

# FOLK NORTH WEST



## MABON

SPRING EDITION 2010  
(MARCH, APRIL, MAY)  
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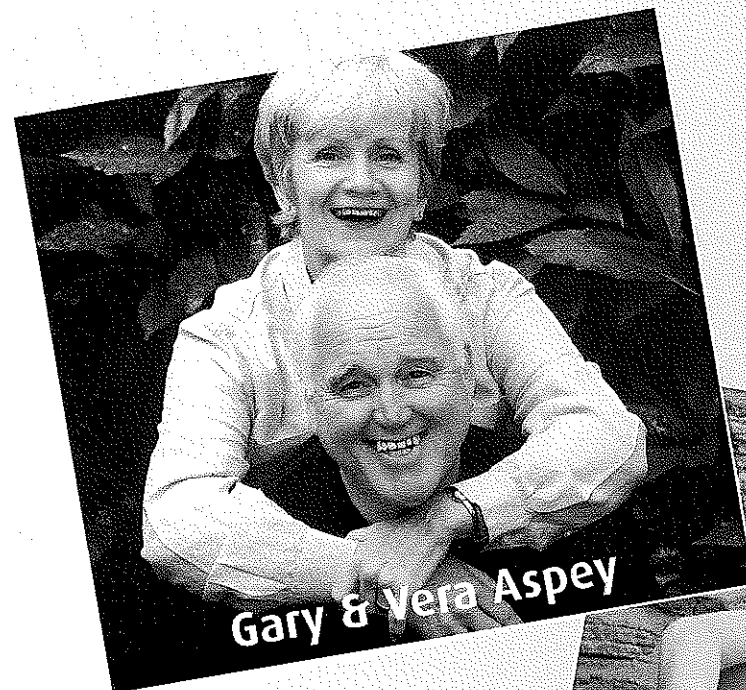


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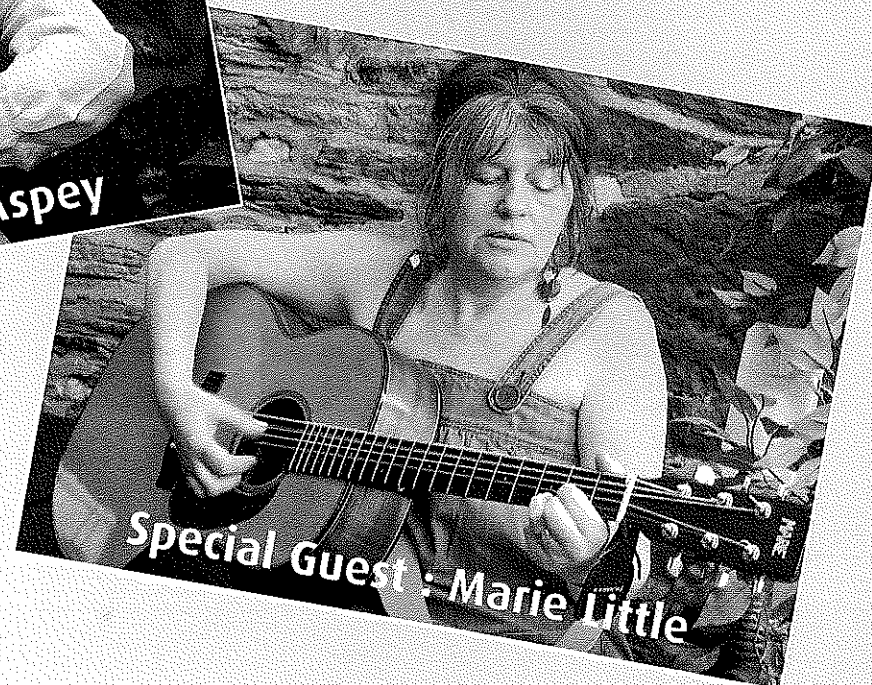
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Spring 2010:- Volume 32 Number 4

	Page
Advertising / Copy Dates	3
Contact Information / Federation Officers	4
Editorial	4
Chairman's Jottings	4
What Folk Programmes are on the Radio TODAY?	5
Radio Xtra	6
Mabon	7
<b>LIVE REVIEWS</b>	
Tanglefoot Final Concerts	8
Gary and Vera Aspey & Shep Woolley	8
Kerian Halpin at the 3rd Gathering	10
Jez Lowe at the Folksong Club	10
Trim Rig and A Doxy	11
Blues in "E" by Jim Royane	13-15
JOHN'S DIARY CHAT	16/18
<b>CD REVIEWS</b>	
CHERISH THE LADIES - A Star in the East	18
DUOTONE - Work Harder & One Day You'll Find Her	18
HUT PEOPLE - Home is Where The Hut Is	19
KATHRYN TICKELL - The Best of Kathryn Tickell	19
McCALMANS - The Greentrax Years	19
MICHAEL MCGOLDRICK - Aurora	20+30
CLUB RESIDENTS as at 17th January 2010	20
NORTH WEST FEDERATION OF FOLK CLUBS	21
CLUB DATES - 28 February 2010 - 3rd April 2010	22/23
CLUB DATES - 4th April 2010 - 8th May 2010	24/25
CLUB DATES - 9th May 2010 - 12 June 2010	26/27
ADVANCE DATES FROM June 2010	28/30
<b>CD REVIEWS (continued)</b>	
TIM HART & FRIENDS - My Very Favourite Nursery Rhyme Record	30
<b>OBITUARIES</b>	
Tim Hart	31
Theresa Tooley	31
Alistair Hulett	31
Big Dave Cooper	32
<b>CD REVIEWS (continued)</b>	
ASHLEY HUTCHINGS & KEN NICOL - Copper Russett and Gold	33
BEGGARS HILL	33
DAVE RAWLINGS MACHINE - 'A Friend of a Friend'	34
JACK JOHNSON - 'En Concert'	34
JERRY DOUGLAS - Jerry Christmas	34
LES BARKER - Songs & Poems - Guide Cats For The Blind	34
MONSTERS OF FOLK - 'Monsters Of Folk'	35
PATTY LOVELESS - 'Mountain Soul II'	35
PAUL ANDERSON - *Home and Beauty *	36
RATTLE ON THE STOVEPIPE - No Use Cryin'	36
SETH LAKEMAN - Poor Mans Heaven	37
THE BAILEYS - A Song for Ireland	37
THE IMAGINED VILLAGE - 'Empire And Love'	37
THE UNTHANKS - 'Here's The Tender Coming'	37
WEST OF EDEN - Travelouge	36
(Answers from Winter puzzles)	38
"Life Leisure" - lyrics & notation	39
<b>ARTICLES</b>	
The Ratcliffe Highway	43/44
Richard Digance - BBC Radio Devon Folk	44
STOP PRESS	46



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e mail: folksingerjohn@aol.com

**Articles for possible inclusion, letters, complaints, suggestions for improvement to the magazines, ideas for inclusion, compliments (if any) and if in doubt to**

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## EDITORIAL



The time soon comes around for another edition; just seems like last week I was packing away the Christmas decorations; now Spring is on the horizon; though the temperature still feels like the Antarctic here.

It is a bit of a sad edition to put to bed as we have lost four great artists over the past three months. Tim Hart, Theresa Tolley, Alistair Hulett and Dave Cooper. Each a unique and individual talent in their own right and they will be sadly missed around the Folk scene.

Mere words alone cannot fill the vacuum that their passing leaves behind but I feel sure that the heavenly choir of angels will be learning new folk songs from these four.

*All the best*

*John*

## CHAIRMAN'S JOTTINGS

It's been a difficult few weeks for the folk community, both in the north west and nationally, with four untimely deaths.

Theresa Tooley, a lovely lady from Manchester and a member of the Shellback Chorus will be greatly missed for her bubbly personality and powerful voice, a little lady with a big, big heart.

Dave Cooper the founder of Captain Coopers Motley Crew was by contrast a big man, with an even bigger voice, he seemed to have been around the folk scene on the Fylde coast forever.

He was a joy to be with and his personality lit up a room. He was also part of the sailing community and a testament to his popularity saw hundreds of people attend his wake. One of the driving forces behind Steeleye Span when they came to prominence was Tim Hart. With guitar and dulcimer, his instruments of choice, he helped shape the bands sound after previously being one half of a duo with Maddy Prior.

His name is etched in the annals of folk rock history and his contribution will never be forgotten.

Alistair Hulett was a rough hewn Scot who was proud of his country and stood up for what was right despite opposition.

Very much in the mould of Ewan MacColl, his songs championed the underdog, as he fought for justice and equality.

He never forgot his roots and stayed true to his beliefs to the end.

I knew all four of the above to a lesser or greater degree and one thing I am sure of is that the folk music world will be a lot poorer for their passing.

*David Jones*



## What Folk programmes are on the radio TODAY?

compiled by Rob Dunford

### SUNDAY

1.00 - 3.00pm (Rpt)  
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 SOUTH WIND BLOWS presented by PHILIP KING  
RTE - THE ROLLING WAVE presented by PETER BROWN

9.00 - 10.00pm  
10.00 - 10.50pm

### 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

### 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

### WEDNESDAY

7.00 - 8.00pm

BBC Radio 2 - FOLK ROOTS & ACOUSTIC MUSIC presented by MIKE HARDING

### 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

### 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

### SATURDAY

7.00 - 9.00pm  
7.00 - 10.00pm  
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  
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

### SUNDAY

8.00pm (Rpt)

Off the Beaten Tracks presented by COLIN BERTRAM (see notes - re coverage area)  
FM 103.5 (see notes)

### 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 567 / LW 252

FM 99.7  
see below

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

FM 88 - 90.2

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

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

FM 92.4-94.7/MW 810  
MW 882  
MW 1341  
FM 92.4-94.7/MW 810  
MW 567  
FM 92.4-94.7/MW 810

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		Tel - 01524 383 394
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 Teilis 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](http://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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## MABON

Five years ago on a breezy spring morning, a copy of *Ridiculous Thinkers* dropped onto the door mat. That's the oddly named debut album of the Welsh band Mabon. After a few days, it found its way to the top of a pile of similarly unsolicited packages and took its turn on the office CD player. While I sat at the computer wading through a backlog of correspondence, the sound of soaring accordion riffs and pulsating percussion resonated through the household and I was no longer listening to background music. Mabon stirred me into a missionary zeal. The disc had come with a covering letter inviting "expressions of interest" so I lifted the phone and dialled up South Wales.

In 2005, Shamrock Promotions had been a tentative foray into concert promotion with my life-partner and fellow live music enthusiast, Janet Aspin. Our CV boasted only 3 shows, the most recent of which had made a significant financial loss. What was I thinking of? A band scarcely known beyond South Glamorgan was on its way to perform at our local village hall in the Ribble Valley and I had committed us to paying a guaranteed fee, supplying PA with an engineer, providing accommodation and both evening and morning meals for a band of 5. Janet politely questioned my commercial wisdom so I lent her the CD.

Their music is entirely instrumental. It is filled with tuneful melody lines played on three lead instruments - fiddle, flute and most prominently, Jamie Smith's piano accordion. The drive comes from an acoustic rhythm guitar played by Jamie's father Derek, bass and drums. When the coursing pace subsides, brisk jigs, reels, mazurkas, and muiñeras give way to more reflective slow pieces and the chance to relax to slow airs and waltzes. The music does have an irresistibility to most bipeds - the band are frequently sought for major dance events. But Mabon are equally listenable in a concert setting where the band's clever arrangements feature interweaving melody lines, subtle cross-rhythms and sweeping dynamic contrasts. This commentator would find it difficult to pinpoint the Celtic elements of Mabon. Perhaps it is the combination of instruments or the frilly ornamentation of the melody lines or the fact it sounds like someone speaking an ancient language. It certainly excites those on the North-Western seaboard of Europe, ancient homelands to the Celts. The band has appeared in Galicia and the Asturias principalities of Spain, in Ireland, the Isle of Man and Brittany where they regularly appear at the Lorient Celtic Festival.

Janet and I knew to expect a whirlwind of infectious tunes and vigorous rhythms and we were confident that customer satisfaction would benefit us in the long run. A very original compositions. Does this isolate them from the folk establishment? Their appeal is surely based on a distinct combination of elements we love in the traditional-based folk forms melded with tuneful playing within modern-sounding musical arrangements. The composition of new tunes is a good thing, isn't it? In October, Mike Harding played the band for the first time on his Radio 2 show. He back-announced the track, *The Hustler*, with polite enthusiasm (though failed to mention any of the gigs the band were playing that week on their UK tour). Local and regional stations in the UK have regularly played the band's second album, *OK Pewter* and it has surely proved its commercial success by clocking up worldwide sales of over 12,000.

Mabon represents a significant milestone on the steep learning curve for this fledgling promoter. Shamrock has

managed forty-three shows since their first visit to Blackburn. Systems and practices are tried and mostly trusted and, while we would like to think we have made a small contribution towards Mabon's rising popularity, we shall also be gladdened by the continuing support offered us and our community as well as for all the good times.

Mabon are:

Jamie Smith (Piano accordion)

Oli Wilson-Dickson (fiddle with Ruth Angell as occasional guest)

Calum Stewart (flute), Derek Smith (guitar), Iolo Whelan (drums), Matt Downer (bass)

After appearances at some of the UK festivals over the summer, the band will tour the UK again starting in September before recording a new CD for release next year.

Seamus Heffernan

SH works as a free-lance sound technician as well as managing his own recording studio. He plays bass for the dance band, Union Street and sings with Dave Metcalfe in *Sham & Dave*



Mabon

## Chester Folk Festival

FRI. 28th - MON. 31st MAY 2010  
(SPRING BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND)  
The Village of Kelsall, nr. Chester

Mawkin:Causley · The Churchfitters  
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Mick Ryan & Paul Downes · Isambarde  
Flossie Malavialle · The Old Dance School  
Pete Morton · The Askew Sisters · Boldwood  
Peeping Tom · This Way Up · Roger Wilson  
Vicki Swan & Jonny Dyer · Derek Gifford  
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## LIVE REVIEWS



**TANGLEFOOT'S FINAL CONCERTS –  
ONE MORE NIGHT - ONE LAST SONG**  
Owen Sound, Ontario, Canada –  
5<sup>th</sup> December 2009



December in Canada, not a very appealing time for a short holiday but despite the sub zero temperatures, the warmth of the welcome more than made up for the cold and snow.

The final two concerts to ever be performed by Tanglefoot were the reason I travelled so far and I certainly wasn't disappointed.

Twenty five years is a long time to ply your trade musically and as the saying goes, all good things must come to an end. Two sell out shows bore testament to the bands popularity and all but one member of the different line-ups down the years was at the jamboree.

Joe Grant and Bob Wagar who formed the band, opened the proceedings with "Banks of the Don", one of the very first songs the band performed.

The current line-up then took to the stage and rattled off three audience pleasers one after the other, "One More Night", "Angel of Long Point" and "Roll on Jamaica". Clearly there was a mixture of emotions on the stage, but as always the fans put them at their ease.

Joe Grant returned to perform one of the many songs he wrote for the band.

"Emmeline", about a lighthouse keepers wife.

Rob Ritchie has been missing from tours of the UK for the past seven years and that just served to remind me how we've been starved of his ready wit and fantastic keyboard skills. "Gershwin on the Range", is a song performed very much tongue in cheek, that led into the patriotic, "Empire and the Right", before another of the early songs, "Last Breakdown".

Another popular member of the band during his four year tenure was keyboard and guitar player, Brian Wiermier, who joined the band on stage to play his own composition, "Songwriter".

The title track of their final album, "Dance Like Flames" and "Paddle Like Hell" brought us to the break.

The only trouble with evenings such as these is that they disappear all too quickly, but the anticipation was still keen as the band re-appeared to sing a cappella on "Vimy", The poignant story of Canadian troops fighting in the war in France.

The former mining town of Frank is the subject of, "Crashin' Down", whilst Sandra had her moment in the spotlight with the song, "Maggie", this was followed by, "Minnie's Lullaby".

Another former band member took over from Sandra on fiddle. Terry Sneider was a huge favourite with UK fans and added a superb solo as Al sang, "Music in the Wood".

Without doubt one of the bands most iconic songs is, "Dollar Bill", led by Terry Young, before giving way to "The Midwife's Dance", written for the birth of Rob Ritchie's second son.

To make the evening complete the most recent acquisition to the band, Robert Graham boosted the harmonies on "For the Day".

The evening was now winding up to a crescendo, with six hands on two pianos, three fiddle players as well as guitar, mandolin and double bass all in one accord on one of my all time favourites, "Seven a Side", the story of how lowly Wiarton once lifted ice hockey's Stanley Cup. It was back to the a cappella format for a song I know a little bit about, "Secord's Warning", having been lucky enough to perform it many times down the years with the band.

Encores were necessary, indeed compulsory and Terry led on the wistful, "Lunenburg Skies", before all the guests returned on "Jack the Green".

With not a dry eye in the house, both on stage and in the auditorium, "Song for the Road", brought an evening of unashamed nostalgia to an end.

Following twelve years of touring our shores there will be a very big void to fill. Steve Ritchie, Al Parrish and Terry Young have been the driving force behind Tanglefoot's success and we wish them well in the future.

Indeed, Terry and Sandra have formed a duo "My Sweet Patootie" and will tour the UK in June and July 2010.

The journey across the atlantic was more than worthwhile and from me thanks for so many memories.

David Jones

**GARY & VERA ASPEY & SHEP WOOLLEY-**  
**Live at Westhoughton Golf Club**  
**Friday 15th January 2010**

I'm sure there was a certain amount of trepidation as Gary & Vera put on a night at a club that had been hugely successful for 34 years before finally closing it's doors over 2 years ago. There was no need to worry as 80 hardy souls braved the winter chill to engender an atmosphere reminiscent to those of years ago.

