

THE NORTH WEST FEDERATION OF
FOLK CLUBS



Newsletter

Sept ~ Nov.

20p

EDITORIAL

Welcome to another issue of the Newsletter! With the aid of vehicle distribution, I hope you will be seeing this issue rather earlier than previous issues have been recently, and next issue will be even earlier.

So what can you expect inside this issue? Ron Baxter has supplied an article about the "Final Trawl", which tells the story of the Fleetwood fishing community from 1945 to the present day, using slides and songs. There's the first article by Tom Hewlett on Lancashire Dialect, which is to be a new regular feature of the magazine. We review the Crewe & Nantwich, and also the Cambridge Folk Festivals; also Southern Rag and several new record releases.

All of our regular features such as Broadfolk, Song Exchange, Club of the Month will be found inside, although there isn't a Song of the Month, as we haven't received one of a sufficiently high standard since last issue. So if you write songs, poems or monologues, write at once and submit an entry for this; each month's winner receives a free subscription to the Newsletter - send to the Editorial Address (at the bottom of this page).

There are of course, Club News, Out & About and a full three months dates (or at least as full a set as we can get from the club organisers. If your club has no dates listed, then pester your club organiser to ensure he doesn't forget next time - closing date for next issue is OCTOBER 25th For the December/January issue to be published late November. We can accept no information after this date, and that includes dates, adverts, articles etc.

Finally, I mustn't forget to thank my typists, Chris Roach & Elaine Derbyshire and my Artists, cover artist Ian Sutton, and cartoonist Ron Baxter for their continuing excellent work. Thanks also to all those who have contributed articles to this issue, to those who have purchased advertising space in this issue. Last, but by no means least, thank you for buying this copy of the Newsletter - I hope we'll see you again next issue!

Migel Firth



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<p>THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS NEWSLETTER ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE EDITOR OR OF THE FEDERATION.</p>	<p>EDITORIAL ADDRESS: 3, Cromford Dr., Peaberton, Wigan, WN5 8JU</p>	<p>THE EDITOR ACCEPTS NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONTRIBUTIONS CLAIMED TO BE ORIGINAL, OR FOR ANY INACCURACIES HEREIN</p>
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BBC RADIO LANCASHIRE are running another radio Lanky Song Contest this year, following the success of last year's, when over 200 entries were received. They are looking for words, or the words and music, and it doesn't matter whether you send a cassette tape or an expensive reel-to-reel recording, they all stand an equal chance of winning. Send your words, poems, monologues, songs, in fact anything that reflects Lanky Life to:
BBC RADIO LANCASHIRE (LANKY SONG CONTEST),
KING STREET,
BLACKBURN,
LANCASHIRE, BB2 2EA

Entries must be received by the end of September. The winning songs, poems etc., will appear in a special programme on BBC RADIO LANCASHIRE towards the end of the year, as well as the latest LP's and singles for the lucky winners featuring "BLUE WATER FOLK".

THE METROPOLITAN FOLK CLUB, which we recently told you had closed, is in fact going well under new management. Bob Elliot & Graham Edwards, who had previously run the club, became depressed at the low attendances and withdrew (without any announcement) just before Christmas. Two of the regulars then decided to have a go at running the club, and although it has taken some time to build up is now attracting an enthusiastic audience in the range 10-30. Initially only running with singers' nights, there have now been a number of guests appearing at the club and it continues to meet every week at the Metropolitan, 61a Bold St., Liverpool (I'm told this is "opposite the corset shop"). For more information contact the Secretary, Reg Andrew on 051-708-6409

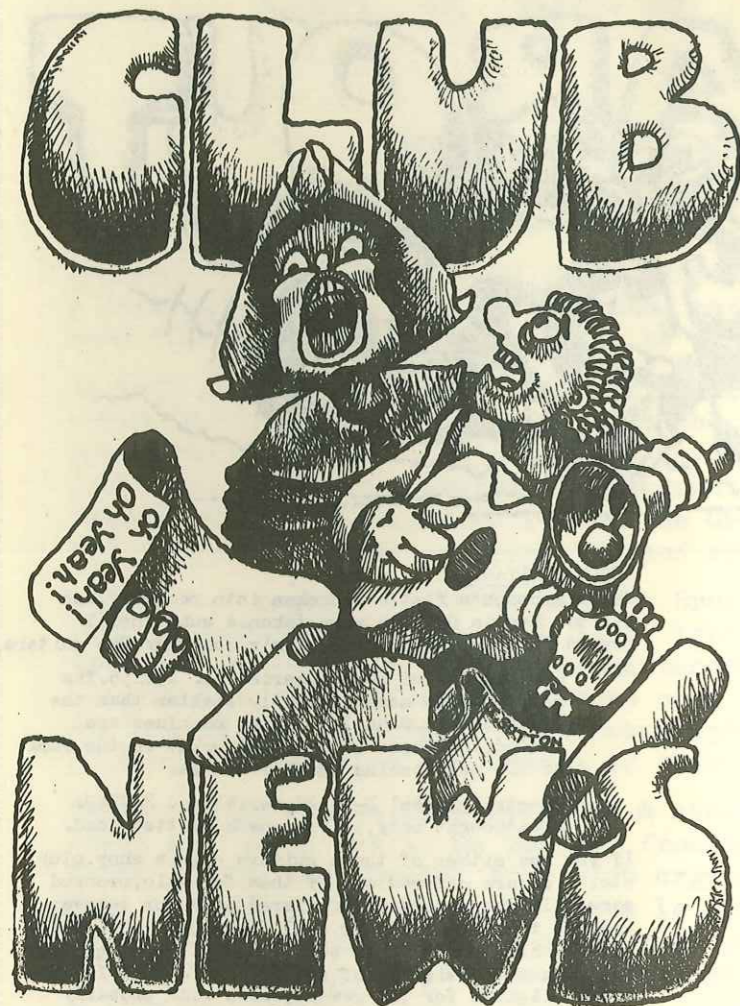
FOLK QUIZ:
SUE WELLS IS ORGANISING an individual quiz competition with a folk flavour to raise some money for a couple of worthy causes. In exchange for 50p you get fifty questions on general knowledge and on folk matters. When you've outdugged your brains and annoyed reference librarians for a week or two, post back your answers for a chance of a £5 prize. Proceeds from the Quiz are to be split between the Nic Jones' Benefit Fund and PERFORM Area 3 funds. The quiz will be available from early September, and the closing date will be mid October. It is hoped to publish a list of winners, as well as a set of answers to the Quiz in the next issue of the Newsletter (Dec/Jan issue, published around 20th November). Forms will be first available at the Fylde Folk Festival (Sept 3-5), and thereafter either from Sue herself (Hesketh Bank 3267) or from some clubs as Sue & Ian tour round some of the clubs during September.

STOLEN GUITARS:
Chris Rohmann's flat was broken into recently, and his two Martin Guitars were taken. A substantial reward is being offered for their recovery. The guitars are:
6-string, model 000-28, serial no. 150155. The narrow-waist model, slightly smaller than the Dreadnoughts. Schaller tuning machines are fitted, and there is a slight gouge on the back of the neck behind the third fret.
12-string, model D-12-20, serial no. 249249. Dreadnought body, 12 fret neck, slotted head.

If you see either of these guitars - in a shop, club etc. - or are offered one of them for sale, proceed carefully. The rewards are offered only for recovery. Contact the police and/or call Chris on 01-586-0144. (If you have unwittingly bought one of these guitars, don't make the mistake of not coming forward. You are still eligible for the reward, which will probably equal what you paid; and remember if the guitar were ever recognised it could be recovered without compensation. Please keep your eyes open and pass this information on. Many thanks for your help.

THE MIKRON THEATRE GROUP are in the area during October, and you should watch out for them at:
Navigation Hotel, Stockport Rd., Marple (Wed 20)
The Navigation, Hyde Rd., Woodley (Thu 21)
Worsley Cruising Club, Cawdor St, Eccles (Sat 23)
Red Lion, Dover Bridge, Abram, Wigan (Sun 24)
Crooke Hall Inn, Crooke, Nr. Wigan (Mon 25)
The Navigation, Gathurst, Nr. Wigan (Tue 26)
Melling Titebarn, Titebarn Ln, Melling (Wed 27)
Running Horses, Bell's Lane, Lydiate (Thu 28)
Lathome Slipway, Crabtree Ln, Burscough (Fri 29)
The Railway, Appley Bridge, Nr. Wigan (Sat 30)
All performances start at 8.00pm, and will be of either "Keep Yer 'Ands Off" or "Over the Top". (An article on Mikron appeared in Vol 3, No. 1).

LOCAL SINGERS PETE & CHRIS COB celebrate 11 years on the road as professional singers in September, their first tour being in Lancashire. In response to requests from various local Education Authorities they have put together a show for schools entitled the "Musical Junk Room", aimed at the 9-13 age range but adaptable for other age groups. The show includes songs & music, with a variety of unusual instruments and dances, costumes and props. Several local authorities have already taken this up and others are at present considering it. They also have a new record out shortly, and a new band available for barn dances and ceilidhs in this area, called the "Union of Halifax Band." You can catch Pete & Chris at Preston on Sept 13th, and Bury on October 2nd. Watch out next month for our special interview to celebrate their 11th anniversary on the road.



