

**THE NORTH WEST FEDERATION OF
FOLK CLUBS**



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FEBRUARY-MARCH 25p

Page 2 Comment:

SO HERE we are yet again with another issue of the Newsletter.I must apologise for the fact that this one will get to you a little later than usual.This is mainly due to the intervention of Christmas,which makes it very difficult to get anything started until into the New Year.

IN THIS issue covering February & March we have of course all our usual features of reviews & dates etc.In addition,we've the second of Simon Jones' interviews with well-known people on the local folk scene-this time we talk to Jim Eldon.Our Club of the Month is the Horwich Folk Club who meet at the Crown Hotel in the centre of Horwich on Monday evenings.

ON MARCH 13th,the Federation holds its Annual General Meeting at the Fleece Hotel,Ashton-in-Makerfield,near Wigan. The venue has been chosen because its central & easy to find.A special feature this time is that we have two guest speakers,namely Tim Joss of North-West Arts and Jim Lloyd of BBC's Folk on 2. The aim is to give club organisers a better idea of what bodies like North West Arts can do for folk music in general & folk clubs in particular.

It should also give you some insight into how you could approach the media, especially Radio.I would hope that all club organisers will take advantage of this unique opportunity.Even if your club isn't a member,it will be possible to go along and if you like what you here to join on the night.

EITHER not many people have bothered to write in to Picadilly & Red Rose, or their letters have had no effect, as at the time of writing there was no Folk Music programme on either station. Write again,or if you didn't before, write NOW and complain-its the only way we'll ever get folk music back on the air on these stations.

THE COVER is based on an engraving by Albrecht Durer and I understand that it represents Loenghrin when he slew the hind.Apologies for the spelling by the way,and thanks are due as always to my band of stalwart helpers,without whom... Elaine Derbyshire & Angela Forkin for typing,Ian Wells for dates and Pete Rimmer for subscriptions.

BY THE WAY,I Would still like some more help with the Newsletter,so if you think you can help in any way at all,please 'phone me on Wigan 215621.

CLOSING DATE FOR OUR NEXT ISSUE(April-May) Is FEB.25th

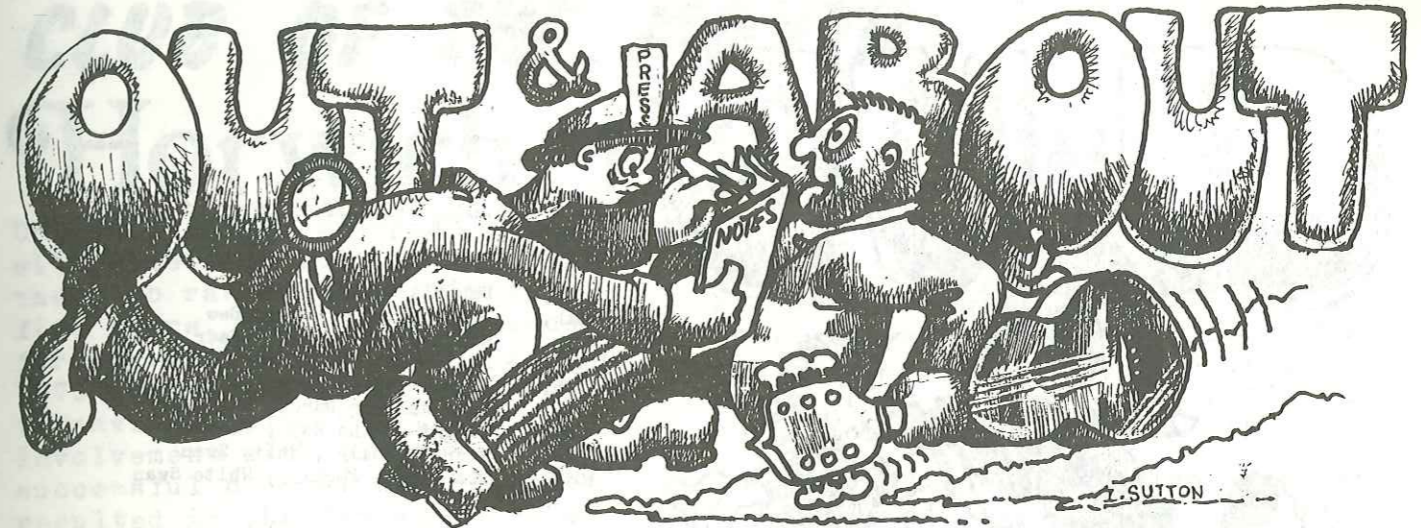


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THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS NEWSLETTER ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE EDITOR OR OF THE FEDERATION.

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THE NORTH-WEST FEDERATION OF FOLK CLUBS is holding its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, March 13th at 8.00pm at the Fleece Hotel, Ashton, near Haydock. Before you all switch off & move on to the next paragraph, let me also tell you that it is much more than an Annual General Meeting. There are to be two discussions held with the AGM sandwiched in the middle. The first one will be chaired by Tim Joss, who is the Music Officer for North-West Arts who will be there to advise as to how to get financial support from the Regional Arts Associations. The second is by Jim Lloyd, who presents Folk on Two, who is to talk about Folk Music & the media. Entrance to the meeting is free if you are a bona-fide club representative, otherwise it will cost you £2. For more information, please contact Ian Wells on Hesketh Bank 3267.

THIS YEAR'S POYNTON Easter Folk Festival takes place as usual at the Folk Centre, Park Lane, Poynton over the weekend of 5/6/7 April, starting from 7pm on Friday. As usual there will be Concerts, Ceilidhs, Singarounds, workshops, dance displays & so forth. Among those appearing so far are:

VIN GARBUTT, JOHNNY COLLINS, JOHNNY SILVO, JILL & BERNARD BLACKWELL, ROSIE HARDMAN, ABALON, MARTIN SUMPTON, HUNTER'S MOON, RHIANNAN and many others too numerous to mention. Prices are of course very reasonable at £9.50 for an Adult for the whole weekend, £4.00 for children; both are reduced if you book in advance. For more details, please see the advertisement on page 15, or send an SAE to the Festival Organiser at the above address.

THE SECOND HORWICH TOWN FOLK DAY will take place on Saturday, April 13th from about 11am. During the day there will be Morris teams dancing around the town, singarounds at the Crown Hotel & Toll Bar as well as a Ceilidh, craft fair, workshops & children's entertainment at the Leisure Centre. In the evening, there will be a concert in the Leisure Centre with VIN GARBUTT, FRASER & IAN BRUCE & BERYL GRAEME, compered by Bernard Wrigley. For more information, please contact Joyce Riding on Coppull 792304 or Sue Grills on Horwich 691430.

THE 31st SIDMOUTH Folklore Festival takes place over the period 2nd-9th August 1985, and among the guests already booked are: ALISTAIR ANDERSON, STRANHEAD, BERNARD WRIGLEY, TONY ROSE, THE FISHER FAMILY, HARRY BOARDMAN, NICK DOW, CALENWIG, THE OYSTER BAND, SOUTH DOWNS MORRIS. For more information, please send SAE to Festival Office, The Knowle, Sidmouth, Devon or telephone Sidmouth 5134.

SOUTHPORT ARTS CENTRE on Lord Street, Southport have started to have regular Folk Concerts on a roughly monthly basis. They've already had Albion Band, Fairport Convention, Ashley Hutchings. The next one is on Friday February 8th & features The Battlefield Band. More information from Box Office, 0704 40011.

THE NATIONAL FOLK MUSIC FESTIVAL takes place once again at the Sutton Bonnington School of Agriculture near Loughborough on April 19th-21st 1985. Among the guests so far booked are-

PETE COB, ALAN BELL, RAY FISHER, ROY HARRIS, THE HOUSE BAND, STAN HUGILL, FRED JORDAN, PYEWACKETT, OYSTER BAND, SPINNERS, PETA WEBB, TONY ROSE, STRANHEAD, DOC ROWE plus many others (the above is just a selection). Tickets are £14.50 for the weekend or around £4.00 for a session and you can camp for £1 each, or stay in the halls of residence for £35, including all meals. For more details please send an SAE to John Heydon, Folk Festival, 5, Church Street, Aylesbury, Bucks.

BOB PEGG, the Brewery Arts Centre & Legal & general are combining for a competition called SONGSEARCH 1985. The song must communicate in words & music the writer's experience of contemporary life. The competition is split into two parts junior (under 17) and senior, the winner in each category receiving £200 and £1000 respectively. The panel consists of Melvyn Bragg in the chair, with Kirsty MacColl, Jake Thackray & Victoria Wood; the final will take place at the Kendal Folk Festival in August. More information from Christine Clephan, Songsearch Office, Brewery Arts Centre, Kendal or telephone Kendal 32150.

