FESTIVAL		closed until 18/09/09
Folk on Friday (ex-Leigh)			TANGLEFOOT	ERIC BOGLE	Singers Night
Folk on Friday (Thingwall)	Singers Night	COCKERSDALE	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Frodsham					WILL KAUFMAN presents Woody Guthrie - "Hard Times & Hard Travelling"
* & ** Gregson Lane					BERNARD CROMARTY
* Lymm Festival					
Mr Kite Benefits @ Bury Met					
Northwich	Singers Night	** GUS GLYNN	Singers Night	Singers Night	KERUFFLE
Pacific Arts Centre			ROGER McGUINN		
Philharmonic Hall			DICK GAUGHAN		
Platform					CARA DILLON
Porkies	Singers & Musicians	PAUL MILLNES	Singers & Musicians	TANGLEFOOT	Singers & Musicians
Preston	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians

	29TH MAY	5TH JUNE	12TH JUNE	19TH JUNE	26TH JUNE
FRIDAY (cont'd)					
South Lake Music Promotion Southport Arts Centre		STEVE JINSKI			RACHEL HARRINGTON & CARA LUFT
Wirral Folk on the Coast Fest.		SHOW OF HANDS CHRIS MORETON			
SATURDAY					
* & ** Acoustic Collective	30TH MAY	6TH JUNE	13TH JUNE	20TH JUNE	27TH JUNE
* & ** Acoustic Folk @ Nursery @ Fairfield Golf and Sailing Club			WHALEY BRIDGE WATER WEEKEND		DENTDALE MUSIC & BEER FESTIVAL
* & ** Biddulph up in Arms		CARRIE RODRIGUEZ			ANTHONY JOHN CLARKE @ DROYLSDEN FESTIVAL
Bury Met	MICHAEL MCGOLDRICK BIG BAND				KERFUFFE
* Coppull Folk (ex-Alison Arms)			COPPULL FREE FESTIVAL		
* & ** Garstang Unplugged				MUSIC & BEER FESTIVAL	
* Lymm Festival					VICKI SWAN & JONNY DYER
Platform	DICK GAUGHAN				
Playhouse 2	JEZ LOWE & the BAD PENNIES				
* Sale			JEZ LOWE		
Wirral Folk on the Coast Festival weekend - (day 2)		GORDON GILTRAP THE CHURCHFITTERS MIKE SILVER LES BARKER KERFUFFE CHRIS MORETON SHONA KIRLING & DAMIEN O'KANE STANLEY ACCRINGTON			

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

	28th JUNE to 1st AUGUST
	(NB: Always check with organisers before travelling)
SUNDAY	12TH JULY
* & ** Acoustic Collective	DROYLSDEN FESTIVAL
Big Lock	
Bothy	Singers Night Singers Night
Folk at the Manor	JACKIE OATES & JAMES DUMBLETON
* Lymm Festival	MARK ROBINSON
* Wigan	BOB FOX
Wooden Horse	closed
MONDAY	13TH JULY
Backup	Club Reunion & 45th Birthday celebrations
Clwb Gyverin Conwy	Singers Night
Folk at the Prospect	KIRK McELHINNEY Singers Night PETE COE Singers Night
Four Fools	Singers Night
* Lymm Festival	BIG SPOT - Andrew Walpole
	19TH JULY
	SADDLEWORTH FESTIVAL
	Singers Night
	ROBB JOHNSON
	Singers Night
	20TH JULY
	CELTIC NOTES
	Singers Night
	20TH JULY
	Singers Night
	27TH JULY
	Singers Night
	Singers Night
	Singers Night

	29TH JUNE	6TH JULY	13TH JULY	20TH JULY	27TH JULY
MONDAY (cont'd)					
Midway	Singers Night	JOHN CONNOLLY	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Room at the Top	Singers Night	Singers Night	TOM BLISS	Singers Night	Singers Night
Skipton Folk Unplugged	Singers Night	Singers - American Theme	Singers Night	BOB FOX	KEVIN HALL
Swinton	no programme supplied				
TUESDAY	30TH JUNE	7TH JULY	14TH JULY	21ST JULY	28TH JULY
Acoustic Collective	Singers Night	MARTIN STIMSON	Singaround	GARRON FRITH	Singers Night
* & ** Biddulph up in Arms @ Biddulph Town Hall			CHRISTINE COLLISTER & LOUD MOUTH WOMEN		
Bush Acoustic (new member)	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
Crown	Singaround	Singaround	BILL WHALEY & DAVE FLETCHER	Singaround	Singaround
Everyman	Singers Night	Singers Night		Singers Night	Singers Night
Longridge	closed until 01/09/09				
* Lymm Festival @ Lymm Rugby Club	CHRIS WHILE & JULIE MATTHEWS				
Maghull	Singers Night	Singers Night	BLUE C	Singers Night	Singers Night
Ring O' Bells	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Sale	Singers Night	TANGLEFOOT	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Urmston Acoustics	Singaround	Singers Night			
Wigan	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
WEDNESDAY	1ST JULY	8TH JULY	15TH JULY	22ND JULY	29TH JULY
Allison Arms	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
** Biddulph up in Arms			VIN GARBUIT	Singers Night	
Burnley	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians
Clarence	Singers Night	Singers Night			Singers Night
Garstang Unplugged					
* Lymm Festival @ Rugby Club	KERFUFFE				
Ye Olde Vic					
THURSDAY	2ND JULY	9TH JULY	16TH JULY	23RD JULY	30TH JULY
Acoustic Folk at the Nursery		Music Session - English	Music Session - English	Music Session - English	
Biddulph up in Arms	* BABES IN ARMS Young Talent Night'	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
Bury Met	EVE SELIS with ALANA LEVANDOSKI	* & ** ERIC BOGLE & JOHN MUNRO TANGLEFOOT			
Chorlton	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Dabbers	Singaround	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians
Earby	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	KEN NICOL & PHIL COOL	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians
Friends of Folk @ Bury Met			MARIE LITTLE		Residents Night Special
Gregson Lane	Singers Night	Singaround	GEOFF HIGGINBOTHAM		
Heaton Mersey			ERIC BOGLE & JOHN MUNRO	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians
Hungry Horse Acoustic	GRAHAM BELLINGER & THE DEPORTEES	Singers & Musicians	PAUL PEARSON & CHRIS	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians
Lymm	THE PERFECTLY AT HOME STRING BAND	BIG SPOT - Maghull's FBI Blues		Singers Night	STEWART LEVER in aid of Warrington Bereavement Support
Parkgate					NANCY KERR JAMES FAGAN
Wigan	Club Reunion & 45th Birthday celebrations	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround

	3RD JULY	10TH JULY	17TH JULY	24TH JULY	31ST JULY
FRIDAY					
* & ** Acoustic Collective	no programme supplied		SADDLEWORTH FESTIVAL		
Bollington	Singers Night	closed until 04/09/09			
Bromley Cross		CARA LUFF & HUGH McMILLAN			
Carlisle Folk & Blues					
Citadel	ERIC BOGLE & JOHN MUNRO			Singers Night	Singers Night
Frodsham	JAMES DEWDNEY				
* & ** Lymm Festival @ Lymm Methodist Church	Festival Ceilidh with MARMALADE BAND				
Northwich	STEVE TURNER			Singers Night	ZERO TEMPERANCE
Philharmonic Hall	MICHAEL WESTON-KING				
Porkies	KEN NICOL & PHIL COOL				
Preston	Singers & Musicians			Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians
South Lakes Music Promotion	RUTH NOTMAN				
* Wigan	Club Reunion & 45th Birthday celebrations				
SATURDAY					
* & ** Acoustic Collective			18TH JULY	25TH JULY	1ST AUGUST
* & ** Biddulph up in Arms			SADDLEWORTH FESTIVAL		
* & ** Biddulph up in Arms @ Biddulph Grange Country Park		THE OYSTER BAND at Folk in the Park Festival			
Bury Met		ALANA LEVANDOSKI			
* Wigan	Club Reunion & 45th Birthday celebrations				

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

	2ND AUGUST	9TH AUGUST	16TH AUGUST	23RD AUGUST	30TH AUGUST
SUNDAY					
Big Lock	Singers Night				
Botby	Summer break - Informal Singarounds until 13th September				
Folk at the Manor	Singers Night	Singers Night	BLACKHEART Singers Night	Singers Night	Residents Night
Wooden Horse	Singers Night	Singers Night		Singers Night	closed - Bank Holiday
MONDAY					
Bacup	no programme supplied				
Civib Gwerin Conwy	Singers Night			Singers Night	Singers Night
Folk at the Prospect	Singers Night			Singers Night	Singers Night
Four Fools	Singers Night			Singers Night	Singers Night
Midway	Singers Night			Singers Night	Singers Night
Room at the Top	Singers Night			Singers Night	closed - Bank Holiday
Skipton Folk Unplugged	Singers Night			Singers Night	Singers Night
Swinton	no programme supplied				
TUESDAY					
Acoustic Collective	4TH AUGUST	11TH AUGUST	18TH AUGUST	25TH AUGUST	1ST SEPTEMBER
Bush Acoustic (new member)	DAI THOMAS		ROYDAN STYLES	Singers Night	ZOE MULFORD
Crown	Singarounds	Singarounds	Singarounds	Singarounds	Singarounds

2nd AUGUST to 5th SEPTEMBER
(NB: Always check with organisers before travelling)

	4TH AUGUST	11TH AUGUST	18TH AUGUST	25TH AUGUST	1ST SEPTEMBER
TUESDAY (cont'd)					
Everyman	closed until 01/09/09				Singers Night
Longridge	closed until 01/09/09				Singers Night
Maghull	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Ring O'Bells	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Sale	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Urmston Acoustics	Singers Night				
Wigan	Singarounds	Singarounds	Singarounds	Singarounds	Singers Night
WEDNESDAY					
Alison Arms	6TH AUGUST	12TH AUGUST	19TH AUGUST	26TH AUGUST	2ND SEPTEMBER
Biddulph up in Arms	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Burnley	closed until 02/09/09				CHRIS WHILE & JULIE MATTHEWS
Garstang Unplugged	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	KEN NICOL
Ye Olde Vic					
THURSDAY					
Acoustic Folk at the Nursery	6TH AUGUST	13TH AUGUST	20TH AUGUST	27TH AUGUST	3RD SEPTEMBER
Chorlton	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Dabbers	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Earby	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians
Gregson Lane	Singarounds		LOU		
Heaton Mersey			Singers & Musicians		
Hungry Horse Acoustic	PAMELA WARD & PAUL CHERRINGTON				HARVEY ANDREWS
Lymm	Singers Night	KIT HAWES	BIG SPOT - Lizzie Munnery	BERNARD CROMARTY	Singers Night @ Lymm Rugby Club
Pacific Arts Centre		RICHARD THOMPSON			
Parkgate				CHRIS WHILE & JULIE MATTHEWS	
Wigan	Singarounds	Singarounds	Singarounds	Singarounds	Singarounds
FRIDAY					
Bollington	7TH AUGUST	14TH AUGUST	21ST AUGUST	28TH AUGUST	4TH SEPTEMBER
Bromley Cross	no programme supplied				
Carlisle Folk & Blues					Singers & Musicians
Frodsham	ADRIAN SCHOFIELD (tbc)				Singers Night
Northwich	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Porkies	GARVA		BERNARD CROMARTY		Singers Night
Preston	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	ALLAN TAYLOR
South Lake Music Promotion					Singers & Musicians
SATURDAY					
South Lake Music Promotion	8TH AUGUST	15TH AUGUST	22ND AUGUST	29TH AUGUST	5TH SEPTEMBER
No gigs on these dates					

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

Space in the next "Diary Dates Calendar" - Autumn edition - of this magazine will cover the period - Sunday 23rd August to Saturday 5th December 2009. Club Organisers/Venue Managers are asked to ensure information for this calendar is forwarded to folksingerjohn@aol.com by 12th July 2009.

