

FOLK NORTHWEST

COVINGTON

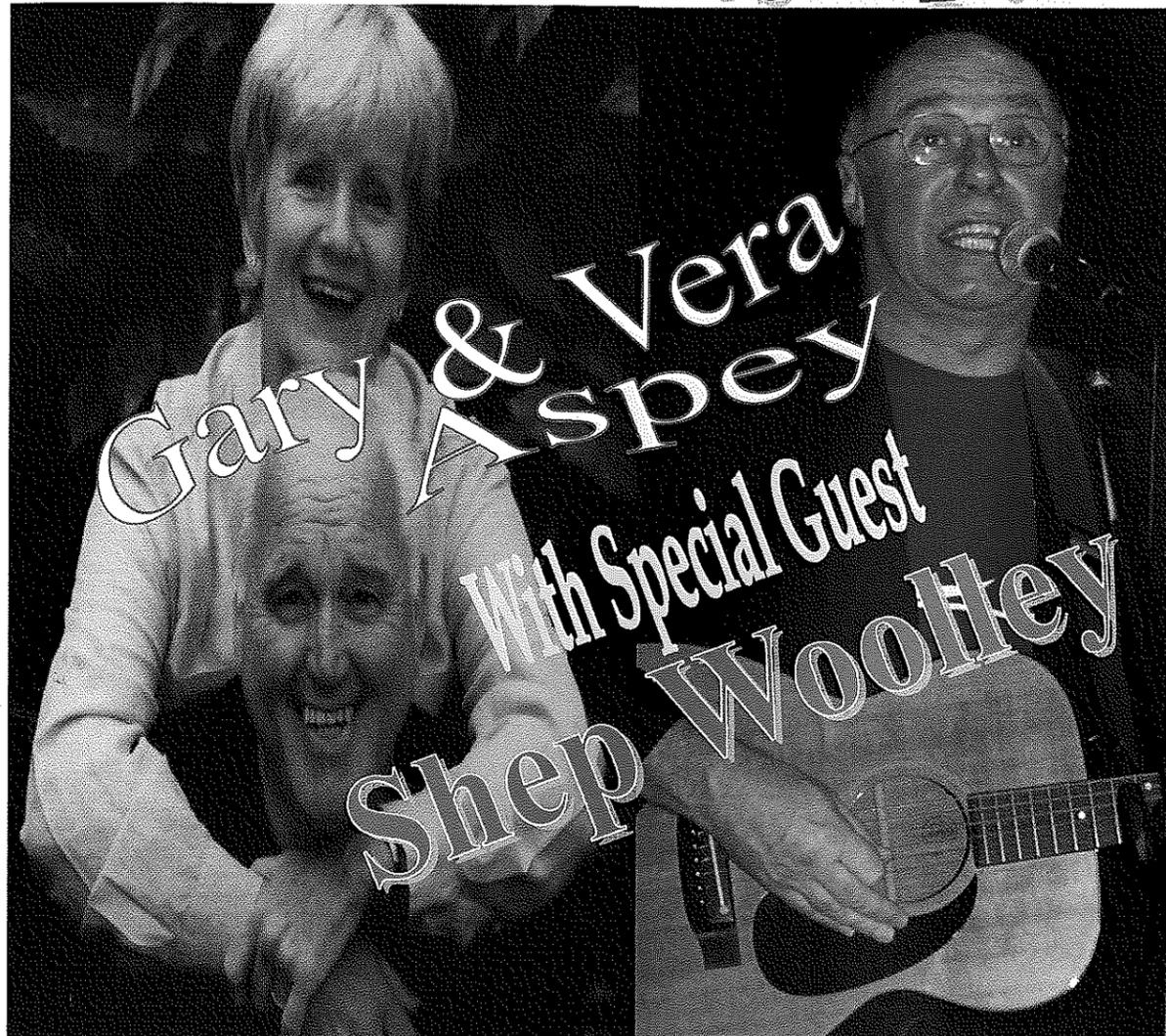


WINTER EDITION 2009
(DECEMBER, JANUARY, FEBRUARY)

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Folk north west Contact Information



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e mail: folksingerjohn@aol.com

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David Jones, 517 Pensby Road, Thingwall, Wirral, Merseyside, CH61 7UQ. aneanddavejones@hotmail.co.uk or Tel:- 0151 639 4285

THE NORTH WEST FEDERATION OF FOLK CLUBS

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EDITORIAL



It only seems a short while ago that I was putting the finishing touches to the last Autumn issue and here we are in Winter. I don't know what the weather is like with you, but we are certainly feeling the cold icy grip of Winter here in Fleetwood. But there is always a nice friendly warm welcome at your local folk club; though I cannot always guarantee the heating will be the same.

If you cannot get to the local club because of the weather at least you can curl up in front of a warm fire and enjoy reading the Folk North West magazine or listen again to those Cd's you bought at the last festival or gig. You could always drop me a review of your favourite CD for possible inclusion in the next issue or write a live review of an artist.

I hope you all enjoy reading the magazine and it only leaves me to wish you in advance a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all the readers, from all the team who help produce the Folk North West magazine.

Bye for now. *John*

CHAIRMAN'S JOTTINGS

As always, Autumn is a busy time for acts, as they tour the length and breadth of the UK.

Two of these acts gave me unforgettable evenings. Firstly, Joan Baez, looking and sounding superb despite her advancing years.

She was one of the first singers I'd heard when my interest in folk music took hold in the 1960's and those songs that have since turned into anthems, sound as relevant as they did over forty years ago and no doubt will in another forty years.

Meanwhile, Show of Hands embarked on quite a sizeable tour of the countries county towns.

Phil, (fresh back from the high seas) and Steve continue to push the boundaries with their outstanding musicianship and cutting edge songwriting.

Miranda Sykes, now very much a part of the duo adds her own unique double bass backing as well as some fine harmonies that creates a stage act which is both compelling and as professional as you will find on a stage anywhere.

Complacency is not a word in the Show of Hands vocabulary and that fact alone keeps them on top of the pile.

Cheers for now

David Jones



What Folk programmes are on the radio TODAY?

compiled by Rob Dunford

SUNDAY

1.00 - 3.00pm
7.00 - 8.00pm (Rpt)
8.00 - 10.00pm

BBC Radio Scotland - TAKE THE FLOOR presented by ROBBIE SHEPHERD
BBC Radio Scotland - PIPELINE presented by GARY WEST
BBC Radio Shropshire - SUNDAY FOLK presented by GENEVIEVE TUDOR also on BBC Radio Stoke
RTE - THE LATE SESSION presented by AINE HENSEY
Downtown Radio - COUNTRY CEILIDH presented by TOMMY SANDS

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

MONDAY

7.00 - 8.00pm
7.00 - 9.00pm (via)

Oldham Community Radio - SOUNDS OF FOLK presented by ALI O'BRIEN
BBC Radio Derby - FOLKWAVES presented by MICK PEAT and LESTER SIMPSON

FM 99.7
see below

TUESDAY

8.00 - 10.00pm
8.00 - 10.00pm
9.00 - 10.00pm (Rpt)
9.00 - 10.00pm

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

FM 102.8
FM 92.4-94.7/MW 810
FM 95.8/MW 1485
MW 1368

WEDNESDAY

7.00 - 8.00pm
9.00 - 9.50pm

BBC Radio 2 - FOLK ROOTS & ACOUSTIC MUSIC presented by MIKE HARDING
RTE - THE ROLLING WAVE presented by PETER BROWNE

FM 88 - 90.2
MW 567/LW 252

THURSDAY

6.00 - 7.00pm
8.00 - 10.00pm
9.00 - 10.00pm

Salford City Radio - SALFORD FOLK presented by ELEANOR WALK & DAVE MATHER
BBC Radio Scotland - TRAVELLING FOLK presented by ARCHIE FISHER
BBC Radio Merseyside - FOLKSCENE presented by STAN AMBROSE/GEOFF SPEED

FM 94.4
FM 92.4-94.7/MW 810
FM 95.8/MW 1485

FRIDAY

1.00pm
7.00 - 8.00pm (Rpt)
8.00 - 9.00pm
8.00pm (Rpt)

Off the Beaten Tracks presented by COLIN BERTRAM
Oldham Community Radio - SOUNDS OF FOLK presented by ALI O'BRIEN
BBC Radio Lancashire - THE DRIFT presented by PHIL BROWN
Off the Beaten Tracks presented by COLIN BERTRAM

FM 103.5 (see notes)
FM 99.7
FM 95.5
FM 103.5 (see notes)

SATURDAY

7.00 - 9.00pm
7.00 - 10.00pm
8.00 - 9.00pm
8.00 - 10.00pm
9.00 - 10.00pm
9.00 - 10.00pm
10.00 - 12.00pm (Rpt)

BBC Radio Scotland - TAKE THE FLOOR presented by ROBBIE SHEPHERD
BBC Radio Wales - CELTIC HEARTBEAT presented by FRANK HENNESSY
RTE - THE SOUTH WIND BLOWS presented by PHILIP KING
BBC Radio Ulster - FOLK CLUB presented by COLUM SANDS/SIOBHAN SKATES
BBC Radio Scotland - PIPELINE presented by GARY WEST
RTE - CEILIDH HOUSE presented by KIERAN HANRAHAN
BBC Radio Scotland - TRAVELLING FOLK presented by ARCHIE FISHER

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

SUNDAY

8.00pm (Rpt)

FM 103.5 (see notes)

Off the Beaten Tracks presented by COLIN BERTRAM (see notes - re coverage area)

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
Diversity FM	FM 103.5 (Lancaster & Morecambe area)		Listen on line at diversityfm.co.uk
Downtown Radio		MW 1026	Tel:- 02891 815555
Manx Radio	FM 89.0, 97.2, 103.7	MW 1386	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

Updated November 2009

Radio Xtra

The range of programmes has broadened to include several which, while not wholly devoted to folk, frequently include it and have the potential to reward the discerning listener. These include BBC Radio 3's **Late Junction**, Tuesday to Thursday, usually 11.15pm - 01.00am, presenters Fiona Talkington and Verity Sharp, and the World on 3 programme, also Radio 3, now on Friday 11.15pm - 01.00am. Both for details on the above and for information on occasional programmes/items/short series with a folk flavour on Radios 2, 3 and 4, the Radio Times is always worth close scrutiny. Frequencies: Radio 3 90.2-92.4 FM; Radio 4 92.4-94.6 FM, 198 LW; BBC information : 08700 100 222.

Of variable folk content is BBC Radio Scotland Sunday Monday to Thursday 10.30pm - 12.30am with Iain Anderson. Radio Na Gaeltachta FM 93.5/94 (Tel: 00353 91 506677), broadcasts on Astra Satellite Channel 22 and carries a range of Gaelic Music/Language programmes including Lan A Mhale, 7.00-8.00pm Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

Note that local radio programmes may be subject to temporary alteration in day, time and delivery (AM, FM or DAB) when, for example sports coverage takes precedence.

Most regional/local programmes to a varying degree provide diary dates for clubs, concerts and festivals. The reliable standards set by for example, Radio Shropshire/Stoke and Radio Lancashire for comprehensive and regular listings can, it is hoped, apply across the board. E.mail, website and Internet details are routinely given during programmes or can be found via the main telephone numbers and on-line searches. The number of programmes available on the Internet is increasing - some are retained for short period access - and it is understood that the whole of BBC Radio output should by now be accessible. The main BBC website is at www.bbc.co.uk.

Telephone numbers for radio stations, plus directions to other forms of contact, have been provided so that event organisers and artistes can fulfill the important role of promoting their activities in the region. Given the propensity for radio programmes to devote much air time to new albums, the listing of programmes is also intended to complement the extensive CD review feature in Folk North West.

To demonstrate an interested and active profile of folk listeners, do liaise with any and all programmes, stations and producers. The North West is favoured with a wealth of programmes, which praise and constructive comment will help maintain. It is essential for listeners to provide feedback to the programme producers, for, as the song goes "You don't know what you've got till it's gone".

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

Rob Dunford

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Jon Somm



Charlie Barker



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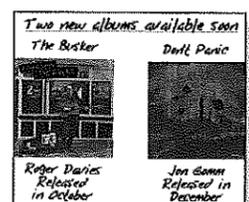
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Tickets on the night subject to availability

Available in advance, paypal link at:

www.inanyevent.org.uk

*paypal account not required

Promoter: Liz Rosenfield 'InAnyEvent'
Since resigning as Middlewich Folk and Boat Festival Director Liz is keen to promote bands old (sorry Dave) and new and spend time looking after the artists on the 'InAnyEvent' Roster and also to singing with her band 'The Lizettes.' To enjoy Liz's 'youtube' debut go to the 'inanyevent' website and follow the 'Lizettes' link. Enjoy!

LIVE REVIEWS



HOWDEN/JONES – Gregson Lane Folk Club
11th September 2009



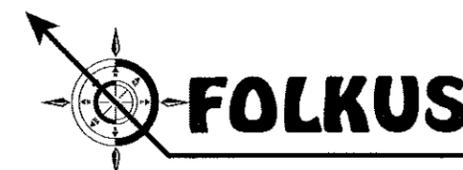
It was a while since we saw Kate Howden & Paul Jones (Very soon to be Jones/Jones – congratulations in order) down 'The Lane.' We knew that musically they were excellent, they had appeared at Gregson Lane twice in the past, plus the fact that 6 first class albums and a history of appearances in Village Halls, Arts Centres, Theatres and Festivals up and down the country (and beyond), speaks for itself. However I was pleasantly surprised by how much their delivery has matured since last time I saw them. With those edges of youthful arrogance knocked off (I'm an 'Old Buggar – youth is relative) and now replaced by a warm 'audience friendly delivery of well written songs and tunes, they have developed that 'Special Quality' that has everyone in the room tapping their feet, singing along and probably more important smiling and enjoying the whole experience. Accompanied for most of the set by Andy Docherty on fiddle, Paul plays guitar and Tenor Banjo whilst Kate plays Guitar, Mandolin and Drum. Paul Jones has great voice – Kate Howden has a fabulous voice – but when they sing together (Sometimes in harmony – sometimes in unison) it's magic. It should be! These guys have served a long apprenticeship and are now in the 'Master craftsman' class.

Between them they come up with some great songs – Paul's 'Motorway' (From H/J's early days) is a particular favourite of mine – I'm glad to see that it has stood the test of time and still holds its own amongst a vast collection of memorable songs of which no two sound the same (Other favourites of mine are – *Pretty Fair Maid*, *Splitscreen*, *Elderberry & Beltaine*).

Kate's young son – Lou (complete with a Gibson SG) – accompanied them on the last couple of songs which included (by way of a complete contrast) the only cover of the night – Robert Johnson's *Crossroads* – a great way to finish off a truly memorable evening

I can't understand why Howden/Jones don't get more exposure in Folk Clubs, they deserve to, they certainly put on an excellent show. Why not visit them (and have a listen) at www.howdenjones.co.uk or better still check out when they are next in your neck of the woods and get yourself down there.

Graham Dixon



The Folk Arts Network of the North West

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email: alanbell@folkus.co.uk

www.folkus.co.uk



LOTTERY FUNDED



**SECOND WORKING CLASS MUSIC FESTIVAL
ROY BAILEY, LEON ROSSELSON, FRANKIE
ARMSTRONG & DAVID FERRARD at the Picket,
Liverpool**

The Working Class Music Festival took place at **The Picket in Liverpool** over 4 nights from **13th September through to 16th September**.

Now in its second year, it is the only one of its kind in Europe. Artists who performed at the inaugural festival include Billy Bragg, Chumbawamba, Dick Gaughan and Roy Bailey. The Festival was founded by Liverpool radical singer songwriter Alun Parry in 2008 to coincide with Liverpool's year as the European Capital of Culture. The aim of the festival is to promote songs of struggle, protest and social justice, as well as songs that tell the story of working class people. This year it ran in tandem with the TUC Conference, taking place in Liverpool for the first time in over a century. There was a great line-up of artists and bands. The highlight for folk audiences was on the opening evening with a star studded line of mainly veteran performers – Leon Rosselson, Roy Bailey, and Frankie Armstrong – together with the emerging talent of David Ferrard (a young Scottish-American songwriter whose voice has been compared to James Taylor and his lyrics to Woody Guthrie). David Ferrard opened the evening with a highly accomplished set that included songs about slavery (The Slave's Lament), written by Robert Burns, the highly poignant 'Hills of Virginia' which the singer composed following the Iraq invasion. In a similar vein, 'Never Again' highlighted the plight of the Palestinians in Gaza. For the final number of the set David was accompanied by Roy Bailey on 'Visions for Youth', a song the latter recorded on his recent CD.

Frankie Armstrong illustrated her formidable repertoire emphasising her political feminist social philosophy with songs about factory girls, strikes, the Nicaraguan revolution and finishing with a Leon Rosselson song, 'Voices' that focuses on equality and justice for the poor.

The most popular set of the evening featured Roy Bailey whose consummate performance included old favourites like Si Khan's 'What You Do With What You've Got' and 'I Aint Afraid', Holly Near's apposite song about the dangers of organised religion. But we were also treated to Bailey's newer material and some humorous anecdotes. Roy Bailey, still injecting passion and resonance into his performances, must go down as one of the finest song interpreters of the modern folk era.

Leon Rosselson headed the bill. His back catalogue is extensive and many of his songs have been popularised by the likes of Roy Bailey, Billy Bragg and others. He has a quirky style and an intuitive talent for capturing the issues of the time, whether it's the perennial crises of capitalism, injustices at home and abroad, or disasters like those of Aberfan. Fittingly he was joined by the other artists for the last few songs including probably his most famous composition, 'The World Turned Upside Down' – the theme is 450 years old but the theme is still very contemporary.

Once again the Working Class Festival has achieved critical success and has been well supported by packed out audiences. It now looks as if it could be an annual event in our cultural calendars. Long may it thrive.

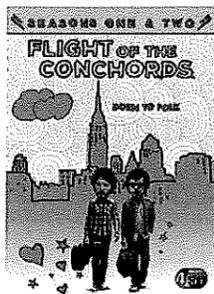
Lewis Jones

The Festival is also looking for organisations to sponsor this event for future years – particularly those who wish to build their profile amongst people who care about social justice. Previous sponsors include the North West TUC, Unite the Union, Communication Workers Union, Liverpool Unison, Merseyside Fire Brigade Union, and Another Media. If you are interested in lending your support whether monetary or in-kind, please contact **Christine Colvin on 07845 144 845**

DVD REVIEWS



FLIGHT OF THE CONCHORDS - Seasons 1 & 2 - (HBO DVD)



I don't know why I missed the Flight Of The Conchords first time round (perhaps I was too preoccupied with US dramas like CSI and True Blood) still that aside I really should have taken the time. This is laugh out loud comedy but to be played in the privacy of your own home and without your other half being around. I'm ashamed to say I used to know blokes like Jemaine Clement and Bret McKenzie (OK, if I'm truthful I was one of them...but I'm not telling you which!) back in 70's when I was innocent or at least as innocent as I was going to be. The writing for the show is impeccable with beautifully timed sequences where our hapless duo take us along for the ride introducing totally believable characters such as the arsehole manager and the stalker 'fan'. In a déjà vu moment I thought I've been here before...now how embarrassing is that? You don't have to wait long before the clever one-liners enter the pair's surreal world full of witty songs and knowing nods towards the music industry. Take for instance the set-piece where they're discussing Fleetwood Mac with their manager Murray (Rhys Darby)... "Mind you, they did make some of the best music back then." "Rumours?" "No...it's all true". Great timing, as fluid as liquid gold. If you want to celebrate Christmas this year...do yourselves a favour and purchase these great DVDs. You won't be disappointed!

Pete Fyfe.

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Only £2.00 per 1/16 page

Maximum of 1/16 per advert

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Send Copy by 10th January 2010

to:- Jo Singleton

12 Levine Avenue

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Lancashire FY4 4PD

Tel: 01253 694972

e mail: jo.fnwads@gmail.com

GARVA at Leigh Folk Club on Friday

18th September 2009



We'd been looking forward to seeing the revitalised Garva for some time and so eagerly awaited their gig at Leigh Folk Club. We arrived a little late, having got a little lost on the way, and missed a little of the resident's warm up which seemed to have got the evening off to a good start to an already full

room. The beer choice does not favour the real ale drinker and so fittingly Guinness was the drink of choice.

Garva were well organised with all their equipment and instruments already in place and therefore hit the stage running with two jigs – "Connie O'Connell's". A few bars were enough to establish that it was going to be an evening where time flies when you're having fun. "St Anne's Reel" and "St Anne's Song" followed with Steve Higham on lead vocal. We emigrated from the West of Ireland with John Murphy's gentle vocal guidance fully in sympathy with the plight of "The Exile".

Kevin Webster provided the impetus for two reels collected from the flute player Siobhan O'Donnell and we were once again in the presence of Garva back to their very best – a long awaited event. Look out folk world the boys are back in town, festival organisers please take note.

Tony Gibbons sang "Do Me Justice" and did just that to an excellent song. By then "Paradise" arrived, penned by John Prine and commandeered in fine style by Steve. A Liz Carroll tune "Island of Words" demonstrated Liam Murphy's prodigious expertise on the Uilean pipes, watched closely by John with, I suspect, a glad heart that the lad turned out to be such a good 'un. The rest admirably restrained themselves from partaking of such an excellent tune until a familiar Liverpool Ceili Band jig got the better of them and they seized a part of the action, reaching the dizzy heights of the "Mist Covered Mountains" and concluding with "Delaney's". Wow! Tony Gibbons then became the "Same Old Man", learned from the singing of Rita Connelly.