THIS ISSUE, as they say, we've some good and some bad news, the bad news being several clubs closing. But more of that in a while, first the good news:

THERE ARE TWO new clubs joining the North-West Federation of Folk Clubs since the last issue:

THE WHITE SWAN in Fallowfield are a fairly recent club, having started round about February of this year. They meet at the WHITE SWAN, Green Street, Fallowfield, Manchester on Wednesdays at 8pm. They have quite a strong residents list, Dave & Helen Howard, Gary Young, Lynn Percival, Geoff Higginbottom, Chris Manners, Mike Dixon. Full details of guests booked will be found in the three month calendar, and for information you should contact the organiser, Anne Morris on 061 881 8294.

THE SILVER BIRCH in Warrington, on the other hand is a brand-new club with its opening night on September 7th. They meet at the Silver Birch Inn in the Birchwood Centre, Birchwood, Warrington, and I'm told you should follow the signs for car Park 4 to find the Silver Birch, where the folk club meets every Tuesday at 8.15pm. The residents of the club are Mother's Ruin and Dave Baird, and for more details you can contact Molra Hindley on 0925 36535. Details of forthcoming guests at the club will be found in the three month calendar on the centre pages.

AND NOW the bad news:

THE BUCK I' TH' VINE Folk club in Ormskirk has closed due to a lack of resident singers. The Landlord would still like a folk club on either Monday or Tuesday, and Peggy McArdle is still prepared to run the club. So come on all you singers and volunteer your services, and prevent the club remaining closed. Contact Peggy McArdle, 0695 77611.

AND STILL WORSE TO COME

The Dicconson Arms at Wrightington which is usually identified with Derek Gifford has closed permanently. A venue rather out in the wilds when money is rather tight, together with a lack of residents seem to be the main contributory factors here. Some guests had already been booked for the autumn, so these have either been cancelled, or transferred to the Roebuck Folk Club in Leyland - see calendar for details.

AS ANTICIPATED last issue, Kendal Folk Club which met at the Roebuck Hotel in Kendal has in fact closed. I understand it is still possible the club could reopen at some time, but contact Steve Tomlinson on 0539 27538 to find out if it might do.

THE RAVEN FOLK CLUB in Wigan, run by Nigel Firth has closed its doors for the last time. Falling attendances, combined with a lack of people willing to help run the club are the main problems here. The pub is still willing to host a folk club there, if anyone is willing to run it. Contact Nigel Firth on 0942 215621 if you can help.

WIGAN FOLK CLUB which meets at the Park Hotel in Wigan, and was running alternate weeks to the Raven is continuing to run on the same as before. Contact Joan Blackburn on Wigan 863389 for more details.

WALLASEY FOLK CLUB which met on Friday nights at the Leasowe Castle Hotel, Wallasey has also closed. The organiser, Geoff Dormand is now running monthly concerts at a new venue, Tom Hall's Tavern in Liverpool. This club will be concentrating on booking the sort of acts that are generally beyond most clubs due to the level of fees charged. For more details, contact Geoff on 051 639 7928.

IT SEEMS WE OWE AN APOLOGY to Ray, the landlord of the Travellers Rest in St. Helens. We suggested that the club had closed due to an argument between the landlord and some of the club regulars, when in fact the club had closed due to falling attendances. Apologies for any embarrassment this may have caused.

The Folk Club at the Travellers are holding a meeting shortly with a view to reopening at the same venue as before on or about September 5th. Contact Dennis on 31498 (St. Helens) for more details.

THE TAVERN FOLK CLUB is now no more for various reasons, although they are actively pursuing various other possible venues in Southport. The night will probably change, so watch local press for details of reopening by end of Sept.

A COUPLE OF CEILLIDHS that have been brought to my attention:

Saturday Oct. 30th at Derby Hall, BURY with the Bury Ceilidh Band (0706 841859)
Saturday Oct. 9th at Antrobus Village Hall with Tom Brown's Band (0606 44361)

SARA GREY & ELLIE ELLIS are on tour in the UK during the following periods:
21-26 October, 20-30 December, also Jan & Feb
If your club is interested, contact Sany Boyle on 0606 44361.

BURY FOLK FESTIVAL '82 takes place in and around Bury over the weekend of 17th-19th September. There's a Grand Ceilidh, A Concert, Craft Fair, and Dance & Music Workshops. (061-761-7107)

THE TENTH FYLDE FOLK FESTIVAL takes place in Fleetwood over the weekend of 3rd-5th September. A very interesting & varied guest list features many well-known names. There are Concerts, Ceilidhs, Craft Fair, Music Hall, Workshops etc. (03917-2317) Don't miss it!

SONG EXCHANGE

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.

REQUEST from John Kilduff of Claremorris, County Mayo, for the words of the following songs: "Where the Mulcair River Flows"; "The Quiet Land of Erin"; "The Hills of Knocknashea"; "Mary of Maroe"; "The Village of Portrae"; "Lough Erne's Shore"; "The Dark Eyed Gypsy"; "The Green Grassy Slopes of the Moy"; and any other songs on Michael Nevitt, and songs about County Mayo.

John also writes songs, and would be interested in teaming up with someone who would write tunes for his lyrics.

SWEET MAYO

(to the tune of "Spancil Hill")

Last night I had a pleasant dream
of my boyhood long ago:
I sat at my old desk in my school
beside the Robe;
When my teacher showed the maps
to us, my interest it did grow,
For I had visions of strange lands
far away from sweet Mayo.

My heart did swell with great
delight when I reached my
eighteenth year,
And I was free to do the manly
things that for ever I'll hold
dear.
My greatest joy was to dance till
dawn, then take my sweetheart
home -
I would sing at my best the songs
we love in the homes of sweet
Mayo.

Then suddenly the scene has
changed - I'm on a foreign
shore;
I toiled beneath the burning
sun from Bombay to Singapore.
I danced with dusky maidens,
till the rising sun did glow,
But none could compare with the
charming girl that I left in
sweet Mayo.

But now I'm getting weary of
unfamiliar scenes -
I long for the simple care-free
life I knew when in my teens.

I wrote a note to my old sweet-
heart to say I loved her still,
And the sweetest music I could
hear was for her to say "I will".
Her answer it delighted me and
made my young heart glow,
And I awoke to hear my mother's
voice - I'm back home in
sweet Mayo.

---ooo000ooo---



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The Final Trawl

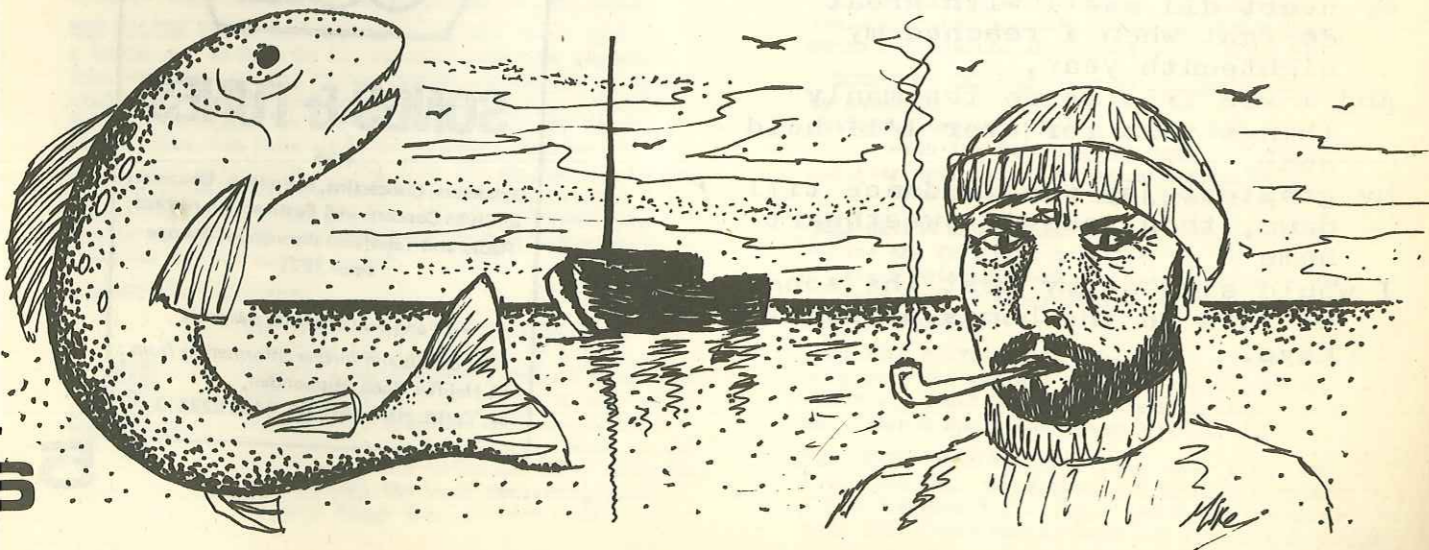
In English Maritime Year displays and shows all over the country will, with justifiable pride, tell the history and achievements of England's Seafarers.

Fleetwood Folk Club's contridution takes a rather different slant. Their production (written and produced by club members) aims to tell the tale of the Fleetwood Fishing Community from 1945 to the present day, not just of the trawlerhands but the vast number of other trades and professions that are needed to keep the Trawlers working and also of the women who are left behind when their menfolk are at sea.

The show itself takes a "Slide" and "Song" format, in which over 200 slides are used and 25 songs and poems as well as three sketches and a clog dance (by Sue Bousfield Lancs & Cheshire Champion) Some of the slides date back to the late 40s and cover the whole range of the story from fishing off Iceland, to Newspaper headlines, from the 1974 strike to the pubs and clubs of Fleetwood.