THE MIDDLETON PACE-EGG PLAY takes place on Easter Monday (April 8th) in Middleton & Rhodes. Due to extensive rebuilding at the Ring O'Bells in Middleton the route is reversed, so that it will start at the Ring O'Bells in Middleton at 11.30am and will finish at the Barber's Arms in Rhodes at about 3pm. In place of the usual egg rolling, a JARFING competition is to be held-its like conkers with hard-boiled eggs. More details from Martin Gittins, 16, Rowood Ave, Cheetham, Manchester, M8 7RF, or 'phone 061 205 3680.

RADIO DETAILS:
Folk on 2, BBC Radio 2, 330m (MW only) Saturday 6-7pm (repeated 3am Tuesday)
BBC Radio Lancashire 'Lancashire Drift' Sunday 11.05am to 11.35am, 351m (96.4 VHF), repeat Tuesday 6.35. (Monthly, Feb 3; March 10th)
BBC Radio Merseyside 'Folk Scene', 202m (95.8 VHF) Tuesday 6.30-7.00pm repeat Saturday
BBC Radio Manchester 'Folk like Us', 206m (95.1VHF) Sunday 5.45-6.15pm, repeat Tuesday 7pm
There are no programmes on any of the independent local radio stations, so please write & tell them they should be running Folk programmes.

A LATE PIECE OF NEWS- Liz Sudell is no longer running the Roebuck in Leyland and Les Stennett has taken over -'phone him on Preston 690195.

EDINBURGH FOLK FESTIVAL takes place between 29th March & 7th April. The new director is Robin Morton, and you should contact him for more information at: (enclose SAE) Shillinghill, Temple, Midlothian, EH23 4SH or phone 087530 328.



SINCE LAST ISSUE there have been a number of changes of venue & organiser, so please check carefully before attending your local folk club.

THE NALGO Folk Club (formerly the George & Dragon in Billinge) has moved back into Billinge & can now be found at the Eagle & Child, Main Street, Billinge. They still meet on Sundays at 8.30pm, and for more information you should contact Bernie Forkin on St. Helens 53058.

The Ring O' Bells Folk club in Widnes has changed both night & venue and now meet on Fridays at the Black Horse at Cronton near Widnes, at 8.30pm. The organiser of the club is still Jean Wrigley who you can contact on 051 424 1878.

THE FERNHURST Folk Club has changed from Thursday to Sunday evenings, all other details remain as before, so get in touch with Ron Crane if you want more information on 0254 40347.

THE WHITE BEAR Folk Club in Adlington have found that their Tuesday singers' Nights are so successful that they have decided not to put guests on these evenings. Consequently guests are now on Saturdays once a month at the same venue. More info. from Glyn Hughes on Adlington 482520.

THE BELLE GREEN Folk Club has a new organiser in Kath Holden of the duo Pennygate. The club is continuing to run on alternate weeks, unless there is someone who would to run the club in the intervening weeks. You can contact Kath on Hindley 58459; dates are on pages 12 & 13.

THE RING O' BELLS (MIDDLETON) has closed temporarily due to the pub being in process of rebuilding, but it will reopen as soon as possible. To keep up to date, please contact Moira Woodcock on 061 723 1979.

HERE IS ADVANCE NOTICE of a number of events during April & May :

- April -
 4th, Usher's Well, Stump
 5th, 21st Birthday party, Bee
 20th, Mike Elliott, White Bear
 14th, Phil & John Cunningham, Rave On
 8th, Pyewackett (concert), Whitehaven
 17th, Dave Walters Band, Whitehaven
 1st, Caught on the Hop, Preston
 3rd, Roaring Jelly, White Swan
 10th, The Kipper Family, White Swan
- May -
 13th, Bram Taylor, Horwich
 11th, Sam Richards & Tish Stubbs, Bury
 18th, Wilson Family, Bury
 1st, Johnny Handle, White Swan
 29th, Collins, Mageean, Woods & Yarwood, White Swan

For more details of any of these dates, please contact the respective club organisers on the phone numbers given on page 23.

WIGAN FOLK CLUB has its final night at the Park Hotel in Wigan on April 11th, due to the pub being demolished as part of the Town Centre redevelopment. The club will continue, but a new venue has not yet been finalised; watch this space for details. I hope everyone that has ever been to the club over its many years in existence will go along to give them a good send off. More details from Joan Blackburn on Wigan 863389.

IF YOU are having difficulty getting in touch with Derry Yelding of the Valley Folk Club, then you may be better trying his fellow organiser. He is Paul Whitehill, and you can find him on 061 736 6441 (daytime) or Adlington 481450 (evenings).

THERE ARE a few Ceilidhs over the next two months as follows:

- Feb. 9th, Bilbo Baggins Barn Dance Band, Poynton
 23rd, Fiddlesticks Ceilidh Band
 Mar. 2nd, High Level Ranters, Bothy Ceilidh at Fleetwood Hesketh Club, Fylde Rd.
 8th, Cuckoo's Nest Ceilidh Band, Poynton
 22nd, Gorton Tank Ceilidh Band, Poynton
 30th, Cheshire Folk Ceilidh Band, Poynton

Please note that all Poynton Ceilidhs also feature songs from Abalon.

AM I MISSING Ceilidhs in your area? If so, please let me know, I certainly seem to hear about very few recently and I can't believe it's because there are fewer ceilidhs.

DETAILS OF RADIO programmes will be found in Out & About, overleaf, where you will also find such information as I have about festivals.

VERY ADVANCE NOTICE that Northwich Folk Club have a very special guest night on June 28th, when Ewan McColl & Peggy Seeger are their guests.

WHILST on the subject of Northwich, they celebrate their 8th birthday in March, and have arranged some special events. On March 8th, their guest is Eddie Walker, whilst on the 9th they have a concert featuring Roaring Jelly & Eddie Walker. If you would like tickets or more information, please get in touch with Sean Boyle on Northwich 44361.

ONCE AGAIN, I'm pleased to be able to report that despite a number of gloomy predictions before Christmas, all our clubs have survived the festive season, even if their organisers haven't.

CLUB OF THE MONTH: Horwich Folk Club

Originally the 'Crown Folk Club' with Bluewater Folk as residents the club ran for approximately five years, falling attendances forcing the club to close in the 1970's. Auld Triangle attempted to save the club but their involvement with the very successful club at Westhoughton resulted in the decision to concentrate their energies on the Red Lion Club. Cotton Song ran the club for a couple of months before closing again in the late 1970's, this was Joyce Riding's first involvement with Horwich and with Jay, Barry and Vernon they formed the line up of Cotton Song.

It was on February 11th 1980 that Joyce and Sue Grills started the new 'Horwich Folk Club' at the Nibblers Pub, with residents Calistro. In July of the same year the club moved to its original and present home, the Crown Hotel with Joyce acting as resident and co-organiser with Sue. Simon Booth was the first instrumentalist to join Joyce but Simon left to concentrate on Ceilidhs, and Joyce was joined by Ken Howerd (who recently married Pat Ryan). The present line up started with Tom Ferber taking over following the departure of Ken Howerd.

The basic aim of the club has always been the same, to provide a base for people to meet in a friendly informal atmosphere, to sing, recite, listen, exchange songs and tunes, generally a singers club with guest nights once a month. Joyce, Sue and Tom have been helped by Carol, Brian, Sylvia and Lorraine throughout a difficult year, attendances have fluctuated drastically, a full house for the McAlmans, and rather indifferent attendances for other guests. It is surprising though that the singers nights have always been reasonably well attended and the club has enjoyed support from a wide variety of local folkies, Pat Ryan, John Oliver, Phil Atkinson, Ken Pearson, Chris and Jenny and

many others. Recent singers include Ian from Leigh Folk Club, Ian Pendlebury, Irish Brian and his unaccompanied songs, Brian our resident monologue specialist, the two Sylvias, Steve Thopson (the Billy Bragg of the folk world), the ubiquitous Linda and many others.

In February the club celebrates its fifth birthday and a special party evening has been planned for Monday February 19th with special guest Derek Gifford. It is hoped that many of the old friends will return to celebrate five years of sustained activities by a wide variety of people. In celebrating the New Year the club decided to make some resolutions for the coming year, first to try and involve more people in the general organising and running of the club, second to try and increase the audiences especially at the younger end and thirdly to visit as many of the local folk clubs to demonstrate our support and where possible to do a floor spot. So if you are interested in any aspects to do with folk clubs or would like to help in any way then come along on any Monday night.

Recently the club took over the Horwich Town Folk Day, in conjunction with Horwich Morris and Rivington Ladies Morris, the first event was a resounding success and it is hoped that this year will be the same. Saturday April 13th is the date of the second Folk Day and Vin Garbutt will be the special guest, there will be the usual sing arrounds and workshops at venues including the Leisure Centre, Crown Hotel and the Toll Bar.