Steve reminded us of his power and prowess as a singer with "Wichita", a Gillian Welch song arranged by Garva. I would as a personal preference like them to steer (pun intended!) a little more away from the influence of our American cousins but you can't deny the quality of this version.

Edel Sullivan from Cork provided the instructions for the lads "Climbing The Stairs" and the audience were convinced that the stairs led to heaven. John and Kevin then led into a reel called "The Waterfall", guaranteed to flummox your surrounding musicians at a session. A chance to get our breath back was provided by Steve's rendition of the Allan Taylor song "Standing At The Door". Then a few minutes of pure magic, introduced by Tony who clearly was also looking forward to the lad and his dad's piping duet. Well having already visited paradise and climbed the stairs to heaven we were now at the top table with god's chosen instrument played by his favourite musicians. "The Dark Slender Boy" was followed by three jigs collected by the Murphy's. Follow Garva around and demand to hear this, you'll not here the like elsewhere.

One of my favourite non-English songs "Green Among The Gold" written by Rosalind and Steve Barnes featured Tony on lead vocals. The second half concluded with "Song For The Life" with Steve in charge of delivering an excellent finale to the evening.

Many shouted for more, but few louder than me, as we'd all been completely mesmerised and lost all track of time. All we knew is that we didn't want it to end. The encore consisted of four reels "The Holly Bush/Otter's Holt/Swinging On The Gate/Boy In The Boat" and we floated out into the night.

Ken Bladen.

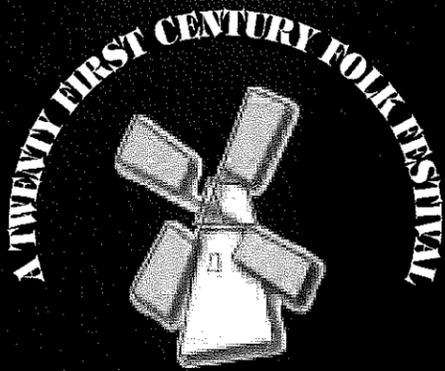
**Over The Rainbow (The Eva Cassidy Story)
featuring Zoe Tyler – Churchill Theatre, Bromley
Wednesday, 23rd September 2009**



Zoe Tyler's stunning performance of "Fields Of Gold" on the BBC Breakfast show the other day was inspirational. Utilising the song to promote the "Over The Rainbow – The Eva Cassidy Story" tour I thought I'd check it out a couple of days later at Bromley in Kent's renowned Churchill Theatre. Well, the first signs looked promising...a sold out performance and I hadn't seen an audi-

ence so hyped up since I attended the first night of Rivedance in London. I'm sure many turned out on the strength of that TV appearance but then, what else did I expect? I'm not sure really but the first part of the show relied heavily on a rather ragged bunch of musicians whose playing didn't appear up to much. Without wishing to sound churlish, there's no need for out of tune (something a good guitar technician could sort in a couple of minutes), badly picked acoustic guitars on which a majority of the show relies. This coupled with a heavy dose of American schmaltz (think perhaps a bad episode of The Walton's or a cringe worthy "now picture this" by Canada's Rankin Family) didn't inspire the restless, sighing throng although none of the vocalists could be faulted. Along with an ever changing, indistinct and clichéd projected background this didn't bode well for the second act. The contrived audience participation of laughing at lame jokes about Wild World and clapping along with the songs which quickly faded merely acted as an unwanted distraction...then again it shouldn't take some jumped up hack to point this out to the producer who should realise this on a trial run of the show. As most of Eva's major hits in the UK including "Songbird", "Fields Of Gold" and the title song were used in the first act the actual performance highlights came from the more raunchy Blues Alley set and the truly tear inducing finale. I'm really sorry that I couldn't have given a more positive review as Ms Tyler has a truly exceptional voice...surely blessed by God (!) and I can't help thinking that with a bit more thought (maybe opening with a recording of Terry Wogan first playing Cassidy on his radio show) and the producer gearing things to British audiences including a quality 'house band' (not something you'd expect to see at a Warner's Holiday country music show) this would have ended up a tighter, more balanced performance. Footnote: I've just been on the writer's website and discovered that he's British! – a surprise really as this show is definitely geared to appeal more to an American audience.

PETE FYFE



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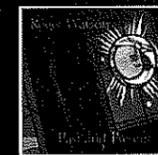
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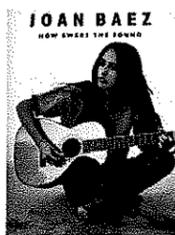
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JOAN BAEZ

Live at the Philharmonic Hall,

Liverpool-Tuesday 13th October 2009



When you've been at the top of your profession for over fifty years, you could be excused for being somewhat blasé about performing, but that is one thing you could never level at Joan Baez, one of my musical heroes and a live performer par excellence. With her handpicked quartet of top American musicians, she gave every-

one a night to remember, as she visited some of her best known songs as well as performing some new ones.

"Lily of the West", proved to be the ideal starting point as the audience realised this was to be a rather special evening.

It trickles down the mountain and separates the widow from the bride, an explanation for a relatively new song, "Scarlet Tide", with mandolin and cittern giving it a gentle feel.

"God is God", Steve Earle wrote, a power greater than ourselves. As Joan explained, everyone in the USA seems to be recovering from something.

Another favourite followed, "Silver Dagger", the banjo accompaniment outstanding.

I didn't have to wait long for my personal favourite, the Bob Dylan classic, "Farewell Angelina", the haunting fiddle making it an extra special song.

Band member Dirk Powell wrote, "Just The Way You Are", which Joan sang to his sensitive piano playing. A song that tells how we need to bare our emotions to find our real selves.

Joan played at a Mexican Heritage festival before touring the UK and sang in that language, "Llanoja", translated, Weeping Woman.

Joan fell in love with folk music in the 4th Grade at High School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, which she describes as the most memorable time of her life.

During that time the Carter Family were prominent for singing gospel songs, "Gospel Ship", was learned from their albums.

A song from years ago but most definitely a song for today, the powerful, "With God on our Side", followed.

Melodeon accompanied a real song of hope, "Joe Hill", before the band left the stage leaving Joan to sing one of the great Irish ballads, "Carrickfergus".

Joan recounted how she met the Beatles on their first US tour, she made them tea, she even warmed the pot, but they were more fascinated by the Coca Cola machine, they just pushed the button and out flowed the coke, FREE!!!

Another classic followed, "There But For Fortune", a song still fresh today, a traditional English ballad followed, "Pretty Peggy O".

To finish her short solo spot came "Forever Young", which tells of the hope of growing up virtuous without losing your youth.

The band returned for, "Handsome Molly", the girl left behind on the shore.

Dirk then provided soulful fiddle on "Nobody Knows But Me".

A quick change by Dirk to the piano for a superb solo in, "Love is just a Four Letter Word", followed, which brought the evening to a crescendo.

The first of three encores followed, "Diamonds and Rust", is certainly one of Joan's most enduring songs, but she topped that by performing her former no.1 hit, "The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down". A standing ovation followed with everyone staying on stage, as Joan explained they have no shame.

As a bonus, five part a cappella harmony rang out with, "Angel Wings".

It was certainly the most vibrant concert I've attended this year, with a real lady who despite her advancing years continues to wow the public with her easy style and timeless material.

Her band added so much to an evening that had the audience buzzing as they went out into the damp October night air.

Dave Jones

Saddleworth Folk Festival

2010

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(In concert)

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BONDED BOOTS

Rebooted - Live at the Steamer Hotel,

Fleetwood on Thursday 22nd October 2009

Bonded Boots who are Dave Walters and Howard Bond came together again after 38 years for one final appearance to help Fleetwood Folk Club celebrate their 40th Anniversary. Dave Walters originally from Wales came to Fleetwood via St Helens to meet up with Howard Bond a Fleetwood born lad. Their chance meeting lead to them running the Fleetwood Folk Club at the Queens public house for over two years

There was a full packed house at the Steamer Hotel, some ninety plus people assembled to watch this one on performance. Musical equipment was very minimalist, two guitars and a mandolin and sound equipment set up by Eddie Green enriched the beautiful tonal quality of their vocals.

The resident band Spitting on the Roast opened the proceedings with a couple of songs, followed by a song from Dick Gillingham, Dave Pearce, Berni Bruin, Claire Cavendar, Ivan McKewon, Scolds Bridle with Ron Baxter as compare. Ron passed around a large silver bucket announcing that all cash raised was being donated to the Fleetwood Lifeboat.

Bonded Boots came on stage and they opened the proceedings with I'll sail right over the ocean. Dave Walters announced it was almost a 60's night out. Their second song a Storytelling of Rooks; a *Story Telling being the collective name for Rooks*. The duo told us that in 1970 they moved to London to Clapton Common in a basement flat; they went back to Preston, Palmers Green and sung in the local folk club they first performed their third song Buy Broom, Bessel Broom

Howard then performed a solo of one of his own penned numbers Frothy Coffee Café, inviting the audience to join in the chorus; the few not wearing dentures joined in bravely. Dave then performed an excellent solo number of Ranzo. The two reminisced for a moment with the audience about the time they arrived in B..... Green in London.; the guest the week before at the club had been Paul Simon. Then they appeared in Bungees Cellar only to find out that Bob Dylan had appeared the week before. Howard remarked to the audience that they had always found themselves a week too late. They then performed together Ragamuffin Child (Cloudy). Many years later they went to America in a speak-easy on Bleaker Street and they met with Paul Simon. Dave completed the first half with Bleaker Street and a special version of Stealing Back, with some extra verses added by the pen of Howard; Dave said "it was a trip down memory lane for him".

When the second half commenced after the usual Beer break, Ron Baxter announced that the silver bucket had raised £186 so far and he was passing it around again to try and make it £200. Another club regular open the second half with the \Show of Hands number Cousin Jack. Howard followed with another self-penned song Caterpillars don't believe in Butterflies; as they believe when your gone your gone. Some very well crafted rhyming was required in the verses. He remarked on the very fond memories of Fleetwood; he had learned to sail here with Ian Garside. They sang a song about the River Wyre, New Boats are a sailing. This was followed by Gardens Town on the Murray Firth.

Dave then performed a solo number, a song about believing about yourself. The song was based on a young lad who

thought he could fly and used to jump of the shed with a cape made of a flour sack. He believes that the person is still doing it to this very day - (song title I did not write down). Howard performed Dancing on Clouds as his solo. Together they then performed Bottle of Wine and Howard announced that he would sing a number which whenever Ron Baxter had requested it he would always refuse to do; however, as it was such a special occasion he told the audience that if Ron requested the song they would sing it for him. Ron was hastily summoned and when asked the question by Howard he proffered the name of a song. Howard remarked that was not the one and after prompting the question was re-asked and they sang In Merry England for Ron and finished the set with All I ever need is you.

To rapturous applause Dave said "It has felt like the last 35 years was yesterday" and they sang Farwell to You Spanish Ladies and after more shouts of encore sang The water is Wide and ended the evening again with Stealing Back. Owing to the fact that Dave was in Amsterdam they did most of their practice session via an Internet link.

For those wondering about how they duo came up with their name Bonded Boots the audience were told that Dave used to wear Boots as he was a rambler and Howard's last name being Bond they called themselves Bonded Boots and the name stuck. They announced that this was the one and only time that they would appear as Bonded Boots. The evening ended with the collection raising a staggering £350 for the RNLI.

John Webb



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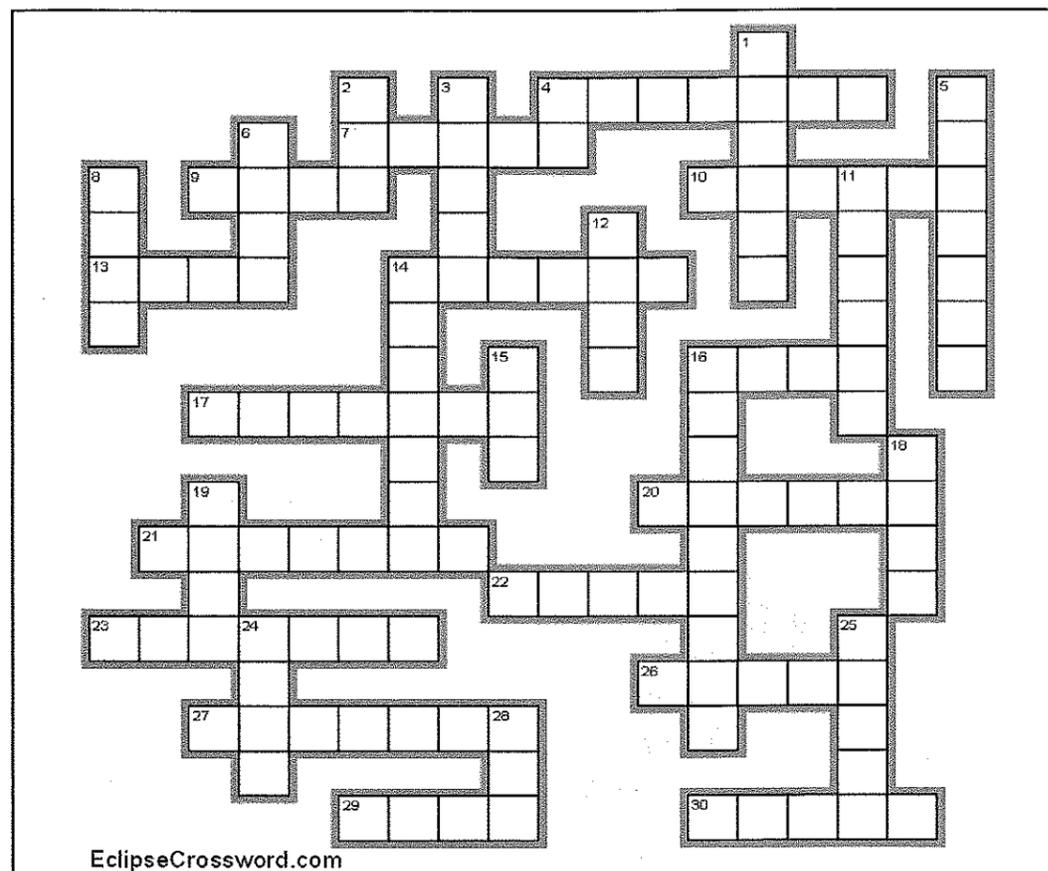
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A bit of Christmas fun, it's all Chinese to me

Musical Instruments

John Webb



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Across

4. A bowed zither
7. "Flower drum"
9. Reed pipe, blow this one on the side
10. Small pear shaped lute, 4 strings
13. This one set the tempo
14. Plucked lute, short neck and 4 strings tuned in pairs
16. Blow this old bamboo, it's making my head spin
17. 2 stringed fiddle
20. Beijing Opera player, on the fiddle
21. 16-26 stringed zither
22. 7 stringed zither
23. "Wind gong"
26. Drum with an hour-glass figure
27. 2 stringed fiddle with fingerboard
29. Large cymbals
30. Blow this for fun

Down

1. One like Moses had, but hit this with a mallet
2. Sounds like a home for animal, give it some stick!
3. A coconut you can play with
4. Hit it at the end of the piece, Tiger
5. A harp
6. A very large drum
8. A long brass trumpet
11. "Plum Blossom Instrument"
12. A pear shaped fretted lute 5-6 strings
14. A hammered dulcimer
15. A clay ocarina
16. A one string zither
18. The Buddhist has a fishy sort of thing, hit it with a stick
19. Moon shaped lute, comes in five sizes
24. Four stringed instrument, played like a cello
25. An upright sort of fiddle
28. An old bell

ANSWERS WILL BE PRINTED IN THE SPRING EDITION - No prize for this one

JOHN'S DIARY CHAT



Hello again and welcome. Yet again we reach that time of the year when the summer festival period has come to and end and we reflect on the many and varied experiences that make our search for enjoyment and thrills on the folk scene so fulfilling.

Having missed it last year, at the beginning of September, Angela and I visited Fylde Festival. We had a great time again at Fleetwood. Dougie Maclean and Eric Bogle / John Munro were superb as was the act with the unpronounceable name i.e. Marie Ni Chathasaigh & Chris Newman. But I must say that my favourite act of the weekend (and song) was provided by comedian/singer/songwriter, the Bard of Oswaldtwistle himself - Dylan Owen. He majors on comic songs but, in similar style to Vin Garbutt, he can play with your emotions as he throws in an occasional serious side to his act. His rendition of 'Accrington Pals' is all about the first World War and the fruitlessness of it as so many volunteer soldiers from Accrington went 'over the top' to their deaths. Once again I complement Alan Bell and his team on producing another brilliant festival.

The following weekend we were at Bromyard Festival again with our great friend Carol Sandham. Following last year's mud bath, everything this time was much better with dry weather providing a comfortable time all round. On Friday night our hearts sank as we entered the main marquee to see the front row of seating laid out about twenty or so paces from the stage creating the almost obligatory dance area!! "Oh no", we said. Then it figured - top of the bill was folk/pop superstar Seth Lakeman and band. We stayed for two of his songs then gave up as the volume of sound was bursting our eardrums and sitting behind a hoard of punters prancing around in front of us was not our idea of fun. Of the artists we were able to see over the weekend we enjoyed very much Faustus, Breabach, The Battlefield Band and a new name to us Gareth Davies-Jones. Gareth is an Irishman despite the surname and his songs and dexterity on guitar are excellent. It was good to see again Dave Webber and Annie Fentiman in action along with Jimmy Mageean, The Young 'uns (a trio of young Geordie shanty men) and other shanty singers at the football stadium marquee. A moment of sadness and respect was shown for that wonderful shanty singer Johnny Collins who had passed away suddenly a few weeks previously. A massive loss to the folk and shanty scene.

The act that excelled for us at this festival was the quartet - Kris Drever / John McCusker / Heidi Talbot and Boo Hewerdine. Supremely skilled individually they produced an hour or so of absolute folk music magic. Superb and most memorable. Bromyard Festival has a wonderful festival site where everything is in walking distance together with an inviting set of fringe events going on in the town. The only negative aspect about the site is the closeness of the very popular Dance Marquee to the Main Marquee. Noise crossover is inevitable once the ceilidhs get going. More thought required here I feel in respect of locating the ceilidh marquee and staging. Overall though, well done to Dick Dixon and team.

At the end of September we ventured with caravan into Cheshire specifically to be a part of the very informal two days of folk music at the Shady Oak pub, Tiverton, near Beeston. The pub runs a very roomy caravan and camping site with all the amenities including showers. The Friday night was the

usual last Friday of the month session, with free chips provided by the licensee. A goodly variety of high quality performers provided some super entertainment. The following day from 2pm to 8pm volunteer performers provided the music at an open mic session in the beer garden alongside the Shropshire Union canal. With Peckforton Castle on the hill a back-drop to the pub, you could not get a better location. The ale is excellent at The Shady Oak and the Sunday lunch I thoroughly recommend. We paid a visit to the nearby Tattenhall Ice Cream farm where our friend Carol's daughter runs the restaurant. Super food and ice cream of all varieties of course. All in all a great weekend organised by a couple of narrowboat and folkie enthusiasts Robin and Andy.

Club news

Let's get the bad news out of the way first. Jean Finney at 'Folk at the Norton' regrets to inform me that the club has had to close due to poor attendances at the Singers Nights and the Guest Nights. Similarly, Jim Minall - 'Friends of Folk' promotions, tells me that almost certainly his two bookings at Preston Guild Hall on 17th December (Steeleye Span) and 20th February 2010 (Ashley Hutchings & Ken Nicol) will be the last due to disappointing audience numbers. Jim has enjoyed his last six years of promoting folk music in the region but to use his words - 'all good things must come to an end'. Earlier in the year I heard from Liz and Les Jones in Chorlton who wish to become members of this magazine. The club (no title) meets at The Beech pub, Beech Road, Chorlton as a singaround on the first and third Wednesdays of the month to sing mostly, but not exclusively, traditional songs. On the last Tuesday of the month a beginners tune session takes places at the same venue with slow beginnings, lots of repeats then increased timings as the night progresses. Sounds just the job for a learner. You can contact Les at lizandlesjonesinchorlton@yahoo.co.uk

Sophie Parkes at the new member club 'For Folk's Sake' in Manchester tells me that they have had to move a few yards down the road from the Cup Café to The Bay Horse, 35-37 Thomas Street, M4 1NA. Their first event at the new venue will have taken place on Wednesday 11th November when Manchester based Samson and Delilah and Adelaide's - The Zephyr Quartet were the guests. Sophie advises that they do have a Christmas event lined up some time in December. It is a singer/songwriter special and will feature Nathan Ball from London with slots by Lorelei Loveridge, Sian Sofia, Butler Williams and Phil Davies. Give Sophie a ring at 07854-160624 to find out more.

'Sefton Park Palm House' became a new member/venue to this magazine last issue and Chris Wood appeared there on 13th September with Lizzie Nunnery as support. Everything went off well at this unique location. Elizabeth-Anne Williams, the Director there advises me that they have no folk events lined up presently. By next March expect a different picture.

