



THE NORTH WEST FEDERATION OF FOLK CLUBS

WINTER  
SPECIAL

25p

SEPT, OCT, NOV, '84





**NEWS FIRST OF NEW CLUBS and venue/night changes**

A NEW CLUB is the Ring O'Bells, Middleton, which has been running for a number of years and is now run by Moira Woodcock, who was running the Two Tubs (this has now closed). It meets on Fridays at 8.30pm at the Ring O'Bells, St. Leonards' Square (opposite the Parish Church) in Middleton. They have regular singers, but no residents as such; further information from Moira on 061 723 1979.

ANOTHER NEW CLUB is the White Bear at Adlington, which you may recall I mentioned briefly in the last issue. The White Bear is on the main A6 in Adlington, and they meet on Tuesdays at 8.30pm. Residents are Ushers' Well and Cascade and the organiser is Glyn Hughes, who you can contact on Adlington 482520.

IF YOU are having difficulty in contacting the organiser of the Valley Folk Club, here are some alternative numbers: Paul Whitehill, day 061 736 6441 & night Adlington 481450; Derry Yelding, Bolton 793961.

POYNTON FOLK CLUB is changing around the Folk Nights that it runs. Saturday & Sunday are unchanged; Thursday is now Jazz Night and Wednesday is to be the new midweek Folk Night, which will present a guest every week. These had not been finalised at going to press, so please contact Eric Brock for details.

THE KINGSWAY FOLK CLUB now meet on Tuesday evenings all other details being the same - contact Arthur Marshall on 051 630 4239 for further information.

THE ORGANISER of Folk Events at the Brewery Arts Centre is now Bill Lloyd (Neil Johnson is now at Southport Arts Centre).

FLEETWOOD FOLK CLUB celebrates its fifteenth anniversary in October, and all the evenings in that month reflect this theme. These are:

- 4th : Dave Walters Band (Dave was one of the founders of the club)
- 11th : Loose Chippings
- 18th : Packie Byrne (to be confirmed)
- 25th : Ex-Residents night including Ian Gartside & The Amazing Dick

For more details, please contact Ron Baxter on Fleetwood 78606.

AS USUAL, the Brewery Folk Club is on a wide range of nights that I can't readily accommodate, so here is their complete calendar:

- Sept. 28th Bernard Wrigley with Rosie Hardman
- Oct. 6th Pyewackett
- 9th R. lph McToll
- 12th Roy Harper
- 23rd Tom Paxton
- Nov. 9th Boys of the Lough
- 16th Jake Thackray

More details from Bill Lloyd on 0539 25133

ADVANCE NOTICE of some dates for December & January

- December:
- 6th, Andy Irvine, Brewery
  - 13th, Howard Bond (prov), Fleetwood
  - 20th, Incognito, Fleetwood
  - 12th, Andy Irvine, Whitehaven
  - 14th, Andy Irvine, Northwich
  - 15th, Ceilidh at Antrobus V.H. with Merlin
  - 17th, Spinners Xmas Party, Triton
  - 13th, Fiona Simpson, Stump
  - 13th, Andy Irvine, Fernhurst
  - 9th, Martin Carthy, George & Dragon
  - 23rd, Roaring Jelly, George & Dragon
  - 5th, Martin Carthy, White Swan
  - 19th, Dave Swarbrick & Simon Nicol, White Swan
  - 21st, Xmas Party/Dab Hand, Newcastle
  - 17th, Andy Irvine, Preston
  - 8th, Martin Carthy, Bury
  - 6th, Gill Burns, Wigan
- January:
- 3rd, Strawhead, Fleetwood
  - 5th, Fairport Convention, Brewery

For more details of all these, please contact the relevant Club Organiser (See page 31).

I'M JUST reminded of another change of venue etc: Leigh Folk Club now meet at the Oddfellows Arms, Twiss Lane, Leigh and the organiser is now Steve Eckersley who you can contact on Wigan 677955.

There are not many Ceilidhs that I have been told about over the next three months, but such as there are follow:

- 8th Sept., Poynton, Cuckoos Nest Ceilidh Band
  - 22nd Sept., Antrobus Village Hall, Foxes Bark (Northwich)
  - 13th Oct., Poynton, Thingers & Fumbs C.B.
  - 10th Nov., Poynton, Cuckoos' Nest C.B.
- (If your club is organising a Ceilidh, please don't forget to let me know - I'm sure there must be more than these few!)

WIGAN FOLK CLUB as you can see from the Calendar now meet every week on Thursdays at the Park Hotel, Wigan. Unfortunately, the pub is scheduled to be demolished as part of the Town Centre redevelopment, although the club will continue to meet there for as long as possible. If anyone knows of a suitable town centre venue, please get in touch with Joan Blackburn on Wigan 863389.

FESTIVAL DETAILS over this period will be found in Out & About (page 3), whilst a full (or at least as full as I can make it) Calendar of Club Dates for the next 3 months will be found on pages 16-18.

## CLUB OF THE MONTH: NEWCASTLE & Potteries Folk Song Club

The club meets every Friday in the Packhorse Inn at Longport, which lies at the boundary of Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent.

The Packhorse is an old 17th century Inn which stood on the old packhorse road to the pottery town of Burslem. The pub is built around a stable-yard, and the club is held in the old stable, now converted into a comfortable but still character-full room. It stands close to the Trent & Mersey canal, and our audience is often swelled by canal-boat people in the summer months.

The club has an (Almost) unbroken tradition of over twenty years. It is the descendant of two clubs which were founded in the early 1960's - the Newcastle Folk Song Club and the Potteries Folk Song Club. Organiser of the Newcastle club for many years was Anne Morris (now running the White Swan club in Manchester) but since the early 1970's, the club's organisation has been in the hands of Jason Hill. It has had several changes of venue over the years, but we are now settled at the Packhorse.

We do not make the customary distinction between our residents and floor singers. Of course, we have our regular singers & instrumentalists, many of whom have supported the club loyally for many years. But we have an open policy, designed to encourage new singers - anyone is welcome to sing or play a tune, the club being run on a singaround format. The aim is to maintain a friendly, informal atmosphere which should never seem cliquish or intimidating.

Visiting guest artists have frequently commented on the high quality of our local singers and musicians. Regulars at present include Victoria Barron, Steve Benson, Trevor Carter, Jason Hill, Steve "speedy" Hodgson, Dave Massey, Bill Matthew, Larry O'Brien, Jackie Redgewell, Tim Willet, Ken, Adam, Jeff & Sue, together with many others who I hope will not be offended because there is not space to list them all here. On singers' nights admission is free (but we pass a glass round), but we have to make a charge on guest nights.

The club is open all year round, usually with a guest artist at least alternate weeks. The general emphasis is on the traditional, but we have no firm rules and aim to provide a wide range of song music and entertainment. As well as the established favourites (such as Martin Carthy and the High Level Ranters) who visit the club regularly, we also try to book new names and encourage artists fresh to the folk scene.

To try & encourage interest in folk dance, we hold Saturday night ceilidhs from time to time. These usually feature local bands such as Oatcake Billy's Ideal Band and the Leopard Band with the calling of Jason Hill and a display by the Leopard Spot Clog Dancers. As a variation from the usual Singers' Night we have been known on a warm summer's evening, to hold an open-air mini ceilidh in the courtyard of the pub.

A few years ago, Radio Stoke would visit the club from time to time to record a show. Lately, however, as recently reported in the Newsletter, Radio Stoke seem to have developed a somewhat unfriendly attitude towards the local folk scene. A couple of years ago, Central TV filmed an evening with Cosmethka at the club; how many other clubs have featured in a television programme?

Like many clubs, we have recently gone through a bad patch. However the loyal support of our regulars pulled us through and I would like to take this opportunity to say to them; "Thank You"

Thanks also to Mike, our landlord, who serves a good pint of real Ansells bitter, and to Elaine Buxton, Sue Carter and Jan Willets for their help with the organisation of the club.

A warm welcome awaits any reader of the Newsletter at the club. Despite being the most Southerly of the of the Federation clubs, down in darkest Staffordshire, we are easily accessible via the M6. To reach us, leave the M6 at Junction 16, follow the A500 dual carriageway to the A527 turnoff, and we are a couple of hundred yards up the Tunstall Road. Hope to see you sometime!

# SONG OF THE MONTH

Unfortunately, due to pressure of time, it has not been possible to get the tape I have of this song transcribed in time for its publication.

I hope to have this done soon however, so if you would like the music, please write, enclosing an SAE and I will send you a copy.

## TAKE THE PETALS FROM A DAISY by Marge Hoy

Chorus : Take the petals from a daisy one by one  
And you'll still have a golden heart,  
But tear out the heart before you've begun  
And the flower will fall apart,  
And the flower will fall apart.

When I was young my life was free;  
I travelled in the sun  
But as I grew I lost my way  
And now my joy is gone

Oh when I saw him at my door  
I should have turned away,  
For he was cold as the winter sun  
Upon a frosty day.

So think before you give your love  
In passions bitter heat,  
A man may hide a heart of stone  
Beneath his kisses sweet.

I'll go into the world I knew  
To sing & laugh again,  
And none shall know I have no heart  
And none shall see my pain

(repeat chorus after each verse)

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## ROY HARRIS ASKS

### Why must they always say...?

A series of personal observations based on extensive folk club touring.

#### ON SINGERS

"THIS IS A CHORUS SONG" No, it isn't; it's a song with a chorus attached to it, that people may or may not join in with, as they wish. There are some choruses that are just not suited to having a crowd singalong: others would be lost without that massed voice support. Singers, please learn which type is which.

"I'M GOING TO SING THIS UNACCOMPLISHED" A very feeble joke, although with some singers, it's a literal, if ungrammatical, truth. But if you intend to sing unaccompanied (accapella) why say so beforehand? Surely it will be evident.

