THE NORTH WEST FEDERATION

FOLK CLUBS

DEC'82-JAN'83



EDITORIAL

Welcome to another Newsletter! I hope you will see this issue rather sooner than previous issues, and next issue we will do even better - and that's a promise.

I'm going to start this Editorial with a plea for help to produce the Newsletter, so that we can produce each issue well in time. Perhaps you can help? I need people who can do some typing(I have help with this at present, but if I can spread the burden it would be helpful); I also need help in collecting Club Dates, dealing with Advertising/Page Layouts, and in distribution & chasing clubs for Newsletter money. If there is no help forthcoming, then I'm afraid that future issues will be put at risk, as I can no longer continue to spend as much of my time producing the Newsletter so if you want the Newsletter to continue, PLEASE HELP.

Enough of my problems, and on to the contents of this issue: We review the Fylde Folk Festival, as well as a production of The Final Trawl. The results of Ian & Sue Wells' Nic Jones Benefit Quiz are to be found on page 16, while there's a new feature where will be repeating articles from early issues for the benefit of new readers.

All of the usual features are to be found inside as usual, such as Broadfolk, Lancashire Dialect, Song Exchange. There's also Club News, Out & About and of course, two full months club dates.

Closing Date for next issue will be JANUARY 1st (extended because of Christmas), and all club dates, articles etc., MUST be received by this date in order to qualify for inclusion in the February-March issue.

Finally, my thanks to all those who have helped in the production of this issue, especially my typists, Chris Roach & Elaine Derbyshire. Thanks also to artists Ian Sutton & Ron Baxter for their continuing support. Last, but by no means least, thank you for buying this copy - see you next issue.

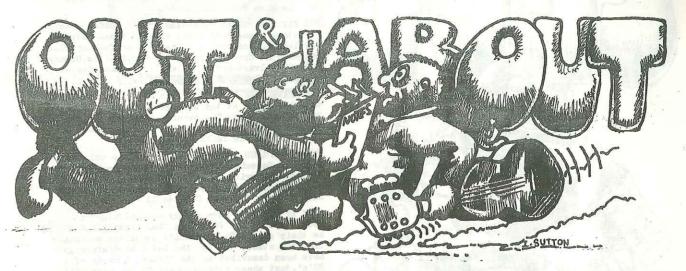




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THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS NEWSLETTER ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE EDITOR OR OF THE FEDERATION. EDITORIAL ADDRESS:
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CONTRIBUTIONS CLAIMED TO
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INACCURACIES HEREIN



THERE'S BEEN I understand a good response to the Federation's songwriting contest, being run by Chris Roach & Joan Blackburn. Both songs & singers are of a high standard, and should lead to a very keenly fought contest. The heats are being held on Monday November 29th at the Triton in Liverpool, and on Thursday, December 9th at the Wigan Folk Club (park Hotel, Market Square). Why not go along for what should prove to be a rather different yet entertaining evening.

MARTIN CARTHY is no longer working through an agent, and is now doing all his own bookings. There is not a two year waiting list, and he even has dates free ever the next few months. His fee as always is very negotiable, depending on the size of the club and other factors. You can contact him (ex his wife) directly on 0947 880622, or by writing to St. Ives' Farm, Robin Hood's Bay, Whitby, N. Yorks.

WEST LANCASHIRE LEISURE SERVICES are in the provess of organising a 3-week festival to run from the 5th to the 25th March 1983. They hope to cover art, drama, sport & Music, and as part of the latter category, a Folk Might is to be held on Friday March 11th, which will be a two-part event of competition & concert. The competition is to find the best folk singers in the area, with well-known adjudicators and with very good prizes. Unlike many similar contests, they have not forgotten the folk club in all this, so all the heats for the wontest are to be held at folk clubs in the area. This ought to bring in people who perhaps would not otherwise go to a folk club, which in turn might help the clubs themselves.

Heats are to be held as follows, from which 6 finalists will be chosen to take part in the contest in Marchs

Thursday, January 20th - Park Hotel, Wigan
Sunday , January 23rd - Golden Lion, Rainford
Monday , January 24th - Knowl Brow, Skelmersdale
Tuesday , January 25th - Hare & Hounds, Maghull
Wednesday, January 26th - Old Ship, Southport

Entry forms for the contest will be available from the clubs concerned, or from West Lancs Leisure Services, 52, Derby St., Ormskirk (Tel 77177)

PETER BELLAMY is on tour here in the North-West during the last week of April and if anyone is interested in booking him (fee negotiable) please contact Ron Strickland (0772 313876) or Peter direct on Norwich (0603) 60411.

FOLK NORTH-NEST are presenting a programme of English folk music, song & dance at Southport Arts Centre on Thursday, December 9th at 7.30pm. The aim is to show our rich heritage of folk music, song & dance with the aid of period costumes and some of the North-West's best musicians & dancers. All will be accompanied by the Cumbrian Gap Ceilidh Band. Tickets are £1.75 (£1.25 Student/Unemployed) from the arts Centre.

THERE IS A NEW supergroup, "Bright Pheobus", available for bookings. The group consists of Ron, Julie & Jan Strickland together with Mike & Barbara Presce, and they have already done a number of clubs & Concerts here in the North-West. They perform a mixture of contemporary, English Traditional & Gospel songs, both accompanied and unaccompanied. For more details contact Ron Strickland (0772 313876)

THERE IS NOW a new folk magazine here in the North-West called BUZZ, which is produced by the Greater Manchester & Cheshire districts of the EFDSS.Its contents is mainly lists of Morris Teams, Dance Clubs and a list of dates for folk clubs etc. There are one or two short articles, some record reviews and a couple of songs. With its greater emphasis on Dance topics, and covering only Greater Manchester and Cheshire, it is clearly complimentary to the Newsletter and not a competitor. A subscription for 4 issues costs £1.75 (cheques to EFDSS) from 62, Ridge Crescent, Hawk Green, Marple, Stockport SK6 7JA.

THE 1983 POYNTON FOLK FESTIVAL (the 11th) takes place over the Easter weekend (1st-3rd April) 1983 as usual at the Poynton Folk Centre. Among the guests already booked are:

Johnny Collins/The Dead Sea Surfers/Vin Garbutt John James/Jez Lowe/Pat Ryan/Strawhead/Sam Shewry Therapy/Ian Woods & Charley Yarwood

plus many local artists, Morris Teams and Ceilidh Bands. Tickets for the weekend are £7.50 in advance, while children are only £1.50 in advance. Tickets froms Festival Organiser, Folk Centre, Park Lane, Poynton, Stockport, Cheshire, SK12 1RB (Tel: 0625 875555)

FORMER NORTH-WEST FOLK SINGER Keith Roberts is about to have a children's book published. The book is called "Bingo Bones and the Boggart", and is in the Brock Books series by Hodder & Stoughton, and will be priced at £3.50.

JIM MoPHEE of the Acorn Entertainments agency tells me that Saffron Summerfield and Neil Lewis are no longer available from him.Kitsyke Will ,Maxie & Mitch and Jake Thackray have joined the agency; Maddy Prior is to do a solo tour with husband Ric Kemp during April, so she can do a lot more traditional material than was possible with her band.

For information, contact Jim McPhee on O21 444 7258

STAN GEE, who for many years has been a stalwart of the Folk Scene in the Poynton area, died recently. To commemerate his death, Poynton Folk Centre recently organised a Folk Concert and also a Celidh, since Stan was involved in both Dance & Song. He was a founder member of Bullook Smithy (now to be called Smithereen), and the Ram Jam Ceilidh Band have renamed themselves Uncle Stan's Ram Jam Ceilidh Band in his honour. I'm sure he'll be sadly missed by many, not only in Poynton, but throughout the North-West.