Finally thanks to all those people who have supported the club over the last five years, especially our Landlord and Landlady, and we look forward to seeing you at the Crown on a Monday night or when we visit your club in the coming months.

For more information contact:- Sue Grills on Horwich 691430 or Joyce Riding on Coppull 792304 or Tom Ferber on Horwich 693743.

Tom Ferber.

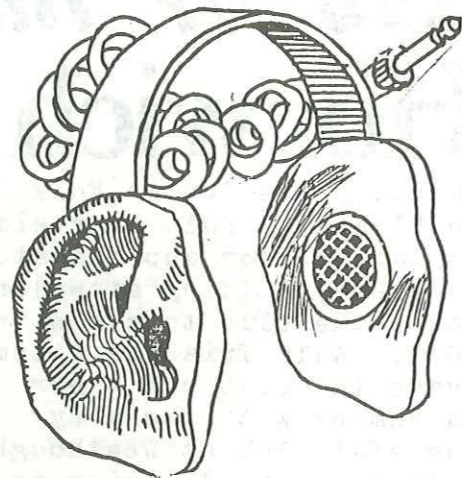
BROADFOLK

The dying months of the Year of Orwell (or was it the Year of Scargill?) proved surprisingly good for folk spotters. Resigned to finding little bits of this and that tucked away here and there, it was quite a shock to find folk featuring fairly strongly on R2, R4, BBC1 and even ITV.

Back at the beginning of November, Radio 2 did a Remembrance special put together by John Morrison. This was called 'Peace: The Fiddle or The Drum' and opened and closed with that song hauntingly sung by June Tabor. In between, other pieces of music were intercut with spoken extracts from Ghandi and John Paul II among others. The music used was almost entirely folk - primarily contemporary - and included the whole of Paul Metzers' 'Peace must come' with a spoken extract carefully edited over the instrumental break. The BBC entered this for the 1984 Monaco Radio Contest where it came third.

Locally, Radio Manchester ran a special series by Harry Boardman on the Broadsheet Ballads. This was excellent in content although some of the singing was a little below par. Then Radio 4 suddenly did a profile of Bob Arnold, who has played Tom Forrest in The Archers for 32 years. So? Well, Archerophiles will know that at Ambridge village concerts Forrest can sing a fair folksong. That is because Bob Arnold could well be called a true traditional singer, having learnt songs originally from the other locals in the Cotswold pub that his father ran. The programme included several tracks from a record he has made of those Cotswold songs.

The run up to Christmas brought 'The First Noels' on BBC1. This history of Carols was fronted by Sir Geraint Evans, and primarily used "good" choirs to sing the carols in the Kings College classical style but did explain the folk origins of much of the



Carol tradition. They even included the Mari Llyd tradition from South Wales.

Christmas Day itself started early for folk fans with a repeat - at 7.15am(!) - of last years programme by John Leonard about the South Yorkshire pub carol tradition. This was superb. Later in the evening, another John Leonard production saw Phil Smith looking at Boxing Day Morris in Sheffield. Just before that, R4 made it three in a row with a piece from BBC Wales (produced by Herbert Williams) on the old Stagecoaches which included songs by Dragonfire and credited the origins of the songs - other producers please copy.

On New Years Day, the First Tuesday documentary series from YTV ran a feature directed by Marilyn Gaunt on the Saddleworth Morris team and the revived Rushcart ceremony. This was introduced as 'breaking your stereotypes of Morris men'. Well, if your idea was of soft jessies, probably effeminate, yes it might. If, like anyone who has ever met a NW Morris team, you think of them as large Male Chauvinist Pigs with a thirst only slightly smaller than their egos, then your stereotype was confirmed. However, it was well filmed and edited and ended with their incredibly self-assured squire making a highly relevant comment "Never mind the bloody houses and paintings, this is our heritage!"

To end, some funnies: one was the rerun of a 20yr old film (onC4) about Liverpool called 'Beat City'. Mixed in with the well known and totally forgotten Groups were Jacqui & Bridie and The Spinners. 17

What's all this Dancing about? PARTICIPATION?

February last year saw the 50th Folk Festival to be held at the Royal Albert Hall in London, the first having been held in 1927 and apart from the War Years had been an annual event. In its heyday the Albert Hall Festival was the highlight of the 'Folk' year, playing to packed houses on Friday & Saturday evenings and with two matinees on Saturday. Last year there was no Friday evening event and there were a lot of empty seats at the Saturday evening performance. The Lancashire Wallowers represented the North-West at what was to be the last Festival at the Albert Hall.

This year's "Folk Entertains" is a new venture by the English Folk Dance & Song Society on Saturday 20th May at the Dominion Theatre in London. The North West will be represented by Leyland Morris.

I have my doubts about Folk as Theatre. I believe that to participate is the way to enjoy Folk activities whether it is Dance or Song. A season ticket at any of the many Folk Festivals now held up & down the country throughout the year gives you a chance to try your hand (or feet or lungs) at any number of activities. As well as the expected song & dance workshops the range now extends from 'Calligraphy to Fireating'.

If you have children, don't worry about taking them to a festival as most festivals now have a Hobby Horse Club who organise Folk activities for the youngsters while you try some of the workshops. Incidentally, Hobby Horse of England is not just a creche for kids at Festivals, it is the junior section of the EFDSS. It is open to children up to the age of 13 for only £1.50 per year. If you'd like to know more, send me an A4 SAE and I will send you a sample Newsletter. (Address at end).

Last year I went to Saddleworth to see the Rushcart which you might have seen on Television in January. On the last weekend in August (a beautiful day) thousands of people turned up to cheer on the Morrismen as they pulled the rush cart over the hill and down to the church. Rushes were strewn down the aisle of the church during the service and Morris Dancing went on for hours after

wards on the road outside with as big an audience as anyone could wish for, sitting on the surrounding hills.

A date for your diary is Saturday 2nd November which is the EFDSS North West Area Conference. If that sounds rather dry, let me hasten to reassure you that it will be a day of dance & music workshops with Mike Barraclough and Pyewackett. Even if you don't want to dance you can enjoy the superb music. (It's at Chorley Town Hall by the way).

If you would like details of Folk Festivals, there is a list produced by EFDSS, Cecil Sharp House, 2, Regents Park Road, London, NW1 7AY (SAE please).

Alan Barber
38, Howick Cross Lane,
Penwortham,
Preston,
PR1 0NS

(P.6) Broadfolk

I was surprised to find that Mick Groves had totally dark hair! Most confusing piece of folk of the per period must have been in a play on R4 that was written by Alan Plater. At the very end, a Geordie actor playign a football manager intoned a short extract from 'The Lambton Worm'. Confusing even for R4's predominately south of Watford audience, the the play originally went out on World Service! Mind you, Wolrd service listeners may well hear more British folk music than we do: insomniac friends assure me that they often hear 3am folk on WS.

Finally on an even lighter note, Russ Abbott featured 'Christmas with The Spanners', a very entertaining take off of a certain local well known group.

Folkear.

'A Man for All Seasons'

SIMON JONES talks to JIM ELDON

"Glossop?" I spluttered when Jim Eldon told me where he was playing. One of those places you never go to and have a tussle finding on Peak District maps. But at Glossop in a red brick edifice called The Crown, we had a draught and chatted. Jim Eldon is (deep breath) a singer; a fiddler, a whistle player, a broadcaster, folk song collector, a busker, has a wife who's a right whizz in a pair of clogs, has worked with the likes of the Watersons, has written a whole host of Yorkshire rock'n'roll songs, reckons the Everly Brothers are near to God, and has just released the oddly named and long overdue "I Wish There Was No Prisons" on his own Stick label. He started young, at age five singing "Unchained Melody" at Trinity House reviews where his dad was a teacher. In his teens he got a dash of Skiffle, leading a band called Warriors who gave the world an early Eldon composition. "There was a lad called himself Mozart, who studied music and played a double bass nicked from the music room, somebody else shook summat, I played guitar. We sang "Worried Man" and "Cathy's Clown" That was it really," mused Jim.

SJ: I believe your first real taste of the big world was in the Merchant Navy, where I gather you and your mate Frazer Sprout (Sproty) provided on-ship entertainment between duties.

JE: "We used to sing Bob Dylan, things off the first red Watersons record, and the Iron Muse. We got stuck in New Zealand and did the rounds of the local clubs, because we were English they were ready to listen to us, there were people interested in British music over there. The Wynyard Tavern in Auckland was the place and another club in Wellington. There's a big Scottish following out there".

SJ: When once again a land lubber you wandered into the Bluebell Club and met Mike Waterson at whose prompting you and Steve Gardham began to collect local songs. What interested you more about collecting than singing, after all you could have got songs from anywhere?