ADVANCE DATES FROM SEPTEMBER 2009



ACOUSTIC COLLECTIVE

Sept 1 Zoe Mulford
 Sept 8 Acoustic Collective
 Sept 15 Singaround
 Sept 22 Bandersnatch
 Sept 25/26 Dukinfield Music Festival
 Sept 29 Shake the Roots
 Oct 6 Singers Night
 Oct 13 Ruth Fuga & Ken Powell
 Oct 27 Stewart Warburton
 Oct 29 Singaround
 Nov 3 Singers Night
 Nov 10 Jolly Jack
 Nov 17 Singaround
 Nov 24 tba
 Dec 1 Singers Night
 Dec 8 tba
 Dec 15 Singaround
 Dec 22 Christmas Party
 Dec 27 closed

ACOUSTIC FOLK AT THE NURSERY

Sept 3 Singers Night
 Sept 17 Singers Night
 Oct 1 Singers Night
 Oct 15 Big Spot - Jim Schofield
 Oct 29 Singers Night
 Nov 12 Singers Night
 Nov 26 Singers Night
 Dec 10 Christmas Party Big Spot - David South
 Dec 24 closed
 2010 - Jan 7 Singers Night

BIDDULPH UP IN ARMS ** = @ Biddulph Town Hall

Sept 2 Chris White & Julie Matthews **
 Oct 7 Emily Smith
 Oct 13 Private Peaceful: Coope, Boyse & Simpson with Michael Morpurgo **
 Oct 14 The Queensberry Rules
 Oct 22 Clive Gregson & Stephen Fearing
 Dec 9 Flossie

BOLLINGTON

Oct 23 Barron Brady

BOTHY

Sept 13 Allan Taylor
 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
 Nov 8 Singers Night
 Nov 15 Dave Burland
 Nov 22 Singers Night
 Nov 29 Martin Carthy
 Dec 6th Singers Night
 Dec 13 Sarah McQuaid
 Dec 20 Christmas Party Night
 2010 - Jan 3 Peter & Barbara Snape
 Jan 10 Singers Night
 Jan 17 Vicki Swan & Jonny Dyer
 Jan 24 Singers Night
 Jan 31 tba
 Feb 7 Dave Ellis & Boo Howard

Feb 14 Sara Grey & Kieron Means
 Feb 17 (Thurs) Lizzie Nunnery - New CD launch
 Feb 21 Singers Night
 Feb 28 Singers Night
 March 7 John Connolly
 March 14 Singers Night
 March 21 Judy & Dennis Cook (USA)
 March 28 Singers Night
 April 4 Easter Special
 April 11 Tich Frier
 April 18 Irene Shettle with 'The life & work of Lucy Broadwood'

BROMLEY CROSS

Sept 4 Singers & Musicians Night
 Sept 18 Tom McConville & David Newey
 Oct 2 Singers & Musicians Night
 Oct 16 Craig, Morgan & Robson
 Nov 6 Singers & Musicians Night
 Nov 20 Bandersnatch
 Dec 4 Singers & Musicians Night
 Dec 18 Pete Coe

BURNLEY

Sept 2 Ken Nicol

CARLISLE FOLK & BLUES

Sept 4 Singers Night
 Sept 18 James Keelaghan trio
 Oct 2 Jack McNeil & Charlie Heys
 Oct 16 Rod Clements
 Oct 22 Show of Hands @ Swallow Hill Top Hotel, Carlisle
 Oct 30 Helen Watson
 Nov 13 tbc
 Nov 27 Chris James
 Dec 11 New Rope String Band

CONWY

Sept 14 Jeff Warner
 Oct 19 Johnny Silvo
 Nov 2 Jez Lowe & the Bad Pennies (other dates - Singers Nights)

FOLK AT THE MANOR

Sept 20 Hughie Jones
 Oct 18 Phil Drane
 Nov 15 Jacque McDonald
 Nov 29 Residents Night
 Dec 20 Full House (other dates - Singers Nights)

FOLK AT THE PROSPECT

Sept tba
 Oct 12 Kenny Spiers & Judy Dinning
 Nov 16 Anthony John Clarke
 Dec 14 Sarah McQuaid (other dates - Singers Nights)

FOLK ON FRIDAY (ex-Leigh)

Sept 18 Garva
 Oct 16 Vin Garbutt
 Nov 20 Tom Kitching & Gren Bartley
 Nov 21 Ashton on Mersey Showband @ St Joseph's Hall, Chapel Street, Leigh

FOUR FOOLS FOLK CLUB

Sept 7 Damien Barber & Mike Wilson
FRIENDS OF FOLK ** = @ Preston Guild Hall foyer
 Sept 11 Joe & Ben Broughton **
 Sept 17 Joe & Ben Broughton @ The Bluecoat, Liverpool
 Dec 17 Steeleye Span **

FRODSHAM

Sept 11 Derek Gifford
 Oct 2 Colum Sands
 Nov 6 Bella Hardy & Chris Sherburn

Dec 4 Grant Baynham (other dates - Singers Nights)

GARSTANG UNPLUGGED

Sept 17 Jeff & Vida (duo)
 Sept 30 Singers Night
 Oct 15 Angie Palmer Band
 Oct 27 Singers Night
 Nov 19 The Carrivick Sisters (duo)
 Nov 25 Singers Night

GREGSON LANE

Sept 10 Howden Jones
 Sept 24 Singers Night
 Oct 8 Brian Preston
 Oct 22 Singers Night
 Oct 30 Friday Night 21st Birthday Special with The McCalmans

HUNGRY HORSE ACOUSTIC

Nov 5 Desi Friel
 Nov 19 Singers Night
 Dec 3 Derek Gifford
 Dec 17 Christmas Singers Night
HUNGRY HORSE ACOUSTIC
 Sept 3 Harvey Andrews
 Sept 17 Anthony John Clarke (New CD launch night)
 Oct 1 Yardarm
 Oct 15 Bram Taylor
 Nov 5 Welcomme, Finnan & Chrimes
 Nov 19 Tom Topping Band
 Dec 3 Fiddlestone
 Dec 17 Christmas Party Night
 Dec 24 & 31 closed
 2010 -
 Jan 7 to Feb 11 Singers & Musicians Nights
 Feb 18 Allan Taylor
 March 11 Julie Felix (all other dates - Singers & Musicians Nights)

LONGRIDGE

Sept 1 Singers Night
 Sept 15 Hard Times
 Oct 6 Singers Night
 Oct 20 Mark Dowding
 Nov 3 Singers Night
 Nov 17 tba
 Dec 1 Singers Night
 Dec 15 Christmas Bash

LYMM ** = @ Lymm Rugby Club

Sept 3 Singers Night **
 Sept 10 Celtish **
 Sept 17 Nancy Kerr & James Fagan **
 Sept 24 Steve Ashley
 Oct 1 Singers Night **
 Oct 8 Guest - tba **
 Oct 15 Singers Night
 Oct 22 Fil Campbell
 Oct 29 Nelson Peach
 Nov 5 Joseph Topping
 Nov 12 Singers Night **
 Nov 19 Mick Hare **
 Nov 26 Big Spot: Stuart Warburton
 Dec 3 Garva @ Lymm Tennis Club
 Dec 10 Xmas Singers Night ** (tbc)
 Dec 17 Anthony John Clarke **
 Dec 24 & 31 closed

MAGHULL

Oct 6 Colum Sands
 Dec 8 Gary & Vera Aspey
 Dec 22 Christmas Party Night (other nights - Singers Nights)

MIDWAY

Oct 26 Martin Simpson

MR KITE BENEFITS

Dec 20 St Agnes Fountain

NORTHWICH

Sept 11 Guest - tbc
 Sept 25 Ceri Rhys Matthews & Christine Cooper
 Oct 2 Ember (other nights - Singers Nights)

PACIFIC ARTS CENTRE

Sept 23 Katherine Tickell Band
 Oct 6 Karine Polwart Band

PARKGATE

Sept 24 Mike Silver
 Oct 29 The McCalmans
 Nov 26 Cathryn Craig & Brian Willoughby
 2010 - Jan 28 Elbow Jane

PHILHARMONIC HALL

Oct 2 The Waterson Family
 Oct 13 Joan Baez
 Nov 8 Charlie Landsborough

PLAYHOUSE 2

Oct 22 Uiscedwr
 Oct 24 Norman Prince
 Nov 7 Helen Watson with Dave Bowie (double bass) Mark Cresswell (guitar) Swing Commanders
 Nov 21 St Agnes Fountain

PORKIES

Sept 4 Allan Taylor
 Oct 2 The Churchfitters
 Nov 6 Nothing by Chance (Keith Donnelly & Gilly Derby)
 Dec 4 Tom Topping Band

SALE

Oct 17 Johnny Silvo
 Nov 14 Real Time

SHAMROCK PROMOTIONS

Nov 13 John Spiers & Jon Boden
 Dec 5 Ailie Robertson Band
 Dec 27 Swing Commanders

SKIPTON UNPLUGGED

Sept 7 Singers Night
 Sept 14 Allan Taylor
 Sept 21 Singers Night
 Sept 28 "Wake the sleeping dragon"
 Oct 12 Sarah Jones
 Oct 26 Jon Harvison
 Nov 30 Janet Russell

SOUTH LAKES MUSIC PROMOTION

Oct 2 Angie Palmer Band
 Nov 6 Emma & the Professor
 Dec 4 Bernard Wrigley

SOUTHPORT ARTS CENTRE

Oct 2 Jim Moray
 Oct 30 Michael McGoldrick & friends

SWINTON

Sept 7 Anthony John Clarke
WOODEN HORSE
 Sept 27 Bill Whaley & Dave Fletcher
 Oct 18 Residents Night
 Nov 15 Robin Laing
 Dec 13 Garva
 Dec 20 Christmas Party Night
 Dec 27 closed (other nights - Singers Nights)

WREXHAM

Sept 17 Andrew Jones & Colin Henderson
 Oct 1 tbc
 Oct 15 Singers Night
 Nov 5 Tom Topping Band
 Nov 19 Singers Night
 Dec 3 tba
 Dec 17 Yardarm Christmas Party Night

As always, if you click the Lessons page of my web site www.jimronayne.co.uk You'll find a recording there for you to listen to, a PDF file for you to print the music off, but also we've recently just added a "Scorch" version of the lessons to the site. Scorch is a free to download tool, which will allow you to play / follow the music through. Slow it down, speed it up change keys etc. Cheers

Jim Ronayne

LETTERS



Dear Ken,

Some time ago I sent out letters to as many Folk Clubs as I could get addresses for. This is a follow up email to let you know what has been happening since then.

We have been training to walk the West Highland Way during the last weekend in May of this year. We are looking for a s many sponsors as possible. I also appealed to folk Clubs to hold some kind of event to support our work - more details of which can be seen on our website - www.folkheart.co.uk

Phil Cunningham has agreed to take a role in the organising of a major concert in the Nevis Centre in Fort William (at the end of the walk...) This takes place on May 30 2009. If you are in the area then please come along to what promises to be a fantastic afternoon and evening of music and dance. As well as Phil and friends we have Hoogie, Eilidh Grant - performing songs from her new album, Broken Records (see the January edition of 'Q' magazine for a brilliant write up of this band - predicted to be one of the bands of 2009) and De Rosa - just released their 2nd album.

If you are not planning to be in Fort William at the end of May, I suggest you change your plans. (And bring your LOUDEST shirt - those of you who have been to Stonehaven Folk Festival will know why...!)

If you can't change your plans please help us out by looking at our website (www.folkheart.co.uk) where you can get access to our "Just Giving" page. Basically we are supporting the British Heart Foundation (BHF) this year. Any money donated via the site goes straight to the BHF and there is the added advantage of an extra 28% from the taxman (good old Mr Darling actually turned out to be one!) if you are a British Tax payer.

If you have already contributed can I take this opportunity to give you our heartfelt thanks. You will already see your Club's link on our site and we'd like to see a lot more such links before we are finished.

Regards,

Martin Kasprowic

Dear Ken

A more than timely article by Paul Reade on political songs (FNW Spring 2009) for, as anyone listening to "Travelling Folk" on BBC Radio Scotland (26th and 28th March) would have heard, interest in this genre is alive and well. The programme, presented by the venerable Archie Fisher, was dedicated to political song and focussed on the role and work of the Centre for Political Song at Glasgow's Caledonian University.

song, and operates as a research and archive base. It welcomes contributions from writers, performers and singer-songwriters from any source. I've lost count of the number of well-crafted and appropriate songs heard in folk venues in the North West in recent years and I've been informed by the Centre Manager, John Powles, that contributions from our region are more than welcome.

The website <http://blogs.spokenword.ac.uk/politicalsong> will lead to further details and hopefully input from our area.

Thanks

Rob Dunford.

OBITUARIES

VIVA SMITH 1946-2009

Born in India in 1946 with an Italian father and a mother whose descendents were Indian, Egyptian and Irish, Viva had what might many consider to have been a glamorous background. She moved to Dartmouth in England when 4, but her mother became mentally unbalanced and thus began a period of life being fostered by Rachel Doble in Torquay. She went to Ingsdon Manor Catholic School and then at 16 began a career at a hospital in Carshalton and went on to train as a pharmacy technician.

