

ASHINGTON FOLK CLUB

December 2007

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End Of An Era

The last night of 2007 was also the final one with *jivva* in charge. Although tinged with sadness, it was a fun night of celebration with a speech or two, a presentation and best wishes all round. 16 floor spots and a well-deserved and much-requested extended set from *jivva* made it a night to remember.

Stephen Ward of MIND Active surprised everyone by sticking poster pictures at the top of the stairs and on the entrance door showing some of Jimmy & Val's 'happenings' at the club.



jivva (Jimmy & Val)

Merry Christmas, 'G]YbhB][\ h', goodnight...

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We had a very wide variety of entertainment with everything from bluegrass to Christmas songs and tunes, with some thank you speeches and statistics, the usual raffle - and a presentation to Jimmy & Val from Doug, Pat, Ben and Tristan who will be running the club fortnightly from January 2008. Their message to one and all is:

"We want to welcome everyone to the club when it starts up again on Thursday 3rd January 2008 - we intend building on the good work done so far and want the club to continue to be active and vibrant".

Performers in the first half did two songs, tales, tunesets etc, but it took a little longer than planned - so it was agreed that second half spots would be limited to one item each in order to give *jivva* enough time to sing a few songs... this is typical of the support that everyone at the club gives each other, and is very much appreciated.

So... what on Earth do you choose to perform on your final night? And how many songs? The number of songs was driven by the time available, and were chosen as a mixture of requests and songs representative of their trademark '*gentle blend of acoustic guitars and vocal harmony*'.

They started with 'Sonny' - a gentle and sad tale based on a Mary Black interpretation of the Ron Hynes song 'Sonny's Dream'. This was followed by Paul Siebel's 'Louise' - a poignant song of small town attitudes requested by Derek Greenacre. Val swapped her 6-string Taylor 910CE guitar for her Taylor 855 12-string as they raised the tempo for 'Back Home To You' - a recent Allan Taylor song (so new that he's not yet released it on an album). The last song of the too-short set was their own beautiful arrangement of the Christmas carol, 'Silent Night', the Bothal Suite filled with everyone singing... magical!

As Jimmy & Val ended with 'Thank you, goodnight and Merry Christmas' there were cheers and calls for more. Amid the applause were cries for 'One More Song' - and they happily complied. Val swapped back to the 6-string as they encored with the very apt, self-penned, 'One More Song'... a moving finalé to the evening, and a fitting way for *jivva* to say thank you to everyone for their support over the past four years.

*One more tear, one more smile, who knows what tomorrow may bring?
Keep this in your memory, one more song to sing.*

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Performers Roll Call 2004 - 2007

Throughout the four years we've played host to many fine singers, players and writers - ranging from professionals to those that had never performed before in public. Thank you one and all.