JE: "As soon as you've done it you realise the music is twice as exciting as what you hear in a club. You have to ask source singers questions, lead them in, titles mean nothing to them. I remember one, Ethel, she sung Steve and me twenty songs, I asked if she knew any songs with questions and answers, riddles in them, she started singing "Acre of Land" which is "Scarborough Fair" knocked into a different shape. The excitement you feel... it's there, its not come with a long introduction, it's happening. You don't need to ask why you look for source singers when something like that happens".

SJ: You were saying that your father-in-law used to be a country dance fiddler until he lost his violin in wartime bombing, and that he has been playing again recently at your urging.

JE: "Yeah, he played and his father before him. The one of the family I would have liked to have met, but he died before I came around was Great Uncle Sep. The black sheep of the family, he had a gun, a dog and a fiddle, and he lived on a house boat. He'd go and see his relations and trade a pillowcase full of eels for a sit down meal. They weren't supposed to meet with him really".

SJ: Do you feel they are still breeding characters like that?

JE: "Yes, your thinking wrong if you believe otherwise. When I was researching for a radio programme I went trammel netting, with a bunch of fishermen. One of the lads (Lowell), kept us entertained for over half an hour with stories and jokes, it was only when he'd done that you realised not one bit of it was fit to be used on radio".

SJ: Why did you switch from playing guitar to doing mostly fiddle work these days?

JE: "You know Bill Caddick?" he enquires a broad beam coming over his face, "we've had some laughs. He stopped at our house one day, he was off on the train so I went up town with him. There was this good fiddle shop in Hull then, so more or less for summat to do we went in and had a look. I thought "hey up, I havn't got one of these".



That was when I had a go at English dance tunes. Tom (Dickinson, his father-in-law) picked up playing again after Lyn and I left a fiddle at his house one day, so I got to learn some of his tunes".

SJ: You got into radio broadcasting with Home Made Music, a series in which you recorded a musical picture of the West Riding. The series and the station Radio Humberside picked up more than a few pats on the back and awards for their effort.

JE: "It wasn't just entered as a local interest programme, it won the best music programme thats why I was chuffed about that".

SJ: Did they never attempt to follow it up.

JE: "No not really. We ran it for eighteen months and I had the chance at one point but it was a lot of work. But I do other work for them anyway. When I was doing Home Made Music it was a success because I had an idea what I wanted on there, it went out as a music programme not a folk programme. One of the best musicians we had on there was a bloke who played mouth organ and bones at the same time (Jim Walters) it's all syncopated, he's not the sort of thing you get on a folk programme, even though he's very skillful. So the best kind of show is where you hear music you like where no-one tells you whether it's folk music or what. When I play for busking I'll play anything, you don't bother if it's folk or not. I'll give them "Wooden Heart" if I want to".

SJ: "What did you think to the Everly Brothers Reunion?"

JE: "They've got a bit of weight between them now. But they're interesting, in Swing and roots music they've got a lot to do with folk music. If there's such a thing as a continuing tradition they're a continuation of something that's gone on there. There's no stopping, they made a record called "Songs Our Daddy Taught Us", very similar to what old country singers do".

SJ: "Speaking of continuing traditions, what prompted your own stab at rock'n'roll as Jim Eldon and the Allsorts?"

JE: "Tony Engle, I was stopping with him and he heard some of my lyrics, so he suggested I make a demo, to put around the business. Brian Slater helped us with the music, and we made the demo good enough quality to get back our studio money. Nothing came of it, but we covered ourselves".

"I'd not like it to be thought of as folk rock, though I wouldn't mind it being a bit like Marc Riely and the Creepers, what's that song they've cut? It's got a funny rhythm on the B side. (Both strain our brains at this point but the title eludes us.) I'm not too bothered about continuing traditions I just want to make up the best songs I can for now. The Fabulous Salami Brothers cover "Still I Wish You'd Been There" from the tape. Other people may have a go, I don't know".

"I heard Fairport once and everyone in Cecil Sharp House went to see them. They left my mate Jock in charge of the bar. Pickie Byrne was the other person who didn't want to listen to them and he had a bottle of whiskey. There wasn't much left of the bar when those two were through".

SJ: Your new LP is full of humour, even on some of the more doomy ballads, I could imagine June Tabor going all out for dark atmospheres on things like "The Jew's Garden".

JE: "Yeah, but Rossetta Smith wouldn't sing it like that. Anyway that deals with emotions and I don't like singing about emotions".

SJ: In "Prisons" sleeve notes it seems lyrics and tunes have been welded together from varying sources, do you ever come across a complete melody and lyric?

JE: "There's a funny thing. There's hardly anything on that LP that hasn't come as you said. I've had to knock them into shape. I feel happier with songs like that because in some ways you feel it's your own. I don't want to copy other people".

SJ: Do you mind other artistes copying your material when it's not something you have a lot of control over.

JE: "Mike Waterson learned "Fair Ones are Shining" off me, I think that's "The Cruel Ship's Carpenter", but it's his way of doing it, no I don't worry too much. I do worry a bit about Lyn's Dad's stuff. If somebody else started doing his and it came back to him changed, I'd be to blame for that".

SJ: As we came to the end of his round, the clock showed it was time I was elsewhere, so feeling devil may care, I wondered what recordings would be taken to an Eldon desert island?

JE: I'd be happy with Billy Bragg on a desert island, our lass has just got me his new LP for my birthday". ("Brewing Up" Go Discs AGOLP 4 - get it now and hear the revived version of a singer songwriter. SJ)

SJ: I left Jim Eldon with what I thought would be a cracking idea, "you could hire yourself out as an after dinner speaker".

JE: "Not after dinner speaking, I've not had many dinners me".

Book him for your next annual do and ask him to show you the trick with a pile of ten pences.

POYNTON FOLK CENTRE

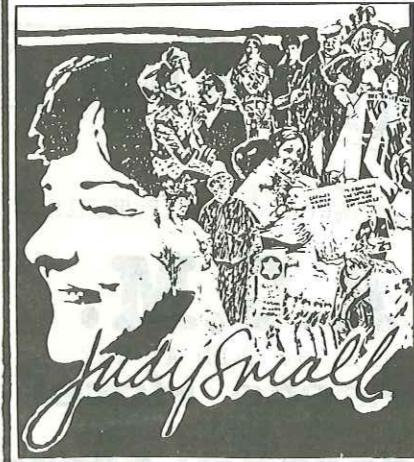
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REVIEW:

"Federation Revue"

I'm not at all sure how to even start this review of the "Federation Revue" that took place at the NALGO Folk Club in St. Helens just before Christmas. This is not because it wasn't funny, in fact quite the reverse, I have to say that it is one of the funniest evenings I've spent in a folk club for some time

The whole of the second half was devoted to a series of sketches and songs taking the mickey out of many people on the local folk scene, including our illustrious chairman and even the Newsletter Editor.

Among the 'groups' featured were Strawhat, which copied the style of song and all the mannerisms of this popular local group. The entire second half was actually scripted by Bernie Forkin, and it is a tribute to his literary skills that he was able to produce such a wide range of material, sufficient for half an evening.

Full marks to the club for being

prepared to try something a little different. It is a pity though that more people didn't attend to make it an even better night. Watch for next year's Revue, and make sure you're there in case they take the mickey out of YOU!

Spectator

small ads

THESE SMALL ADS are still excellent value at only £1.00 per insertion for private sales and wants only. Maximum of 35 words all typed. Copy to Small Ads, NWFFC, 3, Cromford Dr., Pemberton, Wigan, WN5 8JU. (Please enclose cheque to NWFFC)

THE WASSAILERS FOLK GROUP

CONTACT:
PHIL HEALD
33 Yew Tree Drive,
Lammack, Blackburn.
TEL: 52186
(home)
OR: 54850

ASSISTED BY
NORTH-WEST ARTS

THE NORTH WEST FEDERATION OF FOLK CLUBS

ANNOUNCE THAT THEIR

A.G.M.

WILL BE HELD AT THE
Fleece Hotel, ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD

ON
Wednesday, March 13th

FROM **8.00pm**

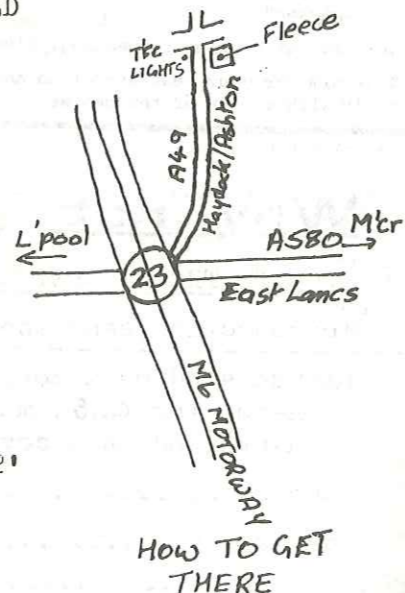
INFORMATION
IAN WELLS
HESKETH BANK
3267

Guest Speakers :

TIM JOSS, From North-West Arts
who will speak about how to obtain financial support from regional arts associations.