"Free and Easy", is a song that fairly bounces along and set the atmosphere for the evening.

Vera, as always, showing off her dexterity on the accordian. The county I used to live in is responsible for "Lanky Spoken Here", a strange but homely dialect, the audience joined in with gusto, with help from a banner spelling out the finer points of intonation.

Gary learned "River Run", from the singing of the late John Wright, written by Canadian, James Keelaghan, it tells how the years finally catch up with us all.

"The Banking Code", no prizes for guessing the subject matter. Never mind the gnomes of Zurich, where's the money gone?

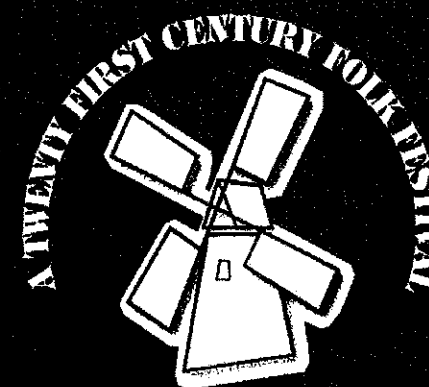
Answers on a postcard please!!!

Another up tempo number followed, "Fodder Me Knowes", again plenty of audience participation and that set the scene for the evening's guest, Shep Woolley.

Shep lives in Portsmouth and is a former Navy man. He tells wonderfully funny stories and backs them up with appropriately, if at times irreverent ditties.

As he told us, he sang the opening song at an animal rights barbecue!!!

"Walkin' Back to Blueberry Hill", was written by Newcastle's Billy Mitchell who penned it about Fats Domino.



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[www.fylde-folk-festival.com](http://www.fylde-folk-festival.com)



"Greenhouse Graham", is a cursory tale about anyone who is caught in bed!! Shears, stalks and bulbs notwithstanding. After a quite hilarious tale of a child's Nativity play, Shep turned his attention to soccer and "He Played for England Once", a Harvey Andrews song about football in the days when balls had laces and boots had toecaps, when the game really was beautiful, all about artistry, heart and real purpose - NOT MONEY.

To take us to the interval it was rock and roll at it's best. "Summertime Blues", invoked a tremendous audience response.

A gentle start to the second half came with "Across the Lancashire Hills", with Vera again leading on accordion. So many of the hills have their own character, attracting walkers from far and wide.

"The Ballad of Bill Gates", followed, computers, who'd 'ave 'em? Seemingly, most of the world, but Gary, like myself, just hates them, so why not join us both back in the 50's? It was written by Graham Cooper.

Vera again showed her versatility by switching to guitar for the tongue in cheek, "Keep Fit Fad Song".

Be it workplace or dosshouse over 100 years ago, if you were late and they were full you could lean over a rope tied between two posts to get some rest. The story of, "Tuppence on the Rope", played on doleful concertina.

Staying on this most English of instruments, Vera played a French tune, "Madame Bonaparte".

Vera is a fantastic Lancashire clog dancer, still I believe championship class and she gave us a great demonstration to the tune "Man on the Road".

Shep returned to bring the evening to it's crescendo and didn't disappoint.

Bobby Darin's, "Dream Lover", was an inspired choice to get the audience, who were by no means all folk officianados, in the mood.

Shep is a great story teller and regaled us with how he lost his virginity. This gave way to his best known song, "Down by the Dockyard Wall", written in the 80's for a concept album to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D Day, it was disregarded for years on a shelf, then after somebody started singing it, it became popular and subsequently has been covered and recorded by many artists.

A parody on an Olde English folk song, "The Nightingale", brought the set to a close. As Shep explained, he'd never had so much fun on a bicycle!!!

Gary and Vera joined Shep to reprise, "Lanky Spoken Here", as demanded by the audience.

It was great to revisit one of the north west's most successful venues and the audience certainly enjoyed themselves if the final applause is anything to go by.

David Jones

### Kieran Halpin at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Gathering Wheatsheaf Inn, Nomansheath

17<sup>th</sup> January 2010



Sunday afternoon saw the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual gathering of friends of Charlotte Tommins and Jim Bell. The main musical guest, as in previous years, was Kieran Halpin, who luckily for us came with the great guitarist Jimmy Smith. The afternoon began with John Parsons welcoming everyone and bringing to the stage George Wilson, a Geordie now

living in Southampton. He began his first set with Richard Thompson's "I want to see the bright lights tonight", a lively start to the concert. George is a talented guitarist and singer, and an excellent raconteur. We were then treated to Shep Woolley's "Down by the dockyard wall" and Steve Earle's "Copperhead road" - stop me before I start line dancing. The audience loved George.

Next up was Kieran, this year appearing with Jimmy Smith who most of us had never heard before. Wow! were we in for a surprise. They started off with "The strangeness of it all", a great song, and Jimmy blew us away with his fine lead guitar playing. For the guitar geeks, Jimmy was playing a Gibson solid classical guitar designed by Chet Atkins, or so I am assured. Kieran seemed very laid back in Jimmy's company. His first set included his tribute to his old friend John Wright, and finished with his tribute to "The bankers", who are not his friends.

Kieran's songs, as we all know, are excellent. His performance was superb, and Jimmy with the aid of his foot pedals managed to sound like a full orchestra.

During the buffet interval, raffle tickets were sold to raise money for Banbury Folk Festival, after which George Wilson started the second half with a set that included (as requested by me) the Pete Bett's classic "They don't write 'em like that anymore". An encore was insisted upon, and George gave us a parody of Bob Marley's "No woman, no cry", with an additional verse collected from a lavatory wall in Macclesfield.

Kieran and Jimmy returned to perform a superb second set which included (as requested by David Jones) his greatest hit "All the answers", this again with stunning guitar and vocal accompaniment from Jimmy. We also had the fabulous "Berlin calling", written 20 years ago and inspired by the fall of the Berlin wall. Appropriately the set finished with "Closing time" plus an encore of a couple of bonus tracks.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Gathering was over, and it had been the best yet. We were then treated to dinner courtesy of Charlotte and Jim, after which George was persuaded to take up his guitar and we were off singing again until midnight.

Barbara Parsons

### JEZ LOWE - Folksong Club - Croydon 8th February 2010



To fans of folk music everywhere the name Jez Lowe is enough to conjure images of a great night out. As well as his finely crafted songs he is a consummate professional when it comes to musicianship and entertainment. His confidence motivates the audience to join in the songs...even if they haven't heard them before...with an extensive

repertoire running the gamut of high drama to the highly amusing. He has you hanging on every word of his lilting North East brogue and enjoying every minute which is a rare gift indeed and one that the 'folk' scene should be proud to acknowledge. In a performance that whistled by Jez managed to delve into his 'hit factory' including "London Danny", "Old Bones", "The Bergen" and "High Part Of The Town" but, as always he also integrated several new additions. Written as part of the 'Darwin Project' the outlaw style "We'll Hunt Him Down" with the groan worthy tagline "He'll not make a monkey out of me" and the infectious "It's

A Champion Life" inspired by the movie "It's A Wonderful Life" brought peals of laughter from the enraptured throng. For me though it was his final song, "Darling's Other Daughter" an account of Grace Darling as seen through the eyes of her sister that will remain embedded in my thoughts. In all the years I've known him, I've never been disappointed with either a 'live' performance or a song from his seemingly endless creativeness. Do yourselves a favour and check out Jez's website at [www.jezlowe.com](http://www.jezlowe.com) to find out if he's playing at a venue near you or to purchase copies of his CDs and DVDs.

Pete Fyfe

### TRIM RIG AND A DOXY - The Steamer, Fleetwood

11<sup>th</sup> February 2010



The residents of the Fleetwood Folk Club welcomed again for the second visit Derek and Julia who perform under the name of Trim Rig and A Doxy, They performed two 45 minutes spots with the local resident's singing their own pieces before the start of each session.

Most of you reading this magazine will know the duo well; Julia's melodeon playing complementing the great voice of Derek. The last time they came Julia reminded us they started the set with their theme song Trim Rig and A Doxy, Derek gave an extra squeak and his voice nearly went. So they will not be doing that song tonight as they don't want the same to happen again. They have had requests but the two of the songs are not on their first set list.

They live outside Lymm, whose name derives from Celtic origins meaning "a place of running water". This is quite appropriate as they gave us a set comprised of sea songs & shanties in our port town of Fleetwood. Cicely Fox Smith was born in Lymm, she was a vicar's daughter who wrote very accurate poetry about the sailors lives at sea in the Victorian times.

The first number they sang was a Bob Webb version of "Towrope Girls"; his was an American adaptation of the song which has found it's way back to England. Julia remarked how the good words move around the world to settle back within 3 to 4 miles of their origin.

The second number was one of their favourites which told of the men who used to splice the wire rope "The Marlinspike Sailor" whose thumb was a marlinspike and every finger a pin.

Julia found the room very hot (*unusual for folk clubs - editor*) and her fingers were slipping on the melodeon buttons. It was at this point she went on to point out to aspiring melodeon players two tips, don't have damp fingers or eat fish and chips before playing. She told us of her father Bernard, a quiet man, the only time she remembered of him rising to challenge mother was one Boxing Day. After an evening of the lads sampling home made beer; mother said she knew of a cure for their hangovers, involving two raw eggs, which would make them feel like a new man. mother said to Bernard, "you know what I mean"; he said yes dear "one dying and the other dead".

The next song "Shipkeeper" which tells of an old sailor who could no longer go to sea and is put in charge of a shipyard with only his memories for company. It tells of the ships that

wait no tide. Julia announced that was to be the title of their next CD, they know what they want to record on it and have worked out a design for the cover; but the CD has yet to be recorded. She recounted briefly it brought back memories of her father who every Wednesday evening would feed the dogs on a diet of Guinness, boiled eggs and raw onions. The Thursday evening being mother's bridge night; the dogs were let into the room, but not for long.

They followed that with a John Connolly number "Trawling Trade" and announced than John Connolly and Bill Meek had got together to produce a CD called "TWO OLD GAFFERS" which they had been working on together. Despite the title it has nice collection of new material and John Connelly is only producing a limited edition, so if you want a copy then email John as soon as possible.

The next song was 'Grimsby Lads' a number written by John and Bill which reminds us of the conditions of the lads on the trawlers who spend their time hauling and heaving the nets to bring back the 'glittering harvest'. She remarked that at the beginning they never had a set list. She would just start playing and it was like name that tune in two and Derek would start singing. That was until she forgot they had two songs with a similar intro and Derek started singing the other song. It was in a pub not far from here and it brought the house down. They have never been able to reproduce it again.

They then sang 'Legging Boats' which tells of the canal men who used to have to move a barge through a tunnel with their legs. It was only a small fragment of a song, but after all it is not the length but the quality of delivery that matters.

The finished the set with another John Connolly number 'The Widowmaker' of how the Widowmaker wind takes many a poor lad from his family. A very poignant song with which to end the first set and a reminder of the cost in lives that the trawling men give to bring home the harvest of fish that we love so much. Whilst singing Derek nearly lost his voice again as it gave another squeak and I think they welcomed the natural beer break and raffle.

In the second half Julia announced that Derek had asked her to play the melodeon quietly an impossible thing to do apparently. Now if he had asked here to play more melodically that would have been a different matter. She then told us the secret of how to play a melodeon, you depress the buttons and everyone within a 50 yard radius. She told us that last year they had been to Norway, in Risor every August they have a Wooden Boat Festival and it had a wonderful replica of the "Gothenburg". Which a friend of their's called Andy had given up seven years of his life carving, the figurehead and all the decorative woodwork required.

Their first song of their second set was 'The Old Figurehead Carver' reminded them of the work that their friend Andy had done and tells of the Marco Polo and how the woodcarver would change the music of the wind into the wood.

The next song they sang tells of a sailor but the only thing he loses in this song is his watch. This was followed by an Andy McKay song 'Dead Reckoning' a true story of a Seamaster who after many years of sailing on the old wooden ships was given a job on a steamship. He reminds us that all the years of skill and training are no longer required on the modern ships, replaced instead by electronics and computers.

The next song was of how to get a free trip to Australia by stealing a loaf of bread or in the case of 'Jim Jones' by poaching. This form of assisted passage is no longer offered today. Another way to get a free ride on a sailing ship was

told in the next song in which we are reminded of the harsh treatment, floggings and punishment which you received 'On Board A Man of War' when you spoke to the wrong person in the streets of London and ended up being Press-ganged.

They followed this with one of the requested songs 'Venezuela' which was the most beautiful renditions I have heard and was down to Derek's voice and clear diction.

To end the evening they gave an airing for the first time in public of a new song they had just learnt; a true story song of a man who went to see his taxman instead of going to sea and the trawler the 'Kingston Peridot' from Kingston upon Hull, which sank in January 1968 in gale force winds off Iceland and was lost with all hands. He is left to come to terms that although in the words of the song he was the luckiest sailor alive he still asks God the awful question each day why them and not me? A question which we can never give a suitable answer to in earthly words.

John Webb

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17 <sup>th</sup> June 2010	Hungrytown
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### BLUES IN E

Tuning:- EADGBE

So, as somewhat of a "controversial" departure for this column here is a tune that is actually in standard tuning (somebody please catch the lady at the back who's just had an attack of "the vapours").

I caught the blues bug when I was about 16 and didn't really play anything but blues for about 4 years. My hero's at the time were Robert Johnson, and Mississippi John Hurt and I dutifully sent off a banker's draft to Stefan Grossman in New York for one of the now infamous "Black Patty" tapes.

#### Study Notes :-

These 3 study notes are marked with boxed numbers above the tablature throughout the piece

1 / Bar 5 & 9

Barre on the first fret and slide up to the second fret to the chord. I've written it as a grace note in the notation.

2 / Bar 21 & 25

Start the chord on the 4<sup>th</sup> fret as per the chord shape shown above the notation, and slide up to the A chord on the 5<sup>th</sup> fret

3 / Bar 22

The notes on the 2<sup>nd</sup> string are played by the 4<sup>th</sup> finger of the LH and sliding between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> frets.

Learn this little study and build it up to speed slowly. There are quite literally thousands of variations of this basic blues out there. Use your imagination and develop your own improvisations on it.

As always a download recording of the tune, and a pdf file of the music are freely available from the lessons page of my website [www.jimronayne.co.uk](http://www.jimronayne.co.uk)

Have fun

JR



# Blues in E

Trad  
Arr. Ronayne

0 = see study notes

## Section A

Section A (Measures 1-16):

- Measures 1-4: Treble clef, E major key signature, 3/4 time. Includes guitar chord diagrams for 7fr and 4fr.
- Measures 5-8: Treble clef, E major key signature, 3/4 time. Includes a 'slide' instruction and guitar chord diagrams for 5fr and 4fr.
- Measures 9-12: Treble clef, E major key signature, 3/4 time. Includes guitar chord diagrams for 5fr and 4fr.
- Measures 13-16: Treble clef, E major key signature, 3/4 time. Includes guitar chord diagrams for 5fr and 4fr.

## Section B

Section B (Measures 17-32):

- Measures 17-20: Treble clef, E major key signature, 3/4 time. Includes guitar chord diagrams for 5fr and 4fr.
- Measures 21-24: Treble clef, E major key signature, 3/4 time. Includes guitar chord diagrams for 5fr and 4fr.
- Measures 25-28: Treble clef, E major key signature, 3/4 time. Includes guitar chord diagrams for 5fr and 4fr.
- Measures 29-32: Treble clef, E major key signature, 3/4 time. Includes guitar chord diagrams for 5fr and 4fr.





## JOHN'S DIARY CHAT

As I write, it is the middle of January 2010 and what a start to the year we have had weather-wise? Snow, snow, snow and more snow! However, may I wish you a belated but very Happy New Year from myself and everyone involved at 'Folk North West'.

We at the Hungry Horse Folk Club were pleased to be able to continue without closure in the early weeks of the year and we hope that by now things are beginning to look less like winter and more like spring.

It is with deep sadness that I heard of the passing of that wonderful lady Theresa Tooley after a long illness. Theresa was one of those people who lit up a room on entry and had a wonderfully distinctive voice. Recognised by myself as being a member of that great bunch of singers – "The Shellback Chorus" but seen often at many festivals over the years, there is no doubt that Theresa has left us all with many happy memories of her presence, her smile, her singing and her wonderful personality. My sincere condolences go to all Theresa's family and close friends.

Pete Massey brought to my attention some more sad news when he made me aware of the passing of Tim Hart who was a founder member of Steeleye Span. Tim was aged 61 and was diagnosed with lung cancer a year ago. He passed away on Christmas Eve in La Gomera on the Canary Islands. Tim left the band in 1983, fourteen years after it was first formed. He was born in Lincoln in 1948 and grew up in St. Albans. He is survived by his wife and daughter and a son by a previous marriage.

During the last quarter, my journeys in pursuit of good folk music and dance have seen Angela and I travel smaller distances than normal. With the festival season a distant memory we focussed our search closer to home, mainly on Wirral.

Angela, Sue and myself (Vocal Point) entertained the skippers and crew of the Wirral Community Narrowboat Trust with their wives and partners at the Prenton Golf Club cabaret lounge, Birkenhead and a few days later we sang our hearts out along with Brian Lupton (Brian O'Ryan) at Newton Village Hall, near West Kirby. It was most enjoyable and was one of Brian's many Christmas gigs. Vocal Point has been asked to do a gig at Neston WI in March with the date yet to be confirmed. On the subject of which if anyone would like to book VP for a night we are only too pleased to entertain with a wide repertoire of songs both traditional and contemporary. 'Sing for your supper nights' are our speciality with modest fees or sometimes only expenses being the cost to event organisers.

