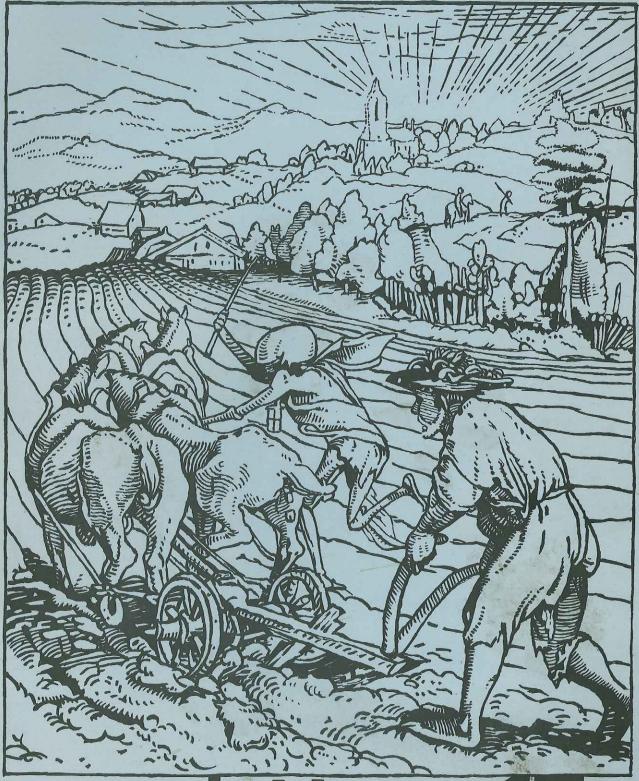
THE NORTH WEST FEDERATION OF FOLK CYLLE

APRIL-MAY '81



newsletter

15p

OFFICER REPRESENTING		NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Chairman Tours Organiser Treasurer Publicity Officer	Central Lancs. Area	Derek Harrison Dave Baird Greg Lee Nigel Firth	11 Walnut Grove, Penworthen.Preston 435 Eastwood, Windmill Hill, Runcorn. 49,Blackbrook Rd.,St.Helens 3 Cromford Drive, Pemberton, Wigan. WN5 8JU	0772 748439 0928 716632 0744 24595 0942 215621
Minute Secretary Membership Secretary Joint Activities Co-ordinator	North Lancashire & Cumbria Area	Ian Sutton Peggy McArdle Duncan Campbell	18, Penkford Lane, Burtonwood, Warrington 109 Cottage Lane, Ormskirk. Lancs. 25 Clarendon Road, Lancaster. LAI 2DQ	28727 0695 77611 0524 35214

THE AIM OF THE FEDERATION Shall be the promotion of Folk Music in the North-West by:-

- 1. The 'block booking' of artists for tours.
- 2. Joint Publicity of the Member Clubs
- 3. The general support of the Member Clubs
- 4. The joint organisation of concerts and ceilidhs within our area
- 5. The support of Festival Organisers within our area.
- 6. The organistaion of events to attract under 18s to Folk Music

The Member Clubs

FOLK CLUB	TIME OF	ADDRESS	ORGANISER	ORGANISER'S PHONE NO.
Poynton Prescot Rainford	8.30pm 8.00pm	Duke of Cumberlant dotel, Apoleby Rd., Kendal The Courts Hotel, Church St. Leigh Poynton Folk Centre, Park Lane, Poynton Royal Oak, Warrington Rd. Prescot Golden Lion Hotel, Rainford. Raven Hotel, Farndon, Nr. Chester Pickering Arms, Thelwall, Warrington Traveller's Rest Hotel, Crab St. St. Helens	Jacqueline White Eric Brock	0539 27538 0942 678758 0625 872626 051 480 1282 0744 88 3424 097 883 2303 092572 8055 0744 21414
Preston	7.30pm 8.15pm 8.15pm 8.00pm 8.15pm	St. Annes School, Slater Lane, Leyland. Lamb Hotel, Church St. Preston Coronation Hotel, King St. Southport (Monthly) The Triton Hotel, Paradise St. Liverpool Turnkey Cellars, King St. Wigan.	M.A.Fennah Derek Harrison Malcolm Howarth Doreen Rickart Nigel Firth	0772 312770 0772 748439 0704 20990 051 521 6020 0942 215621
TUESDAY Blackpool Buck i'th'Vine Garstang	8.00pm 8.30pm 8.15pm	Raikes Hall Hotel, Leamington Rd. Blackpool. Buck i' th'Vine, Burscough St. Ormskirk Eagle & Child Hotel, Garstang (monthly)	Jeanne Denny Ian McArdle John Topping	0253 855855 0695 77611 09952 2689
WEDNESDAY Brewery Concord Folk at the Malt Winwick Folk Club	8.30pm 8.00pm 8.30pm 8.15pm	Brewery Arts Centre, 122a Highgate, Kendal Concord Suite, The Precinct, Droylsden M/C Malt Shovels, Stamford St. Altricham. Winwick Hospital Staff Social Club	Neil Johnston John Bridgewood Susie Stockton Len Saunders	0539 25133 061 370 611 %29 (day 061 928 193 0744 35833
THURSDAY Fleetwood Liverpool Trad. Old Dog Poynton Appleton Thorn Wellgreen West Park Wigan	8.15pm 8.15pm 8.30pm 8.00pm 8.00pm 8.15pm 8.30pm 8.30pm	Queen's Hotel, Beach Rd. Fleetwood Cross Keys, (corner of Earl St. & St. Paul's Square, Nr. Liverpool Stadium.) Old Dog Inn, Alma Hill, Upholland See Sunday for details Thorn Inn, Appleton, Nr. Warrington (on A49) Wellgreen Hotek, Grove Lane, Hale, Cheshire West Park RFC, Prescot Rd. St. Helens (alternate weeks) Park Hotel, Market Square, Wigan (alternate weeks)	Ron Baxter Shay Black Neill Hurst Maggle Goodall John Seed Mick Burrows Joan Blackburn	03917 3738 051 728 851 0744 25038 (work) 0925 66280 026 04 421 051 426 687 0942 863389
FRIDAY Bee Briton's Protecti Cat & Lion Corrie Crown Dicconson Lancaster Folkst: Roebuck St. Philips	8.15pm 8.15pm 8.30pm 8.30pm	Roebuck Hotel, Leyland	Bryon Jones Mike Billington Dave Baird Laurie Hardman Peter Waller Derek Gifford Peter Henderson Ron Strickland Connie Taylor	0745 37284 061 881 872 0928 71663 0704 27155 0587 20828 07744 3354 0524 66395 0772 31387 061 723 33
SATURDAY Bury	8.15pm Varies	Old Blue Bell, Bury Various events & Wayfarers Cricket club, Upton Rd., Claughten (FRUMIS)	Jean Seymour Geoff Dormand	061 761 15 051 639 79