"THIS IS A FLICK BONES SONG" or "I NICKED THIS FROM JIM HERBERT" A traditional song belongs to us all: you cannot 'nick' from someone who is himself only drawing upon our communal songbank. If you learned a song from the singing of a particular artist, say so! It's no crime. If a particular songwriter wrote the song you are about to sing then give him credit: If it's a good song he deserves it; if a bad one, then he'll get the blame. It's time that some genuine traditional singers laid claim to songs they have known and cherished for a lifetime: Well and good, they have a right. But we revivalists are merely visitors as yet: we can't claim anything in our own name or by proxy.

"HERE'S A LOAD OF BRITISH RUBBISH" A description that was trendy in the 60's. It wasn't funny then, still isn't, and should have died by now. I find it objectionable, and so should you if you've paid to come in, and then get told you're going to hear rubbish. It's sometimes said as an attempt at humour: I put that in the same class as '...unaccomplished....'

"THIS IS A SONG...." Amazing! Fancy that - here we are in a folk club/concert/festival and the man is going to sing a SONG! What did

he think we came here for? Seriously though folks, I find it very draggy to listen to a guy do a set prefacing every item with 'this is a song about...' There must be some other things a singer can say in introduction. Come on singers, we have a large and lovely language. Use it!

That's all for pet gripes Part 1: there are many more things I could have said on the same subject but I have to consider the amount of space available. So, gentle reader, make up your own mind about these opinions of mine. You may find them somewhat hair-splitting; that is entirely intentional. I hold the quaint view that anyone getting up in front of a folk audience should give as much thought to what he says, as to what he sings. If he should credit his audience with intelligence, they will reward him by taking him seriously. Seriously! It's more fun that way.

#### WATCH FOR PART 11 - ON ORGANISERS AND M.C.s

Article taken from Whitby Folk News by permission of the author.

## THE WASSAILERS FOLK GROUP

CONTACT:  
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# Letters to The Editor..

Dear Editor and readers,

It is our consensus that a large number of the musicians currently performing as part of the folk revival (that includes you who play in your local folk club or dance band!) are failing to be documented for future generations, in spite of the continuing variety and depth of regional-based folk magazines.

In an attempt to rectify the situation we have undertaken to research and publish a compendium of folk performers on a national and regional basis. Not only will we publish details of performers' careers but also a summary of style and content of regional folk magazines.

The information we require concerns personnel of groups, duos and solo performers, instruments played, any recordings either on tape or record (whether currently available or deleted, on independent or localised county-based record labels), label and catalogue numbers, details of past interviews or articles from previous issues of this magazine or any earlier magazines covering this locality. At last a solution to your storage problems - send us your unused old magazines, publicity material, record catalogues, and any other material which you think is relevant. All significant contributions will be acknowledged in the final publication.

We have published a limited edition of the Sidmouth artists folk compendium, which will give you an indication of the style and potential content of this project. Inclusion is free and is not restricted to artists who have made any recordings. Current and former editors are invited to detail the history of their publications.

Any individual or group, willing to act as consultant to cover this geographical area is cordially invited to contact us at the address below, as are any readers who may be able to assist in making this compendium as accurate and wide ranging as possible.

Thankyou in advance and we look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Owen Jones, New Ways, 19 The Gardens, Monmouth, Gwent, NP5 3HF. Tel. 0600 2221.  
Ralph Stephen, 12 Victoria Square, Jesmond, Newcastle on Tyne, NE2 4DE. Tel. 811198

Dear Sir,

How refreshing, in recent weeks, to have guests, namely Paul Metsers and Cosmotheke, who have actually remained in the club room while the floor singers and musicians have performed. It would appear that some guests have "The Big Star Syndrome", whereby they feel obliged to lurk in a downstairs bar until it is time for them to make their "grand entrance". Surely it would be a matter of courtesy to show an interest in the club and those who have paid to see them.

In a club where there is a plethora of talented performers and an enthusiastic audience, it does seem a pity that some guests should wish to set themselves apart from their audience. Presumably they were once floor singers themselves. (Did they used to do a floor spot and then leave the club room?) I wonder what the reaction would be if all the club regulars showed the same ill-manners/lack of interest as displayed by a guest with a poor attitude, and all were to walk out when the guest was announced? "Do unto others ....."

Yours faithfully,  
Janet McShane.

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# CHAIRMAN'S RANT by Ian Wells

Just because you're paranoid, it doesn't mean that people aren't out to get you: so goes the old joke. By extension, just because you're not manic-depressive, it doesn't mean you can't be down. This seems to be a depressive phase to me.

First, came the death of Pete Thorp. In the few years he was on this side of the Pennines, he became widely known. He was associated with at least five attempts to run folk clubs in Skelmersdale but he should be remembered principally for his work with children. He did a tremendous amount of work for Jenny Bashford in her Skelmersdale Children's Folk Club (and Jenny now needs a singer/musician to help her regularly on Mondays - contact myself if you can help)

Even though I represented the Federation at his cremation, I know that it will be a long time before I can sit in a local club without half-expecting him to walk in, especially at sing-a-rounds. I suspect that somewhere in a quiet corner of heaven

there are a few cherubs who can already sing the Dalesman's Litany.

As I've rung round for dates, several of the organisers have been depressed by the size of their audiences. Several others have changed their club nights and at least one has handed the club on to a new team. Study the dates page with care!

Finally, on a personal note, my employer is cutting my department in half and at the time of writing I don't know which half I'm in. As the old Chinese curse put it: may you live in interesting times.

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# What's all this Dancing about? ENJOY YOURSELF!

Preston Folk Dance club are celebrating their Diamond Jubilee this year with a Gala Dance at the Guild Hall, Preston on 29th September and have invited all the clubs which have been started over the years by their members to give displays.

Next year Longton Folk Dance Circle are celebrating their Golden Jubilee. It is good to know some clubs are still active after all these years.

There has been a growing interest in Folk Dancing in recent years especially in Morris Dancing - there are now many Clubs and teams of all types throughout the North West. However very few new 'Social Dance' clubs have been started, the youngest I know is the Crook Folk Dance Club near Kendal, who will celebrate their 10th Birthday in September.

About twenty years ago there was virtually only one Folk Dance Band in the North West where now there must be at least twenty. There are thousands of people now enjoying English Country Dancing regularly, very few of whom join the existing Folk Dance Clubs.

A Folk enthusiast told me recently that he thoroughly enjoys dancing at Ceilidhs organised by Song Clubs but could not stand dances run by the E.F.D.S.S. I know just what he means, whenever I 'call' a dance anywhere for anyone people will let their hair down, join in and enjoy themselves and invariably the floor is full of mixed couples. Go to an E.F.D.S.S. dance and all too often the floor is full of woman plodding around without heed to the lively music. Don't get me wrong go to any 'Folk Festival' whether E.F.D.S.S. run or not and there will be great dancing. Perhaps that's the reason all the dancers with any life in them have gone off to Festivals and left the plodders at home.

I had a telephone call earlier this year to ask if I would do about half an hour of Country Dancing to records during a Disco. I finally persuaded the enquirer to book a band and have a full evening of Country Dancing to live music. The resulting evening was a huge success over two hundred people in a barn, most of them dancing most of the time and

obviously enjoying themselves. I gave out load of 'Folk in Lancs' leaflets to enthusiastic enquirers, but on the way home I began to have grave doubts on realising which was the nearest 'Folk Dance Club' and I have to be honest - if they go there they won't enjoy it.

If you have enjoyed dancing at a Hoe Down, Barn Dance or Ceilidhs (What's in a name anyhow) but have then tried an E.F.D.S.S. dance and been disappointed don't despair, why not start a club of your own and I'll give you any help I can.

Alan G. Barber.

## ROSIE HARDMAN



**Rosie Hardman**  
FEW PERFORMERS on the folk scene have managed to win their way so deeply into so many hearts as has Rosie Hardman. Indeed, so great is the affection she commands that even a continually greater departure from recognisably 'folk' paths has apparently failed to deplete in the slightest her sizeable and loyal following.

But then Rosie Hardman has a lot more to offer than most. It's not just her stage presence, which more than matches her ample size. Nor is it her large sense of humour - forcefully contradicting the popular notion that women cannot be funny.

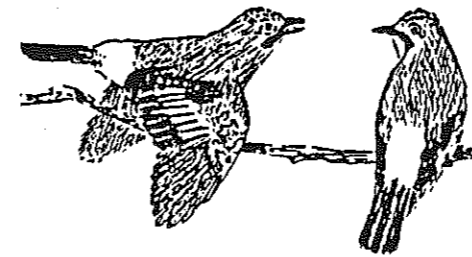
For, important though both these attributes may be, they merely pale into insignificance when set against the collection of powerful songs, most of them self-written, which form the fabric of her performance.

Love and relationships may be the major inspirations for her writing, but there's both originality and a remarkable intensity in her treatment of the well-worn themes. Again and again, the abso-

depth of her emotions is exposed. Pain, anger, joy, desire - her words alone would vividly express them all. When those words are coupled with Rosie's own dynamic presentation, however, they become absolutely spellbinding - guaranteed to move even the most hardened listeners.

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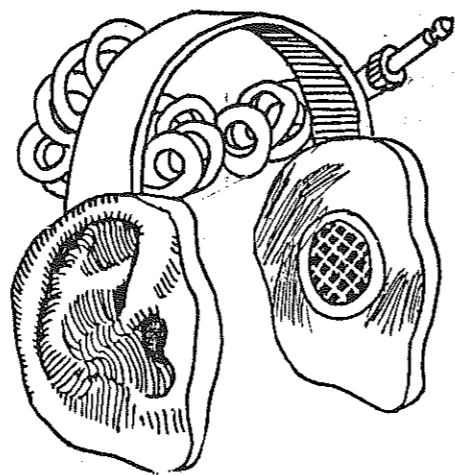
# BROADFOLK

Television seems to have given up our own folk music altogether. B.B.C. 2 has run a whole weekend of jazz - mostly bought in - and a series of C & W concerts. The latter were from the Wembley festival, which is notorious for an audience of amateur cowboys from Darlington or Dartford. (I cherish the comment made on Radio 1 about a previous Wembley: If they weren't playing at cowboys, what sort of music would they be listening to? Max Bygraves!). Even our own Manchester regional production centre sent our own Mike Harding to America to listen to U.S. folk music - and then used far too little music.