THERE IS very little to cheer I'm afraid this month; no new clubs opening or existing ones joining the Federation this time, whilst several are about to

KIRKHAM FOLK CLUB is closing down at Christmas, largely due to falling attendences. Phil Capper. the organiser, tells me however that he hopes to start early in the new year with a series of concerts with big name acts. Watch this space for further details, or 'phone Phil on 0772 684537. December 18th is their closing night, and anyone who has had anything to do with the club ought to try and get along to give them a good send-off.

THE SEYMOUR FOLK CLUB in Chorlton-cum-Hardy, which was run by Mike Billington is to close at Christmas. The usual problem of falling attendences (except for the very big names) seems to be the main reason. For more about this, see Mike Billington's letter on page 18 . For more information, please contact Mike on 061 881 8729.

THE TOP LOCKS FOLK CLUB in Runcorn has closed due to falling attendences. If there is enough interest it might reopen, so if you want to see the club survive, please ring the new organiser, Bryn Williams on 092 82 3256.

THERE ARE A number of new club organisers, so if you are usually referring to an old copy of the Newsletter, don't. See the new list on the inside back cover. (page 23).

THE BER FOLK CLUB are to hold a ceilidh on Saturday 18th December at the Westminster Hotel in Rhyl with the Cheshire Folk Ceilidh Band

THE KEITHLEY GREEN Folk Club are to hold a special Christmas Concert at their club in Massey Street, Burnley. The concert is to be held on Tuesday 21st December at 8pm featuring Talisman, Brillig, Ginney Rum and Culvert. For more details contact the new organiser, Dave Cook on 0282 57393.

THE TRAVELLERS Folk Club from St. Helens have moved to a new venue at the Geoerge & Dragon on Main St., Billinge, Nr. Wigan. The evening (sunday) has remained the same, and for more details please contact the organiser, Bernie Faulk, on 0744 30252.

THE WHITE LION FOLK CLUB are running a ceilidh on Saturday December 11th at the Black Greyhound in Wincham featuring WYTCHES' CAULDRON Ceilidh Band. For more details please contact the organisers, Sean & Sandy Boyle on 0606 44361

FOLK AT THE MALT have a very special night on Wednesday January 26th when they have MAXI & MITCH as their guests. They are both excellent musicians from the stable of Jack the Lad & Lindisfarne.yet have been described as the 'Laurel & Hardy of the 80's', just sheer entertainment. On the same bill is TIM WOOD, and there is aguest spot from Howard Lees and John Hobson. Not to be missed!

THE OLD SHIP FOLK CLUB is not a completely new club; some of you may remember a folk club on Fridays at the Coronation in Southport. The Brewers. Whitbreads. threw out the club to make way for a wine bar that never materialised. After a brief period, first at the Arts Centre (T'Other Bar) and then at the Woody's Tavern, they are now established on a new night (Wednesday) at the Old Ship Inn on Eastbank St., Soutport. The pub is a Walkers House, and the new lanlords, Charles & Stella Oliver actually want a Folk Club, so it should stand every chance of succeeding.

GROFF DORMAND tells me that his club at Tom Hall's Tavern has not closed, contrary to popular rumour, but will in fact be moving shortly to a new venue. This information arrived too late for inclusion in the diary dates, but here are the details:

Saturday, December 4th @ Tom Hall'S Taverns Richard Digance and Dougle MacLean Saturday January 15th @ Riverside, New Brighton: Gordon Giltrap

Saturday, February 19th @ Riverside, New Brighton: Martin Carthy / Albion Band

The new venue is the Riverside Restaurant. The Promenade. New Brighton (near Station & Buses). Tickets for all events are £2 each, and for more details, please contact Geoff on 051 639 7928 (evening & Weekend)

BURY FOLK CLUB are holding a New Year's Eve Ceilidh on Friday December 31st at the DerbybHall, Bury starting at 8pm. The band are the Old Blue Bell Band, and more information is available from Sue Clegg (0706 841859).

WHILST COMPILING THIS ARTICLE, I've picked out one or two artists who are not often seen around here, and who You shouldn't miss a rare opportunity to see:

Dave Swarbrick/Simon Nicol, Seymour, December 10th Packie Byrne White Swan December 1st Rosie Hardman Kirkham December 11th Peta Webb/Webbs Wonders, Leigh December 5th Proper Little Madams. Poynton January 2nd Fred Wedlock Poynton January 23rd

There's lots more well worth going to see, including singarounds which often offer much better value than a guest night, so go along and support your local folk

NEWCASTLE (under Lyme that is) Folk Club are running a Ceilidh on Tuesday December 7th at 8pm at the Leopard, Burslem. The band is the Leopard Band, and caller Jason Hill, tickets are only £1 - more information from the club organiser, Jason Hill on 0782 813401

SONG OF THE MONTH

Eric's Christmas Surprise

by Stephen Driver

A couple of weeks before Christmas, A time for frolics and fun, The Broadbents were feeling unhappy, Especially young Eric, the son.

The times were harder than ever, Much worse than the Christmas before; Pa Broadbent hadn't been working For eight or nine months or more.

Young Eric didn't have much money But the lad never grumbled or fussed, Though he spent up his weekly allowance Going to school every day on the bus.

And as Christmas Day grew closer, When folks should be full of good cheer, The family out round the fireplace, Just the tick of the clock you could hear.

But Pa tried to shrug off the problems And he suddenly sprang to his feet Saying, "Get your coat on, our Eric, It's time for tha' Christmas treat."

Eric didn't need much persuasion, He was up before Pa had spoke, So they hopped on a bus for t' town centre And they mixed with the happy folk.

The family walked through the market And into the Co-op they went. Pa asked for "Santa's Grotty", And to the first floor they were sent.

Pa Broadbent forked out the money, Eric went to the fat man in red; But t' lad, instead of smiling, Looked a bit puzzled instead.

"Well Santa," began little Eric, "I'm sure that I've seen you before -I don't mean way back last December, But just then in Woolworth's next door!"

Erio leapt upon Santa's knee And it gave an ear-splitting crack. Santa winced, but tried hard to smile, And Eric picked a gift from his sack.

"Now then, young Eric," said Santa, "I remember you from last year -I recall what you left me at your house -A pickled egg and a glass of flat beer!"

Eric told him he wanted for Christmas Was a bike with a shining new bell. But Ma and Pa just smiled sadly -They couldn't afford, they knew well.

"Don't forget now, Santa," said Eric, "A bike, and a blue one I think." And they made their way towards the door -As they left Santa gave him a wink.

Well, Eric just never stopped talking, A bike would be his, so it seemed, And Ma and Pa remained silent, Not wishing to break the lad's dreams.

The days soon passed in December And soon it was Christmas Eve. Around the foot of Erio's bed Just a few odds and ends Pa did leave

Young Eric was sleeping soundly, Riding the bike in his dreams. But, alas, poor Pa couldn't a ... A bike was nowhere to be seen.

The family slept on quietly As traditional snow did fall, Young Eric woke up in the morning To see if Santa had called.

Pa was downstairs feeling drowsy, Wondering how to comfort his son, When suddenly the door burst wide open -There stood Eric, pleased as Punch.

"Look Pa!" began little Eric, "Just the right size, not too small!" And there, by the side of young Broadbent, Was a bike - a blue one and all!

Then Ma came in on the action, Her and Pa couldn't believe their own eyes, Pa said, "Listen 'ero, our Eric, Have you rinched it from somewhere outside?"

"Course not!" answered youn; Eric, "Santa brought it like -Remember that day in the Co-op, Well he promised he'd bring me a bike!"