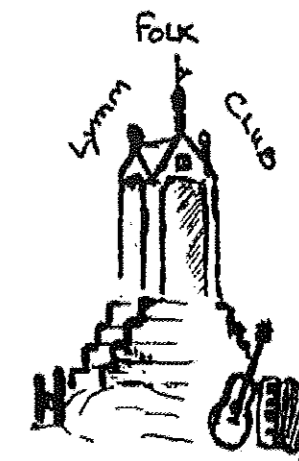
Wild Oats were formed in the late 1960's and Viva was the lead singer along with Ray Tassie on Mandolin, Derek (later to become the Amazing Mr) Smith on guitar and Mike Flood on Bass. It was at this period that she first crossed my path when the band not only worked through my agency Sweet Folk All but also recorded on my label. Blessed with a wonderful voice and sense of humour she also discovered the knack of writing some very clever songs some of which were parodies of more popular compositions.

She married Derek Smith in Torquay in 1982, I was their best man, and when the Wild Oats eventually disbanded after almost 20 years on the road, whilst Derek went on to carve a solo career, Viva turned her attention to acting. She soon however formed Dangerous Curves and for the past 20 years she had been delighting audiences across Britain together (formerly with Saffron Summerfield) later with Ann and Jen in the joys of eating chocolate and singing hilarious ditties; the majority of which she wrote herself. Delightful harmonies and a wonderful friendly relaxed presentation soon earned 'The Curves' a huge following across the whole of Great Britain with festivals spread from Northumberland to Cornwall and back to the Lakes!

She had been fighting cancer off and on for over 15 years and finally succumbed on the morning of April 6th, Derek and her daughter Rosie were at her bedside. She was writing songs almost up to her last breath and there is a song still waiting to see the light of day which she composed in the last week of her life. Such was her dedication to her music, her band and her audience she was still working in February this year. The little Parish church in Loders in Dorset was packed to the rafters at her funeral on April 27th. She will be greatly, greatly missed by many.

Joe Stead

LYMM FOLK & ACOUSTIC MUSIC 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)

04 jun singers night £1
11 jun **graham bellinger & the deportees £4**
18 jun big spot: "zero temperance" geoff bibby, sue & derek bradburne £1

25 june to 3 july lymm festival 2009 (SEE FULL PAGE ADVERT)

09 jul big spot: maghull's fbi blues £1
(paul robinson, frank fell & bob packwood)
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**

advance dates:

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); 24 SEP STEVE ASHLEY (£7); 01 OCT SINGERS NIGHT (£1) (lymm rugby club); 08 OCT GUEST TBA (lymm rugby club); 15 OCT SINGERS NIGHT (£1); 22 OCT FIL CAMPBELL (£7); 29 OCT NELSON PEACH (£6); 05 NOV JOSEPH TOPPING (£6); 12 NOV SINGERS NIGHT (£1) (lymm rugby club); 19 NOV MICK HARE (£4) (lymm rugby club); 26 NOV BIG SPOT: STUART WARBURTON (£1); 03 DEC GARVA (£7) (lymm tennis club); 10 DEC XMAS SINGERS NIGHT (£1) (lymm rugby club TBC); 17 DEC ANTHONY JOHN CLARKE (£6) (lymm rugby club); 24 DEC CLOSED; 31 DEC CLOSED

SAVE UP TO £2 WHEN YOU BUY YOUR TICKETS IN ADVANCE!

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

www.stewartlever.co.uk

FESTIVAL NEWS AND MUSIC EVENTS



WOODY GUTHRIE'S FREEDOM SONGS

Professor Will Kaufman will give an Unaugural Lecture and performance of Woody Guthrie's Freedom Songs at 5,00pm on Tuesday 9th June 2009 at The Foster Lecture Theatre, School of Journalism, Media & Communication, Uclan. All are welcome and entrance is free.

DENT SWITCHES TO SEDBERGH

June 26th - 28th 2009 sees the one and only Dent Folk Festival take up its new residency in Sedbergh, with a line-up of folk and world music stars that includes current stars Karine Polwart and Chris Wood, plus the legend of British comedy Adrian Edmondson, and his band, The Bad Shepherds.

Dub / hip hop / dance fusion kings TransGlobal Underground give new dimension to the Dent Festival. A fixture on the festival and dance scene since the early 90s, TGU's revolving collective touch on folk and world music and past break out projects by their members have picked up folk and world music awards at their respective BBC shows.

Black Umfolosi are a multi-discipline performing arts group, based in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. Formed in 1982, they have since become an internationally acclaimed harmonic acapella singing and traditional African dance group. Compared to the likes of Ladysmith Black Mambazo of South Africa, Black Umfolosi, tour extensively in the UK, Australia, Asia, Europe, Canada and the USA.

Solas ~ Since its birth in 1996, Solas has been loudly proclaimed as the most popular, influential, and exciting Celtic band to ever emerge from the United States.

Kila ~ Legendary Irish band whose dynamic stage performance marries Celtic Music to Eastern Music with supreme musicianship. Kila have played to audiences all over the world and remain one of the most impressive and innovative bands on the planet. Visit www.dentfolkfestival.co.uk

TRADITIONS FESTIVAL - 26 to 28 JUNE 2009 'Bringing your Traditions to Life'

This year's Traditions Festival looks all set to be the best yet. The line up of artistes is second to none and the venue for the event, Lostock Hall Community High School, is tailor made for those intimate concerts, meet the artiste sessions, workshops, etc that are unique to this Festival. Just take a look at our advert in this magazine to see the cream of traditional folk music, song and dance on offer over the weekend. The events take place in small cosy rooms, no need for P.As.

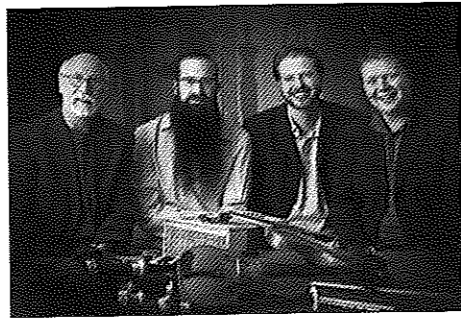
The joy of this Festival is that the campsite is at the back door, all events are under one roof and the longest it will take you to get from one venue to the next is two minutes. We have full catering from the superb Moor and Coast over the weekend, plus the wonderful Barbara and Sue's healthy snacks, plus their wonderful home made cakes. All this and a Real Ale Bar all weekend. What more could one want. The Festival thrives on participation and there are plenty of chances to have a sing or play. You will find a full programme of events on the website.

If you've not been before come and join us. You won't be

disappointed, we have the reputation of being the friendliest festival around and also the best singers festival. Just ask anyone who has been.

For further details contact Angie 01257 263678.
Festival website:- www.madontrad.org.uk

BATTLE FOR CLECKHEATON



No it's not them Luddites at it again but the Scottish Super Folk Group, BATTLEFIELD BAND, who are performing at CLECKHEATON FOLK FESTIVAL this summer. The group who have wowed audiences

all Over the world for the last 30 years make one of their 3 English gigs, and the only one in Yorkshire, at this year's Festival (3rd - 5th July) DON'T MISS IT! (See website for details www.cleckheatonfolkfestival.org)

FOLKWORKS SUMMER SCHOOLS 2009.

The Schools take place in Durham in mid August and provide an opportunity to work closely with some of the finest performers/tutors in the field of folk music, song and dance. For further details:

Folkworks Summer Schools brief details

Adult Summer Schools full details and enrolment form.

Youth Summer Schools full details and enrolment form.

Junior Summer Schools full details and enrolment form.

Amanda Wood Head of Media and Public Relations The Sage Gateshead direct: +44 (0)191 443 4567 out of hours mobile: +44 (0)7826552945 amanda.wood@thesagegateshead.org switchboard: +44 (0)191 443 4666 ticket office: +44 (0)191 443 4661 www.thesagegateshead.org

SHREWSBURY FESTIVAL 28 - 31 AUGUST 2009

Shrewsbury Folk Festival will have a lot to offer in 2009. 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. Visit: www.shrewsburyfolkfestival.co.uk

The line up includes Proclaimers, Eric Bibb, The Dhol Foundation, 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.

In addition to the festival, they also organise concerts throughout the year in Shrewsbury. They've just confirmed a very special one-off show for Richard Shindell on June 14th in a small town centre venue. There's a concert in the evening, but also the

22nd Cleckheaton Folk Festival 3rd, 4th & 5th July 2009
Weekend Tickets Only £45 (before May 31st 2009)
BATTLEFIELD BAND, ERIC BOGLE & JOHN MONRO, RUTH NOTMAN MRSACKROYD, TOM LEWIS, SOMETHING NASTY IN THE WOODSHED, AND OTHERS!!!
For more details phone: 01274 879761
Supported by Kirklees COUNCIL
www.cleckheatonfolkfestival.org

Whitby Folk Week 22 - 28 August 2009
Over 600 events for all ages
Full youth programme
Workshops
Dances
Concerts
www.whitbyfolk.co.uk
Ticket Sales - 01274 833 669
patron: Eliza Carthy
Programmes from Tourist Information Centre & around the town
Main image courtesy of the Sutcliffe Gallery, Flowergate, Whitby

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Send Copy by July 10th 2009

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e.mail: d.gifford1@virgin.net

Your Folk Magazine



Needs You.

Write an article
Review a CD
Send in a Live Review
Write a letter
Do a spotlight feature
on your club
or favourite artist.

E.mail: davejones3@btinternet.com

unique opportunity for a songwriting workshop/Q&A with Richard in the afternoon, but as it's a small venue tickets for both are limited. Concert tickets from the venue 01743 234970. Workshop tickets or more details please email: neil@shrewsburyfolkfestival.co.uk

CLECKHEATON FOLK FESTIVAL 2009 - 3 - 5 JULY

In these days of doom and gloom it is good to know that some things are not only continuing but improving! The Cleckheaton Folk Festival is one such ray of sunshine. Following the success of last year's 21st Anniversary Festival the 2009 Festival is all set to be even better AND as an added bonus in these times of financial stringencies we are maintaining last year's prices for weekend ticket holders and campers until May 2009. Check our web-site <http://www.cleckheatonfolkfestival.org/> for details. The guest list has not been trimmed to make this offer, in fact it is bigger and better than ever.

We have big named solo artistes such as Eric Bogle (on his farewell tour) and John Munro, also big bands such as The Battlefield Band and groups like the Ruth Notman Trio. With Eric Bogle from Australia and Tom Lewis from Canada adding an international flavour we also have excellent local talent such as Blackstone Edge, Duncan McFarlane & Ann Brivonese, Beaumont Brothers, Berkana, Bruce Baillie and Russ Hughes as well as national names such as His Worship and the Pig, Mrs Ackroyd, Something Nasty in the Woodshed, Belshazzars Feast, Scolds Bridle and Cockersdale. We have old established favourites such as Eric Bogle as well as up and coming youngsters such as 4 Square. With more still to confirm.

As all of you folkies know it's not just about Concerts at Cleckheaton, we cater for many other aspects of the folk scene as well. There will be workshops and meet-the-artist sessions with all the big names, there'll be sing-arounds in a number of venues new to this year's festival as well as at the Wickham, and music sessions in various locations. Old favourites such as the craft fair and Family Fun Day will be just as good as ever and the festival ceilidh and a Hiring Fair (Contact John Prentice on 07899 973630) are set to be re-introduced

Not only will you be able to choose from the many varied eateries around town but the festivals own café will be open through the week-end. Moor and Coast will be doing the campsite catering (fine food and good music combined). There will be a minibus running to and from the campsite throughout the weekend. All of this controlled from our normal central office in the Town Hall with ample space to meet folks, chat and get all the latest news.

Remember that there are other things in the area too. Bronte land, Haworth and Last of the Summer Wine country, Holmfirth, are all easily accessible from Cleckheaton as are many traditional markets, major museums such as Leeds Armouries, Halifax's Eureka and Bradford's National Film and Photography museum. Plenty of open countryside such as the Spen Valley Greenway, Spen Valley Cycle Way or urban walks such as the Spen Fame Trail as well as Cleckheaton being on the edge of the wonderful tourist attraction that is the Yorkshire Dales. So book your summer break now and take advantage of our cheap rates and excellent attractions.

JUBILEE MUSIC WORKSHOPS

Jubilee Music Workshops and Jubilee Concertinas are a friendly bunch of enthusiastic musicians ranging from 'just beginners' through 'getting on a bit better now' to 'not bad really' who enjoy playing traditional music and play all sorts of different instruments.

We meet on the first and second Saturdays every month from 2 - 5 p.m. at Eaves Green Community Centre, Lower Burgh Way,

Eaves Green, Chorley. We welcome players of all ages and abilities to join us.

On the first Saturday of the month we have a 'slow and steady' session for all instruments. This session is geared towards players of all instruments who want to meet and join in with other musicians but maybe feel they are not yet ready for the wonderful but 'fast and frantic' tune sessions that take place regularly throughout the County.