Due to some conflict with other clubs in the area, Eric Cox at 'Biddulph up in Arms' informs me that from January his club will meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Alex Nearney at 'Burnley Folk Club' praises Brian Preston for doing a great job standing in at short notice to take the place of Ken Nicol who was unable to fulfil his engagement there. Alex also expresses his thanks to Pete and Sharon Chadwick

who did the support that evening and brought back many happy memories of those '70s standards.

We at the Hungry Horse FC have again had a fantastic quarter of folk music and song with firstly Anthony John Clarke and band launching his new double CD ('The man with the golden plectrum'). The room was packed out with many of AJ's fans having travelled a distance to celebrate his latest new venture. The five-piece band that is Yardarm, the residents at 'Wrexham FC', crossed the border into Cheshire and entertained us grandly with many of the songs written by Ian Chesterman. All five take turns in taking the lead with vocals and harmonies were abounding throughout their sets.

On 15th October, that bundle of fun from Leigh, Lancashire, Bram Taylor, visited us for the first time and what a night we had? Like AJC, Bram had been very active in promoting himself before the gig and many of his fans supported him well with their attendance. Bram has a wonderful voice and personality and his choice of songs both traditional and contemporary are similar in many ways to that of Angela and myself. The audience were treated to a mix of songs from the likes of Pete Morton ('The Two Brothers') and James Keelaghan ('Hillcrest Mine'), Hugh Williams ('Geordie will dance the jig'), Rosalind and Steve Barnes ('Green among the gold') and John Richards ('If you can walk you can dance') all of which are on Bram's latest CD 'Song Singer'. Close contact with audiences is a must on the folk scene and Bram is most adept at creating warm and cosy connections with individuals from the outset. To leave the audience vociferously begging for 'more', 'more' when time ran out is indicative of how well the night went.

In addition to all that, in recent weeks Angela and I have had the pleasure of seeing the Welsh Bruce Springsteen better known as Martyn Joseph (at 'Telfords' Warehouse', Chester), guitar finger-pick champion Chris Moreton (at 'Bromborough FC') and 'Real Time' members Kenny Speirs and Judy Dinning at Roger Hanslip's 'Folk at the Prospect', Runcorn. All were superb nights.

Art Centres and Theatres

Good news from The Citadel at St Helens. Nicola Gaskell the Marketing and Communications Officer there reports that the venue has been successful in obtaining a grant from the Big Lottery Fund's - Young Peoples' Fund 2 programme to run Music Mecca. This is a three-year project creating music workshops and performances for young people in St Helens. It will enable young people aged from 10 to 18, including the disadvantaged and disengaged, to participate in weekly and monthly music workshops at The Citadel. The project which will be led by a steering group of young people will also see a new Citadel interactive website created. Young people in St Helens through consultation with The Citadel conceived the project and the bid was supported by St Helens Council's Cultural Funding Advisor. It is expected to commence in January 2010 with no payment required for those attending the activities.

On 14th November The Citadel will also have held its 21st birthday party and Open Day. So it all seems to be happening at The Citadel.

Artists and performers

It is worth pointing out that Carlisle Folk Club have booked the New Rope String Band for their Big Gig Christmas Party

on Friday 11th December. A change of venue will see the gig take place at Victory Hall, Dalston CA5 7QB. Ring 01228-515061 for tickets.

The Christmas Do! (20th December) at the Wooden Horse FC, Rainford will be interesting as performers must write and presumably perform a Christmas song or parody or pay a fine to charity. Bring plenty of loose change then?

Angie Bladen at Four Fools FC tells me that the aforementioned Marie Ni Chath.....!! (Oh I give up!) and Chris Newman have done extremely well for themselves. Their latest CD 'Firewire' won an award at the '2009 Just Plain Folks Music Awards' in Nashville, Tennessee in August. It was voted best CD in the class - 'Best Celtic Instrumental Album'. This, bearing in mind that the judges for the awards screened over 42,000 albums and 560,000 songs in 93 genres from 163 countries. Not bad hey?

Lynne Barnes at Dabbers FC, Nantwich has sent me details of three forthcoming events that will take place in Nantwich and Middlewich as follows: -

Saturday 19th December - Vin (Virginia) Barrett, who has been compared with Katie Melua, Joni Mitchell and Carole King will appear at the Nantwich Players Theatre. Vin has a beautiful, warm, distinctive voice and is a fine lyricist. Her songs evenly distribute 'pure poetry, raw sensuality and kitchen sink irony'. Contact - Nantwich Tourist Information 01270-537-359 or www.amandalynnemusic.com

Saturday 30th January 2010, world famous master fiddle maestro Dave Swarbrick teams up for a one-off special with fiddler Gina Le Faux at the British Legion, Lewin Street, Middlewich.

Contact - 01606-8349 or www.inanyevent.org.uk

April 17th, 2010 - Fancy seeing some stand-up comedy and fearsome fiddle playing done Australian style? Pixie Jenkins is the one for you. This five times winner of the Golden Fiddle Award and Lifetime Achievement Award winner for excellence as a fiddler/contributor to the furthering of fiddle playing/teaching, appears at Nantwich Civic Hall. Contact - 01270-537-359 or www.amandalynnemusic.com or 077-900-82523.

This quarter - some of the performers that we have not seen in the region for a while are 'coming to a folk club/venue near you' as follows: -

November - Dave Burland at the Everyman on 24th, The Unthanks at Bury Met on 26th, Nick Harper at the Pacific on 27th, Janet Russell at Skipton on 30th.

December - Martyn Wyndham-Read appears at The Clarence on 2nd, the young band 422 at Northwich on 4th, the original Tom Topping band (trio) at Porkies on 4th and Sale on 12th. DADGAD guitar expert Sarah McQuaid appears at The Bothy on 13th and at Folk at the Prospect the following night. St Agnes Fountain is a band that is always in the region pre-Christmas. They are booked for the 19th at Playhouse 2 and Worden Arts Centre, Leyland on the 20th.

January - Vicki Swan (piper supreme) and Jonny Dyer are at The Bothy on 17th, The Imagined Village at Philharmonic Hall on 18th, Steve Tilston at Bromley Cross on 22nd and Biddulph up in Arms the 30th January. Marie Little is a special guest with the Hometowners at Playhouse 2 on 29th.

February - sees that folk icon Tom Paxton return to our shores. Tom will appear at the Philharmonic Hall on the 5th, the Phil Beer Band at The Citadel on 6th, Kimbersmen at Burnley on 10th, Marie Ni Chathasaigh/Chris Newman at the Rose Theatre on 12th, Steve Knightley on 16th at Sale and Jez Lowe at Lymm on 18th. On the 21st Brian Jones (TTB) and Bob Buckle are at Folk at the Manor.

Early March - Roy Bailey is at Lymm on the 4th and the newly named Other Roads (formerly the John Wright's Band) who are Dave Walmisley, Pete Abbott and Gregor Borland are booked at Maghull (2nd), Porkies (5th) and Playhouse 2 on (6th).

It is good to see that a performer I have been shouting about for years seems at last to be getting a look in at folk clubs listed in this magazine. I am talking about the absolutely brilliant John O'Connell.

I have booked John on many an occasion both at our club and at our festival and he has appeared at Bromborough FC regularly.

Words I have used to describe John in the past have been - 'jaw-droppingly good', 'an astonishing talent', 'simply tremendous' and many more similar praiseworthy comments. To all you folk music organisers out there - I can assure you that these are words that are shared by everyone who sees John for the first time. With his mate Jimmy on subtle bass guitar, John is able to turn his hand to any form of song or tune, old or new, pop or standard, through to classical via traditional or contemporary folk. In fact the guitar break he performs near the end of Van Morrison's 'Moondance' is well up to, if not even better than, anything a certain Mr Clapton would be capable of. It brings the house down. 'Classical Gas' and similar instrumental tunes complement John's creative and expressive singing. He is an act not to be missed, believe me. Where can we see him you are asking? John appears at Liverpool Philharmonic Hall on 3rd December and at Maghull FC on 9th February.

Festivals

Finally, for your next year's diary I must not lose the opportunity to bring to your attention some of next year's festivals that have been brought to my attention.

Over the Whit Bank Holiday weekend of the 28th to 31st May is the four day '**Chester Folk Festival**' where the guests booked so far are Mawkin:Causley, The Churchfitters, Martin Simpson, Bernard Wrigley, Mick Ryan & Paul Downes, Isambarde, The Old Dance School, Flossie Malavialle, Pete Morton, The Askew Sisters, Vicki Swan & Jonny Dyer, Peeping Tom, Boldwood and Martyn Harvey. This festival is followed on 3rd to 6th June by our own four-day festival, the '**6th Wirral Folk on the Coast Festival**', at the OC Club, Bridle Road, Bromborough, Wirral, CH62 6AR.

Guests contracted to date are - The New Rope String Band, Chris While with Joe Broughton, Clive Gregson, Martyn Joseph, The Houghton Weavers, Celtish, Bernard Wrigley, Dave Burland, Anthony John Clarke, Robin Laing, Cathryn Craig and Brian Willoughby, Bram Taylor, Chris Moreton, David Ferrard, Garva, Scolds Bridle, Muldoon's Picnic, Chill until Blue, Tri, Martin Pleass, Graham Belling's Deportees, Jamie Landsborough, Alison Parker and the Third Man ceilidh band, Arthur Marshall and the Lifeboat ceilidh band, Vocal Point, Paul Reaney, and the Mersey Morris Dance Team. More info at www.wirralfolkonthecoast.com and 0151-678-9902.

We expect tickets to be obtainable before Christmas this year as some punters wish to purchase them as Christmas gifts. What a good idea? Why not do so?

'**Middlewich Folk and Boat Festival**' is expected to take place over the weekend of 18th to 20th June.

On Saturday 19th June, Garstang Unplugged FC will hold their annual '**Beer and Music Festival**' at the Kenlis Arms, Ray Lane, Barnacre, Garstang, PR3 1GD.

Stewart Lever's '**Lymm Folk Festival**' will take place from 24th June to July 2. Stewart informs me that the main guests will be Lizzie Nunnery, Ruth Fuga and Ken Powell, Colum Sands, Kerfuffle, The Perfectly at Home String Band and Bernard Cromarty.

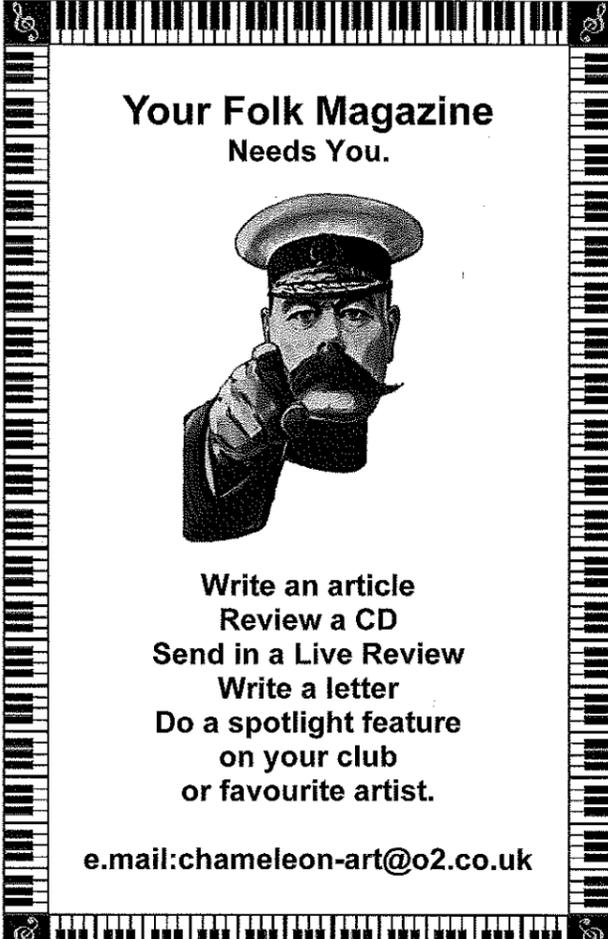
On the 25th to 27th June '**Droylsden Folk Festival**' is scheduled with Dick Gaughan as the main guest.

'**Saddleworth Folk Festival**' will take place over the weekend of 16th to 18th July with the main guests so far being - Dougie MacLean, Bernard Wrigley and Elbow Jane.

Finally, I extend a vote of thanks to Canadian super group Tanglefoot who at the end of this year will be disbanding. Big Al, Steve Ritchie and Co. have brought us a massive amount of enjoyment over the years even to the point where they allowed our very own esteemed Federation Chairman up on stage to sing with them. I can't think why!! (Only joking Dave). But with the boots and the wig Dave Jones did at least look the part. I quote again - "All good things must come to an end".

That's it for now. Keep piling up those folk memories. Best regards,

John Owen



**Your Folk Magazine
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Write an article
Review a CD
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Write a letter
Do a spotlight feature
on your club
or favourite artist.

e.mail:chameleon-art@o2.co.uk

BROMLEY CROSS FOLK CLUB

www.bromleycrossfolkclub.org.uk

8.00pm Friday at **THE RAILWAY**, Bromley Cross, Bolton

37, CHAPELTOWN RD, BOLTON, BL7 9LY - OPPOSITE BROMLEY CROSS STATION

- Dec 4 Singers & Musicians Night – Free
- Dec 18 **Pete Coe + Christmas Special - £8**
Uniquely gifted as a terrific singer & accomplished multi-instrumentalist
www.backshift.demon.co.uk to read about Pete and his music
- Jan 8 Singers / Musicians Night + 1st Birthday New Year Special
- Charity Fundraiser
- Jan 22 **Steve Tilston - £8**
Excellent singer songwriter & exquisite guitarist with flow and poignancy
www.steve-tilston.co.uk
- Feb 5 Singers & Musicians Night – Free
- Feb 26 **3 Sheets in the Wind - £8**
(Keith Kendrick, Derek Gifford & Geoff Higginbottom)
- Mar 5 Singers & Musicians Night – Free
- Mar 19 **Mary Humphries & Anahata - £7**
Skilled, enthusiastic and entertaining performers of traditional material
www.maryanahata.co.uk
- Apr 2 Singers & Musicians Night – Free
- Apr 23 **Emily Smith & Jamie McClennan - £8**
Award winning Scottish singer and talented guitarist / singer duo
www.emilysmith.org

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

Phone 01204 852217 for tickets or go to the website

THE BANKING CODE

WE'VE WORKED DAMNED HARD FOR OUR SAVINGS
AND TRUSTED THE ONES WHO KNEW BEST
BUT DEVOID OF RESPECT AND MORALITY
THE BANKERS LINED THEIR OWN NESTS

CONCERNS WERE BROUGHT TO THEIR ATTENTION
WHICH THEY BLATANTLY CHOSE TO IGNORE
AND THE SLIPPY SLOPE ADDED MOMENTUM
'TIL THEY LANDED SLAP DOWN ON THE FLOOR

CHORUS

"WHERE'S THE MONEY GONE, OH WHERE'S THE MONEY GONE,
THEY TOOK IT AND THEY'VE GAMBLLED IT AWAY
SINCE THEY'RE UPPING ALL OUR TAXES JUST TO KEEP THE
BANKS AFLOAT,
"STUFF (stop) THE BONUSES, THE HELL WHY SHOULD WE PAY!"
"STUFF (stop) THE BONUSES, THE HELL WHY SHOULD WE PAY!"

NOW WE MILLIONS ENTRUSTING OUR MONEY
HAVE COME TO THE RESCUE ONCE MORE
AND FOR YEARS WE WILL PAY FOR THE ACTIONS
OF A FEW SANCTIMONIOUS BORES

WHY ON EARTH SHOULD WE REWARD FAILURE
WHEN THE MAN IN THE STREET HOLDS HIS CAP
AND HE SEES HIS RESOURCES DIMINISH
WHILE THE BANKERS, LET US TAKE THE RAP

REPEAT CHORUS

SPARE A THOUGHT FOR THE UNLUCKY PENSIONERS
RELIANT ON THEIR SAVINGS TO SURVIVE
WHO HAVE ONLY A FEW MEAGRE ASSETS
WITH THE INTEREST TO KEEP THEM ALL ALIVE

LIKEWISE ALL THE FOLKS WITH A MORTGAGE
WHO OUTSIDE THEIR OWN HOUSES THEY ARE SHUT
AND THOSE BANKERS WHO TOOK RE-POSSESSION
BY THEIR ACTIONS, RUBBED SALT RIGHT IN THE CUT
REPEAT CHORUS

WELL THEY SAY THAT FROM EVERY SINGLE ACORN
A MIGHTY BIG OAK TREE WILL GROW
BUT THE BANKERS SOWED SEEDS INDISCRIMINATELY
THEN COCKED UP AND LOST US OUR DOUGH

SO THE CREDIT CRUNCH IS NOW SADLY WITH US
THE RAINY DAY IS FINALLY HERE
AND THE TASTY FRUITS WE ALL HAD HOPED TO
HARVEST

HAVE PERISHED AND COST US ALL SO DEAR

REPEAT CHORUS

WE'VE WORKED DAMNED HARD FOR OUR SAVINGS
AND TRUSTED THE ONES WHO KNEW BEST
BUT DEVOID OF RESPECT AND MORALITY
THE BANKERS LINED THEIR OWN NEST

THERE'S A MORAL TO THIS MONETARY STORY
A PIGGY BANK'S THERE TO BE FED
YOU CAN'T HAVE YOUR CAKE AND EAT IT, IT'S SAID
JUST STASH IT UNDERNEATH THE BED.

FINAL CHORUS

Written February 2009 -
Words & Music by Gary & Vera Aspey.
Copyright PRS For Music

THE BANKING CODE words & music by Gary & Vera Aspey Feb 2009

The image shows a handwritten musical score for the song 'The Banking Code'. It consists of ten staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The score is written in ink on a white background. The lyrics are: WE'VE WORKED DAMNED HARD FOR OUR SAVINGS AND TRUSTED THE ONES WHO KNEW BEST BUT DEVOID OF RESPECT AND MORALITY THE BANKERS LINED THEIR OWN NESTS CONCERNS WERE BROUGHT TO THEIR ATTENTION WHICH THEY BLATANTLY CHOSE TO IGNORE AND THE SLIPPY SLOPE ADDED MOMENTUM 'TIL THEY LANDED SLAP DOWN ON THE FLOOR CHORUS "WHERE'S THE MONEY GONE, OH WHERE'S THE MONEY GONE, THEY TOOK IT AND THEY'VE GAMBLLED IT AWAY SINCE THEY'RE UPPING ALL OUR TAXES JUST TO KEEP THE BANKS AFLOAT, "STUFF (stop) THE BONUSES, THE HELL WHY SHOULD WE PAY!" "STUFF (stop) THE BONUSES, THE HELL WHY SHOULD WE PAY!" NOW WE MILLIONS ENTRUSTING OUR MONEY HAVE COME TO THE RESCUE ONCE MORE AND FOR YEARS WE WILL PAY FOR THE ACTIONS OF A FEW SANCTIMONIOUS BORES WHY ON EARTH SHOULD WE REWARD FAILURE WHEN THE MAN IN THE STREET HOLDS HIS CAP AND HE SEES HIS RESOURCES DIMINISH WHILE THE BANKERS, LET US TAKE THE RAP REPEAT CHORUS SPARE A THOUGHT FOR THE UNLUCKY PENSIONERS RELIANT ON THEIR SAVINGS TO SURVIVE WHO HAVE ONLY A FEW MEAGRE ASSETS WITH THE INTEREST TO KEEP THEM ALL ALIVE LIKEWISE ALL THE FOLKS WITH A MORTGAGE WHO OUTSIDE THEIR OWN HOUSES THEY ARE SHUT AND THOSE BANKERS WHO TOOK RE-POSSESSION BY THEIR ACTIONS, RUBBED SALT RIGHT IN THE CUT REPEAT CHORUS WELL THEY SAY THAT FROM EVERY SINGLE ACORN A MIGHTY BIG OAK TREE WILL GROW BUT THE BANKERS SOWED SEEDS INDISCRIMINATELY THEN COCKED UP AND LOST US OUR DOUGH SO THE CREDIT CRUNCH IS NOW SADLY WITH US THE RAINY DAY IS FINALLY HERE AND THE TASTY FRUITS WE ALL HAD HOPED TO HARVEST HAVE PERISHED AND COST US ALL SO DEAR REPEAT CHORUS WE'VE WORKED DAMNED HARD FOR OUR SAVINGS AND TRUSTED THE ONES WHO KNEW BEST BUT DEVOID OF RESPECT AND MORALITY THE BANKERS LINED THEIR OWN NEST THERE'S A MORAL TO THIS MONETARY STORY A PIGGY BANK'S THERE TO BE FED YOU CAN'T HAVE YOUR CAKE AND EAT IT, IT'S SAID JUST STASH IT UNDERNEATH THE BED. FINAL CHORUS

CD REVIEWS



ABBIE LATHE & THE LOVELIES – Stargazing - Curlew Records CD001



I've been enraptured by the sounds of tight, close harmonies since I first saw Steeleye Span many years ago and there are plenty featured on this album. Abbie Lathe the engaging front-person of The Lovelies along with the other members of the group Claudia Gibson (piano), Colin Fletcher (acoustic bass

guitar) and Jane Griffiths (violin/viola) utilise a colourful and interesting choice of songs that is outstandingly refreshing to these jaded old 'folk' ears of mine. The elements of jazz make for a satisfying change as the vocal structures sumptuously envelope the listener in a warm, soft blanket of audio pleasure. As well as employing the songs of established artists including Kate Bush's "Army Dreamers" (which I haven't heard since the sadly departed Viva Smith's version a few years ago) Anne Lister's "The Moth" and the traditional "Mingulay Boat Song" it is the band's own self-penned material that proves the real foundation. All four musicians contribute and should be justifiably proud of their song-writing and arranging skills. If you're looking for something a little different to broaden your conceptions of what 'folk' music is all about then you could do worse than use this album as a starting point.

www.myspace.com/abbieatheatheandthelovelines

Pete Fyfe

ALBION CHRISTMAS BAND – Snow On Snow (Talking Elephant Records TECD135)

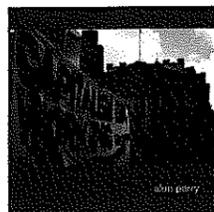


I don't know what it is about Christmas but it always brings out the best in me particularly the seasonal songs. It seems that I'm not the only one either as this is the latest in a long line of several albums that the Albion Band have released on the theme. The

band's choice of material would appear to be inexhaustible and to prove the point they incorporate traditional fare such as "The Seven Joys Of Mary" and standards "In The Bleak Mid Winter" and "Hark The Herald Angels Sing" (each with their original melodies still intact) alongside more contemporary songs "Frozen Man", "Comfort And Joy" and Dave Goulder's classic "January Man" which are blessed with titles that settle nicely within the framework of the concept. As ever, Ashley Hutchings along with Simon Nicol, Kellie While and squeeze-box maestro Simon Care provide the core backing and vocals augmented by Guy Fletcher (violin/drums), David Tobin (cornamuse/recorder) and Mark Hutchinson on keyboards/percussion and production. Finally, perhaps it's my age (or maybe as it's a Christmas recording and I'm in Scrooge mode) but my only gripe with an otherwise blemish free production is that I've had to take up 'squinting' as a hobby because I can just about read the sleeve notes...sleeve designers please note 4pt as your choice of font size is not exactly ideal (!) That aside this is a recording that should be on every 'folk' enthusiasts Christmas wish list. Contact www.talkingelephant.com for more details.