Vol.4, No.1, April - May '81

EDITORIAL

Welcome to our 3rd Anniversary issue ! Yes, it is just over 3 years since the first Newsletter appeared as a giveaway single sheet at a time when there were only 10 clubs in the Federation. As you will see, although we've seen clubs come & go, we've now more than 35 clubs in the Federation and a 20-page Newsletter published roughly every two months.

The Recession seems to be hitting Folk Clubs fairly hard at present, sveral clubs have closed and I'm sure we're all suffering from a reduced audience. The result is that we've all got to try that little bit harder, and the articles this month suggest one or two ways to help this situation.

Derek Gifford reports on the recent PERFORM conference arranged by Dick Gaughan which agreed to the setting up of a new national organisation to promote Folk Music, which would be additional (in England) to, but not replace the EFDSS which it was felt was not doing enough for Folk Clubs & Folk Music.

Folkear continues the article BROADFOLK, about Folk In the media whilst Ian Wells reviews a recent BOYS OF THE LOUGH concert. Lots of Record Reviews are featured like last month and all the usual features of CLUB OF THE MONTH, SONG EXCHANGE, SONG OF THE MONTH, AGENDA & TOURS NEWS will be found inside.

A new arrangement is used for the club dates to try to overcome the excess of clubs on Sunday, Fridays & Thursdays and I'm not at all happy with it - if anyone can suggest an alternative i'll award them a years free subscription. Also if anyone would like to take over the GOSSIP JOHN column, please contact me.

Finally I'd like to thank all those who have helped to produce this issue, especially my two typists CHRIS ROACH & ELAINE DERBYSHIRE and my two artists, RON BAXTER and IAN SUTTON, the last of whom has done the cover (which is a copy of a woodcut by Hans Holbein, entitled "The Ploughman & Death"). Also to our advertisers and all who have contributed articles.

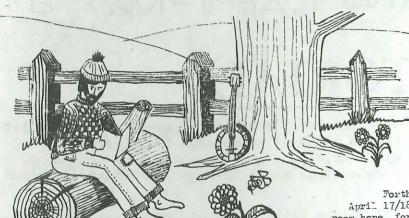
Next month's deadline will be MAY 1st for the JUNE/JULY/AUGUST issue.



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OUT & ABOUT

REGIONALLY

Firstly this month we've news of two new clubs joining the Federation:

The first of these is a well-established club, the Appleton Thorn Folk Club who meet on Thursdays at 8.15 at the Thorn Inn in Appleton which lies between the M6 & M56 on the B5356 South of Warrington. The residents are a group called 'The Thorn' and also the Minor Birds, and the club had an impressive line-up of guests interwoven with Singers' Nights. Contact the organiser, Maggle Goodall on for further details about the club.

The other new club is the CAT & LION Folk Club which is a brand-new club started by our Tours Organiser, Dave Baird with aid of Mike Bartram. They meet on Fridays at the Cat & Lion in Stretton (on the 14° South from Warrington). The club is running mainly Singers' Nights with the aid of their residents Dave Baird and Mike Bartram with the occasional guest arranged at short notice. Contact Dave Baird on 0928 716632 for details.

The news of the two new clubs joining is tempered by the fact that several clubs have closed prematurely for the summer:

The WELLGREEN in Hale has had to close because the room is to be converted to a restaurant — they are however looking for alternative premises and hope to have found somewhere by about September. If you know of any pub in the area which wants a Folk Club on their premises, then John Seed (Tel 026 04 421) would be glad to hear from you GARSTANG Folk Club has closed completely, but may reopen in September if more people can be found to help to run the club and to sing there on a regular basis. In this case, John Topping (Tel: 09952 2689) is the person to get in touch with.

Lancaster Folk Stir has closed prematurely through lack of audience and even had to cancel their mini-festival - they are hoping to reopen in September. Finally, the Wayfarers Cricket Club Folk Club run by Geoff Dormand has had to close because of problems

advertising - there are no plans to reopen.

More Folk Club News - The TURNKEY Folk Club in Wigan is on the move (voluntarily in this case!) to better & more convivial surroundings at the TUDOR HOUSE,

New Market Street, Wigan. The last night at the Turnkey will be April 13th and they reopen as the TUDOR Folk Club at the new venue on April 27th with Bernard Wrigley as their guest. I'm told that all memberships, tickets, free entries etc., will carry over to the new club from the Turnkey whilst the residents will still be Heritage & Tony Hewitt. Contact the organiser, Nigel Firth on Wigan 215621 for more details.

The Liverpool club, FOLK AT THE TRITON (formerly the Spinners club) have lost their residents, Black Dog, and are on the lookout for a replacement(contact Doreen Rickart on 051 521 6020 (work Tel) bf you are interested. Meanwhile, the Spinners are rallying round and helping the club out in the short term.

The Arizona Smoke Revue have a new LP " A Thundering on the Horizon" on Rola Records ROO6 - a full review will appear in the next issue.