"Next to it I found this 'ere letter Headed 'Damage to Santa's knee! -When I see you next year in the Co-op I'll expect my hospital fees!"

And Eric went out with his present, Ma and Pa just sat there and stared If it wasn't either of those two -Then how did the bike turn up there?

But Eric knew it was Santa, Though his parents just hadn't a clue; And right to this very moment They still don't know - do you?!

DO YOU write Songs, Poems or Monologues? - if so, why not enter them for our Song of the Month contest; the best submitted for each issue will be published in the Newsletter, and the winner also receives a subscription. Each year, the best of the year is selected and the winner of that receives a book token, as well as another year's subscription. Send your entries to: Song of the Month, 3, Cromford Dr., Pemberton, Wigen, WN5 8JU.

ROUNDABOUT

I was recently asked to run a 'Barn Dance' for about two hundred young people from all over the country attending a rally in Liverpool. I gathered there were conferences during the day, followed by a service in the cathedral and in the evening the entertainment options were: two discos(one for under 18s, one for the over 18s), a concert and a barn Dance. I wasn't sure whether the barn dance was to be for keen dancers who would want something to get their teeth into, or simply for those who didn't like any of the other options.

I went with an open mind and a very flexible programme ready to cope with any eventuality. I generally plan dances which lead progressively from one to the other, thus minimising 'walking through', and spending too much time teaching the dances. As the hall filled up, it was abundantly clear that whatever else, this crowd were out to enjoy themselves. I started off with a big circle dance, which breaks the ice whilst mixing people up and incidentally gives me a feel for the type of thing which will go down well for the occasion.

If there are a lot of beginners I don'T usually announce the names or the origins of the dances, as I feel some people won't join in unless they know the dance. However on this occasion after the second dance I was asked if I had any dances from Tyneside, so tongue-in-cheek I put on Blaydon Races—at least the music came from the right area, and the dance was devised by William Scott from Hexham—it was just right and caught the mood.

I hadn't planned it, but the idea suddenly clicked that with people from all over the country there, I could try dances from different parts of the country. "Anyone from Cumbria?" - a cheer went up from the far corner - "Well here's the Cumberland Square Eight". The idea soon caught on, and groups from all over the hall called out where they



were from, and I tried to match each location to a dance. Some needed rather a stretch of the imagination, whilst others I most certainly would not have inflicted on inexperienced dancers under normal circumstances. Everyone seemed to have enjoyed themselves thoroughly, and I get the feeling I will be joining them again on a future occasion.

As I said earlier on,I don't normally go into details of the origins of dances when M.C.ing, but if the Editor can spare the space (I certainly can, as I'm sure it would prove to be an interesting article or series of articles - ED), I'd like to discuss some of them in later issues of the Newsletter.

经济长 米米特米米米特米

THIS MONTH'S article in the series on Dance and Dance-related topics has been contributed by Alan G. Barber.

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.

6

SONG EXCHANGE SINDE

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 Jan McKennedy of Wigan for the words of "Down In The Wee Room".

THE OLD YEAR NOW AWAY IS FLED (Traditional; Tune: "Greensleeves")

The old year now away is fled,
The new year now is entered;
Then let us now our sins downtread,

And joyfully all appear.

Merry be the holiday,
And let us run with sport and play,
Hang sorrow, cast care away,
God send you a happy new year!

And now with new year's gifts each friend

Unto each other they do send;
God grant we may our lives amend,
And that the truth may appear.
Like the snake cast off your skin
Of evil thoughts and wicked sin,
To amend this new year begin,
God send us a merry new year!



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The Final Trawl-A Review

As readers of the last issue will know, this is a separate production and deserves a full review.

Fleetwood Folk Club have put together the story of the local fishing fleet from 1945 - 1982 using narrative, songs, poems, dance and slides. The songs are a mixture of traditional, contemporary and specially written ones. The slides are a mixture of archive material from the Fleetwood Chronicle and some fascinating colour slides taken at sea by a local fisherman. It took 18 months to research and write but the effort was worthwhile. They wisely limited the acting sequences to lighter moments and carried the heavier emotional sequences on a mixture of narrative and song.

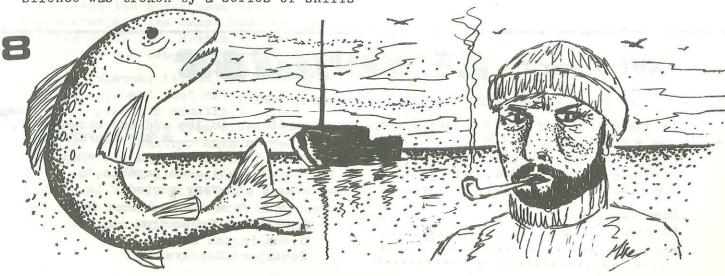
It is difficult to isolate sections for comment because of the coherence and excellence of the whole. Three sequences stick in my mind, two serious, one lighthearted. The lighter sequence dealt with a notorious local club, The Blue Flamingo, and had the audience in stitches. The sequence dealing with the loss of a trawler was very effective: all such losses were epitomised by the story of the Red Falcon, lost off Scotland on the way back from the fishing grounds and with 14 days uncertainty before identifiable wreckage was found. The illustrated narrative had held everyone in a charged silence but when it continued with a song from the viewpoint of an eight year old who doesn't know why Mum's so sad when Dad's due in today well, the silence was broken by a series of sniffs and furtive moves to brush away the starting tears.

The final sequence was equally effective with the last song beautifully arranged for an increasing number of voices as it changed from nostalgia for the old days to regret at the various forces that have killed the trade. This was capped by a simple poem on the Trawlermen, then the light of the projector died symbolically and the entire hall was hushed until the cast stood to take their bows and released thunderous applause.

This was community theatre at it's best. I felt privileged to have seen it in Fleetwood with locals in the audience to chuckle knowingly at the local references. Community involvement extended to sponsorship by the manufacturers of Fishermen's Friends. The ensemble was so good it would be unfair to mention individual names.

The fish handling company has closed, the trawlers have gone - the real last trawl took place in July. The Final Trawl is a worthy memorial to a lost way of life.

Ian Wells.



Repeat Page

ON THIS PAGE we shall be reprinting articles that have appeared in earlier issues of the Newsletter, mainly for the benefit of all the new readers we have gained since the Newsletter started. We will also be reprinting those articles which were not well printed when first published.

WE WELCOME anyone to send in requests for articles to be republished, and these should be sent to the Editor at the usual address.

THIS ISSUE, I've chosen a seasonal offering, Apple Wassailing, written by Joan Blackburn, and first published in Volume 2.No.5 (December 79-January 80).

APPLE WASSAILING

Apple wassailing appears to be a survival in a specialized form of a rather more general custom. On farms throughout the country, certain rites were celebrated on Twelfth Night Eve, on which depended the success or failure of the coming year's crops.

At dusk, the farmer would lead his men out into the fields. In each field in turn, they would light a bonfire, round which they would gather in a circle. They would drink a health to the farm in ale or cider, and shout, cheer, sing, and generally make as much noise as possible in order to frighten away the evil spirits. When each field had been thus treated and purified, they would return to the farmhouse and partake of a huge feast, with more singing and drinking. After this, they would again venture out, this time to the barns, stables and styes, to drink good health to every animal and everything that the farm possessed. This would ensure prosperity for the coming year.

In Apple Country, Devon and Somerset, a variation on this theme has survived. Instead of lighting bonfires, the men circle certain trees of the orchard. They dance round the tree, singing, then a gun is fired through the branches of the tree (presumably to frighten away the evil spirits). After this, a mug of cider is thrown through the branches, or pieces of toast soaked in cider are hung therefrom, to urge the tree to bring forth good fruit; a good example of sympathetic magic.