Pete Fyfe

ALUN PARRY - We Can Make The World Stop - Irregular Records Recordings



Radical singer songwriter Alun Parry hails from Liverpool. He joins a long line of eminent folk singers and songwriters who have emerged from a city that has witnessed bitter political and social struggles and persistent fights against injustice. Although this is not Alun's first release, it is his first on

Robb Johnson's Irregular Records label. Alun has also been the driving force in establishing the Working Class Music Festival in Liverpool.

Judging by the high standard of this album, it's easy to see what all the fuss is about. The title track makes an immediate impact. 'We Can Make The World Stop' is typical of Alun's thoughtful forthright lyrics where his politics come down firmly on the side of working people. It illustrates what we can achieve if we stand together in solidarity working for progressive causes. A couple of years ago this message may have been treated as old fashioned and naïve. Since the greedy bankers created the current economic crisis, the ideas of solidarity and social ownership have gained greater currency to counteract the wasteful excesses of corporate capitalism.

Football, latterly known as the beautiful game has been tarnished by many scandals. One that is often overlooked is the price construction workers pay to get new stadiums like Wembley finished. The building industry still has more fatalities than other sectors. 'Run Patsy Run' tells the story of a Wembley building worker who never saw a ball kicked in anger at the new stadium as he was killed during its construction.

There are a number of tracks that commemorate unsung events and heroes. 'The Limerick Soviet' was a little known uprising in 1919 against the British Army in Ireland but was suppressed after two weeks. 'Take the Mother's Name' empathetically challenges patriarchal notions of female compliance while the final track, 'All Hail To The Market', firmly nails the myth that free market economics is the most sensible way to organise society. There is an alternative.

It would be wrong to portray this album as political polemic. Alun Parry produces songs underpinned by intelligent poetic lyrics combined with tunes and melodies that easily attract and hold the listener. He intersperses the CD with songs of love, passion and family that reflect the warm character and flamboyant characters of Merseyside's rich -and sometimes tarnished - heritage. Make no mistake; Alun Parry is no lightweight performer. He is beginning to fulfil the potential that should see him follow in the illustrious footsteps of the likes of Roy Bailey and Dick Gaughan.

Lewis Jones.

ANDY SMYTHE – Nation Of The Free - Dreaming Element Records DER006

OK, so maybe I was being a bit judgemental on my first hearing the opening tracks of Andy Smythe's latest CD. Drawing on references including Kerouac, Springsteen and Custer to James Dean, Smythe paints a vivid picture of his appreciation for the good old USA with the punch line "...America I Believe In You". On the second track "Ancient Ways" he steers the listener to revert to a more civilised way of life advising us to embrace the mythologies of the

'dreamtime' although, from a listening point of view I just wish he'd find it by musically calming down a bit. Perhaps (in my opinion) it might have been a better idea to open the album with a more subtle statement rather than launch into a "full-throttle" band treatment...or maybe it's just that I'm getting old? I was trying to think who Andy reminded me of and after much contemplation I think I'd settle for a more forceful Al Stewart or (believe it or not) Richard Digance. With solid support from his regular backing musicians Les Elvin (bass) and Barry Targett (violins/guitars) the ensemble is augmented on this album by drums, harmonica and organ. Maybe it's just reaching the age of fifty that I personally prefer the subtler offerings such as the Radio 2 friendly "Two Lovers" (which should become a staple for Weddings everywhere) or "Song For Sean (Lennon)" where the guitar chops and plaintive fiddle accompanied by the intended overuse of echo on the vocal settles more comfortably. In a way I'd be happy to buy the CD on the strength of "Two Lovers" and who knows perhaps Andy might have a 'hit' with it. Further information from www.andysmythe.com

Pete Fyfe.

BILL MALKIN & JOHN SYLVESTER - Hunting with the Hounds - (Own release, 2009)



Bill Malkin is a singer - songwriter, originally from South Africa, now living in Chester, Cheshire. John is an accomplished Aberystwyth-based keyboard player.

This is a surprising album, - but not in the way you would think. I have had the pleasure of reviewing several of singer-songwriter Bills' previous albums, so I thought I had an idea of what to expect.

They say the first bite is by the eye, so I was surprised when I read the album title and looked at the cover. The cover has a typical 1900's picture of a fox hunt in full cry, the sort of cover you might expect to find on an album of traditional material. Not the 'normal' sort of thing I associate with Bills' style of music. It turns out that the album takes its title from the song 'Hunting with the Hounds' found at track 4. (More about this later)

Bill Malkin is a very profound song-writer. His songs have found their niche in contemporary folk music. They have feel of almost soft rock to them, which makes them easy to identify, and are easy on the ear.

I needn't have worried that Bill was taking up singing traditional songs, or championing the case for hunting, as the content of the songs bore little relationship to the album cover, and are exactly what we have come to expect from Bill Malkin.

However on this album he has teamed up with John Sylvester. This gives the backing a slightly different sound. As usual with Bills past recording he has again utilised the skills of local musicians Chris Lee: mandolin, Dave Russell: fiddle & banjo, Ian Jones: Melodeon & whistle, from the band Full House. Also an old friend from South Africa is Alistair Coakley: electric & bass guitar.

The subjects for Bills song writing are as varied as ever. The opening song is called 'Cropredy Musical Fair' and was written in the back of John Watson's van while returning from the festival in 2008. This followed by 'Florida Sky' a track that appears on a previous album. Next is 'The Ballad of Robert Cadman' it features a strong introduction on John's

keyboard. Robert Cadman was an exhibition tight ropewalker who fell to his death in 1739 while trying to cross the Seven River. This brings you to the title track 'Hunting with the Hounds' this is 21st century social comment song with some nice lead guitar work by Alistair Coakley.

'Chocolate Charlie' is a song about Charlie Atkins, a navigator who worked his narrow boat along the Shropshire Union canal between Bourneville and Ellesmere Port, often with a cargo of coca coca beans. A musical interlude is next with John Sylvester on the keyboard playing 'Song for Dad' a musical tribute to his father. This lead on to 'Christleton Mill' is a song about the civil war and the demise of Christleton Mill - destroyed by the royalists! Next is 'Jenny Wren' an instrumental written by John Sylvester, inspired the story of Jenny Kewley who, at birth was described by the nursing staff to be as small as a wren.

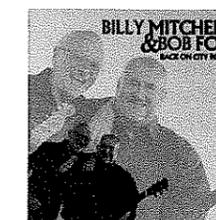
'No Place like Home' the penultimate song written by Bill, tells of the frustrations of an old fisherman returning from sea, only to find the new 'no smoking' law apply at his favourite bar.

The final track 'Hamba Gahle' (Go well) written by Bill, is a 'fun' instrumental as all the musicians jam along to a simple African kwela rhythm. A taste of Africa you might say, from Bills' home country.

You can buy the album online by contacting Bill Malkin via his website here: www.billmakin.com - good value at only £5.00.

Peter Massey.

BILLY MITCHELL & BOB FOX – Back On City Road - Own Label



What is it about Billy Mitchell and Bob Fox that makes you wish everyone in the world were a Geordie? On the strength of this striking album it's the feeling of camaraderie that is inherent in each song and the obvious good-humour that runs like a seam of 'black diamonds' throughout the recording. Starting with "The Shoemaker"

(surely a spelling mistook) followed by "The Pitman And The Blackin'" from their region of God's own country it establishes the duo's credentials for the traditional personality inherent from their North-East up bringing. In keeping with the locality, the inclusion of Mark Knopfler's far from cheesy "Sailing To Philadelphia" and the anthemic "Why Aye Man" (the theme from Auf Widsersen Pet) are prime examples of being proud enough to wear your heritage firmly on your sleeve. As part of their established sound Billy more often than not utilises his trusty Guild 12-string guitar adding a resonant ringing depth in much the same way Celtic bands use Bouzouki. It's a glorious sound enhanced by the mandolin and guitar interplay on the only tune set "Off To Kefalonia/Spanish Misfortune" complete with minor key ending so reminiscent of a performance by the much missed Jack The Lad. Personally speaking my CD collection would be incomplete without the performances of these two guys and a damn sight less colourful. For those of us that have had the pleasure of listening to Bob and Bill over the years this album will prove a must purchase item. Here's to the next one! Contact www.billymitchell.co.uk or www.bobfoxmusic.com

Pete Fyfe

BROOM BEZZUMS – Under The Rug - Steeplejack Music SJCD11



Comparisons of Broom Bezzums (Andrew Cadie & Mark Bloomer) to Robin & Barry Dransfield may come thick and fast in the fickle world of 'folk' but then, if memory serves me right it happened to Spiers & Boden as well. Also, I suppose from the opening strains of "Binnorie" (a variant of The Cruel Sister) maybe those comparisons could be well founded featuring as it does the double-stopped fiddle and guitar accompaniment alongside strident vocals. It's this forceful, take no prisoners attitude that drives the album along at a fair pace and although not without its subtleties the recording doesn't flounder like so many other artists I can think of featuring a similar line-up. The choice of material sits well with a mixture of traditional and self-penned songs perhaps best illustrated by the wistful, gently finger-picked guitar and whistle injected tale of woe "Clipboard Lassies", a contemporary tale told in a traditional way and not dissimilar to Jez Lowe in style. For those that like tunes there's plenty here to please and the duo proudly utilise melodies from their North-Country heritage as well as their own compositions with aplomb and energy. All in all this is a very satisfying recording and one that I'm sure will provide a very secure future for this fine duo. Further info from www.broombezzums.com

Pete Fyfe.

BUA - An Spealadoir - Mad River Records 2008



You might think Bua is a strange name, and I don't speak Irish Gaelic, but I understand it means "innate gift"...A very apt, and good name, because this band are all superb musicians.

This is the 3rd album from the band. Originally they came from Midwestern

U.S.A, but are now based in Chicago. They perform mainly traditional Irish tunes, in a style that can be heard at almost any folk festival these days. On *An Spealadoir* (The Harvester), the band present a selection of jigs and reels from the collection left by Chief Francis O'Neill (1848 -1936) who made Chicago his home for over 60years. O'Neill collected the tunes from the immigrant masses that came to America from all over Ireland to make it their home. As you would imagine, from the bands name and the title of this album, that a song or two is sung in Irish Gaelic. The band are: Jackie Moran: bodhran, & vocals. Chris Bain: fiddle. Sean Gavin: uilleann pipes & flute. Brian O'Hairt: vocals, concertina, & tin whistle. Brian Miller: guitar, flute, & vocals. I enjoyed this album. The band gel together very well, and it obvious that they are dedicated to the music they produce. I don't think the band has toured outside of America yet, - but they deserve too. This is a band that could sit comfortably alongside of any of the great Irish traditional bands. So if you are a fan of the Bothy Band or the Chieftains, for example, you can buy this album with confidence, as you won't be disappointed. You can learn more and buy the album on line here: www.buamusic.com

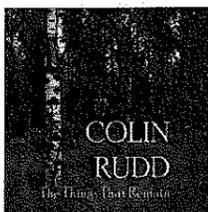
Peter Massey.

CHURCHFITTERS – Sing - Own Label CH969

The Churchfitters (who appeared recently at Fairport's Cropredy Festival) are nothing if not inventive and from the opening track "Knee Deep" with Chris Short's intriguing use of musical saw being used to accompany his sister Rosie's beautiful vocal and ukulele are shining examples of artists who would have you believe they are different from the rest of the crowd. Joined by Topher Loudon on gently guitar picked chords and bass player Boris Le Bret this really is a scintillating sound. Never standing still and now featuring a majority of material penned by members of the band it shows that they have that rare quality, mainly longevity on the strength of re-inventing themselves. Of course, for those that prefer the more traditional flavour of the group we have the Appalachian sounding (courtesy of Chris's double-stopped fiddle) "House Carpenter" and the banjo fuelled "Our Captain Cried All Hands" and trust me, if you didn't think this song could be made to sound cheerful...how wrong could you be? This album isn't a challenge...it's a delight and if you're looking for that special Christmas present (or at any other time for that matter) you could certainly do no better than purchase a copy! www.churchfitters.com

Pete Fyfe.

COLIN RUDD - The Things That Remain - Own label production associates include Ken Powell and Palatine Music



When you're tired of the recession, sleaze, pythonesque expense and extravaganzas, moats and duck dwellings, retire then to a darkened room, open a bottle of one's favourite tincture and rediscover the very joyful essence of life. What could possibly disappoint?

The bottle opener of a track is "The Things That Remain", an incredible haunting, beautiful and honest work, ostensibly unearthing the subdued anger at environmental destruction, but perhaps also an allegory for the emotional wastage that attends human relationships and their (inevitable?) breakdown. Some may find this title track a precursor to the tone of much of the album; for others of a merry disposition, merely a "one-off".

The second track "I Don't Go out Much" is a self-parody of what in reality is an active social life: a keen follower of football and folk music, frequently seen at the city of Manchester stadium, Stalybridge Station Buffet Bar, Charlton and Sale folk clubs, and all points and Tesco's in between. Merrily engaging all and sundry in drinks, banter and pithy observations.

Then follows "The Coast is My Commander", perchance a look back nostalgically at childhood holidays, salty pranks and perhaps also an enduring link to adulthood: we never get all the sand out of our shoes, the grains of minutes passed. What do you call a talking promontory with a seagull on its head? - "Cliff".

Track 4 is "Norah Jones Blues". If this little ditty, this paean of appreciation, doesn't get m'lady the Shanker offspring herself beating a hasty and lusty path to chez Rudd, nothing will.

Track 5,6,7 and 14, respectively "Ballad of Reading Gaol", "The Harlot's House", "Serenade" - more like lemonade in my book, suck is its sparkling, uplifting message - and "Her Voice" are a collection of Oscar Wilde writings. Together in all four, one can trace the history of wit, humour

and repartee that unquestionably originates from the man himself. Tracing a path that in modern times weaves through and around The Goons, TW3, Q8, Owl Stretching Time, Marty Feldman, At last the 1948 Show, Monty Python and finding its perfect, exquisite culmination in The Chuckle Brothers. Spike Milligan himself couldn't have selected a better quartet. Seriousness and disagreement invited.

The eighth track is "Song for Jenny". If the soul is one's spiritual abode, then every home should have one, this inter-personal commodity. Perhaps we all should guard our privacy more carefully and keep a cautious watch on the hope that's hard to withstand.

Track 9 "A Rainy Day" offers more littoral lyrics, but not about Colin's Mancunian heartland, rather the recognition of the heart's desires and physique plus physog eroding as surely as a sandy coastline. Keep this one off Gary Glitter's radar. One question:- how can you come home to a rainy day unless there's a sudden single rain cloud above your roof.

"I Spun The Car Today", the tenth track puts spin on a motoring mishap, and maybe turning conventional personal and social relationships towards a new and better light.

Track 11, "Missing You" is not a conversation between footballer Darius Vassell and a goalmouth, but between the observer and the rear view mirrors of life. ? No use in offering homilies to the young, nor to the loves which may or may not be aware of a lonely life leaching down eternity's drain.

Track 12, "The Lesson" offers ornithological observation. By no means the first wordsmith to ponder in envy, admiration and wonder at the apparent freedom of birds. Parallels twixt our fixed existence, as ourselves and our children's attempt to follow the feathered departed. Hopes expressed to a dear one, but instead of wings, boots of granite.

Number 13 is entitled "What are We waiting for?" Colin's fellow Manchester City fans could say "a semi-final at least". In reality, herewith a national anthem for the country of the conquered conscience, contrition and regret colouring that nation's flag. No choir has yet come forward.

The concluding track of these fifteen thoughtful offerings is "Illness Isolates You", the reality of which is a theme song of joy and jollity that would befit the musical score for any remake of "Carry on Nurse" or "What's Up Doc?" A defiant, deafening but ultimately delerious "cride colour de nos jours".

If this were a Blues music review, we may be referring to "rudimentary Rudd, the minimalist music man from Manchester", but thankfully it's not. Basically a category-free singer songwriter, top grade talent in possession of vocals, guitar and a modicum of harmonica; furthermore, deserving of wider recognition and appreciation. Start by acquiring the CD via email: themoment@fsmail.net, tel. 07780-867741; 0161-226-8905, or at any club spots. Have a YouTube taster via cdjohnrudd from where 113 offerings will lead to a tenner well spent.

Rob Dunsford. 15/10/2009

DAVE WALMISLEY – Stuff – DWCD 109



Formerly a founder member of the folk group "Risky Business", Dave Walmisley has just released his solo album, "Stuff".

Since I first heard Dave sing many years ago I have always warmed to his easy style, melodic voice and the material that he writes.

Born on a tobacco farm in the then country called Rhodesia, Dave's experience of life is reflected in these songs and despite living in the UK for forty years his perspective of the wider world in general is never far from the surface in his performing.

Living in the family home is often seen as convention, "Vagabond Rules", explains what happens when the wanderlust takes over.

Relationships are never easy and can be disastrous when things go wrong, "til the Fat Lady Sings", it's certainly not over, or is it?

The memory can play tricks, "Pictures of You", explains why.

A real audience pleaser during his days with the "Riskies", Ruth Fuga and Ken Powell, "Harbour in the Storm", demonstrates how, despite upheaval and turmoil each of us is there during times of adversity for those we care about most. "Soldiers of Fortune", tells how promises are made, but in reality those promises are empty.

One of the finest songs in my estimation that Dave has written is, "The Raven", in World War One so many soldiers paid the ultimate price as they were needlessly sent to their deaths by those in power. The raven in the song stands for those in authority who allowed it to happen with a clear conscience.

A very personal song to Dave, Rosemary, the subject of, "Rosemary's Garden", is in fact his mother. She adored her garden but in later years when Dave visited his former home it was burnt down and the garden overgrown. Dave's memories of the past are all too vivid.

"Africa", is a story from Dave's past, present and future. A continent he loves that still tugs at his emotions. The song has a real ragtime feel to it.

We all have dreams and for some they follow those dreams unswervingly. "Sweet Dreams", urges you to follow your dreams no matter what.

Life throws up so many problems, you can face them alone or with the one closest to you. We all need our own space but we also need that special person by our side, "Count on You", explains perfectly.

Life can be perverse, for when we have one thing, we want another, "Dance of the White Horses", tells how, when we are on dry land the pull of the sea can prove strong, but just what is waiting for us beyond the horizon?

Many people are gripped by self doubt and reach out for something to cling on to, "My Mountain", is a poignant reminder that when we are drowning in despair, there is always someone who really cares.

To write deeply meaningful songs, you have to be a certain kind of individual, one who embraces the different facets of life and those people around you, some who are special and those who just make up life's rich tapestry.

Dave certainly has these skills in abundance and this CD shows off his many and varied skills in spades.

He continues to be a popular performer wherever he goes, at times a man of few words, but his songs certainly do his talking for him.