Forthcoming Postivals in the area are reynton on April 17/18/19 (Baster Mockend), and while there is not room here for any sort of detailed preview, there is an advert on page 9 giving a comprehensive guest list. The highlight however is likely to be the sharty sessions, with JOHNNY COLLINS, JIM MAGEEAN & CHARLIE YARWOOD all present. A wide range of entertainment to suit all tastes, though and you should contact Eric Brock (Tels 0625 872626 or 0625 875555).

Chester is the other Festival , which takes place at the rear of the Morris Dancer in Kelsall, Nr. Chester. It takes place over the Spring Bank Holiday Weekend, May 22/23/24/25, and gueats include Battlefield, Archie Fisher, Therapy, Leonard & Bauire, Dr. Sunshine and many others including Morris Teams and a couple of Ceilidh Bands, All enquiries (SAE please) to 43, Chatsworth Dr., Newton, Chester.

reminder of Advertising rates:
Small Ads (not clubs, groups) £1.00 per insertion
Display Ads as follow:

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page	£8.0C	£10.00
1 page	£16.00	£20.00
		, ,

Discounts for adverts placed in a number of issues, also for member clubs of the Federation.

Jend copy (pre-paid) to Editorial Address.

Two new publications which may be of interest are:
The Folweave Postival List features every major festival
in the UK and some in Europe (over 75 in all). It is
evailable, price 25p & large SAE from Graham & Linda Morrison,
213,St. Franis Tower, Iris Way, London, E4. Discounts for Bult,
no 2nd edition this year.

The Cheshire Cat Flyer II lists every known Folk Club in Lancs, Cheshire, Gtr Mor, Morseysiae, Cumbria & Clwyd. Price 50p + SAE rom Susie Stockton, 7, Greenside, Male, .1trincham, WA14 3HX . (cheques to Cheshire Cat)

YOUR OF SEAL

PERFORM - the performance of Folk and other related musics - is

YOUR organisation. It is essentially a grassroots organisation and an active pressure group. Its aims are:

To encourage the performance & Furtherance of Folk & other related musics, to bring it to a wider audience and to improve communication throughout the folk world.

YOU have a part to play in acheiving these aims. YOUR help is needed - simply tell your friends about PERFORM, tell them about your local folk club and about the music in general Encorurage someone - especially young people - to go along to a fol: club or introduce them to the music. If we don't tell anyone we are here, we can't expect them to take any notice of us. We must make some noise. We must encourage the media to give more exposure to Folk Music. We must be active because we are in the communications and entertainment business.

PERFORM has area reps throughout Great Britain, Ireland and the rest of Europe - we want to hear your views. Contact us now:

Perform Secretary (susie Stockton) 7, Greenside Dr., Hale, Cheshire (enclose SAE) OR telephone 061 929 1936

A meeting for the North-West region is to be held on Saturday April 4th at the Boars Head, Chester Rd., Manchester 15 at Hoon. (Next to Sounds Accistic on the main Chester/Manchester Road). The local area rep is Charlie Carter, and he can be contacted on: 061 793 8400 (Home)

Or: 061 832 7302 (Work)

SONG OF THE MONTH



As a child she would carry bunches of sweet primroses so fair,
Flowers from her garden provided the garlands she wore in her hair,
Freshness of springtime was graced by the lily-white roses she held in her hand,
Let her remember the flowers that progress demands.

For by our own hand we're destroying the land,
We are raping the woods and the trees,
We are killing the ground where the flowers are found,
And we murder the meadows and fields.

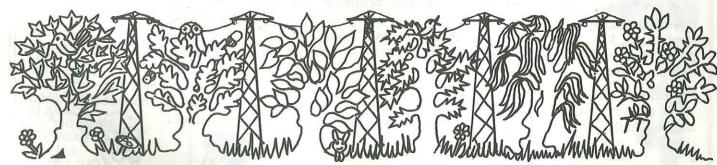
As a child she would wander carefree and gay in green meadows and fields, No shes for her feet for the pleasure was hers the gresh grass to feel, Far would she go as the clean winter snow laid its blanket of white on the ground, Let her remember the meadows where now stand the towns.

Refrain....

As a child she'd a world of adventure exploring the woodlands and trees,
Tall and mighty stood giants of oak gently stirring in the breeze,
Green leaves of summer turned gold in the autumn their treasure a young child
to please.

Let her remember the trees sacrificed to our greed.

Refrain.... (twice)



Do you write songs, poems or monologues? - If you do, why not enter one for the Song of the Month Competition? If your composition is selected, it will be published in the Newsletter and you will receive a year's free subscription, and a chance to enter for the Song of the Year. I shall expect to receive lots of entries for next issue and I look forward to reading them all.

THE EDITOR



INAUGURAL

CONFERENCE

DEREK GIFFORD REPORTS ON THE CONFERENCE ORGANISED BY DICK GAUGHAN AT CECIL SHARP HOUSE, LONDON ON THE WEEKEND OF 28th FEBRUARY / 1st MARCH 1981

There is no doubt that the 'Perform' (or 'Dick Gaughan') Conference was a resounding success. Nearly 500 delegates, including 60 from the N.W. crowded into the main hall of Cecil Sharp house testified to this fact.

On arrival delegates were presented with a copy of a 'proposed constitution' and the method by which one approached the platform to speak. Many people, including myself, were rather taken aback by this arrangement and would have preferred the documents beforehand for perusal. However, all the delegates who stated that they wished to speak were allowed to, leaving time in hand and thus the democratic process was implemented.

The irony of it was that the very thing the association was being set up to do - i.e. promote the performance of Folk music - was meeting in the headquarters of a society which had been set up over 80 years ago to do the very same thing. In some of the speeches the E.F.D.S.S. was severely criticised, often with justification, for its attitude to the song side of Folk entertainment. Eventually, at the end of the Saturday session the meeting voted overwhelmingly to support the idea of setting up an association.

On Sunday came the problems of actually laying down rules and regulations which would form the framework of such an association. As with all "committee" affairs the discussion tended to get rather bogged-down at times but the major issues were resolved and in place of the 'proposed constitution' which had a rather 'fait accompli' air a declaration of intent was agreed upon. Representatives who will form a national council were elected from the various areas. It is their job to ensure that all the information regarding folk music is collated on a national basis to provide an effective lobby to the media.