JIM LLOYD, From BBC Radio's 'Folk on 2'

10 who will speak about how best to make approaches to the media (especially local & national radio)
ADMISSION £2.00 (bona fide Club reps are free)
Special arrangements for non-member clubs intending to join.



CHAIRMAN'S RANT by Ian Wells

This is the help yourself column: two helpful thoughts for those wishing to do something for themselves.

First, for ceildh bands; did you see that advert. in the last issue from an agency wanting you? The agency concerned supplies after-dinner speakers for, e.g. Rotary clubs, and is prepared to offer folk bands for related social occasions. Grab this chance to widen your audience.

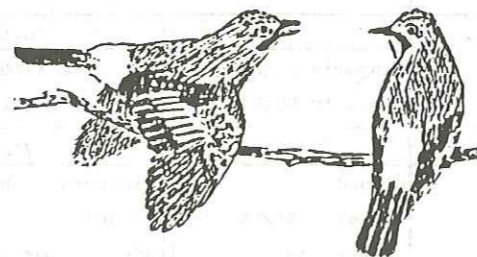
Now, something for club organisers: it might mean money, it certainly can mean publicity. Wrapped round our AGM, we are holding a session for club organisers. The first part will cover what you can get from a Regional Arts Association. The main speaker will be Tim Joss, Music Officer for NW Arts, who actually has some money for folk music in his budget. The second part will be on broadcasting and folk music, Jim Lloyd will be leading that and we hope for some local radio presenters as well. Incidentally, one of our local presenters has complained again

that no-one tells him anything. It's actually quite easy to get involved with local radio: one of our local singers moved to another area, called at the local station and was on air three weeks later! More details of the meeting elsewhere in this issue.

Now for two foot notes to the Rant in the last issue.

(1) I tried to lighten the perennial moan about unpaid bills with a little light relief. When I wrote it, I had no detailed knowledge of the state of any given clubs bills (except how much I owed!). I unreservedly apologise to anyone who felt I was getting at them.

(2) Sponsorship: I've had precisely one reply. Geoff Dormand has sent me full details of the Local Authority support he has had over the last few years. Ormskirk Day of Folk also had such support. What I would still like to hear is any commercial sponsorship that has been obtained by clubs.



The Two Jays

34 Woodhouse Road,
Broseley,
Shropshire.

FOLK AGENCY

Tel: Telford (0952)
882316 (24 hr)

Jenny Hannon

and

Jenny Speller

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- BOBBY EAGLESHAM
- JANE ROTHFIELD & ALLAN CARR

Club

Calendar

DAY & CLUB	RESIDENTS	DATES IN FEBRUARY			
		1st	8th	15th	22nd
FRIDAY					
Bee Northwich Newcastle Ring O'Bells (Middleton) Roebuck Blacksmith	Various See (a) below See Club News	Singer's Night Flat County String Band Singers' Night <i>Temporarily Closed</i> Singers' Night Singers' Night	Singer's Night Locals' Night Harvey Andrews Bridget MacGregor Singers' Night	Singer's Night Bryony Guest TBA Singers' Night Singers' Night	Singer's Night Locals' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night
SATURDAY					
Brewery Bury Club Ceilidhs Local Folk Prom. Poynton	Various See (h) below	Ashley Hutchings Bram Taylor	Steve Turner WB: Usher's Well (1) Bilbo Baggins BDB	Jim Couza	Carrig Fiddlesticks C.B.
SUNDAY					
Bothy Eagle & Child Fernhurst Leigh Poynton Rave On Rainford St. Maries Valley	See (f) below See (b) below Pendlem Folk Band See (g) below See (e) below Volunteers Derek & Di Boak Big Bill Prince Under a Fiver	Singer's Night Surprise Guest Singer's Night Singer's Night Magna Carta Johnny Coppin Mike Silver Thrice Pat Ryan	Mystery Night Singer's Night Singer's Night Nic Dow Maxi & Mitth Singer's Night Closed Windmill Folk Reflections	Cosmotheka Harvey Andrews Singer's Night One Two Many John James High Level Ranters Closed Folkways Guest TBA	Nic Dow Stan Accrington TBA Vin Garbutt (k) Knowe O'Deill Band Singer's Night Closed Mabsant Singers' Night
MONDAY					
Horwich Poynton Preston Triton	 Peter Hughes Triton Folk	Singer's Night Singaround Bridget MacGregor Incubus & Singers	Singer's Night Singaround Singaround The Spinners	Derek Gifford Singaround Jim Couza Johnny Collins	Singer's Night Singaround Singaround Singer's Night
TUESDAY					
Blackpool The White Bear		Singer's Night Singer's Night	Singer's Night Singer's Night	Singer's Night Singer's Night	Singer's Night Singer's Night
WEDNESDAY					
Belle Green Old Ship The Star The Railway White Swan Whitehaven	Pennygate See (d) below Knotted Cord	Closed Singer's Night Fiona Simpson Singaround Hollerin' Pot Local Singers	Singer's Night Closed Guest TBA Singaround Harvey Andrews Fiona Simpson	Closed Singer's Night Guest TBA Singaround Singer's Night (s) Downes & Beer	Singer's Night Closed Hobson/Lees (o) Singaround Vin Garbutt (tbc) Hadden, Rothfield & Carr (j)
THURSDAY					
Fleetwood Mawdesley Poynton Stump Wigan	See (c) below Gifford/Hartley Joan Blackburn	Harry Boardman Bridget MacGregor Guest TBA Steve Turner Sod's Opera	Singer's Night Closed Guest TBA Singer's Night Singer's Night	Guest TBA Closed Guest TBA Pete Ryder Singer's Night	Derek Gifford. Closed Guest TBA Singer's Night Singer's Night

DAY & CLUB	DATES IN MARCH				
	1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th
FRIDAY					
Bee Northwich Newcastle Ring O'Bells (Middleton) Roebuck Blacksmith	Singer's Night Tich Frier S.Grey & E.Ellis (n) <i>Temp. Closed</i> Singers' Night Singers' Night	Singer's Night Eddie Walker Singers' Night Nick Dow Singers' Night	Singer's Night Locals' Night Hadden, Rothfield & Carr (j) Singers' Night Singers' Night	Singer's Night The House Band (v) Singers' Night Singers' Night Singers' Night	Singer's Night Maggie Goodall Pete Castle Singers' Night Singers' Night
SATURDAY					
Brewery Bury Club Ceilidhs Local Folk Prom. Poynton	R.Taylor/S.Edwards Bothy: High Level Ranters (q)	Dab Hand WB: The Beggarmen (1) N: Roaring Jelly (r) Cuckoo's Nest C.B.	Singer's Night	John O'Hagan Gorton Tank C.B.	Pyewackett (t) Cheshire Folk C.B.
SUNDAY					
Bothy Eagle & Child Fernhurst Leigh Poynton Rave On Rainford St. Maries Valley	Ray Fisher Singer's Night Singer's Night Singer's Night Singer's Night Hunter's Moon B.C. Rough Band (m) Maxi & Mitch Five Alive Guest TBA	Singer's Night Caidre Ceol Singer's Night Singer's Night TBA Steve Turner Singer's Night Closed The Sisters Guest TBA	Singer's Night Singer's Night Singer's Night Strawhead Roy Harper (TBC) Jez Lowe/Jake Walters Closed Steve Turner	Paul Metsers Roaring Jelly TBA Dialect Comp. McColl/Seeger (p) Singer's Night Closed TBA	Singer's Night Singer's Night Singer's Night TBA Curragh Paul Metsers Closed TBA
MONDAY					
Horwich Poynton Preston Triton	Singer's Night Singaround Singaround Incubus & Singers	Singer's Night Singaround Singaround The Spinners	Bluewater Folk Singaround Singaround Usher's Well	Singer's Night Singaround Singaround Singer's Night	Horwich Poynton Preston Triton
TUESDAY					
Blackpool The White Bear	Singer's Night Singer's Night	Singer's Night Singer's Night	Singer's Night Singer's Night	Singer's Night Singer's Night	Blackpool The White Bear
WEDNESDAY					
Belle Green Old Ship The Star The Railway White Swan Whitehaven	Closed Singer's Night Guest TBA Singaround Singer's Night (s) Johnny Coppin	Singer's Night Closed Guest TBA Singaround Singer's Night (s) Johnny Coppin	Closed Singer's Night Guest TBA Singaround Allan Taylor Local Singers	Singer's Night Closed Tobacco Singaround Bryony Roaring Jelly	Belle Green Old Ship The Star The Railway White Swan Whitehaven
THURSDAY					
Fleetwood Mawdesley Poynton Stump Wigan	Steve Turner Singer's Night Guest TBA Cabin 36 Singer's Night	Singer's Night Closed Guest TBA Singer's Night Singer's Night	Guest TBA Closed Guest TBA Just Chris Singer's Night	Closed Guest TBA Singer's Night Singer's Night	Fleetwood Mawdesley Poynton Stump Wigan.