David Jones

CLUB RESIDENTS (as on 22nd October 2009)

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

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

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

EARBY -- Station Folk

EVERYMAN -- Chris & Hughie Jones, Shirley Peden

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

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

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

FOUR FOOLS -- Malcolm Gibbons, Tom & Ann Perry, Geoff & Lindsay Smith, 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

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

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

PORKIES -- Dave Hughes, Jemma Hughes

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

MIDWAY -- Peter Hood & Linda Edwardes, Anne Yates, Peter Fox, Ged Derby, John Keithly, Grant Baynham

ROOM AT THE TOP -- Mark Dowding and others

SALE -- Don and Heather Davies, Sue and Ed Bentham, Mick Hare, John Condy, 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, Yardarm

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

		NORTH WEST FEDERATION OF FOLK CLUBS		
SUNDAY	Time	ARTS CENTRES and THEATRES	Organiser	Tel. no.
Big Lock	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 Football Club, Cowtoot Lane, Bacup, OL13 8EE	Brian Eastwood	01706-874549
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	9:00 PM	Bush Inn, 120 Moorside Street, Droydsden, 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	United Services Club, Southern 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	01772-673744
Coppull Folk	8:30 PM	Oak Tree, 130 Preston Road, Coppull, PR7 5ED	Simon Goodfellow	01942-418030
For Folk's Sake (new member)	7:00 PM	The Bay Horse, 35-37 Thomas Street, Northern Quarter, M4 1NA	Sophie Parkes	07854-160624
Garstang Unplugged	8:00 PM	Kenlis Arms, Ray Lane, Barnacre, Garstang, PR3 1GD	Don Moore	01995-602795
Ye Olde Vic	8:30 PM	Ye Olde Vic, 1 Chatham Street, Stockport, Cheshire, SK3 9ED	Peter Hood	0161-432-4142
THURSDAY				
Acoustic Folk at the Nursery	9:00 PM	Nursery Inn, 258 Green Lane, Heaton Norris, Stockport SK4 2NA	Brenda Judge	0161-432-4830
Chorlton	9:00 PM	SW Manchester Cricket Club, Ellesmere Road, Chorlton M21 05G	Jozeph Roberts	07833-735-729
Dabbers	8:30 PM	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
Fleetwood Folk Club	8:30 PM	Steamer Hotel, Victoria Street, Fleetwood FY7	Mike France	01253-776607
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 Chapelown 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	Gill Andrew	01228-515061
Folk on Friday - Leigh	8:00 PM	Conservative Club, Railway Road, Leigh, WN7 4AX	Pauline Dowsett	01942-604603
Folk on Friday - Thingwall	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
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
Sefton Park Palm House (nm)	7-30 PM	Sefton Park Palm House, Sefton Park, Liverpool, L17 1AP	Elizabeth-Anne W'ms	0151-726-9304
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

22nd NOVEMBER to 26th DECEMBER

(NB: Always check with organisers before travelling)

	SUNDAY	22ND NOVEMBER	29TH NOVEMBER	6TH DECEMBER	13TH DECEMBER	20TH DECEMBER
Big Lock				Singers Night		
Bothy		Singers Night	MARTIN CARTHY Singers Night	Singers Night	SARAH McQUAID Singers Night	Christmas Party Night
Folk at the Manor		Singers Night		Singers Night		FULL HOUSE
Mr Kite Benefits @ St Bede's Club, Clayton-Le-Woods				KATE CAMPBELL		ST AGNES FOUNTAIN @ Worden Arts Centre, Leyland
Shamrock Promotions		ASERE (Cuba)			JEZ LOWE & the BAD PENNIES WINTER ALMANAC with guests	
The Platform					TAPESTRY OF MUSIC	
Wooden Horse		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	GARVA	Christmas Party Night
MONDAY	23RD NOVEMBER	30TH NOVEMBER	7TH DECEMBER	14TH DECEMBER	21ST DECEMBER	28TH DECEMBER
Bacup	DONAL MAGUIRE	Singaround	JONATHAN	WHITE PONIES	THE GIDDY KIPPERS	
Burnley Mechanics		LAU				
Clwb Gwerin Conwy	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	THE QUEENSBERRY RULES
Folk at the Prospect	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	SARAH McQUAID	Singers Night
Four Fools	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Midway	PETE COE	Singers Night	HIS WORSHIP & THE PIG "A Christmas Tail"	Singers Night	Singers Night	Christmas Party
Room at the Top	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Skipton Folk Unplugged	Singers Night	Singers Night	JANET RUSSELL	Christmas Music & Traditions	STUART DOUGLAS & PAT SHERRY	closed
Swinton	No programme available					
TUESDAY	24TH NOVEMBER	1ST DECEMBER	8TH DECEMBER	15TH DECEMBER	22ND DECEMBER	29TH DECEMBER
Acoustic Collective	JOLLY JACK	Singers Night	THE HOMETOWNERS	Singaround	Christmas Party	
Acoustic Folk at the Nursery		Singers Night				
Bush Acoustic	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
Crown	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
Everyman	DAVE BURLAND	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night Christmas Party
Longridge	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Maghull	Singers Night	Singers Night	GARY & VERA ASPEY	Club Christmas Party	Singers Night	Singers Night
Pacific Arts Centre	THEA GILMORE	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Sale	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Urmston Acoustics	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
Wigan	25TH NOVEMBER	2ND DECEMBER	9TH DECEMBER	16TH DECEMBER	23RD DECEMBER	30TH DECEMBER
Biddulph up in Arms	BOB FOX	Singers & Musicians	FLOSSIE MALAVIALLE	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians
Burnley	OUTSIDE TRACK	Singers Night	BEN NEEDHAM & ROBIN PETTY	Singers Night	tba	no programme available
Clarence	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Coppull Folk						
Garstang Unplugged	GLENN TILBROOK	Singers Night				
Pacific Arts Centre - Guitar Fest.	* DUCK BAKER					
Pacific Arts Centre @ Williamson Art Gallery - Guitar Fest.						
Pacific Arts Centre @ Birkenhead Priory - Guitar Festival	GALINA VALE					
The Met, Bury					BELSHAZZAR'S FEAST	
Ye Olde Vic	Music Session - English	Music Session - English	Music Session - English	Music Session - English	Music Session - English	Music Session - English

	THURSDAY	26TH NOVEMBER	3RD DECEMBER	10TH DECEMBER	17TH DECEMBER	24TH DECEMBER
Acoustic Folk at the Nursery		Singers Night		Christmas Party		closed
Chorlton		Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	
Dabbers		Singers Night	Singaround			
Earby	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians
Gregson Lane		DEREK GIFFORD		Christmas Singers Night		
Hungry Horse Acoustic		FIDDLESTONE		Christmas Party Night		closed
For Folk's Sake		tbc		with special guests		
Friends of Folk @ Preston Guild Hall				STEELEEYE SPAN		
Lymm	Big Spot - STUART WARBURTON	** Christmas with GARVA		ANTHONY JOHN CLARKE		closed
Pacific Arts Centre - Guitar Fest. Parkgate	THE DYLAN PROJECT CATHRYN CRAIG & BRIAN WILLOUGHBY			* MRS ACKROYD		
Philharmonic Hall		JOHN O'CONNELL				
Southport Arts Centre @ Crosby Civic Hall	THE UNTHANKS		THE SHEE			
The Met, Bury	Singaround	Singaround	DREYER, McCUSKER & WOOMBLE			
Wigan		Singaround				
Wrexham	ALLAN TAYLOR			Christmas Party Night		closed
* & ** Biddulph up in Arms at Biddulph Town Hall	27TH NOVEMBER	4TH DECEMBER	11TH DECEMBER	18TH DECEMBER	25TH DECEMBER	25TH DECEMBER
Bromley Cross	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	THEA GILMORE (support act - ROD CLEMENTS)	YARDARM Christmas Party		closed until 21/1/10
Carlisle Folk & Blues	CHRIS JAMES		** THE NEW ROPE STRING BAND	PETE COE Christmas Special		
Frodsham	Singers Night	GRANT BAYNHAM				
Pacific Arts Centre - Guitar Fest.	NICK HARPER					
Philharmonic Hall	MAWKIN; CAUSLEY					
Northwich	Reg's 96th birthday Singers Night	422	Singers Night @ Davenham Players Theatre	Singers Night		closed
Porkies	Singers & Musicians	TOM TOPPING BAND	Singers & Musicians	* BANDERSNATCH		
Preston	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians		
South Lake Music Promotion		GARY & VERA ASPEY				
The Met, Bury		BOO HEWERDINE				
The Platform	THE DYLAN PROJECT					
SATURDAY	28TH NOVEMBER	5TH DECEMBER	12TH DECEMBER	19TH DECEMBER	26TH DECEMBER	26TH DECEMBER
** Folk on Friday (ex-Leigh) @ St Joseph's Hall, Chapel St, Leigh	** OLDHAM TINKERS & the Ashton on Mersey Showband					
* & ** Four Fools	Slow & Steady Music Session		Concertina Workshop			
Playhouse 2			Christmas Concert with the TOM TOPPING BAND	ST AGNES FOUNTAIN		
Sale						
Shamrock Promotions		AILIE ROBERTSON BAND plus TRI				
The Citadel		ELIZA CARTHY				

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

31st JANUARY to 6th MARCH

SUNDAY	31ST JANUARY	7TH FEBRUARY	14TH FEBRUARY	21ST FEBRUARY	28TH FEBRUARY
Big Lock Bothy	tbc	Singers Night	SARA GREY & KIERON MEANS Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Folk at the Manor	Residents' Night	Singers Night	FOUR 'NAFT	BOB BUCKLE & BRIAN JONES Singers Night	Singers Night
Wooden Horse	Singers Night	Singers Night	15TH FEBRUARY	22ND FEBRUARY	1ST MARCH
MONDAY	THE BIGSBY BROTHERS	Singaround	IAN ALVESTON	Singaround	NICHOLAS & the ICONI
Ciwb Gwerin Conwy	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Folk at the Prospect	EMBER	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	BRAM TAYLOR
Four Fools	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	SUE BURGESS & PAUL WRIGLEY	Singers Night
Midway	Singers Night	GRANT BAYNHAM	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Room at the Top	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Skipton Folk Unplugged	Singers Night	KEVIN LOUGHRAN	BLACKWATER	Singers Night	Singers Night
Swinton	no programme available				
TUESDAY	2ND FEBRUARY	9TH FEBRUARY	16TH FEBRUARY	23RD FEBRUARY	2ND MARCH
Acoustic Collective	no programme available				
Bush Acoustic	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
Crown	Singaround	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Everyman	BOB CONROY & LOUIS KILLEN	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Longridge	no programme available				
Maghull	Singers Night	JOHN O'CONNEL	Singers Night	Singers Night	OTHER ROADS (ex - John Wright's Band)
Sale	Singers Night	Singers Night	STEVE KNIGHTLEY with JENNA - plus RUTH FUGA & KEN POWELL	Singers Night	Singers Night
Urnston Acoustics	Singers Night				
Wigan	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
WEDNESDAY	3RD FEBRUARY	10TH FEBRUARY	17TH FEBRUARY	24TH FEBRUARY	3RD MARCH
Biddulph up in Arms	BOB FOX		MICHAEL WESTON KING		** GLENN TILBROOK
* Bothy			LIZZIE NUNNERY - (CD Launch night)	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians
Burnley	Singers & Musicians	KIMBERSMEN	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians
Clarence	no programme available				
Coppull Folk	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Garstang Unplugged	Singers Night				
Ye Olde Vic	Music session - English			Music session - English	
THURSDAY	4TH FEBRUARY	11TH FEBRUARY	18TH FEBRUARY	25TH FEBRUARY	4TH MARCH
Acoustic Folk at the Nursery	Singers Night		Big Spot - Colin Rudd	Singers Night	Singers Night
Chorlton	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Dabbers	Singaround				
Earby	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians
Garstang Unplugged			tba		
Gregson Lane	DON HELM			Singers Night	

THURSDAY (cont'd)	4TH FEBRUARY	11TH FEBRUARY	18TH FEBRUARY	25TH FEBRUARY	4TH MARCH
Heaton Mersey	no programme available				
Hungry Horse Acoustic	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	ALLAN TAYLOR	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians
Lymm	** STEWART LEVER	Singers Night	JEZ LOWE	Singers Night	** ROY BAILEY
Parkgate				PETE COE	
Wigan	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
Wrexham	CELTIC NOTES	Singers Night	Singers Night	tba	
FRIDAY	5TH FEBRUARY	12TH FEBRUARY	19TH FEBRUARY	26TH FEBRUARY	5TH MARCH
Boilington	no programme available				
Bromley Cross	Singers & Musicians			3 SHEETS TO THE WIND	Singers & Musicians
Carlisle Folk & Blues		tbc		BROOM BEZZUMS	
Frodsham	no programme available				
Folk on Friday (Leigh)					
Philharmonic Hall	TOM PAXTON		ANTHONY JOHN CLARKE		
Northwich	Singers Night		Singers Night	Singers Night (venue tbc)	PETER & BARBARA SNAPE
Porkies	HARVEY ANDREWS				
Preston	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	OTHER ROADS (ex - John Wright's Band)
Rose Theatre		MARIE NI CHATHASAIGH & CHRIS NEWMAN			
Southport Arts Centre @ Crosby Civic Hall	SESSION A9		LAU		FAIRPORT CONVENTION
The Met, Bury					JOHN SPIERS & JON BODEN
SATURDAY	6TH FEBRUARY	13TH FEBRUARY	20TH FEBRUARY	27TH FEBRUARY	6TH MARCH
* & ** Four Fools	Slow & Steady Music Session	Concertina workshop			Slow & Steady Music Session
Friends of Folk @ Preston Guild Hall Foyer Bar			ASHLEY HUTCHINGS & KEN NICOL		
Mr Kite Benefits @ The Met, Bury	THE CAROLINA CHOCOLATE DROPS				
Playhouse 2				MIKE SANCHEZ	OTHER ROADS (ex - John Wright's Band)
The Citadel	PHIL BEER BAND				LANCASHIRE HOTPOTS
The Met, Bury			MOISHE'S BAGEL		
The Platform				DONNIE MUNRO	

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

Space in the next "Diary Dates Calendar" - Winter edition - of this magazine will cover the period - Sunday 28th February to Saturday 12th June, 2010. Club Organisers/Venue Managers are asked to ensure information for this calendar is forwarded to folksingerjohn@aol.com by 17th January 2010.

ADVANCED DATES FROM MARCH 2010

ACOUSTIC FOLK AT THE NURSERY

March 4 Singers Night
 March 18 Singers Night
 April 1 Singers Night
 April 15 Big Spot – Kevin Tarpey
 April 29 Singers Night
 May 13 Singers Night
 May 27 Singers Night
 June 10 Big Spot – tba
 June 24 Singers Night
 June 25 to 27 Droylsden Folk Festival
 June 26 Dick Gaughan
 @ Fairfield Golf & Sailing Club,

BACUP

March 1 Nicholas & the Iconi
 March 8 & 15 tba
 March 22 Ash Mandrake

BIDDULPH UP IN ARMS

March 3 Glenn Tilbrook at
 Biddulph Town Hall (tbc)
 March 17 Martyn Joseph

BOTHY

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'
 April 25 Singers Night
 May 2 Dave Swarbrick
 May 9 Singers Night
 May 16 John McCormick (USA) tbc
 May 23 Singers Night
 May 30 tbc
 June 6 Martin Wyndham-Read
 June 13 Singers Night
 June 20 Isambarde
 June 27 Singers Night
 July 4 Nancy Kerr &
 James Fagan
 July 11 Singers Night
 July 18 Anthony John Clarke
 Summer break – August
 Sept 19 Tom McConville &
 David Newey
 Oct 3 Cloudstreet
 Oct 17 Steve Tilston
 Oct 31 Brian Peters
 Nov 14 Steve Ashley
 Dec 5 Tattie Jam –
 (Ruairidh Pringle &
 Seylan Baxter)

BROMLEY CROSS

March 5 Singers & Musicians Night
 March 19 Mary Humphries & Anahata

April 2 Singers & Musicians Night
 April 23 Emily Smith &
 Jamie McClennan
 May 7 Singers & Musicians Night
 May 21 Belshazzar's Feast
 June 18 The Young'uns
 Sept 17 Artisan (last night of final tour)

CARLISLE FOLK & BLUES

March 12 & 26 tbc
 April 9 Michael Chapman &
 Bridget St John
 April 23 Brooks Williams
 May 7 Boo Hewerdine
 May 21 Flossie Malavialle
 June 4 Singers Night
 June 18 tbc
 Sept 3 Kristina Olsen &
 Peter Grayling (tbc)
 Sept 17 Chris While &
 Julie Matthews
 Oct 1 Rachel Harrington
 Oct 15 Chris Sherburn &
 Denny Bartley (tbc)
 Oct 29 Bob Fox
 Nov 12 The Doonans
 Nov 26 Singers Night
 Dec 10 'Idiot and Friend'
 (aka Keith Donnelly
 & Les Barker)

EVERYMAN

March 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th –
 Singers Nights
 April 6 Singers Night
 April 13 Debra Cowan
 April 20th & 27th Singers Nights
 May 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th –
 Singers Nights

FOLK AT THE PROSPECT

March 1 Bram Taylor
 April 5 Edwina Hayes
 May 10 Full House
 June 7 Alternative Therapy
 July 5 Bob Fox
 Sept 6 Stanley Accrington
 Oct 4 Cloudstreet
 Nov 8 Trio Threlfall
 Dec 6 Graham Dunn
 (other dates – Singers Nights)

FOUR FOOLS

** @ Eaves Green Community Centre,
 Chorley March 6 Slow & Steady **
 Music Session
 (Always 1st Saturday of month)
 March 13 Concertina Workshop **
 (Always 2nd Saturday of month)
 March 22 Bryony
 May 17 Brian Peters

GARSTANG UNPLUGGED

March 18 tba
 March 31 Singers Night

April 15 tba
 April 28 Singers Night
 May 13 tba
 May 26 Singers Night
 June 19 Beer & Music Festival
 June 30 Singers Night
 July 28 Singers Night
 Aug 25 Singers Night
 Sept 16 tba
 Sept 29 Singers Night
 Oct 14 tba
 Oct 27 Singers Night
 Nov 11 tba
 Nov 24 Singers Night

GREGSON LANE

March 11 The Moorbrook Band
 (Dave Peters, Neil Brook,
 Tom Walsh, Hugh O'Donnell)
 March 25 Singers Night
 April 8 Alistair Hullet
 April 22 Singers Night
 May 6 Mooncoyn
 May 20 Singers Night
 June 3 Robb Johnson
 June 17 Singers Night
 July 1 His Worship & The Pig
 July 15 Singers Night
 July 29 Singers Night
 Aug 12 Singers Night
 Aug 26 Full House
 Sept 9 Singers Night
 Sept 23 Ken Nicol
 Oct 7 Singers Night
 Oct 21 Pete Morton
 Nov 4 Singers Night
 Nov 18 Peter & Barbara Snape
 Dec 2 Singers Night
 Dec 16 Singers Night -
 Christmas Special
 Dec 30 Brian Preston

HUNGRY HORSE ACOUSTIC

March 4 Singers & Musicians Night
 March 11 Julie Felix
 March 18 Singers & Musicians Night
 March 25 Singers & Musicians Night
 April 1 Singers & Musicians Night
 April 8 Singers & Musicians Night
 April 15 Martin Carthy
 April 22 Singers & Musicians Night
 April 29 Singers & Musicians Night
 May 6 Singers & Musicians Night
 May 13 Kerfuffle
 May 20 Singers & Musicians Night
 May 27 Singers & Musicians Night
 June 3 "Sing in the Festival" at the
 OC Club, 28 Bridle Road, Bromborough,
 CH2 4HS
 June 4 "6th Wirral Folk on
 the Coast Festival"
 June 5 "6th Wirral Folk on
 the Coast Festival"
 June 6 "6th Wirral Folk on
 the Coast Festival"
www.wirralfolkonthecoast.com

June 10 Singers & Musicians Night
 June 17 Boo Hewerdine
 June 24 Singers & Musicians Night
 July 1 Nancy Kerr & James Fagan
 July 8th & 15th Singers & Musicians Nights
 July 22nd & 29th Singers & Musicians Nights
 Sept 16 James Keelaghan trio
 Oct 14 Chris While & Julie Matthews

LYMM

** @ Lymm Rugby Club
 March 4 Roy Bailey **
 March 11 Singers Night
 March 18 Harvey Andrews **
 March 25 Singers Night
 April 1 Mary Humphreys & Anahata **
 April 8 Singers Night **
 April 15 Ron Trueman-Border
 April 22 Singers Night
 April 29 Flossie Malavialle
 May 6 Singers Night **
 May 13 Clive Gregson **
 May 20 Singers Night
 May 27 Katriona Gilmore
 & Jamie Roberts
 June 3 Big Spot – Brian Roberts
 June 10 Steve Turner
 June 17 Singers Night
Lymm Festival
 June 24 Lizzie Nunnery
 June 26 Ruth Fuga & Ken Powell
 June 27 Colum Sands
 June 30 Kerfuffle
 July 1 The Perfectly at
 Home String Band
 July 2 Festival Ceilidh
www.lymmfolkclub.org.uk/lymmfest2009
 July 8, 15th, 22nd, 29th and Aug 5th –
 Singers Nights
 Aug 12 Bernard Cromarty
 Aug 19 Singers Night
 Aug 26 Steve Tilston
 Sept 2 Singers Night **
 Sept 9 Arthur Marshall **
 Sept 16 Singers Night **
 Sept 23 Vin Garbutt **
 Sept 30 Singers Night
 Oct 7 Nelson Peach (tbc) **
 Oct 14 Phil Hare **

MAGHULL

2010 – March 2 Other Roads
 (ex-John Wright's Band)
 June 22 Shep Wooley
 Sept 7 Anthony John Clarke
 (other nights – Singers Nights)