In November, the Tom Topping Band, (Colin Henderson, Brian Jones and Tom) where our very special guests at the 'Hungry' and they packed the room out as expected. The lads have given audiences tremendous pleasure over the years and our weekly visits to the Black Horse FC in West Kirby during the 80's and 90's were never to be missed. They perform less as a trio these days. Being the support act for TTB was a privilege and one that I had been waiting for for many a year. They were truly marvellous and had lost none of their jovial repartee and wonderful harmony singing. In full flow, with superb voices, musicianship and of course Tom's brilliant comedy, aided and abetted by timely quips from Brian and Colin, showed that they have lost none of their skills and timing. It was TTB who were in fact responsible for Angela and I coming across local folk

music in the first place. They say some decisions change your life. Our decision to be regulars at Tom's club was one of the best decisions we have ever made.

Another great local band, the quartet – Fiddlestone – were also our guests at the club in that month. It was in fact the second time within weeks that we had seen them. The first was at the Ellesmere Port Waterways Museum Theatre over a night of commemoration for the old Travellers Rest Folk club took place. Many performers came out of the 'folk music woodwork' to show off their singing and playing skills. The room was packed out with about a hundred or so present, many of whom I had never seen before. Angela took delight in being able to publicise our own club and of course the festival, 6<sup>th</sup> Wirral Folk on the Coast Festival – [www.wirralfolkonthecoast.com](http://www.wirralfolkonthecoast.com)

We ventured further afield to Roger Hanslip's Folk at the Prospect FC, to see guitar open tuning expert – Sarah McQuaid. I had seen her at Bromyard Festival in 2008 giving a DADGAD workshop. She has written a book on the subject, so clearly she knows her stuff. I enjoyed Sarah's performance although perhaps we could have done with some more 'jumpy numbers' in the set. Our second visit took us on a wet and windy night into the heart of Liverpool city centre, at the Black-E centre (formerly The Blackie), in Nelson Street, near Chinatown. This gig was part of a little publicised event – the 1<sup>st</sup> Liverpool Folk and Roots Festival. The festival was a weeklong event that started on 21<sup>st</sup> November and concluded on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Our visit was to see a Shanty Concert with the listed guests being The Travelling People, Bernie Davis, Loctuptogether, Trim Rig and a Doxy, Stormalong John and ex-Spinner, the wonderful Hughie Jones. It was a great night with the only disappointment being the absence of the Stormalongs who had to cry off because of illness to an elderly family relative. Radio Merseyside's Stan Ambrose, a lovely man who plays excellent penny whistle and harp, compared the concert. Just before Christmas, another of our favourite bands, the Chester based quintet – Full House – gave us a brilliant night at Roger Parker's Folk at the Manor in Wallasey. This talented band of musicians performs just the right type of music for our tastes. A good mix of traditional and contemporary songs, by these fine multi-instrumentalists. I thoroughly recommend them to any folk club organisers reading this column.

On Boxing Day and New Year's Day we did something we have never done before. We went out in the freezing weather to watch Morris dancers. "Oh no", I hear you say. Well, what good decisions they were as we went to support that great troupe the Mersey Morris Men (MMM). Hundreds of people turned out in the centre of the beautiful Cheshire village of Willaston to see a show entitled "Strictly Come Morris Dancing", (no it wasn't called that actually). Nevertheless, it was of the highest quality and brought great pleasure to the huge throng. Thereafter, sticking to tradition we retired to the local hostelry - The Pollard Inn - before returning home. Having spent New Year's Eve at Bromborough Folk Club, where a new female trio Songbirds were the main act, we saw the New Year in then made off along the M53 to attend at Colin Matthews's big house in Chester to make some music and enjoy his and Sue's excellent hospitality. We ended up getting home about 5 am that morning. Amazing therefore that we were able to rise and get to the Plasterer's Arms in Hoylake in good time to see a repeat show from the MMM at 12-30 pm. Fatigue won in the end but I must thank Tony Foard, Dave Loughlin (the jester) and all the other merry men who gave us two

great displays of traditional English Morris dancing. Don't forget guys – 'K...eecep Morris Dancing'.

## Club News

Jim Coan at the Wooden Horse FC tells me that The Junction pub, the normal club venue has lost its licensee therefore presently the club is being run on a temporary basis at the Plough Inn, Spa Lane, Lathom, L40 6JG. This may change so it is suggested that you ring Jim on - 01772-452-782 before travelling.

Lynne Barnes, at Dabbers FC informs me that in order to retain the usual Thursday club night, on 3<sup>rd</sup> December they moved from The Oddfellows, (where for over 20 years, they have had a great time) to the - Rifleman Inn at 68 James Hall Street, Nantwich, CW5 5QE. The opening night saw some excellent new musicians attending along with regulars, plus some new visitors. You can find out more at [www.myspace.com/dabberssession](http://www.myspace.com/dabberssession)

Seamus Hefferman at Shamrock Promotions tells me of the demise of the Bay Horse Folk Club at Osbaldeston. Apparently this Singers Night club has also been going for 20 years but sadly it closed at Christmas.

A new Singers Night club opens on 26<sup>th</sup> January at The Myerscough Hotel, Balderstone on the A59. Great Harwood singer Gloria Hoole will host this open mic event on the last Tuesday of each month. It is not yet known if this club will join this magazine as a subscribing member.

Alun Parry, who is described as – 'a radical singer / songwriter' – has emailed me to inform that he is starting a new folk club on 25<sup>th</sup> February when visitors can expect songs of humour, struggle, life and justice. Doors open at 7-30pm and the action starts at 8pm until 10-30pm. You are asked to 'bring your voices and instruments' to – The Ship and Mitre, real ale pub, in Dale Street, in Liverpool city centre. The name of the club will be the -- Woody Guthrie Folk Club. The website can be found at [www.woodyfolk.co.uk](http://www.woodyfolk.co.uk)

Pauline Dowsett at Folk on Friday (Leigh) informs me that after the resounding success of the clubs' first Singers Night it has been decided to run this type of night on the second Tuesday of each month depending on the availability of the room. You are advised to ring Pauline (01942-604-603) to check before travelling. Each night commences at 8-30pm. If you are not able to manage the steps at the front of the building, there is a side door for easy access. Ring Pauline or Des (01942-673-868) in advance.

Some clubs have reported being a little behind with their planning of guest nights so please be aware that some Singers Nights quoted in the centre page calendar of this edition may change to guest nights in due course. Alex Nearney asks that you check the club website before travelling. Alex tells me that in October, Peter and Barbara Snape were the club guests and they quashed the myth that melodeons cannot be played with sensitivity. Performing without the customary guitar, Barbara was accompanied by Peter throughout in an excellent display of musicianship. In November, the mighty Bob Fox displayed his usual virtuosity and put on a great night. There were so many people wishing to see Bob that Alex and Co. had to move the club venue into the Ridoy Restaurant as the usual room was too small. Ben Needham and Robin Petty paid their second visit to the club in December and went down a storm.

Peter Hood at Midway FC reports that 2009 has proved to be a wonderful year for the club with highlight evenings being provided by Martin Simpson (sell out). On the Brian Peters night, Grant Baynham (a club resident) got up and performed

with Brian an impromptu performance of Dallas Rag. It is brill. and is now on 'Utube'. John Connolly, Pete Coe, Quicksilver also starred at the club and the Christmas show of His Worship & the Pig was super also. Apparently, the punters all loved, Rudolph.

Chris Nash at Bromley Cross FC reports that they have all enjoyed a brilliant quarter with Bandersnatch and Twa Corbies providing an excellent guest night in November and 'One man folk festival' - Pete Coe and Eagley Brass Band put everyone in a festive mood on 18<sup>th</sup> December. On 8<sup>th</sup> January the club will have celebrated its first birthday Singers Night with a collection for charity going towards support for the Bolton Society for the Blind.

On 26<sup>th</sup> March, Carlisle Folk and Blues club celebrates its 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday with Thrice Brewed, Chris James and other guests forming the entertainment.

On Easter Monday 5<sup>th</sup> April, Wigan FC will hold its 'Wigan Day of Folk'n Verse' at the Boulevard, 17 – 19 Wallgate, Wigan WN1 1LD. There will be a giant singaround starting at 2-30pm till late. Poets and monologuers are also most welcome. Free admission. This event will as usual be a part of The 'Words Festival' (Leigh and Wigan's annual fortnight long literary festival), and brochures will be in local libraries prior to the festival.

On 12<sup>th</sup> April, Vicki Swan (an excellent pipe player) and Jonny Dyer (left handed guitarist) are the guests at Midway FC. They are a fine act I have seen many times at festivals, including Chester Festival where they are part of the line up again this year.

Eric Cox at Biddulph up in Arms FC has an interesting booking in the form of Glenn Tilbrook who appears on 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Glen is the lead singer in the pop group Squeeze. Remember the song 'Up the Junction'? Eric also has the Welsh Bruce Springsteen i.e. Martyn Joseph booked a couple of weeks later on 17<sup>th</sup> March. Martyn is a tremendous performer. If you aren't able to get to Biddulph why not come along to our festival (Wirral Folk on the Coast) on 4<sup>th</sup> June. We have Martyn booked as top of the bill on that Friday night.

## Performers

**The much publicised, 'Music to Curl Up to by a Log Fire' at Nantwich Players Theatre on 19<sup>th</sup> December that featured Tarporley singer/songwriter Vin Barrett was very well attended and a great success. On the coldest night of the year it was most apt to see a cosy log effect fire on stage and to see Lynne Barnes dishing out car rugs to the audience. The title of the event was inspired by a Folk North West review of Vin's last CD entitled 'The Quiet Bridge'. If you want to know more about Vin then visit – [www.amandalynnemusic.com](http://www.amandalynnemusic.com)**

Fairport Convention Acoustic's gig at Southport Arts Centre will take place on 5<sup>th</sup> March at Crosby Civic Hall. Simon Nicol and Co. have won a coveted BBC Lifetime Achievement Award and Radio 2 listeners voted their groundbreaking album 'Liege and Lief' the 'Most Influential Folk Album of All Time'. The band also appears at Bury Met on 13<sup>th</sup> May.

An act that has been strongly recommended to me is the duo Megson that has been booked to appear at a Shamrock Promotions event on 16<sup>th</sup> May.

## Arts Centre/Theatres

Lucy Wainwright Roche appears at the Bury Met on 10<sup>th</sup> March. Lucy is the daughter of Loudon Wainwright and sister to Martha and Rufus.

Finbar Furey - All-Ireland Uilleann pipe champion and whistle player, singer/songwriter and front man of The Fureys and Davey Arthur is booked for 8<sup>th</sup> April also. Karen Matheson, lead singer of the Celtic super group Capercaillie appears there on 21<sup>st</sup> May. On May 22 an interesting evening is scheduled when Tim O'Brien and Kris Drever are the guests and on 27<sup>th</sup> May Jon Boden and the Remnant Kings will provide the entertainment. All at The Met. The Tannahill Weavers are in the region again and will appear at Playhouse 2 on 29<sup>th</sup> April.

I did quote in the last edition of FNW that Jim Minall (Friends of Folk) was packing in as a folk concert organiser following a very successful six year period of presenting folk music of the highest quality in the Preston/Lancashire area. I am delighted to inform you that having liased with the management of the Rose Theatre, Ormskirk, Jim will continue with the role and his first effort in collaboration with the theatre will take place on 30<sup>th</sup> April. The concert is entitled 'Friends New and Old'. They will include, Maddy Prior, Ken Nicol, Abbie Lathe, Chris & Siobhan Nelson, Andrew Keeling, The Bailey Sisters and Simon Fox. Sounds good to me.

#### Festivals

I have been given limited information about forthcoming festivals in the region so I have trawled the web for the following dates.

Three festivals -- *Chester, the 6<sup>th</sup> Wirral Folk on the Coast* and *Middlewich Folk and Boat (MFAB)* all take place quite close together.

*Chester Festival* is a four-day event over the Whit Bank Holiday weekend -- 28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> May.

The *6<sup>th</sup> Wirral Folk on the Coast Festival* occurs less than a week later and is also a four-day festival from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> June.

*MFAB festival* takes place over the weekend of the 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> June.

*Lymm Festival* dates are 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> June and 30<sup>th</sup> June to 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

*Droylsden Festival* dates are 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> June and

*Saddleworth Festival* - 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> July.

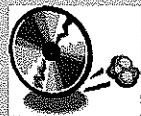
#### Stop Press

I have just received the following gig list from Ron Flanagan at Longridge FC. It was too late to publish in the centre pages calendar of folk events: -

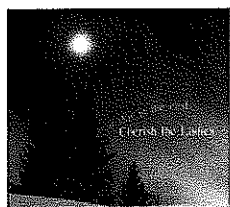
February 2<sup>nd</sup> - Singers Night, 16<sup>th</sup> - Dave Walmisley, March 2<sup>nd</sup> - Singers Night, 16<sup>th</sup> - Bram Taylor, April 6<sup>th</sup> - Singers Night, 20<sup>th</sup> - Ken Nicol, May 4<sup>th</sup> - Singers Night, 18<sup>th</sup> - The Amazing Dick & The Saggy Bottom Girls, June 1<sup>st</sup> - Singers Night, 15<sup>th</sup> - Houghton Weavers, July and August - club closed, September 7<sup>th</sup> - Singers Night, 21<sup>st</sup> - Hard Times, October 5<sup>th</sup> - Singers Night, 19<sup>th</sup> - Scold's Bridle, November 2<sup>nd</sup> - Singers Night, 16<sup>th</sup> - Anthony John Clark, December 7<sup>th</sup> - Celtic Fringe, 21<sup>st</sup> - Christmas Bash. An impressive line-up, I must say so. Well done Ron.

That's all for now. Many thanks for reading this column. Will speak to you again in June all being well.

## CD REVIEWS



### CHERISH THE LADIES – A Star In The East (Big Mammy Records 0004)



Is it really that time of year? Well, it must be as Cherish The Ladies release another seasonal album. And what better way than a bright and breezy opening set of tunes "A Dash For The Presents/Joy To The World/Parnell's March". You can just picture the girls sitting round an open fire and a Christmas tree much like a scene from "It's A Wonderful Life" enjoying a good old fashioned session. Now joined by relative newcomer Michelle Burke who's blessed with a gently lilting Irish brogue for a beautiful rendition of Robbie O'Connell's "All On A Christmas Morning" and a sublime "First Noel" they certainly know how to weave a web of interlinking melodies led by the sparking whistle playing of Joannie Madden. Also bringing their instrumental talents to the banquet are Mary Coogan (guitar, mandolin & banjo), Roisin Dillon (fiddle), Mirella Murray (Accordion) and Kathleen Boyle on piano plus some special guests. The ladies revitalise many standards including "Greensleeves", "Deck The Halls" and that perennial favourite "Jingle Bells" and there's even a couple of Country hoe-down tracks "Home On Time For Christmas" and "Rise Up Shepherd And Follow" (featuring Joannie on lead vocals) that surprisingly don't sound out of place. So, an album that is full of bonhomie and one that I'm sure will prove popular with the whole family and not just those of a 'folk music' persuasion. Further information from [www.cherishtheladies.com](http://www.cherishtheladies.com)

Pete Fyfe

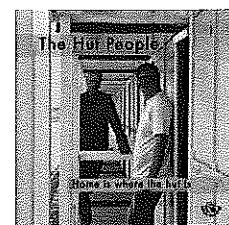
### DUOTONE – Work Harder & One Day You'll Find Her (Garrett Brown Music GBMCD 003)



This album reminds me of my youth when I was listening to the likes of Clifford T Ward and Al Stewart. As a journalist it's a labour of love digging for information and piecing it together courtesy of the www and that's what I had to do in the case of Barney Morse-Brown (cellist with The Imagined Village). For it is he and predominantly he alone (with the exception of B J Cole and James Garrett) who has created a very interesting and ultimately rewarding album. Take, for example, with a small battery of instruments and technology he utilises the gorgeous rounded tones of cello segueing into the nicely faded in guitar and double-tracked vocals on the opening song "House In Keremma". Most of the album's tracks prove Radio 2 friendly produced with a delicate yet assured hand by Robert Harbron and, if you're like me will find this is the kind of album that you can stick your headphones on and listen to enraptured as the velvet like audio texture washes over you. From the striking, enigmatic pose on the sleeve...not dissimilar to a latter day Robert Louis Stevenson...Duotone has made an impressive debut and I for one hope that there is much more to follow.