Our area covers the whole of N.W. England including Cumbria and the formidable task of contacting folk enthusiasts in the area falls to our national council member for area 3 - Charlie Carter. Charlie can be contacted at Sounds Accoustic, 287 Chester Road, Manchester; 061-832-7302. He is to call an area meeting in the near future.

So there it is, we now have a <u>national</u> organisation which represents the clubs and the performers and is directed towards lobbying the media for more comprehensive coverage of folk music. If you are an organiser, performer or just an interested member of the folk music movement in the N.W. please <u>do</u> contact Charlie and give him your news and views - lets see to it that the voice of Folk music is loud enough for all to hear.

Finally I must congratulate Susie Stockton the conference co-ordinator for doing such a marvellous job and our local representatives on the steering committee, Ron Strickland, who saw to it that the N. West was so well represented.



Boys of the Lough in Concert

In their zigzag tour of England the Boys of the Lough reached Southport on February 11th. The Arts Centre hall held a quietly respectful but enthusiastic audience. The Boys performed their usual mix of Scottish and Irish music in their controlled but brilliant style. Somehow I was less overwhelmed than when I saw them last - on checking, this was at Ilam Festival in 1978 when Robin Morton was still with the group.

The new fourth member, Tich Richardson, plays a purely accompanying role on the guitar: the programme note talks about the influence of Willie Johnston of Shetland but he sounded like a blues player to me - indeed, he was at his best when Aly Bain played a Tennessee rag. There are no such reservations about his long established older brother Dave: his performance on concertina and several stringed instruments provides a steady base for the other two.

The real reason for going to hear the Boys is to listen to Cathal McConnell on whistle and flute and, above all, to Aly Bain on the fiddle. Their virtuosity is tempered with discretion and musicianship. The group is well aware of the problems of playing dance music in a concert format and produce well varied sets. The superb playing calls for equally great ballad singing which alas is not available. Regardless of any criticism, the audience — including me — went home impressed yet again with the superb whistle of Cathal and the incredible Shetland style fiddle of Aly.

Ian Wells.



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Located in an old village school, with two feet thick walls and a leaky roof, built by Lord of the Manor - George John Warren in 1838. Owned entirely by its Members and the Management Committee all the helpers, and 'staff' are voluntary workers. Known originally as "The Social Centre" - the name still on its walls and cheque book - the Centre is now universally known as 'Poynton Folk Centre'.

There are around 40 different activities going on in the Centre from Playgroup to Over - 60's Club but undoubtedly the best known is the Folk Club. Founded on a regular one night a week basis (Sunday) about twelve years ago it was an immediate success. Attendances rapidly increased from the initial 70 or 80 to 200 - 300. In those days Members were content to sit on the piano, window ledges, edge of the stage - anywhere provided they could enjoy the music, song and very friendly atmosphere'. Soon, an 'overflow' singaround was opened on a Thursday and although this never seriously competed with the popularity of the Sunday evenings, attendances have remained remarkably steady around the 70 mark. More recently, with the increased interest being shown in Folk Dance, a Hoe-Down is now held in the Main Hall of the Centre on Thursdays and a Singalong in the Club room above the bar.

Other developments in the field of folk were the creation of the Poynton Jemmers - Wo ens Morris around 5 years ago and the adoption of the Centre as their 'home' by the Adlington Morris Men about the same time. Interestingly the 'Jemmers' derived their name from the practice of the very poor Poynton villagers taking jam 'butties' for their midday meal in the silk and cotton mills of Macclesfield, Bullock Smithy and Marple. "Poynton Jammers" bedoming "Poynton Jemmers" in local dialect. The Jemmers have grown into a large organisation with beginners and advanced sections and two 'daughter' Morris Teams.

Another important development was the holding of a folk festival. This was an ambitious and risky project for a folk club in a small village with no suitable overflow halls or large hotels nearby. Fortunately there are about a dozen rooms, some quite large, in the Centre's building complex and with a few 'outside' singaround and dance sessions in and around village pubs it has been possible to deal with the quite large numbers who have attended the festivals since they were started eight years ago. The ninth festival is due this Easter with a particularly attractive 'line-up'. As usual, local talent is prominently featured as well as the big names. Approximately half of the 34 singers, groups, bands etc. booked for this years festival being from the Lancashire/Cheshire area. The 'profit' (sometimes) made at the festival, and indeed from all' the Centre's activities is an important factor in balancing the Centre's books.

CLUB OF THE MONTH (Contd)

These are maintained by the Treasurer (Geoff Bohan) with the assistance of a part-time professional bookkeeper and with an annual audit by a firm of Chartered Accountants. In the last financial year the balance sheet showed an expenditure of £16,000 and an income a few hundreds pounds in excess, This accords with Centre 'non-profit making'policy. As a registered charity of course none of the Officers or Committee must receive any financial reward from the Centre but the very size, age and useage of the Centre makes it very expensive to heat, light and supply. The leaky roof is a perennial problem but at least the Centre has survived intact for nearly a century and a half and we never cease striving to improve the fabric of the building, sound, lighting, heating (a new £3,000 central heating boiler was installed recently) with the aim of reaching our 200th anniversary in good shape.

'Folk' is not static at the Centre - we recently introduced as an 'extra' a free singaong on Mondays 'chaired' by Peter Hughes - a long standing "resident" and we are striving to introduce a Hobby Horse club for the youngsters - any offers to help get this off the ground would be greatly appreciated.

Hope to see you at the festival.

Keep smiling.

Eric Brock.



GUEST LIST: THE McCALMANS, GARY & VERA, THE TEESIDE FETTLERS, SIX HANDS IN TEMPO, JOHN JAMES, DR. SUNSHINES PAVEMENT SHOW, KITSYKE WILL, JOHNNY COLLINS, JIM MAGEEAN, SAM SHERRY, PEDDAR LONG, ELECTROPATHIC BATTERY BAND, THE THREE HUGHES BROS, STEVE REICKHOFF, CHARLIE YARWOOD, JEZ LOWE, OWEN LEWIS, ADLINGTON MORRIS MEN, TARANTULA, TONY MANNION, PETE MILLARD, POYNTON JEMMERS plus others yet to be confirmed.