As with many other customes, the night of celebration may have local variations. In one place it may be on Twelfth Night itself (January 6th); in another, it may be on Old Twelfth Night (January 17th), where people have rigidly stuck to the date even since the calendar was changed in 1752. But even now, in some districts, these traditions are still carried on by people who hold the belief, whether consciously or not, that without these ceremonies, all would not be well. And who knows? - they may well be right.



LANCASHIRE DIALECT

If there is anything you want to know about Lancashire Dialect, then write

Lancashire Dialect, C/O. Tom Hewlett, 1, Hind Road., Marsh Green, Wigan.WN 5

(please enclose an S.A.E.), or telephone Wigan 213843.

Here now is a potted history of this month's featured dialect poet:-

He was born in Rochdale in 1828, and was educated at a private school. Later he became apprentice to the drapery trade in Manchester where he lived with his widowed Mother. He was intensely interested in literary pursuits, and was the first Honorary Secretary of the Manchester Literary Club which was founded in 1862. He later moved to Old Hall Stand, and contributed verse to the Bury Times; whilst there he also worked for the

MY PIECE IS O' BU' WOVEN EAWT.

(FROM: "AFTER BUSINESS JOTTINGS").

My "Piece" is O Bu' woven eawt
My warn is welly done;
Aw've "Treddled" at it day by day
Sin' th' toime 'ut aw began.
Aw've sat i 'th' loom-heawsis long
enough.

An' made th' owd shuttle fly;
An' neaw Aw'm fain to stop it off,
An' lay my weyvin' by.

Aw dunnot know heaw th' piece is done;
Aw'm fear'd it's marr'd enough;
Bu' Th' warp's were'nt made o' Th'
best O' yarn,

An' th' weft were nobbut rough,
Aw've been some bother'd neaw an'
then

Wi'knots an' breakin's too, They'n hamper'd me so mich at toimes Aw've scare know what to do.

Bu' th' mester's just, an' weel he knows

'Ut th' yarn were none so good;
He wunn'a "bait"(2) me when he sees.
Aw've done as weel's aw could.
Aw'se get my wage - aw'm sure O' that;
He'll gi'e me O' 'uts due,
An mabbe in his T'other place,
Some better wark to do.

by Tom Hewlett

success of the local Mechanics Institutes and took part in local politics. He married in 1870 and moved first to Crumpsall and then to Nottingham where he died in 1887, having won a permanant place amongst the dialect poets of the age.

The Reverend Charles Garrett considered "My Piece is O' but woven Cawt" to be the best dialect poem in the country and declared himself comforted and uplifted by it.

His Publications were:-

1865: "After Business Jottings"
1866: "Field Flowers and City Chums"
(Undated): "Old Hall Rhymes"
1878: "Eawr Bessy" (with a portrait of the poet)
1884: "Late Life Jottings"

Here is the poem mentioned above:-

Bu' then aw reckon 'tisn't stuff
We'n getten T' put i 'th' loom
Bu' what we mak' On't good or bad
'Ut th' credit on't 'll come
Some wark i' silk an' other some
Ha'e cotton i' their gear
Bu' silk or cotton matters nowt
If nobbut th' skill be theere.

Bu' now It's nee' to th' eend O' th' week
An' close to th' reckonin' day;
Aw'll tak my "piece" upon my back
An' yer what th' mester 'll say.
An' if aw nobbut yer his voice
Pronounce my wark "weel done",
Awll straight forget O' th' trouble past
I' th' pleasure 'ut's begun.

PIECE. (1) A Warp. The length of cloth,
woven at one operation.
TO BATE (2) To reduce wages by fines for
flaws in the work.



3/4/5 September

Even Alan Bell seemed uncertain whether the final concert was the 63rd or 65th event this year. No review can more than sample events in ten venues over three days.

The Friday evening saw a concert at which Marie Livingstone and Gary & Vera excelled, a packed Ceilidh and a song session in the Wyre lounge. This slightly awkward venue has now been made impossible: even with a P.A., extremely professional performances were inaudible in some parts of the room.

Saturday morning saw the Final Trawl (see separate review) followed immediately for addicts by a songs of the sea session with Johnny Collins and Jim Mageean. Meanwhile Czuplck (the Ukranian ensemble from Nottingham) impressed all who saw them. The afternoon concert featured the latest version of Ashley Hutchings' Albion Band with Cathy Le Surf as lead singer: usually reliable friends told me it was excellent. The procession of festival dance teams looked very impressive and naturally led the way to the Grand Ceilidh. Saturday night is Music Hall night, but we went to the one singaround not featuring star names. Unfortunately so did several people who ought to have

been entrants for the Worst Singer in the World contest.

Sunday morning saw one of us learning clog and the other at the concert for Nic Jones, where Dave Burland M.C'd and sang. Yorkshire Relish did a nice set, only interrupted by Derek Elliot's disbelief as a ferry appeared to be trying to join the audience. Martin Carthy alone, then the Watersons were in top form.

The afternoon saw Strawhead in concert.

This was their first live performance with strings as well as brass (as on their new record). A packed hall was well entertained by a mixture of new and old. I was pondering the increasing size of their arrangements - was Chris trying to out-Mahler Berlioz? - when they announced their second encore as "The Last night of the Proms"!

The closing concert was almost too much.
Jolly Jack opened well, Carthy and The
Watersons were again superb, Silvo & Moses
couldn't get off stage and Battlefield
conquered all. Then there was Mary Smith,
triple winner of the Worst Singer contest
she retires now. However, the moment was
the presentation of the E.F.D.S.S. Gold
Award to Sam Sherry, culminating in his
dance of thanks.

IAN & SUE WELLS.

LANCASHIRE DIALECT (from P.9)

Some Dialect words:-

Breawn Titus - Jocular name for Bronchitis.

Clozzom - To Clutch.
Dogs Shelf - The Floor.

Sho-pop

- Water in a bottle,
with a piece of spanish
put in and shaken until
it took on the flavour
and colouring.

Lanky Sayings:

This month's competition - what do the following mean:

Dunno 'Frey thi Fat' Swingin a Poverty-Knocker.

First correct answers to the address at the top of the column will win a year's subscription.