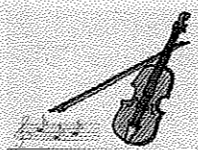
Our aim is to play tunes at your speed, to help you gain confidence in playing with other musicians and to enable you to learn standard session tunes. We can provide you with music or we can also provide CDs of tunes for you to pick up by ear. On the second Saturday of the month we have a Concertina Workshop (same times and venue as for first Saturday). This is open to players of all types of Concertinas. Some people come to both sessions, as we tend to concentrate on the same tunes and some people play more than one instrument.

We offer help, guidance and encouragement to all players (and have a great time in the process). Thanks to 'Awards for All', if you are interested in playing the Concertina but haven't got an instrument yet, we can loan you one of ours for a couple of months. We also run regular workshop days where we use professional tutors who spend the day with us, passing on help, tips and encouragement for improving expertise.

So, if you would like to join our merry band, dust off that fiddle, drag that mandolin/guitar/squeezebox out of the loft and come along and join us. The venue has full disabled access. You will be assured of a warm welcome (and tea/coffee and biscuits). And your first visit is free. Come along and join other musicians who will all offer help and support (and find out about the 'three minutes of torture') which we can't possibly talk about here.

For further details please contact Angie on 01257 263678 or Mike Bartram on 01744 817127. Email: four.fools@virgin.net Please check out our website www.jubileeconcertinas.org for current news etc

ARTIST CORNER



CLIVE GREGSON'S BEST



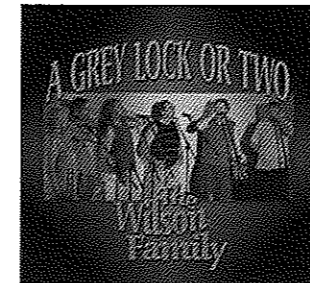
photo by Roger Liptrout

'The Best of Clive Gregson', a new compilation CD by one of our most prolific song-writers (now based in Nashville, Tennessee) was officially launched in the UK on 27 April. The 18 song collection, selected from his eight solo albums to date, spanning 1985 to 2005; live favourites, songs that have been recorded by other artistes, folk club standards and pop classics. Not an easy task choosing "the best" from so many great songs, I'm sure you'll agree but hopefully your particular favourites feature... here's to the next twenty years!

Clive kicked off his spring tour at Wath Festival on 2 May and

played a rousing live set at the Hungry Horse Acoustic Folk Club near Ellesmere Port on 7 May before returning to the North West to the Playhouse 2 at Oldham on 23 May. He's back again in October/November this year, when he'll also be opening a few shows for Jools Holland, as well as the spring and autumn 2010 (he traditionally comes home each May and November). Visit www.clivegregson.com for further details.

WILSON FAMILY'S FIRST STUDIO CD FOR 18 YEARS



The Wilson Family have released their new CD: "A Grey Lock Or Two", their first studio recording, since "The Wilson Family Album" (Harbourtown HAR020) in 1991. It also marks 30 Years of singing together as Trish, Tom, Chris, Steve, Ken & Mike, although some of the older members of the family, have been singing together a lot longer than that!!

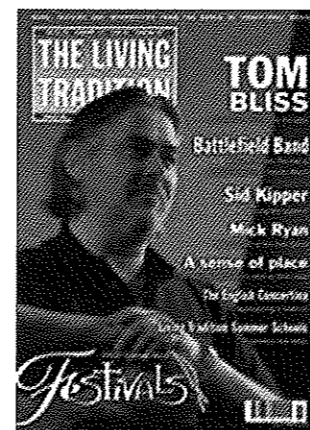
It is available through their website at the link below, or direct from the Family at any and all of their gigs. www.thewilsonfamilyalbum.co.uk

Ken Wilson is at the Traditions Folk Festival, Preston from 26-28 June, as is Mike Wilson who appears with Damien Barber.

NEWSREEL



LIVING TRADITION NEWS



We are still experimenting with ways to make more material from the Living Tradition available for casual readers and to extend features for our subscribers. We have again put the whole of the current issue online, plus an online version of our Festival Listing section (as published in Issue 82). You can read it, print out parts of it, and you can forward the links and invite friends to see it. If you haven't seen the magazine recently, we hope that it will tempt you to subscribe. Please pass this link on to any

of your contacts who you think may be interested. Please also encourage them to register for our free email newsletter so that we can keep them in touch with developments. (Register via the Newsletter option on our website www.folkmusic.net)

LIVING TRADITION SUMMER SCHOOLS

There is a feature on the Living Tradition Summer Schools in the current issue of Living Tradition. This is a major part of our work and something that we are sure that many of you would enjoy. Can I encourage you to check out the article or the Summer Schools website. If you are looking for a holiday this year with

great music and friends - check us out. We have a great new location in a University Campus in Dundee - 'City of Discovery' and on the doorstep of a wonderful part of Scotland. We would appreciate it if you could help spread the word for us. www.livingtradition.org.uk/summerschools

Readers Offer CDs

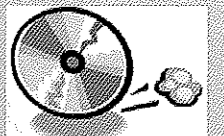
Finally, The Listening Post. We started selling CDs as a 'service' to our readers, many of whom found it hard to find this specialist music in the shop. Over the years this has been a useful source for many people and the money generated helps oil the wheels of Living Tradition. We have stocks of lots 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. There are also recordings from other noted singers including Chris Foster, Steve Turner, Sara Grey and Kieron Means. Visit: www.livingtradition.org.uk

Pete Heywood

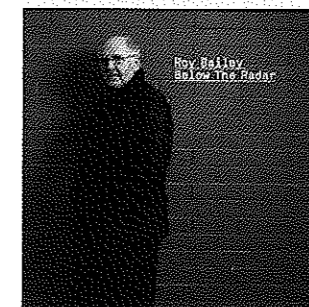
Editor, The Living Tradition

Email: newsletter@folkmusic.net

CD REVIEWS



ROY BAILEY Below The Radar (Fuse Records CFCD07)

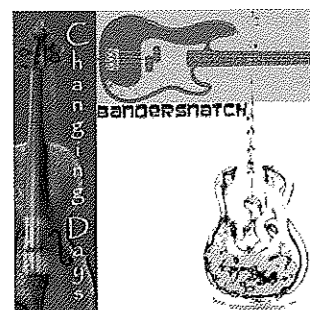


In the 'services to the folk music world' stakes, Roy Bailey must be out at the front with the leading pack. Ironically, though he titles this new release 'Under The Radar', he's worked tirelessly to bring a variety of issues into the area of our own personal radar. The album is peppered with the political comment that recent wars have brought to the front of our collective minds.

Those of you who've seen him lately will recall Roy's liking for the Jim Page songs, 'Palestine' and 'Collateral Damage'. Both of these find their way onto this record alongside 'How Beautiful Upon The Mountains', Tom Paxton's plea for peace inspired by the biblical words of Isaiah. On the other hand, to focus on Roy's political fare would do a disservice to this record. He's equally at home with contemporary folk sing-a-longs such as George Papavgeris' 'Friends Like These' with its simple message that good friends are worth more than celebrity status. Similarly, he's happy to bring lesser know writers to our attention with David Ferrard's love song, 'Take Me Out Waltzing Tonight' and his nostalgic look at youthful protest in 'Visions Of Our Youth'.

In this stroll through some well crafted songs, Roy is ably accompanied by the likes of John Kirkpatrick, Martin Simpson, Andy Cutting, Kellie While and adding bass and, twiddling the production controls, Andy Seward. The quality of these musical friends is testament to the respect that Roy commands from his fellow professionals and, as listeners; we should also thank him for bringing these fine songs to our attention. **Steve Henderson**

BANDERSNATCH Changing Days



Did you watch the remake of 'The 39 Steps' over Christmas, with current heartthrob Rupert Penry Jones? Were you as disappointed as I was? No Forth rail bridge, no bloke in the theatre who has to answer in truths, etc? Why can't they leave these things alone? However, proof that you CAN remake a classic and add to its value is amply demonstrated by the opening

track of Bandersnatch's second album, 'Changing Days'.

Their arrangement of that stalwart Folk Club dietary staple, 'Lancashire Lads' is, in my humble opinion, a cracking job - it just grows and grows on you, and transpires to be just the opening track of an excellent and thoroughly enjoyable album. In fact the second track up, the Eponymous 'Changing Days', indicates what we're about with this CD, the second album but the first with a new line up. The Band have embraced a number of changes, both organic and acquired, and have used the opportunity to respect the existing quality but also to build on what was good to begin with.

Perhaps most immediately obvious in the new line up is the addition of Becky Raw, adding another depth of talent from a number of aspects. The inclusion of a (lovely) female vocal, be it lead or harmonies, definitely adds and expands the overall appeal. A good example is the gospel song 'Ain't no grave gonna hold my body down' - very nicely done. And using the time honoured ability of all females to multi task,



Becky's wonderfully sympathetic interpretation of Violin and Viola parts is just spot on.

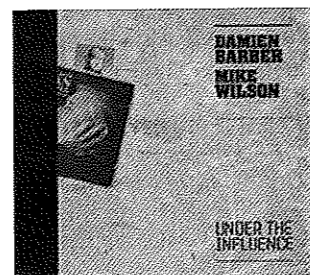
Similarly, multi - instrumentalist Ian Kell adds keyboard, as well as lead electric and acoustic guitar into the balance, and again here the secret is that Ian's playing always just adds enough to the overall mix - in my view the signature appeal of the band. Other highlights of the album include the evocative 'Storm around Tumbledown' (I defy you not to join in), 'Copperline' (James Taylor), 'Dallas Rag' (I'll bet Dennis Dodd has one of those stripy coloured jackets at home), and of course the title track 'Changing days', sung beautifully, once again by Becky.

I should at this point confess that I've always enjoyed the sound that Bandersnatch produce - whilst the general 'feel' of the band is based in traditional music, it's the sheer variety and the delivery, (trad/original/covers/gospel/ragtime), that added to their musicality make them so listenable.

'Changing Days' is a worthy and optimistic addition to anyone's CD collection, a sort of 'feel good' album; there is singalong, there is frisson, there is tenderness - I can't recommend it highly enough. Finally, I have to mention the much missed Clive Leyland. I can imagine the band postulating on how best to celebrate his legacy as a songwriter and significant band member. Well, I think you've done it, guys. I can just picture Clive sitting on his cloud, nodding in approval....Yes, I think you've done it beautifully.

Pete Hardman

DAMIEN BARBER AND MIKE WILSON Under The Influence DBS002



I have to admit that after hearing a stunning performance from this duo at Four Fools Folk Club over 12 months ago I have been long awaiting this CD. Here are two strong, very individual voices that blend superbly. Peter Bellamy himself in 1989 said "You should book that young demon Barber, he's a mighty fine singer and box player". Not long afterwards I'm

glad to say we did and he has been appearing regularly at our club and Festival since, as also have the Wilson Family. This CD has a great variety of songs including, to name a few, The Green Linnet, Down the Moor, On Board a '98 and Andrew Rose.

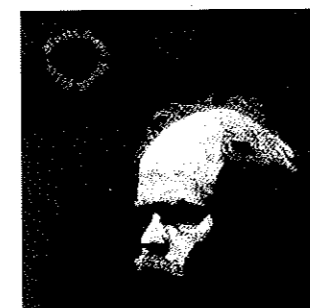
There is plenty of unaccompanied singing but on some tracks Damien's concertina or guitar weaves in and around the voices to magical effect. I always knew he was a great box player but now discover what a wonderfully sensitive guitar player he is.

Here are two guys who sing for the sheer love of singing. After hearing a lot of what I can only describe as "arranged" singing around the folk scene recently, these two are a breath of fresh air. There is a certain raw quality about the blend of voices and instruments that just have the hairs on the back of your neck standing on end. So, if you want to hear two very individual singers join together to breathe new life into a great selection of songs this this is for you.

All in all I just cannot fault this CD. Oliver Knight as ever has done a great job as recording engineer. Copies can be purchased from Damien's website and also from the duo themselves wherever they are appearing. Catch them at Traditions Festival at the end of June and also at Four Fools Folk Club in September.

Angie Bladen

BONNIE 'PRINCE' BILLY Beware (Domino Records WIGCD233)



There's a quiet undercurrent of folk flavoured acoustic music impressing the younger generation though many of the latter would not be seen dead in the folk clubs inhabited by their parents; preferring to sit down on the hard floor or a rock venue to take in some acoustic delights. Delighting the audiences in these venues are characters such as Devendra Banhart, Iron and Wine alongside Bonnie 'Prince' Billy.