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9

Applications and Cheques etc to Eric Brock, Folk Festival, Poynton, Stockport, Cheshire (enclose SAE)

SONG EXCHANGE SING

Conducted by JOAN BLACKBURN

If you would like the words, music and/or chords of a song, write in to "Song Exchange", c/o Joan Blackburn, 4 Rosewood Close, Abram, nr. Wigan, Lancs, WN2 5XT. Readers' replies should be directed to the same address.

With regard to "The Green Fields of France", printed last issue, Mr. Liam Corish of Llandudno Junction tells me this is not the version as sung by Eric Bogle himself, and he has been kind enough to let me have a transcription of the words from the author's record "No Man's Land". The version we printed was in fact a collation, the verses being taken from the only printed copy in my possession (in "Ireland's Own" magazine), the chorus being the one I have heard sung in the folk clubs hereabouts. If anyone wishes to contact me for the "correct" version, I will be more than pleased to let them have a copy.

THANKS to Alan McMahon of Birkenhead for the words of "The Alamo", requested by a member of Wigan Folk Club.

THANKS to Ms. Mavis Eccles of Blackburn for the chorus of "The boers Have Got My Daddy", requested by Ron Baxter of Fleetwood. If anyone can supply the verses, these would be gratefully received.

REQUEST from Sue Wells of Preston for "Working Class Millionaire" by Richard Digance.

REQUEST from Brian Howarth of Abram for "Peggy and the Soldier".

REQUEST from Roger Clough of Bury Folk Club for bell-ringing type songs. Roger already has "Ashwater Town" and "New Bell Wakes" in his collection and would appreciate any others. Contact Roger direct on Rochdale 57703.

REQUEST: YE JACOBITES BY NAME by Robert Burns

We Jacobites by name, lend an ear, lend an ear,

We Jacobites by name, lend an ear.

G D (B7)

We Jacobites by name, your faults I will proclaim,

Your doctrines I maun blame, you shall hear, you shall hear,
Em

D

Em

Your doctrines I maun blame, you shall hear.

What's right and what is wrong by the law, by the law, What's right and what is wrong by the law?
What's right and what is wrong, the short sword and the long, The weak arm and the strong for to draw, for to draw, The weak arm and the strong for to draw?

Ye Jacobites by name . . .

What makes heroic strife famed afar, famed afar, What makes heroic strife famed afar?
What makes heroic strife to whet the assassin's knife, And haunt a parent's life with bloody war, bloody war, And haunt a parent's life with bloody war?

Ye Jacobites by name . . .

BROADFOLK 2

One of the trio Stoneground actually works for the B.B.C. (as a camerman - he worked on some of the Great Railway journey films) and in the interval of their appearance at the Corrie was found reading the first Folkear article. He agrees that you can only get folk music on the Beeb if you don't call it that.

So lets look at Folk in disguise. B.B.C.2 has had a series featuring Jake Thackray in concert in various places - the only time I caught it he had Ralph McTell

as his guest. Also on B.B.C. 2 was The Mike Harding Show suitably late so he can say "bum" - but also featuring some serious songs. Full marks to the video tape editors on this show! Then B.B.C.l North West has run another series of Sit Thi Deawn, this times allowing the Houghton Weavers to make their own bad jokes. Too much of their material now resembles the title of a Spinners L.P. - Not Quite Folk: pleasant, singable but not leading the audience onto the real stuff.

Well, that's the advertised material - how about the pleasant surprises? Two Radio 4 documentaries should have interested folkies - one on Charles Dibdin "The Sailors Poet" and one on the great Irish bard Carolan. Two current affairs programmes contained interesting snippets: PM (on R.4) had an interview with a Professor Cohen who was giving a lecture at the British Film Institute on Americal traditional music: B.B.C.l's Look North West, covering the naming of an electric loco after Driver John Axon, used a snatch of Twan MacColl's, Ballad of John Axon.

Finally, what of our solitary hour of advertised folk, Folk on Two? I am happy to say this is definately improving - it no longer sounds cut price and has had some excellent sets. There was one of the rare broadcast appearances of Ewan MacColl and Peggy Seeger - and excellent collection of songs. Several artists featured in local clubs here also did good sets, especially John Spires and Jim Mageean(Johnny Collins. Gary and Vera even got a mini-feature in Radio Times!

By the way have you written your letter to the B.B.C. yet?

Folkear.

SONG EXCHANGE (YE JACOBITES BY NAME) cont.

Then let your schemes alone in the state, in the state, Then let your schemes alone in the state. Then let your schemes alone, adore the rising sun, And leave a man undone to his fate, to his fate, And leave a man undone to his fate.

Ye Jacobites by name . . .

WHY NOT SUBSCRIBE

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Steve Tomlinson

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10

AGENDA by the Chairman

I was having a drink this week in the Ladbrokes Hotel in Leyland with Dave Galbraith of recent Television fame (Suddenly it is Spring?) and Geoff Lowe. Geoff formerly ran the Howard Arms, drawing crowds of at least 200. There were at least that many in the bar of the new Mercury Hotel for their 'Folk Nite', although whether that was due to the half price beer or the Folk Music remains to be seen.

Does it matter though as long as the entertainment was Folk, as long as people were enjoying themselves and there were a lot of them. If Ladbrokes think the set up is Worthwhile, it has got to be good - they certainly aren't novices as businessmen. Compared to local Folk Clubs, the main difference was that the Hotel itself organised things, which naturally means professionallism and full support. The group worked hard, making their presence felt from a very beefy P.A. system.

Whilst drinking we reflected that folk has only enjoyed large success when the media considered it a relevant part of the general scene at the time. Watching the happy throng of drinkers in that bar, who'd possibly never been in a folk club, singing along with 'Blow the Man Down', banged out on electric guitars - it was all relevant.