Radio 4 has run an interesting series called Folk at Work actually recorded in Folk Clubs in South Wales. This is produced by Herbert Williams, who made a previous series of archive based word and song programmes. Each programme has a theme of a type of work which is loosely adhered to in the selection of prose and poem read by actors and in the songs performed by groups from South Wales. They have been pretty good so far. Radio 4 has also commissioned a history of folk music - more news later.

Locally, Harry Ogden and Folkspan have been rested by Piccadilly over the summer. They are supposed to return end September or early October but at the time of writing no-one could give me a day, time or length. Nationally, Folk on 2 has vanished on three occasions on Saturday evening due to sport, twice for Wimbledon and once for golf. The insomniacs repeat on VHF disappeared in favour of Wogan's Olympic Waffles.

The Shanty Festival and the allegedly "International Folk" Festival at the International Garden Festival (IGF) have featured only on Radio Merseyside. This was principally on Folkscene, with Stan and Geoff doing a sterling job, but Stan Hugill was also heard in full voice on the morning show. Tony Davis, taking time off from the Spinners to be music organiser for the IGF, gave an interval talk on R2 which used some folk music sung (you guessed!) by The Spinners. Regrettably, Tony's IGF activities have done very little for



local folk music and he and the publicity team between them totally failed to make any advance information available on artists or where events were to occur. Radio Manchester's series of even more local radio experiments continues with Radio Wigan and Leigh. The morning show is being hosted by Norman Prince, well known frustrated comedian and not-quite-folk singer with the Houghton Weavers. He apparently intends to include a folk 'What's On' - to be collated by Joan Blackburn.

Unexpected folk 1: John Amis on 'My Music' sang beautifully both Rufford Park and an Erse air. Unexpected Folk 2: The 25th edition of 'Sing something simple' was scheduled to include some folksong! I couldn't bear to listen - SSS's arrangements are like wading through treacle.

FOLKEAR.

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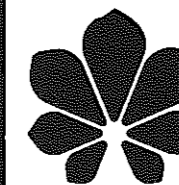
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# SONG EXCHANGE

Conducted by JOAN BLACKBURN

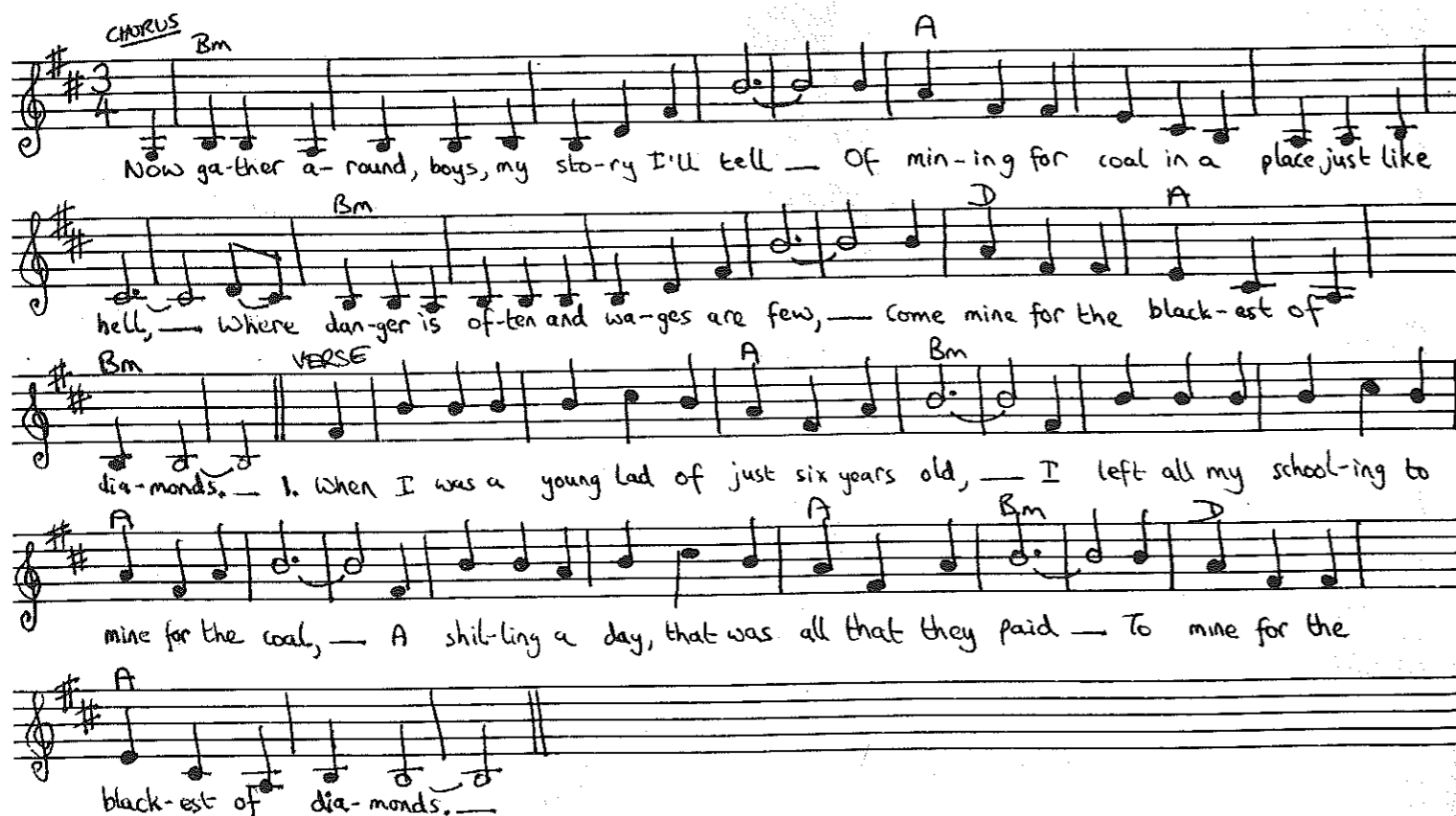
If you would like the words, music and/or chords of a song, write in to "Song Exchange", c/o Joan Blackburn, 4 Rosewood Close, Abram, near Wigan, Lancs, WN2 5XT. Readers' replies should be directed to the same address.

THANKS to Steve Higgins of Wigan for the song "Inch by Inch", requested by Mike Jacklin of Glazebury.

REQUEST for "The Valley of Strathmore" (as sung by Silly Wizard) from Mr. A. Williamson of Swinton. Readers' help would be appreciated.

One of the members of Calico (residents at the Belle Green Folk Club) requested the following song, which I sang there a short time ago. It was written by Joe Baines (ex of Abram, now living in Atherton), about the mines and miners of Abram, which no longer has any working pits, the last one having closed in 1966. He gleaned the information for the song from one of the local ex-miners, and was happy to give his permission for the song to be published here.

THE BLACKEST OF DIAMONDS (C) Joe Baines 1976



**CHORUS**  
 Bm A  
 Now gather a-round, boys, my sto-ry I'll tell — Of min-ing for coal in a place just like  
 Bm D A  
 hell, — Where dan-ger is of-ten and wa-ges are few, — Come mine for the black-est of  
**VERSE**  
 Bm A Bm  
 dia-monds. — 1. When I was a young lad of just six years old, — I left all my school-ing to  
 A Bm D  
 mine for the coal, — A shil-ling a day, that was all that they paid — To mine for the  
 A  
 black-est of dia-monds.

Chorus Now gather around, boys, my story I'll tell,  
 Of mining for coal in a place just like hell,  
 Where danger is often and wages are few,  
 Come mine for the blackest of diamonds.

## Tours News

### Joan Blackburn writes:

SEAN BOYLE tells me that the idea of him becoming Tours Coordinator is proving partly successful in that artists are contacting him looking for work. However clubs aren't getting in touch to say who they are interested in. He proposes to set up a register of which artists each club would be interested in. Please get in touch with him as soon as possible.

Meanwhile here are some artists who are interested in a tour:  
 Martin Jenkins & Kevin Dempsey (they are 1/2 of Whippersnapper) - end of September  
 Amos & Rocks - mid October  
 Capar Ceilidh - w/e 6th October  
 Cyril Tawney - end November  
 Celebrated Theatre of Delights (Punch & Judy) - april onwards '85  
 Roy Harris - March/April '85

You have already missed GARSTERS DREAM BAND (august) and NIC DOW (1st wk Sept)

Remember the system - ring us ; we won't ring you ! Remember also that Sean won't organise the tour for you, or negotiate prices. Contact him NOW on 0606 44361 (evenings only please)

### SONG EXCHANGE (from P. 14)

THE BLACKEST OF DIAMONDS (cont.)

1. When I was a young lad of just six years old, I left all my schooling to mine for the coal; A shilling a day, that was all that they paid, To mine for the blackest of diamonds.
2. But now I am old and my body is bent, My lungs are all blackened and broken, A shilling a day, that was all that they paid, To mine for the blackest of diamonds.
3. The mines have all gone now, but they've left their mark On the men who used to work them; A shilling a day, that was all that they paid, To mine for the blackest of diamonds.