10

DAY & CLUB RESIDENTS DATES IN DECEMBER					
WEDNESDAY		lst	8th	15th	22nd
Brewery Folk at the Malt Lancaster Uni. Old Ship (Z) White Swan	See (c) below See (t) below	Oldham Tinkers Singer's Night No Dates Alan Taylor Packie Byrne	CLOSE) Singer's Night No Dates Singer's Night Pint & a Half	B.Wrigley/Strawhead Singer's Night No Dakes Buckthorn & Friends Xmas Party (K)	Cosmetheka (o) No Dales Xmas Party (m) Singer's Night (j)
THURSDAY		2nd	9th	16th	23rd.
Fleetwood Hooligans Poynton Wigan	Scold's Bridle Tintagel Joan Blackburn	No Dates Mini Ceilidh Closed	No Dates Mini Ceilidh 2nd Finals (h)	No Dakes Mini Ceilidh Closed	No Dates Mini Ceilidh Xmas Special
FRIDAY	odias work at	3rd	10th	17th	24th
Bee Seymour Newcastle Roebuck White Lion	Various See (b) below See (g) below See below	Singers' Night Strawhead Duck Baker Host, Liz Sudell Black Dog	Singers' Night Dave Swarb/S.Nicol(w) Robin Dransfield George Critchley Singer's Night	Singes'Night Xmas Party **(1) Singer's Night Alan Nowell Xmas Party (4)	Singers' Night- Closed Xmas Party Closed Closed
SATURDAY		4th	llth	18th	25th
Bury Kirkham Top Looks ** Poynton Leyland Morris	Various	Gordon Tyrall Bernard Wrigley Closed Blackpool	A.G.M. Res.&Singers Rosie Hardman Closed Fiddlesticks C.B.	Martin Carthy (i) **Xmas Farèwell Party Closed	Closed Closed Closed
SUNDAY	A.R. I att to	5th	12th	19th	26th
Eagle & Child Keithley Green Leigh Poynton Raven (Farndon) Travellers @ Rainford	Culvert Trevor & J. Hunt Volunteers Caughten the Hop Derek & Di Bock	Steve Turner Streetlife P.Webb/Webb's Wonders McCalmans No Dates Gary & Vera Gentleman Soldier	Martin Whittaker Brian Osborne Auld Triangle Therapy No Des Singer's Night Talisman	Xmas Party/Inclogni Singer's Night Gorton Tank Martin Carthy No Dakes Turnpike BrianJacques (r)	to Singaround Stan Accrington Closed Closed No Does Closed Closed
MONDAY	LAND ROLL	6th	13th	20th	27th
Poynton Preston Triton Leyland Morris	See (d) below Triton Folk	Singaround Singers' Night Heather Whittaker Practice Night	Singaround Brian Presion Singer's Night Practice Night	Singaround Xmas Party Spinners Xmas Party Chorley Hospital	Singaround Singer's Night Closed NO PRACTICE
TUESDAY	noted of	7th	14th	21st	28th
Blackpool Silver Birch	Taverners See (e) below	Singaround Clochan	Singaround Bram Taylor	Singaround Martin Carthy	Singaround TBA.

KEY TO SYMBOLS ABOVE:

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

- Tickets £2 from club small number available on the night
- (h) 2nd Finals of Federation Songwriting Contest
 (i) Tickets £2 from club small number available
 (j) Singers' Nights are free admission
 (k) Christmas Party with MARTIN CARTHY • Residents are: Sean& Sandy Boyle, Iain Bowley& Sarah Bowley, Tony Howard, Chris Dickinson, Paul Taylor

PLEASE NOTE: There are special events around Christmas, run by clubs on nights other than their usual night. It is not possible to list them here, so please see CLUB NEWS, page 4 for details.

Calendar

DATES IN JANUARY					DAY & CLUB	
29th	5th	12th	19th	26th	WEDNESDAY	
CLOSED Singer's Night No Dates Free Singaround(n) Pete Hughes	Closed Singer's Night No Dales Singer's Night Tom McConville	Closed Singer's Night No Dules Guest TBA Singer's Night (free)	Closed Singer's Night No Dates N.Grundy & Friends Vin Garbutt	Clesed Maxi & Mitch * Nb Dates Singer's Night Jez Lowe	Brewery Folk at the Mal Lancaster Uni. Old Ship (Z) White Swan	
30th	6th	13th	20th	27th	THURSDAY	
No Dates Mini Ceilidh Closed	No Dales Min; Ceilidh Singaround	No Dates Mini Ceilidh Closed	No Doles Mini Ceilidh Singaround	No Doles Muni Ceilidh Closed	Fleetwood Hooligans Poynton Wigan.	
31st	7th	14th	21st	28th	FRIDAY	
Singers' Night Closed New Year Party Ron, Jule & Jan Closed	Singers' Night Closed TBA. Ken Lawson Singer's Night	Singers' Night Closed TBA. Singers' Night Nick Dow	Singer's Night Closed Tom McGonville Singer's Night	Shoos' hight Closed TBA Shoovound Jez Lowe	Bee Seymour Newcastle Roebuck White Lion	
lst	8th	15th	22nd	29th	SATURDAX	
Res/Singers (q) Closed Closed	Brian Peters Closed Closed Ceilidh(v)	784 Closed Closed	73A Closed Closed	78A Closed Closed	Bury Kirkham Top Locks Poynton Leyland Morris	
2nd	9th	16th	23rd	30th	SUNDAY	
Bob Ashworth TBA Closed Proper Little M.(s) No Dates Closed Closed	John Kirkpatrick TBA Scold's Bridle Ian Woods/K.Seisay® No Dakes Harry Boardman TBA	Talisman TBA Steve Turner Jake Thackray No Dolles Singer's Night TBA	Steve Robinson TBA Charley Yarwood Fred Wedlock/C.Newman No Dakes Thorn TBA	Jez Lowe TBA Gentleman . 'dier	Eagle & Child Keithley Green Leigh Poynton Raven (Farndon) Travellers @ Rainford	
3rd	10th	17th	24th	31st	MONDAY	
Singaround Singer's Night Closed Practice night	Singaround Singer's Night Auld Triangle Practice Night	Singaround Martin Carthy Dave Walters Practice Night	Singaround Singer's Night Singer's Night Practice Night	Singaround Tom McConville Singer's Night Practice Night	Poynton Preston Triton Leyland Morris	
4th	llth	18th	25th		TUESDAY	
Singaround TBA	Singaround TBA	Singaround TBA	Singaround TBA	T DET	Blackpool Silver Birch.	

KEY TO SYMBOLS ABOVE (AND ON PREVIOUS PAGE)

- Christmas Party with Demented Waving Brothers, Plan B, Beggars Jem, Tony Coll, Poynton Jemmers Christmas Special with MARTIN CARTHY (Ticket only)
 Free "Hangover" singaround
- plus Kevin Seisay
- Spinmers Christmas Party at Mons Hotel, Bootle Ceilidh at the Derby Hall with the Old Blue Bell Band on Friday December 31st. (q) Ceilidh at the Derby Hall with the Old Blue Bell Band on Friday December 3h (r) Brian Jacques and Brigantine
 (s) Proper Little Madams
 (t) Ian Woods & Kevin Seisay
 (u) Fred Wedlock & Chris Newman
 (v) with Uncle Stan's Ram Jam Ceilidh Band
 (w) Dave Swarbrick & Simon Nicol
 (x) Peta Webb and Webb's Wonders
 (y) plus the Hot Pot Belly Band
 TBA = To be arranged (usually a guest night)-'phone the organiser for details
 (g) Farmanly the Cormic Fall Club - Sec Club Marca

(g) Formerly the Corrie Folk Club - See Club News

• Note new venue - see Club News & list of clubs (P.23)

OBITUARY : A.L.Lloyd

A.L.LLOYD (affectionately known as 'Bert' by everyone) died recently at the age of 74 at his home in Greenwich.

During the early part of the folk revival in the fifties, Bert Lloyd was certainlyone of the most important & influential figures. In later years, he became an informed authority on traditional music from all over the world. writing several books and lecturing as well as researching and recording folk music. More recently he had several heart attacks which kept him from making public appearances very often, although he could still be seen at the odd folk festival.

Although born in England, he emigrated to Australia when he was in hisxmidteens and it was there that his love of folk music began. He worked for some time in the outback on a sheep farm where he soon picked up songs & tales about sheep shearing and the Australian way of life, becoming a celebrated singer & storyteller. He returned to England during the depression, and furthered his study of folklore whilst jobs were hard to find.

His interest in sea songs was further enhanced when he joined an Antartic whaler. In 1952 he joined Ewan MacColl on a BBC series entitled "Ballads & Blues" which was a major influence in starting

A.L.Lloyd during the recording of Bellamy's The Transports

In 1967 he published "Folk Song in England", a book which is still regarded as the definitive work on the subject. Some of his early albums were also very influential on the folk revival.