Pete Fyfe

### HUT PEOPLE – Home Is Where The Hut Is (Fellside Recordings FECD228)



Ah, that's more like it something a little different from the 'folk' world. Paul Adams should be well chuffed with this recording on his tremendous Fellside label. For it is he who once again takes a leap of faith much as he did with Boden & Spears. This new pairing of Sam Pirt (squeezeboxes) and Gary Hammond (all things percussive) is a real breath of bellows driven air starting with the jaunty melody "Basque" which sets the pace of the album nicely. Following with the gorgeous sound of frame drum/thunder drum buoying the elegantly flowing tune "Morfars" this sound could become seriously addictive in a hypnotic kind of way. In my mind's eye you could see the arrangement being used as the pivotal role in leading a colourful procession for celebrations such as May Day etc. By the fourth track the "Happy One-Step" we've moved into Cajun country and a triangle led rhythm bringing back fond memories of Bill Caddick. This proves the adage that a good tune will always stand on its own merits whoever performs it. There is some seriously rocking stuff on this little silver disk and some great tunes that will undoubtedly find their way into other bands repertoires. If you do hear them performed by others (and there's no finer accolade) you can say you heard it here first. For copies of the CD which won't be available until 25<sup>th</sup> January 2010 contact [www.fellside.com](http://www.fellside.com) or for further information on the duo check out [www.myspace.com/thehutpeople](http://www.myspace.com/thehutpeople)

Pete Fyfe

### KATHRYN TICKELL – The Best Of Kathryn Tickell (Park Records PRKCD107)

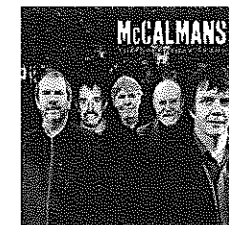


I was first introduced to the wonderful sound of Northumbrian Smallpipes on hearing a recording by the High Level Ranters over thirty years ago. Colin Ross and particularly Alistair Anderson were both influential in helping broaden my audio tastes and that continues to this day with the prodigious talents of Kathryn Tickell. Most recently spotted as part of Sting's entourage I'd forgotten how much I personally missed hearing the smallpipes as part of an ensemble and how easily they cut through the many layered sounds of a 'band'. It's the distinctively delicious Northern burr of the instrument much like the Geordie dialect that sets it apart and delivers to its audience a pleasurable, warm feeling. Opening with the melancholic setting of the self-penned tune "Our Kate" leading into the buoyant "Welcome Home" the pipes feature prominently throughout the recording and followed by the digitally demanding "Lads Of Alnwick/Sunderland Lassies/Peacocks March" Kathryn leaves you in no doubt that there is fighting spirit in the exquisite smaller relation to its more brutish cousin the Scottish Highland pipes. Having collected all of our heroine's albums to date (of which there isn't a duff one) I'd be hard pushed in choosing my favourites and, as Kathryn states in the sleeve-notes this isn't really a "best of" but her personal choice of favourites (at present) from throughout her glittering twenty four years recording career. If you're

just starting out on a voyage of musical discovery or are already a fan of this beautiful instrument why not purchase a copy of this great 2-disk 'calling card'...you won't be disappointed! [www.kathryntickell.com](http://www.kathryntickell.com)

Pete Fyfe

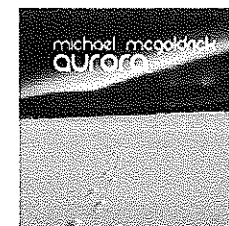
### MCCALMANS – The Greentrax Years (Greentrax Recordings CDTRAX350)



My first encounter with The Maes was around thirty years ago at the Cambridge Folk Festival. I remember being mightily impressed by their vocal wall of sound and still am to this day. These were strident vocals employing a passion overlooked by so many artists these days (even though I still have a bit of difficulty understanding some of the more heavy Scottish dialect) and were/are the band's trademark to this day. Never sounding happier than when it came to presenting bawdy drinking songs such as Andy M Stewart's wonderful "Ramblin' Rover" they certainly know how to engage and most importantly entertain their audience. Whether it be roaring out shanties ("Highland Laddie/Roll The Woodpile Down/A hundred Years Ago"), dipping into established favourites including "Both Sides The Tweed" and "Yankee Boots" or on a more reflective note utilising the band's own finely crafted songs such as Ian McCalman's "From Greenland" and you have a well rounded package. As a snapshot (46 songs on a double disk) this is a veritable smorgasbord of the band's involvement with Greentrax Recordings and I hope will be a collaboration that continues for while longer. Stop Press: I've just discovered that the band will finally retire at the end of 2010 so, all the more reason for purchasing a real slice of 'folk' history!

Pete Fyfe

### MICHAEL MCGOLDRICK – Aurora (Vertical Records VERTCD090)



There's always a sense of anticipation when you hear news that one of your favourite musicians has just released a new album and of course, I just had to obtain a copy of this latest offering from Michael McGoldrick. Also, it is highly unlikely that you will be disappointed as proves the case from the opening track "Freefalling Reels". Building nicely from the groovy rhythm and keyboard stabs (not dissimilar to early Moving Hearts) to the pipes/flute led melody onto Manus Lunny's bouzouki and Neil Yates trumpet this really is attention-grabbing stuff! Talking of Moving Hearts, founder member Donal Lunny makes a rare guest appearance contributing his trademark bouzouki/guitar/bodhran to the equation on "Late Nights At The Central" and of course, the phenomenal guest list doesn't stop there including Brendan Power, Dezi Donnolly, Ed Boyd and John McCusker to name but a few. Now, if that doesn't make the eyes water of any self-respecting Celtic music enthusiast then I don't know what will. Then there's the surprise track...Dirk Powell's "Waterbound" where Mike is joined for a vocal duet along with Heidi Talbot on a country ballad that is well suited to his laid back style of singing. So, a recording full of riches



## CLUB RESIDENTS (as on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2010)

**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, Bernie Thomas, Vinny Spencer

**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, Harry Leather, Syd Hayden, Jill Smith, Willie Gilmour, Pete Massey, Gordon Morris, Roger Bond, Norman Smith

**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, Two of a Kind

**MIDWAY** -- Peter Hood, Lynda Edwardes, Anne Yates, Peter Fox, Ged Darby, John Keithley, Grant Baynham, John Ashurst, Chris Baker

**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

**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

<b>NORTH WEST FEDERATION OF FOLK CLUBS</b>				
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>ARTS CENTRES and THEATRES</b>	<b>Organiser</b>	<b>Tel. no.</b>
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	Plough Inn, Spa Lane, Lathom L40 6JG (temporary)	Jim Coan	01772-452782
<b>MONDAY</b>				
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	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
<b>TUESDAY</b>				
Acoustic Collective	9:00 PM	Wharf Tavern, 77/79 Caroline Street, Stalybridge, SK15 1PD	Paul Roberts	07930-
Bush Acoustic	9:00 PM	Bush Inn, 120 Moorside Street, Droylsden, Manchester, M43	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	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	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
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>				
Biddulph up in Arms	8:00 PM	Biddulph Arms, 171 Congleton Road, Biddulph, ST8 6QJ	Eric Cox	01782-514898
Burnley	9:00 PM	Kettledrum Inn, 302 Red Lees Road, Cliviger, Burnley, BB10	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	7:00 PM	The Bay Horse, 35-37 Thomas Street, Northern Quarter, M4	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
<b>THURSDAY</b>				
Acoustic Folk at the Nursery	9:00 PM	Nursery Inn, 258 Green Lane, Heaton Norris, Stockport SK4	Brenda Judge	0161-432-4830
Chorlton	9:00 PM	SW Manchester Cricket Club, Ellesmere Road, Chorlton M21	Joseph Roberts	07833-735-729
Dabbers	8:30 PM	Rifleman Inn, 68 James Hall Street, Nantwich, Cheshire, CW5	Lynne Barnes	01270-628041
Earby	7:30 PM	Station Hotel, 123 Colne Road, Earby, Barnoldswick, BB18	Sharon Hobson	01282-841727
Gregson Lane	8:30 PM	Sports & Social Club, Gregson Lane, Hoghton, PR5 0FD	Graham Dixon	01254-853929
Heaton Mersey	8:30 PM	Heaton Mersey Sports & Social Club, Halewood Road, SK4	Kieron Hartley	07957-492917
Hungry Horse Acoustic	8:15 PM	The Rake, Rake Lane, Little Stanney, Ellesmere Port, CH2	John Owen	0151-678-9902
Lymm	8:30 PM	Spread Eagle Hotel, 47 Eagle Brow, Lymm, Cheshire, WA13	Stewart Lever	07919-270-916
Parkgate	8:15 PM	Boathouse Pub/Restaurant, 1 The Parade, Parkgate, CH64	Eddie Morris	0151-677-1840
South Lakes Music	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
<b>FRIDAY</b>				
Bollington	8:30 PM	Dog & Partridge, 97 Palmerston Street, Bollington, SK10 5JX	Arthur Wakefield	01625-573596
Bromley Cross	8:00 PM	The Railway, 37 Chapeltown Road, Bromley X, Bolton, BL7	Chris Nash	01204-593224
Carlisle Folk & Blues	8:00 PM	Sunset Suite, Carlisle Football Ground, Warwick Road, CA1	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	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	Dave Hughes	01625-430149
Preston	8:30 PM	Moorbrook Inn, 370 North Road, Preston, PR1 1RU	Rob Malaney	01257-231463
<b>SATURDAY</b>				
Shamrock Promotions	8:00 PM	Mellor Brook Comm. Centre, 7 Whalley Road, Blackburn, BB2	Janet Aspin	01254-812131
<b>ARTS CENTRES &amp; THEATRES</b>				
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	7:30 PM	Sefton Park Palm House, Sefton Park, Liverpool, L17 1AP	Elizabeth-Anne	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





4th APRIL to 8th MAY 2010

(NB: Always check with organisers before travelling)

SUNDAY	4TH APRIL	11TH APRIL	18TH APRIL	25TH APRIL	2ND MAY
Big Lock	Singers Night	TICH FRIER	PETE COE	Singers Night	Singers Night
Bothy	Easter Special QUIZZICAL GRAFFITI	Singers Night	CLAIRE MOONEY	Singers Night	DAVE SWARBRICK
Folk at the Manor	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Wooden Horse	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
MONDAY	5TH APRIL - Bank Holiday	12TH APRIL	19TH APRIL	26TH APRIL	3RD MAY - Bank Holiday
Bacup	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Ciwb Gwerin Conwy	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Folk at the Prospect	EDWINA HAYES	Singers Night	PETER & BARBARA SNAPE	Singers Night	Singers Night
Four Fools	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Midway	Singers Night	VICKI SWAN & JONNY DYER	Singers Night	Singers Night	MRS ACKROYD
Room at the Top	closed	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	closed
Skipton Folk Unplugged	Singers Night	DEBRA COWAN	JIG-JAW	Singers Night	BEN NEEDHAM & ROB PETTY
Swinton	tba	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	tba
* & ** Wigan	Wigan Day of Folk 'n Verse				
TUESDAY	6TH APRIL	13TH APRIL	20TH APRIL	27TH APRIL	4TH MAY
Acoustic Collective	PAT SHERRY & STUART DOUGLAS	Singers Night	CLAIRE MOONEY	Singaround	MARTIN STIMSON
Bush Acoustic	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
Crown	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
Everyman	Singers Night	DEBRA COWAN	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Longridge	No programme available				
Maghull	Singers Night	MRS ACKROYD	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Sale	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Urmston Acoustics	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Wigan	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
WEDNESDAY	7TH APRIL	14TH APRIL	21ST APRIL	28TH APRIL	5TH MAY
Biddulph up in Arms			KIRSTY MCGEE & MATT MARTIN	ANDREA GLASS	TOY HEARTS
Burnley	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	LOU BROWN (double bill)
Burnley Mechanics	FEAST OF FIDDLES			SONGS OF NICK DRAKE	Singers & Musicians
Clarence	Ring club for programme				
Coppull Folk	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Garstang Unplugged					
Mr Kite Benefits @					
53 Degrees, Preston					
Pacific Arts Centre		JOHN RENBOURN & ROBIN WILLIAMSON			
Ye Olde Vic	Music session - English			Music session - English	

THURSDAY	8TH APRIL	15TH APRIL	22ND APRIL	29TH APRIL	6TH MAY
Acoustic Collective			GLOSSOP FOLK TRAIN		
Acoustic Folk at the Nursery		Big Spot - Kevin Tarpey	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Chorlton	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians
Dabbers					
Earby	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians
* & ** For Folk's Sake @	STEPHEN MacCARTNEY				
The Zion Centre, Hulme	CLAIRE JONES, LINDSAY SUGDEN				
Garstang Unplugged		tba			
Gregson Lane	ALISTAIR HULLET		Singers Night (English night)		MOONCOYN
Heaton Mersey	No programme available				
Hungry Horse Acoustic	Singers & Musicians	MARTIN CARTHRY & VOCAL POINT	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians
Lymm	** Singers Night	RON TRUEMAN-BORDER	Singers Night	FLOSSIE MALAVIALLE	** Singers Night
Pacific Arts Centre			EMILY SMITH		
Parkgate				JEZ LOWE & the BAD PENNIES	
Philharmonic Hall				JOHN RENBOURN & ROBIN WILLIAMSON	
Playhouse 2				TANNAHILL WEAVERS	
Shamrock Promotions	THE ATLANTICS				
The Met, Bury	FINBAR FUREY				
Wigan	Singaround				
Wrexham	Singers Night				
FRIDAY	9TH APRIL	16TH APRIL	23RD APRIL	30TH APRIL	7TH MAY
Bollington	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night	Singers Night
Bromley Cross			SCOLDS BRIDLE	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians
Carlisle Folk & Blues	MICHAEL CHAPMAN & BRIDGET ST JOHN		BROOKS WILLIAMS		BOO HEWERDINE
Frodsham	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians		Singers & Musicians
Folk on Friday (Leigh)		STEVE TILSTON			
Northwich	Singers Night (venue tbc)	Singers Night (venue tbc)	REBUS	Singers Night	ANDY CLARKE
Pacific Arts Centre	ISAMBARDE				
Porkies	THE SAW DOCTORS				
Preston	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians	RUTH FUGA & KEN POWELL
Rose Theatre (Friends of Folk)				FRIENDS NEW & OLD	Singers & Musicians
The Met, Bury	MARTIN SIMPSON			MADDY PRIOR & others	
SATURDAY	10TH APRIL	17TH APRIL	24TH APRIL	1ST MAY	8TH MAY
* & ** For Folk's Sake @					MAGPIES NEST TOUR
Contact Theatre, Oxford Rd, M'cr.					
* & ** Four Fools					
Pacific Arts Centre			ADRIAN EDMONSON & the BAD SHEPHERS	Jubilee Traditional Music Workshops	Jubilee Concertina Workshops
Philharmonic Hall			PAUL BRADY		
Sale					
Shamrock Promotions		HIS WORSHIP & the PIG	KRIS DREVER & ANNA MASSIE		
The Citadel		ELBOW JANE			
The Met, Bury	BREABACH				

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

9th MAY to 12th JUNE 2010  
(NB: Always check with organisers before travelling)

	9TH MAY	16TH MAY	23RD MAY	30TH MAY	6TH JUNE
Wirral Folk on the Coast Festival					6th Wirral Folk on the Coast Festival MULDOON'S PICNIC, ROBIN LAING GARVA, GRAHAM BELLINGER'S DEPORTEES, HOUGHTON WEAVERS CHRIS WHILE & JOE BROUGHTON <a href="http://www.wirralfolkonthecoast.com">www.wirralfolkonthecoast.com</a>
Big Lock					Singers Night
Bothy	Singers Night		PETE WOOD	Singers Night	MARTIN WYNDHAM-READ
Folk at the Manor	Singers Night		THE WEE BAG BAND	Residents Night	Singers Night
Shamrock Promotions			MEGSON		
The Met, Bury			LUKA BLOOM		
Wooden Horse	Singers Night			Singers Night	Singers Night
MONDAY	10TH MAY	17TH MAY	24TH MAY	31ST MAY - Bank Holiday	7TH JUNE
Bacup	ANDY CLARKE			ROCHDALE YOUTH ORCHESTRA	
Clwb Gwerin Conwy	Singers Night			Singers Night	Singers Night
Folk at the Prospect	FULL HOUSE			Singers Night	ALTERNATIVE THERAPY
Four Fools	Singers Night		BRIAN PETERS	Singers Night	Singers Night
Midway	Singers Night			Singers Night	Singers Night
Room at the Top	Singers Night			Singers Night	Singers Night
Skippton Folk Unplugged	Singers Night		ANTHONY JOHN CLARKE	Blues Night with SAM BISHOP	Charity Night with IAN HILL
Swinton	Singers Night			JOHNNY SILVO	Singers Night
TUESDAY	11TH MAY	18TH MAY	25TH MAY	1ST JUNE	8TH JUNE
Acoustic Collective	Singers Night			Singaround	
Bush Acoustic	Singaround		GARRON FRITH	Singaround	Singaround
Crown	Singaround			Singaround	Singaround
Everyman	Singers Night			Singers Night	TRIO THRELFALL
Longridge	No programme available				
Maghull	SCOLDS BRIDLE			Singers Night	Singers Night
Sale	Singers Night			Singers Night	Singers Night
Urmston Acoustics				Singaround	Singaround
Wigan	Singaround			26TH MAY	9TH JUNE
WEDNESDAY	12TH MAY	19TH MAY	26TH MAY	2ND JUNE	
Biddulph up in Arms				CHRIS WHILE & JOE BROUGHTON	
Burnley	Singers & Musicians			Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians
Clarence	Ring club for programme				
Coppull Folk	Singers Night			Singers Night	Singers Night
Garstang Unplugged				Singers Night	Singers Night
Ye Olde Vic	Music session - English			Music session - English	Music session - English
THURSDAY	13TH MAY	20TH MAY	27TH MAY	3RD JUNE	10TH JUNE
Acoustic Folk at the Nursery	Singers Night			Singers Night	Big Spot - tba
Chorlton	Singers Night			Singers Night	Singers Night
Dabbers				Singaround	
Earby	Singers & Musicians			Singers & Musicians	Singers & Musicians
Garstang Unplugged	tba				
Gregson Lane				ROBB JOHNSON	