KEY TO SYMBOLS ABOVE:

- * See Club News, page 4
- £ Tickets available from club
- (a) Residents: Sean & Sandy Boyle, Iain Bowley, Tony Howard, Rod McDermot, Paul Taylor
- (b) Residents include: Caught on the Hop, Bric-a-Brac, Quartz
- (c) Residents: Scold's Bridle, Bev & Kevin Wheelan (of Thistle), Peter Smith & others (rotating residency)
- (d) Residents: Dave & Helen Howard, Helen Robinson, Paul, Geoff Higginbottom, John O'Hagan, Steve Jackson, Mike Billington
- (e) Residents for February are: John McCarton (3), Joe Beard (10), Abalon (17), Swaggering Boney (24)
Residents for March are: Plan B (3), Gentleman Soldier (10), Abalon (17)
- (f) Residents are: Ken Dunlop, Cathie Stuart, Clive Pownceby, Pete Rimmer, Paul Reid
- (g) Residents are: Calico, Trevor & Joan Hunt
- (h) All are Ceilidhs with Bands indicated & Abalon (NB: CB=Ceilidh Band, BDB=Barn Dance)

- (j) Jane Rothfield, Martin Hadden & Alan Carr
- (k) From Orkney
- (l) WB=White Bear Folk Club, Saturday guest nights at usual venue
- (m) Bill Caddick & the Rough Band
- (n) Sara Grey & Ellie Ellis
- (p) Ewan McColl & Peggy Seeger
- (q) Ceilidh with High Level Ranters at Fleetwood Hesketh Club, Fylde Rd., Southport
- (r) N=Northwich 8th Birthday Celebrations with Roaring Jelly & Eddie Walker
- (s) Free Admission
- (t) Joint promotion at the Derby Hall with Bury Metro Arts Association
- (u) The House Band are: Chris Parkinson, Ged Poley, Jim Young & Ian McLeod

Letters to The Editor...

Dear Editor,
Although I have been actively involved in the Folk Scene on the Wirral for the last six years, the December/January issue was unfortunately the first one I have seen for some time. I really looked forward to looking through it, as usual being of great interest, especially the festival reviews. I was however a little upset over the remarks made in 'Chairman's Rant' about Wirral Clubs. (I think I answered this point in in this month's Rant - ED.)

From a personal point of view, 1984 was my most successful year ever on the folk scene. During the summer I ran 'Folk in the Park' as usual in Vale Park, New Brighton. Four concerts were organised on Sunday Afternoons, 1 in May, 1 in June & 2 in July. On the last of these, a petition went round accumulating 100 signatures asking for more 'Folk in the Park' in 1984. This was sent to Wirral Leisure Services who finance the concerts, and I was asked to organise some more. Four more were held, 3 on Friday evenings in August, and 1 on a Sunday afternoon in September. All concerts were well attended, helped by the fact that were all "free".

This brings me to an interesting point raised by the Chairman's Rant last issue, this is the subsidising of folk events by Arts Associations and local Authorities. I have been running the Folk in the Park concerts for the last six years, over which period some 25 concerts have been held. The bulk of these have been free concerts featuring local artists and all have been paid for by Wirral Leisure Services.

During the two years I was organising folk concerts at Tom Hall's Tavern, I also received financial support from Merseyside Arts.

This summer sees yet another season of Folk in the Park, running from May to September in Vale Park, New Brighton. As usual the concerts are free & feature local artists. If anyone would like the chance to play at this very unusual venue in the open air by the banks of the Mersey, please get in touch with me on 051 639 7928, as I'm always on the lookout for new faces to appear there.

Finally if all goes well, the Wirral will have its first Folk Festival in the Autumn of 1985. The venue is to be the Leasowe Castle, now a hotel but dating back to the sixteenth century. It is ideally suited for a folk festival with its many bars a restaurant and banqueting hall. It is intended to be purely a local folk festival, with only artists from the North-West being guests.

Your Faithfully,
Geoff Dormand.

(EDITORS NOTE: This letter was 5 sides of A4, so it has been edited down to a more reasonable length, I hope it still makes sense)

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank all the people who supported me in the sponsored swim for the Nic Jones Benefit. The final total for the swim was £256-70, which has now been sent off to Nic & his family.

Yours sincerely,
Di Roberts

DO YOU agree with the views put forward in this Newsletter, or do you disagree? Is there something we aren't discussing at all and you feel we should be?

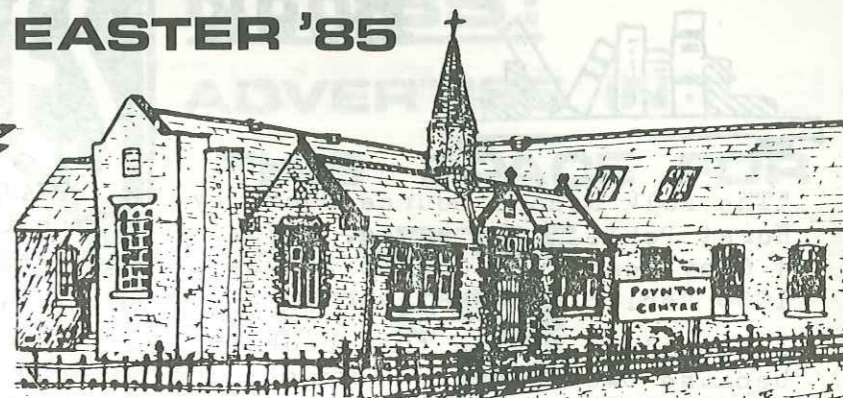
IN ANY EVENT, why not write to the Newsletter and tell us all about it?

PLEASE use your full name & address when you write, although you may use a pseudonym for publication. Very long letters will be edited down, so please be as brief as you can be and still make your point.

WRITE NOW TO:
THE EDITOR,
NWFFC Newsletter,
3, Cromford Drive,
Pemberton,
Wigan,
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Lancashire

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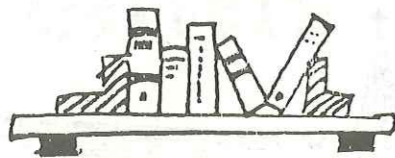
— JILL & BERNARD BLACKWELL — JOHNNY SILVO — MARTIN SUMPTON —
— PHIL HARE & KIM FARRELL — DICK MILES — LIFE & TIMES —
— GRAEME MEEK — ABALON — DEVIL'S ELBOW — ANGUS RUSSELL —
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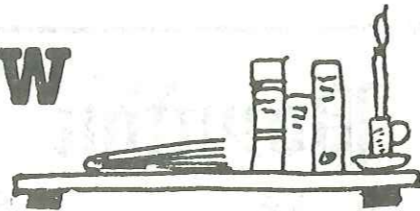
Tickets and/or further details from:

The Festival Organiser, The Folk Centre, Park Lane, Poynton, Near Stockport,
Cheshire, SK12 1RB

(Please note in your diary 16th and 17th November, 1985
when we will be holding our 3rd 'Backender' Folk Festival)



Book Review



"The Folk Record Source Book" by Horst Pohle. 271 pages. 1984. (6 by post from Goethe St 7A, 1000 Berlin 37, West Germany)

I shouldn't review this book because Owen Jones and myself are battling with a similar project. However, distribution of the book is extremely limited and my copy was complementary, so here goes.

This is the only comprehensive guide to British folk records. John Humphries has produced listings of records in print, annually since 1975, but his "Music Master" mixes all styles of music. Terry Hounsomes's "Rock Record" has hardly any folk init. Thanks to Horst, the newcomer to the folk scene will be able to chase up names he sees on festival posters. The old hand will marvel at the records he's never heard of. Any serious collector will want a copy. Given the magnitude of the task, the errors are few indeed. Where is Jimmy Shand or Lonnie Donnegan? No Matter, it is a triumph. This is a limited edition of 200 so send for one now!

Ralph Stephen.

STRAWPLAIT & BONELACE by Graeme Meek published by the Luton Museum & Art Gallery, Wardown Park, Luton

The museum have previously published a cassette of Bedfordshire Broadside songs, sung by Pete Castle, and this is in some ways a follow up to that. The difference here is that all the songs & tunes are new, all written by Graeme Meek. To quote from the introduction: "...I have created this whole new series of songs about Bedfordshire characters, legends, industries etc. They are all written in the traditional idiom and I hope they will be sung by many & that they will help to re-establish the "Bedfordshire Tradition".