In October of last year, Wigan Folk Club had a stand at Wigan's first Leisure Exhibition, organised by Wigan Rotary Club. The club gained several new members, and was able to use the event as a publicity exercise.

A second Leisure Exhibition is being organised for the weekend of 22/23 September at Wigan College of Technology, Parsons Walk from 10am to 5pm on both days. Wigan Folk Club will again be taking a stand, & also providing some entertainment during the weekend.

Local Folk Club organisers - please send me your guest lists & handouts for this event, & please publicise the event in your clubs. All sorts of craft & leisure activities will be on display, it is certain to be an interesting & enjoyable day.

I am also correlating folk music info. for Radio Wigan for their What's On spot so again I need guest lists for clubs in the Wigan/Leigh area, as well as any other local gigs. Don't pass up the opportunity for some free publicity!

Joan Blackburn,  
 4, Rosewood Close,  
 Abram, Near Wigan  
 WN2 5XT  
 Tel: Wigan 863389

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# Club

DAY & CLUB		RESIDENTS	DATES IN SEPTEMBER			
SATURDAY			1st	8th	15th	22nd
Brewery	See (k) below	TBA		Nick Dow	Bury Folk Festival (g)	Tony Wilson
Bury	Various			Cuckoo's Nest + Abalon		
Poynton	Hoe Downs					Northwich (r)
Club Ceilidhs						
SUNDAY			2nd	9th	16th	23rd
Bothy	See (f) below	..... re-opens	Pete Doe	Singer's Night	Singer's Night	Singer's Night
George & Dragon	See (b) below	Volunteers	Singer's Night	Mike Canavan	Singer's Night	Singer's Night
Leigh	Trevor & Joan Hunt			..... re-opens	Alan Bell Band	
Poynton	See (e) below	Whippersnapper	Dick Gaughan	Cyril Tawney	Cilla Fisher + Artie Tresize	
Rave On	Volunteers	Pywackett	Singer's Night	Fiona Simpson	Gerry Hallom	Six Hands in Tempo
Rainford	Derek & Di Boak	..... reopens	Jack Owen	The Sisters		
St. Maries	Big Bill Prince			Singer's Night	Simon Davey	
Valley F. Club	Under a Fiver (j)	Singer's Night	Steve Turner			
MONDAY			3rd	10th	17th	24th
Horwich				Brillig	Singer's Night	Singer's Night
Poynton		Singaround		Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
Preston		Parkinson/Garside		Singaround	21st Birthday	Tom Shepleys Band
Triton	Triton Folk	Bob Buckle		Triton F./C. Wilson	Triton F./Singers	A.G.M.
TUESDAY			4th	11th	18th	25th
Blackpool	Paverners	Singer's Night	Singer's Night	Singer's Night	Singer's Night	Singer's Night
Kingsway	See (i) below		Singer's Night	Flat Country S. Band	Howard Woosey	
White Bear	Ushers' Well/Cascade (j)	Singers' Night	Dal Renda	Singers' Night	Singers' Night	
WEDNESDAY			5th	12th	19th	26th
Belle Green	Calico	Singer's Night	Closed	Closed	Singer's Night	Singer's Night
Ring O Bells (Widnes)	Twice Thymes Two	Singer's Night	Singer's Night	Singer's Night	Singer's Night	Singer's Night
Star						
The Met						
White Swan	Watersons		Sean Cannon	Dave + Betty Campbell (o)	Gerry Hallom	
Whitehaven.	Jake Thackray		Tim Wood	Cilla Fisher + Artie Tresize	Local Singers	
THURSDAY			6th	13th	20th	27th
Fleetwood	See (c) below	Singers' Night	TBA (Guest)	Jim Eldon	Singers' Night	Singers' Night
Fernhurst	R. Crane/B. Holden	Singer's Night	Singer's Night	Hunters Moon	Singer's Night	Singer's Night
Mawdesley		Jolly Jack	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Poynton	Now Wednesdays (i)	Guest TBA	Guest TBA	Guest TBA	Guest TBA	Guest TBA
Stump		The Yetties	Singer's Night	Calico	Singer's Night	Singer's Night
Wigan.	Joan Blackburn	Singers' Night	Maghull F.C. Residents	Singers' Night	Singers' Night	Singers' Night
FRIDAY			7th	14th	21st	28th
Bee	Various	Singer's Night	Singer's Night	Singer's Night	Singer's Night	Singer's Night
Northwich	See (a) below	Geoff Higginbottom	Local's Night	Gerry Hallom	Local's Night	Local's Night
Newcastle		Nick Dow	Singer's Night	Cyril Tawney	Singer's Night	Singer's Night
Roebuck		Steve Turner	Singers & Mus.	Jim Eldon	Singers & Mus.	Singers & Mus.
Ring O' Bells (Middleton)	(h)	Two Beggarmen	Stuart Tindall & Paula Gordon	Keith Hancock	New Bracken Band	New Bracken Band

### KEY TO SYMBOLS ABOVE:

- \* See Club News, page 4
- £ Tickets available from club
- (a) Residents are: Sean & Sandy Boyle, Iain Bowley, Tony Howard, Rod McDermot, Paul Taylor
- (b) Residents include: Caught on the Hop, Bric-a-brac, Quarts
- (c) Residents include: Scold's Bridle, Bev & Kevin McEalan (of Thistle), Peter Smith and others (rotating residency)
- (d) Residents are: Dave & Helen Howard, Helen Robinson, Paul, Geoff Higginbottom, John O'Hagan, Steve Jackson, Mike Billington
- (e) Residents for September are: Gentleman Soldier (2), Strachan & Griffiths with Changing Woods (9), Abalon (16), Geoff Higginbottom (23), Beard & Lyle (30)
- (f) Residents for October are: Gentleman Soldier (7), Nightshift (28), rest TBA
- (g) Residents are: Ken Dunlop, Cathie Stuart, Clive Pounceby, Pete Rimmer, Paul Reid

# Calendar

DATES IN OCTOBER					
29th	6th	13th	20th	27th	DAY & CLUB
28th: Bernard Wrigley Bryony	Pywackett Rothfield/Carr (1)	12th: Roy Harper Jolly Jack Thingers + Funks C.B. Ormskirk Day of Folk *	23rd: Tom Paxton TBA	TBA	Brewery Bury Poynton Club Ceilidhs
30th	7th	14th	21st	28th	SUNDAY
Rothfield/Carr (1) Woods/Yarwood (m) Harry Boardman Vin Garbutt Singer's Night Jolly Jack Caught-on-the-Hop Haywain	Cyril Tawney Singer's Night Scold's Bridle Harvey Andrews Shelui Pete Ryder	Singer's Night Fraser & Ian Bruce Singer's Night Roy Harper Singer's Night	Tom Gilfellow Singer's Night Oldham Pinkers Julie Felix Downes & Beer Chris	Singer's Night Cosmotheke Wassailers Johnny Silvo Singer's Night Alan Taylor Kinfolk Singer's Night	Bothy George & Dragon Leigh Poynton Rave On Rainford St. Maries. Valley Folk Club
1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th	MONDAY
Singer's Night Singaround Singaround The Spinners	Singer's Night Singaround Pat Ryan Triton F./Singers	Fraser & Ian Bruce Singaround Singaround TBA	Singer's Night Singaround Singaround Triton F./Singers	Singer's Night Singaround The Armadillos The Spinners	Horwich. Poynton. Preston Triton
2nd	9th	16th	23rd	30th	TUESDAY
Singer's Night Singers' Night	Singer's Night Singers' Night	Singer's Night Singers' Night	Singer's Night Singers' Night	Singer's Night Blue Water Folk	Blackpool. Kingsway White Bear.
3rd	10th	17th	24th	31st	WEDNESDAY
Singer's Night Singer's Night	Singer's Night Singer's Night	Singer's Night Singer's Night	TBA Singer's Night	Singer's Night Singer's Night	Belle Green Ring O Bells (Widnes) Star The Met White Swan Whitehaven.
4th	11th	18th	25th		THURSDAY
Dave Walker Band (p) Singer's Night Singer's Night Guest TBA (Wed) Geoff Higginbottom	Loose Chippings (p) Rab Noakes Closed Guest TBA (Wed)	Rackie Byrne (prev) (p) Singer's Night Closed Guest TBA (Wed)	Re-Residents night (p) Singer's Night Closed Guest TBA (Wed)	Watson, Draper & Lock (n) Peter + Gavin Livingstone Domfries Folk Club	Fleetwood Fernhurst Mawdesley Poynton Stump Wigan.
5th	12th	19th	26th		FRIDAY
Singer's Night Singaround Martin Simpson Singers & Mus. The Blackheads	Singer's Night Colin Thompson Singer's Night Singers & Mus. Bernie Parry	Singer's Night Local's Night TBA Singers & Mus. Geoff Higginbottom	Singer's Night Martin Simpson Peter Bond Ray Fisher Portway Pedlars		Bee Northwich Newcastle Roebuck. Ring O' Bells (Middleton)

- (g) For full details of Festival, September 14/15 see Out & About
- (h) This club replaces the Two Tubs
- (i) Note New Day, but same venue
- (j) New club since last issue - see Club News for full details
- (k) Brewery Dates - For full details please see Club News
- (l) Jane Rothfield & Alan Carr (with Martin Hadden)
- (m) Ian Woods & Charley Yarwood
- (n) Roger Watson's New Band
- (o) Dave & Betty Campbell are Ian Campbell's parents (see Club News)
- (p) These are all part of the 15th Anniversary special events
- (q) With Ian Gartside, The Amazing Dick & others
- (r) Ceilidh at Antrobus Village Hall with Foxes Bark