Unlike, say, the Cotton or Mining indus tries Deep Sea Trawling does not have a great wealth of traditional song, perhaps because it is basically a 20th Century trade, and so most of the songs used have been written in the traditonal style, however by some hard work (mainly in pubs!) five songs have been collected. Subjects of the songs vary from the loss of the S.T.Red Falcon:-

"O why are you crying Mam
Thats a thing you never do
I'll tell me dad when he gets home
Someone's bin hurting you



He's coming home for Christmas
He'll be here in an hour or two
For Red Falcon will be landing in the morning!"

To the food served up

"The crust of our cooks tatta pie
Was a thing that no deckies would try...."

and the way the industry has been betrayed by successive governments:-

"Their life it has been sold,
bartered out for Brussels gold,
While Dutchmen and Frenchmen
fish right to our shore,
Will no one heed the pleading,
of a life thats bleeding,
The flowers of the Sea will
bloom never more".

Although the show deals with a serious, and sometimes tragic subject (Deep Sea Trawling is six times more dangerous than mining) it is not a tale of woe and despair it contains some hightly amusing stories. e.g.

"Man arrested for being drunk in charge of Hoola hoop!"

The Final Trawl has beeh booked for the Sidmouth International Festival. The Fylde Folk Festival, and several local organ- isations. If any club would like to book the show please contact Dick Gillingham, 16 Willowdene, Anchoshome. (Cleveleys 821115) Nr. Blackpool.

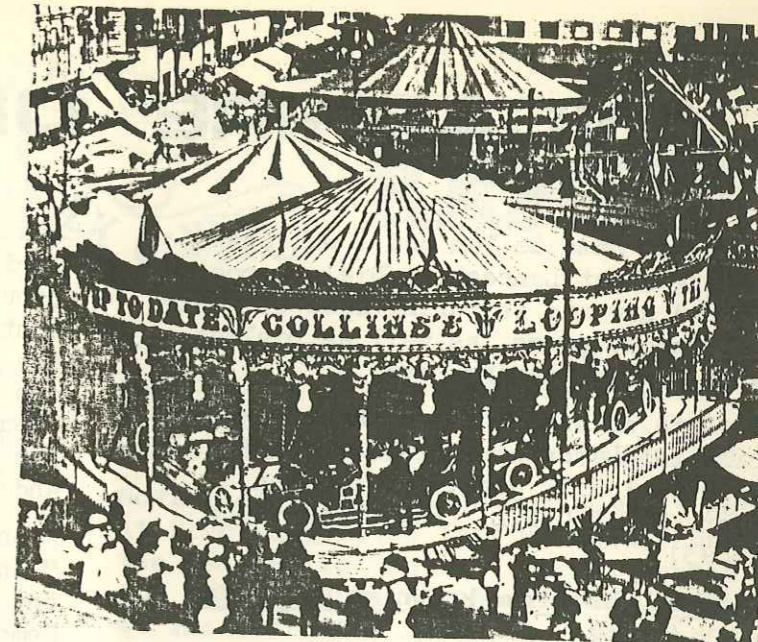
Ron Baxter.

ROUNDAABOUT

As a change, I thought it might be useful to give 'Newsletter' readers some idea of what dance activities are going on around now, if they didn't already know. By the time that you read this, the International Folklore Festival (22nd - 27th August) will have taken place at Morecambe and Lancaster. The teams appearing at the event will have come to this country for the Billingham International Eisteddfod, and when the Tees-Side event is over some of them are then brought over to North Lancs. This has been going on for several years now and, happily, is proving a very successful event.

Foreign teams this year are from Sweden, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Phillipine Islands, Korea - and the Isle of Man! By popular request a spot has been left in the programme of the opening event for "An English Group". Hoghton Rapper Sword Team were invited to fill the spot, and the experience of dancing alongside these guest teams - especially the professionals of Eastern Europe - will have been very rewarding for the lads. When I last heard, it was also hoped to include the "Ossie Cloggies" (children's clog dance team from Oswaldtwistle) in one of the other events during the week. Generally this 'back end' of the summer is going to be a very busy time for many of the local teams: on the first weekend in September Kirkby Lonsdale goes all Victorian, and Hoghton Rapper and Leyland Morris are scheduled to appear; possibly also John O' Gaunt Morris. On the next weekend the Leyland team will be at Croston, where they're celebrating Town Bridge's birthday - believe it or not !! (Any excuse for a pint and a knees-up at Croston). Then follows the second Blackpool Folk Day (18th Sept.) with town centre displays throughout the afternoon, followed by an evening ceilidh.

To go into more detail: the whole event begins with Leyland Morris dancing at Kirkham Market Place (10.30am), before moving on to Poulton-le-Fylde Shopping Centre (11.30am) where its hoped they will be joined by Cod End Mummies. Activities begin at 1.45pm at Blackpool, outside St. John's Church, and where Hoghton Rapper, Hoghton Dancers and the Lawless Sisters (clog dancers) join in. Rain, hail, snow or blow, the next part of the proceedings can still go ahead: out in the open if fine, actually inside the Hounds Hill Shopping complex if wet.



Shows planned for 2.30, 3.15 and 4.00pm.

The evening ceiliedh runs in the Spanish Hall of the Winter Gardens from 7.30 - 11.30pm and has the Hoghton Band with Roy Smith as M.C; guest dance spots from Hoghton Rapper, Leyland Morris, Lawless Sisters, with songs and music from Thistle and Zephyrus. Excellent value at £1.80; £1.50 if your a student or O.A.P.

To round off a busy month the Leyland Morris Men have a day of Dance (Sat.25th) when they'll have as guests Horwich Morris White Rose Morris (Huddersfield), Men O' the Mere (Southport), Hoghton Rapper and Conwy Morris (N.Wales). Details of Times and places from Pete Ansbro (Preston 614004) The event was planned as a get-together of the Leyland 'family' Conwy being started up by an ex-Leyland dancer, and Horwich who were given practical help and advice when moves were afoot to get that team going in the mid - 1970's. There's always been a close tie with Hoghton - some people being members of both teams, Men O'The Mere are a local team, new on the scene; and White Rose are old acquaintances from Saddleworth Rushcart events. Clitheroe Morris was also started up by an ex - Leyland dancer, and although the team won't be present, at least some representatives will.

Mention of Saddleworth also reminds me that the weekend 21 - 22 August will see a number of our local Morris teams trekking over there. If you'd like to share in a splendid day, be at Upermill around 9.30am to see the Rushcart drawn out of the Commercial Hotel yard. The morning is spent dancing at Greenfield and Upermill; the afternoon at Dobcross and Delph; Sunday at Saddleworth Church and the Cross Keys Inn - plus gurning, wrestling and clog dancing.

Although the Folk Festival (3-5 Sept.) is

LANCASHIRE DIALECT

HELLO, my name is Tom and I will be writing about Lancashire Dialect poets old and new and featuring some of their most famous poems, as well as Dialect words, quaint sayings etc.

If there is anything you want to know write to "Lancashire Dialect", C/O T. Hewlett, 1 Hild Road, Marsh Green, Wigan. W.N.5.0.R.L. (or phone Wigan 213843)

ALLEN CLARKE (Also known as Teddy as Teddy Ashton)

He was born in Bolton in 1863, and after working in the Cotton Mill, he became a teacher and later assistant schoolmaster. During this period he won many literary competitions and was persuaded to take up journalism as a career. Under the pseudonym of "Teddy

Ashton" he wrote the "Tom Fowt" and "Bill Spriggs" sketches which became very popular and his Christmas Lancashire Annual went out all over the world. He wrote for the Factory Time and later published his own paper, Teddy Ashton's Journal for about a dozen years. Finally he went onto the staff of the "Liverpool Weekly Post" and the "Blackpool Gazette".

Among his publications were a book of poems "John O' God's sneding", "Lancashire Lassies and Lads", "Windmill Land", "Moorlands and Memories" and "Effects of the Cotton System".

From one of these (Windmill Land), I have decided to publish "A Lass fro' Chorlah".

A' LASS FRO CHORLAH.

Some say Chorlah's a sleepy Tahn,
But I know a two three that it's Ta'n Dahn.
For When they like, yo' con bet yore crahn
They're wakken enoof i Chorlah.

There's pratty country rahand it, too
Green field's an' to ramble through.
An' what a gradely bonny view
Fro' Th' top O' th' nab at Chorlah!

There's a woodland walk along th' canel,
Wheer lover's strowls, sweet tales to tell,
I've roamed at Yarrowbridge mysel'
Wi a bonny lass fro' Chorlah.

The sayn there's a saint's owd boan's on show.
I' th' Parish Church - it may be so;
But th' Angels is aw ahtside, I know
I' th' jolly street O' Chorlah.

Weddin's a lottery - it may hap
There's monny a pair would like to swap,
But they sayn that he's a lucky chap.
The gets a wife fro' Chorlah.

We durnt aw see as others see.
I' Th' choice O' mates - so let it be;
But th' bonniest lass i' th' world to me
It's a lass that come's fro' Chorlah !.

SNIPPETS:

Some Dialect Words:

ARBITRATORS - A jocular term for clogs.
ARSE-BOOART.- Tail board of a cart.
GALLOWSES. - Braces.
MOLLICRUSH. - To break up, to destroy.
RANTIPOW. - A See-saw.
LIG. - To lie down.
LOPPERIN. - Boiling hot, bubbling.