MIDWAY

March 22 Tom Lewis
 May 3 Mrs Ackroyd
 June 14 Gordon Giltrap
 Oct 4 Colum Sands
 Nov 15 Sara Grey & Kieron Means

NORTHWICH

March 5 Peter & Barbara Snape

March 12 33rd birthday Singers Night
 March 19 Singers Night
 March 26 Kirsty McGee & Mat Martin
 April 2 Singers Night
 April 9 Isambarde
 (other nights – Singers Nights)

PACIFIC ARTS CENTRE

April 24 Adrian Edmonson &
 The Bad Shepherds

PARKGATE

March 25 Mad Agnes
 May 27 Johnny Silvo
 Aug 26 John Tams & Barry Coope
 Sept 30 Anthony John Clarke
 Oct 21 James Keelaghan trio
 Nov 25 Vin Garbutt

PHILHARMONIC HALL

March 12 Tommy Emmanuel
 March 31 Jethro Tull
 April 29 John Renbourn &
 Robin Williamson
 May 15 Don Mclean

PLAYHOUSE 2

March 6 Other Roads
 (ex-John Wright's Band)

PORKIES

March 5 Other Roads
 (ex-John Wright's Band)
 April 2 Zingari Swing

SALE

March 2 Singers Night
 March 9 Singers Night
 March 13 Garva
 March 16 Singers Night
 March 23 Singers Night
 March 30 Singers Night
 April 6 Singers Night
 April 13 Singers Night
 April 17 His Worship & The Pig
 April 20 Singers Night
 April 27 Singers Night
 May 4 Singers Night
 May 11 Singers Night
 May 15 Vin Garbutt
 June 19 Steve Tilston
 July 17 tbc
 Oct 16 Chris Sherburn &
 Denny Bartley
 Nov 13 tbc
 Dec 11 tbc

SHAMROCK PROMOTIONS

March 13 Nick Wyke & Becky Driscoll
 (3rd Mellorbrook Fiddle Day)

SKIPTON UNPLUGGED

March 1 Singers Night
 March 8 Brother Crow
 March 15 Jimmy Wild & Friends
 March 29 Buoy oh Buoy

April 12 Debra Cowan
 April 19 Steph & Ellie
 May 3 Ben Needham & Rob Petty
 May 17 Anthony John Clarke
 (other nights – Singers Nights)

SOUTHPORT ARTS CENTRE

@ Crosby Civic Hall, Crosby, nr Liverpool
 March 5 Fairport Convention

THE CITADEL

March 6 Lancashire Hotpots
 April 17 Elbow Jane

THE MET, BURY

March 5 John Spiers & Jon Boden

THE PLATFORM

March 13 Bernard Wrigley &
 The Oldham Tinkers
 March 26 Aly Bain & Phil Cunningham

WIGAN

2010 – April 5 Easter Monday –
 Wigan Day of Folk 'n Verse
 2pm till late – Venue tba

WOODEN HORSE

March 14 Peter & Barbara Snape
 (other nights – Singers Nights)

WREXHAM

March 4 tba
 March 18 Tom Lewis

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Tel: 01253 694972

e mail: jo.fnwads@ymail.com

DICK GAUGHAN "Live!" - At the Trades Club - Greentrax, 2008



Dick Gaughan has a large following in the UK. Each year in November and December he tours England and Wales, playing some of the larger folk clubs and concert venues. The last date of the tour is the Trades Club in Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire. This is one of Gaughan's favourite venues, as it has a solid working-class political environment that suits his songs and indeed Gaughan's outspoken comments that have at times resulted in criticisms.

As radical as ever, Gaughan sings, or should I say "barks" his way through 13 of his favourite songs that make up his set. Gaughan puts his life and soul into his performance, and has a guitar style that is admired by many, which compliments the songs and completes the overall sound. Indeed, I have seen Gaughan live on several occasions, and I have to admire the way just one man and his guitar can hold an audience spellbound for an hour or so. A live performance is what Gaughan is all about, and in my view, it is captured on this CD in fine style.

As you would imagine most of the tracks on this album appear on many of his previous recordings, songs such as covers of "What You Do With What You've Got", "No Gods", "Tom Paine's Bones" "Geronimo's Cadillac", "Erin Go Bragh". These are complemented by the best of Gaughan's own compositions "Outlaws and Dreamers", "Whatever Happened", "The Hunter Dunne", and "Both Sides of the Tweed".

Most of the audience reaction and chat/introductions between the songs has been edited out.

Although there is nothing new on the album, I liked it and thought it better than some of his previous efforts. Therefore, I can certainly recommend you buy it. Dick Gaughan website has all the information you require to buy it online.

Peter Massey.

ELAINE DAVIDSON and Dan Hart – Moon & Tide



One of Cumbria's best kept musical secrets is singer/songwriter Elaine Davidson, despite performing for more years than she cares to remember, it's only for the past three years that she has enjoyed wider recognition for her style and performance.

The title track of the CD is, "Moon and Tide", St Bega is the subject of the book, "Credo", by fellow Cumbrian Melvyn Bragg, she set up a spiritual community after escaping from an arranged marriage. This really is an outstanding song. "Lightening Tree", the story of a stranger who turned up in a local pub.

I quite simply love, "The Foxes of Cumberland", normally any song about foxes rings to thrill of the chase. For once we look at things from the perspective of the fox, a creature of guile and beauty.

Fairtrade is something that has been gaining momentum in recent years, but we are a long way from convincing the majority, "Turning the Tide", is a song that looks at the changes

that need to be made sooner rather than later. Following an appearance at a festival in Scotland, people were dancing in the woods by the light of the moon, which was in fact a "Harvest Moon".

Wind chimes adorn a tree in a park opposite the Freeman hospital in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, their sounds ring out, "When the Wind Blows".

Inspiration for songs sometimes comes from the most unlikely of places, workmates' were the catalyst for, "Written in Stars".

Elaine certainly has a close affinity with the universe, this time demonstrated in the lilting, "Calling on Love".

Do you know which side you'll be on come the revolution, "Revolution Song", might just help you to decide.

We all like to be loved to one degree or another, "Hold Me in Your Arms", is a happy song that compels you to sing along. Great slide guitar from Chris James.

"Lady of the Lake", came out of an afternoon spent on a boat on Ullswater.

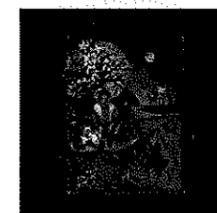
"Galloway the Fair", is the final track, Galloway is on the Solway Firth and is the home of Elaine's husbands family. This is definitely a CD to add to your collection, it is full of wonderful songs and the musicianship is first class. That brings me to Elaine's right hand man Dan Hart a young man, indeed still a teenager but a musician of the highest quality, be it on guitar, fiddle or mandolin. I predict a huge future ahead if Elaine and Dan make their stage partnership more permanent.

The release of this album was on a steamer on Ullswater in August, a more idyllic setting is hard to find and more than 120 people enjoyed a unique experience.

Finally, Steve Brookfield has to be commended for his engineering skills recording this CD. It really is a gem.

David Jones.

FAIRPORT CONVENTION – Fame And Glory - Matty Grooves Records MGCD049



I've been a fan of 'rock operas' for many years...from the early days of the Alan Parsons Project's "Turn Of A Friendly Card" to the cutting edge of Jeff Wayne's "War Of The Worlds". Still, I was more than a little surprised to find Fairport Convention dabbling in the same circles with the exception of

their own low-keyed but still brilliant "Babbacombe Lee". Of course I'd heard the rumours about ten years ago of Fairport disappearing overseas to perform on a project with Breton based songwriter Alan Simon but didn't really think to chase it up until now. Thank goodness I did for otherwise I might have missed a very important chapter of the band's career.

This album more than most goes to prove that a good riff along with mosh inducing rhythms is an infectious combination. There's a veritable feast of great vocals from John Wetton, Jacqui McShee and James Wood and particularly Simon Nicol who I haven't heard on better form in ages. From the energetic grooves of Dave Pegg's fluid bass lines to Gerry Conway's inspired rhythms and the unmistakable sound of Ric Sanders and Chris Leslie's duelling fiddles taking centre stage on the live version of "Morgane" this album seriously rocks! The inclusion of Flook joining Supertramp's John Helliwell (saxophone) on "Dragon Breath" also breathes real fire (sorry about that) into a great track. Unbridled passion for a project is the life-blood for any musician and in this

case I think we've found it in Fairport. Stirring anthems and really danceable melodies are all here and I won't be the only one rejoicing in hearing the band on such fine form.
www.fairportconvention.com

Pete Fyfe

FREEBORN JOHN "Live" - Rev Hammer - (FBJ Theatre Co. CD/DVD, 2006)



Each year, I get to listen to literally hundreds of folk music CDs and every now and then along comes a real gem. This is one of them!

I remember back in the '70s getting my hands on a vinyl LP called "White Mansions", a rock opera with superb songs and

music based on the American Civil War. It's a classic album and it will live on forever, never sounding dated. In a sense Freeborn John is a parallel piece of musical master genius, but this time based on the English Civil War. If you are a folk-rock fan, (Fairport Convention or Steeleye Span, say) you will love the rock opera Freeborn John.

It's the brainchild of Rev Hammer, who wrote all the songs. I first heard the studio-recorded album back in 1996. I thought it was good then, and I am surprised it took 10 years or so to actually get it performed live on stage. To my knowledge, this is the first time it has ever been performed live. So it was at the Beautiful Days Festival held in Devon, that it came to life. This was quite an undertaking as there are more than 50 singers and musicians involved.

This is a dual album with the whole of the concert on a CD. The accompanying DVD has the concert performance, enhanced with visual effects featuring the English Civil War Society filmed in action adding ambiance. The main vocals are sung in character, headed by Rev Hammer as John Lilburne, with Maddy Prior as Elizabeth Lilburne, Harry S Fulcher as Oliver Cromwell, Phil Johnstone as the executioner/will of the people, Justin Sullivan as a Parliament soldier, Simon Friend as the Cavalier, Romney Getty as Mary Overton and Rory McLeod as Vox Populi/the folk singer, plus too many more to mention.

So, who was Freeborn John? This was a nickname given to John Lilburne, a radical 17th century politician and activist. A quick potted history of John Lilburne shows in the history of "The Levellers", and I quote from *Origins of the Fifth Amendment* by Leonard W. Levy: "The Levellers were an informal alliance of agitators and pamphleteers who came together during the English Civil War (1642-1648) to demand constitutional reform and equal rights under the law. Levellers believed all men were born free and equal and possessed natural rights that resided in the individual, not the government. They believed that each man should have freedom limited only by regard for the freedom of others. They believed the law should equally protect the poor and the wealthy. The Levellers were the social libertarians of the day (or classic liberals). "Leveller" was a term of abuse, coined by their opponents to exaggerate the threat of their ideas. The main leader of the Levellers was John Lilburne (known as Freeborn John). Lilburne was a Lieutenant-Colonel in the Parliamentarian Army. Through his extensive writing and publishing of pamphlets, he was able to gain wide support for his ideas among army soldiers and the common people. Lilburne was, or became, a radical in everything - in religion, in politics, in agitators, in social reform, in criminal

justice - and his ideas were far ahead of his time. From 1637 when he was but 23 years old until his death 20 years later, he managed to keep his government in a hectic state. In successive order he defied king, parliament, and protectorate, challenging each with libertarian principles. Standing trial for his life four times, he spent most of his adult years in prison and died in banishment. Yet he could easily have had positions of high preferment if he had thrown in his lot with Parliament of Cromwell. Instead, he sacrificed everything in order to be free to attack injustice from any source. He once accurately described himself as "an honest true-bred, free-born Englishman that never in his life loved a tyrant or feared an oppressor."

My favourite song on the album has to be the duet between the Cavalier (Simon Friend) and Elizabeth Lilburne (Maddy Prior) as she rides from Oxford to London to plead with Cromwell for the life of her husband, imprisoned in the Tower. The whole of the album is good, and my advice is to maybe play the CD first before running the DVD. Then the whole thing comes to life.

Conclusion: If you are an English history buff, then you will enjoy it all more. If you are not, no need to worry as the package contains a nice little booklet that explains all in an interesting manner. Either way, simply enjoy the opera and the music; it's brilliant. You can buy online at Rev Hammer website.

Peter Massey.

FROST BITES - Belshazzar's Feast - Wild Goose WGS366CD



Belshazzar's Feast are the well known pair, Paul Sartin (vocals, fiddle, oboe and cor anglais) and Paul Hutchinson (accordion), who have a strong reputation for excellent musicianship. This album is no exception in that quarter. As might be deduced from the title this CD is a seasonal one and the theme is

a traditional musical celebration of Christmas. They kick off in fine style with an Appalachian version of *The Cherry Tree Carol* followed by a slow air called *Yuleogy*. Their lively version of *King Herod and the Cock* is followed again by another tune called *Parson's Farewell* taken from Playford's English Dancing Master.

Tomorrow Shall be my Dancing Day is a fairly well known traditional song collected in Cornwall by William Sandys and features very effective backing vocals from Jennifer Bailey. There follows three rather slow numbers which might have been better distributed within the album to break up the tempo. There's nothing wrong with any of them in terms of performance of course, my criticism is merely on their programming. In fact, *Lonesome Scenes of Winter* is a particularly poignant song and would have stood out even more in between more up tempo tracks. However, the album is sufficiently interesting that you can easily dip into it as an alternative to listening to it from end to end anyway.

Things move on a pace with the lively *Gerald Road Mazurkas* composed by Paul H. followed by a version of the *Sans Day Carol* (*The Holly Bears a Berry* is another better known title). Walter Pardon's wonderfully amusing love song *One Cold Morning in December* is well performed by Paul S. at a steady enough pace to bring out the humour.

The album finishes with *Hampshire Mummer's Song* a carol collected by Lucy Broadwood.

Although potential purchasers of this CD might feel put off because there are 'only' eight tracks a quick look at the sleeve will show that half are in fact double tracks so you aren't being cheated at all! This comment may sound trite but I've actually seen and heard people comment on the 'lack of tracks' on some CDs without them actually delving further as to why.

The sleeve notes on all the songs and tunes are as erudite as you would expect giving the album academic as well as entertainment credence.

Good stuff from the lads.

Available from the Wild Goose web site or through Proper Music Distribution.

Derek Gifford.

GEORGE PAPAVERIS - Looking Both Ways - WGS369CD



With his 2nd WildGoose album **George** widens his focus while remaining true to his humanitarian, ordinary guy-in-the-street perspective. Looking at past, present and future, spanning cultures and geographies, across political and religious divides, his occasional tongue-in-cheek approach is tinged

now by genuine anger at the injustices he sees. His trademark delivery helps pump out the emotions and the innovative arrangements manage to blend the mix of styles into a cohesive, almost thematic, whole. And despite the forays into various genres, the links to folk are still visible and strong. George's WildGoose stable-mates **Vicki Swan & Jonny Dyre** (aka George's "Los Marbles" in live performances) once more form the core of instrumental support with double bass, guitar, keyboards, nyckelharpa and whistle. They are joined in some tracks by **Pete Flood** on Cajun, udu pot or Iraqi frame-drum for some of the exotic soundscapes. As for the choruses, characteristic of so many of George's songs, this time they are entrusted to the **Tindall family** providing a much lighter, almost playful feel with their high register close harmonies. Two of the albums 14 songs were already covered by other artists before it was recorded ("Miracle of life" by Whaley-Fletcher and "Thieves of Innocence" by Joe Dolce) and the topical "Azadeh" had airplay on Iran's dissident radio stations literally days after it was written. Once, several albums ago, George said that he could not make another album if he did not feel that by doing so he was progressing and improving. "Looking Both Ways" is welcome justification of such intentions. (distributed by proper music Distribution)

Doug Bailey

GIVE WAY "Live! At the Trades Club" - Lost in this Song - Greentrax Recordings Ltd, 2009



Dick Gaughan has a large following in the UK. Each year in November and December he tours England and Wales, playing some of the larger folk clubs and concert venues. The last date of the tour is the Trades Club in Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire. This is one of

Gaughan's favourite venues, as it has a solid working-class political environment that suits his songs and indeed Gaughan's outspoken comments that have at times resulted in criticisms.

As radical as ever, Gaughan sings, or should I say "barks" his way through 13 of his favourite songs that make up his set. Gaughan puts his life and soul into his performance, and has a guitar style that is admired by many, which compliments the songs and completes the overall sound. Indeed, I have seen Gaughan live on several occasions, and I have to admire the way just one man and his guitar can hold an audience spellbound for an hour or so. A live performance is what Gaughan is all about, and in my view, it is captured on this CD in fine style.

As you would imagine most of the tracks on this album appear on many of his previous recordings, songs such as covers of "What You Do With What You've Got", "No Gods", "Tom Paine's Bones" "Geronimo's Cadillac", "Erin Go Bragh". These are complemented by the best of Gaughan's own compositions "Outlaws and Dreamers", "Whatever Happened", "The Hunter Dunne", and "Both Sides of the Tweed".

Most of the audience reaction and chat/introductions between the songs has been edited out.

Although there is nothing new on the album, I liked it and thought it better than some of his previous efforts. Therefore, I can certainly recommend you buy it. Dick Gaughan website has all the information you require to buy it online.

Peter Massey.

ISSY & DAVID EMENEY with Kate Riaz - The Waiting - WGS368CD



This is the second album from Issy and David and once again they have the superb Kate Riaz accompanying on cello. **David and Issy** are originally from Suffolk, and lived there all their lives until moving to Somerset in 2003 with their three girls, Flora, Martha and Agnes. **Issy** began making up

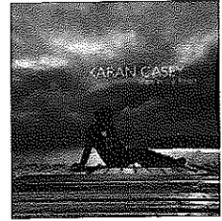
tunes almost as soon as she started learning the melodeon 10 or 12 years ago, after for a chance of hearing a Norfolk squeezer, Tony Hall's sublime accompaniments on Nic Jones' iconic album *Penquin Eggs*. Many of the songs are composed in her head whilst rambling the beautiful Mendip Hills. Having been bought his first guitar at the age of seven, and attended a few Folk Guitar Group sessions, **David's** musical career began in earnest and true to stereotype with a school rock band. A creature of habit he is still playing with the same line-up some 35 years later!

Kate's father was an instrument maker, and she now plays cello that he made for her. As a child at school she asked to learn the clarinet, but there were none left. Someone found an old cello at the back of a cupboard so she made do with that! Issy plays English Concertina and melodeons, David plays guitar, bouzouki and Belgrath bodran and both provide vocals.

(distributed by Proper music Distribution)

Doug Bailey.

KAREN CASEY - Ships in the Forest -
Compass Records, 2008



This is the 5th Album released by Karen Casey as a solo artist. Karen is more widely known in the UK and America as part of the band Solas. I fancy it will be appreciated by the traditional devotees amongst you. For although all but 2 of the 10 songs here are traditional and have been arranged by Karen to fit her particular style of

music.

Karen sings very well and sounds a lot like Cara Dillon with the 'angst' of Kate Rusby thrown in for good measure. Using the piano for backing on the first 4 tracks of the album it takes on a dark mood and its not until the 5th song "Town of Athlone" does it come to life. I am all for a bit of foreplay, but I felt she had left it a bit to long. She is noted as one of the most "soulful singers in US folk music today", so she has a huge following in USA & Ireland who will undoubtedly buy and enjoy the album.

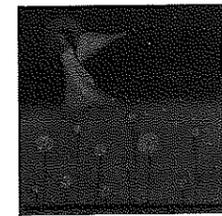
The album begins with traditional song 'Love is Pleasing', but the tune is a variation of 'Galway Shawl' not the one more commonly used. This is followed by her version's of 'Dunlavin Green', 'Johnny I Hardly Knew Ye' and 'Black is the Colour'. I found all of these songs just a little too chilled out to hold my attention, - but that's just me!

After 'Maidin Luan Chincise' sung in Gaelic, comes the Joni Mitchell song 'The Fiddle and the Drum' with pipes as a backing. Rabbie Burns song 'Ae Fond Kiss' is the penultimate track. The album finishing with 'I Once Loved a Lass' again to Karans' own arrangement on the piano.

I can't honestly say this is a great entertaining album, because for me, it wasn't, and I found the mood a little too dark and tinged with angst. However, folk music is very subjective, and I know some of you will enjoy it. I suggest you visit the Karen Casey website here: <http://www.karancasey.com/> and listen to some sample tracks before buying.

Peter Massey.