He travelled widely to study & record traditional music from all over the world; his work in Greece, Albania and Latin America were particularily notable

Yet for all that he was no stick-in-the mud, and was known to very much approve of the early work of Steeleye Span. Until very recently he had continued to be an active singer & Lecturer; his last recoa revival of interest in traditional musicative singular part of Abe Carmen in Peter Bellamy's Folk Opera "The Transports

PHOTO: FOLK REVIEW, J'AN. 1979



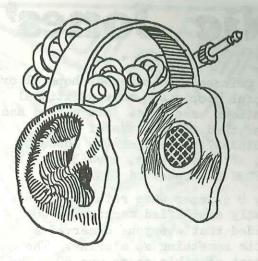
BROADFOLK

It was Sherlock Holmes who pointed out the significance of the non-event: this time the most important matters were non-

The first wasn't on BBC 2. An entertainment style show, entitled Triple Bill. featuring Ralph McTell, The McCalmans, and Therapy, with Dave Shannon as MC, was recorded in Manchester 18 months ago. Some of you may even have been in the audience. A normally reliable leak to PERFORM gave a scheduled time of 10.10pm. on October 9th. It had been so scheduled but was unscheduled again because of the 'Mary Rose'. I suppose a ship that has been waiting 437 years does have precedence over a concert that has only waited 78 weeks. It may now go out just before Christmas. The producer, Mike Stevens, would like to do more to make a series. BBC decisions are influenced by listener response - ring 01.743.8000 and tell the duty officer.

The second non-event is the whole of Channel 4. Due to open at the start of November, it has a remit from the IBA to be 'distinctive', it's press releases talk about 'the whole range of music'. In the initial schedules there is one. just one, programme classifiable as folk music - a documentary film on 'The Weavers' - there is no British Folk Music at all. Andy Park, commissioning editor for music, wrote back 'see what we put out over the first three years'. Just like the existing channels - jam tomorrow!

However, all is not lost: the Welsh language S4C is commissioning folk music and you can get it round here - why not make it your channel 5? From the first week there is a programme with Ar Log. After Christmas, there will be a series that was made in a pub in North Wales by one of the independent groups. It includes many Irish, Scottish and English language groups (e.g. Stocktons Wing, Hom Bru, Calennig). This could be available to Channel 4 in an English language version. C4 is going to have a weekly jazz spot - why not folk? (Channel 4, 56 Charlotte St. London. W.1; 01.631.4444)



From non-events to non -available events: The Leeds Folk Festival as covered by Tyne-Tees/Yorkshire Other IBA regions have taken it but not Granada. Their reply to me confuses folk with country - now you know why there is no folk on Granada - they don't even know what it is.

Back in August the extremely patchy 6.55 Special on BBC 2 did a preview of the Fairport Re-union. This came from outside Pebble Mill and was introduced incompetently by Sally James. One version of the group played well, Simon Nicol explained the hisotory then Martin Carthy was interviewed and sang - in his unforced voice.

The fishing sequence of Anthony Burton's 'The Past Afloat' was subtitled 'The Silver Darlings' and used MacColl 'Singing the Fishing' plus others on the soundtrack. An Australian gold fever programme and a short film on the Forest of Dean also used relevant folk music.

NW news on BBC 1. showed more of the folk at the Kendal Festival than other items. The new IBA Preston station, Red Rose, covered a Comholtas pipe workshop but not the associated concert. BBC TV news had a short piece from a Punch festival at Covent Garden.

Radio changes: Folk on 2 is now on Tuesdays from 8.30 to 9.30pm. It is followed by 'The Spinners & Friends' they don't seem to have made many new contid on P.16

Nic Jones' Benefit Quiz

194 Quizzes were taken by hopeful or helpful people and some additional donations were made. Nic's fund has benefitted to the tune of £82.12p (includes interest on the account) and, after expenses, area 3 of PERFORM has received £15.

Only 8 quizzes were returned. This greatly simplified marking so we decided that everyone deserved a little something as a prize. The highest possible score was 59. The winnders, their scores and their prizes are:-

lst:Roy Matthews (Rainford):432: £5. Record Voucnher. 2nd: Jean Shuttleworth (Coventry) :38:Instamatic Camera. Joint 3rd: Elaire Hall (Kirkham): 36: Ticket for Folk at the Malt. Ann Lister (London) :36:

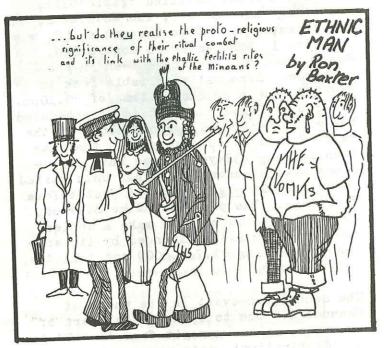
Ticket for Old Ship Folk Club. Consolation prizes: singers credit notes for Old Ship Folk Club N. Ward (Mossley):332:

Roger Clayton (Penwortham) Judith Cummins (Runcorn) A.J. Anderson (Bootle) :22:

Only three of the questions (all non folk ones) were not answered at all. We were surprised how few people realised 'Cosher' Bailey was a real ironmaster. Also, how few knew "The Diggers" dug on St. Georges Hill in Weybridge - you obviously don't listen to Leon Rosselsons introductions! Some of the people who did reply were in dire need of a dose of the healing liquid made from Inula Helenium - Elecampane - to restore them to fight another battle. However we were please that our little joke was noticed (the Hitch Hikers Guide' question was No: 42) and that all of Ian's braintwisting specials were decoded by at least one person.

Many thanks to all who took the quizzes and especially to the club and festival organizers who allowed us to annoy their audiences with them. A special thanks to Liverpool Trad. who took a block for their club. We hope not too many of you had nervous breakdowns or were threatened with arrest for causing a disturbance in a reference library.

Ian & Sue Wells.



BROADFOLK (cont'd)

friends since a programme of the same title went out on Sunday afternoons over 10 years ago. Currently being recorded by producer Ray Harvey is Ralph McTell and Friends' - sounds promising.

Radio Lancashire is working on a folk & dialect programme - not ready yet. Red Rose had a folk programme from day one - Its a record programme on Tuesdays from 6 - 7pm. introduced by Dave Hockley. He would like to hear from local artists who have made records - he's already featured Strawhead. Piccadilly have halved Harry Ogden's FOLKSPAN: it's now 10-11pm. Sundays and no live studio guests, but Radio Merseyside 'Folk Scene' continues in fine form.

Unexpected pleasure: John Amis (My Music) singing 'William Taylor's Mike Harding on 'Desert Island Discs' a superb track by Dick Gaughan among others.

FOLKEAR.

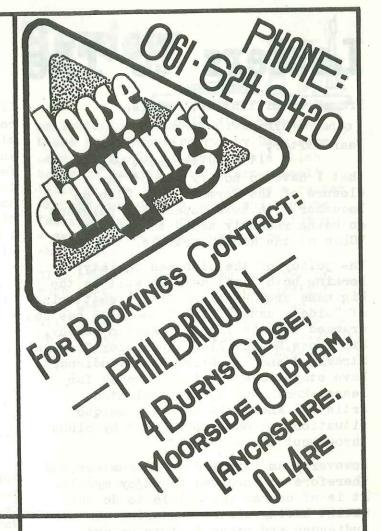
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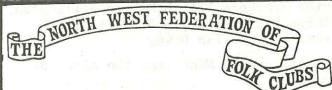
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newsletter

The BEST FOLK in the NORTH~WEST

- · Articles, Letters, Reviews,
- · Songs, Dance, Club Dates.

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Letters to The Editor.