The latter seems happy to change his artistic name now and again and languish in anonymity but this hasn't stopped his records doing well. 'Beware' is the latest release and follows the pattern of earlier records with self-composed material presented in an acoustic style at the centre. Whilst, earlier records have had string sections to back them or a hint of pedal steel to underline his American roots, this record has more of a band feel adding a little brass or fiddle as suits. However, it's the lyrics that identify his writing from others with its unusual take on the love song. Naively, you might think that a younger audience is going to be provided with some sweet and saccharine pop style lyrics.... oh, no, not this time!

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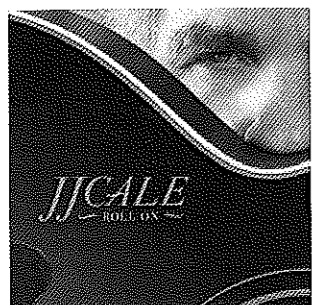
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He's much happier looking under the stones and amongst nooks and crannies little examined by others. Take, for example, 'Beware Your Only Friend' whose title suggests a warning to the lover who he's determined to adopt as an only friend to the exclusion of all others. 'You Can't Hurt Me Now' tells of the safety the lover feels when it's over; a theme he develops in 'I Don't belong To Anyone'. Distance also becomes a topic in 'There Is Something I have To Say' where he tells his lover that he's leaving but asking for that love to be stored away and, even, asks for a moment's passion before he goes. Then, there's 'You Are Lost' where he admits that his lover was doomed as soon as they met.

From all this, you'll sense that he delves into the more confusing and fractious areas that love can offer us. Yes, Bonnie 'Prince' Billy writes love songs and sings 'everyone has the eyes and ears to be where I have been' but, in truth, they're not the sort of love songs that you'll recognise but, if you want something a little fresh and different, you can start right here.

JJ CALE Roll On (Because Records BEC5772458)



I'm kind of wondering what there is left to say about JJ Cale records. He's been around since the early 70's and made some money by having Eric Clapton cover 'After Midnight' and 'Cocaine'. This record, 'Roll On' is his sixteenth and any shift in style can barely be perceived. That isn't always good news but here it's great news as nobody produces laid back blues like JJ Cale. Those

who have cited his influence include Mark Knopfler, Neil Young and Bryan Ferry.

That slight shift in style noted earlier finds JJ Cale taking on a little more jazz to his swing and that is no more obvious than with the opening 'Who Knew'. Of course, there's the swing beat and tinkling piano on such as 'Former Me' and more boogie in play with 'Down To Memphis'. Even old friend, Eric Clapton, turns up on the title track though it gets a little peculiar around 'Fondalina'. This tale of a lady throwing flowers out of her window to attract a man is a saucy Romeo and Juliet tale which stands out as being different because of the lyrical content. Otherwise, it's JJ Cale blues all the way. There's not a lot more to say; if you like his music, you'll like this.

Steve Henderson

CARA DILLON Hill Of Thieves (Charcoal Records CHARCD002)



Longevity from an artist is commonplace in the field of 'folk' music and I'm pleased to report that Cara Dillon is one such artist who has carved her career taking her time in order to achieve this goal. I first booked Cara along with her siblings in the band Oige many years ago at the Swan in Stockwell and thought at the time how captivating her voice was. Since then of course she's moved

on to great success in her own right and this latest release is a testament to how well she has done. Joined by a stellar cast of musicians including Sam & Seth Lakeman, Brian Finnegan, James O'Grady and James Fagan the listener will soon be

captivated by a young lady truly at her peak.

On an album chock full of traditional songs apart her own self-penned title track - which by the way sits very comfortably with the rest of the album - is a banquet for anyone who loves 'folk' music plain and simple. I remember years ago performing alongside Noel Murphy joining him on "The Parting Glass" but never was it so poignant as it is here. Letting the music breathe may be a cliché but produced by Sam Lakeman this is an album that literally sparkles like a polished gem. www.caradillon.com

Pete Fyfe

THE COSMIC PIPER - 15 Inventions For The Highland Bagpipes (KRL Records CDMON 878)

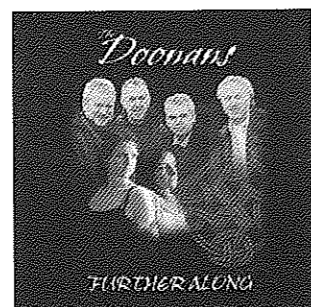


I was really looking forward to this recording firstly because I like Highland Pipes and secondly the title 'Cosmic Piper' would lead you to believe there's something exciting and cutting edge about the artist. Unfortunately I found neither on an album full of clichés and ultimately uninspiring. I can't fault the performance of either Brian Lamond (Lead & Harmony Pipes) or Billy McNeill

(Keyboards) but I must admit to feeling the album is a bit dull and old hat. www.krl.co.uk

Pete Fyfe

THE DOONAN FAMILY BAND Manna From Hebburn (Own Label DFB02); Further Along (Own Label CRCD03)



To the distinctive strains of piccolo from the now sadly departed John Doonan joined by sons Mick (Uilleann Pipes) and Kevin (Fiddle) along with their mates Phil Murray (Bass) and Stu Luckley (Guitars) the Doonan Family Band certainly create an infectious wall of sound. To be perfectly honest I'd just popped out to make a cup of tea and forgotten I'd left the CD playing and thought I'd come

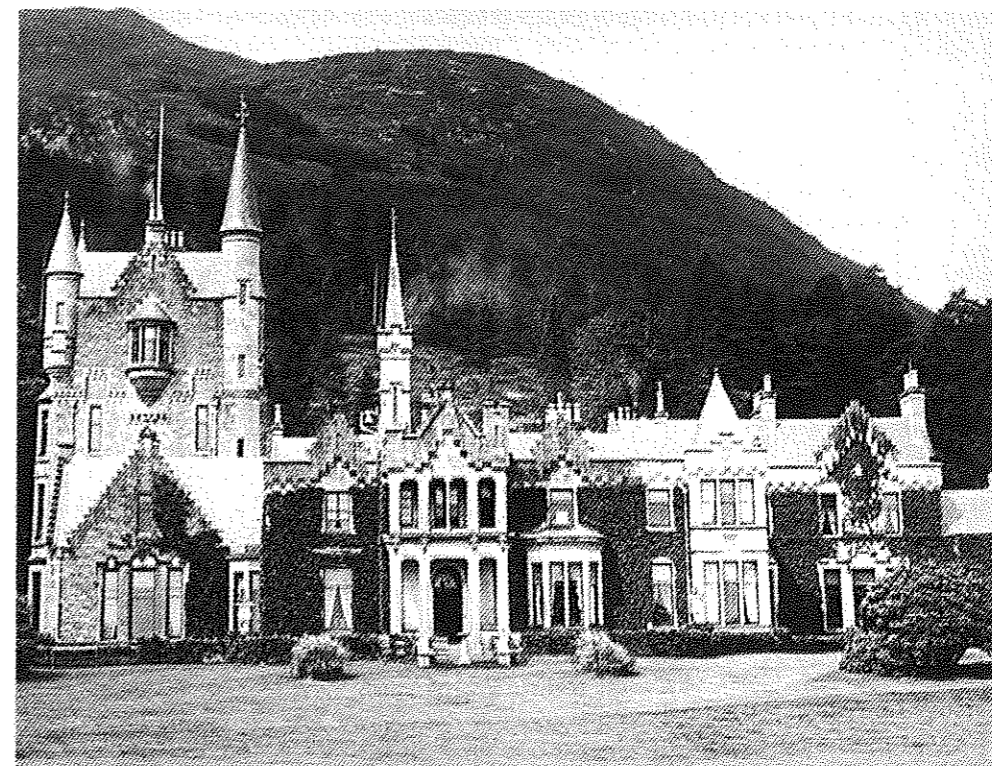
across an old Hedgehog Pie or JSD Band recording. With their mix of traditional and contemporary songs and tunes the band might not have the finesse of The Bothy Band or Altan but if, like me you like your music a bit rough round the edges in the spirit of a good old fashioned session then both these albums will be right up your street.



They hit the spot with some excellent instrumental sets including established standards "The Star Of Munster", "Barney Bralligan" (I didn't know it was a song as well) and "The Banks Of Ireland" but it is probably their arrangements of songs such as "Something Inside" and "House Of The Rising Sun" (both performed with great aplomb by Mick) that will capture the listeners imagination. Augmented by Mick's daughters Fran and

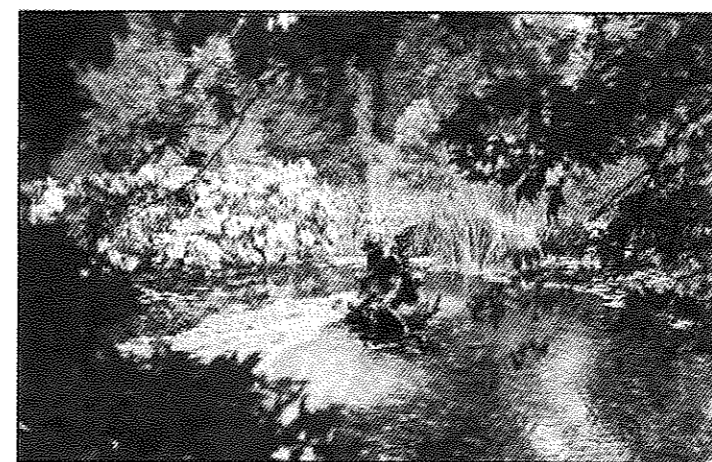
Rosie on the Further Along album this is a band that will inspire more than most because they just know how to have a good

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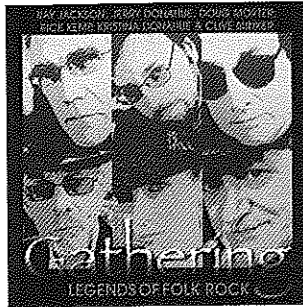
On Saturday evening we move to the Kilmun Village Hall for a ceilidh with one of Scotlands finest bands, Canned Haggis, whilst at the same venue on Sunday evening there is a concert with a special guest and support.

So why not make the Easter weekend 2nd - 5th April 2010 a date in your diary and join us for what promises to be a memorable weekend of music making. If you would like further information please ring Dave or Anne on 0151 639 4285 or e:mail anneanddavejones@hotmail.co.uk

time whilst treating the music with respect and a great deal of humour - a rare treat indeed! www.doonanfamilyband.co.uk

Pete Fyfe

GATHERING Legends Of Folk Rock (Hypertension Records HYP 9265)

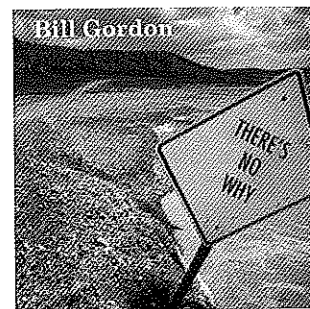


I was really looking forward to reviewing this album as it is fronted by some of my own personal favourite musicians from the field of British folk music. Featuring as it does a veritable array of 'legends' we have Ray Jackson (Lindisfarne), Jerry Donahue (Fairport Convention), Doug Morter (Richard Digance), Rick Kemp (Steeleye Span), Clive Bunker (Jethro Tull) and

Jerry's daughter Kristina. Unfortunately for me the finished product doesn't really deliver on that initial promise of something special, due in the main to too much of an American country rock bias rather than good old English folk-rock - there is a difference you know. With this in mind, maybe I was expecting more out of a band relying on such luminaries or perhaps I'm just getting too old for the whole folk-rock thing. In my personal opinion everything on the album is held together by the mandolin, harmonica and vocals of Jackson particularly on the tried and tested "Lady Eleanor" but for the majority of tracks I found them lacking in any real clout. www.hypertension-music.de

Pete Fyfe

BILL GORDON - "There's No Why?"



Liverpool based singer/songwriter Bill Gordon has recently released what I consider to be a gem of a CD, "There's No Why", stripped bare it's just acoustic guitar and voice and the travels on life's road reflecting on everything from Alpha to Omega.

No matter what's happening all around you, be true to your "Inner Voice". Morecambe has spawned

so many songs down the years, as life slips away it is likened to the tide in "Morecambe Bay".

As we live a comfortable life there are those around the world who struggle on a daily basis, the only thing they have to cling to is that a solution may be "Just A Day Away".

How often do a couple rely on each other and indeed should they? A question posed in "Life and Times". Sometimes two people are so close they merge into one and each shapes the character of the other. Two people-one skin, indeed, "The Pulse That Beats Beneath Your Skin".

"The Midnight Road", is a dark place to be, but sometimes it's a road you have to travel to find your true self. We all have that little voice that often tries to lead us away from what we really believe, the grass it seems is greener, but you know you have to resist temptation because, "The Devil's in the Darkness".