I gather there is very little of a truly local flavour of the songs collected in the area, most being slight variants of well-known folk songs. It nonetheless does seem a rather strange way of tackling the problem. However, having said that, I must also say that most of the songs are well written, if a little in the music hall style, rather than an earlier style of writing.

I would hope that the museum might publish these as a cassette also, as this would I'm sure make them more accessible to a wider audience. If you are interested in songs from this area & are looking for some different material, I can certainly recommend it.

Nigel Firth

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Discounts are available for adverts booked for a number of issues, and also for member clubs. Note that "Camera Ready" means just that to qualify for the lower rate. Copy must now be pre-paid for each issue. Send to Editorial Address (cheques to NWFFC)

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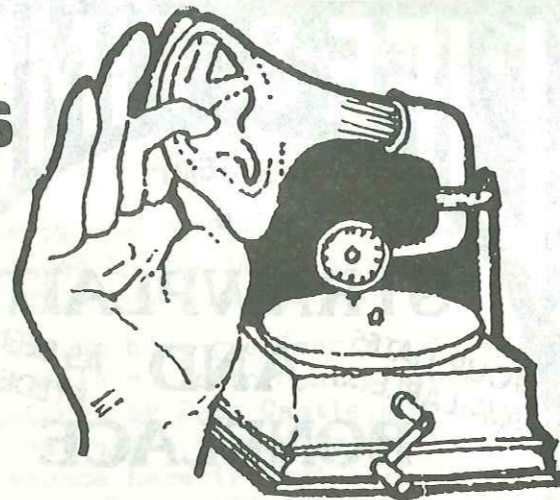
Caught on the Hop, Bric-a-Brac, Quartz

Enquiries:

Bernie Forkin, St. Helens 53058

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RECORD REVIEWS



BRAM TAYLOR "Bide A While"
Fellside FEO41

Side One: The Valley of Strathmore/Mind
Nussy What You Do/The Fields of Athenry/
Salley Wheatley I'll Lay You Down/Brookland
Roads.

Side Two: On Board 'The Kangaroo'/The
Miner's Wife's Lament/Red is the Rose/
Mary From Dungloe/The Little Husband/Bide
A While.

Bram Taylor is described by Gary and Vera
Aspey in the sleeve notes as one of the
'solid artists' of the local folk scene;
and who am I to disagree with the mighty
Aspeys! In fact, having known Bram for
a number of years, it was with a little
suspicion that I played the opening
track on this recording knowing that it
would certainly be enjoyable but unsure
as to whether his warm and friendly folk
club 'manner' would transfer to the cold-
ness of the recording turntable.

I needn't have worried of course; the
first few bars of 'Valley of Strathmore'
immediately dispelled my doubts. In this
debut album Bram displays a talent
that is both accomplished and versatile
enough to make any fellow folk singer like
myself green with envy.

The arrangements of all the songs are well
thought out and I especially liked the
use of the brass group as accompaniment to
the well loved 'Salley Wheatley' and the
title track 'Bide A While'. It is also a
compliment to Bram's standing in the folk
world that Fiona Simpson (ex "Therapy")
has joined him in vocals on several tracks;
'The Miner's Wife's Lament' is an excellent
example of their vocal compatibility.
(Incidentally Bram has quite correctly used
the original title of this Bill Lowndes
song now commonly known as 'The Sun and
the Moon').

Comprehensively written sleeve notes to the
songs with appropriate acknowledgements to
sources (something too many singers tend to
forget) compliment an excellent first album.
Full marks too to Paul Adam's well produced
sound recording. I have no qualms about
its sales potential.

DEREK GIFFORD

STEVE TURNER "Eclogue" Fellside FEO42

Side One: The Wounded Whale/White Copper
Alley/Prospect Providence/The Old
Manchester Hornpipe/The Boomers Story/
The Girls of Glossop Road.

Side Two: The Diamantina Drover/Napoleons
Farewell to Paris/The Bunch of Rushes/
Lord Thomas of Winesbury/Me and My Uncle/
Reels.

In all ways this record is technically
up to the high standard we have come to
expect from Fellside. The support
musicians are of the highest standard,
including Martin Simpson, Jim Couza, and
the Adams family. Southern Rag's reviewer
raved about this. So why wasn't I excited
at first hearing?

On carefully replaying it before writing
this review I slightly revised my first
impressions. It is clearly an excellent
record, perhaps even an important one.
Steve sings and plays consistently well
throughout, probably the best I've ever
heard him, recording or live. The backing
musicians and singers are equally good,
especially the Marsdens on harmony vocals
to Keith Marsden's own 'Prospect Providence'.
That, incidentally, is the track I enjoyed
the most. It comes close to the vigour
of some of the North Atlantic songs Steve
has included on earlier records. Vigour:
that I think is the key to my initial
lack of enthusiasm, or rather the apparent
lack of it. Most of the tracks are
beautifully smoothly arranged and sung
but all legato could be boring. Not that
this is boring, but it is perhaps too smooth
to leap out of the speakers at first
playing.

Also, the selection of less well known
variants of some traditional songs means
that the initial pulse of recognition is
delayed well into the song.

RECORD REVIEWS RECORD REVIEWS RECO

More positively, the instrumentals are
more lively without falling into the
opposite trap of speed for speed's sake.
In summary, a worthwhile record for the
enthusiast, especially the devotee of
good singing but don't expect it to convert
heavy metal fans.

IAN WELLS

IN TUA NUA "Take My Hand" Island IS211
HOST "Tryal" Crashed CHRLOOL

It seemed unthinkable when news reached
my ears that Moving Hearts along with
new vocalist Flo McSweeney were cashing
in. What I should have known was that
the Emerald Isle would redress the
balance without too much fuss. Thus the
cavalry arrived in the shape of In Tua Nua
who mix fiddle and pipes with a Blondie
type mentality and Host who used to play
shamrock'n'roll as Horslips but have since
rethought things, dropped the jigs and
returned with a synthesizer and bags of
clout and fizz.

What we've got in both cases is powerful
Irish music for the 80's, although doubt-
less none of it will endear itself to
Fureys fans or Guinness drinkers. But
who cares anyway, this has such a strong
sense of identity running through, the
vein of emerald straight down the middle
that won't come out, even if you use the
boil wash. (Run Rig and Big Country are
doing the same with Scottish influences,
and in England....?).

Each record is loud, brash, powerful and
superbly melodic, with high spots aplenty.
In Tua Nua's case it is vocalist Leslie
Dowdall who is not too dissimilar in
sound from Judie Tzuke, and Host are just
so darn skillful at weaving a musical
concept (in this case around the last
changeling tale from Eire) resplendent in
melody and atmosphere that their record
stayed glued to the deck almost exclus-
ively for a whole month.

It is bands like these that people ought
to be up and crowing about, they'll turn
more heads than Clannad and the Spinners.
Ostrich heads can stay in the sand, some
of us want to see the music move with the
times. Welcome to the modern day
Electric Muse!

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RECORDREVIEWSRECORDREVIEWSRECO

THE ONES THAT GOT AWAY.....

Well actually here are some fairly recent releases out of my own purchases that as far I can recall haven't been reviewed here.

"STRONTRACE" is a live recording of Johnny Collins & Jim Mageean at a concert held in Holland every year as a celebration of sailing ships. Nearly all the songs here are genuine shanties, with the addition of 'Chicken on a Raft' and 'Farewell Shanty'. A wide range of such are represented here from capstan shanties to forebitters and all are superbly sung by Jim & Johnny, ably assisted by the audience on the choruses. The one snag is that being a live recording there is a fair bit of background noise, and on one or two tracks the lead singer is at too low a level. Having said that it is still a superb record and comes highly recommended. (GVR 226)

"HIGH IS THE TOWER" is the first record by Graham & Shelia Melemes, and is a very representative recording of a popular local group. A good mixture of traditional & contemporary songs is presented on the album with a sympathetic & never overpowering accompaniment. Recommended. (Tradition TSR 042)

ARCHIE FISHER's first LP has just been reissued on Celtic Music (CM 007).

"THE STAG MUST DIE" by Jumpleads is I know not a new release, but since most people kept saying how good they were, I thought I ought to get it. I was rather disappointed. Some of the arrangements reminded me of Fairport or Albion, except they did them better first time around. The main fact was that there was nothing new about the arrangements and choice of material as I had been led to expect. Since the LP was released, I have seen a duo called The Blades which has grown out of Jumpleads, and they really were different, using melodeons to produce sounds I didn't think were possible from one-watch out for them, they are well worth seeing. (OCK CC 001)

Nigel Firth

"STEELEYE SPAN" by Steeleye Span (Cambra CR5154)

Some Twenty-three tracks (too many to list here) on this budget-priced double LP. They cover mainly the era 1970-74, and are taken from their first three albums, together with 'Summer Solstice' and Carthy's 'Sweet Wivesfield'. Most of the tracks can also be found on the now somewhat rare 'Individually & Collectively'. I won't attempt to review the material, either you like Steeleye or you don't. If you only buy one album by them, this has to be it; you really ought to buy all their early albums complete.