Thankfully the N.W. Federation showed at their last meeting (Helped along by copius amounts of the local brew) that they are anti-beaurocratic, but very much wanting to sock it to 'em. There were a lot of good ideas about, all of which were exchanged. There was criticism that some of us are too introverted and snobbish as to what in our view should be provided. Clearly it is possible to organise among any hardcore group of Folkies an outlet for sensitive songs, esoteric songs and not very good or not very confident singers. This however needn't be role of the folk club all the time.

If we are to attract a wider audience perhaps we should consider some of our hang-ups, not least of which is schizophrenia about what a successful folk club means.

TOURS ORGANISER

I have had little response to the article in the last issue, and I hope that YOU will badger your club organiser and persuade him to respond. Unless some organisers do respond I can't attempt to arrange a tour and can't therefore save you money.

Some Specific Tour Dates:

- * Dave Walters, appearing at the Turnkey Folk Club on Sept. 7th, would like some dates around that time.
- * Dave Peabody would like some dates around October 7th
- * Pyewacket (5-pce band from London using a wide range of instruments including synthesiser) are appearing at Fylde Festival, and would like dates either side
- * Dougie McLean (ex-Silly Wizard) is hoping for a solo tour in the Autumn
- * Robin Dransfield would like some dates after July 15th. He is also prepared to do one-offs to fill for cancellations (min. 3hrs notice) -contact Susie Stockton.

The following is a complete list of all those who are avaiable for tours (both local & national artists are listed here) - contact me if you wish to book them. :-

Celebrated Ratcliffe Stout Band Gypsy's Kiss Pyewacket Dave Walters Dave Peabody Tufty Swift

Paul Hare/Ken Farrell Mike Bartram

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Pete Scott Paul Metsers Andy Caven Claughan Derek Gifford Drops of Brandy Bram Taylor Roebuck Singers Steve Turner Windmill Folk Eddie Walker Ryan: Evans

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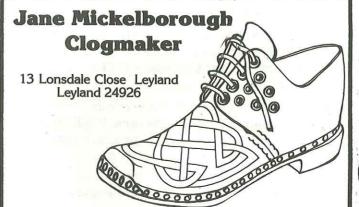
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RECORD REVIEWS

TIDEWAVE - ROBIN DRANSFIELD. TOPIC 12TS 414.

- Side 1. The Cutty Wren/The Barley and the Rye/ Fair Maids of February/When its night time in Italy its Wednesday over here/ The Rigs O'Rye.
- Side 2. Spencer the Rover/Tidewave/The Cadgwith Anthem/I once had a Dog/The three Muscadets/Mother Nature.

I must confess that I knew nothing of Robin
Dransfield's background, and having searched the sleeve for even the slightest clue
in this direction I was forced to bask in my own ignorance and listen to the record.

The first track is "THE CUTTY WREN" one of the earliest known songs in the English tradition depicting the legend of the Wren as King of the Birds. This is given an extremely haunting treatment when combined with the very effective use of Christian Gourhan's Hurdy Gurdy.

Another of my favourite tracks is "FAIR MAIDS OF FEBRUARY" (one of Robins own compositions) with excellent guitar backing. Other favourites of mine are "THE RIGS O' RYE" a traditional Scotish song, "SPENCER THE ROVER", complete with brass band, "THE CADWITH ANTHEM" a fine cornish song, and "MOTHER NATURE" a song with a meaningful set of lyrics.

This is an excellent well produced album I can strongly recomend, a copy of which has already found its way into my collection.

TONY HEWITT.

THE GOOD OLD WAY

SAMPLER

TOPIC TPSS412

- Side 1: June Tabor & Martin Simpson/Martin Carthy/Battlefield/Dick Gaughan
 Boys of the Lough/Chris Foster/John Kirkpatrick & Sue Harris/The Watersons
 Alison McMorland & Peta Webb/Bob Davenport
- Side 2: Nic Jones/Cilla Fisher & Artie Tresize/Alistair Anderson/Five Hand Reel Peter Bellamy/Vin Garbutt/Gary & Vera Aspey/New Victory Band

'The Good Old Way' is rather a departure for Topic, by not being a 'theme' sampler as has been their usual practice. Instead we have a full hour of Folk Music at a sampler price and a sleeve that reads like a Who's Who of British Folk Music. I would have liked to have listed the tracks as well as the artists, but that would have left no space to review the record!

You might think that it was an unusual title for a record featuring entirely revival singers, but it is in fact the title of one of the best songs on the album, recorded by the Watersons. Other Highlights? - Nic Jones! "Canadee-i-o" from his new recording, Penguin Eggs (also reviewed in this issue); Vin Garbutt's self-penned "Photographic Memory" from Tossin! a Wobbler and Cilla Fisher & Artie Trezise's "Norland Wind" from their Topic LP Cilla & Artie. It would however be fair to say that all the tracks are well-sung & played by their respective performers, and the good choice of songs gives a well-balanced and pleasing record.

In conclusion I can strongly recommend the album (unless of course you've got the latest LP's of all the artists on the record), and while I personally think it is a pity to move away from the theme sampler it is nonetheless a superb record. Congratulations Topic - keep up the good work!

N.F.

NIC JONES - PENGUIN EGGS

TOPIC 12TS 411

SIDE 1 : CANADEE-I-O/THE DROWNED LOVERS/THE HUMPBACK WHALE
THE LITTLE FOT STOVE

SIDE 2 : COURTING IS A PLEASURE/BARRACK STREET/PLANXTY DAVIS/THE FLANDYKE SHORE FAREWELL TO THE GOLD

Reviewing a Nic Jones LP is always a difficult task, as all the superlatives have already been used about him! I did however approach this particular record with a little caution as I hadn't heard him sing more than a couple of the songs. I was very quickly reassured on listening to the record, that not only was it very good, but probably his best record yet.