An often asked question is simply, "Why". The title track of the CD poses an answer, "There's No Why", only reasons.

The sun rises, here we are in the middle of nowhere, a scenario often captured in the mind's eye, but we have to get back to reality, to the natural order of things, that way, "We'll Make Our

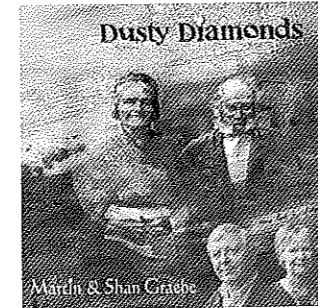
Way Home".

Harmony and love are two components that we all possess to one degree or another. A "Songbird" also exudes these qualities, we simply have to hold on and believe if we are to achieve our aims.

This recording is an honest reflection of one man's strivings in search of what he believes to be right. Indeed it is a recording that this troubadour should be more than proud of.

David Jones

MARTIN AND SHAN GRAEBE Dusty Diamonds (Wild Goose 359CD)



The first thing that I noted about this latest CD from these two is that the last time I reviewed one of their recordings they weren't married! Belated congratulations to them both and also congratulations on producing another very enjoyable CD.

Martin has a rather misty sounding voice which complements Shan's strong attractive tonal

singing and their tight harmonies are a pleasure to listen to. Martin is something of an authority on Sabine Baring-Gould so the material, as might be expected, is mostly from that collector's portfolio. Cecil Sharp's songs are also well represented here. In addition two tracks are Martin's own songs. Of the latter I particularly liked 'Shropshire Union' sung a capella by Martin.

There are some new, and therefore refreshing, versions of some well known songs including 'Henry Martin' and 'The Lark in the Morn' and a wonderfully jolly version of 'Down in the Coal Mine' from whence comes the CD's title. My favourite track however has to be 'The Great Galleon of Plymouth' the second of Martin's own songs. An amusing 'tall tale' type of chorus song that deserves better exposure.

Martin and Shan are joined on some tracks by my old partner in crime Keith Kendrick who plays his usual sympathetic concertina accompaniments and other tracks are further enhanced by sensitive fiddle playing from Nick Wyke and Becki Driscoll. Doug Bailey and Sylvia Needham help fill out the choruses on a couple of tracks.

They end the album with a strong and almost happy rendering of 'My Coffin Shall Be Black' involving all the personnel (and where the arithmetic in the song doesn't add up!). Not a subject you would normally associate with rejoicing but the way it's performed here definitely has that air about it making a fine finish to smashing album. An attractive cover and full, erudite notes on the insert complete this fine CD.

Derek Gifford



RACHEL HAIR The Lucky Smile (March Hair Records MHRCD002)

Rachel Hair has that uncanny knack of picking just the right tunes to take her audience on a spectacular acoustic musical tour. For instance the highly syncopated opening track "Back

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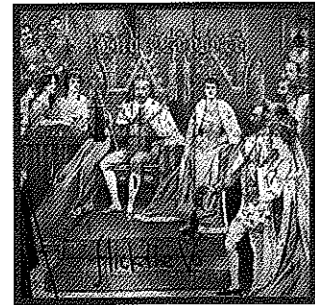
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1st	YARDARM - (with Vocal Point)	£6-00
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3rd	FIDDLESTONE	£6-00
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Home" which, given a great jazz feel propelled by her accompanying musicians Paul Tracey (Guitar), Angus Lyons (Keyboards), Andy Sharkey (Double Bass) and Scott Mackay on drums brings her into Deborah Henson-Conant territory. The following track "Kilmartin Sky" ably demonstrates Hair's own compositional skills with a beautifully crafted slow air joined by the smile-inducing jig "Francie's". Joy Dunlop adds haunting Gaelic vocals on a couple of tracks with "A Fhleasgaich Oig As Cednaltg" reminiscent of the soundtrack to the film 'The Wicker Man'. This is a very enjoyable recording that will capture the hearts of listeners with splashes of tasteful jazz colourings and is a must purchase for those who like their 'folk' with a bit of attitude. www.rachelhair.com

Pete Fyfe

KING CREOSOTE Flick The Vs (Domino Records WIGCD237)



King Creosote has doggedly carved an independent path as he heads straight out of the cluster of acoustic Scots that spawned KT Tunstall. There's none of that pandering to the big labels, large festivals and all matters commercial. Yes, he's recorded for major labels but he also supports his Scottish pals in The Fence Collective by regularly releasing albums which act as

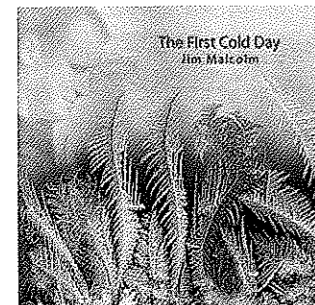
acoustic musical sketches of tracks that he may or may not develop later into bigger productions. To say he's prolific is to say that the sea is a bit wet.

'Flick The Vs' couldn't have arrived at a better time given the publicity surrounding the Scottish footballers who were banned for those rude touch line signals. It's one of KC's epics taking songs and giving them the big production whether that be some jabbing saxophone or some atmospheric percussion to link the tracks. Many of them have quite long introductions and close out with a change of pace or mood giving the record quite a classical music feel though the music itself draws from across the board with folk through to pop and many points in between.

The songs are full of witty one liners as illustrated by the classic 'Coast On By' which has the immortal comment on his relationships with 'I'll coast on by without so much as a simple ship to shore, I'll coast on by at the risk of mixed up shipping metaphors'. There's a variety in approach scattered across this record and it's already been given a 'record of the week' accolade by The Sunday Times. He's not going to be every folk fan's favourite but he's certainly someone who wants to push at the boundaries of popular music. If you feel like checking him out, he's at Brampton Live festival in July alongside plenty of other folk favourites.

Steve Henderson

JIM MALCOLM The First Cold Day (Beltane Records BELCD106)



I first saw Jim performing with the band Old Blind Dogs some years ago and was immediately struck by the strength of his vocals. This is the seventh solo album in his prolific canon of work now featuring predominantly his own songs along with the traditional "The Shearing" and "Maggie's Bairn" plus Andy M Stewart's

evocative "Valley Of Strathmore".

Proud of his Scottish heritage Malcolm has a way with words that I'm sure would please the likes of forebears Robbie Burns and Robert Tannahill. Being a much-travelled folksinger, Jim has had plenty of time to hone his skill with the pen and the images he paints is a vast landscape as far as the eye can see... or the ear can hear. Capturing thoughts and putting them on paper has always eluded me as a performer but it's good to see them come vividly to life in the hands of a craftsman who obviously relishes the challenge.

I have a particular liking for tracks such as "An Hour In The Gloaming" accompanied by his wife Susie on harmony vocals or the double-tracked smooth jazz tinged title track "The First Cold Day". In some ways this particular track reminds me of the first time I heard The Easy Club. For those of us who feel we know the best performers on the 'folk' circuit check out this recording... if you haven't seen or heard Jim before I'm sure you'll enjoy a majority of the album... I certainly did! www.jimmalcolm.com

Pete Fyfe

BUDDY AND JULIE MILLER Written In Chalk (New West Records NW6158-2)



The recent news that Buddy Miller had had a heart attack probably caused a few flutters elsewhere too. I'm glad to say that he's well on the mend and even more pleased to heartily (sorry!) recommend this record to you. If you're wondering just who he is, he's been touring recently with Three Girls and Their Buddy and the girls in question are Emmylou Harris, Shawn Colvin and Patty Griffin. Finer company, I couldn't recommend unless you're thinking of Robert Plant and Alison Krauss who also asked him to tour with them as part of their band. Needless to say, that stellar collection of musicians contributes to Buddy's record with his wife, Julie. This is a couple who've both done plenty of solo work but their hectic schedule has held them back from working together. Hey, but it's worth the wait.

So, what do we get? A peel of laughter opens the record on 'Ellis County' as the music cranks up to a sound reminiscent of The Band. This slides into the R'n'B (yes, that's the proper one, not the one that our younger readers may know) of 'Gasoline and Matches' before we wander into one of those soulful Patti Griffin vocals on 'Don't Say Goodbye'.

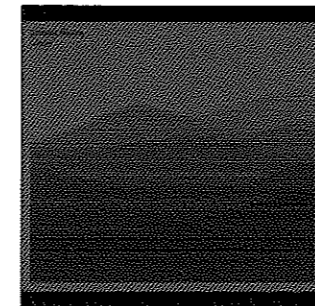
You have to laugh at the credit to the Mel Tillis cover 'What You Gonna Do Leroy' which captured a Robert Plant vocal 'between sound check and supper in the band's dressing room'. That snatched moment kind of sums this record up in terms of the recording but that doesn't mean that the quality is low....no, sir. It's wall to wall excellence complete with a tribute to June Cash which captures Buddy and Julie on acoustic guitars in a wonderful rootsy tribute to her. The informality of this song provides a sweet moment that does justice to the memory of a great musician. And, as if all that wasn't enough, Emmylou Harris pops up on the closing track, 'The Selfishness In Man', a Leon Payne song with the a moral for our times. Just buy it.

Steve Henderson

CHRISTY MOORE Listen (Sony 88697 480002)

'Listen' is the follow up to Christy Moore's last studio album in

2005, 'Burning Times'. Followers of his music will know the format well with Christy picking out fine songs to make his own. Like Rod Stewart, he's proved a man of impeccable musical taste over many years and many albums. Indeed, you'll be pleased to know that nothing has changed here with his excellent choice and adaptation.



Local Folk North West readers will be particularly taken by the Ian Prowse song, 'Does This Train Stop On Merseyside', which takes a long look at Merseyside history from slave trading to Hillsborough. Christy Moore has long been linked with the North West and this song deserves holding up alongside local Liverpool favourites such as 'Ferry Across The Mersey'. A

stranger selection follows with Moore's version of Pink Floyd's 'Shine On You Crazy Diamond', well known as a song recorded in memory of Syd Barrett, who is acknowledged as the genius behind early Pink Floyd music but whose life went off the tracks with his taste for drugs. Of course, Moore's own battle with alcohol must cause a resonance with the sentiment of this song.

Steve Henderson

More obvious choices draw in Irish elements with the likes of 'Gortagort', political points in 'The Disappeared', memories of Glasgow in 'Barrowland' or just plain beautiful songs like Donagh Long's 'China Waltz'. The album closes out with 'Rory Is Gone', a live recording with the audience baying in response to a marvellous celebration of Rory Gallagher, the much missed Irish bluesman. If you've much missed Christy Moore, you can be reassured that 'Listen' keeps the standards high and will be a welcome addition to your collection.

THE OCCASIONALS The Full Set (Greentrax Records DVTRAX2021)

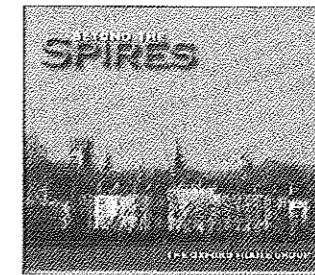


Well, what do you know - a good old-fashioned ceilidh band with a good, old-fashioned sound. The Occasionals comprise ex-Silly Wizard accordion player Freeland Barbour, the strings (mandolin/banjo/tenor guitar) of Kevin MacLeod along with Ian Hardie's fiddle and the rhythm of Gus Millar on drums and hi-hat. And what an impressive sound the quartet produce with stately melodies played in a no nonsense way and no harmonies. Some might see this as unadventurous but when used in the context of performing for dancers an uncluttered approach is always often the best way. There are sixteen tracks of music on the CD plus a DVD showing the dances along with an hour of home footage and amusing voice-overs from the band in documentary style. As if that wasn't enough the booklet contains the dance 'calls' which all goes to making a mighty impressive package. www.greentrax.com

Pete Fyfe

OXFORD FIDDLE GROUP Beyond The Spires (RRCD 015)

Evoking memories of those glorious old-time Scottish fiddle orchestras the Oxford Fiddle Group numbering twenty-one all sound as though they're thoroughly enjoying themselves. Whether

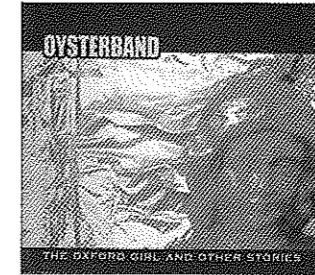


it's performing a beautiful waltz "Beyond The Spires" written by band member Adrian Broadway or getting down and dirty with Steve Earle's "The Galway Girl" the group know how to push the boat out when they need to. Adding splashes of colour with guitar, banjo, mandolin, double bass, keyboards and Celtic harp

the group utilise many perennial favourites including "Music For A Found Harmonium", a North-East set "Dance To Your Daddy/Rusty Gully/Bonny At Morn" and even a rendering of that old chestnut "Jambalaya". Oxford should be proud to have such a fine group of musicians (I wish we had the same in Croydon) and the finale "Molly Oxford/Old Tom Of Oxford" arranged by Mike Gardiner proves a fitting end to a cracking recording. It's rare for me to listen to a whole album these days but might I suggest that you do the same. Purchase this CD sit back, kick your shoes off and enjoy! Contact www.oxfordfiddle.co.uk for further details.