PROVERBS:

A bad trade ull of spoil a good man, iv he sticks to it.
A hungry dog's fain O' Dirty puddin'.
Folk cannot be young at boath ends o' their life.
Its no use makkin porritch for't chylt afore its born.
Finally this month, a competition - send

THE NORTH WEST FEDERATION OF FOLK CLUBS A.G.M. REPORT

The Annual General Meeting of the North-West Federation of Folk Clubs was held at the Top Locks Folk Club in Runcorn on Saturday June 12th at 7.30pm. Due to the limited notice that had been given and to being well into the Festival Season, attendance was fairly poor with only some half a dozen clubs represented.

In the absence of the chairman, Derek Harrison, the Newsletter Editor, Nigel Firth took the chair for the duration of the meeting. After accepting last year's AGM minutes, the meeting moved on to consider reports from the officers. A detailed set of minutes will be available shortly (ask to see your club organiser's copy), but here are some salient points from those reports:

Financially, we were just in the black, but owed for Newsletter printing and expenses, mainly due to the slow return of money from the Newsletter sales and from some of the advertising. The bulk of the advertising was now prepaid, but some clubs still owed a significant amount of money for previous issues. The Newsletter Editor reiterated this point, and said that he hoped the car distribution system would allow a faster turn round. Circulation had held up fairly well throughout the year, but we were now looking to expand the circulation by distributing via Newsagents and other clubs throughout the North-West. (If anyone has any contacts in this line, please get in touch with Nigel Firth). Membership of the Federation was reported to be fairly stable, the number of new clubs joining compensating for those that had closed or dropped out of the Federation.

Election of Officers for next year then followed, and Ian Sutton (Minutes Secretary) and Nigel Firth (Newsletter Editor) were re-elected unopposed. Vince Ludden (Membership Secretary) expressed a wish to resign, and Martin Critchley (from the Eagle & Child, M/Cr) actually volunteered to step into the position. Both Greg Lee (Treasurer) and Derek Harrison (chairman) also wished

to resign, but were both willing to continue on a temporary basis until someone suitable could be found. The unfilled positions were left unfilled.

Moving on to any other business, it was at first suggested that we should put the Federation "on ice" for 12 months and only produce the Newsletter, looking at the situation again at next year's AGM. An alternative proposal was one to try to regionalise the Federation in order to get increased participation from the Member Clubs.

In principle the proposal is to split the Federation down into smaller sub-regions of more manageable geographical size, and each containing perhaps 6 or so member clubs. A representative for the area could then be chosen whose job it would be to find out the views of the clubs in their area (a meeting might be called to do this). The representative would then attend meetings of the Executive, where decisions about events, Tours, the Newsletter etc., could be taken. An Annual Meeting for the whole of the Federation would still be held, but this would be the only meeting at which an attempt would be made to get people from as far apart as Kendal, Rhyl & Newcastle together under one roof.

We recognised however that such a scheme would need a better cross-section of the Federation present at a meeting in order to implement the proposals. It is therefore the intention to hold a meeting in October at a central venue, giving everyone at least 4 weeks notice of the meeting, and to study the proposals. At the meeting we would also hope to find some "volunteers" to fill the vacancies at present on the Executive. We need to fill the posts of Treasurer and Chairman; it would be nice to fill those of Joint Activities Coordinator, Youth Organiser, Tours Organiser and Publicity Officer (as distinct from Newsletter Editor). Volunteers please form an orderly queue!

continued ... **9**

Letters to The Editor...

Dear Sir,

With clubs throughout the country almost continuously under financial pressure, it now seems that they must face an assault from another direction - the free folk nights held in pub lounge bars.

Arguments have raged for months now - the pages of this eminent publication have carried many - regarding entrance charges, singers nights and floor singers. A free pub night seems to solve all of these problems at a stroke - there are no entrance fees, no singers fees, and it is a night for floor singers by floor singers.

But problems do remain. Noise from non-folkies can destroy what confidence a nervous floor singer has at a stroke, besides ruining the evening for the rest of the audience. Up and coming floor singers usually have a limited repertoire, and even the most beautiful song begins to grate after weekly repetition.

These problems, however, pale into insignificance beside the problems, caused to a club organiser. Most are faced with falling attendances anyway, only to find that what they are offering for £1, someone else is offering for free.

Where will it all end? I personally believe the free folk night to be a good thing in that it brings people into contact with folk music, perhaps lighting a spark that will turn into a real interest at some later date. They give floor singers a chance, in fact they ACTIVELY ENCOURAGE people to sing, a thing so very few clubs do these days.

But they must recognise their responsibilities too. Folk clubs in the area should be advertised, publicised and in all ways brought to the attention of the public. Singers and organisers should support their local folk clubs and accept the free nights as the icing on the cake NOT as a substitute.

In the same way, club organisers should visit the occasional free folk night in order to keep abreast of the local folk scene. So many, these days, tend to turn out on club nights and for festivals, and feel they've "done their bit". If you hear a good floor singer at a free folk night, invite him to do a spot at your club (Then a lot of arguments regarding 'good' or 'bad' floor singers will be eradicated,

only the 'good' ones will get through the net). Talk to people in the bar - those that appear to be listening. (You won't get shushed as you would in a club - there's others talking anyway) Tell them of your club, where it meets and what it does, encourage them to come along, you'd be pleased to see them, etc. etc.

If there was more dialogue between the club organisers and the free pub night organisers they could do each other - and the folk movement - a great deal of good. So some on, folkies, make music, not war.

Bob Gilbert.

ROUNDAABOUT (continued) from P.7

much concerned with song, there's always some Morris and Sword on show. This year Manley Morris and Preston Guildsmen will be there and - if you haven't seen them before, do make the effort this time - The Iron Men and Severn Guilders. Certainly different!

Roy Smith.

The photograph at the top of the column is one of "The East aspect of Nottingham Goose Fair in 1908", an anonymous photo in Nottingham Public Library.

FEDERATION AGM REPORT (continued) from P.9

Seriously, if you are interested in helping with any of the above jobs, or in being one of the sub-region reps., (assuming this is approved), contact Nigel Firth on Wigan 215621 or Ian Sutton on Newton 28727 for further information.

Nigel Firth

LANCASHIRE DIALECT (cont'd) from P.8

Finally this month, a competition - send your answers to the address at the top of this column, and a free subscription will be awarded to the winner.

What is:

A bit O' Sae-beef-forty ribe to th' inch?
A merry bit O' Timber?
His nodin' ut Vicar?

Tom Hewlett

SONGWRITING COMPETITION

The Federation is holding a Songwriting Competition, the Finals of which will be held on Monday November 29 at the Triton, Liverpool, and on Thursday December 9 at the Park Hotel, Wigan.

Prizes include an audition with Dingles Records, plus consideration of airspace on Radio Manchester and Radio Lancashire, depending on, of course, whether the winning song(s) are of broadcastable quality. Radio Lancashire may even devote a "Sounds Local" programme to the event if there are several artists of reasonable standard - which we're sure there will be.

The closing date for entries is 31st October 1982, and while songs may not necessarily be written specifically for this Competition, any songs entered must not have been previously commercially published or recorded.

Further details and application forms may be obtained from either Chris Roach, 36 Pyecroft Road, Great Sankey, Warrington, or Joan Blackburn, 4 Rosewood Close, Abram, nr. Wigan. Please enclose an s.a.e.

ARTICLES WANTED

For publication in the Newsletter - all kinds, whether record/book reviews, dance, song, local customs, humorous etc., I will give serious consideration to all articles I receive. Previews (or reviews) written by the organiser of an event, or by the record company are not acceptable; we may accept previews, but these will usually be re-written into a more appropriate style. Send to Editorial Address.

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HELP WANTED

To produce the Newsletter. I'm looking for ways of spreading the burden rather further than it is at present, so that eventually it would be possible for someone else to take over as Editor. Perhaps you can help by typing (I have help in this department, but more is always welcome), perhaps by dealing with Newsletter distribution to the clubs and chasing them for their money etc., perhaps by dealing with the advertising and/or page layout. Phone Nigel Firth, Wigan 215621