Side one starts extremely well with Canadee-i-o, an unusual tale of a girl dressing as a sailor and her subsequent adventures in making her way to her true love's home town of Canadee-i-o(wherever that is). It continues in Nautical theme with the Drowned Lovers and then a superb whaling song, the Humpback Whale which is virtually a 'recruiting' song to persuade trawlermen to become Whalermen.

Side 2 is unusual in containing a guitar tune (planxty Davis) and a contemporary song by Paul Metsers about prospecting for Gold in Australia (farewell to the Gold), and a very good song it is too. My own favourite on this side is Barrack Street, where the prostitute manages to trick the sailor out of his clothes and money and leaves him only female clothing to wear.

If the record has a fault it is the complete lack of sleeve notes about the songs, which were not familiar to me. That apart it is a superb LP I can do nothing but commend it very highly to everyone.

DCWNES AND BEER. - LIVE IN CONCEPT. (Paul Downes and Phil Beer) Rola Records. R 004 and R 005.

This double album was recorded 'live' at various venues in such places as Portsmouth, Southend and Brighton over a period of a couple of weeks. Unfortunately the result is about as 'live' as a well chewed bone in that it totally fails to capture the atmosphere of a happy, packed folk club. Instead the recordings only portray the all too familiar scene of a half empty club on a cold night. I was left wondering whether this was due mainly to a mass of recording equipment preventing people from entering the room.

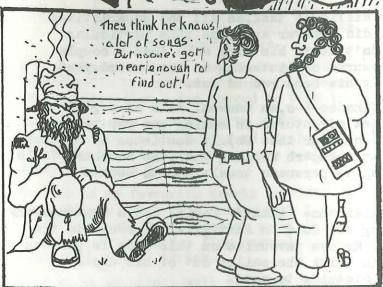
I am pleased to relate however that at least their undoubted ability as both musicians and singers is demonstrated throughout the record as they play various combinations of Guitar, Mandolin and Fiddle.

The songs range from traditional to compositions by Lennon and Macartney and Benny Hill. Three of the tracks were written by the performers, "Passed you By" by Phil Beer, "Life goes on" by Paul Downes, whilst they combined to write "Let me Play".

In conclusion if the best tracks from each of the records were combined to produce one compact offering then it would certainly be worth buying a copy, but in its present form I feel it would find itself at the back of the cupboard after a couple of playings.

TONY HEWITT.





GOSSIP JOHN...

Has unfortunately been lost in the post, and it is not therefore possible to include the feature this time. Our present Gossip John has also indicated a lack of time to prepare the column and would like to hand over to someone else. If anyone would like to take it on please contact the Editor, Nigel Firth on WIGAN 215621.

You may recollect a couple of issues ago, that mention was made here of ROARING JELLY's non-appearance at the Turnkey Folk Club in Wigan. The incident was in fact an isolated one, although the column gave the impression that it was common practice for the group to cancel bookings at short notice. I am personally satisfied that this is not in fact the case, and we must apologise to Roaring Jelly for having given the wrong impression. I hope, therefore, that club organisers will not hold back from booking them as a result of the previous THE EDITOR



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Letters to the Editor

Little Bispham. Blackpool, Lanes. 19th February 1981.

Dear Sir.

I am, as you will no doubt gather, a relative newcomer to the Folk-Club scene, it now appears that I am all the more remarkable being one of the "precious few" members of an audience under 25 years of an age, I can also admit to preferring the Folk-Club to the Disco (although i may be considered to have lapsed in sharing my interet in Folk-Music with a parallel passion for what used to be called "Progressive-Rock" i.e. -- Jethro Tull, Led Zep, Pink Floyd et al.) I am actually 17 years of age.

On reading the current edition of your magazine I noticed that you expressed an interest in receiving articles for it, and, having a little journalistic experience with my local daily. I decided to offer up a contribution, which you will find enclosed. Here's hoping you find it suitable for publication. Many thanks, coupled with sincerest Best Wishes for the future, Yours ethnically.

DAVID W. HEWITT

HERE IS DAVID'S ARTICLE:-

Being incorrigible sympathisers with that type of music loosely termed "Folk" my friend and I are locked upon by our peers as being something unpleasantly akin to crazed muggers cum simple yokels. I can hear them sniggering even now, before launching into the same old criticism and shallow whimsy - closely followed by my same old stoical replies. However, having now experienced at first hand the REAL THING, (as it were) my defences will be all the more convincing by their greater depth.

I half expected a roomful of portly guys with massive orange beards, and equally fluffy Arran sweaters. As it was I only saw a couple of such clones - my one and only pre-conception had been shattered within the first thirty seconds. The rest of the evening (somewhat special, being the mineteenth anniversary of the Blackpool Club) was similarly illuminating - it was also splendid, rousing and cheerful.

Considering many peoplebelieve the "Folk Scene" to be in a bad way, I was very pleasantly surrrised. I found the atmosphere to be as warm as the ale (Higson's) and the people as warm as the room - which may have owed something to the enforced familiarity caused by such a large audience being drawn to such a relatively small room. Nevertheless, I found the entertainment excellent, and now determine to class myself a hard-line "Folkie".

I suppose any of the Phillistines with whom I associate may, on reading this, turn mildly puce, and try to get me certified, nevertheless, as one of the youthful few I shall stand firm, rebut all accusations, and knit myself an Arran pullover.

Folk may be in a cyclical (and merely temporary) decline, but it'll do for me!!!