From Mike Billington, organiser Seymour Folk Club

Dear Editor,

It is with great regret that I have to notify you of the closure of the Seymour Folk Club on December 17th, amde especially poignant on being recently asked to write a "Club of the Month" article.

The policy of the club was variety; booking both local acts as well as the big name crawd-pullers with a smattering of "middle names". Whilst the club has been you are going to risk a gig where crammed for the likes of Martin Carthy, Nic Jones, McConville/Halpin, Dick Gaughan, exceeding income. Strawhead and Swarbrick/Nicol, audiences have stayed away in their droves for lesser-known but equally talented artists. I know this is not a unique situation, but one experienced by clubs throughout the country.

However I am involved as an amateur, and therefore am involved to enjoy myself. It is of course impossible to do this whilst having ulcers wondering whether audiences are going to turn up and finally having to write a cheque out from my own bank account.

Much time is spent sending posters to libraries, circulating handbills to other clubs and putting up posters in local shops. All this apart from the time and money spent on the telephone.

I do not purport to have the answer to the thorny question of how we get folk back into the folk clubs, but perhaps we could make the clubs a pleasanter place to be. Perhaps organisers could make a better job of organising. Perhaps residents could put on a more professional presentation and cut out the "well I suppose we'd better start! " attitude.Perhaps even, artists could exercise a bit of good will to the clubs and realise that if the organiser is taking a risk booking them, because of their limited drawing power perhaps they could also take a risk in accepting the booking and be a little more open to the percentage style fee.

If certain "middle names" would just realise that if in today's economic climate they cannot command £50-£75 fees, and that they should either drop their fee to a more realistic price for their drawing power or realise that they are not able to command the fee to make it viable for them to perform professionally. A hard blunt statement I Know, but we are all going through hard, blunt times. It is an economic fact that generally speaking unless you are one of the four or five or so guaranteed "pullers" , then there is a good chance of expenditure

I wish the clubs well because I've got an awful lot out of them; and like to think I've put an awful lot in, if only blood, sweat and tears, not forgetting one or two greenbacks.

In finishing, I would like to offer warm appreciation to certian people who have contributed more than a little to the Seymour. They are Tony Coll, The Demented Waving Brothers, Plan B, Maggie Billington, Kathryn Billington, Jim Bickerton, Rick Kirkman and Julian Davey.

Best of luck to NWFFC and the clubs of the N.W.

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Book Review

'Folk International No: 1. September 1982. 70p. Publisher: Aidhurst Ltd., London.

Perhaps the title of this new 'folk' magazine is a little inappropriate - it should read 'Folk Commercial' because a quick glance through its 47 pages reveals a prolific amount of advertisements for amplifiers, sound systems, expensive instruments and folk artiste agencies quickly gives one the impression that this has little to do with 'grassroots' folk music and a lot more to do with commercial enterprise and professional development.

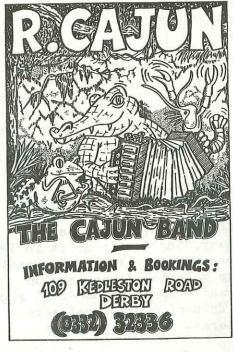
The editor, Tim Oakes, reckons however that this is what the folkies want, the magazine staff having been 'out and about in the folk movement during the summer. Oakes' viewpoint is that the 'face of British folk club of the future' lies in the 'Concert Clubs' who are the only one's appearing to be 'making headway'. If he is correct then this magazine certainly fits that image of the folk scene but I would have thought that there was room for both the concert club run on commercial lines and the smaller local singer's clubs run on enthusiasm and love for the music. in a magazine purporting to represent the 'Folk Movement .

Bearing in mind these criticisms the magazine is generally well produced with some interesting articles among which is a noteable one by Bob Pegg on war songs in the first of a series. Regular articles include record reviews which cover a wide range of albums and an instrument review by the 'technical editor'. Stephen Delft. Which this, although most informative and well written, would probably be of only passing interest to the non-professional folk performer since the cheapest instrument in this month's collection of acoustic bass-guitar is over £570! More useful is the first of a three part series of articles on insurance, this month's covering instruments and equipment.

Other contributions include an interview with Richard Thompson, a 'sort of' review of the Cambridge Folk Festival and an

enlightening piece on a recording studio based in Oxfordshire run by Dave Pegg. Less successful is the article which helps to justify the 'International' title of the journal. This is a rather sketchy report on a hurdy and hagpipe festival held in France accompanied by a selection of equally mediocre photographs.

Altogether a wide-ranging coverage of much that goes on in the 'commercial' folk world but one wonders whether it will serve the 'movement' as a whole or go the way of 'Folk News', 'Folk Review' and their ilk - only time and money will tell.



RECORD REVIEWS

PAUL METSERS: MOMENTUM: Highway SHY 7021.

Side 1. Still trying; Some Day; Where the Blame Belong; The Sarsen Stone; Dancing Shoes.

Side 2. Hard on your Heels; Say you will; The Blistering Air; Play it all Again; Crazy Tears.

Those of you who have enjoyed Paul live will need no prompting to buy his second record. It is at least as good as his first and, in some aspects, better. At first I was slightly disappointed - not every track grabbed me - but this is most unfair. There are just as many good songs on this record as on the previous one and more than on some longer established performers.

He confirms the promise of that first record that here we are lucky to be hearing a major songwriting talent. Chris and Joe While contribute excellent harmony vocals to some songs. Other musicians involved are Allan Taylor, Matt Clifford, Mick Doonan and Alan Tipple. The arrangements are excellent and I've never heard Paul sing better.

The songs? I'd highlight just three. 'Walls' is a melodic anti-war song; 'Some Day' has a cracking chorus that always works well; 'Dancing Shoes' is an extremely effective mood piece.

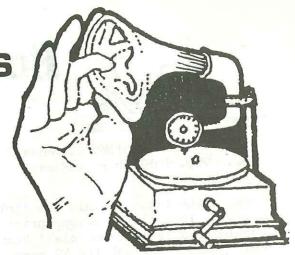
Buy it; play it; enjoy it.

I.W.

RECORD: MOAT ON THE LEDGE FAIRPORT CONVENTION (Woodworm WROO)

BOOK: MEET ON THE LEDGE
(A History of Fairport Convention)
by Patrick Humphries (Eel Pie, \$4-99)

FAIRPORT CONVENTION, it seems, simply won't go away. Since their split in 1979, there's been a farewell L.P., a cassette of old live material, three reunion festivals, and a host of "one-off" gigs in London. This, of course, reflects worthy interest in a group whose



influence has been enormous, but who never quite enjoyed the commercial success they richly deserved.

Now comes a double treat for Fairport Fans. An L.P., "Moat on the Ledge" (Woodworm) recorded at their 1981 reunion concert, and previously only available by Mail Order, has now reached the shops neatly coinciding with the publication of Patrick Humphries' history of the group entitled "Meet on the Ledge". They are both packaged green, black & glossy and look as if they were made for each other.

Of course when Fairport Convention reform, you never know who'll take the stage. On "Moat on the Ledge", it's the 1970 "Full House" line-up with a few friends. Many older enthusiasts will immediately turn to side two, as one of the special guests at this reunion was Fairport's first lead vocalist, Judy Dyble, who left between the first two L.P.'s back in 1968. She sings "Both Sides Now", fare typical of the early group, before their exploration of more traditional folk music began.

It is strange indeed to hear a new track from Fairport in this style. The same nervous, slender tones treat this well—used track with the tender care that characterised the warming West Coast songs of the group's debut album in those far—off days of the London underground. Only Dave Swarbrick's violin makes it sound in any way like a later offering, replacing Ian Matthews' vocals in adding richness. Then Judy Dyble returns to obscurity.

continues.....