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Club

DAY & CLUB	RESIDENTS	DATES IN SEPTEMBER			
		1st	8th	15th	22nd
WEDNESDAY					
Folk at the Malt Lancaster Uni. White Swan	See (f) below	Singer's Night No Dates Dr. Sunshine	Singer's Night No Dates Singer's Night (free)	Mageean/Yarwood (m) No Dates Stephens/Martin (k)	Singer's Night No Dates Tony Mannion
THURSDAY					
Fleetwood Hooligans Poynton Appleton Thorn Wigan	Scold's Bridle Tintagel Thorn/Minor Birds Joan Blackburn	Flash Company No Dates <i>Mimi Ceilidh</i> No Dates Singer's Night	Singer's Night No Dates <i>Mimi Ceilidh</i> No Dates Singer's Night	Bram Taylor No Dates <i>Mimi Ceilidh</i> No Dates Save the Park	Tundra No Dates <i>Mimi Ceilidh</i> No Dates Closed
FRIDAY					
Bee Seymour Tavern Newcastle Roebuck White Lion	Various See (b) below See (c) below See (g) below	Singer's Night Gentleman Soldier TBA No Dates Collins/Mageean (s) Laime & Allen	Singer's Night Ossian TBA No Dates Host, Rob Twisse Tundra	Singer's Night Andy Caven TBA No Dates Julie & Jan Local's night	Singer's Night Carthy/Kirkpatrick (n) TBA No Dates. Pete Walsh Local's Night
SATURDAY					
Bury Brewery Kirkham Top Locks Tom Hall's Tavern Poynton Leyland Morris	Various Fiddlesticks C.B.	TBA 3.9.82 (p) Closed <i>Temporarily Closed</i> Closed Kirby Lonsdale	Thompson/Allan Bell (l) 8.9.82 (p) D.Porter/A.Russell Closed Saturday Ceilidh Croston	Closed 17.9.82 (p) Sullivan Closed Fylde Day of Dance	Nic Dow 23.9.82 (p) TBA Carthy/Kirkpatrick (n) Day of Dance (*)
SUNDAY					
Eagle & Child Keithley Green Leigh Poynton Raven (Farndon) Travellers Rainford	Culvert Trevor & J.Hunt Volunteers Derek & Di Bock	Helen Robinson <i>No Dates</i> Closed T.B.&S.O. Steve Turner <i>Possible reopening</i> CLOSED	Alistair Russell <i>No Dates</i> Closed Dave Swadwick/Simon Nest Singer's Night Chris & Joe While	New Braeken Band <i>No Dates</i> Closed V'n Garbutt Andy Caven McConville/Halpin (h)	Jumpleads <i>No Dates</i> Incognito Bully Wee Singer's Night TBA
MONDAY					
Prince William Poynton Preston Triton Leyland Morris	Thorp/Hurst See (d) below Triton Folk	No Dates <i>Singaround</i> Singaround Spinners Practise night	No Dates <i>Singaround</i> Pete & Chris Coe Res. & Singers Practise night	No Dates <i>Singaround</i> Singaround Il Danach Practise night	No Dates <i>Singaround</i> Singaround A.G.M. Practise night
TUESDAY					
Blackpool Silver Birch	Taverners See (e) below	Singer's Night Mothers Ruin/D.Baird	Singer's Night Chris & Joe While	Singer's Night Stanley Acorington	Kevin Seisay. T.B.A.

KEY TO SYMBOLS ABOVE:

- * See Club News, page 4
- f Tickets available from club
- (b) Residents include: Tony Coll, Demented Waving Brothers, Chris Manners, Diane Robinson, Dave Welsley, Mike & Maggie Billington
- (c) Residents are: Buokthorn, Bernie Blaney, Richard Tynan, Neville Grundy, Bob Carlton (with Steve Pilkington)
- (d) Residents include: Derek Harrison, Duncan Campbell, Tom Walsh, Hugh O'Donnell & Floor
- (e) Residents: Mother's Ruin, Dave Baird (Singers)
- (f) Residents: Dave & Helen Howard, Lyn Percival, Gary Young, Geoff Higginbottom, (Chris Manners, Mike Dixon)
- (g) Most weeks are hosted Singers' Nights

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Calendar

DAY & CLUB	DATES IN OCTOBER				
	29th	6th	13th	20th	27th
WEDNESDAY					
Folk at the Malt Lancaster Uni. White Swan	Singer's Night No Dates Steve Turner	Jenny Beeching (t) No Dates Bram Taylor	Singer's Night No Dates Singer's Night (free)	Singer's Night No Dates Howard Bond	Singer's Night No Dates. Chris & Joe While
THURSDAY					
Fleetwood Hooligans Poynton Appleton Thorn Wigan	Singer's Night No Dates <i>Mimi Ceilidh</i> No Dates Singer's Night	Jenny Beeching No Dates <i>Mimi Ceilidh</i> No Dates Closed	Tony Rose No Dates <i>Mimi Ceilidh</i> No Dates Gorton Tank	Therapy No Dates <i>Mimi Ceilidh</i> No Dates Closed	Singer's Night No Dates <i>Mimi Ceilidh</i> No Dates Singaround
FRIDAY					
Bee Seymour Tavern Newcastle Roebuck White Lion	Singer's Night Singer's Night TBA No Dates Liz Suddell White Hart	Singer's Night Jenny Beeching TBA No Dates The Waterasons Local's Night	Singer's Night Jolly Jack TBA No Dates Host. G. Critchley Charley Yarwood	Singer's Night Dave Evans TBA No Dates Alan Nowell Local's Night	Singer's Night Singer's Night TBA No Dates Tom Brown
SATURDAY					
Bury Brewery Kirkham Top Locks Tom Hall's Tavern Poynton Leyland Morris	Pete Coe 30.9.82 (p) Derek Gifford Allan Taylor (o)	Ian Woods 8.10.82 (r) Eddie Walker Closed <i>Saturday Ceilidh</i>	Dick Miles 14.10.82 (r) Wendy Grossman Closed	Len Graham Howard Bond White/Simpson (q)	Ceilidh (Derby* Hall) 29.10.82 (r) Singer's Night Closed
SUNDAY					
Eagle & Child Keithley Green Leigh Poynton Raven (Farndon) Travellers Rainford	Gordon Tyrrell <i>No Dates</i> Therapy <i>Brownsville Banned</i> D. McGuire Paul Metzers	Eddie Walker <i>No Dates</i> Ted Edwards <i>Tannahill Weavers</i> Singer's Night Wendy Grossman	Howard Bond <i>No Dates</i> McConville/Halpin (h) <i>Shep Woolley</i> Downes/Beer TBA	Ratters Hat <i>No Dates</i> TBA <i>Pete Sayers + Band</i> Singer's Night Cousins/Willoughby (j)	Bram Taylor <i>No Dates</i> Blue Water Folk <i>Magna Carta</i> Singer's Night G. Higginbottom
MONDAY					
Prince William Poynton Preston Triton Leyland Morris	No Dates <i>Singaround</i> Singaround Spinners Practise Night	No Dates <i>Singaround</i> Singaround Res. & Singers Practise Night	No Dates <i>Singaround</i> Singaround Heather Whittaker Practise Night	No Dates <i>Singaround</i> Singaround Res. & Singers Practise Night	Prince William Poynton Preston Triton Leyland Morris
TUESDAY					
Blackpool Silver Birch	Singer's Night Smith/Denny	Singer's Night Guest TBA	Singer's Night Guest TBA	Singer's Night Guest TBA	Blackpool. Silver Birch.

- (h) Tom McConville & Kieran Halpin
- (j) Dave Cousins & Brian Willoughby
- (k) Sam Stephens & Anne Lennox-Martin
- (l) Pete Thomson & Alan Bell (from NE)
- (m) Jim Mageean & Charley Yarwood
- (n) Martin Carthy, John Kirkpatrick & Evans plus Leon Rosselson
- (o) Champion String Band plus Allan Taylor
- (p) BREWERY FOLK DATES:
Friday Sept 3rd: Footloose
Wed. Sept 8th: Alan Bell Band/Poulton Silver Band
Friday 17th Sept: Maddy Prior Band

- (r) BREWERY FOLK DATES (OCTOBER)
Fri 8: Muckram Wakes
Thu 14: Freddie White
29 Fri: Boys of the Lough
- (s) Johnny Collins & Jim Mageean
- (t) and Proper Little Madams
and his occasional band

- Thurs 23rd Sept: Carthy, Kirkpatrick & Evans
- Thurs 30th Sept: McCalmans
- (q) Freddy White & Martin Simpson

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DAY & CLUB	DATES IN NOVEMBER					
	MONDAY	1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th
Prince William	No Dates	No Dates	No Dates	No Dates	No Dates	No Dates
Poynton	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
Preston	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
Triton	Spinners	Johnny Collins	Res. & Singers	Eddie Walker	Res. & Singers.	Res. & Singers.
Leyland Morris	Practise Night	Practise Night	Practise Night	Practise Night	Practise Night	Practise Night
TUESDAY	2nd	9th	16th	23rd	30th	
Blackpool.	Singer's Night	Singer's Night	Singer's Night	Singer's Night	Singer's Night	Singer's Night
Silver Birch	Guest TBA	Guest TBA	Guest TBA	Guest TBA	Guest TBA	Guest TBA
WEDNESDAY	3rd	10th	17th	24th		
Folk at the Mal	Singer's Night	L.O'Flynn/A.Irving (u)	Singer's Night	Hunters Moon (v)		
Lancaster Uni.	No Dates	No Dates	No Dates	No Dates		
White Swan	Singers Night (free)	Heather Whittaker	Cyril Tawney	G. Higginbottom.		
THURSDAY	4th	11th	18th	25th		
Fleetwood	Dave Peabody	Bernie Parry	TBA	TBA (w)		
Hooligans	No Dates	No Dates	No Dates	No Dates		
Poynton	Mimi Ceilidh	Mimi Ceilidh	Mimi Ceilidh	Mimi Ceilidh		
Appleton Thorn	No Dates	No Dates	No Dates	No Dates		
Wigan	Closed	Keith & Janet Hancock	Closed	Singer's Night		
FRIDAY	5th	12th	19th	26th		
Bee	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA		
Seymour	Galadrial	Bernard Wrigley	Gorton Tank	Singer's Night		
Tavern	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA		
Newcastle	No Dates	No Dates	No Dates	No Dates		
Roebuck	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround		
White Lion	Local's Night	John O'Hagan	Local's Night	Tony Rose		
SATURDAY	6th	13th	20th	27th		
Bury	Chris & Joe While	TBA	TBA	TBA		
Brewery		12.11.82 (x)	19.11.82 (x)			
Kirkham	Glendel's Mother	Tony Rose	Singer's Night	Bram Taylor		
Top Locks.						
Tom Hall's Tavern	Closed	Closed	Closed	De Danaan (+Sunday)		
Poynton		Saturday Ceilidh				
Leyland Morris						
SUNDAY	7th	14th	21st	28th		
Eagle & Child	Singaround	Bob & Annie	Tommy's Lot	Strawhead		
Keighley Green	No Dates	No Dates	No Dates	No Dates		
Leigh	Sean Cannon	F. & I. Bruce (y)	Tony Rose	G. & E. Pratt (z)		
Poynton	Strawhead	John James	Slip Jig	Guest TBA		
Raven (Farndon)	Therapy	Singer's Night	Guest TBA	Singer's Night		
Travellers *						
Rainford	Mike Silver	TBA	TBA	TBA		