## NOVEMBER Dates

DAY & CLUB					
<b>THURSDAY</b>	1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th
Fleetwood	TBA	TBA	TBA	Sullivan	TBA
Fernhurst	Singer's Night	Bryony	Singer's Night	Singer's Night	Singer's Night
Mawdesley	Woods/Yarwood (m)	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Poynton	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround
Stump	John Howarth	Singer's Night	Pat Ryan	Singer's Night	Bram Taylor
Wigan	Singers' Night	Singers' Night	Gill Burns	Singers' Night	Singers' Night
<b>FRIDAY</b>	2nd	9th	16th	23rd	30th
Ring O Bells, Middleham	John Corrain	Singers' Night	Guest TBA	Dick Miles	Guest TBA
Bee	Singer's Night	Singer's Night	Singer's Night	Singer's Night	Singer's Night
Northwich	Singers' Night	Harry Boardman	Sarah Morgan + Mary Eagle	Singers' Night	Steve Turner
Newcastle	High Level Rankers	Pete Coe	Dick Miles	Singer's Night	Martin Carthy
Roebuck	Singers & Mus.	Roy Harris	Singers & Mus.	Singers & Mus.	Singers & Mus.
<b>SATURDAY</b>	3rd	10th	17th	24th	
Brewery		9th: Boys of the Lough	16th Jake Thackray		
Bury		Stanley Accrington	Dick Miles		
Poynton		Cuckoo's Nest C.B.			
Club Ceilidhs					
<b>SUNDAY</b>	4th	11th	18th	25th	
Bothy					
George & Dragon	Singer's Night	Fiona Simpson	Singer's Night	Strawhead	
Leigh					
Poynton	Tannahill Weavers	Jake Thackray	Guest TBA	Bernard Wrigley	
Rave On					
Rainford					
St. Maries (Widnes)		Steve Turner		Jacqui & Bridie	
Valley F. Club	Geoff Higginbottom	Singer's Night		Singer's Night	
<b>MONDAY</b>	5th	12th	19th	26th	
Horwich					
Poynton	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	Singaround	
Preston	Peter Bellamy	Singaround	Dick Miles	Singaround	
Triton	Triton F./Singers	Triton F. request ngt.	Ushers Well	Triton F./Singers	
<b>TUESDAY</b>	6th	13th	20th	27th	
Blackpool	Singer's Night	Singer's Night	Singer's Night	Singer's Night	
Kingsway					
White Bear					
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	7th	14th	21st	28th	
Belle Green					
Ring O Bells (Widnes)	Singer's Night	Singer's Night	Singer's Night	Singer's Night	
Star					
The Met					
White Swan	Chris Manners	Peter Bond	The Fabulous Submi Brothers	Alistair Anderson	
Whitehaven	Tannahill Weavers	NO C.L.O.B.	Tony Capstick	Gill Burns	

### KEY TO SYMBOLS ABOVE

- (s) Special Concert at Whitehaven Civic Hall
- (t) For Brewery Dates, see Club News
- (u) Note new day for club

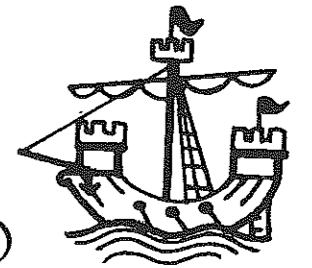
N.B. Blank dates or those marked TBA were unfilled at the time of going to press; please contact the club organiser for further details.

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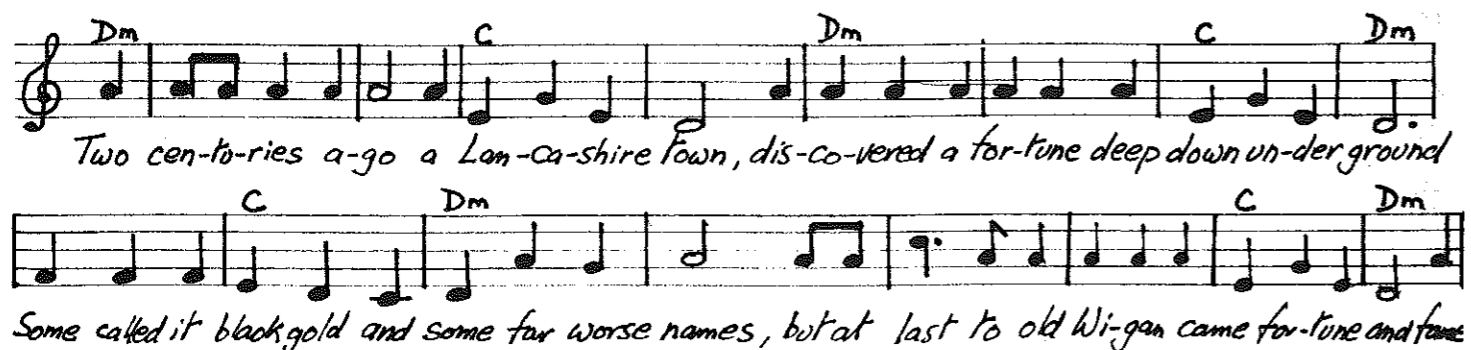
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# A TIME FOR SINGING

The closure of Chisnall Hall colliery in the mid-sixties marked the end of an era; the last pit in Wigan's once renowned coal field had gone. The town faced an uncertain future without the industry that had brought it most of its wealth and, to be honest, its grime. But Wigan still had its pride. To quote the "WIGAN

OBSERVER" of that time, "It's better to be a national joke like Wigan than no joke at all like St. Helens & Widnes"

Keith Roberts was commissioned to write a song for a radio documentary, "Survey on Wigan", and the result was this short history of Wigan's coal industry, "A WORLD OUT OF COAL"



Two centuries ago a Lancashire town  
Discovered a fortune deep down underground,  
Some called it black-gold and some far worse names  
But at last to old Wigan came fortune and fame.

Black fingers of smoke rose and clawed on the light  
Wheels began turning by day and by night,  
The town found a heart and a pulse of its own  
The coal owners got rich as the men broke their bones.

Men lived in fear as they worked at the seams,  
Children hauled trucks in a candle-lights' gleam,  
Pay was a pittance, conditions were grim  
Till Sam Woods and the unions kicked up a din.

Conditions improved and prosperity came,  
Wigan men worked with their hands and their brains,  
The country grew rich with its tellies and cars  
But the land round the coalfields lay battered and scarred.

The smoke in the air made us all cough and choke  
The whole nation laughed at our music-hall joke,  
But it was no joke and we got such a clout  
When we found that the coal in the mines had run out.

Of the slag-heaps you'll quite soon see nothing at all,  
An estate of new "Semis" will be Chisnall Hall,  
A cloudless blue sky with the smoke washed away,  
"Where was that we just passed through?" the traveller will say.

You've cast off your shawls, and the clogs from your feet,  
You've raised a new motorway from cobbled streets,  
But please don't forget all the values of old,  
And the men who helped build you a world out of coal.

## REVIEW: LOUGHBOROUGH [April '84]

Like many people, I went to this year's resurrected Loughborough Festival (1980 was the last one) with considerable apprehension. I wondered whether, at a new venue and on a new date, it could even approach the atmosphere of previous festivals. I needn't have worried, so I hope this will clarify.

Friday evening started with a choice of three events and I spent the time (apart from that spent in the bar) in the Nottingham Traditional Music Club Night, which included Johnny Doughty and the Holm Valley Tradition. Part of the rest of the evening I spent in the session hosted by Charley Yarwood and the Peters Coe and Bellamy. Following these official events was the usual party running well into the early morning and still going when I left about 3am!

The following morning dawned bright and early, but I didn't, so I missed the choice of six different workshops at any one time covering almost any topic you care to name. I started instead with a session including Roy Harris, Pete Coe and The Blades; the latter are a duo (Dave Parry and Dave Townsend formerly of Jumbleads) who provide an interesting sound using melodeons to very good effect - a refreshingly different sound indeed.

Saturday afternoon had an impossible choice; so I ended up between three events; the most memorable of which was Peter Bellamy's superb 2 hour 'Keep on Kipling' presentation. The evening found me again wandering, this time between a concert and a sing-around and I finished the evening at a Late Night Extra hosted by Ian Woods, during which I had my first experience of the Kipper Family and 'experience' is certainly the right word. They appear to be a father and son duo in the mould of the Coppers, but, in fact, offer their own hilarious brand of humour using songs based on traditional material.

On Sunday I was up bright and early, despite a dull start to the day, and there was an impossibly wide choice of workshops. I settled

for the one given by Ian Campbell's parents, Dave and Betty, who sang the songs they had learnt, not only from their parents, but from people like Jeannie Robertson; each one embroidered with fascinating background information. I followed this with Roy Harris' "Songs of the Country" which introduced such people as Fred Jordan, Charlie Hill and the Holm Valley Tradition. The latter provide a different slant on some hunting and non-hunting songs as they have developed in the Holmfirth area.

On through a lunchtime session to the final events of the weekend offering a choice of two sessions and a ceilidh. The final announcement was that there would definitely be another festival next year!

Attendances throughout the weekend were perhaps a little short of the number required for a financial success, but enough to give confidence for next years. For those staying in the Halls of residence, the rooms were very comfortable and the food was excellent with a choice at every meal.

Taken all round then, a superb festival with all the atmosphere of those run so successfully with Ray Harris as Festival Director. Congratulations are certainly due to John Heydon and his team for an excellent festival and I hope there will be many more to come!

Nigel Firth.

62 Ridge Crescent, Hawk Green,  
Marple, Stockport SK6 7JA

# BIZZ

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## review:

# Redcar folk festival '84

Redcar isn't exactly the most salubrious place to hold a folk festival, being overshadowed by the nearby Wilton I.C.I. works and pervaded by the odours that emanate from it, but it is easy to feel at home here because the atmosphere is so friendly.

Redcar this year boasted some fine guests, both national and local, and the family influence was noticeable in that those booked included the Wilson family from nearby Thornaby, the Elliots of Birtley and the Doonan family.