	13TH MAY	20TH MAY	27TH MAY	3RD JUNE	10TH JUNE
THURSDAY (cont'd)	13TH MAY	20TH MAY	27TH MAY	3RD JUNE	10TH JUNE
Heaton Mersey	No programme available				
Hungry Horse Acoustic	KERFUFFLE			** 'Sing in the Festival'	Singers & Musicians
				6th Wirral Folk on the Coast Festival <a href="http://www.wirralfolkonthecoast.com">www.wirralfolkonthecoast.com</a>	
Lymm	** CLIVE GREGGON		KATRIONA GILMORE & JAMIE ROBERTS	Big Spot - Brian Roberts	STEVE TURNER
Parkgate			JOHNNY SILVO		
The Met, Bury	FAIRPORT ACOUSTIC CONVENTION		JON BODEN & the REMNANT KINGS		
Wigan	Singaround				
Wrexham	Singers Night			Singaround	Singaround
	(then re-opens 20th Sept)				
FRIDAY	14TH MAY	21ST MAY	28TH MAY	4TH JUNE	11TH JUNE
Wirral Folk on the Coast Festival				6th Wirral Folk on the Coast Festival	
Bollington	Singers Night			SCOLDS BRIDLE	
Bromley Cross				CHRIS MORETON	
Carlisle Folk & Blues	BELSHAZZAR'S FEAST			TRI DAVE BURLAND	
Frodsham	FLOSSIE MALAVALLE			MARTYN JOSEPH	
Folk on Friday (Leigh)	DAVE PUGH			<a href="http://www.wirralfolkonthecoast.com">www.wirralfolkonthecoast.com</a>	
Northwich	JOHNNY SILVO			Singers Night	Singers Night
Porkies	BRIAN PETERS			Singers & Musicians	Singers Night
Preston				Singers Night	
The Met, Bury	Singers & Musicians			MAD JOCKS & ENGLISHMAN	Singers & Musicians
The Platform	KAREN MATHESON			Singers & Musicians	
	BOYS OF THE LOUGH				
SATURDAY	15TH MAY	22ND MAY	29TH MAY	5TH JUNE	12TH JUNE
6th Wirral Folk on the Coast Festival				6th Wirral Folk on the Coast Festival	
				CHRIS MORETON, DAVID FERRARD	
				CHILL UNTIL BLUE, CELTISH	
				CLIVE GREGGON, BERNARD WRIGLEY	
				CATHRYN CRAIG & BRIAN WILLOUGHBY	
				NEW ROPE STRING BAND	
				<a href="http://www.wirralfolkonthecoast.com">www.wirralfolkonthecoast.com</a>	
* & ** Four Fools				Jubilee Traditional	Jubilee Concertina
Mr Kite Benefits @ The Met, Bury				Music Workshops	Workshops
Philharmonic Hall			TIM O'BRIEN & KRIS DREVER		
Sale	DON McLEAN				
The Platform	VIN GARBUTT				
			HOUGHTON WEAVERS		

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

Space in the above calendar in the next edition of this magazine (Summer edition) will cover the period - Sunday 30th May to Saturday 11th September 2010  
Club Organisers/Venue Managers are asked to ensure information for this calendar is forwarded to [folksingerjohn@aol.com](mailto:folksingerjohn@aol.com) by 13th April 2010



## ADVANCED DATES FROM JUNE 2010

### ACOUSTIC COLLECTIVE

June 19 Hathersage Folk Train  
July 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> Saddleworth Folk Festival

### ACOUSTIC FOLK AT THE NURSERY

June 10 Big Spot - tba  
June 24 Singers Night  
June 25 to 27 Droylsden Folk Festival  
June 26 Dick Gaughan  
@ Fairfield Golf & Sailing Club,  
Booth Road, Audenshaw M34 5GA  
Further information at 0161-432-4830

### BIDDULPH UP IN ARMS

June 2 Chris While & Joe Broughton  
July 10 Folk in the Park @  
Biddulph Grange  
Country Park  
July 14 Chumbawamba @  
Biddulph Town Hall  
July 21 Richard Digance @  
Biddulph Town Hall

### BOTHY

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  
Informal singarounds until  
Sept 12 tbc  
Sept 19 Tom McConville &  
David Newey  
Sept 26 Singers Night  
Oct 3 Cloudstreet  
Oct 10 Singers Night  
Oct 17 Steve Tilston  
Oct 24 Singers Night  
Oct 31 Brian Peters  
Nov 7 Singers Night  
Nov 14 Steve Ashley  
Nov 21 Singers Night  
Nov 28 Roy Bailey  
Dec 5 Tattie Jam  
Ruaridh Pringle & Seylan Baxter  
Dec 12 'An Appalachian  
Christmas' with Grace Notes & others  
Closed until January 16<sup>th</sup> 2011  
Jan 16 Trio Threlfall  
Jan 23 Bandersnatch  
Feb 13 Hazel & Emily Askew  
March 13 Linde Nijland  
(Netherlands)  
March 20 Tom & Barbara Brown  
April 10 Debra Cowan &  
John Roberts  
April 17 Mick Ryan & Paul Downes

### BROMLEY CROSS

June 4 Singers & Musicians Night  
June 18 The Young'uns  
July 2 Singers & Musicians Night  
July 9 or 23 Nick Hennessy (tbc)  
Aug 6 Singers & Musicians Night  
Sept 3 Singers & Musicians Night  
Sept 17 Artisan (last night of final tour)  
Oct 1 Singers & Musicians Night  
Oct 20 Spiers & Boden @  
Bolton Rugby Club  
Nov (tbc) Singers & Musicians Night  
Nov 19 The Hometowners &  
Tony Downes  
Dec (tbc) Singers & Musicians Night  
Dec 17 Doc Harvey & the Philistans

### CARLISLE FOLK & BLUES

June 4 Singers Night  
June 18 Jez Lowe & the Bad Pennies  
Closed until  
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)

### CLARENCE

June 23 Colum Sands  
Ring 01772-673-744 before travelling

### EVERYMAN

June 8 Trio Threlfall  
(other dates - Singers Nights)  
June 20 Christi Andropolis & David Newey  
(other dates - Singers Nights)

### FOLK AT THE PROSPECT

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

\* at Eaves Green Community Centre  
Lower Burgh Way/Cottage Fields  
Eaves Green, Chorley, PR7 3QG  
\* June 5, July 3, Aug 7,  
\* Sept 4, Oct 2, Nov 6 Jubilee Traditional Music Work  
shops  
\* June 12, July 10, Aug 14,  
\* Sept 11, Oct 9, Nov 13 Jubilee Concertina Workshops  
June 14 Tony Gibbons & Kate Bradbury  
(other dates - Singers Nights)

### FRIENDS OF FOLK

Nov 19 Chloe Hall trio

### FRODSHAM

June 11 Dan McKinnon  
July 16 Flossie Malavaille  
Aug 20 Trim Rig & a Doxy  
Sept 17 Mary Humphreys & Anahata  
Oct 15 Martin Wyndham-Read  
Nov 19 Janet Russell  
Dec 10 His Worship & the Pig  
(other dates - Singers Nights)

### GARSTANG UNPLUGGED

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

June 3 Robb Johnson  
June 17 Singers Night  
July 1 His Worship & The Pig  
July 15 Singers Night  
July 29 Singers Night  
Aug 12 Residents Night  
Aug 26 Full House  
Sept 9 Singers Night  
Sept 23 Ken Nicol  
Oct 7 Singers Night  
Oct 9 Charity Night with  
Anthony John Clarke  
Mary McCombs  
Pete Morton  
Nov 4 Singers Night  
Nov 18 Peter & Barbara Snape  
Dec 16 Singers Night  
Christmas Special  
Dec 30 Brian Preston

### HUNGRY HORSE ACOUSTIC

June 3 "Sing in the Festival" at the  
OC Club, 28 Bridle Road, Bromborough,  
CH2 4HS  
June 4 "6<sup>th</sup> Wirral Folk on  
the Coast Festival"  
June 5 "6<sup>th</sup> Wirral Folk on  
the Coast Festival"  
June 6 "6<sup>th</sup> 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 8 Singers & Musicians Night  
July 15 Singers & Musicians Night  
July 22 Richard Digance  
July 29 Singers & Musicians Night  
Aug 5 Singers & Musicians Night  
Aug 12 Singers & Musicians Night  
Aug 19 Guest artist/s to be confirmed  
Aug 26 Singers & Musicians Night

Sept 2 Singers & Musicians Night  
Sept 9 Singers & Musicians Night  
Sept 16 James Keelaghan trio  
Sept 23 Singers & Musicians Night  
Sept 30 Singers & Musicians Night  
Oct 7 Singers & Musicians Night  
Oct 14 Chris While & Julie Matthews

### LYMM

\*\* @ Lymm Rugby Club  
June 3 Big Spot - Brian Roberts  
June 10 Steve Turner  
June 17 Singers Night  
Lymm Festival  
June 24 Lizzie Nunnery  
June 26 Breakfast with Marmalade  
June 26 Ruth Fuga & Ken Powell  
June 27 Open Mic Concert  
June 27 Solo Singer/Songwriter  
Competition  
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, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and Aug 5<sup>th</sup> -  
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 \*\*  
Oct 14 Phil Hare \*\*  
New season:-  
Oct 21 Martin Simpson \*\*  
Oct 28 Singers Night  
Nov 4 Boo Hewerdine \*\*  
Nov 11 Singers Night \*\*  
Nov 18 Lorraine Jordan \*\*  
Nov 25 Singers Night  
Dec 2 Other Roads \*\*  
Dec 9 Singers Night \*\*  
Dec 16 Singers Night \*\*  
Dec 23 Christmas Singers Night  
Dec 30 Singers Night  
2011  
Jan 6 Nick & Lynn Tysoe  
Feb 10 Stewart Lever (tbc)  
Feb 24 Tom Kitching & Gren Bartley (tbc)

### MAGHULL

June 22 Shep Wooley  
July 27 Mike Silver  
Sept 7 Anthony John Clarke  
(other nights - Singers Nights)

### MIDWAY

June 14 Gordon Giltrap  
July tba  
Sept 8 Anthony John Clarke  
Oct 4 Colum Sands

Nov 15 Sarah Grey & Kieron Means  
NORTHWICH  
 June 4 Singers Night  
 June 25 My Sweet Patootie  
 July 9 Tom Doughty (tbc)  
 (other nights – Singers Nights)

PARKGATE  
 \* not normal night  
 June 24 My Sweet Patootie  
 July 29 tbc  
 Aug 26 John Tams & Barry Coope  
 Sept 30 Anthony John Clarke  
 \* Oct 21 James Keelaghan trio  
 \* Nov 4 The McCalmans  
 Nov 25 Vin Garbutt

PHILHARMONIC HALL  
 Nov 14 Charlie Landsborough

PORKIES  
 June 4 Mad Jocks & Englishman  
 July 2 My Sweet Patootie  
 Aug 6 Grant Baynham  
 Sept 3 Steve Tilston  
 Oct 1 Chris While & Julie Matthews  
 Nov 5 Elbow Jane  
 Dec 3 Bernard Wrigley

SALE  
 June 19 Steve Tilston  
 July 17 Zoe Mulford  
 August & September – summer break  
 Oct 16 Chris Sherburn &  
 Denny Bartley  
 Nov 13 Bernard Wrigley  
 Dec 11 tbc

SKIPTON UNPLUGGED  
 June 7 Charity Night  
 With Ian Hill  
 June 14 Sirs Night  
 June 21 Bill Whaley &  
 Dave Fletcher

WIGAN  
 July 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion & 47<sup>th</sup> birthday  
 celebrations

WREXHAM  
 Oct 6 Bram Taylor  
 Oct 20 Singers Night  
 Nov 4 Bandersnatch

guided by the assured hand of producer/keyboard player Donald Shaw and one that will undoubtedly become established as a firm favourite in any 'folk' music lovers collection. www.verticalrecords.co.uk

Pete Fyfe

**TIM HART AND FRIENDS –  
 My Very Favourite Nursery Rhyme Record  
 (Park Records PRKCD108)**



Christmas Eve 2009 sadly saw the passing of Tim Hart who will probably best be remembered as a founding member of Steeleye Span or as part of his sublime duo with Maddy Prior. In fact it is the unusual pairing of Maddy's vocals along with one of Hart's "friends" B J Cole on pedal steel guitar on "Sing A Song Of Sixpence" that makes this a must buy for all completists of the folk-rock genre. Casting his net outside of the Steeleye framework (Maddy, Peter Knight, Bob Johnson and Rick Kemp) other musicians involved in the project include John Kirkpatrick, Davy Spillane (seriously!) and Melanie Harrold. As Tim mentions in his sleeve-notes these albums (originally released as two separate recordings) were basically an antidote to the numerous rubbish releases of a similar ilk foisted on a gullible public that didn't know any better. Of course the seam of songs (featuring deceptively 'catchy' melodies) such as "Lavender's Blue", "Oranges And Lemons" and "London Bridge Is Falling Down" have a far darker significance if you care to dig a little into their history and unravelling these gems was always a feature of any Steeleye album at the time. John Dagnall and all at Park Records should be justifiably proud in re-releasing (on double disk) what was a labour of love for its protagonist and a fitting tribute to one of the enduring legends of the folk scene. www.parkrecords.com

Pete Fyfe

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**Lancashire FY4 4PD**

**Tel: 01253 694972**

**OBITUARIES**

**TIM HART**

09.02.1948 - 24.12.2009



Picture by Oliver Weber

The first time I saw Tim Hart perform was around 1972 at the Fairfield Halls, Croydon as a member of Steeleye Span. I can also vividly remember him wearing a striking canary yellow outfit and silver stacked boots that wouldn't have seemed out of place at a gig by the band Sweet! Coupled with his use of Ovation guitar, John Bailey electric Appalachian dulcimer and his rustic dialect, this gave Steeleye a more edgy approach when producing their trademark 'wall of sound'. Of course, previously he had established himself on the 'folk circuit' working alongside Maddy Prior in one of the UK's leading duos and the song he will probably best be remembered for was "Dancing At Whitsun". In 1981 and 1985 Tim worked on a project of nursery rhymes and children songs that only this year sees a re-release on the Park Records label. He officially left Steeleye in 1983 and moved to the Canary Islands (it must have been something to do with the colour) but returned to join Maddy at Cecil Sharp House for what was to be his last televised appearance as part of the BBC's Electric Proms in 2008. Unfortunately he was diagnosed with lung cancer a couple of months later and passed away on Christmas Eve 2009. His contribution to the British 'folk-rock' genre is immeasurable and he will be much missed.

Pete Fyfe

**THERESA TOOLEY**

13.02.1937 – 02.01.2010



Can there be anyone in the country, particularly those in the North West, who go to folk clubs and festivals, who didn't experience the sheer joy, love of life and music, and the full exuberance of Theresa?!! Not just in this country either – many messages of sympathy and condolence have been sent from far flung countries including Europe, America and Canada to various sites including Mudcat and Facebook. She was born in Garstang, and is survived by her grandson Alan, brother Charlie and sister Lottie. Sadly, in the last 5 years she lost her beloved husband Bill in 2004, who was a real character, and her son Tim died shortly after. Then she contracted a wasting illness which ultimately brought her life to an untimely end, and leaving many of us who knew her well, feeling that she can't have gone – her persona was so huge that she remains all around us. I'll still expect to see her at various Folk Festivals this summer.

My 2 best memories are:

- Sharing a house with her, Bill, the other 3 Firm Friends and other friends, in a large house in

Whitby during Folk Week. That house was full of noise and laughter – we sang constantly, often late into the following morning, and even in public places like the chip shop queue!  
 - Being in the Shellback Chorus with her and many others who have become close friends was a joy. Not all of us were excellent singers – just passionate about our love of singing – but Theresa brought so many people out. She supported them from their first go at singing in front of the Shellbacks and you could see their self-esteem grow. That's what Theresa was so good at – encouraging people to believe in themselves and have a go at enjoying themselves along the way.

And she was a great supporter of Saddleworth Folk Festival, attending the very 1<sup>st</sup> one, and leading various events over the years – her own specialised singaround, the Sunday Sing, supporting the Wars of the Roses, performing on stage with Firm Friends – and generally giving help and support where possible.

Her well attended Humanist funeral at the Crematorium in Atherton on her birthday was a joyous event, with performances from the Shellbacks, and some very moving testimonies from close friends, including Hazel Bolton, Alan Cox, and Anne Clancy. The hymns were just right for her - Only Remembered, When First We Met, and The Farewell Shanty.

Every festival this year will miss Theresa because of her big personality, and her willingness to get the singing going, no matter where she was! Everyone will have their own individual memories of her – as I do – but they will all remember Theresa with love, affection, humour, and straight talking, and most of all for her voice, which led hundreds of singarounds (possibly thousands!)

I'll miss you loads Theresa – I'll probably be looking for you at Saddleworth!

Love from Ali, Jo, Hilary, and all who knew you so well up here on the Moors. Keep singing!!! xxxx

Ali O'Brien

**ALISTAIR HULETT**

15.10.1951-28.01.2010



I first met Alistair Hulett at a party where we passed some of that dreary period between Christmas and New Year with a few glasses of red wine. Without any idea of his contributions to music, I discovered a man whose folk meets punk background chimed well with my own first encounters of the folk music world. Not surprisingly, our ages were pretty close and the likeness didn't stop there. Alistair's strong Glaswegian accent was something that sat well with me as my father's family hailed from the Glasgow area. So, with a sense that I'd met with a kindred spirit, I began to investigate his musical past.

In his teens, Alistair had moved with his family to New Zealand and, then, Australia. Indeed, it was down under that he first established himself as a musician. If that doesn't



surprise, you may smile when I tell you that it was his central role in the bands Fiery Jack, The Furious Chrome Dolls and The Hooligans that brought him support spots for Billy Bragg, The Pogues and the like. However, in this country, we will recall his work as a solo artist or the impressive albums recorded with Dave Swarbrick. They'd teamed up in Australia and rotated between tours over here and there for a few years before Swarb's own health brought a halt to this productive pairing.

Alistair's newsletter was ironically called 'The Gallows Rant' and sent up his (correct) image as someone always willing to highlight a range of just causes no matter his personal circumstances. A song of his that typifies this ability to hit a political nail right square on the head, 'He Fades Away' has been recorded by Roy Bailey, June Tabor and Andy Irvine. At the moment, I'm holding back from putting this song on my CD player as it tended to bring a tear to they eye even before Alistair passed on. I hope you'll forgive me for making this such a personal statement. It's not intended to be a cheap 'name drop' and there's plenty of others in the North West who'll miss him. Time to blow him a kiss and wave goodbye – gone, not to be forgotten.