- (u) Liam O'Flynn & Andy Irving
(v) and Champion String Band
(w) Ron's pre-wedding special night
(x) Brewery Folk Dates for November:
Friday 12th : Dave Swarbrick
Friday 19th : Andy Irvine & Liam O'Flynn
(y) Frazer & Ian Bruce
(z) Graham & Eileen Pratt
* See Club News, page 4

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CLUB OF THE MONTH:

LEIGH FOLK CLUB

Leigh Folk Club has been around for sixteen years and is still managing to survive. It originated at the White Horse in the very heart of Leigh, has had about six other venues and is now housed at the Courts Hotel on Church Street. Bass Charrington, the owners of the Courts have been very helpful in providing free posters, allowing us to run a bar in our room and allocating a monthly raffle prize. We have now been at the Courts for three years and hope to be allowed to remain.

We are lucky to have quite a large committee who help to share the work. Eric comperes the Club and I do the bookings, a job which I feel gets harder every year as artists' fees increase and we reluctantly have to try and increase door charges. Our policy is to book 75% national artists, 25% local artists and the odd dance night - Eric doing the calling. We have tried Singers' nights without success, so now extend a very cordial invitation to floor singers to come along. We can assure you of a warm reception.

Last winter saw some excellent nights with artists such as Vin Garbutt, Martin Carthy Peta Webb & Webb's Wonders, the Oldham Tinkers and Gary and Vera. We nearly had Tony Rose in December but he had to abandon his car twenty miles away in a snowdrift so we had an audience of 14 and no guest, but one of our regular singers came to the rescue and we ended up having a good laugh which helped keep us warm.

Our residents for the last three years have been Joan and Trevor Hunt from Culceth, who have a fine repertoire of lesser known folk songs in addition to the old standards. They have a full and varied sound incorporating accordion, guitar, concertinas, fiddle and mouth organ. Frank Farrimond from Hindley Green is another regular singer at the Club and we have been indebted to him on a number of occasions when Joan and Trevor have been otherwise engaged.

In order to maintain our booking policy we have found it necessary to subsidise the funds with ceilidhs at outside venues, jumble sales and two years ago we held a

successful Craft Fair. Without our committee none of these ventures would be possible. I sometimes wish some of the people who turn up at the club and criticise or grumble about high door charges, knew exactly just what went into the running of our club.

We finished for the summer break at the end of May. By that time we'd all had enough and I try to completely forget about it until its time to start the bookings at the beginning of August. We open up on 26th September and have a varied guest list taking shape - see diary dates. I then usually wait for a couple of months after opening to see which way the wind's blowing. Hopefully we'll see the year through but in this business you never know.

Jackie White.



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BROADFOLK 9

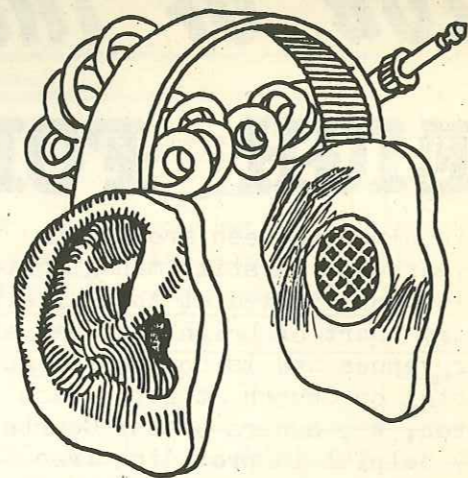
May to July was a period of soggy series, missed opportunities and odd unexpected pleasures. First, that great folk day the first of May - on a Saturday. Central TV (formerly A.T.V) turned uncharacteristically serious and gave us JERUSALEM'S ARMY: 150 years of Mans Unemployment. What a chance: from broadside to contemporary folk. No such luck - a full symphony orchestra plus a choir of 150 belting out Blake's Jerusalem. They did use some folk material: 'We're down, we're low' to the tune 'Star of the County Down', 'We don't want to lose you' and 'A long, long trail a-wind-ing' both too smoothly done: Also 'The Red Flag' and 'Your biby has gorn down the plug 'ole' - with piano. After a quote from T.S. Eliot's 'The Rock' they sang Alex Glasgow's 'Turning the Clock Back' but even blew that by having the cast run in a clockwise circle. Writer/director was Kirk Campbell.

The same night R2 repeated a Nordring '81 with a programme of Canadian Folk Songs - it seems anything goes but English. It's only a matter of time before we get the Falkland book of Penguin folk songs.

Then - a week earlier than expected - Not The Finger in The Ear Show. This is one result of Ian A. Anderson and other 'Southern Rags' taking ove an EFDSS publicity committee and getting their foot in an Open Door. The cast list was strong but several people have commented on idiosyncratic choices of song.

Low spot of the show was an interview with Colin Irwin, who slagged off the music press without revealing that as a member of the Melody Maker editorial team it should have been his own ass he was kicking. Full marks to sound engineer John Cantfield who achieved better sound in a village hall than most stuido set ups. I hear that the EFDSS contact address has been snowed under with response: what would a really good show have achieved?

A slight let down was the long awaited Souvenirs of Sidmouth. This was assembled from material left over from The Sidmouth Invasion. Tony Staveacre's team had captured a lot more people than they had used and now retrieved some from the cutting room floor, Disappointing elements were the scheduling - a weird



Monday/Thursday pattern with gaps and times from 5.40 to 6.35pm, the shortness (only 20 minutes) and still a heavy dance element when we had hoped for more songs. Mind you, even the most MCP Morrisman would have enjoyed the Bristol based Ekome (West African) Dances and no one could fail to be touched by the Rainbow dancers circling gently in their wheelchairs. There were six programmes and lots of people got one song each. One of the best moments was the appearance of Bob Roberts (who has since died) singing 'Windy Old Weather'.

Try checking Radio 1 on Saturday evenings at 6.30 for In Concert. This is mostly rock bands but has produced some pleasant surprises. One was Bert Jansch plus the Thompsons: another was the new Albion Band plus De Danaan.

One or two odd bits: R4 had a Saturday Night Theatre with ballads and a BBC West programme on 'The Glastonbury Pilgrimage' naturally used 'Bread & Fishes' but without credit to Alan Bell or the singer. To mark their East of England week, R4 put out The McCalmans, apparently left over from their Scottish week. Val Doonican had an Irish night (No! Yes!) with Mary O'Hara, Stockton's Wing and a very pseudo girls dance team, more ballet than jig. Look North West did a few pieces from the Windermere Festival including some social dance and a ladies clog team.

Talking of festivals, BBC 2 is doing an erratic series on Arts Festivals (Series producer Bob Marsland) which has included some folkish elements. One programme had Maddy Prior in rock mode, the Chichester programme had Swarbrick & Nicol - lovely. For Cambridge they dragged in an interview with the reformed Pentangle (actually a not quite reformed foursome)

cont'd...

CAMBRIDGE Review -

"Is this your first time?" someone asked disbelievingly. Well, there's a first time for everything, even Cambridge - although it did seem that most festival goers were making a regular pilgrimage.

This festival might strike horror into the hearts of true folkies, but its certainly got a lot going for it. With Chas & Dave blasting out their Top Ten hits at the same time as elderly hippies are to be found in the beer tent and the Irish freaks are getting stuck into the jigs & reels, its a festival of many faces. You have to be catholic in your tastes to enjoy Cambridge, but if you like your music laced with a good dollop of blues, humour & country, then you'll love it.

The standard of musicianship is almost frighteningly good. Highlights for me were David Lindley's description-defying slide and Martin Simpson's superb guitar and vocals. Other favourites were the country send-up of Hank Wangford (try saying that after a night on the beer), and the nostalgia of the Lindisfarne performance - even though they seemed to do the same set, even joke for joke, the next day. Add to that Joan Baez (I'm told she was good), Flemish musicians Waso (virtuoso jazz licks), Pentangle ("so laid back they disappear up their own backsides" said one listener), the Martin Carthy Band (Did they really spend more time tuning up than playing?) and on, and on, and on ...

For those who fancy telling their grandchildren they played at Cambridge, there's the club tent, where you can book yourself into a marathon singers' session. This year performers included names like Paul Metsers (on dulcimer), canine star Mrs. Ackroyd, and Johnny Crescendo whose poems were a treat. I reckon the Northerners had the Southerners licked in this department!

One disappointment about the festival is the age-range of the audience. The afore-mentioned hippies predominate, veterans of the festivals of the '70s, with only the grey hairs, beer guts and growing families to mark the passing years.

It was sad to see so few under-20s - or even under-25s in evidence.

Organisation at Cambridge is good, as it should be with 17 years practice. It's also well stewarded, although there seems to be a distinct bias towards male staff, with hardly a female in sight.

