



THE HORSES MOUTH

Issue 23: Spring 2009 (Part 2)

4th Mar Chris Tobin (supreme Warwickshire entertainer)

www.christobin.co.uk

Another very popular performer at the club is invited back. Banbury born Chris Tobin has played in successful semi-pro bands. The best-known Banbury groups were "The Lee Malvern Four" and the "Ken E Lee Set". Chris, who moved to Coventry in 1973, is now enjoying the opportunity to play solo. Chris says, "Playing in a group can be a great apprenticeship, especially with a varied play list for all occasions. When my group playing days ended, I decided to visit a couple of folk sessions and I was 'knocked out' by the musicianship and the mixture of musical styles that were played. This solo venture has given me some of the most rewarding times of my playing years; with the opportunity to play my own material, a few old standards, blended with a bit of blues and jazz, but most of all to find great new friends and musicians".

11th Mar "Carmina" (International Celtic jazz-folk pioneers!) www.carmina.co.uk

Founded by songwriters Rob King and Pippa Marland, Carmina's music is original, soulful and sophisticated, drawing in Celtic traditional and contemporary strains, blended with jazz improvisation. Although their sound has been compared with Moving Hearts, Everything But The Girl, Joni Mitchell and Van Morrison, Carmina's music is uniquely their own, yet highly accessible. Reviewers in national newspapers worldwide have described it variously as: "Powerful, original and enigmatic"; "spellbinding"; "spiritual...fresh..."; "sophisticated and accessible"; "inspirational"; "vibrant"; "magical". Carmina first made their name touring Ireland (Pippa and Rob have Irish family roots; Brian and Diarmaid both live in Ireland), and have since played major venues and festivals throughout the world. Appearances have included Glastonbury, Trowbridge, Belfast Folk Festival, Cork Jazz Festival, Edinburgh Festival, Galway Arts Festival, Henley Arts Festival, Port Ferry, Australia and Labadoux, Belgium. Carmina have been nominated in for the 'Hot Press' Best Roots Album and The Irish Rock Music Awards Best Traditional Act award. Derek and Mary were bowled over when they saw them at "Music at the Unicorn" in Abingdon last year and reckon this is definitely one gig not to miss!!!!

18th Mar Open Stage Night

Our Open Stage nights are still proving very successful. The February one was over subscribed by four acts! These have been carried forward to this one, so there are only two spots available. If you want to have a go, you'd better contact Derek or Mary very quickly on 01295 709881. At the last one we were delighted to a wide variety of acts. Many of these acts will almost certainly have a future booking either at the club or the festival so by coming along to our Open Stage nights, not only as performers, but as a listening audience gives you the chance to preview the acts first.

25th Mar Song Writing Competition (1st prize £50)

After the success of this event last year, we are again offering a chance for everyone to write a song and have it judged by our panel of judges, who are all songwriters themselves. Please contact Derek or Mary on 01295 709881 to get an entry form.

1st Apr NOW WE ARE 10!

Clubs' 10th Birthday Celebration in the theatre with:

Joe Broughton & Kevin Dempsey, www.joebroughton.com - www.kevindempsey.co.uk

Sean Cannon (The Dubliners) www.geocities.com/toeye/dubliners,

and supports:

Fred Davis & Claire Trivett, One Night Stand & Linda Watkins MC. www.lindawatkins.co.uk

To celebrate 10 years of the club we would have loved to bring back the many, many artists who have entertained us well over those years, but of course that would have been impossible in one night. However, we have invited back some of those who made a great impression in our minds, both national and local artists. Topping the bill will be Joe Broughton and Kevin Dempsey who filled the club and brought the house down with their outstanding fast and furious music a few years ago.

Kevin is a fluent finger picking guitarist, whose sheer pace and attack leads him justifiably to be the 'master of folk-funk'. He is a guitarist, singer and producer second to none. He has extensive experience in the music business, having worked with everyone from Percy Sledge to Dando Shaft and The Marvellettes to Alice Coltrane, not forgetting the incredible Whippersnapper whose line-up also included Dave Swarbrick, Chris Leslie and Martin Jenkins. The nineties saw Kevin producing albums for several leading artists, writing film scores and performing with old friends Chris Leslie and Dave Swarbrick. After touring with Mary Black in 2004 Kevin joined the band Uiscedwr, with whom he toured until the end of 2007. He's also been touring with Peter Knight (Steeleye Span and Feast of Fiddles) and Tom Leary (Feast of Fiddles) as Tanna, as well as gigging with Joe Broughton. Kevin has also just finished producing the brand new album from Dave Swarbrick and Martin Carthy, "Straws in the Wind".

Joe Broughton is a classically trained violin player whose style owes much more to Folk, Jazz and Blues. He has been performing since 1986. In 1997 he joined the legendary Albion Band and gained a reputation for performing with infectious enthusiasm and "...in-between song banter that would put most comedians to shame." – The Ledge. An album from Joe's collaboration with Kevin Dempsey, "Every Other World", was also released at the end of 2001. Joe is also a member of the Feast of Fiddles along side Chris Leslie, Peter Knight, Dave Mattacks and others. In recent years Joe has been touring with his dynamic Folk Ensemble, students from the Birmingham Conservatoire, where he teaches.

It was always hard to pin down Sean Cannon, of "Dubliners" fame for a gig at the club because he is nearly always playing at home and abroad, still in that famous band. He still is, but we have managed to persuade him to come back to the club for this celebration! On the few occasions we have managed to get him we have creased up with laughter and his very funny stories and anecdotes. Steeped in, but by no means restricted to, the rich musical history of Ireland, Sean has performed all over all the world delighting audiences with their music. Sean Cannon is a legend of the Irish folk scene. He is one of the most in demand musicians in Europe, touring constantly both as a member of the Dubliners and in his own right or with his son James. For over four decades Sean has been a constant favourite on the live circuit with his passionate and rousing performances and his unequalled reputation as a singer and raconteur.