The festival opened with a ceilidh at the Coatham Leisure Centre, the festival headquarters, which, due to modernisation and extension, was duly adapted to the festivals requirements. The Friday sing-around certainly gave the weekend a good start with The Wilsons in fine voice.

The Saturday workshops included Irish step dancing, 'Yorkshire Coast' and 'Song and Harmony' this latter being the one I chose and excellently led by the Dead Sea Surfers. In a totally inadequate hour they managed to explain how they "fitted-up" songs to suit their own entertaining presentation and four-part harmonies. The equally important and superbly executed skill they didn't in fact mention was that of "timing".

Three sing-arounds (actually folk club-type sessions - I wish people would get their terminology correct!) followed the workshops and of these I abandoned 'A Tale of Ale' (spoilt by a late start and a rude and noisy audience) for John O'Hagan's excellent session in the more cheerful surroundings of the Park Hotel. Here, as well as some fine floor singing, I witnessed short spots from Bernie Parry, Pat Ryan and Dave Hardy all of whom were festival guests, but were by no means allowed to take over from the essential essence of a good singers' session - well done John O'H!

On Saturday afternoon there was a choice of two events: a concert

and a session entitled 'A Chance to Meet' which I went to. The guests being 'met' included the Dead Sea Surfers, Marie Little, Pat Ryan and Vin Garbutt, all introduced by local lad Pete Betts. The idea was not to present a concert but to invite the audience to ask pertinent questions about the artistes' backgrounds - a sort of Sun reporters workshop! (Unfortunately Pat Ryan was not very forthcoming in this respect - sorry Pat!)

Things went quite well although some had clearly come to hear the guests sing rather than talk and it became a little too deep for some folk when a 'debate' followed Vin's rendition of his anti-abortion song 'Just Fade Away'. It was certainly a different concept and might have been more successful if the room had been laid out less formally and fewer people had occupied the platform.

On Saturday night I attended the concert in favour of the ceilidh and this proved to be a most enjoyable experience in spite of my apprehensions about such formal events. Memorable songs were Alex Glasgow's "Close the Coal House Door" with which the Wilsons closed their excellent spot, Marie Little's rendering of Alan Bell's "Marchin'" (Alan was sitting next to me at the time!) and the Doonan Family giving their all in a fantastic performance of "Sweet Georgia Brown". Finally Vin Garbutt gave his usual charismatic performance finishing with a duet with sister Ellen on whistles.

I arrived at the ceilidh to find Clan Na Gael, a local team of Irish step dancers, in full swing with an entrancing display that brought them two encores. Hugh Rippon and the Yorkshire Garland band took the evening out with a fine bit of calling and accompaniment respectively. And so to bed - weel not quite because an unofficial sing-around was being led by (who else?) the Wilsons in the campsite changing rooms. Steve Wilson was found at 8.30am on Sunday morning still singing with bottle in hand - beat <sup>23</sup> 22

# Redcar (contd)

that J. Collins!

At a rather sedate pace on Sunday morning I managed to drag myself to a sing-around led first by Pete Betts and later by a 'hung-over' Derek Elliot (memories of Loughborough!) at the Swan Hotel. In spite of the fizzy beer, a good session ensued with far too many floor singersto mention.

Needless to say I arrived late at the afternoon concert at the Park Hotel and was immediately assaulted by the noise coming mostly from around the bar. A pity this because Bernie Parry was singing some old favourites including "Davey" and "The Village Fool" aswell as some new songs of which "The Dark Shores of Durham" was certainly one of the beat i've heard from him. In spite of the noise the rest of the attentive audience soon 'shushed' the bar flies and the organisers sensibly opened a second bar for an impromptu session which relieved the crush somewhat.

Bernie was followed by The Dead Sea Surfers who gave an absolutely superb performance of Music Hall, Doo-wap, Sacred Heart and Gospel Blues songs. They even silenced the traditionalist critics by a stunning treatment of "The Albion". Having taken the audience by storm the man to follow them should have had a difficult time, but local lad Pete Davies executed a smashing set

which culminated with a fine performance of "Green Laurel" accompanied by Vin and Ellen on whistles. R.Cajun followed. They are a band specialising in the Cajun music of the French speaking inhabitants of the Louisiana Bayous. They certainly had everyone foot-tapping but I felt that the tunes were very similar and the music deteriorated into just a noise.

The last act I saw before retreating to the cool air of Redcar was Alan Bell's spot; this 50 year old (har! har! - told you I'd spill the beans, Bell!) veteran has life in him yet! In fact Alan's performance was a magic mixture of the songs 'what he has wrote' which had eveyone heartily singing the choruses. It is a tribute to the man that he can still hold the audience in the palm of his hand without sounding at all hackneyed. I liked his latest nostalgic song especially, all about a white house by the river.

By now (like those of you who have read this far) I was suffering from festival lag, so I missed the final ceilidh and singaround for a 'quieter' night at the Wilson's club in Thornaby - it was Monday before I left.

If you've never been to Redcar Festival I can really recommend it. Those Yorkshire folk know how to enjoy themselves, but I'm sure they'll benefit from a little Lancashire culture too.

Derek Gifford.

## THE SOUTHERN RAG

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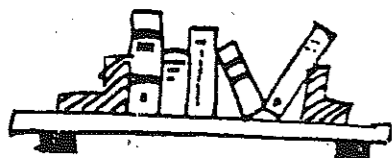
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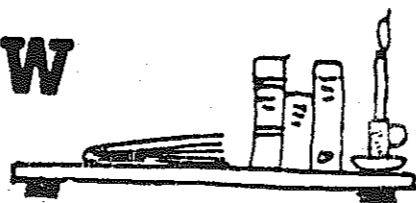
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# Book Review



Billie Holiday, affectionately known as "Lady Day", is widely acknowledged as one of the finest girl jazz singers. Her greatest quality was the remarkable depth of feeling she would project in her songs. The clue to this gift can be found in the events of her life.

In this slim volume (reissued from the 1956 hardback), Billie tells of the highs and lows of her short life in a racy and brutally frank style. We learn of her harsh childhood, living in poverty in areas where white was right and black wrong. There is a fascinating insight into her tours with some of the leading bands, creating something of a sensation by working with white musicians. Billie describes the petty degradations inflicted by colour conscious whites in the southern states.

Despite outstanding successes in her career, problems of money and emotional involvements often brought her to despair. Throughout runs the tragic theme of her long unsuccessful struggle with drug addiction. Her problems were partly self-inflicted, partly due

to vindictive officialdom and partly to the ill luck which seems to have dogged her footsteps. The book ends on a note of optimism, but sadly in less than three years she was dead, her dreams of her own nightclub and a home for unwanted children both unfulfilled.

Not a happy story then, but one of courage and of a great talent that, despite everything, flourished so that her records are still cherished by fans world-wide.

The book also includes a selected discography of some 50 L.P.s - probably still only a fraction of her large recorded output. The compiler includes notes, mainly on the technical standard of recording. There is likely to be some duplication of tracks and details of titles would have been an advantage.

However, at £2.50, the book represents a good buy for those readers interested in the other stream of the music of the people.

*by Our Jazz Correspondent*

**John Hobson**  
**&**  
**Howard Lees**  
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# THE FIRST SILVERWELL FOLK FESTIVAL

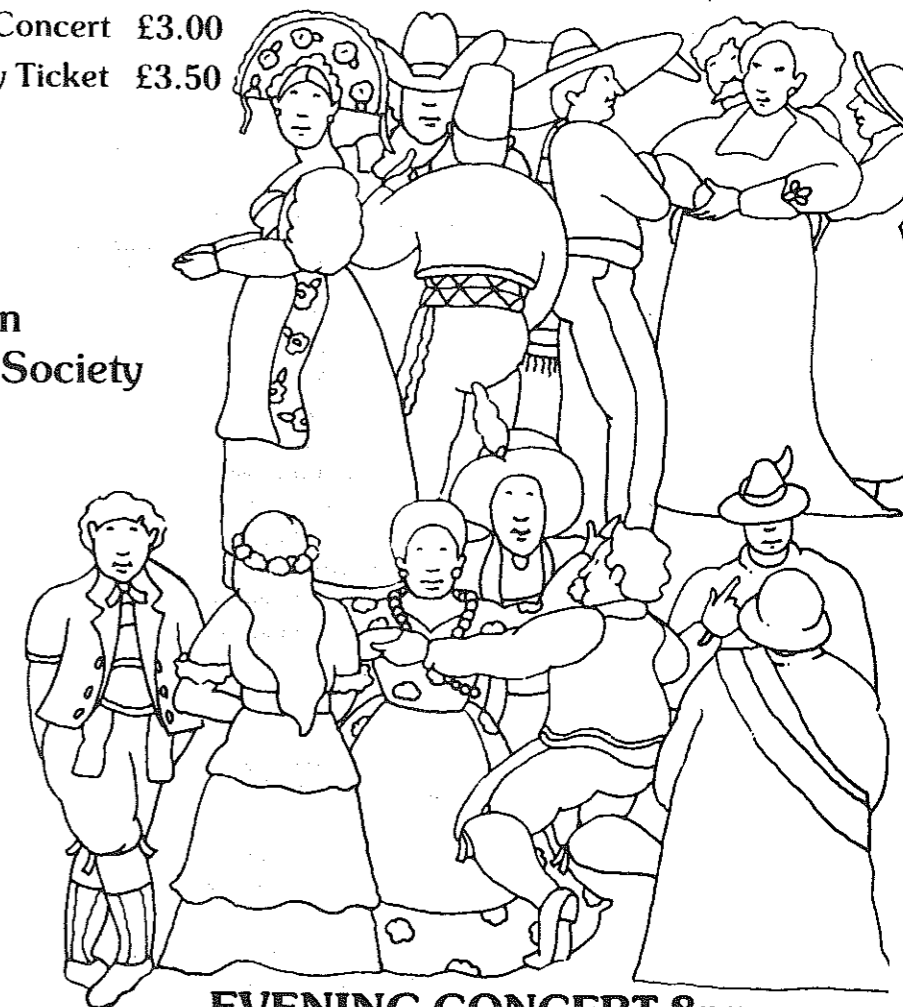
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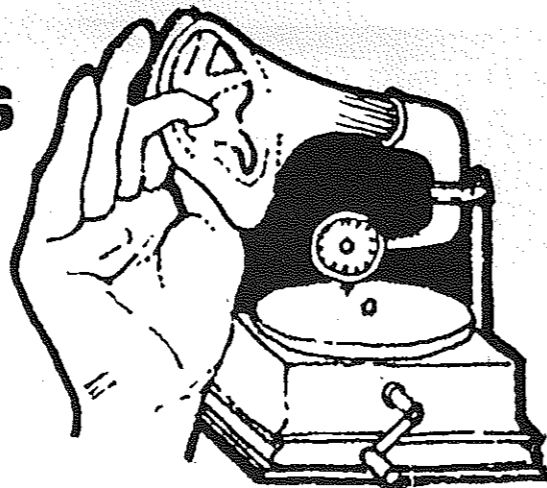
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# RECORD REVIEWS



