

More memories (continued from inside):

And more: there was the night Hungarian band Makvirag turned up in *Norwich* and (naturally) couldn't find the Harlequin Theatre. Four hours later they arrived and performed for us, starting at 11 and finishing at 1 in the morning!

And the Two Rivers Dance Festival which ran twice in 2004 and 2005 and introduced us to the delights (amongst others) of Flamenco, Fandango and Polish Axe Dancing!

At the White Lion we had a piper who was obviously just learning to play! He marched up and down for about 20 minutes making wailing noises and as he finished my friend asked him "Are you going to take it to the toilet now?!" Bill

One cold January night, walking into the bar to find a packed room and the wonderful Bayou Seco performing fabulous Creole music - full of sunshine! We'd no idea what to expect and it was an absolute joy to hear in the depths of winter.

And our guests have enjoyed themselves too. Here are some quotes from the Visitors Book:

"An inspiring place to perform - as always" - Tanglefoot

"You create a superb atmosphere here" - Nancy Kerr & James Fagan

"Fantastic club, lovely people, great audience! - I had a great time" - Harriet Bartlett

"Thank you for a great gig - snow and ice notwithstanding" - Martin Simpson

"Nosan braf iawn" (A wonderful evening) Diolch!" - Pigyn Clust

"Lovely night - Faustus enjoyed themselves!" - Faustus

"Top team, top club, top audience" - John Tams & Barry Coope

"We have fond memories from the last time and have had a great time again" - The Wailin' Jennys

"Brilliant club and brilliant evening" - The Devil's Interval

"Great club - nice to play with firework percussion!" - John Spiers & Jon Boden

"This was a real pleasure" - The Wrigley Sisters

"Fabulous place to start our tour, thank you so much for making it special" - Uiscedwr

"Great club and smashing people" - Damien O'Kane (Crosscurrent)

"Worra belting audience, eh? Loved every minute of it..." - Bernard Cromarty

Find out what's on and much more at www.northwichfolk.co.uk,
e-mail info@northwichfolk.co.uk or call 01606 79356.

Northwich Folk Club



Celebrating 30 years of Music and Friendship

Friday 9th March - Evening at 8:00
30th Birthday Gala Concert

Featuring your host, Iain, and:

Second Collection	John & Ailsa
Alan Lowe-Jones	Neil Rutter & Tom Doughty
Bill Pook	Roger Barnett & Brian Ayling
Charlotte Peters-Rock	Margaret Main
Sean Boyle	Kate Mullard
Jack Mullard	Dave Green & Frank Welcomme & Tom Brown
Peter Thompson	Nick & Lyn Tysoe with Dave Ball
Lesley Francis	Nick Cooper
Graham Styles	Brenda & Fiona
Jamie	Sandy Boyle & Tony Howard

And we will conclude with everyone singing
The Wild Mountain Thyme

Saturday 10th March - Afternoon
Voice Workshop with Janet Russell
at 2:00 to 3:30

Guitar Workshop with Steve Tilston
at 4:00 to 5:30

Saturday 10th March - Evening
Concert at 8:00

Featuring Bernard Wrigley, Janet Russell and Steve Tilston



Some memories of Northwich Folk Club's 30 Years:

"Back at the White Lion - one got in free if one sang! - Each week I paid and dithered, told people I used to sing at college - and watched their eyes glaze! One evening after demonstrating spinning at the library, I decided to take the spinning wheel to the folk club and if I then bottled out of singing I'd never again mention 'I sang at college'. Well, I did sing The Spinning Wheel while I spun the wool. Half way through the song, the thread broke. I looked down for the special threader without which I could not continue - it was missing somewhere in the crowded room. I went on spinning the wheel round - it ruins the bobbins of thread as one can't find the end ever again - and singing; and, yes, I got in free - and the threader was found at closing time. One evening years later I sang the first song I'd ever written and Iain said 'That was good'. Had he not, I might never have written another, so - thanks, Iain!"
Margaret