Supporting these fine artists we have invited Fred Davies and Claire Trivett, originally with that great band "Clarion" because, looking back through the many programmes, they are two outstanding performers on guitar (Fred) and fiddle (Claire), who we have requested to perform the most times over the years since the club first started. Fred also managed the club's website from the start until recently. We have also invited One Night Stand because band member Sheena was there with us at the start, very often performing floor spots and as club/festival guests with her friend Kim. (As MC, Derek often muddled up their names by calling them Keena & Shim!). Finally, we have invited Linda Watkins, a great supporter of the club over recent years with her husband providing us on the majority of nights with excellent sound engineering. Linda is an innovative singer/songwriter who also often does floor spots, gigs at the club and festival. She also did a stalwart job as MC at last years Folk Festival so as well as doing a spot at the birthday celebration, she will also be our MC for the evening. Husband Richard will be engineering the sound.

@ Drayton Leisure Golf Centre, Warwick Road, Banbury, OX17 1HJ

Weekend Tickets £15/ Day tickets Fri & Sun £5/Sat £10

8th Apr Youth Night with: Neil Pointon and Jossie Evans(Stunning!)

We first came across Neil at Bedworth Folk festival and were stunned by the sheer energy of his fiddle playing. He will be joined on stage with a partner for some of his numbers. Jossie, a bright new star on the folk scene, is a regular guitarist and singer at Adderbury folk sessions and she has performed at the John Dickie Memorial concert, featuring youth, at the Banbury Canalside Folk Festival. They are both very talented young performers. Come along and support them – they're the future of our folk music!

15th Apr "Strawhead" on Easter tour (Music of the olden times) www.strawhead.org.uk

It is absolutely fantastic to get this nationally well known popular band, on their Easter tour, back to the club again. The last time was in 2005. They have also featured at the Banbury Folk Festival. Strawhead were formed in October 1974 as a four piece band consisting of Chris Pollington (keyboards, accordion and vocals), Malcolm Gibbons (12 string guitar, percussion and vocals), Tom Walsh and Gregg Butler (cittern, brass instruments, recorders and cornets.) Tom left in 1976 and the other three have remained to this day playing at clubs and festivals all over the country and recording some really fantastic vinyl's & Cd's (at least 12). Material has, in the main, come from collections of street ballads. The band has a unique medieval style sound which we are sure, once heard, you will ask for more and more !!!!

22nd Apr Bill McKinnon (Star Oxfordshire entertainer & jolly nice chap!)

Bill has done it again! During another super successful year, single-handedly he discovered the lost chord. A music business insider told us this will revolutionise the industry. A local pub landlord was on the spot when it happened. "I was just pulling Bill his fourteenth pint and he was playing Constant Billy. He had just got to that tricky bit in the middle that no one has ever managed to play quite right when he, like, you know, like, he just sat there and like well, you know, he just did it. Bill played the lost chord!" You probably heard it if you have ever travelled on his singing boat trips or gone to any of his fine music sessions at The Bell Inn in Grimsbury at the Banbury Canalside Folk Festival. He is a great melodeon, banjo and guitar player, jolly fine fellow with a fine voice to boot. Don't miss him!

29th Apr "The Tindalls" (Extremely talented family band) www.paula-and-stuart-tindall.co.uk

Having moved to the Banbury area in 1997, and then with two small children (and no local baby-sitting service available), they took a break from performing. However after finding the "Ride-a-Cock-Horse" Folk Club in Banbury in 2003, they started singing again. So after a number of bookings at local folk clubs and festivals, encouraged by friends and other musicians along the way, we put together a CD of our music in January 2005 (recorded at Blue Moon Studio, near Banbury) and plan to use this to help us secure future bookings at folk clubs and festivals wider afield. Now that the two young girls, Sarah & Kathryn, are older they have become supremely accomplished as musicians and singers in their own right and have joined mum and dad to become "The Tindalls", a family band. As such in the past few years they have been hitting the wider folk scene by storm at clubs, Banbury Folk Festival and larger festivals across the country. With songs in their repertoire from Joni Mitchell to Billy Holliday, Bob Dylan to James Taylor and Fairport Convention to Fleetwood Mac, their music span many "genres" of popular folk and acoustic music. Paula's powerful voice, together with Stuart's harmonies and many intricate finger-picking guitar styles (including Ragtime, Classical, Jazz and traditional Folk) plus the girls extraordinary musicianship and vocal harmonies, ensure a varied mix of music. More recently Stuart & Paula have started to write some songs of their own which they have started to incorporate into their sets, one being included on the recent CD "Stop 'n' Play".

6th May Clive Gregson (Top International artist on tour)

Born and raised in Manchester, England, Clive is an accomplished singer, musician and record producer. His start in the music business was as the leader of Any Trouble, a band that made five albums and performed hundreds of gigs but which broke up at the end of 1984. Clive then released his first solo record, Strange Persuasions, described by Hot Press as "a truly exceptional piece of work." The record featured the voice of Christine Collister, and between 1985 and 1992, Gregson & Collister formed a partnership that Rolling Stone called "the state of the art in British folk-rock". Their first four albums all achieved chart success and

numerous tours of the UK, USA, Canada, Europe, Australia, New Zealand and Japan further established Clive's world-wide reputation as an innovative leader in the world of British folk-rock. Throughout this period Clive was also a member of the Richard Thompson Band and in demand as a record producer and session musician. What the papers say about him. "One of Britain's most cultured singer-songwriters" The Times; "A superb songwriter and fine guitarist, keyboards player and producer." Daily Telegraph.