SWAN ARCADE

'Together Forever' Fellside FE 037

Side One: For the Sake of Days Gone By/Georgie on a Spree/Dives and Lazarus/Paperback Writer/Goodnight Loving Trail.

Side Two: Mighty Rocky Road/Go from My Window/Lola/Boomers Story/Keep the Faith/Together Forever.

Cynicism is a trait I display only occasionally, but I was, to say the least, sceptical as to whether three part unaccompanied harmony singing could take traditional folk, rock and roll, pop songs and American hymns in its stride. In this the latest offering from Swan Arcade it does - but only just. 'Paperback Writer' is about the limit I think and although largely a successful transformation I still found myself longing for Lennon & McCartney's fabulous backing 'Lola' is better but even that stretches tolerance. I missed the security of Royston Wood's bass lines too and I think the group are the losers without him especially in their rather weaker version of 'Dives & Lazarus'; I much prefer the Young Tradition's version. On the positive side however, 'Goodnight Loving Trail' admirably suits their style of singing and Jim Boyes' simple guitar strumming gives it the necessary authenticity as a cowboy song. The same can be said for 'Keep the Faith' which is the track I liked best. Our Janet's comment "funny harmonies" aptly describes Jon Rennard's 'Go From My Window' but they nevertheless give a new and pleasant rendition of this well known song. Throughout the record the harmony singing is difficult to fault but it is largely a matter of personal taste as to whether you will find the arrangements pleasurable or, as in my case, an interesting diversion. At best it will stand several playings before I decide whether its really for me or not.

DEREK GIFFORD

19TH CAMBRIDGE FOLK FESTIVAL VOL.1  
Design DEL306

Alexis Korner/Queen Ida/Fureys/  
John Hammond/The Doonan Family/  
Alistair Anderson & others

You know, why the heck the Cambridge festival is held in such awe and esteem is a total mystery to me. How can a festival with a bill that reads like a refuge for geriatric acts and such appalling planning and amenities be the Nation's number one? Bring back Leeds that had it beaten on all counts. I'll grant that this years guest list is a bit more like the real thing so let's hope there are adequate sanitary arrangements and no overcrowding or violence. This album Vol.1 (Vol.2 to follow?) is the 1983 bill and it's a fair reflection of a diverse get together like Cambridge. Alistair Anderson pops up with a Steel Skies excerpt, Cosmotheke, Fred Wedlock, John Hammond with his superb blues playing, Eric Anderson, and Queen Ida are all well recorded airings. But why oh why, did Design include 4 tracks by the awful Fureys? I'm afraid it's just too tedious. More annoying they missed off fine musicians like Peter Rowan and we could have had more Alexis Korner or even the Strawbs at a push. Let's hope like the bookings the 1984 Volume shows a bit more sense in track selection.

SIMON JONES

"THE HOME SERVICE" - The Home Service  
SAW 3

Side 1: Dont Let 'em Grind You Down/  
One More Day/Never Gonna Be A Cowboy  
Now/Peat Bog Soldiers.

Side 2: Chaconne/The Old Man's Song/  
Doin' The Best I Can/She Moves Among  
Men/Walk My Way.

# RECORDREVIEWSRECORDREVIEWSRECO

If you buy this record expecting it to sound like the performance the Home Service gave at Cambridge Festival, or on the TV programme "A Little Night Music", then prepare to be disappointed. John Tams is here, but his melodeon is alarmingly missing. Instead Graeme Taylor's electric guitar takes all the leads. Also missing are the folky instrumentals (Blue-Eyed Stranger, Elizabethan Gavotte) and the music hall parodies (Doing The English/Where Are the Bluebirds). All that is left is a very rough-hewn collection of Caddick songs, with vocals recorded very far back. In short this is not a folk-rock record. It is tired, boring rock.

RALPH STEPHEN

TANSEY'S FANCY Plant Life PLR 065

Not much could have prepared me for this. Yes, of course I'd heard they were a little different, Ian Anderson warned me so on the phone. But the gap between what you expect and what you hear is a chasm.

Trying to pin them down is futile but, imagine Blowzabella, the Incredible String Band, elements of Steeleye Span and Brass Monkey and that's as near as you'll come to these rebel Aussies. Their material is like a geography lesson, Spanish, Macedonian, French, Irish, Scottish, English, Latin and even a few medieval tunes for good measure. All played on an equally bewildering array of instruments, tupan, darabukha and gaida to name a couple. Oh, there's also a dubious sounding occarina, didn't I see one of those being chased by David Attenborough on TV the other day?

Their treatment of British material is actually quite sensitive, save for the harmonic chaos that closes "The Blackleg Miner", guitars, bass and saxophones mixing to produce an ending quite unlike anything I'd heard.

A gentle soul informed me Tansey's are on at the Buxton Folk day, I hope the hills of Derbyshire are ready for this.

SIMON JONES

CORRIB. "Carefree". Dingles DIN 329.

1. Travelling People, The Cliffs of Doneen; Peggy Gordon; polkas; The Old House; She moved through the Fair; High Germany; The Fairy Hills.  
2. Rare Old Times; The Castle of Dromore; jigs; Macooshla Mine; Carnlough Bay; reels; The Spinning Wheel; reels; The Water is Wide.

CORRIB are Mary Phillips, with a superb voice; Pat Phillips, with an adequate baritone; and Brian McLoone with many instruments. According to the sleeve-note they are of 'Irish origin' and it also says these are 'some of the loveliest and most popular songs from Ireland'. Now I know the origin of songs is fraught with claim and counterclaim, and most of these are undoubtedly Irish, but I usually associate Peggy Gordon with Scotland and the Water is Wide with Newcastle while E.Mc Coll is surely Scots!

However, not that word 'loveliest'; that is the keynote to this record, polish at the expense of life. Mary has a genuinely lovely voice, sweet and smooth, heard at it's best on the Fairy Hills and The Water is Wide. Pat doesn't, and fails to blend well in the harmonies on Carnlough Bay. The sleeve note claims Brian is 'a musical arranger with a particular feel for folk music': his particular feel seems to be a silk glove: slow, smooth, accurate but dull. Most of the songs are too slow and they even manage to make Mc Coll's Travelling People dull. The instrumentals by the additional musicians for the record - are at a good pace but soullessly accurate rather than vigorous.

The overall effect is of the drawing room, not the pub, of Count John McCormack rather than Sean Cannon. The slow tempo irritates me too much even to use it as background music. To be fair, another reviewer said it appealed to him because he is a sucker for sentimentality (he also compared Corrib as a whole to The Spinners and Mary Phillip to Mary O'Hara).

I notice it was produced by Pat Phillips: presumably he got what he wanted but an independent ear might have tightened it up a bit. Or have Dingles gone into vanity publishing?

Ian Wells.

# RECORDREVIEWSRECORDREVIEWSRECO

## FOLK ON THE CHEAP?

Got a folkie in your life? Getting stuck for that ideal gift? Fed up of buying pewter tankards? Well fear not the answer is just around the corner in those local chain stores. No more leather EFDSS badges, this would make somebody a good Christmas gift. In fact I feel a bit of a wally writing about Christmas on a scorching hot July afternoon, but such are these things called deadlines.

Be that as it may back in the top 40 dominated record departments of the High Street, there's always a budget LPs corner. Quiet and stacked with labels like MFP, Pickwick, Golden Hour who issue thousands of "Cliff sings 60s" or "Swinging Bert Kamfert", sound familiar? No don't laugh, you dismiss this oasis of dross too quickly.

One such label, Cambra, ever mindful that the old folk warhorse did actually once have talented people that would play and shift some records, have cannily tapped the back catalogue of Transatlantic. They turned certain areas into double LPs retailing at a cheap £2.99 each. Next time you get a couple of seconds go and have a browse for titles like these.

"AT HIS BEST". Ralph McTell Cambra CRO57, which concentrates on his late 60s, early 70s output including, guess what? Streets of London, (first version), and songs like "Spiral Staircase" from the album of the same name.

"THE DUBLINERS" Cambra CRO54, OK stop snickering I know they may not be everyones cup of tea, they certainly aren't mine. But these Irish Spinners are popular, on here you'll find their version of "The Wild Rover" and their distinctive (ahem) rendering of "The Leaving of Liverpool", among others.

For the more tolerant there's Billy Conolly's "A Double Helping

of the Big Yin", Cambra O56 which isn't just his solo stuff like the hilarious "The Donkey", but also some Humblebuns cuts are included and these more folky feature Gerry Rafferty and Tam Harvey too.