Steve Henderson

## BIG DAVE COOPER

24.02.1948 - 02.02.2010

The early years in folk  
(badly remembered by Bernie Brewin)



"Larger than life" is the description of Dave Cooper invariably given by everyone who met him. His stage performance, while always utterly professional, was not an "act" – he was just being Dave, a natural wit and just the same off

stage. He was one of those rare individuals I cannot imagine anyone meeting and ever forgetting.

I first met Dave in (I think) '67 or '68. It was when the folk revival was peaking and Blackpool Folk Club with The Taverners in residence was always packed as was The Cartford Hotel at Little Eccleston and the club run by Ann and Eddie Green in the dank cellar of The Schooner coffee bar (long since demolished) in Preston. The coffee bar owner used to be a bit miffed that most of the audience used to nip out to the nearby pub at half time. Dave would be there and one night when I was with a diminutive female friend he was very amused when I came back from the bar with a pint and a half and gave the pint to her. Needless to say Dave "reminded" me of the incident many times afterwards.

Dave approached me at the Cartford one night having seen me play there with Pete Skinner and others and suggested we get together. As Dave told the story right up to this year, we ran through a few songs (the first being I think Keep your Feet Still Geordy Hinnie or possibly Byker Hill) in his dad's kitchen and on our next meeting told me he'd got us a booking! This was typical of Dave. At which point I apparently said "but we're not ready!" and, according to Dave, I maintained that we were still not ready all the way through the many years since.

My memory for chronological detail is rather vague but out of this beginning we became a four piece group called Local Gentry. One of the main venues at the time was The Penny Farthing Club in Kirkham again run by the Greens. Also Fleetwood Folk Club which was founded in 1969 by Bonded Boots was thriving. Somehow after Bonded Boots left for the bright lights and Ian Gartside who had taken over from them had also left, Dave and I and several others including the late John "Dutch" Holland became the resident house band at Fleetwood. From this emerged the well-known band Woodbine Lizzie – at first Dave, Dutch and me. Later permutations included the late Billy "Bones" Crowshaw (twice) and Al Simpson. This group was the ultimate showcase for Dave's comedic talent and twice won comedy awards.

In the last couple of years, as a result of my rediscovery of our original song list, Dave and I and the other former residents of Fleetwood Folk Club did several reunion performances there, which I know Dave really enjoyed. I shall always treasure the recordings I made of them, and I shall always miss a great friend and fellow performer who always left you laughing and wanting more.

Bernie Brewin

A big man stood at the end of my jetty at Skippool Creek, his right shoulder raised slightly, as he thrust a huge hand at me to grasp mine in the firmest of handshakes; "Dave Cooper" he said, "I believe you sing and play banjo a bit,," and so began almost two decades of music playing with one of the most skilful and professional performers I have ever had the privilege to play with.

Dave had been asked by Alan Bell to do some work at the Fylde Folk Festival and not wishing to perform alone he gathered together some old friends, and a new one, to form a band. They were John Taylor, guitar, who had a boat near mine; John Swannie, who had a voice and also a boat at the creek; Alan Simpson, multi-instrumentalist who had worked with Dave in Woodbine Lizzie and myself, Pat Kearney, an incoming Mancunian and token Irishman.

We played the festival and enjoyed it so much that we decided to carry on. To that end we arranged a practice night in a little side room of the Town Hall Tavern in Poulton-le-Fylde. The landlord enjoyed the occasion so much that he insisted we hold the next week's practice in the bar, in public; and so began a residency that was to give the band a footing in the Irish Culture explosion that at times found us gigging up to five times a week.

Dave had the sweetest voice, crystal clear diction and the ability to pitch a song perfectly in his key, D major. In fact it became a bit of a joke in the band 'Oh it'll be in D,' when ever we were casting around for the right key to sing a new song in.

He was a big physical presence on stage but it was his personality that dominated our performances. He engaged and made full eye contact with the audience, weighing their mood and choosing exactly the right song to sing. Never working from a list or programme he would pluck a song from our repertoire and expect us to be note perfect. He always was. Many times during a gig I would think 'Why on earth has he chosen this' and by the end, with the audience eating out of his hand, I had my question answered.

His choice of material was, mostly, very personal. He loved a song that had history, a song with a story behind it; Grace and My Father's Cap are prime examples. There were songs, though, that were pure crowd pleasers. A few years

ago at the Fylde Festival it was written in the Penny Dreadful, the festival newspaper, that Captain Cooper and his Motley Crew were still singing the likes of The Wild Rover [shock horror], but what the writer of that article had failed to appreciate was that two hundred and odd people, the entire audience, were singing with great gusto, along with the band.

He dared to entertain, to give pleasure and enjoyment, to be irreverent and never forgetful that the customer, the audience, was paramount. His care and concern to give satisfaction and enjoyment drove our every performance and woe betide us if he thought we were below par in any way.

The personnel of the band changed over the years but such was the unique experience of being one of the 'crew' that when ever we were short of a crew member there were always people who were more than willing to step into the breach.

Dear David, you will be sadly missed by countless people in all walks of life; with your boating, motor biking, skiing, singing and story telling and with your love of history and of what was right and proper.

He was a rare breed in many ways, not least, that he was an honest second hand car salesman! But it was his performance on stage, the utter professionalism he brought to the smallest of jobs, paid or unpaid, that I will remember most. The thrill and honour of standing next to him on stage, the consummate entertainer, and thinking at the end of the night, this was a job well done!

Pat Kearney

**Your Folk Magazine  
Needs You.**

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

## CD REVIEWS



**ASHLEY HUTCHINGS & KEN NICOL –  
Copper, Russet And Gold  
(Park Records PRKCD109)**



Ashley Hutchings proves a fine songwriter on the strength of this recording and opening with "I Am Prologue" there's a sense of pomp in the lyrics that suits the image hinted at on the superbly subtle cover of the CD booklet. Not one to rest on his laurels Ken Nicol, a great all-

rounder makes use of his musical skills in the role of multi-instrumentalist (guitars, mandolin, percussion and keyboards) underpinned by Hutchings bass guitar. The 'music scene' in general also owes Mr Hutchings a debt of gratitude for the theatrical overtones that run throughout this recording extending to the track "Five-barred Gate" where he utilises the spoken word sparring with Nicol's not inconsiderable vocal talents. With contributions from Becky Mills on "Wink Of An Eye" and "Raggle Taggle Lad" and Abbie Lathe on "Never The Same Again" this is the kind of CD that you will gain something from on each repeated play. Of course, for those of us that have followed Ashley's career from the early days of "The Complete Dancing Master" and "Rattlebone & Ploughjack" narrative plays a huge part in the creation of many of his projects and the collaborative efforts of both artists should be commended and one that we should happily bestow the time honoured quote "Quintessentially English". [www.parkrecords.com](http://www.parkrecords.com)

Pete Fyfe

**BEGGARS' HILL  
Catalogue Number: TECD156**



Well, here's a blast from the past...at least my past. Beggars' Hill were a 'collective' from the Surrey area who, for a labour of love with that music we so endearingly call 'folk' recorded a selection of songs for their posterity and ours. The 'band' were around at the same time I was doing the rounds

of the folk clubs and I would more often than not meet up with the band's multi-talented strings player John "JM" Davis who also contributed a majority of the vocals including two leads ("Jack Hall" and "Poor Ditching Boy") to the album and, just by chance, also worked with me in the band Erwillian. The nucleus of eleven members combined to make an ultimately pleasing sound on the 'folk' standards of the day including "Who Knows Where The Time Goes", "Wild Rover" and even a version of Steeleye's "Cannily, Cannily" and, although I suppose the album comes across as quite dated now (having been recorded in 1976) is still a must buy for Albion Band connected collectors everywhere. A unique selling point is that one of the guest musicians is a certain John Rodd who adds the dulcet tones of his concertina to "New St George" and "Here's To The Last To Die". For those that can remember that far back, John will best be remembered as a member of the Albion Dance Band and Antic Hey. I must admit that I didn't think this album would be committed to CD but those exceedingly nice chaps

at Talking Elephant (Barry and Malcolm) should be applauded for their efforts in compiling every known track affiliated to all things Albion. Ps/ I've just been on the Beggars Hill website ([www.beggars-hill.co.uk](http://www.beggars-hill.co.uk)) and discovered that the album I sold to Beano's Record Shop in Croydon was on sale for £250 quid!!! The CD is available from [www.talkingelephant.co.uk](http://www.talkingelephant.co.uk) at a far cheaper price!

Pete Fyfe

**DAVE RAWLINGS MACHINE – 'A Friend of a Friend' (Acony Records ACNY-0908)**



Fans of Gillian Welch may well have been sat around wondering exactly what is going on. By my reckoning, her last record came out in 2003. Don't worry; some relief is at hand with this record from her long time companion, Dave Rawlings. Though Rawlings is the main composer, you'll not be surprised to hear that Welch supports in writing and performance on a number of tracks. Others pop in to help such as Benmont Tench from Tom Petty's Heartbreakers and some members of Bright Eyes. Despite the new faces that have turned out, the overall feel is similar to that of a Gillian Welch record with good story telling songs borne of a love of traditional music.

The opening 'Ruby' is sparse acoustic material with a gentle strings section giving way to fiddle and organ that makes for a more lavish sound than you'd normally hear in his work with Welch. It sets the tone for some well arranged songs that keep a high standard. Next up is 'To Be Young (Is To Be Sad, Is To Be High)' written with Ryan Adams before he moves onto the ten minute medley of 'Method Acting' (a song written with Conor Oberst of Bright Eyes) and Neil Young's 'Cortez The Killer'. This latter medley acts as the centrepiece of the CD which heads for the hills with the fun 'Sweet Tooth' and the brassy 'Monkey And The Engineer'. Finally closing out with the mellow beauty of 'Bells Of Harlem'. It's top stuff across the board and a good stopgap while fans of Gillian Welch await her next record.

Steve Henderson

**JACK JOHNSON – 'En Concert' (Brushfire Records 602527061993)**



Folk music has always enjoyed a travelling troubadour and more mainstream popular music has seen a range of young solo singer songwriters emerge in recent years. Leading the field for many is ex-professional surfer, Jack Johnson, whose soulful approach to a song started with writing

songs on an acoustic guitar for a fun post-surf beach party. Sound idyllic? Well, it's that relaxed summery feel that pervades his music and offers the listener the opportunity to grab a laid back moment or two. Yet, let's be clear here, his more political views are confined to his work with environmental organisations and his songs mainly concentrate on that perennial topic of love and life. If you like the sound of that, no better place to start than 'En Concert' which gathers together his best songs as played on his global 'Sleep Through The Static' tour of 2008. There are songs from shows in Newquay and London's Hyde Park but it's the opening 'Belle'/'Banana Pancakes' medley from

Paris that sets the languid tone as he schmoozes the audience with his French spoken introduction. You can sense that he has the audience in the palm of his hand from the word 'go' and, so, it remains. 'Times Like These', 'All At Once', 'Angel' and his best known songs are all here with guest appearances from the likes of bluesman Ben Harper and Eddie Vedder of Pearl Jam and a cover of Paul Simon's 'Mother And Child Reunion'. 'En Concert' is available in multiple versions whether you want the CD alone or the deluxe version with a DVD (as per the number above) which captures the range of appearances from stormy Newquay to a surfing interlude in Germany. If you're looking for some music to relax by, I couldn't recommend a better option.

Steve Henderson

**JERRY DOUGLAS – Jerry Christmas (E1 Records)**

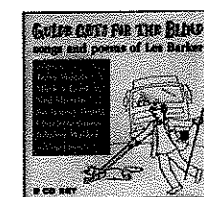


Bringing his own inimitable style of good cheer to the season of Christmas, Dobro and slide guitar maestro Jerry Douglas certainly adds more than a smile to the face of this jaded journalist. Utilising many standards including "The First Noel", "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" and "Do You

Hear What I Hear?" the traditional melodies are seamlessly joined by more contemporary offerings such as Boo Hewerdine's "New Year's Eve" sung by Maura O'Connell and Jerry's own instrumental "Maui Christmas". Aided and abetted by many fabulous musicians including Luke Bulla (Violin), Todd Parks (Bass), Kirby Shelstadt (percussion) and Guthrie Trapp on guitars and mandolin this recording shows a truly empathic co-joining of everyone involved. Topped by a truly outrageous interpretation of "Santa Claus Is Coming To Town" which has more in common with the Grinch than say an arrangement by Phil Spector and this is an album to certainly shake the traditionalist in us all. On a final note, I suppose we won't get much in the way of snow here in the UK this winter but while there are classics such as the beautifully chilled out "In The Bleak Midwinter" we can all wish...can't we? [www.jerrydouglas.com](http://www.jerrydouglas.com)

Pete Fyfe

**SONGS AND POEMS OF LES BARKER - 'Cat Nav File - Guide Cats for the Blind Vol. 4' (Osmosys Records OSMO CD 050 051)**



Les Barker, the folk music poet laureate, seems to have a winning formula here. Not only is this his fourth release in the 'Guide Cats for the Blind' series but also it's a double CD. There seems to be an endless supply of Mr Barker fans willing to recite his amusing verse and show their, ahem, comic side. 'Cat Nav' has 44 tracks with headlining appearances by 'performers' ranging from the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, to Alan Titchmarsh. The former takes on board 'The Last Elephants of Denigh' whilst the latter ruminates on 'Mid Life Crocus'. Local lad, Bernard Wrigley, feels duty bound to point out 'I Can't Believe It's Not Beef Dripping' and North East lad, Jez Lowe, points out 'You Won't Like Tom Jones' to his own tune of 'Old Bones'. Chumbawumba have always delighted

in making a good political statement and what better than 'I Drive A Four by Four Fortress'. The master poet himself is featured as the Mrs Ackroyd band get down with the kids on 'Hip Hop Hamlet' and in solo style for 'Sex Is Better Than Poetry'. Don't ask.

I think you'll have got the picture by this point and, from hereon, it's a case of checking out whatever tickles your personal humour buds. As usual, it's all in a good cause as proceeds go to The British Computer Association For The Blind. Finally, I do have to point out that 'The Little Lonely Lemming' by Shirley Henderson is absolutely nothing to do with my lovely wife of the same name. This Shirley is the actress who plays Moaning Myrtle in the Harry Potter films and, yes, this record is wizardry at it's finest.

Steve Henderson

**MONSTERS OF FOLK – 'Monsters Of Folk' (Rough Trade RTRADCD545)**



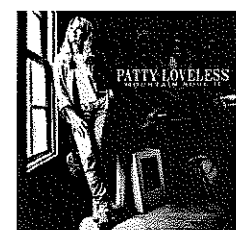
Well, I thought that would get your attention. It's not often you get the words 'monsters' and 'folk' in the same phrase. If you're expecting that this is some esoteric compilation of traditional songs that talks of scary beasts, you're going to have to think again. The name was the affectionate

title spawned from the musicians who toured as 'An evening with Bright Eyes, Jim James and M. Ward'. Still confused? OK, well, these guys are young American songwriters who had toured together under this moniker before heading off to make their fortunes as Bright Eyes (Conor Oberst and Mike Mogis) working with Emmylou Harris at one point, Jim James within his band My Morning Jacket and M. Ward selling lots of records under his own guise. They'd always promised to get together in the studio and, finally, they made it.

The CD kicks off with 'Dear God', a smooth and soul flavoured piece that works well with all the participants taking a vocal turn but doesn't reflect the rest of the album. That is packed with lots of excellent pop hooks scattered across the 15 tracks each sung by its main composer. There are acoustic, mainly solo, gems lying around like 'Slow Down Jo' and 'Map Of The World' as well as acoustic driven band performances such as 'Ahead Of The Curve'. You can really sense that they got together out of sense of fun and friendship and the end result is a CD without a poor song on it. This is a fine testament to the onward creep of folk inspired music into the mainstream of music.

Steve Henderson

**PATTY LOVELESS – 'Mountain Soul II' (Saguaro Road Records 24976-0)**



An invitation to appear on the 'Down From The Mountain' tour on the back of the excitement created by the 'O Brother, Where Art Thou' film's use of traditional Appalachian music set a ball rolling for Patty Loveless that just doesn't want to stop. She has now reprised her 'Mountain Soul' CD with

a follow up equally packed with classic material. Sometimes, that has a gospel feel on tracks like 'Working On A

Building' and, at other times, there's classic folk like 'Bramble and The Rose'. She's co-written some great songs with husband and producer Emory Gordy Jr. that complement the traditional material here. There are also some carefully chosen contemporary songs such as 'Fools Thin Air' by Susanna Clark and Rodney Crowell. You get the feeling that this is something of a labour of love for her. As Loveless hails from a good Kentucky mining family with Appalachian roots and is viewed by many as the one of the top country vocalists of her generation, you'll not be surprised to know that fellow musicians were queuing around the block to play for her. A cast of top musicians turned up to the recording including Vince Gill, Emmylou Harris, Del and Robbie McCoury, Al Perkins and on and on. Certainly, lovers of bluegrass and the music of America's East Coast mountain country have been delivered a quality set of material here.

Steve Henderson

**Paul Anderson, \* Home and Beauty \*, (Greentrax recordings, 2009)**



They take their traditional music seriously in Scotland. For this very reason Scotland produces some very fine musicians that seem to have an in-bred flair for their music. Paul Anderson is not just an ordinary run of the mill fiddle player, he excels, to say the very least, and on this album he

demonstrates his dexterity on the fiddle with not just Scottish traditional tunes, but other quite unexpected material.

When the album opened with 'The Duke of Fife' I thought Oh another White Heather album, but taking the time to play it through a couple of times, I realised here was so much more.

Paul is from Tarland in the far north of Scotland on the edge of Cairngorms National Park. It is indeed an area of outstanding natural beauty so for him "Home and Beauty", and so it is only natural, that Paul has taken influence from living in this part of the world in his own compositions.