Pete Fyfe

OYSTERBAND The Oxford Girl And Other Stories (Running Man Records RMCD6)



Thirty years down the road and still going strong here is a band that doesn't age much like the seemingly indestructible nature of some of their songs. I thought, on first hearing the opening track "The Early Days Of A Better Nation" that I'd stumbled across a long lost recording by Peter Gabriel but then again Oysterband

have that knack of throwing you every which way musically. And that's what makes this album so interesting with re-arrangements (or re-imaginings as the band would have it) in a more acoustic setting than we're used to hearing.

Fronted as ever by the strident vocals of John Jones this is a band that takes no prisoners and makes no apology for getting down and dirty in a display mixing raw passion and subtle moments in equal measure. For those Oyster anthem seekers the cello driven take on Tim Hart & Maddy Prior's version of "The False Knight On The Road" will I'm sure have the audience chanting along in customary fashion and who wouldn't want to when it's performed with such unbridled power. With copious pounding rhythms providing the backdrop to much of the band's material, if you're feeling down in this present climate then buy this CD and revitalise your pleasure organs. Cracking stuff! www.oysterband.co.uk

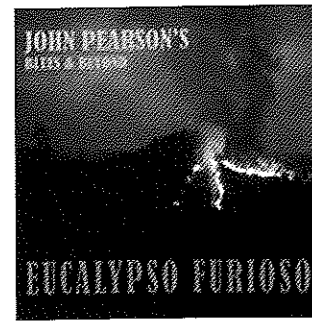
Pete Fyfe

JOHN PEARSON'S BLUES & BEYOND Eucalypto Furioso (Osmosys OSMOCD040)

Henry Ayrton's liner notes sketch out the backdrop to this recording, outlining how 2003 was John and Kathy Pearson's annus horribilis when a relocation to Portugal turned sour big-time. Having already suffered the loss of close comrade and band mate Kenny Craddock in a car crash, the disastrous fires of that hot summer destroyed their new home and flight-for-life literally, with everyone else, was the only option.

John's own-writes 'Good Friends' and 'Fires On The Wind' contained here, reference both events and, though not without its perky moments, the album's message resonates strongly with regret and resignation. I guess that's why they call it the

Blues but "I've seen people disappear in smoke, friends will arrive and friends will disappear" from long-time set-list fixture 'Buckets Of Rain' has a new import in the light of those experiences.



Cohering as ever around John's 6 & 12 string guitars and vox, this version of Blues & Beyond boasts the eloquent harp work of Jem Turpin, Colin Gibson's Fender bass, Liam Genockey on drums and Harvey Summers' piano, Hammond and accordion. Theirs is dextrous, disciplined playing - a band in all senses of the word and not just Pearson's mates doing him a favour whilst acquiring a studio tan!

Switching seamlessly between the slapback chooglin' of Junior Parker's 'Mystery Train' and Dylan's enigmatic 'Wicked Messenger' but always with John's haunting vocals upfront, they create a decidedly laidback mood, though only a dolt would confuse an easy-going smoothness for an absence of passion. There's a disparity between sounding effortless and sounding like no effort has been made. It's the former that assuredly tags this album, but then that's always been Pearson's take on Country Blues. His music may stomp along but it's music that sidles up and sighs rather than hollering in your ear; - 'Ramblin' Mind' being a case in point.

There are great and memorable songs contained here; songs set in the cold hours before dawn - 'Motion Pictures' from Neil Young's 'On The Beach' sounds like it could've been written for this outfit.

This is a record where all the pieces fit. A treat, whether or not your baby's just packed and left on the 2.19 train. www.johnpearsonblues.com

Clive Pownceby

MAGGIE SAND AND SANDRAGON Susie Fair (Wild Goose WGS361CD)



This is Maggie Sand's first British release, having made three previous solo albums in Germany, and is something of a discovery for Doug Bailey at Wild Goose. This album can be described as eclectic, esoteric and, if such a word can be applied to music, stylish.

You will find nothing particularly new or sensational in the material here but you will be able to hear familiar traditional folk songs such as Bushes and Briars, A Rosebud in June, If I were a Blackbird, The Rigs of the Time and Sailor Laddie in refreshingly inventive and very musical arrangements. I particularly liked the arrangements of Cob-a-Coaling which has a very 'un-Lancashire' feel to it and Dance to Your Daddy in which we are spared the stereotypical 'Geordie' rendering.

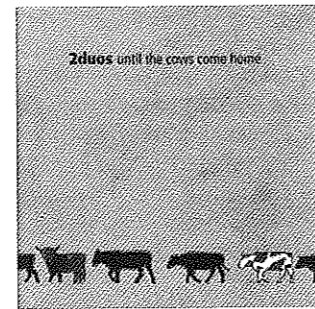
So what makes this album stand out from all the rest that have covered many of the same songs previously? Well, for a start, it isn't Maggie's voice which is very pleasant and melodic with enough measured decoration in the delivery but isn't earth shattering. It is the unique musical accompaniments and carefully thought out arrangements using a wide variety of instruments including crumhorn, recorder, hurdy-gurdy, harmonium,

bouzouki, mandola guitar and judicious percussion that makes this work stand out from the crowd. The band finishes the album with a stirring tune called Les Garcons de Montagne which sends it out in a blaze of glory!

The resultant overall sound gives a very authentic feel to the whole album which serves as an excellent introduction to anyone who is interested in traditional song. Short but erudite notes on the songs (and the band!) are well presented in the usual high standard expected from Wild Goose studios. It is available from Proper Music Distribution or Wild Goose - see their web sites for more details.

Derek Gifford

2 DUOS Until The Cows Come Home (Own Label)



You can sometimes tell from the first track that you are really going to enjoy a full album. And so it proves with this debut recording from 2 Duos. The pair in question: Claire Mann & Aaron Jones and Gudrun Walther & Jurgen Treyz (of the German band Cara) already enjoy great credentials and you just know this recording will be something special.

In the days before 2 Duos we had... it appeared... loads of artists such as The Bothy Band, De Dannan, Altan and Ciannad etc all vying for the same bit of space on the Celtic music scene. Perhaps we don't have quite so many now but now is a good time to promote the genre. With songs such as the 'Midlothian Mining Song' with Aaron putting his fine Scottish vocal to good use and the gently evocative flute/fiddle start to the track 'Beyond The Glen' (think Maids Of Michelstown) this is a band in no rush to rock it up for the general public.

On another track the texture of bouzouki underpinned by Jurgen's subtle use of dobro on Sandy Denny's song 'Solo' is crowned by the gorgeous harmonies of Gudrun and Claire. The band utilise to good effect a studied repertoire that will appeal to a wide listener base and as demonstrated on this recording they should prove a real winner on the 'folk' circuit... I hope I'm proved right! www.2duos.com

Pete Fyfe

UISCEDWR Fish Cat Door (Yukka Records YRCD04)



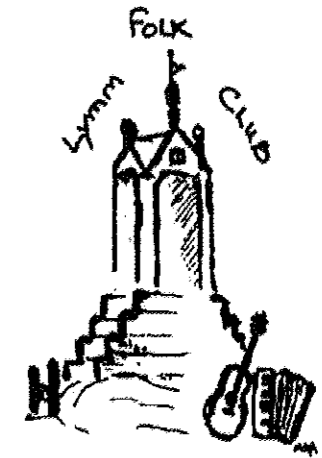
With adversity in the form of Anna Esslemont's bone marrow transplant now declared a complete success, the triumph that is the amusingly titled 'Fish Cat Door' has landed on the doorstep. There was a two year gap between their first and second records with this, their third, landing after a three year gap. Yet it's a testament to the quality and character of the band

that they have never looked like disappearing into oblivion. And, when you clap your ears on this, you'll realise why.

At the heart of their sound are Anna's fiddle and vocals driven along by the bodhran based percussion of Cormac Byrne. This tunes and songs approach being typified by the opening 'The Dirty Nine Steps' and the soul baring song, 'Prescription Junkie' though their real musical heart is best revealed on 'ESP' which takes us on a ducking and diving instrumental ride. Kevin Dempsey helped the band out in the stop/start early days but

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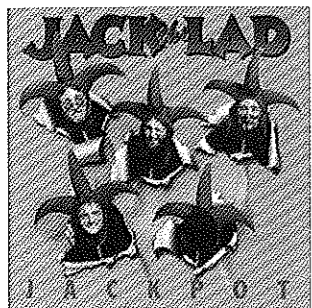
James Hickman is now on board as full time guitarist and he gets a chance to show how you can stitch folk and bluegrass together in the jaunty 'Germs' which takes from the traditional folk tune, 'The Jolly Beggarman'. Also, lending a helping hand but not really wanting to put it down is the wonderful Karen Tweed. Complete with piano accordion, she adds colour with her jolly playing on tracks such as 'Crucked Reels'. She's also brought with her that Poozie's favourite, 'Neptune', to be covered Uiscedwr style. With this combination fit, well and in place, I expect that 'Fish Cat Door' will establish them as one of the favourites on the folk circuit. Oh, yes, if you're wondering, check the sleeve for Fish minus F, Cat minus T, Door. Got it?

Steve Henderson

**CD COLLECTIONS,
LIVE ALBUMS &
RE-ISSUES**



JACK THE LAD Jackpot (Market Square Records MSMCD149)



Well, a breath of fresh air harking back to the good old days of the 70s when much of my youth was spent in the moshpit that was the Marquee Club in London. To witness the likes of Jack The Lad, Hedgehog Pie, The JSD Band and Spud was always a pleasure and let's not forget, all of these bands were entertainers, not just great musicians and vocalists.

It's long been established that Billy Mitchell for me was the main man when it came to vocal prowess in the field of folk-rock and this is ably demonstrated on an album full of nostalgia. I must admit I wasn't such a fan of the out and out rock material they were playing at the time of this recording but, if you're a 'folkie' like me then you'll want to purchase the CD for the two trad arranged studio tracks on offer. "The Tender" with its riff sodden sparring guitars/mandolins, hard hitting intro and Geordie-ness will put a smile on the face of even the sternest critic and then of course, there's the jaunty set of tunes "Walter's Drop".

All of the previously unreleased bonus tracks (including a great version of "Buy Broom Bessoms/The Tender/The Marquis Of Tullybardine" - anyone for wah-wah mandolin?) will be required listening for completists everywhere.
www.marketsquarerecords.co.uk

Pete Fyfe

LINDISFARNE Happy Daze (Market Square Records MSMCD148)



OK, so hands up - I wasn't particularly into the rockier version of Lindisfarne Mark II (along with a majority of the original Lindisfarne fans according to Jim Henderson's informative sleeve notes) although I have to admit a glowing admiration for two or three of the more subtle tracks

on this previously unavailable CD recording. Firstly there is the outstanding Alan Hull penned "River" (which even featured Hull on recorder) and then there were the two Kenny Craddock songs "Nellie" and "Tomorrow".

At the time this recording was made in 1974 it was probably Mr Craddock, Hull & Ray Jackson armed with his trusty mandolin that held the quintessential Lindisfarne 'sound' together. Although (for me) it's these three tracks that make this CD a required purchase I was also interested in the seven bonus tracks featuring solo performances by Alan. A bit of a mixed bag then but a must have for Lindisfarne collectors everywhere. www.marketsquarerecords.co.uk

Pete Fyfe

NICK LOWE Quiet Please ... The New Best of Nick Lowe (Proper Records PRPCD036)



There have been a few bashes at compiling Nick Lowe's best. However, this combination of two CDs and a DVD for about the price of a single CD offers the best value for money. Some of you may be asking Nick who, and, how can there be so much good stuff to fill three discs? Just wait.

Nick Lowe's career is characterised by two factors. Firstly, his song writing has been a game of two halves with the first half being more rooted in pop tunes and the second half blending crooning with a more soulful approach. Secondly, his name often figures in the background as others claim the glory for certain songs - you'll see what I mean as we go on. He features in these columns because his career is a fine example for any budding singer songwriters out there and, as any folk singer knows; great songs can be adapted to many styles.