"One September singers' night many years ago, the only performers on site were me and Lilian Harbottle. We'd an audience of about 14, none of whom would sing. They were on a tour of Industrial Archeology Sites in the Northwest. God knows how they found us. In desperation, having nearly got down to nursery rhymes, I began to tell stories about the magic city called Glasgow, soldiering, etc. It was hardly folk but no one walked out or asked for their money back."
Jamie

"Brenda has a lot to be responsible for. The only reason I ever came to the club was because when she was interviewing me (as a recently repatriated inexperienced teacher) for a job at Verdin School (in her former life) she commented on the fact that I'd said I was interested in folk but that I wasn't a member of the Northwich Folk Club. As I got the job, I had to join!"
Fiona

"I remember the first time Pigyn Clust came to the club. They were unknown (to us), Welsh and delightful! I'll never forget the beauty of their music - and when they invited me to join them for their encore to sing Bugeili'or Gwentyth Gwyn because I'd told them I knew it. Ffion found the song in her book and I sang with her in rather halting Welsh, but never mind .. What a pleasure and a privilege."
Ailsa

Two more memories: A boat trip up the canal through Northwich when Big John played his bag-pipes in the mist; and Alan Carpenter dragging a coffin off of stage and up into the bar.

And more: Iain and Linda dressed as nuns singing "Sister Josephine"; and a Hallowe'en Night when Iain added loads of sound effects.

(more on back page)

Yet more memories:

"There was that crazy night when Jez Lowe and his band got stuck on the A1 in a broken down car and we had a roomful of people waiting for him. Still, we passed a guitar round and did the entertaining ourselves - and no one went home. In fact one visitor said it was the best night's entertainment she'd had for ages."
John B

"Some 25 years ago I started to come to NFC with a friend on Friday nights. One week my friend couldn't come - so I plucked up the courage to come alone. I can remember a packet of cigarettes being passed along a row - it was at the Coachman in Hartford - and I have a clear memory of Jess turning to me and offering me a cigarette. Although I'm a non-smoker, this small act simply meant that I was included. I hope the club today still makes new-comers feel at home - I like to think we do."
Brenda

Many others have commented on the friendly welcome they have received at Northwich Folk Club.

"Being made to feel very welcome by people."
Brian

"I always feel very encouraged and supported when performing - even when the result is terrible!!!"
Stella

"First time I came to the club, Roger was quick to introduce himself which made me feel welcome from the start."
Nic

"On our first visit, we were encouraged by the friendliness of the club, in particular John Moncur who came and chatted to us at the interval. We also found Sarah and Ian Sherwood very supportive which enabled us to build confidence as performers."
Ailsa & John

"I remember in the days when Barry's red wine consumption was high, he fell asleep in the front row when an act was on (don't remember who). He was later mortified so had to wait for over a year when they were next on a Northwich so he could apologise!

The Wailin' Jennys are usually tee-total but I managed to get all three of them to try alcohol (though Ruth didn't drink much of hers) - she now thinks that I think she is boring but I am still in love! (Should this be censored?) On their first visit I donated a tool for Ruth's accordion!

Then there was the saga of Linda and her mangoe! Go man go!"

Graham

We would like to express our thanks to the Harlequin Players who have provided us with a home for over twenty years and especially to the many members of the group who have been (and still are!) our hard-working bar staff. We hope our happy co-existence continues for many years to come.

*We would also like to remember absent friends
who were very much a part of the club.*

Special Charity Concert in aid of The Joshua Tree

at the Harlequin Theatre

Saturday April 28th 8:00

Anthony John Clarke

Sad Pig

Bernard Cromarty

Ailsa & John Booth

Admission £6

Call 01565 733197 or e-mail tickets@northwichfolk.co.uk

Forthcoming attractions at Northwich Folk Club:

Friday March 23rd: **The Queensberry Rules**

Friday April 13th: **Bill Whaley & Dave Fletcher**

Friday May 4th: **Kirsty McGee with Mat Martin**

Friday May 18th: **Rory McLeod***

*in the theatre - for tickets call 01565 733197

or email tickets@northwichfolk.co.uk

We hope you have a good time. Thank you for being with us!