April Date

COMING SOON-NEAR YOU... ADVERTISEMENT. ADVER

MARCH		Tares established	MARCH	cont'd.	
1st	AMERSHAM	Crown	26th -	29th	
3rd	REDDITCH	White Hart	CTIL	EDINBURGH	Festival
4th	ARUNDEL	Cricket Club	27th	GLASGOW	
6th	ROCHESTER	Kings Head	29th	PAISLEY	Brablock Hotel
7th	NEEDHAM MARKET	Middle School	30th	ABERDEEN	Crescent Hotel
8th	HALSTEAD	The Empire	31st	STIRLING	Golden Lion
10th	BRENTWOOD	Hermit Club		- 200 a 21 20	
12th	ROTHERHAM	Arts Centre	APRIL		
13th	PENZANCE	Arts Centre	1st	IRVINE	Ealinten Arms
14th	LOOE	Riverside	2nd	CARLISLE	Eglinton Arms Micks Club
15th	LONDON	The Crypt,	3rd	WANTAGE	M.B. Club
4611	Auto . No com .	Trafalgar Sq.	4th	BIRMINGHAM	Hare & Hounds
17th	SWANSEA	White Swan	5th	ALCESTER	Cherry Trees
18th	NEVERN	Trewern Arms	7th	MOLD	Theatre Clywd
19th	WESTON SUPER MARI		8th	ALTRINCHAM	Malt Shovels
0011	71777 011 1107 7 0	RAF Locking	12+4	GRANTHAM	George Hotel
20th	BUILTH WELLS	Wyeside Arts Centre	13th	SOLIHULL	The Boggery
21st	CHELTENHAM	Playhouse Theatre	14th	CHILWELL	School Theatre
22nd	POYNTON	Folk Centre	15th	NEWARK	Robin Hood Theatre
23rd	NEWCASTLE UPON L	YME	16th	RUNCORN	
		Arts Centre	17th	WENTWORTH	Castle Hotel
25th	FALKIRK	Burns Bar	18th	CUMBERNAULD	Robin Hood Theatre
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Ceilidh	POYNTON	Mary Asquith Singers	Tom Yates Strawhead	See (b) on rt.	Easter Night Singers & Il Danach	Cosmotheka Singers &	See (a) on rt.			NO DATES	CONCORD	Martin Banks Singers Bram Taylor Crisis Jugband	BUCK i'th'VINE Spring Heel Jack	CLOSED Preston Guildsmen	Wendy Grossman Singers' Night	PRESTON Kalied Band	Turnpike Ceilidh Harry Boardman	Incognito Crisis	<u>LEIGH</u> Turnpike
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		Closed Singers	Singers. Bill Caddick	See (d) on rt.	Occasional Guests Singers' Night Singers' Night Watson / Adams (V)	Singers' Night Stecher/Bhatt (v)	Thorn/Winor Birds		CIOSED, Fending MOVE TO NEW PREWISES	Reynardine	WINWICK	TARANTULA POETRY GROUP.	POYNTON	Closed Wrigley & le	J.& S. Adams	TURNKEY Heritage/T.Hewitt	TBA	Closed Mike Elliott	RAINFORD Steve Higgins
		NOTICE	FURTHER	Folkstir		Closed pending	WELLGREEN Pete Wilmot										Marie Little Singers' Night	Rosie Hardman	RAVEN Kings Ransom
	24th.Brigantine	ST. PHILIPS Res. Ushers Well	Singaround Every week	Roebuck Singers	Closed Flest TBA	Closed Wight	WEST PARK Tobin's Resort											Singers' Night	THELWALL Crisp 'en Brown
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				E + 0		(q) Co.oh trip being a reaged	60	(k) and Deboie Stewart (1) at Elton Conservative Club				Derek Gifford, John Neadows (e) Club moving to the TU OR HOUSD, Migan-see Cut & About (f) Sam Stephens & Anne Lennox-	(d) Residents include: Wartin Banks, Mark Dowding, Bill & Shelia Himt	(c) plus Bernie Blaney, Nev. Grundy Rich. Tynan & Rick Scott	(b) Hesidents include: Mike Billington, Mag ie Watson		(a) Residents include: Shay Black, Tony Gibbons,	Singers Musicians & Residents of Thickets available from alch	KEY TO SYMBOLS:
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Res. 2nd 9th 16th 23rd 30th	Res. Res. 1st 8th 15th 22nd 29th	THURS Res. 7th 14th 21st 28th	WED. Res. 6th 13th 20th 27th	TUES Res. 5th 12th 19th 19th	MON. Res. 4th 11th 18th 25th	3rd 10th 17th 24th	SUN.
Various S & L Chilcott Wassailers Gerry Hallers Guest TBA Lol Lynch	Singers "Gerry Hallom Singers John Kelly	FLEETWOOD Scold's Bridle Woodbine Lizzie Pauline Anscombe Blackheads Wassailiers	BREWERY PRIDAY 29th GARY & VERA	BLACKPOOL Taverners Strawhead Ildanach Rosie Hardman Stoneground Band	POYNTON Peter Hughes Singers "	Pete/Chris Coe Singers Guest TBA Singers Wassailers	West Packet
POYNTON Ceilidh	BRITON'S PROT. See (b) over Cheshire Folk Gerry Hallom The Hughes Bros. Singers Matt Fahey	I.POOL TRAD Sco (a) over Singers • Sam Sherry Singers • Chorus Songs Ni	CONCORD NO DATES TO HAND	BUCK Atth: VINE Spring Heel Jack Singers Gerry Hallom Singers Martin Simpson	PRESTON Kalied Band CLOSED Mike Silver Travellers F.C. CLOSED	Derek Brimstone High Leve Steve Turner Diz Disl Cel.Rad.Stout Band Therapy Leonard/Squire Dick Gau Muckram Wakes Ossian	<u>LEIGH</u> Turnpike
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	Dave Baird & Mike Bairtram Singers' Night most weeks some guests	Joan Blackburn Closed Singers Closed Singers	WIGAN			3 Cornered Hat Ushers Well Singers Two Beggarmen Fiddlestone	TRAVELLERS Brennan & Dunge
KEY TO SYMBOL	S:		(j) Residents	for month:		BY F	

- * See Out & About
- & Musicians & Res.
- # Club Birthday
 (e) Club moved to the TUDOR HOUSE, Wigan (See Out & About)

- (j) Residents for Peter Hughes
- South Parade (u) Jody Stecher & Krishna Bhatt £ Tickets available

THE VIEWS EXFREDSED IN THIS NEWSLETTER ARE NOT MECESSARILY THOSE OF THE EDITOR OR OF THE F DERATION.

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