Record Reviews (contd)

FAIRPORT (continued)

The rest of the record features a flowing folk-rock Fairport ascending their peak once more. No exercise in mere nostalgia, they pick out favourites from various incarnations of the group boosted by lyrical guitar from Richard Thompson ,who is on really top form. He leads the group into dark, heavy mood on "Poor Will & the Hangman", and underplays expressively on the delightful "rosie" in which Swarb offers a fine vocal.

There's also Matty Groves and Walk Awhile, both Fairport favourites, and an unreleased Thompson track, "Woman or a Man", done in a Cajun style, contrasting sharply with the version he gave at his solo gig in Liverpool earlier this year.

Two tracks that don't work as well are a singalong rendering of Dylan's "Country Pie", and a very hesitant "High School Confidential" - a shame this because Fairport could really rock with the best of them, as they've proved many times before.

In the book, Patrick Humphries' love of Fairport is clear. It seems he had reservations about the appeal of the book, but the reunion gig changed his mind. He has unraveled expertly what rock historian, Peter Frame, once termed "The Fairport confusion".

At least 20 musicians have played in the countless line-ups of the group, but Humphries' story relies much on remiscences of key figures: Thompson, Nicol, Hutchings, Swarbrick and (Mave) Pegg.

He suggests that Fairport should have found a replacement for Richard Thompson, and that the late, lamented Sandy Denny should never have re-joined the group. He dwells as much on the group's leaner years as he does on their truly creative pioneering era, but its a fair representation of history. He does recognise also that many admirers of the early band (including mentor, Jee Boyd), felt that it was wrong for later versions to carry on calling themselves "Fairport Convention" with no original members left.

There's a full discography, plenty of photographs and a reprint of Pete Frame's "family tree". It is a fascinating chronicle of one of Britain's most influential groups.

John Bottomley.



ALAN BELL

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CONCERINA MAN/SO HERE'S TO YOU

Side 2: (BAND IN THE PARK SUITE):

DANCE ON CHRISTMAS DAY/FRANCOISE
IN FLANDERS/MARCHING/THE BAND IN
THE PARK/IT'S OVER/GONE WITH THE
WIND YESTERDAY/IT'S MY LIFE & I'LL
LEAD IT

I have to confess that this was my first hearing of the "Band in the Park" suite, although I had heard the title song on numerous occasions and some of the other songs as well. I was a little dissapointed at first with the suite, but further playings soon changed that view. I think perhaps it was my familiarity with that title song, and the fact that it is such a superb song, that made me rather less keen on the other songs at first.

It is clear on further reflection that all of the songs are excellent songs in their own right, although they fit well together to form a homogeneous whole. Favourites from this part of the L.P.?

- the Band in the Park naturally, Francoise in Flanders and the superb Cone with the Wind Yesterday. All in all, it would be worth buying just for the Band in the Park suite, on which Alan is accompanied by the Alan Bell Folk Band and the Poulton Silver Prize Band.

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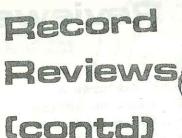


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ALAN BELL L.P. REVIEW (cont'd) ...

On the other side of this L.P., Alan presents a selection of new songs, all up to the expected standard. On this side, he is accompanied by the other members of his own Folk Band, namely Sturat Robinson, Billy Cronshaw and Bernie Brewin.

Among the songs is a tribute to the fishing folk of his own town of Fleetwood, "Fair stood the Wind", although it rather ironic that it should be published after the last trawler has packed up and gone.

As I said they are all excellent songs, much as you expect from a craftsman like Alan Bell, and there are none that dissapointed me. Favourite songs here?-The Concestina Man, written about Jack Easy; and "So here's to You", a leaving song in the classic vein surely destined to become a folk club standard in its own right.

What more can I say , except go out and buy it at once !

N.F.

BELL'S FOLK BAND



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

- The 'block booking' of artists for tours.
 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	ADDRESS	ORGANISER	ORGANISER'S
CHALDAY	START			PHONE NO.
SUNDAY Keithley Green Eagle & Child Leigh Poynton Rainford Raven (Farndon) Travellers	8.15pm. 8.00pm 8.00pm. 8.00pm. 8.15pm. 8.30pm. 8.30pm	Keithley Green Folk Club, Massey St. Burnley. Eagle & Child, Higher Lane, Whitefield, Manchester The Courts Hotel, Church St. Leigh. Poynton Folk Centre, Park Lane, Poynton. Golden Lion Hotel, Rainford. Raven Hotel, Farndon. Nr. Chester. George & Dragon, Main St., Billinge	Dave Cook Andy Substrick Jacqueline White Eric Brock Bob Leeming Nick Mikhell Bernie Faulk	0282 57393 061 773 4058 0942 678758 0625 872626 0744 88 3424 0244 44147 0744 30252
MONDAY				
Leyland Morris Preston Knowl Brow The Triton	7.30pm. 8.15pm. 8.30pm	St. Anne's School, Slater Lane, Leyland. Lamb Hotel, Church St. Preston Knowl Brow, Liverpool Rd., Skelmersdale The Triton Hotel, Paradise St. Liverpool	Mike Cowburn Derek Harrison Niell Hurst Doreen Rickart	07744 53096 0772 748439 051 521 6020
9				(WOTK)
TUESDAY				
Blackpool Silver Birch	8.00pm. 8.15pm	Kings Arms Hotel, Talbot Rd. Blackbool Bilver Birch Inn, Birchwood Centre (Car Park 4), Warrington	Pete Rodger Ian McArdle	0263 56290 0695 77611
WEDNESDAY				
Folk at the Malt Old Ship White Swan	8.30pm. 8.30pm 8.00pm	Malt Shovels, Stamford St. Altrincham. Old Ship, Eastbank St., Southport White Swan, Green St., Fallowfield, Manchester	Susie Stockton Ian Wells Anne Morris	061 928 1936 077473 3267 061 881 829
THURSDAY				
Fleetwood Hooligans Poynton	8.15pm. 8.30pm. 8.00pm.	Queen's Hotel, Beach Rd. Fleetwood. Llindir Inn, Henllan (Nr. Denbigh) Poynton Folk Centre, Park Lane, Poynten	Ron Baxter Howard Hadwin Eric Breck	03917 3738 074 571 2640 0625 87262
Wigan	8.15pm.	Park Hotel, Market Square, Wigan.(alternate weeks)	Joan Blackburn	0942 863389
FRIDAY				
Bee Newcastle Roebuck Seymour	8.30pm. 8.60pm. 8.30pm. 8.30pm.	Bee Hotel, Bodfer St. Rhyl Pack Horse, Station St. Longport, Stoke-on-Trent. Roebuck Hotel, Leyland. Seymour, Seymour Grove, Chorlton-cum-Hardy	Dave Costello Jason Hill Ron Strickland Mike Billington	0745 32488 0782 813401 0772 313876 061 881 8729
White Lion	8.30pm.	White Lion, Witton St. Northwich	Sean Boyle	0606 44361
SATURDAY				
Bury Brewery Top Looks Kirkham Tom Hall's	8.00pm. 8.30pm. 8.30pm. 8.15pm. 8.00pm	Old Blue Bell, Bury Brewery Arts Centre, 122a Highgate, Kendal (occasionally) Waterloo Hotel, Waterlook Rd. Runcorn. St. George's Hotel, Station Rd. Kirkham. Tom Halls Tavern, BrunswickSt., Liverpool	Sye Clegg Neil Johnston Bryn Williams Phil Capper Geoff Dormand	0706, 841859 0539 25133 09282 3256 0772 684537 961 6247928