Then if you're feeling really brave you could try "Finbar and Eddie Furey" Cambra CRO53. Whoever would subject themselves to four sides of this torture I can't imagine. If you dare you'll hear endless reels and "The Curragh of Kildare" amongst others.

But the best of the batch is the compilation album "THE BEST OF BRITISH FOLK", Cambra CRO52 it includes, McTell, Digance, Pentangle, Decameron, John Renbourn, Gordon Giltrap, Gerry Rafferty, SallyAngie, the Drandfields and Gryphon plus heaps more. Even if you only buy it as a sampler to remind you what a major folk label Transatlantic was in the 70s then it's worth the money. The sheer variety of styles means it'll satisfy every shade of folkie imaginable. A bargain. "At Their Best", the Pentangle Cambra CR O54 is another worthwhile purchase. As music for 1984 then the present band is as redundant as a pheasant plucker, but in cases of nostalgia they did produce some mellow sounds. So in vogue were they that "Light Flight" was used as a TV series theme. Most of the trad stuff comes from their best work, "Cruel Sister" which is still available. For some reason Pentangle are still massive in Italy, do they know something we don't? Whatever with your average folk album now costing £5.50+ then these doubles can't fail to be value for money. I'm reliably informed they also have a Jansch and Renbourn title in the works as well as a guitar sampler. Wonder if they'll reissue other more worthwhile Transatlantic back holdings, e.g. Gryphon or Mr.Fox? Only time and sales will tell.

SIMON JONES



## newsletter

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# RECORDREVIEWSRECORDREVIEWSRECO

## CAUGHT ON THE HOP

Side One: Breton Jig/The Bold Fisherman/The Cuckoo's Nest/Miss Thompsons/The Bonny Ship The Diamond/Keelman Ower Water/Fenwick O'Bywell

Side Two: The Lark In The Morning/Merrily Kissed The Quaker/Follow Me Up To Carlow/Icy Acres/Hot Stuff

The Breton Jig is a powerful opening track. If there's a Breton style of synthesizer playing then this must be it! Bernie Forkin's unusual acoustic bass guitar really drives it along.

In The Bold Fisherman, Mick Burrows' mellow voice sounds well in this (to me) unfamiliar song. There's a nice lilting swing to the rhythm and the blend of synthesizer with bouzouki and banduria is very effective.

Not all the tracks use keyboards. Alan Hopkins banjo is featured in two favourite Irish tunes: The Cuckoo's Nest and Merrily Kissed The Quaker. There's some fine flute playing on several tracks from Steve Jackman and a fresh sounding concertina/mandolin/bouzouki combination in some less familiar Northumbrian tunes.

"The first disco folk song" sounds more like a threat than a promise, but Bonny Ship The Diamond bubbles away at a cracking pace over cheerful mock "disco" bass line effectively.

However, it's Side Two that really makes this tape a cut above, which starts with, The Lark In the Morning described as a "different version of a well known song". Well "different" is the word! This is a very original blend of keyboards, vocals and acoustic instruments and it works brilliantly. Another well known song is Icy Acres, but this must be the definitive version. Absolutely beautiful!

Hot Stuff. Talk about going out on a high! This blast of bravado from the Cl8th bristles with humour and style. Another great mixture of electric (and electric is the word!) keyboards, vocals and acoustics - banjo, mandolin, and rhythm guitar almost bursting at the seams.

A highly recommended tape, available from Bernie Forkin, St.Helens 53058.

COLIN CARIWRIGHT

MAXI AND MITCH. "DOUBLE TROUBLE"  
Rubber Rub 045

Short People/Buddy Holly Medley/  
The Spaniard who Blighted My Life/  
Ruler of the Queen's Navee/  
January Man.

I've seen this pair and in no way could I keep a straight face, from the moment they strode on stage to the time they left I was creased double. Along with Stanley Accrington and Mike Elliot they're prime examples of the comic talent the folk scene's ready to follow in the wake of Harding, Conolly etc. None of this is too serious as you'd expect. Most of the Maxi led stuff is totally over the top. But there is a really sensitive rendition of Dave Goulder's "January Man", a song Mitch, (Billy Mitchell) has been strumming since his days in the Callies.

Of course as is the case with most comedy albums repeated playings breed familiarity and the laughs soon turn to solitary smiles. "Double Trouble", won't get that treatment in my collection. Rather it'll be placed alongside the valued Goons records and like them be played sparingly, when it'll be genuinely amusing. Besides which "The Spaniard Who Blighted My Life", is worth the price alone. Now then Rubber how's about an album by Mitchell's superb r'n'b band the Pacamax?

SIMON JONES

# FEDERATION PAGE

OFFICER	NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
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6. The organisation of events to attract under 18s to Folk Music.

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FOLK CLUB	START TIME	ADDRESS	ORGANISER	PHONE NO.
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Bothy Valley	8.00pm 8.30pm	Blundell Arms, Upper Aughton Road, Birkdale, Southport	Clive Pownosby Denny Yelding	051 924 5078 Bolton 793961
George & Dragon	8.30 pm.	George & Dragon, main St. Billinge.	Bernie Forkin	0744 53058
Leigh	8.00 pm.	Oddfellows Arms, Swiss Lane, Leigh	Steve Ekersley	0942 677965
Poynton	8.00 pm.	Poynton Folk Centre, Park Lane, Poynton.	Eric Brock	0625 872626
Rainford	8.15 pm.	Golden Lion Hotel, Rainford.	Bob Leeming	0744 88 7424
Rave On	8.30 pm.	Grosvenor Rowing Club, The Groves, Chester.	Nick Mitchell	0244 315094
Widnes (St. Maries)	8.30 pm.	St. Marie's Am. Rugby League Club, Breatfields, Widnes.	Patrick Hindley	051 423 3775
<b>MONDAY</b>				
Horwich.	8.15 pm.	The Crown Hotel, Horwich.	Sue Grills	0204 691430
Preston	8.15 pm.	Laab Hotel, Church St. Preston.	Rob Twisse	0254 21594
Poynton	8.00 pm.	Poynton Folk Centre, Park Lane, Poynton.	Eric Brock	0625 872626
The Triton	8.00 pm.	The Triton Hotel, Paradise St. Liverpool.	Doreen Rickart	051 227 3911 x 448 (work)
<b>TUESDAY</b>				
Kingsway	8.30 pm	Wallasey Manor Tennis Club, Kingsway, Wallasey	Arthur Marshall	051 630 4289
Blackpool.	8.00 pm.	Kings Arms Hotel, Talbot St. Blackpool.	Pete Rodger	0253 56290
White Bear	8.30 pm	White Bear (main A6 road), Adlington	Glyn Hughes	Billingham 882522
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>				
Whitehaven	8.15 pm.	Rosehill Theatre Bar, Nonesby, Whitehaven.	Ray Downes	039 681 580
Belle Green	8.30 pm.	Prince of Wales, Belle Green Lane, Incs, Wigan.	Steve Ekersley	0942 677955
Ring O' Bells (Widnes)	8.00 pm.	King O' Bells, Pit Lane, Widnes.	Jean Wrigley.	051 424 1878
The Net.	8.00 pm.	Catholic Metropolitan Club, 61a Bold St. Liverpool.	Reg Andrew	051 708 6409
White Swan	8.00 pm.	White Swan, Green St. Fallowfield, Manchester.	Anne Morris	061 881 8294
The Star	8.30 pm.	Star Inn, Back Hope Street, Salford.	Martin Gittins	061 205 3680
<b>THURSDAY</b>				
Stump	8.30pm	Rawsons Arms, Peel Street, Farnworth, Bolton	Bernard Cromarty	Farnworth 7167
Fernhurst	8.30 pm.	Fernhurst Hotel, Bolton Rd. Wood, Blackburn.	Non Crane	0254 40347
Fleetwood	8.15 pm.	North Biston Hotel, Fleetwood. (usu. Vantoni Room)	Ron Baxter	03917 78606
Mawdesley	8.30 pm.	Black Bull, Mawdesley (Monthly)	Derek Gifford	0704 822574
Poynton	8.00 pm.	Poynton Folk Centre, Park Lane, Poynton.	Eric Brock	0625 872626
Wigan	8.15 pm.	Lark Hotel, Market Square, Wigan.	Joan Blackburn	0942 863389
<b>FRIDAY</b>				
Old Ship	8.30 pm.	Old Ship, Eastbank St. Southport.	Ian Wells	077 473 3267
Bee	8.30 pm.	Bee Hotel, Bodfer St. Rhyl	Dave Costello	0745 32488
Newcastle	8.00 pm.	Pack Horse, Station St. Longport. Stoke-on-Trent	Jason Hill	0782 813401
Roebuck	8.30 pm.	Roebuck Hotel, Leyland.	Liz Sudell	0772 732660
Northwich	8.30 pm.	The Coachman, Hartford. Northwich.	Sean Boyle	0606 44361
Ring O' Bells (Middleton)	8.30 pm.	Ring O' Bells, St. Leonard's Square (opp Parish Church), Middleton	Morna Woodcock	061 723 1979
<b>SATURDAY</b>				
Bury	8.30 pm.	The Napier, Bolton St. Bury.	Sue Clegg.	0706 841839
Brewery	8.30 pm.	Brewery Arts Centre, 122a Highgate, Kendal. (occas.)	Bill Lloyd	0539 25133
Tom Hall's	Varies	Various Events in Liverpool and the Wirral.	Geoff Dorrana	051 639 7928
Poynton.	8.00 pm.	Poynton Folk Centre, Park Lane, Poynton.	Eric Brock.	0625 872626



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Roy Bailey (Song)

Ellie Ellis & Sara Grey (Song)

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John Murphy (Uilleann Pipes)

Kay Thompson (Ye Jacobites by Name)

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