KATE RUSBY - Sweet Bells (Pure Records PRCD33)



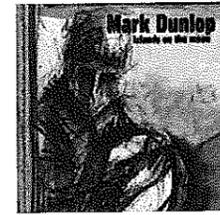
The distinctive, almost waif-like vocals of Kate Rusby opens this seasonal recording (now re-packaged using a suitably Christmas themed painting by Marie Mills) with a bright and breezy "Here We Come A-Wassailing" featuring the rhythmic/lead interplay between Anna Massie's cittern and Ian

Carr's guitar, joined by squeezebox maestro Andy Cutting and the gently pulsating bass of Andy Seward. It's gorgeous stuff particularly the precision of the cleanly picked high notes Carr infuses leaving the listener with an almost visual image of gently falling snow. Clever and imaginative re-workings of predominantly traditional songs incorporating that oh, so Yorkshire sound of brass bands (I'm thinking Peter Skellern here for those old enough to remember) provides the recording with some real 'meat' although not too heavy as to distract or offend delicate ears. If you hadn't guessed it already, I'm totally smitten with this wonderful addition to my favourite time of year and I just wish I could transport this sound along with a church choir to regale a residential

home or two. The inclusion of standards such as "Hark The Herald" and "The Holly And The Ivy" nestle snugly amongst new songs (to me anyway) and have re-awakened my interest in carols. On a production shared between Kate and brother Joe the crisp sound and energy is to be applauded, as is the digital dexterity of all the musicians involved. This is a recording that should be savoured much like the dinner I'll be playing it at on Christmas Day. As Scrooge might have said "God bless us everyone!" www.katerusby.com

Pete Fyfe

MARK DUNLOP - Islands on the Moon -
Greentrax Recordings, 2008



This is an album that will appeal more to the traditional folkies. Irishman Mark Dunlop is from Northern Ireland, and performs a collection of tunes and songs in a delicate and sensitive style. Mark is probably better known as one of the original line up for the band Ma-

linky. This is Marks' 1st solo album. As a whistle and bodhran player, naturally he has enlisted a few guest musicians to help him with the backing, which is very tastefully achieved.

Mark has researched some lesser known version of popular songs from Northern Ireland and Scotland, such as 'The Three Huntsmen' (better known as The 3 Butchers), 'Black Velvet Band', 'The Lag Song', and 'The Banks of Newfoundland' - all of which I liked very much and found interesting. I am sure you will too.

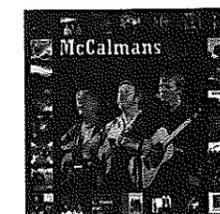
The album flows nicely, with some really nice sets of jigs, reels, and tunes mostly written by Mark. They are so good, you would swear they were traditional and you've heard them before. One song worthy of an extra mention is one I had not heard before. It's the ballad of 'Shane Crossagh' a song from Co Derry, about a vagabond highwayman and robber who had a Robin Hood air about him and is based on a true story.

In conclusion I have to say this is fine album and one Mark should be proud of. I was impressed by Marks' whistle playing, and even more so, when I later learnt he has only been playing since 1993!

So if traditional folk music, performed in a traditional style is your bag, this is an album for you. You can learn more about Mark Dunlop on his web site here: www.markdunlop.co.uk/ . Here you get the opportunity to listen to about 5 tracks before buying on line via Pay-Pal.

Peter Massey.

McCALMANS "Live" - Coming Home -
CDTRAX336



When you've been at the top for almost fifty years!! Sometimes you know instinctively when it's time to leave the stage. I'm not sure that this is the reason behind the pending retirement in

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MARCH	
4th	Singers & Musicians Night
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2010 of the Scottish phenomenon that is the McCalmans, but leave they will.

"Coming Home", is their 27th and final recording and like the previous 26 it showcases the unique talent that has kept the "Macs" at the top throughout their long careers.

This live recording brings out the very essence of an evening in their company, ballads, humour and pathos, it's all encompassed in this, their final recording.

2009 was designated as the year of the homecoming. When many exiled Scots throughout the world would return to their homeland, on that theme the title track of the CD "Coming Home", welcomes each and every one with open arms.

Ian wrote "The Moor Road", which is adjacent to where his father was born, between Kilchattan Bay and Rothesay. Quite clearly a place of peace where you can ponder your thoughts.

A guide issued by Midlothian council on recycling gave Ian all the ammunition he needed for "Let's Recycle". I wonder if they will replace it with these words that make far more sense?

We all have dreams, as indeed did the girl who is the subject of, "Corryvreckan Calling", she eventually made her dream reality, if only we could all enjoy similar success. Nick has a real way with words, a truly memorable song.

The miners strike of 1984 is still fresh in many memories today, "When The Risk Of Frost Is Over", deals with old bitterness and its consequences.

In these days of wars, "Victory Parade", tells of the First World War and the eagerness of recruits to sign up to regiments such as the Black Watch, Highland and Royal Scots Greys, for the majority only death awaited. Ian's attention to detail again enhancing the song.

At times, especially on a Monday morning we would all rather be somewhere other than at work, "Portnahaven", is a day-dreamers perfect escape.

Stephen sings, "No More Sailing", this was recorded in Arisaig, not too far from the beautiful sands of Morar.

Experts continually bombard us with reasons to give things up to prolong our lives, but it matters not for as Shel Silverstein wrote you're "Still Gonna Die".

The Macs never forget the tradition and the old but favourite songs, "Ye Jacobites By Name", was first sung by them in 1964.

The death of Canadian, Stan Rogers over thirty years ago was a great loss to folk music, but his legacy lives on through his songs, "Northwest Passage", is the story of Franklin and his doomed expedition to find a way through the pack ice.

"Five O'Clock", is a fishing song set in Stornaway, you can almost feel the salt spray on your face.

The demon drink affects us all in different ways, "Staggering Home", is testament to that fact.

"Only Remembered", a song which again has its origins in the Great War. In the end we are all responsible for our own actions and that's what we'll be judged by.

Ian, Nick and Stephen once again demonstrate the art that has endeared them to audiences both in the UK and abroad.

I will personally miss the inane chat between songs, always amusing, always informative, but never ever boring.

Down the years the line-up has changed but every single member of the McCalmans past and present will be sorely missed, such is the impact they have made both musically and as all round good guys.

David Jones.

OTHER ROADS – The Angels' Share – (OR001)



When you've been a highly successful band playing behind one of the outstanding voices on the music scene, take that voice away and you then have to keep the audience you have whilst starting to attract a new following.

This was the challenge that faced John Wright's band following his untimely death.

This debut CD will certainly bring new faces to their concerts as the clarity of voice and musicianship of the highest order mark them out as a band who will definitely stay the course.

Pete Abbott, Gregor Borland and Dave Walmisley are all solo artists of some standing, but together they have a dynamism that defies description, add to that, that the trio are also song and tune writers and you can see why they are quickly garnering quite a reputation.

"Hillcrest Mine", penned by James Keelaghan tells of Canada's biggest mining disaster in Hillcrest, Alberta in 1914. A perfect opening track.

Pete wrote, "For Once In Your Life", for his partner Karen, you are never too old to find love.

"Good Noise", was the song the band opened their first concert with following John's passing. John Gorka wrote it and quite simply if you have nothing good to say, say nothing. Dave is the architect of, "My Mountain", whilst, "If These Shoes Could Talk", was planned for inclusion in the tour set by John in 2008.

Martin Joseph from Wales has become one of the most important voices in political song in the last few years, "Yet, Still This Will Not Be", is testament to his powerful pen.

"Almost a Year", came about after Pete listened to a friend pouring out their heart over a lost love.

"The Raven", was one of John's favourite songs which was written by Dave, the raven stands for the authorities who sent so many innocent soldiers to their deaths in the First World War, stop me if it sounds familiar!!! It's preceded by "Lochinside", a traditional Scottish pipe retreat march.

Scottish writer Jim Malcolm was the inspiration behind, "Can't Seem To Find My Way Home", touring has it's highs and lows, but you just can't beat going home.

The much missed Davy Steele wrote, "Long Hellos, Short Goodbyes", he could never have imagined just how poignant this song would become, an epitaph for a chosen few, taken too soon.

Steve Knightley's song about the Cheltenham Gold Cup, "Galway Farmer", starts slowly and builds to an up tempo crescendo, you can almost hear the hooves.

The final track, "Shepherd of the Song", was written by Pete and is the perfect farewell from the band to the man who used to be their "boss". John would certainly approve and the words are so heartfelt.

The band name, "Other Roads", was the title of John's 1997 album and continues a thread that will never be broken.

Pete, Gregor and Dave deserve success, having come through such a traumatic eighteen months. This CD is a mixture of up tempo songs and thoughtful ballads that blend together beautifully.

A word also for Sound Sense Studios in Moffat, Scotland where Kris Koren and John Weatherby have done a remarkable job on this recording.

Long may Other Roads raise a glass.

David Jones.

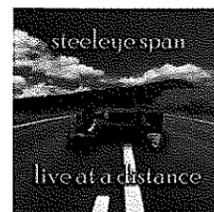
POOZIES – Yellow Like Sunshine - Greentrax Records CDTRAX 342



Opening with a standard 'blues' riff, you feel as if you're into conventional music pigeon-holing until that is the introduction of Camac harp that adds such a deep, resonant texture it makes you think "wow"... this is really different! It's that unusual texture and presentation layered by the evocative, almost eerie singing of the band on the Gaelic "Ho Mhorag" (imagine Harpies luring Jason and his Argonauts to their deaths) that the song gently adheres to the hypnotic beat so characteristic of indigenous waulking songs. Topped by an absolutely gorgeous tune "John Stephen Of Chance Inn" with its seductively simple arrangement this is what the girls do best. With four original members; Mary MacMaster (harps), Patsy Seddon (harps/fiddle), Sally Barker (guitars) Eilidh Shaw (fiddle) the quartet are now joined by the talented Mairearad Green (piano accordion/pipe drone) and there's a sprightly 'feel' to the band that has been somewhat lacking of old. Moving into Puppini Sisters style barbershop harmonies on "Black Eyed Susan" proves an interesting musical diversion although I'm not sure about the mannered lead vocals. Painting a vivid musical portrait conjuring images of technicolour landscapes and a hoped for better life in Sally Barker's exquisite "Canada" segueing into "Oh My Country" and hopefully you have some idea of where this album's coming from. Perhaps not as 'in your face' as I thought it might be, the recording has plenty to challenge the listener and that's no bad thing in this commercially led industry of ours. Contact www.poozies.com

Pete Fyfe.

STEELEYE SPAN – Live At A Distance - Park Records PRKCD104



I was lucky enough to catch Steeleye on their latest 2009 tour and came away mightily impressed by their great 'live' show so imagine my surprise and delight when this 3-disk CD/DVD landed on my doorstep. The band have still got what it takes forty years down the road and to bear this out they start with a rousing "Who's The Fool Now?" featuring their trademark battery of vocals...it's also interesting to glimpse percussionist Liam Genocky providing vocal reinforcement with the band on the DVD. Following up with the ponderous though never more apt arrangement of the gothic "When I Was On Horseback" and a truly joyful re-working of the Dixon Of Dock Green inspired chorus in "Two Magicians" it's then that nostalgia soon starts to bite. Utilising a massive back catalogue the band's net is cast far and wide to include more recent compositions contributed by Peter Knight, Ken Nicol and Rick Kemp that settle nicely amongst the more established traditional re-workings. Still on fine form and resplendent in red Maddy cuts a striking figure as her soulful renderings of "The Dreamer And The Widow" and "Betsy Bell And Mary Grey" (joined by a truly inspirational Peter Knight on fiddle) are given the gravitas they deserve. Well, what more could you ask? If you're a fan of the band or just starting your journey with them this is as fine a representa-

tion of folk-rock I've heard (or seen) in ages and a must purchase at only £15. www.parkrecords.com

Pete Fyfe.

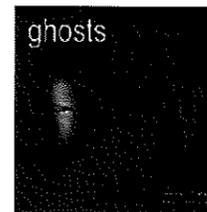
SUNAS - A Breath Away From Shadow - (Own release, 2008)

This is the debut album from the Australian Celtic band Sunas. Pronounced "soon as". The band are Sarah Calderwood: vocals, flute & whistle. Paul Brandon: guitar, bodhran, & high strung guitar. Mannie McCallister: bouzouki, mandolin & vocals. Bridget Masters: fiddle & vocals. On this album they have guest musicians Mirko Ruckles: on keyboard. Helen McDiarmid: piano (track 4), and Hayley Calderwood: vocals (tracks 6 & 8).

It is evident from the opening song "Travelling Man" that they are proud of their Australian background, by the inclusion of a didgeridoo in the backing. I thought this was different, for a Celtic band, but it works quite well. Most of the songs, like this one, are written by one or all of the band, and because the lead vocal are handled by Sarah Calderwood and Bridget Masters, they have quite a girly sound. Nothing wrong with that I hasten to add, - but it does lead me on to my only small criticism, in that the lyrics to the songs don't come over as clear as they might. I found I had to resort to the booklet notes to glean what the songs were about. However, I could not fault their musicianship it's very good. I liked the opening song "Traveling man" and also the song "Travelling Times" by Paul Brandon, - a similar sort song bemoaning the lack of gypsy travellers' camps in Kent. I think this is a band with a big future a head of them. The concept of the album is good and it will be interesting to see which way they go, and what they do, for the next album. Considering this is only their first album, it is most excellent, and one I am sure you will enjoy it. They have a website here: www.sunasband.com where you can learn more about the band and buy the album online.

Peter Massey.

TERENCE O'FLAHERTY & PAUL CUNNINGHAM – Ghosts - Grassmount Records



Some twenty years ago I used to work alongside Terence O'Flaherty in the bands Crusheen and Collaboration a time crowned by a particularly well-received appearance at the Cambridge Folk Festival. Unfortunately I'd lost track of Terence in recent years until his solo debut CD "Crosscurrent" and

this, his latest release which sees the 'old chanter' in fine form with current multi-instrumental musical partner Paul Cunningham. Always an articulate performer O'Flaherty brings his considerable vocal talents to bear on traditional-ish tracks such as Stephen Foster's "Hard Times" (particularly poignant in the present climate) and a towering performance of Brendan Behan's "Old Triangle". Coupled with the fact that he and Cunningham write their own songs including the upbeat Pogues styled "Take My Hand" and the grunge like finale "Ficra/Master Crowley's" this is an album that will bear fruit with repeated listening. <http://terence.arborescencia.net/index.html>

RICHARD LUMSDEN – Morris: A Life With Bells On (Dreamboat Records DRMBT014)

The legend that is "Morris: A Life With Bells On" continues apace with another extraordinary leap of faith and a labour of love on behalf of the producers (Lucy Ackhurst & Chaz Oldham) who booked Richard Lumsden on the strength that the composer knew nothing about the tradition of Morris. These melodies that are used to invigorate the dancers with their sprightly steps has infused the film with a quaint British-ness of the Ealing Studios variety whilst remaining resolutely true to what the 'folk' world sees as the established Morris 'sound'. Of course the music isn't all 'folk' based and Lumsden's sweeping panoramic orchestrations induce the movie with a soundtrack that is as widely expansive as anything by say John Barry or the Russian film composer Vladimir Cosma. OK, so getting established folk fiddler John Dipper and box player Saul Rose on board as music advisors was a bit of a masterstroke to add authenticity to proceedings but it's the use of lush string and wind arrangements that provides the pivotal role of the recording. Alongside the more traditional sounding "Derecq" and "Threuple Hammer Danson" the inclusion of the 'rap' inspired "Sonoma" featuring Mr McTwist is the icing on a not inconsiderable cake. This soundtrack rings all the right bells for this particular reviewer and even if you thought you weren't the least bit interested in Morris melodies you'll go away loving this album! This CD has become something of a coup de grace for me as I thought the soundtrack might not have been released if the film didn't get a National release. Of course, it has and hopefully the DVD won't be long in coming! Further information from www.dreamboatrecords.co.uk

Pete Fyfe.

THE BOTHY BAND - Old Hag You Have Killed Me - Compass Records, 2008



Originally released on vinyl in 1976. (2nd album) To many this was hailed by many as a ground breaking album, - Irish music was to move forward in a different direction. It is hard to believe it was 33 years ago when listening to this album, as it sounds just as crisp as anything that might have been

recorded today.

The band at that time were, Matt Molly: flute & whistle. Paddy Keenan: uilleann pipes, whistle & low whistle. Kevin Burke: fiddle. Triona Ní Dhomhnaill: vocals, clavinet & harmonium. Michael O'Domhnaill: vocals & guitar. Donall Lunny: vocals, bouzouki, guitar, & bodhran.

I did wonder if the re-release of this album was in some way a tribute to the late Micheál O'Domhnaill who died suddenly at the age of 54 in 2006 after falling down the stairs in his Dublin home, - but it doesn't mention it in the album notes. I think it is Michael who takes the lead vocal on 'Fionnghuala's Bothy' a piece of mouth music from the western isles of Scotland, credited to Calum Johnston of Barra. The performance given to it by The Bothy Band is of course brilliant. This and their version of 'Sixteen Come Next Sunday' has to be my favourite tracks. The title track 'Old Hag You have Killed Me' is the opening tune for a set jigs including, 'The Hag in the Kiln' (aka Dinny Delaney's) and ends with double-jig 'Morrisons'

The playlist is well balanced with lively jigs & reels punctuated by sensitive songs such as 'Calum Sgaire' a beautiful song collected from Lewis in the Outer Hebrides. I liked this album a lot. I have to admit I had forgotten how good the Bothy Band really are. I can recommend this album to any of you who are too young to have bought the 1976 LP. File it under good quality Irish / Scottish traditional music & song.

You can buy it online here:<http://mulliganrecords.com/album.php?id=640>

Peter Massey.

THE CLANCY BROTHERS and TOMMY MAKEM - In Person at Carnegie Hall - Legacy Recordings, 2009

A short time ago, someone remarked, "It's hard for a singer of today to find a good song, - they have all been done to death by the revival singers in the 50's and 60's" My reply was "So what! If a song's good, and you like it, - sing it! The worst thing you can do to any traditional song is not to sing it". I am pleased to report that in my part of the world, folk clubs are on the way up, with audience attendance increasing. More and more I hear some of the 'old songs' being sung again.

This may be one of the reasons this CD was released. Originally it was recorded in 1963 'live' on St Patrick's Day in the Carnegie Hall. 12 tracks on vinyl LP. The Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem were in their hey day at that time. There are 2 CD's in the box set. The main difference between the vinyl record and these 2 CD with a total of 45 tracks is that this is the 2-hour concert complete with the dialogue (the crack), which makes all the more entertaining. As an added bonus 2 tracks (25 & 26) on disc 2, 'The Juice of the Barley' and 'Oro Se Do Bheatha Bhaile' was recorded elsewhere.

The quality of the recording have stood the test of time and it is hard to believe they were taken down originally on to tape! The re-mastering on to digital was done by Mark Wilder at Battery Studios, New York, and he has done a fine job of it. My only tiny criticism is that he might have raised the volume of some of the 'chat' to the same level of the songs as I found I was forever fiddling with the volume control on my CD player.

Having said that, don't let it put you off buying a superb product. This is one CD set I will treasure. You can read more about The Clancy brothers and see the full playlist, and buy it online here:

<http://www.legacyrecordings.com/News/NewsDetail.aspx?NewsGuid=4205f503-15bd-461a-82ae-48e4838ba4c4>

This is truly a nostalgic CD for those old enough to remember how great the Clancy's were, and the following they have. It was 45 years ago! , but if you are too young to remember that far back or maybe you just want to hear some good songs, sung in a honest fashion, - this is the CD for you.

This is a classic CD of 'Irish folk song' that stands in a class of it's own.

Peter Massey.

THE ELDERS - Gael Day - (Own release, 2008)



Celtic music comes in many forms, none more so than this album from the Elders. A complete contrast from the usual 'didly didly' that springs to mind when you mention 'Celtic' music.

The Elders are based in Lenexa, Kansas, U.S.A. They play "arse kickin' music from the heartland", - to

use their description! In fact they are an Irish Celtic folk rock band, with a strong punk like sound. With a six strong line up, they are full on, and very commercial. They put me in mind of the Oyster Band. The Elders might be just at home playing Glastonbury or any folk festival. The album grabs your attention and sets your foot tapping from the minute you put on.

All the bands members have previous experience with other bands and are no strangers to American audiences. The line up is Jan Byrne: lead vocals and percussion, Norm Dahlor: bass, banjo, guitar, and vocals, Brent Hoad: violin, mandolin, keyboards and vocals, Joe Miquelon: keyboards & saxophone, Steve Phillips: guitar mandolin, & vocals, and Tommy Sutherland: drums.

The bands strong point is their ability to write their own material. In fact all but one of the 13 songs here are written by four of the band members. The only cover song is Steve Earle 'Galway Girl' - which I must say it is one of the best covers I've heard. Of the other tracks, two that stood out for me and worthy of an extra mention is 'Luck of the Irish', and 'Raging Sea' - both very infectious songs, but in truth all the songs on the album are good. My only small criticism is that a few tend to sound very similar, but this is always a caveat with singer songwriter albums, for this is what they do best. Having said that I really liked the album and I am sure the folk rock fans amongst you will too. I have no hesitation in recommending you buy the album and lend an ear to the Elders. You can buy the album or download it on line here: www.eldersmusic.com

Peter Massey.

TONY MCMANUS – The Maker's Mark - Greentrax Recordings CDTRAX331



Tony McManus must be a nightmare to live with as his partner finds yet another guitar hidden under the bed but the joy he gives in stunning performances should far outweigh any misgivings one may have. I recently had the pleasure of trying several guitars finally settling on a rather beautiful Freshman full of tone and just the right attack I needed for my particular style of rhythm/tune playing; then imagine Tony's grin whenever he opened his own Pandora's Box of delights...all \$175,000 worth of them! From the opening track "Inveran/The Devil In The Kitchen/Locheil's Away To France" with its tricky triplets to the unmistakable glissando introduction to "The Maids Of Mitchelstown" providing a glorious tribute to that fine guitarist Micheal O'Domhnaill of the Bothy Band now sadly no longer with us...I'm sure he'd be smiling in heaven to know that his work is celebrated in such confident style. A major point of this recording was to display fifteen exquisite guitars all of

which the makers were, I'm sure, only too happy to let this master craftsman utilise in a dazzling display of digital dexterity. I know it's only 'folk' music but this is the kind of album that you could play to impress your friends whilst enjoying a candlelit dinner or, if you're a musician indulge yourselves in the banquet laid before you. I can't express what an honour it is that 'folk' music is to be represented by such soulful technicians as Mr McManus and long may he continue to make such beautifully crafted albums. www.tonymcmanus.com

Pete Fyfe.