Ralph Stephen

TIGER MOTH Rogue FMSL 2006

Side One: The Digital Watch/Larousse/The Rogue Orange/'Smarlon/Soldier's Joy/The Duchess Dressed in Blue.

Side Two: Speed the Plough/The Seven Stars/The Electric Kettle/Marshal Curwen's Polka/Pepper In The Brandy/Morris Oxford/Oats and Beans and Barley/The Hulichan/The Rope Waltz.

"It's a belting sleeve design" exclaimed Chris Coe as she tuned her magnificent hammer-dulcimer prior to belting the living daylights out of it at our recent 5th year ceilidh. 'Indeed it is' I thought 'let's hope the music does it justice'. 22

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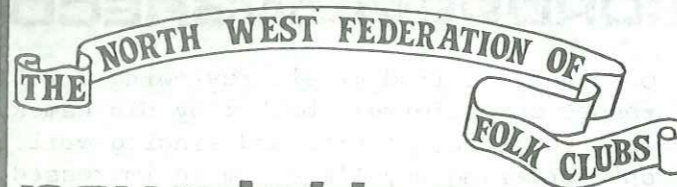
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RECORD REVIEWS RECORD REVIEWS RECO

It does, but only if, like me, you can treat folk tunes as fun and frolics as well as for their more intrinsic qualities. However, it's not all bouncy jigs, reels and polkas as 'Rogue Orange' illustrates - an incredibly haunting arrangement of the tune - the 'tasteful track' as it is described on the promotion blurb. Similarly Chris Coe's clogging on 'Soldiers Joy' must be one of the few occasions that this time honoured pastime has been put on record - it's a bit like colour radio really I suppose! As for "The Duchess Dressed in Blue"....well....remember the hard-jive era?. Definately not a track for purists that one!

One criticism might be that the record is a little samey (shades of R. Cajun's review here - see the last Newsletter) but if one is going to be blasted out of ones tiny mind by the 'same old stuff' at least it ought to be British like wot this is. If you liked the 'Morris On' and 'Cock 'n' Bull Band' records then this wild concoction by Messrs Stradling, Anderson, Maxwell and Coe will be just your cup of tea....if not just put both fingers in your ears.

DEREK GIFFORD

DICK MILES "Cheating the Tide" GVR227

Side One: Lady Diamond/Washington Post/Rebel Soldier/Bill Charlton's Fancy/Tommy's Lot/Pakefield Parson/Poor Boy.

Side Two: There's noone with endurance like a man who sells Insurance/Wages of Death/Dillpickle Rag/The Curse of Hoxne Bridge/The Cott/The Battle of Bosworth Field.

Once again I find myself reviewing a well-respected performer, backed by big names, well recorded, playing and singing well... and wondering why I'm not more impressed. On 'Cheating the Tide', Dick Miles is accompanied by Sue Miles, Martin Carthy and Sam Richards & Tish Stubbs. The opening notes are classical Carthy but the overall tone is of Dick's concertina playing and Sue's clarinet (especially with the bass clarinet on Washington Post).

The songs chosen are a mixture of contemporary, traditional and Dick's own. Of the Miles' compositions I preferred the 'Pakefield Parson', which is pegged onto a surviving chorus. This is (perhaps not by coincidence) one of the more uptempo songs - the tune sets are vigorous. However the track I liked best is actually the slowest - an amazingly slow version of Dominic Williams' Tommy's Lot which works very well by concentrating the attention on the words and using minimum accompaniment on the concertina. I suspect Dick's careful delivery comes over better live than on disc but don't let me put you off - this is an excellent record that has just failed to spark me off. It may be just right for you.

IAN WELLS

FEDERATION PAGE

OFFICER	NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Chairman	Ian Wells	62 Sydney Ave. Hesketh Bank.	077 473 3267
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THE AIM OF THE FEDERATION Shall be the promotion of Folk Music in the North-West by:-

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

The Member Clubs

FOLK CLUB	START TIME	ADDRESS	ORGANISER	PHONE NO.
SUNDAY				
Bothy Valley	8.00pm	Blundell Arms, Upper Aughton Road, Birkdale, Southport	Clive Pownceby	051 924 5078
Eagle & Child	8.30pm	Gardeners Arms, Vallett's Lane, Off Chorley Old Rd., Bolton	Derry Yelding	Bolton 793961
Leigh	8.00pm	Eagle & Child, Main Street, Billinge, Nr. Wigan	Bernie Forkin	0744 53058
Poynton	8.00pm	Oddfellows Hrms, Twiss Lane, Leigh	Steve Eckersley	0442 677965
Rainford	8.15pm	Poynton Folk Centre, Park Lane, Poynton.	Eric Brock	0625 872626
Rave On	8.30pm	Golden Lion Hotel, Rainford.	Bob Leeming	0744 88 3424
Widnes (St. Maries)	8.30pm	Grosvenor Rowing Club, The Groves, Chester.	Nick Mitchell	0244 315094
Fernhurst	8.30pm	St. Marie's Am. Rugby League Club, Breatfields, Widnes.	Patrick Hindley	051 423 3775
		Fernhurst Hotel, Bolton Rd., Ewood, Blackburn	Ron Crane	0254 40247
MONDAY				
Horwich.	8.15pm	The Crown Hotel, Horwich.	Sue Grills	0204 691430
Preston	8.15pm	Lamb Hotel, Church St. Preston.	Rob Twisse	0254 21594
Poynton	8.00pm	Poynton Folk Centre, Park Lane, Poynton.	Eric Brock	0625 872626
The Triton	8.00pm	The Triton Hotel, Paradise St. Liverpool.	Doreen Rickart	051 227 3911 x 448 (work)
TUESDAY				
Blackpool.	8.00pm	Kings Arms Hotel, Talbot St. Blackpool.	Pete Rodger	0253 56290
White Bear	8.30pm	White Bear (main A6 road), Adlington	Glyn Hughes	Adlington 882520
WEDNESDAY				
Whitehaven	8.15pm	Rosehill Theatre Bar, Naresby, Whitehaven.	Ray Downes	0900 826771
Belle Green	8.30pm	Prince of Wales, Belle Green Lane, Incs, Wigan.	Kath Holden	Hindley 58459
The Railway	8.00pm	Tithebarn St, Liverpool, (opposite Exchange Station)	Arthur Marshall	051 6304239
White Swan	8.00pm	White Swan, Green St. Fallowfield, Manchester.	Anne Morris	061 881 8294
The Star	8.30pm	Star Inn, Back Hope Street, Salford.	Martin Gittins	061 205 3680
Old Ship	8.30pm	Old Ship, Eastbank St., Southport	Bernie Blaney	0704 77065
THURSDAY				
Stump	8.30pm	Rawsons Arms, Peel Street, Farnworth, Bolton	Bernard Cromarty	Farnworth 71167
Fleetwood	8.15pm	North Manton Hotel, Fleetwood. (usu. Vantoni Room)	Ron Baxter	03917 78606
Mawdesley	8.30pm	Black Bull, Mawdesley (Monthly)	Derek Gifford	0704 822574
Poynton	8.00pm	Poynton Folk Centre, Park Lane, Poynton.	Eric Brock	0625 872626
Wigan	8.15pm	Park Hotel, Market Square, Wigan.	Joan Blackburn	0942 863389
FRIDAY				
Blacksmith	8.30pm	Black Horse, Cronton	Jean Wrigley	051 424 1878
Bee	8.30pm	Bee Hotel, Bodfer St. Rhyl	Dave Costello	0745 32488
Newcastle	8.00pm	Pack Horse, Station St. Longport. Stoke-on-Trent	Jason Hill	0782 813401
Roebuck	8.30pm	Roebuck Hotel, Leyland.	Liz Sudell	0772 732660
Northwich	8.30pm	The Coachman, Hartford, Northwich.	Sean Boyle	0606 44361
Ring o' Bells (Middleton)	8.30pm	Ring o' Bells, St. Leonard's Square (opp Parish Church), Middleton	Moira Woodcock	061 723 1979
SATURDAY				
Bury	8.30pm	The Napier, Bolton St. Bury.	Jean Seymour	061 761 1544
Brewery	8.30pm	Brewery Arts Centre, 122a Highgate, Kendal. (occas.)	Bill Lloyd	0539 25133
Local Folk Promotions	Varies	Various events in Liverpool and the Wirral	Geoff Dorman	051 639 7928
Poynton.	8.00pm	Poynton Folk Centre, Park Lane, Poynton.	Eric Brock	0625 872626

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