Back in 1800's Tarland was once notorious for being the home of 'Tarland Tykes' bare knuckle fighting men who would often take on men from other parishes in the town square. Not uncommon for up to 100 of these ruffians to fight it out in the square. Now a-days this sort of thing only happens at football matches with the supporters! – so! no change there!

Of all musical instruments, the violin must be one of the most versatile and expressive instruments there is. Paul demonstrates this on the album that has no less than 22 tracks. Ranging from Jigs, reels, waltz to Hungarian Dance, to heavy metal folk rock. About half are traditional or from contemporary writers and the other half written by Paul. Various musicians tastefully accompany all. Perhaps the most surprising, is at track 7 'Ghost Dancers' which has Paul playing with the Aberdeen heavy metal rock band Pallas – simply brilliant. I liked the way the track faded out with a native American chant, then the next track 'A waltz for Alice / An Anderson's Waltz' two lovely tunes, simple but very affective.

Only two vocal tracks on the album, and on each the vocal is provided by Jim Reid. At track 15 'By the Mountain Streams' and at track 18 'The Black Velvet Band' these add the essential light and shade that only goes to compliment the album.



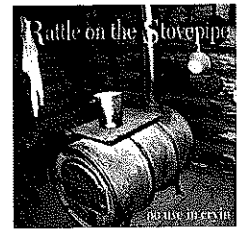
So if you fan of traditional Scottish fiddle music – with a twist, this is an album for you. You learn more about Paul here: [www.tarlandfiddler.info](http://www.tarlandfiddler.info)

And buy the album online here: <http://www.musicscotland.com/cd/paul-anderson-home-and-beauty-cd.html>

You might just do that or I'll set the Tarland Tykes' on ye' Jimmy!

Peter Massey.

### Rattle on the Stovepipe - 'No Use in Cryin' Wild Goose WGS371CD



What a refreshing change from the many Wild Goose CDs I've reviewed based on the English tradition. This is real 'old time folksie' American traditional music and song superbly played by three well respected and experienced performers who make up 'Rattle on the Stovepipe'; they are Dave

Arthur (voice, banjo, guitar and melodeon), Pete Cooper (voice, fiddle and viola) and Dan Stewart (guitar, banjo).

If you'll pardon the pun, they really do rattle along with both tunes and songs in an easy and confident lilting style that captures the essence of this type of folk music.

It's difficult to pick out particular tracks on an album such as this because the standard is so high on all of them but of the tunes 'Ways of the World' caught my ear because of the 'fiddlesticks' method of playing (the player hits the open strings with a stick) and I particularly liked their performances of the well known 'Princess Royal' and the equally familiar 'Sally in the Garden'.

Of the songs 'Damned Old Piney Mountains' stood out for me as did their version of 'Short Jacket and White Trousers' to which Dave has written a very apt new tune. The poignant and sad 'Red Apple Juice' one of the slower songs nicely sung in a laid back style by Dave contrasts very well with the more up tempo material.

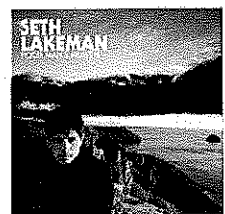
When I first read the track list I was totally intrigued as to what they would do with 'Roll Alabama Roll' especially as it was obviously with full instrumental accompaniment and I tend to be a bit of a purist when it comes to singing shanties!

I needn't have worried, of course, because their lilting arrangement fits the song perfectly and, after all, this is one shanty that does actually tell a story which is often lost in the usual full blooded testosterone filled brast of the original work song.

As with the vast majority of Wild Goose albums there are useful sleeve notes on all of the songs and tunes together with some delightful old photographs (no I don't mean the one's of 'old' Dave and Petel) from American sources.

If you like Appalachian style music then this is a definite buy for you and even if not I can without reservation encourage you to add to your CD collection - you won't be disappointed.

Derek Gifford



SETH LAKEMAN - Poor Mans Heaven  
Relentless Records, 2008

Seth Lakeman puts his heart and sole into his songs, and his musical interpretations. To be fair he has found a style of singing that has clicked with

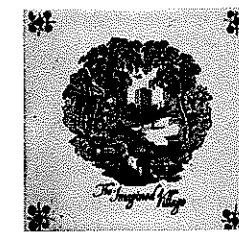
a good percentage of festivalgoers, and as such has gained a following amongst the youngster who might otherwise not have considered listening to folk music as its being uncool! - I think Seth has redefined 'Folk Rock' as 'Folk Pop' Folk music comes in many disguises these days, it's hard to define, but I know it when I hear it.

I had to play the album a few times to get into it. I only received a promo copy of the album. Simply a cardboard sleeve and the CD. I am still not sure if, or what, the theme is for the album due to the absences of sleeve notes. However, I have to say I liked the album. It is nice and bright and breezy, for the want of a better word, and it certainly grows on you. According to the microscopic print on the album cover, all the songs are written by Seth Lakeman and recorded in his home studio in the West Country. If you have heard Seth or are a fan you will know what to expect on this album, as it does sound a little like previous outings. Because of the style Seth takes on when he sings some of the lyrics I found hard to follow at times, - so lyrics in the sleeve notes are essential. There are a lot of good songs on the album, most with some sort coastal theme about sailors. One I recognised as it stood out. It is about the lost lifeboat 'Solomon Brown,' probably my favourite song on the album.

You can listen to Seth Lakeman and learn a bit more about his music by visiting his website [www.sethlakeman.com](http://www.sethlakeman.com)

Peter Massey

### THE IMAGINED VILLAGE - 'Empire And Love' (Emmerson, Corncrake and Constantine ECC 002)



Built in 2007, this is the second release by this amalgamation of the traditional and contemporary in The Imagined Village. Last time out, some acts featured only on the recording (such as Tuung) whilst others were also seen live in performance but are not in evidence here (such as Billy Bragg).

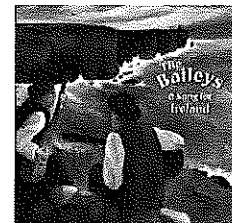
That mild confusion aside, the approach of this record is much the same with Afro-Celt Simon Emmerson, producer extraordinaire, being at the helm to direct seafarers Carthy, Wood, and company. This time out, the record has been recorded in Simon's hastily rearranged garage using stage-friendly instrumentation and despatching the programmed beats and backing tracks that may well have upset more traditional folkies. More importantly, it helps the 'Parish Council' (as they call themselves) melt together as a slicker performing act - something that has been recognised as happening since their first experimentation. So, now, less experimental project and more working act.

'Empire And Love', as before, takes classic 'folk' songs and arranges them to suit a more multi-cultural approach that surprises at every corner. Listening to 'Scarborough Fair' with sitars seems blindingly obvious to me, now, having heard this first time out in the Simon and Garfunkel version at much the same time I heard George Harrison play sitar with The Beatles - obvious, isn't it? Well, if it isn't, relax as you get a reprise of this song with a string backing. Taking vocal on both versions is Chris Wood, the Essex boy whose current form is a right royal purple patch. Everything he's touching at the moment is magic and these tracks no less so. Lyrically, I was quite bemused by 'Space Girl' with Eliza Carthy as she sings of Martians, blasters, asteroids and the like only to be totally shocked to find this was a little known

Ewan McColl song. You might also be shocked to hear Martin Carthy sing Slade's 'Cum On Feel The Noize' highlighting the breadth of what Imagined Village might consider 'traditional'. Normality, if you want to call it that, is resumed with Martin's vocal on 'Byker Hill' and 'My Son John' where there's some electronica at work from, new member, Simon Richmond giving a contemporary feel to well known folk songs. It goes without saying that this record is not for the conservative listener but, for sure, it keeps the folk flame burning bright and colourful.

Steve Henderson

### THE BAILEYS, \* A Song For Ireland \*, (Toucan Cove, 2009)



The baileys have been around for a number of years, but not widely known on my side of the Irish Sea, mainly in Ireland. However, this could all change soon. I understand this is their first album as a duo. Having gigged extensively in Ireland the

experience they have gained on the road, and their ability to 'read an audience', shows not only in their choice of material but also in the way it is played. This is a superb album of favourite Irish songs that won't offend anyone. It simply entertains from start to finish. Sometimes, these days, artist trying to be too clever often spoils good songs. In a sense it is almost like a step back in time listening to the arrangements and delivery of the songs. True Irish pub folk as it used to be played when I was a lad.

The Baileys are Michael Banahan: Vocals, Acoustic Guitar, Bodhrán, Anthony McDermott: Acoustic Guitar, Backing Vocals. So why are they called The Baileys? - damned if I know! Perhaps they wanted to call themselves The Dubliners, - but that name has been taken! Guest musicians join them on the album. Paul Gurney: piano, bass, accordion, acoustic guitar, and percussion. Noel Carberry: Uilleann pipes, and whistles. Aoife Kelly: fiddle. Johnnie Duffy: banjo, and Danny Sherrin: backing vocals.

The songs 20 tracks in all, are mostly traditional Irish ballads such as 'I'll Tell Me Ma', 'Rocky Road to Dublin', 'Black Velvet Band', 'Arthur McBride', 'The Wild Rover', 'Colcannon', - to name but a few and contemporary material such as 'Fields of Athenry', 'A Song For Ireland', 'Fiddlers Green', - plus many more.

If you are looking for new arrangements and treatments for these songs, you will be disappointed, because this is not what the album is about. Instead, the songs are sung as they are supposed to be with sensitivity and taste. Very much as you might expect to hear at any folk club or session. In short they are enjoyable and entertaining letting the lyrics and melodies speak for themselves.

To sum up: this is the debut album from the Baileys, and it won't be their last. Here is a band that is commercially viable. It won't be long before they start to appear on folk club and festival guest lists.

They have a website here: <http://www.thebaileys.ie/index.htm> - with more.

information, plus you can hear, and buy the album online. Good entertaining Irish folk at it's best.

Peter Massey

### THE UNTHANKS - 'Here's The Tender Coming' (Rabble Rouser/EMI 687 1222)



Originally Rachel Unthank and The Winter Set, the renamed Unthanks return with the excellent 'Here's The Tender Coming'. So, first, let's get the name change out of the way. Sisters Rachel and Becky have always shared vocals in the group but Becky was studying and unsure about her full

time commitment to the music. With the blossoming of this talented bunch and her long term commitment, the shortened more memorable name was an obvious better representation of what you hear. Indeed, it is the blossoming of their music that's most noticeable with this record.

Once, opening a night with Coope Boyes and Simpson at a Mr Kite Benefit, the views of their early audience was split by their distinctive vocals (from the North East; 'Hexhamshire' as they call it). Of course, those vocals remain the same but, just as with Bob Dylan, the quality of the music now outweighs any concern over an idiosyncratic vocal. The new album carries on from its predecessor adding strings and brass to a folk music base that consists of traditional songs and self penned material with a folk flavour. This means that, on the one hand, you'll hear 'Because He Was A Bonny Lad' and, on the other, 'Lucky Gilchrist' with its Sufjan Stevens/Steve Reich feel. Also, there are songs from Ewan McColl ('Nobody Knew She Was There') and Anne Briggs ('Living By The Water') that show they not only have an excellent feel for a modern arrangement but also are well versed in folk material. Without doubt, The Unthanks are keeping traditions alive shaping the boundaries of folk music into something new and beautiful. Watch out for their 2010 festival appearances with a ten piece line up built to deliver the richness of 'Here's The Tender Coming'.

Steve Henderson

**WEST OF EDEN – Travelogue**  
(Zebra Art Records ZAR 851)



The nomadic life of the wandering minstrel comes vividly to life on this the fifth release by the excellent Swedish band West Of Eden. This is an album that in many respects is a retrospective of their touring life and allows the band Jenny Schaub (lead

vocals/accordion/tin whistle), Martin Schaub (guitar/mandolin/keyboards), Kenneth Holmstrom (bass), Ola Karlevo (drums/bodhran), David Ekh (electric guitar) and Lars Broman (fiddle) to explore their rights of passage on the 'folk' circuit. Having toured extensively throughout Europe taking in Ireland and Scotland and soaking up both countries Celtic culture the band utilise a strong 'roots' connection that is apparent from their use of predominantly acoustic instrumentation. Talking of which, the deceptively cool mandolin accompaniment on "Buttercup Meadow" brings to mind a performance by the sadly missed Louis McManus (of the Bushwackers Band). Meticulous, studied treatments (although not clinical in anyway) in how to play to a song's strength is the band's forte whether from flowing acoustic settings to pop-rock that wouldn't seem out of place on a recording by The Corrs. This is seriously 'easy listening music' and if there's any justice should be championed by the likes of Mike Harding or Terry Wogan.  
www.westofeden.com

Pete Fyfe

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**LIFE'S LEISURE**

Words and music by Gary & Vera Aspey (Copyright PRS Alliance) 2009  
**WATERY SUNLIGHT FILTERS THROUGH THE EARLY MORNING HAZE**

A BIRD DISTURBS THE SILENCE WITH A SONG THAT WAKES THE DAY  
THE WORLD IS SET IN MOTION AS THE RIPPLE MAKES A WAVE

Refrain

AND LIFE IS NOW A PLEASURE  
TAKEN SLOWLY AT ONE'S LEISURE  
IN THE HOURS WE'VE COME TO MEASURE  
ON THE OPEN WATERWAY

STROLL ALONG THE TOWPATH OR JUST PICNIC AT IT'S SIDE  
RIDE UPON IT'S WATERS WHERE BEAUTY DOESN'T HIDE  
JUGGERNAUGHTS MAY THUNDER ON THE ROADWAYS OVERHEAD

Refrain

YET LIFE IS STILL A PLEASURE  
TAKEN SLOWLY AT ONE'S LEISURE  
IN THE HOURS WE'VE COME TO MEASURE  
ON THE OPEN WATERWAY

FRIENDS ARE MADE QUITE EASILY WE'VE ALL ONE AIM IN MIND  
TO CAPTURE THE ENJOYMENT THAT IS THERE FOR ALL TO FIND  
RAINY DAYS MUST HAVE THEIR TURN, THE FISHERMAN'S OKAY

Refrain

AND LIFE IS NOW A PLEASURE  
TAKEN SLOWLY AT ONE'S LEISURE  
IN THE HOURS WE'VE COME TO MEASURE  
ON THE OPEN WATERWAY

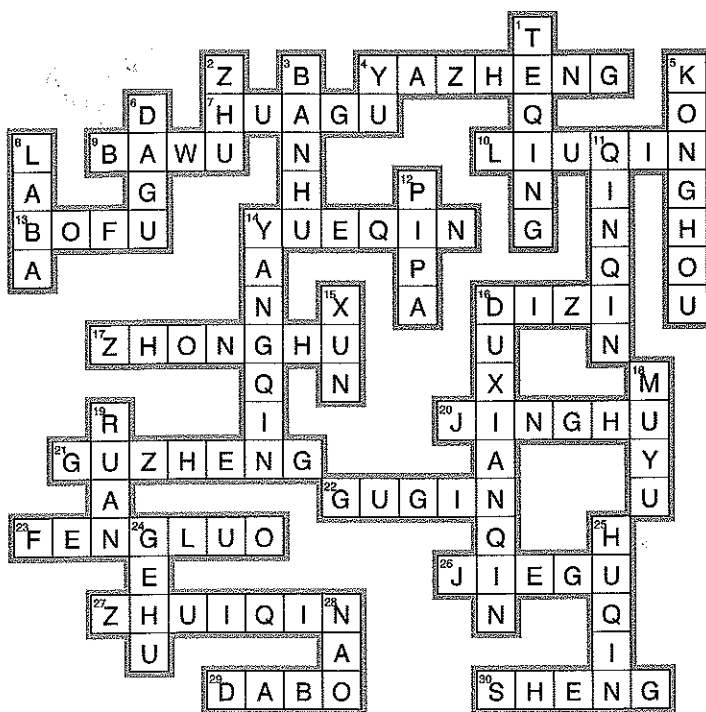
WHAT WAS ONCE FOR WORKING LIFE IS NOW A PLEASURING TRADE  
INDUSTRY LEFT MANY SCARS BUT WHEN CANALS WERE MADE  
WHO THOUGHT THEY WOULD PROVIDE THE LAY FOR WHAT WE HAVE TODAY

Refrain

AS LIFE IS NOW A PLEASURE  
TAKEN SLOWLY AT ONE'S LEISURE  
IN THE HOURS WE'VE COME TO MEASURE  
ON THE OPEN WATERWAY

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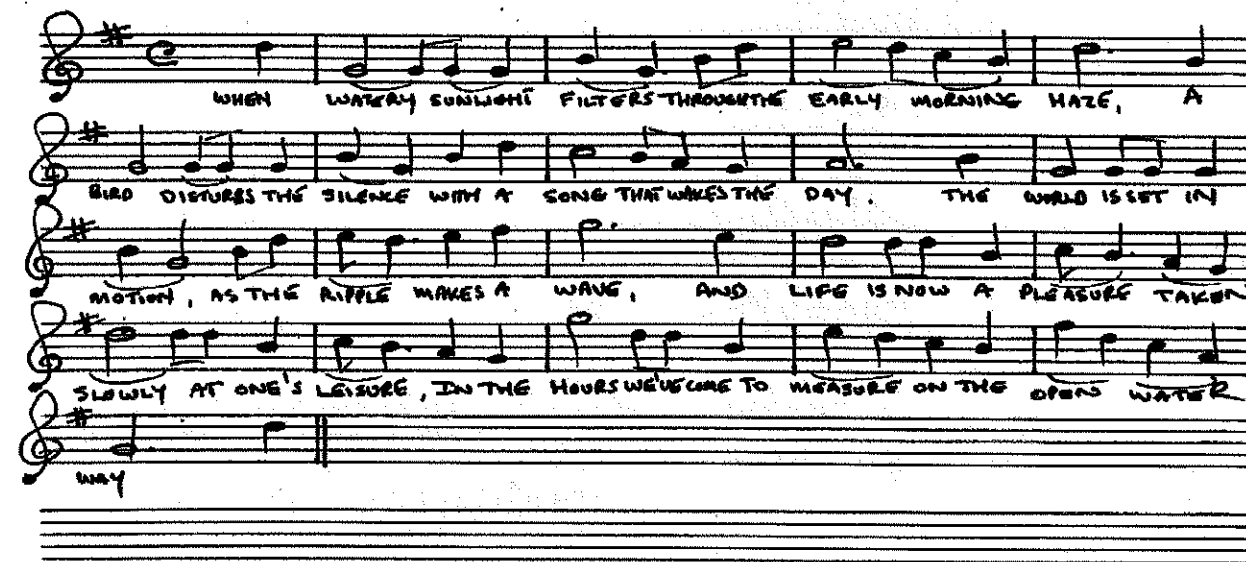
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APRIL	
1st & 8th	Singers & Musicians Nights
15th	<b>MARTIN CARTHY</b>
22nd & 29th	Singers & Musicians Nights
MAY	
6th	Singers & Musicians Night
13th	<b>KERFUFFLE</b>
20th & 27th	Singers & Musicians Nights
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3rd	"6th Wirral Folk on the Coast Festival" "Sing in the Festival Night" Hungry Horse Folk club transfers to the OC Club, 28 Bridle Road, Bromborough Wirral, Merseyside, CH62 6AR Open Mic & invited guest performers
4th	Festival headliners are:- The New Rope String Band, Martyn Joseph Chris While & Joe Broughton, Clive Gregson The Houghton Weavers, Bernard Wrigley, Dave Burland see full list at <a href="http://www.wirralfolkonthecoast.com">www.wirralfolkonthecoast.com</a> and advertisement in this magazine. Box Office - 0151-652-0734
6th	
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8th & 15th	Singers & Musicians Nights
22nd	<b>RICHARD DIGANCE</b> (TV star)
29th	Singers & Musicians Night
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5th, 12th & 26th	Singers & Musicians Nights
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For tickets, please phone 01204 852217  
or go to the website

## ARTICLES

### Ratcliffe Highway



As I was a-walking down London,  
From Wapping to Ratcliffe Highway,  
I chanced to drop into a gin house,  
To spend a long night and a day.