VARIOUS ARTISTS – Three Score & Ten - Topic Records



What makes a good CD box-set great? When it comes as beautifully packaged as this 70th Anniversary Topic Records collection. The wow factor comes from the moment you first open the book that includes seven...yes, seven...CDs highlighting arguably the best British folk record label ever. Although I was

aware of the label for some years previously (put off mainly by the cheap look of the album sleeves) I was first properly introduced to the company when I visited the Free Reed record shop in Camden in 1977. At the time I was (and still am) heavily into Celtic music but on talking to Doug who was running the shop at the time it was suggested I should try some of the Topic catalogue. Of course I wasn't disappointed and eagerly clutching June Tabor's "Airs & Graces", Martin Carthy's "Crown Of Horn" and Dick Gaughan's "Coppers & Brass" headed home with a grin as broad as the proverbial Cheshire cat. I also remember thinking that English music was at last now as well represented as the Celtic based American record label Green Linnet. The record sleeves by this time were far better represented by Tony Engle's excellent photography superseding the bland two colour efforts originally utilised by the company and certainly provided a far classier look that heralded the albums enclosed. The history of Topic Records is well documented by Tony Engle and David Suff in the 108 page book that accompanies the CDs from it's humble beginnings representing the Workers' Music Association to it's current status as the longest surviving independent record label in the world and who would blame them for blowing their own trumpet at such an achievement? A sense of nostalgia will wash over those of you of a certain age as you cast an eye over the list of who's who of the British tradition and Revival with 144 tracks providing but a snippet of the many albums that the company has produced over the years. Artists the calibre of Ewan MacColl, A L Lloyd, Pete Seeger and longest serving associates The Watsons to more recent recruits including Eliza Carthy, Tim Van Eyken, Martin Simpson and Bob Fox have all graced the label with their sparkling performances and, as the saying goes, it makes you proud to be British! www.topicrecords.co.uk

Pete Fyfe.

GEORDIE'S WINTER ALMANAC RADIO ROADSHOW

With Jez Lowe and the Bad Pennies plus special guests Benny Graham and Andrew Cadie

Jez Lowe returns to his North-East roots in this seasonal spectacular. Come and experience a night of great new songs, comedy and stories, Geordie style!

www.jezlowe.com

Sun 13 Dec Shamrock Acoustic, Mellor Brook Community Centre, Whalley Road, Mellor Brook, Blackburn BB2 7PR
Tickets £10 available from 07871 153880 or Britannia Art Gallery 7.30pm start www.mellorbrook.org
Thu 17 Dec Brewery Arts Centre, Highgate, Kendal LA9 4HE
Tickets £12.50/ £11.50/ £11fob from 01539 725133 8pm start www.breweryarts.co.uk

Jez Lowe and Badapple Theatre presents GEORDIE'S WINTER ALMANAC RADIO ROADSHOW

Songwriter Jez Lowe returns to his North East roots in a special seasonal presentation that harks back to the old Tyneside radio shows of the 1950's, entitled Geordie's Winter Almanac Radio Roadshow. Gather round the winter firesides of the cottages and terraces in the shadow of the dockyard cranes and the pit-wheels, for an evening of songs, tunes, recitations and comedy, with a backdrop of archive film and photographs. Jez, hailed for his contributions to the recent SONY Award-Winning BBC Radio Ballads, and who's songs have been covered by the likes of Fairport Convention, The Dubliners and hundreds more, will be joined by his long-time band The Bad Pennies, with Kate Bramley (vocals/ violin), Andy May (Northumbrian Pipes) and David De La Haye (bass), plus special guests Tyneside balladeer Benny Graham and young multi-instrumentalist Andrew Cadie for a night of homespun revellry, Geordie Style. www.jezlowe.com

Wed 9 Dec- Bishop Auckland Town Hall, Market Place, Bishop Auckland DN14 7NP 01388 602610 8pm Tickets £8/ £6 concessions www.bishopauckland.org.uk

Thu 10 Dec- Square Chapel Centre for the Arts, 10 Square Road, Halifax HX1 1QG 01422 347928 8pm Tickets £12/ £10 concessions www.squarechapel.co.uk

Fri 11 Dec Tower Arts Centre, Romsey Road, Winchester SO22 5PW 01962 867986 8pm Tickets £12 www.ticketweb.co.uk

Sun 13 Dec Shamrock Acoustic @ Mellor Brook Community Centre, Whalley Road, Mellor Brook, Blackburn BB2 7PR 07871 153880 7.30pm Tickets £10 available from Britannia Art Gallery www.mellorbrook.org
Tues 15 Dec Thorganby Village Hall, Main Street, Thorganby, York YO19 6DA 01423 339168 8pm Tickets £10/ £8 concessions www.badappletheatre.com

Wed 16 Dec Saltburn Community Theatre, Albion Terrace, Saltburn TS12 1JW 01287 622623 8pm £8 www.badappletheatre.com

Thu 17 Dec Brewery Arts Centre, 122a Highgate, Kendal LA9 4HE 01539 725133 8pm Tickets £12.50/ £11.50/ £11fob www.breweryarts.co.uk

Fri 18 Dec Reeth Memorial Hall, Arkengarthdale Road, Reeth, North Yorks DL11 6QX 01748 884759 8pm Tickets £15 on door, £13 advance. Available by phone or in person from Reeth Post Office.

Sat 19 Dec Concordia Centre, Forum Way, Cramlington NE23 6YB 01670 715106 8pm Tickets £8/ £6 concessions www.cramfolk.co.uk

Sun 27 Dec The Sage Gateshead, St Mary's Square, Gateshead Quays NE8 2JR 0191 443 4661 Afternoon concert 2pm start. Tickets £10 with concessions available www.thesagegateshead.org



www.salefolkclub.co.uk

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ARTICLES

The Gresford Disaster

You've heard of the Gresford disaster,
The terrible price that was paid.
Two hundred and sixty three colliers were lost
And three men of the rescue brigade.

It occurred in the month of September
At three in the morning that pit
Was racked by a violent explosion
In the Dennis where dust lay so thick.

The gas in the Dennis deep section
Was packed like snow in a drift,
And many a man had to leave the coal face
Before he had worked out his shift.

A fortnight before the explosion
To the shot-firer Tomlinson cried,
'If you fire that shot we'll be all blown to hell'
And no one can say that he lied.

The fireman's reports they are missing,
The records of forty two days.
The colliery manager had them destroyed
To cover his criminal ways.

Down there in the dark they are lying,
They died for nine shillings a day.
They've worked out their shift and it's now they must lie
In the darkness until Judgement Day.

The Lord Mayor of London's collecting
To help both the children and wives.
The owners have sent some white lilies
To pay for the poor colliers' lives.

Farewell to our wives and our children.
Farewell our dear comrades as well.
Don't send your sons down the dark dreary mine,
They'll be damned like the sinners in hell.

In the early eighties I lived for several years in the North Wales village of Gresford, just outside Wrexham. Each morning as I drove out of the village on my way to work I glimpsed the derelict pithead gear of Gresford Colliery, rusting away quietly not far from the main road. The colliery had closed in 1973. Colliery? In North Wales? Yes, it may come as a surprise to some but there were, in fact, several collieries in North Wales. They were not as famous as their counterparts in South Wales of course, at least not until one fateful day in September 1934 when a tragic turn of events suddenly blasted Gresford onto the front page of every newspaper in the land.

Coal had been extracted at Gresford ever since 1911 and coal was brought out from three seams, one of which, the Dennis, named after the owners, a local industrial family, was notorious for its poor working conditions. The Dennis deep section was 2,600 feet below ground, uncomfortably hot and

prone to 'firedamp' (methane), an explosive gas often associated with coal deposits. Working practices were antiquated; much of the Dennis was mined with pick and shovel and the sweat of miners' brows. The pit was struggling to remain profitable and the Dennis family were leaning on the colliery manager, William Bonsall. The scene was set for one of the twentieth century's worst industrial accidents.

With tragedy only hours away the night shift assembled for work on Friday evening, September 21st. Fourteen year old Albert Rowlands was cycling to work with his father John. Albert was a 'lamp boy'; his job was to issue the miners with their safety lamps before they went down the pit. His father sent him on ahead as he had to be there before the miners started their shift. He never saw his father again because when the lamps were issued, John Rowlands went past another lamp boy to collect his lamp and moved on into the cage to descend the shaft. He never returned.

There were more men than usual down there that night. Many of the men were doubling up, that is working the night shift in order to have Saturday off. The local football team, Wrexham F.C., were to play Tranmere on Saturday and the men wanted to get to the match.

At first it seemed like a normal shift. Normal that is, if you call it normal to crawl around in the semi-darkness, half a mile below ground, breathing foul air (the ventilation in this pit was woefully inadequate) and working your fingers to the bone in the heat and dust. The men probably took a break around 2.00am and most would be finding somewhere to sit and eat their sandwiches. Suddenly, a few minutes after 2.00am, there was an enormous explosion which reverberated through the mine.

At the bottom of the pit shaft Fred Davies, the night foreman, felt and heard the thump. Coming out of his cabin he found himself enveloped in swirling black coaldust. Hurriedly he returned to his cabin and rang the surface. He informed them 'Something has happened down the Dennis; I think it's fired'. William Bonsall, the pit manager, set off down the pit to try and discover what had happened.

Bonsall was accompanied by his under manager, Andrew Williams. Together they reached the bottom of the shaft and set off along the main road to the Dennis. They met six men coming out. They were filthy and exhausted. When they had heard the explosion they had started out along a ventilation shaft, scrambling past several rockfalls and climbing steep gradients to make their escape, all the while surrounded by swirling dust and the deadly 'firedamp'. They proved to be the only survivors.

Meanwhile, at the surface, large crowds of miners and their families were assembling at the pit head, desperate for news. Volunteer rescue teams from Gresford Colliery and nearby Llay Colliery went below to see what could be done. They found the entrance to the Dennis sealed off by rockfalls and an intense fire. Llay number one rescue team, comprising four men led by John Charles Williams attempted to gain entry along a ventilation shaft. Finding the shaft full of rubble and gas they tried to get themselves out but began collapsing one by one. John Williams dragged one of his men over forty yards before collapsing himself. Other rescuers arrived and found three of the Llay team dead, probably

victims of carbon monoxide poisoning; only John Williams himself survived to be carried out.

More teams went down to clear the rockfalls and fight the fire but it gradually became evident that this was a losing battle, especially when the mine was rocked by further explosions, one of which blew out a manhole cover on the surface and killed a nearby worker. Only eleven bodies were recovered from the mine when the men bowed to the inevitable and called off the rescue as being too hazardous. The possibility of anyone remaining alive in the Dennis was extremely remote.

An Inquiry sat to investigate the disaster. It soon became apparent that health and safety were not high priorities at Gresford. Various workers testified to the poor maintenance of the airways, the high levels of firedamp and the frequent disregard of the dangerous gas levels when shotfiring to break up the coalface. The owners set about covering their arses, hiring a formidable team of barristers and refusing to let independent safety experts enter the mine on the grounds that it was still too dangerous following the explosion.

Various theories were advanced as to the cause of the explosion. These included shotfiring when firedamp was present or perhaps a spark from a coal-cutting machine. The owners, anxious to exonerate themselves, proposed that firedamp had been ignited when a telephone connection was used to warn the miners of the build up of gas. This explanation would turn attention away from irresponsible working practices and cast the managers in a good light, since they were only trying to issue a warning.

The owners were heavily criticised in Parliament following the publication of the Inquiry's report and in 1937 court proceedings began against the owners. The owners continued to protest their innocence despite numerous testimonies to the contrary. It then emerged that the manager, Bonsall, had ordered one of his staff, William Cuffin, to create fictitious records of dust samples when none had actually been taken. Coaldust in the air is highly explosive and has to be controlled by good ventilation. You can bet that the fictitious records showed the Dennis to be perfectly safe.

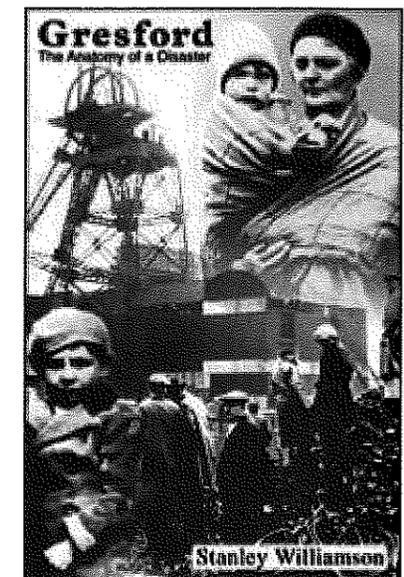
If our justice system was truly impartial the court might have been expected to come down heavily on the owners. Not so. They were merely fined £150 for poor record keeping. When the coal industry was eventually nationalised in 1947, lo and behold, the records which might yet have allowed the truth to emerge were destroyed before anyone unsympathetic to the owners could look at them.

In a way, the saddest fact of all is that within a few months of the disaster the men were back underground, though not in the Dennis which was sealed forever. The bodies of the men who died were never recovered. The men who lived had no choice but to go back down. They had families to feed. Yes, there was a relief fund set up for the families of those lost but this too left a bitter taste as relatives went cap in hand to the committee administering the fund and had to prove their hardship. I well remember the bitter resentment expressed by a man I worked with in the eighties who remembered the humiliation of trying to get help after his father was killed in the 1934 explosion.

The miners burning resentment is perhaps best expressed through the well known song printed above. It started life as a poem, printed and circulated around the village. It crystallized the contempt many felt for the heartless owners. Later someone, I don't know who, added a tune and gave us a protest song which Woody Guthrie himself might have been proud of. Who wrote the words? No-one claimed it at the time, but subsequently John Charles Williams, the heroic leader of the Llay rescue team and the only one to survive, has been put forward as the author by his family.

The land at the pithead was cleared and an industrial estate built on it; smart, clean factories that the colliers of Gresford would have given their eye teeth to work in back in the thirties. The pithead gear, which I could still see at the pithead in 1981, was moved in 1982 and set up nearby as part of a memorial to those who died; 263 miners and three men of the rescue brigade. But I think their finest memorial is this outspoken song, the work of someone who knew exactly what he was talking about and who was determined to speak out against the owners and their sympathisers in the Establishment.

Brian Bull.



STOP PRESS



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Beverley's "Festival Village" success launches the "Village Green"

The Beverley Festival has become one of the most popular festivals of its kind in the country, with its innovative and eclectic programming, and its friendly and relaxed atmosphere. Organisers have managed to provide a highly successful package for visitors wishing to experience a wide range of top quality entertainment in an ideal location at the edge of one of the North's most attractive market towns. Whilst giving the feel of a green field site in the countryside it offers both the benefits of the town and country.

Following the huge success of the expansion of Beverley's Festival Village in 2009, and the many requests received to develop this popular side of the festival, 2010 will see the introduction of a "Village Green" where informal performances will take place at the centre of the Village. With the "Pub is the Hub" as a popular theme in rural areas in these current times, the Festival's Wold Top Bar, also in the Village, will be a focal point in this innovative festival layout.

Accompanying the expansion of the Village, festival organisers have also provided extra facilities for those wishing to catch some quiet moments away from the main activities, and have made available an alternative Family Campsite. This offers an off site location for campers, in a more rural location, only a short walk from the main festival site, and in the shadow of Beverley's historic Minster.

Promising a programme to live up to the highly successful Beverley standards, artists so far confirmed (subject to contract) are:

The Demon Barber Roadshow, The Brighthouse & Rastrick Brass Band, Martin Simpson Trio, Charlie Dore & The Hula Valley Orchestra, Doğan Mehmet, Jeni & Billy (USA), Sean Taylor, Karen Tweed, Ellen & The Escapades
and lots more

A packed programme of music and dance, as well as Comedy, Literature, Poetry, Youth and Kids events, all promise to make the festival a **must** for festival goers next June

"Winter Special" tickets available NOW until
31st March on line from www.beverleyfestival.com

Further information: 01377 217569
info@beverleyfestival.com

THANK YOU

Fleetwood Folk Club would like to thank all those who helped organise the 40th Birthday party which was a huge success. Thanks to all the artists and to the landlord of the Steamer Hotel for the provision of sandwiches. They would in particular like to thank Bonded Boots (aka Dave Walters and Howard Bond) who reformed together for that one night to make it such a memorable evening. The last session in October was a duo called Free Sandwiches who performed well know folk songs to Russian tunes in a hectic and frantic manner. They finished off the 4 weeks of celebrations in great style with everyone joining in the choruses. Thanks especially to Mike France and the rest of Spitting on A Roast for arranging the event and organising such a mix of old and new artists to complement what was a fun-packed month.

Ron Baxter

Email received from Bill Malkin:-
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OBITUARY

**Mary Allin Travers of Peter, Paul and Mary
Dies at 72**
(9th November, 1936 – 16th September, 2009)



Mary Allin Travers, whose beautiful and harmonising vocals with the folk trio Peter, Paul & Mary made songs like "Blowin' in the Wind," "If I Had a Hammer" and "Where Have All the Flowers Gone?" enduring anthems of the 1960s protest movement, died recently at Danbury Hospital in Connecticut. She was a native of Redding, Connecticut.



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Musical Instruments wordsearch puzzle

S	A	X	O	P	H	O	N	E	M	U	R	D	E	R	A	N	S	P	T
N	T	O	H	N	L	N	C	U	C	L	A	V	I	C	H	O	R	D	Y
A	E	L	N	Q	E	I	L	X	A	U	T	O	H	A	R	P	S	G	U
I	P	L	M	S	I	M	A	P	R	A	H	L	K	C	Y	N	T	F	A
C	M	E	U	L	P	E	R	M	E	L	O	D	E	O	N	W	E	H	C
L	U	C	R	A	S	R	I	D	Y	N	A	M	O	P	H	O	N	E	I
U	R	X	D	B	N	E	N	W	L	M	G	L	E	V	B	C	A	M	N
D	T	Y	A	M	E	H	E	U	A	U	N	N	E	R	O	T	T	E	O
M	N	L	G	Y	K	T	T	N	I	K	O	X	L	D	D	D	S	N	M
U	O	O	N	C	C	E	D	T	E	H	O	B	G	R	R	M	A	I	R
R	I	P	O	F	O	O	A	N	P	S	S	O	N	O	A	U	C	R	A
D	D	H	C	P	L	R	O	O	S	B	S	U	A	H	N	R	T	U	H
L	R	O	X	I	G	H	L	A	O	O	A	Z	I	C	B	D	R	O	Z
E	O	N	N	G	P	L	B	N	B	F	B	O	R	I	A	S	O	B	S
E	C	E	P	O	A	E	G	O	Z	W	A	U	T	S	G	S	M	M	A
T	C	R	T	T	L	O	E	U	T	I	R	K	A	P	P	A	B	O	T
S	A	U	E	B	T	E	N	R	O	C	T	I	S	R	I	B	O	T	A
H	L	M	U	B	A	S	S	O	O	N	N	H	Z	A	P	A	N	Z	R
F	W	O	M	U	S	I	C	A	L	B	O	X	E	H	E	A	E	E	A
F	D	R	E	D	R	O	C	E	R	V	C	R	O	R	S	Q	Y	I	M

Just a little Christmas teaser for when you are sat down after enjoying your Christmas lunch
Hidden in the wordsquare above are the names of 44 musical instruments.

The words can run upwards, downwards, forwards or backwards and diagonally.

The first person to e-mail the editor with an alphabetical list of all those instruments will receive a free Folk North West Magazine for the Spring edition.

Good luck and get searching.

Email list to chameleon-art@o2.co.uk

Last date for answers is the 10th January 2010 - *The editor's decision is final!*



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MUSIC IN ARGYLL



Set in 120 acres of outstanding Botanical Gardens, the Benmore Centre is the ideal setting for a weekend of music making sessions, a ceilidh and a concert.

The centre is a castellated former stately home built by a local philanthropist and its ambience lends itself superbly to a relaxed weekend amongst like minded folk.



Join celebrated singer/songwriter Steve Tilston as he tutors in advanced guitar. Alan Bell, director of the Fylde Folk Festival and the man who wrote, "Bread and Fishes", will mentor the songwriters. Emily Portman is a graduate of the world renowned Traditional Music course at Newcastle University and is an outstanding voice tutor. Joe Topping is an experienced solo performer as well as being a member of both Elbow Jane and Ashley Hutchings Rainbow Chasers. He will pass on his knowledge as a guitarist to both the intermediate players and beginners. Fred Rose is a multi-instrumentalist and will be on hand to guide those

who would like to play fiddle, bodhran or whistle.

On Saturday evening we move to the Kilmun Village Hall for a ceilidh with one of Scotland's finest bands, Canned Haggis, whilst at the same venue on Sunday evening there is a concert with special guest singer/songwriter Jez Lowe & the Bad Pennies plus 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 email anneanddavejones@hotmail.co.uk