The only problem for first-timers used to the comfort of "camping by car" is being told park half a mile away and carry your gear via the festival bus to the camp site. Next year we'll have our beans better packed!

Celia Sutton

BROADFOLK (cont'd)

Finally, did you follow Pope Paul's visit? In Scotland, he heard Gaelic music from the Isles. In Wales, it was a vernacular mass. In England? 'Welcome Pope Paul', in a bad greetings card jingle set to a boring drone. We already know that all T.V. executives are tone deaf and it now seems that so are the English hierarchy. Come back St. Cecilia, all is forgiven!

FOLKEAR.



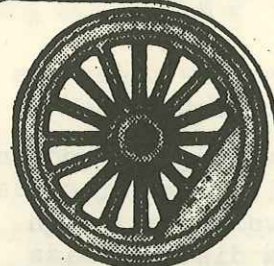
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Review ~



CREWE AND NANTWICH FOLK FESTIVAL

A lovely weekend started for me with New Zealand born Paul Metzgers in concert, giving a superb set of his own songs, mostly on guitar but also on dulcimer. Ellie Ellis and Sarah Grey followed Paul, and I immediately saw why they are booked in most every club in the UK. Mixing shanties with tunes, their bubbling characters caught the audience's imagination. Hom Bru finished the Friday concert with lots of noise and enthusiasm though perhaps not in time with each other as they might have been. I thus moved on to the ceilidh in the Civic Hall where the band was Hodges Dump and the caller Dave Hunt (alias Dr. Sunshine). A packed hall and full dance floor reflected the quality of the evening.

Saturday - after sleeping through workshops, avoiding hair-of-the-dog singarounds, tempting childrens' sessions and just catching the tail end of a morris display I hit the first of the "traditional" sessions, featuring local yokels from the Potteries. To say they showed us young folk revivalists a thing or two is an understatement. Four concertina players hammered out tune after tune whilst others related poems and sang songs.

Back outside into the blazing sunshine more morris teams were at work whilst I headed for the afternoon concert starring Dave Swarbrick & Simon Nicol. Swarbs' brilliance and obvious enthusiasm for the violin was equally

matched by Simons' experience and intensity. Bill Zorn also did a set as did Pete Bellamy and Tony Hall. I find Pete difficult to listen to for long periods, but still find myself drawn back to his haunting voice.

Phew! Tea-break back at the campsite, with impromptu workshops on Leathercraft. Back to the smoke for singaround sessions accompanied by spoons etc. Finishing off Saturday for me was the ceilidh followed by the Gary & Vera Aspey concert. The ceilidh was broken up by spots from local artistes and morris sides. I was too tired to stay for Gary & Vera, but still went to bed with my bollinger beating!

On Sunday I managed to catch an excellent bodhran workshop and then watched more morris in the sunshine. The highlight of this set was Betty Lupton's Ladle Laikers from Knaresborough. If you get chance to see them - do. Winding up an eventFULL weekend Arizona Smoke Review burnt through their instruments at amazing speed, though I preferred the more leisurely pace of Dave Burland and the close harmonies of Chris & Joe While.

The organisers did a tremendous job and were repaid with an outstanding festival. See you there next year.

Andy Swarbrick

Joe Stead

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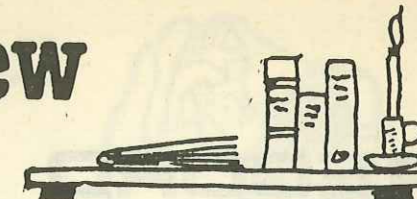
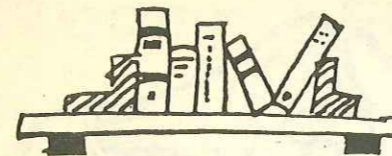
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Book Review



SOUTHERN RAG NO: 13. (Vol.4.NO:1 July to September).

Not a new magazine of course, but I don't think we've reviewed it yet and a new format prompted me into putting pen to paper. It is now A.4.size (like all the best mags!) with 44 pages, a coloured cover and a very professional presentation.

The magazine has been getting better with every issue, and although still basically a magazine for the South of England it goes some way to providing a national forum, with the continuing absence of Folk Review.

So what does it contain? There is of course the inevitable letters column, which as usual has much excellent discussion on a wide range of topics, including last issues April Fool, which it seems many people didn't spot. There's usually an excellent interview with a well known folk performer and this month Ashley Hutchins is the willing "victim". Various specialist pages will also be found in the magazine including "Come Dancing" (Folk Style that is!), "Traditional Topics", and (usually) a Perform Page.



PETE COE

song & dance

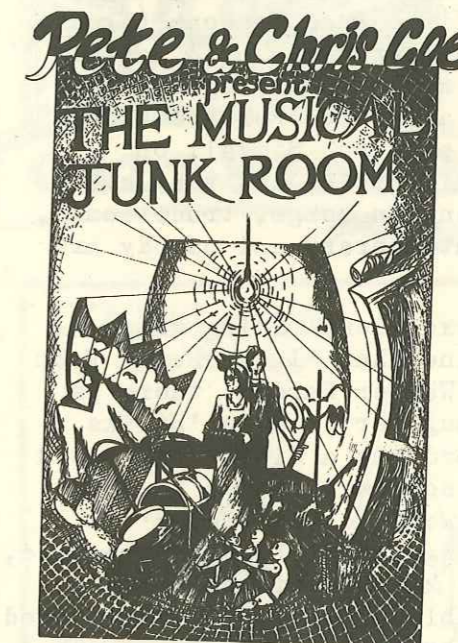
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Other regular features include a section about regional folk magazines and a page is provided for a different well-known folk person to expound on a topic they think worthy of further discussion. An extensive section of record reviews, a list of clubs in the area as well as general information about what's happening round off an excellent magazine.

What more can I say but send off your subscription at once to:-

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N.F.



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RECORD REVIEWS

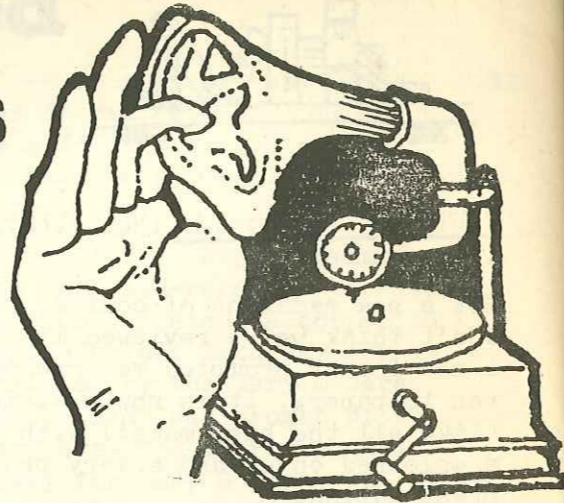
FREE & EASY: JOHNNY COLLINS: TSRO41

Side 1: All Among The Barley/Nelson's Victory at Copenhagen/Down in the Mine/Sporting Dogs/The Penny Wager/Thomas Hanley/The Devil in York/Green grows the Laurel/Strike the Bell Landlord.

Side 2: I Can Hew/The Leaf/Sheffield Apprentice/The Mare and the Foal/Wind and the Rain/Old Brown's Daughter/Farewell to the Fields/Free and Easy.

Those readers who have heard Johnny live will know that he's at his best in a singaround setting, singing with (rather than at) his audience. To simulate a good singing audience he has gathered together some friends: Jim & Anne Mageean (from the Herga at Wealdstone), Tom & Barbara Brown and Charley Yarwood (Regalia), Geoff Anderson and Keith Pollard (from Pegleg Ferrot) plus Bob Siddall on mandolin and guitar. And how they sing! A generous seventeen songs, traditional, broadsheet, contemporary and parody are all included.

There are two excellent mining songs 'Down in the Mine' and 'I can Hew'. From the singing of Walter Pardon, there is 'Old Brown's Daughter', while 'Strike the Bell Landlord' is a witty song based on an original song well known in this locality. 'Farewell to the Fields' is thought provoking but still very singable, and that is the keynote of the album - singing, enjoyable singing. You don't need jazz furion, a brass section, or a rock drummer to be exciting. All you need are good songs and some good singers who enjoy them. Johnny and friends here give a powerful reminder of what we are missing in too many clubs.



"RAMBLING ROBIN" Pete Castle
Burlington BURL 013

Side 1 : Rambling Robin/Lit le Sir Hugh/Oxford City/Canst though not weave bonelace/The other side of Jordan/May Song

Side 2 : The Devil & the Farmer's Wife/The Swan swims so bonny/The Mare & the Foal/Hangman/My son John/Roll the cotton down

This is a first LP by Pete Castle (although there has been a limited edition cassette previously), and provides a good introduction to the type of songs he sings. There's a good mix of chorus songs and ballads, all fairly familiar, although one or two are rather lesser-known versions.

My own favourite tracks are "the other side of Jordan", a humorous and rather irreverent little ditty from 1885, and "The Swan swims so bonny", one of the most popular of the Child Ballads. All of the songs are competantly sung, although "Hangman" is too long to be sung as straight as it is sung here, and "The Devil and the Farmers' Wife" doesn't quite come off for me in the version chosen here.

cont'd...

Record Reviews (contd)

I notice I've written "competantly sung" and I think that describes it well, none of them particularly stand out, and I'm sure there are many club residents who could give equally competant rendition and yet it very unlikely any of them would make an LP.