The first CD opens with '(What's So Funny 'bout) Peace, Love and Understanding', a song from his time with Brinsley Schwarz though its iconic statement is probably best known from the Elvis Costello version. Following a quick romp through his early solo material such as 'I Love The Sound Of Breaking Glass', we get a good dose of his work with Dave Edmunds in Rockpile including that wedding reception favourite, 'I Knew The Bride When She Uses To Rock'n'Roll'. The second CD carries forward into another solo period featuring 'The Beast In Me' which he wrote for his then father-in-law, Johnny Cash, before we get to 'Fool Who Knows' from his Little Village band with Ry Cooder.

The CD returns to his later solo work which has a wonderful laid back feel whilst maintaining the tongue in cheek lyrics that have pervaded his work with songs like 'I Trained Her To Love Me'. For fans who have all these sat on their shelves (or, these days, loaded on their player), the real treat is the DVD which not only has the videos produced for those early records but a live show that more reflects the music from the second CD. A perfect set complete with good packaging and excellent sleeve notes that would certainly be added to my desert island discs.

Steve Henderson

THE NAVVY'S WIFE CAST (FEATURING MICK RYAN) The Navy's Wife (Wild Goose WGS536CD)

Yet another production from the prolific pen of Mick Ryan this time looks at the lot of the wives (or not!) of that band of hard working rough necks that gave their muscle and sometimes their lives to build our roads, canals and railways. So prolific,



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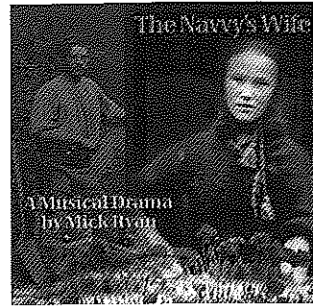
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in fact, that the show requires two CDs to cover the content! It developed out of a previous show based on the theme of 'The Men Who Built Britain' which was first performed at Chester Folk Festival in 2006 using local musicians and singers. The current performers featured on these CDs first performed the show at Topsham Folk Club a year ago.



Apart from the sound of Mick's rich voice on this album there are also the excellent voices of Heather Bradford, Paul Downes, Judy Dunlop, Jackie Oates and Roger Watson as well as some fine musical accompaniments especially some of Paul's guitar backing and Jackie and Roger's multi-instrumental work. The focus is, as the title belies, very much on the plight of the women

in the lives of the navvies and not just wives and girlfriends but mother's too.

All the lyrics and narration are Mick's original work but he has taken one or two tunes from the tradition in a few songs. While the albums are meant to be listened to in the context of the theme (just over an hour and a half of listening straight through) a number of the songs, as is nearly always the case in these sorts of productions, will 'stand alone' and hopefully be sung out in their own right. The ones that struck me most in this context were 'The Journey' and 'The Land Around You', the latter being the finale.

Brief background notes accompany the sleeve which is decorated (if that's the right word!) with some interesting photographs of the period. Another classic from Mr. Ryan and his associates as well as a technically near perfect recording from Mr. Bailey! Available from Proper Music Distribution or Wild Goose studios www.wildgoose.co.uk

Derek Gifford

PRESS RELEASES



FAE CAMPAIGN GOES ON...FUNDS CHANGE

For the last four years FolkArts England (FAE) has been core funded by Arts Council England, known as a Regular Funded Organisation (RFO). On 31 March 2009 FAE ceased to be funded in this way and reverted to project funding when appropriate.

FolkArts England will continue to be a lobbying voice for Folk music wherever possible and will maintain the Association of Festival Organisers as an industry group. FAE will also organise the Folk Industry Conference, which in 2009 will take place from 19-22 November in Nottingham. Staff are also currently working on a major application to a variety of funders to deliver Direct Roots as a Folk industry directory and online resource.

Meanwhile, Philip Butterworth from the Arts Council is conducting a survey in the English Folk scene to establish the best way forward for Arts Council funding through 2009, 2010 and into 2011. Should readers wish to join in the survey you should contact Philip Butterworth at philip.butterworth@artscouncil.org.uk

Going To the Lakes ?

Why not call in at the Cross Keys, Milnthorpe on the A6 where the Hale & Hearty Folk Club meet for a SINGAROUND at 8-30 pm on the first and third Friday of every month.

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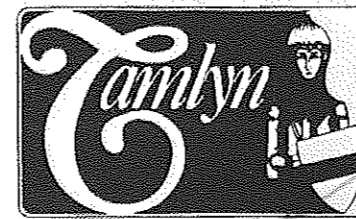
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Orchid Cancer Appeal

fighting the battle for men

In agreeing this new style of funding and management for FolkArts England, the Arts Council said:

"As you are aware for the last four years FolkArts England (FAE) have been funded by Arts Council England, to deliver a wide range of services to the folk music sector.

In November last year FAE decided that they would like to focus their resources on a number of strategic projects and not continue as an Arts Council regularly funded organisation after March 2009.

The Arts Council is supportive of FAE's decision and is allocating funds in 2009/10 towards the organisation's work in:

- o The delivery of the FAE Conference and training work in 2009
- o The development of the (conference) programme in 2010
- o Research into the possibility of making Direct Roots accessible online

The Arts Council recognises the valuable contribution that Steve Heap, the board and staff of FAE have made to raise the profile of the sector through the FAE Conference, campaigning work and the production of Direct Roots. The Arts Council is committed to supporting the development of folk music in England to ensure that the legacy of the work instigated by FAE continues.

In 2009-11 the Arts Council has allocated a budget of £200K per annum to support the development of folk music in England and is now working with the support of FAE to research the needs of the folk music sector in order to establish how it can best be supported in the future."

TFF LAUNCHES WORLD'S FIRST INDEPENDENT FESTIVAL MAGAZINE

This Festival Feeling - or TFF - has launched the second edition of its FREE digital magazine recently. It is the first professionally produced publication to focus solely on the booming music festival sector.

Editor Steve Hoare commented: "There's a gap in the market for a decent publication covering the festival scene. There are loads of great blogs, mags and websites covering all different types of music but there is nothing that gives you intelligent editorial focussing on festivals. But there's a massive community out there waiting for something like this."

This Festival Feeling is:

- The only source of unbiased, intelligent and entertaining writing about festivals and the people who make them;
- A place to buy tickets for featured festivals;
- Delivered in an innovative audio-visual digital format; and
- Entirely independent of any organisation.

This edition contains features on:

- Glastonbury and the commercialisation of festivals;
- America's biggest festival Coachella;
- The rise of city festivals;
- Essential camping gear;
- DJ Tom Middleton and The Big Chill; and
- Reverend and the Makers.

If you have not yet registered, go to www.thisfestivalfeeling.com. It will take you 30 seconds and they will send a copy direct to your inbox, free of charge.

The digital magazine is the first TFF product to launch. A website is coming soon, which will follow the style of the magazine. It will be the only place to read independent and intelligent editorial, download music, purchase festival and travel tickets and provide an in-depth guide to festivals.

For more information, please call the editor Steve Hoare on +44 (0) 7714 660 887 or email him on steve.hoare@thisfestivalfeeling.com Any advertising enquiries should be directed to Leon Wingham on +44 (0) 207 558 8594 or leon@redchillipublishing.com. This Festival Feeling is published by Red Chilli Publishing Ltd, Roxburghe House, 273-287 Regent Street, London, W1B 2HA.

SPOTLIGHT ON WILD GOOSE RECORDS



WildGoose specialises in traditional folk music, particularly that of England. Doug. Bailey, who founded the label and studio in the 1980s, has been involved in English music for over 30 years as a performer, a producer and an engineer.

Most people are familiar with Irish and Scottish music, but far less aware of English music. Sadly, some think that there is no English traditional music. WildGoose have set out to do what they can to alter this situation.

Their recordings cover a great range of dance, vocal and choral music, both old and new, with a strong bias toward the traditional. Many albums are representative of a particular region of England. There are also albums of early music, Playford, lively village band music and some works recently composed in the traditional style.

During the last few years, the label has taken a few forays into the traditional music of other countries but English music is still the mainstay of WildGoose.Hiring the Studio

The studio is available for hire with an engineer at a basic cost £150 per day for a 7 hour day. It can also be hired to master albums that have been recorded elsewhere. Wild Goose can take a recording project all the way from track laying, through mixing and mastering, to CD artwork lay-ups and final CD pressing. Package prices can be arranged for a complete job if required. Accommodation while Recording

Projects to be recorded may take several days and during that time it may be more convenient, and more pleasant, to stay with Wild Goose rather than trying to drive to the studio each day with all of the attendant frustrations and wasted time. The studio is situated in over an acre of land, which rolls down to the River Test at the bottom of the garden. The studio is adjacent to the cottage, which has 3 double bedrooms available (one with ensuite bathroom and the other two sharing a private bathroom) as well as a dedicated sitting room and small kitchen. Breakfast, lunch and a light evening meal can be provided at an agreed cost. There is a village pub only 100 yards away. The village itself is small and very pretty and has some pleasant walks close by (including the Test Way). Prices for accommodation and meals are by arrangement.

Check out their website www.wildgoose.co.uk to see their range of albums for sale. Email: Doug.Bailey@wildgoose.co.uk Telephone : 01264 860569



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Artists booked so far include:

DOUGIE MACLEAN, (Scot) ERIC BOGLE & JOHN MUNRO (Final UK Tour), ROY BAILEY & TONY BENN, Mabon (Wal), Kieran Halpin Duo, Chris Newman & Marie Ni Chathasaigh, The Anna Massie Band (Folk Award Winners), Les Barker (Thurs), Ben & Joe Broughton, Grace Notes, Steve Tilston, Elbow Jane, Shep Woolley, 4Square (BBC Folk Awards Finalists) Jeff Warner (USA), Doc Harvey & The Philistanz, Brian Peters, London Philharmonic Skiffle Orchestra, Tony Cox (SA), Strawhead, John Conolly, Alan Bell Band, Edwina Hayes, Gary & Vera Aspey, David Ferrard, Striding Edge Band, Stanley Accrington, Scolds Bridle, Derek Gifford, Maz O'Connor

(BBC Folk Awards Finalist), Zoon, Capt Cooper's Motley Crew, The Balkanics Klezmer Band. **PLUS** many more

Special Events: "THE WRITING ON THE WALL"

Roy Bailey & Tony Benn

"WOODY GUTHRIE - MAN, MYTH & MUSIC"

David Ferrard

"SONGS OF TRIAL & TRIUMPH" - Brian Peters

PLUS: LANCASHIRE & CHESHIRE CLOG DANCING CONTESTS
LANCASHIRE LANGUAGE SOCIETY
WORST SINGER IN THE WORLD COMPETITION
YOUNG PERFORMERS COMPETITION

FREE Showers & Swimming (For Weekend Ticket Holders only)
UNIQUE TO FYLDE

FREE Entry to Craft Fair (For Weekend Ticket Holders only)

FREE Festival Bus Service (For Weekend Ticket Holders only)

WEEKEND TICKETS £58 (From 1st April - 30th June 2009)

WEEKEND TICKETS £60 (From 1st July onwards & at door)

SESSION TICKETS FROM ONLY £7.50

Children under 11yrs **FREE**. Children 11-16yrs half price

Camp/Caravan site - Adults £10 per person for weekend
(Weekend Tickets Only)

FESTIVAL OFFICE:

55 The Strand, Fleetwood, Lancs. FY7 8NP

Tel: 01253 872317 Fax: 01253 878382

Or Tel: 01253 852832 after 6pm

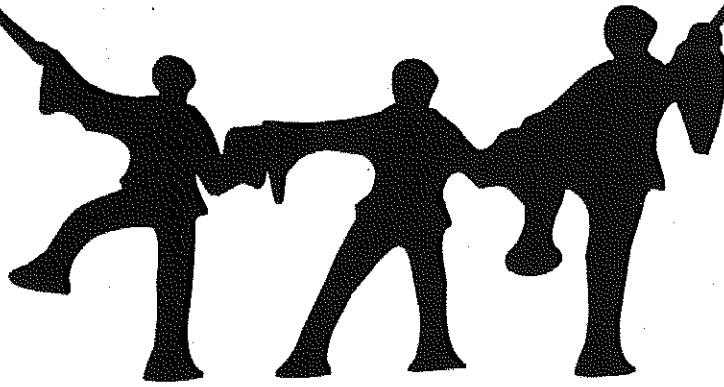
email: alanbell@fylde-folk-fest.demon.co.uk

www.fylde-folk-festival.com

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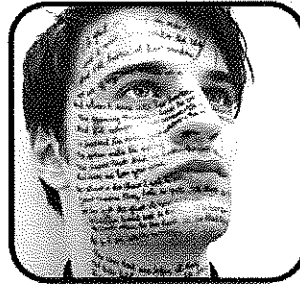
30th ANNIVERSARY



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Folk Festival

24-26 JULY 2009



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LE VENT DU NORD • KERR, FAGAN, HARBRON
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