A young doxy came rolling up to me,  
And asked if I'd money to sport.  
For a bottle of wine changed a guinea,  
And she quickly replied 'that's the sort'.

When the bottle was put on the table,  
There was glasses for everyone,  
When I asked for the change of me guinea,  
She tipped me a verse of her song.

This lady flew into a passion,  
And placed both her hands on her hips,  
Saying 'sailor don't you know our fashion?  
Do you think you're aboard of your ship'.

'If this is your fashion to rob me,  
Such a fashion I'll never abide,  
So launch out the change of my guinea,  
Or else I'll give you a broadside.'

A gold watch hung over the mantle,  
So the change of my guinea I take,  
[And down the stairs I run nimbly,  
Saying 'damn me old boots, I'm well paid.'

The night being dark in my favour,  
To the river I quickly did creep,  
And I jumped on a boat bound for Deptford,  
And got safe aboard of my ship.

So come all you bold young sailors,  
That ramble down Ratcliffe Highway,  
If you chance to pop into a gin house,  
Beware lads how long you do stay.

For the songs and the liquors invite you,  
And your heart will be all in a rage,  
If you give them a guinea for a bottle,  
You can go to the devil for the change.

Back in the sixties a friend of mine was a trainee brewer at the Watney Mann Brewery in the East End of London not far from where the action of this song takes place. I used to visit him and enjoy a pint in his local pub which happened to be the Blind Beggar, a pub notorious around that time for the gangland slaying of George Cornell by the Kray twins. Cornell was a member of a rival gang. It was a pretty hard-bitten area. (Actually, to balance the books, it was also the site of the first outdoor sermon by William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, but that's another story.) In the sixties it was a dangerous area, but not, by a long chalk, as wild and dangerous a place as it had been a hundred or more years earlier. Ratcliffe Highway, Stepney, would have given Dodge City a run for its money, even in its wildest Wild West hey-day.

If you look in the London A-Z today you will not find Ratcliffe Highway. It is now called simply the Highway. Perhaps the authorities wanted to sever connections with the area's racy past. Ratcliffe Highway was originally a Roman road running eastwards out of London close to the red sandstone cliffs overlooking marsh land on the northern bank of the Thames. The red sandstone cliffs gave rise to the name Red Cliff Highway which, in time, became Ratcliffe Highway. Eventually the marshes were drained to create London Docks, beginning around 1805. That stretch of the Thames is known as The Pool and the area between the river and Ratcliffe Highway is Wapping, also mentioned in our song above. The Wapping Wall, which bounds the river, was the site of Execution Dock where pirates and other miscreants were executed right up until 1830.

As the nineteenth century progressed Britain's trade with the world expanded at breakneck speed, driven by the growing demand for all manner of foreign products such as tea, cocoa and wine. At the same time increasing quantities of British goods were travelling in the opposite direction. Ships from all over the world soon crowded into the London Docks and a forest of masts obscured the view of the river. From those ships an ever increasing tide of sailors of many nationalities rolled ashore with money burning a hole in their pockets and appetites they couldn't wait to satisfy burning a hole in their souls. Ratcliffe Highway and the streets around it rose to the challenge and sank to the depths in their tireless efforts to relieve the sailors of their hard earned cash and to provide whatever services they required.

The area abounded in pubs, gin shops, brothels, dance halls, opium dens, gambling dens, you name it. Understandably the police went about in twos or preferably not at all. They had their work cut out trying to maintain any kind of order, especially since they could not understand the myriad languages spoken all around them. There were Spaniards, Dutch, Norwegians, Germans, Chinese and West Indians as well as British, Irish and Americans. Apart from the sailors there were off duty soldiers too, from the nearby barracks at the Tower of London. Mixed in with all this were the prostitutes, thieves and pick-pockets, all out for themselves. And strangest of all, you might see well-to-do Londoners, there out of curiosity to see how the other half lived. You might even see artists (like Turner) and writers (like Dickens) researching their latest work.

Most of the time the sailors were drunk. Some of the pubs they frequented still exist, or at least they did until recently and some of them crop up in sailor songs, not surprisingly. For instance the well known halyard shanty 'Blow the Man Down' mentions the Blue Anchor and the Brown Bear. Our song (above) sadly doesn't tell us which dive the action takes place in but follows the usual pattern of Ratcliffe Highway songs (of which there are several) in having Jack fleeced of his hard



earned money by one of the local tarts, known in colloquial sailor jargon as a 'fireship'. The reason for the appellation 'fireship' can be seen in the alternative ending for some of these songs in which Jack contracts an unpleasant disease as a result of his liaison. A song puts it:-

I entered her little cubby hole and swore damn yer eyes,  
She was nothing but a fire-ship rigged up in disguise.  
She had a foul bottom from stern post to fore,  
Between wind and water she ran me ashore.

Oh me riggings slack,  
Aye me riggings frayed,  
Come rattle me rigging down Ratcliffe Highway.

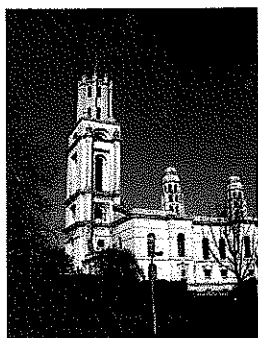
Since these songs were made by sailors, there was always the temptation to have the last word and in some versions Jack recovers from his disease and is soon 'cruising again' or, if he's been robbed, helps himself to a valuable watch worth a great deal more than his rightful change.

As well as pubs and gin houses the area also abounded in lodging houses; cheap dives where a sailor could stay until he signed on his next ship. Some of the lodgings were run by crimps, men who acted as agents recruiting crews on behalf of the skippers, for which service they were paid handsomely of course. Ships did not retain their crews for the next voyage; once you landed you were a free agent again and could sign on with another ship. The skippers, therefore, often had a problem recruiting a crew, especially if they had a bad reputation.

Crimps were not popular people, not with the sailors anyway. This was because the crimps had no scruples about raising a crew to meet the skippers' deadlines. They would do it by fair means or foul. If you weren't willing they would get you drunk and sweet talk you into it. If that didn't work then it's try a drop of opium in your drink and lull you into a stupor, then carry you on board. Or, even more crudely, knock you unconscious and dump you below decks. By the time you came round the ship was casting off and heading downriver and you were in for a long haul to some distant corner of the globe with the mate laying into you with his boot if you didn't pull your weight. Sailors referred to this kidnapping and enforced labour as being 'shanghaied' and it is often referred to in song. Our hero in the Ratcliffe Highway song has signed on already, however, and escapes his pursuers by jumping on a boat bound for Deptford, a dockyard further down river, where he gets aboard of his ship and keeps his head down. This is sailor fantasy. I doubt if many such stories had such a happy ending in reality.

Sadly, London Docks is no more, closed down because it is inadequate to handle the large merchant ships of today. Ratcliffe Highway and Wapping live on in song but they are very different places now. Meanwhile our merchant fleet sails under flags of convenience manned by foreign crews and exploitation has moved its ugly face somewhere else.

Brian Bull



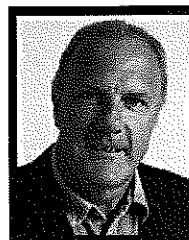
St. George in the East Church  
were bodies were buried

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**RICHARD DIGANCE – BBC Radio Devonfolk 14.02.10**



Well, I must admit it's taken me ages to get around to listening to the radio with any real conviction and to be honest the first time in probably 20 years since I heard any 'folk' music programme all the way through apart from the occasional Mike Harding Show. Imagine my surprise then when I found myself tuning into Richard Digance "Devonfolk" on the BBC's

iPlayer the other day. I know I don't live in Devon but even with half the show dedicated to a live performance in the studio by a local singer-songwriter it was Digance's approach to broadcasting with the emphasis on the word 'broad' that kept me listening to all two hours of the show. Instead of the tried and tested it was the sometimes-tenuous links that made it all fascinating listening. Anecdotes pepper Richard's life and let's face it he's had a more eventful one than many of us 'folk-o-philes'. Regaling us with stories of his first meeting in Glasgow with a certain Iain McGeachy and how they both wound up sharing digs together in Richmond, Surrey before Iain found International fame as John Martyn (represented by playing "May You Never"). In fact Digance's story reads like a who's who of the 'folk' world like the time he performed at Paul Simon's (yes, that Paul Simon!) folk club at the Red Lion in Barking before Simon returned to America to hit the big time. Rick Wakeman, Paul Brady, Eric Clapton and David Bowie who ran the Tree Tuns Folk Club in Beckenham, Kent all got a look in so I think you'll agree that in the space of a couple of minutes Richard captures the listeners' attention and he manages to hold it with ease...to me, the sign of a brilliant broadcaster. If you've got a computer do yourselves a favour and check out "Devonfolk" for yourself. You won't be disappointed. Pete Fyfe

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**Martin Ellison & Phil Harty**

**and Quartz**



**Tickets available now, £15 each**

**(cheques payable to Foolish Friends, SAE please) from:-  
Angie & Ken Bladen, 36, The Oaks, Eaves Green, Chorley,  
Lancs. PR7 3QU. Tel (01257 263 678)**

**e.mail: [four.fools@virgin.net](mailto:four.fools@virgin.net)**

**Numbers limited, so don't be disappointed, get yours now.**

**Details of local camp/caravan sites available on request.**

**"Come and Sing your heart out"**

**ALL PROCEEDS TO THE BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION**

13th

# Saltburn Festival

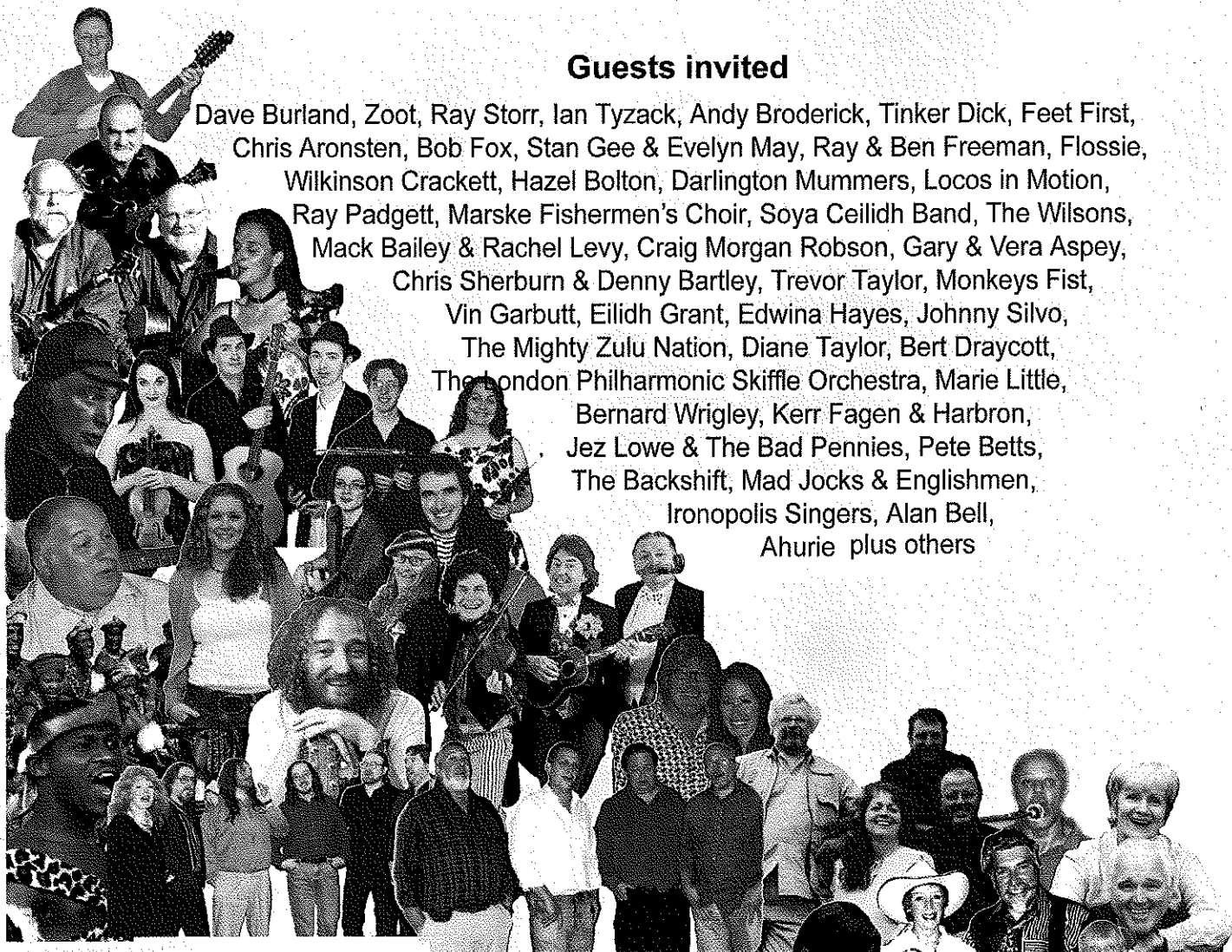
*of Folk Music, Dance & Song*

13th, 14th, & 15th August 2010



## Guests invited

Dave Burland, Zoot, Ray Storr, Ian Tyzack, Andy Broderick, Tinker Dick, Feet First, Chris Aronsten, Bob Fox, Stan Gee & Evelyn May, Ray & Ben Freeman, Flossie, Wilkinson Crackett, Hazel Bolton, Darlington Mummers, Locos in Motion, Ray Padgett, Marske Fishermen's Choir, Soya Ceilidh Band, The Wilsons, Mack Bailey & Rachel Levy, Craig Morgan Robson, Gary & Vera Aspey, Chris Sherburn & Denny Bartley, Trevor Taylor, Monkeys Fist, Vin Garbutt, Eilidh Grant, Edwina Hayes, Johnny Silvo, The Mighty Zulu Nation, Diane Taylor, Bert Draycott, The London Philharmonic Skiffle Orchestra, Marie Little, Bernard Wrigley, Kerr Fagen & Harbron, Jez Lowe & The Bad Pennies, Pete Betts, The Backshift, Mad Jocks & Englishmen, Ironopolis Singers, Alan Bell, Ahurie plus others



### FESTIVAL WEEKEND TICKETS £52

after June 1st £58

SATURDAY TICKETS £32 - SUNDAY TICKETS £32

ALL CHEQUES TO BE MADE PAYABLE TO:

SALTBURN FOLK FESTIVAL please!

Special Family Rates, Children under 10 years Free,

Children aged 10-16 half price,

Credit Card facilities available by PayPal see website:-

[www.saltburnfolkfestival.com](http://www.saltburnfolkfestival.com)

Souvenir Festival Magazine & Programme of Events - £3.00

Individual Event Tickets will be on sale subject to availability.

Camping Tickets can be purchased when booking Weekend Festival Tickets

The cost of camping is £12 per person for 1 - 3 nights (Festival Ticket Holders)

For further details and information, please telephone: 01287 622623 or write to

Folk Festival Office: 57 Marske Road, Saltburn, Cleveland. TS12 1PN

[www.saltburnfolkfestival.com](http://www.saltburnfolkfestival.com)



**MYSFACE MUSIC**

[www.myspace.com/saltburnfolkfestival](http://www.myspace.com/saltburnfolkfestival)



SALTBURN, MARSKÉ AND  
NEW MARSKÉ PARISH COUNCIL