Having said that, it is a good introduction to Pete Castle and if you like him already you'll not need any encouraging to go out and buy the record.

N.F.

"A LAMBKIN HAS COMMENCED BLEATING"
Nadka Karadjova (Pazardjik Folk Songs)
FMS Records FMSL 1001

Side 1 ; Young Brides & Maidens Have Started/Dena Magdalena Boasted/A Lambkin has commenced bleating/Marko is paying a visit/Stoyna went to fetch some water/Stoynan winnows away the wheat

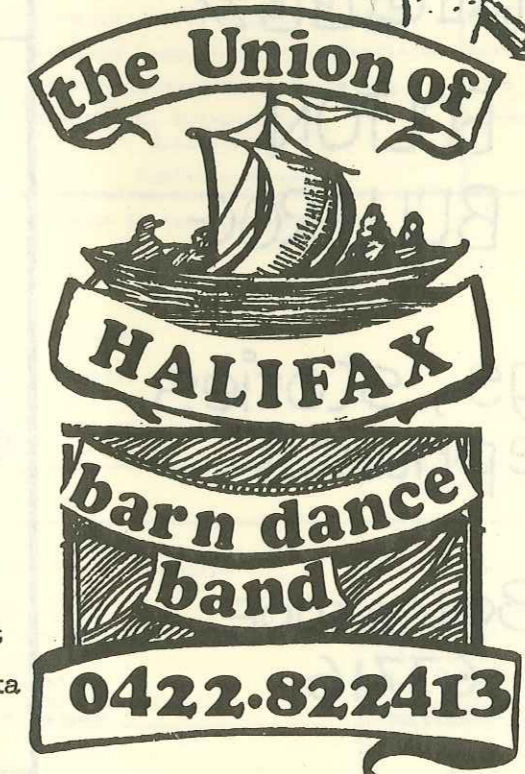
Side 2 : Draganchitse, Dagano/Ivan & Donka are in love/Eninka was speaking to her mother/Mother looks for Gencho/Nedelyo, Nedelyo/Gane, Ganchitse.

And now for something completely different... It seems we largely have Terry Wogan to blame for having played the single "A Lambkin has commenced bleating" so often, that it was inevitable that the LP would have to follow. What can I say? Nadka Karadjova is a Bulgarian folk singer with a strange, clear, but warbling voice that has something of a hypnotic effect. The only trouble is that a single is acceptable, but a full album, complete with full orchestral backing is far too much of a good thing.

The songs I'm afraid did little to excite me, the whole thing being too much of a commercial package, rather like a Bulgarian equivalent of Mary O' Hara. I think I could have accepted it better if it had been accompanied by just one or Bulgarian peasant instruments (whatever those might be!), rather than the full orchestra.

Like I said, it certainly not my cup of tea at all, but still it might make a good plant pot holder!

N.F.



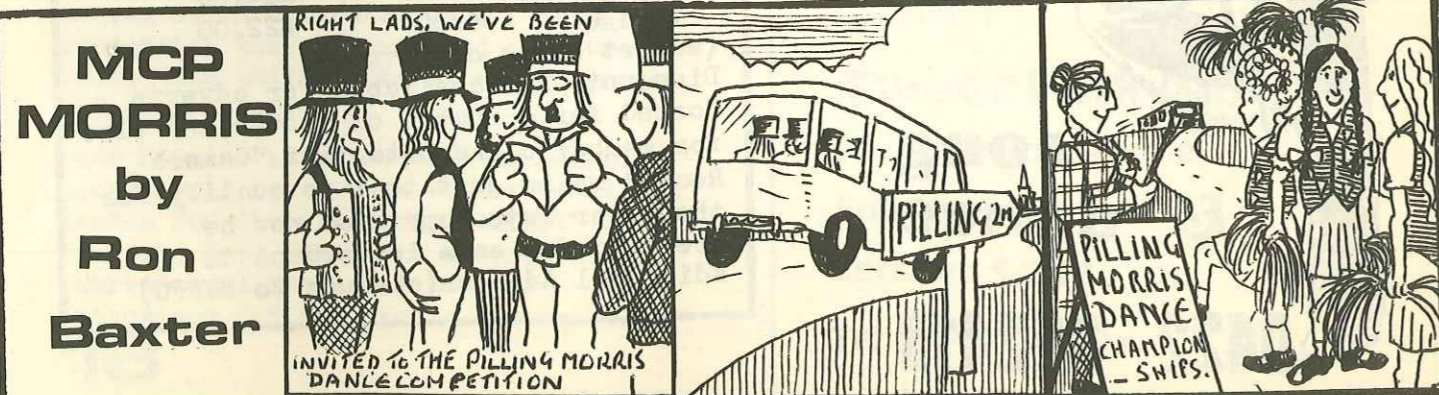
ETHNIC MAN
by Ron Baxter



IT'S YOUR OWN FAULT!
I KNOW & YOU KNOW
WHAT A MYTHOLE SYMBOLISES.
BUT did you need to tell
Miss Primm?

20

I.W.



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(see P.11)

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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 organisation of events to attract under 18s to Folk Music.

The Member Clubs

FOLK CLUB	TIME OF START	ADDRESS	ORGANISER	ORGANISER'S PHONE NO.
SUNDAY				
Keithley Green	8.15pm.	Keithley Green Folk Club, Massey St. Burnley.	Keith Goodwin	0282 54086
Leigh	8.00pm.	The Courts Hotel, Church St. Leigh.	Jacqueline White	0942 678758
Poynton	8.00pm.	Poynton Folk Centre, Park Lane, Poynton.	Eric Brock	0625 872626
Rainford	8.15pm.	Golden Lion Hotel, Rainford.	Bob Leeming	0744 88 3424
Raven (Farndon)	8.30pm.	Raven Hotel, Farndon. Nr. Chester.	Nick Mitchell	0244 4447
Travellers Eagle + Child	8.30pm. 8.00pm	Traveller's Rest Hotel, Crab St. St. Helens. Eagle + Child, Higher Lane, Whitfield, Manchester	Ian Sutton Andy Swarbrick	Newton 28727 061-793 4056
MONDAY				
Leyland Morris	7.30pm.	St. Anne's School, Slater Lane, Leyland.	Pete Ansbro	0772 614004
Preston	8.15pm.	Lamb Hotel, Church St. Preston	Derek Harrison	0772 748439
Prince William.	8.15pm.	Prince William, Dalton (Nr. Ashurst Beacon)	Niell Hurst	0744 25038 (work)
The Triton	8.00pm.	The Triton Hotel, Paradise St. Liverpool	Doreen Rickart	051 521 6020 (work)
TUESDAY				
Silver Birch	8.15pm	Silver Birch Inn, Birchwood Centre (Car Park 4) Warrington	Moirra Hindley	0925 36535
Blackpool	8.00pm.	Kings Arms Hotel, Talbot Rd. Blackpool	Pete Rodger	0253 56290
Buck i'th' Vine	8.30pm.	Buck i'th' Vine, Burscough St. Ormskirk.	Ian McArdle	0695 77611
WEDNESDAY				
White Swan	8.00pm	White Swan, Green St, Fallawfield, Manchester	Anne Morris	061 881 8244
Folk at the Malt	8.30pm.	Malt Shovels, Stamford St. Altrincham.	Susie Stockton	061 928 1936
Lancaster Univ.	8.00pm.	Trades Hall, Fenton St. Lancaster. (Nr. Castle Station)	Malcolm Wilkin	—
THURSDAY				
Appleton Thorn	8.15pm.	Thorn Inn, Appleton, Nr. Warrington (on A49)	Maggie Goodall	0925 66280
Fleetwood	8.15pm.	Queen's Hotel, Beach Rd. Fleetwood.	Ron Baxter	03917 3738
Hooligans	8.30pm.	Llindir Inn, Henllan (Nr. Denbigh)	Howard Hadwin	074 571 2640
Poynton	8.00pm.	Poynton Folk Centre, Park Lane, Poynton	Eric Brock	0625 872626
Wigan	8.15pm.	Park Hotel, Market Square, Wigan. (alternate weeks)	Joan Blackburn	0942 863389
FRIDAY				
Bee Tavern	8.30pm. 8.15pm.	Bee Hotel, Bodfer St. Rhyl Woody's Tavern, Coronation Walk, Southport	Dave Costello Bernie Blamey	0745 32488 0704 77065
Newcastle	8.60pm.	Pack Horse, Station St. Longport, Stoke-on-Trent.	Jason Hill	0782 813401
Roebuck	8.30pm.	Roebuck Hotel, Leyland.	Ron Strickland	0772 313876
Seymour	8.30pm.	Seymour, Seymour Grove, Chorlton-cum-Hardy	Mike Billington	061 881 8729
White Lion	8.30pm.	White Lion, Witton St. Northwich	Sean Boyle	0606 44361
SATURDAY				
Bury	8.00pm.	Old Blue Bell, Bury	Sue Clegg	0706 841859
Brewery	8.30pm.	Brewery Arts Centre, 122a Highgate, Kendal (occasionally)	Neil Johnston	0539 25133
Top Locks	8.30pm.	Waterloo Hotel, Waterloo Rd. Runcorn.	Dave Archibald	051 423 4112
Kirkham	8.15pm.	St. George's Hotel, Station Rd. Kirkham.	Phil Capper	0772 684537
Tom Hall's	8.00pm	Tom Hall's Tavern, Brunswick St, Liverpool	Geoff Dormand	051 639 7928

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