Al Giles	Gareth Jones	Nicola Dodds
Al & Pauline Giles	Geoff Pickard	Northerners
Alan	Geoff Ridley	Nova
Alan Bailey	George	Old English
Alex Okon	George Rosenthal	Pat Yeowart
Alex Okon & Jan	George Rosenthal & Steve	Pat & Ben Yeowart
Alex Okon & John Muir	Gypsy Feelya	Pat Yeowart & Kevin
Allan Taylor	Hylton	Paul Allen
Amazing Bean Bag Band	Jack Hakin	Paul & Stephen Snow
Andy Wall	Jane Snow	Pauline Giles
Ann Lunam-Cowan	Jane's Alley	Pete Cryer
Ann Sessoms	Jane's Alley with Dave Donohoe	Peter Hawkin
Ann Sessoms & Alan Bailey	Jim Slaughter	Peter Meek
Ann Sessoms & Paul Knox	Jim Wigfield	Peter Murphy
Backshift	Jim Wrightson & Bob Scott	Peter Shaw
Barry Fitzpatrick	Jimmy	Pipers Weird
Barry Purdy	Jimmy & Carol	Ray Derrick
Beeswing	jítva	Ray Derrick & Eric Laverick
Below The Salt	Joanne	Richard Robinson
Ben Yeowart	John Campbell	Ricky Sylvester
Ben Yeowart & Tristan Sturgeon	John Campbell & John Kay	Rob & Lynn
Caliko	John Redpath	Rob & Lynn & Sue
Cathryn Craig & Brian Willoughby	Keith Blackburn	Robin Lewsey
Chris Riley	Keith Jones	Ross Forster
Daniel Purdy	Keith & Andrew Jones	Sally
Dave Anderson	Ken Cross	Simon Haworth
Dave Donohoe	Ken & Jane Cross and Dave Page	Stephen Snow
Dave Lucas & Dave Newton	Ken Self	Steve & Noeline
Dave Minikin	Kevin	Steve Whitehead
Dave Page & John Richardson	Kevin Robinson	Stoney
Dave Page & Ken Cross	Kevin Robinson & Dave Donohoe	Sunshine Boys
Dennis Jorgensen	Kevin Robinson & Derek Greenacre	Sue Bardsley
Derek Greenacre	Kevin Robinson & John Campell	Syd
Diane Green	Lorna Windham	Three Amigos
Diane Green & Ann Lunam-Cowan	Magick Circle	Tin Can Alley
Diane Green & Derek Greenacre	Magick Circle with Pat Yeowart	Tommy Lewis
Diane Green & Pat Yeowart	Matty Ditchburn	Tony Hamblin
Diane Green & Robin Lewsey	Michael Docherty	Tony Lamborghini
Doug Wood	Mick	Touchwood
Ellen Morgan	Mike Jessop	Val
Eric Gildea	Mike & Hazel Jessop	Val Madderson
Esther Marshall	Neil Ethair	Vince Carr
Et Cetera	Neil Ethair & Sally	Vince & Ed Carr
Gareth Davies-Jones	Neil Ethair & Steve Vaughan	Zak

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Statistics 2004 - 2007

There's an old saying about lies, damned lies, and then statistics. The figures below give some idea of what went on during the *jivva* years.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	Total
Special Guest Nights	1	0	1	2	4
Spotlight or Extended Set Nights	3	9	11	4	27
Singers, Musicians & Poets Nights	11	13	11	16	51
Total Nights	15	22	23	22	82
Spotlight, Guest & Extended sets	8	20	25	8	61
Floor spots	188	288	195	279	950
Total Spots	196	310	220	287	1,011
Performers	57	56	54	65	132
Songs, tunesets, readings, dances	421	626	563	578	2,188

Milestones

30-Oct-2003	jiva first play at Ashington
27-Nov-2003	Tommy Lewis resigns from running the club
04-Dec-2003	jiva agree to organise first two club nights of 2004
24-Dec-2003	jiva Design start work on the new website for Ashington Folk Club
24-Jan-2004	New website goes live
05-Feb-2004	First night with jiva 'in charge'
04-Mar-2004	jiva are asked to continue running the club
05-Aug-2004	No Smoking policy introduced
21-Oct-2004	Increased to 2 nights per month, first spotlight night
19-May-2005	Introduction of admission charge

Website pages (1 in 2003)	250
Website pictures (0 in 2003)	1,000
Website soundclips (0 in 2003)	750
Website hits (none measured in 2003)	13,300
MySpace hits (set up in 2007)	1,600

07-Jul-2005	Started recording club nights and adding soundclips to website
09-Feb-2006	Allan Taylor in Concert
15-Feb-2007	jiva announce their intention to step down at end of 2007
15 Mar-2007	Cathryn Craig & Brian Willoughby in Concert
15-Nov-2007	Allan Taylor in Concert
20-Dec-2007	jiva final� - last night in charge

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Now What ?

The Club

The times they are a-changing, as Bob Dylan would put it. But the new team will ensure that Ashington Folk Club continues to be a place which welcomes all performers of acoustic music and the spoken word. Doug, Pat and Ben have been regulars at the club for many years, and have seen it all - the great times, and the not so great.

Starting on Thursday 3rd January 2008, the club will meet fortnightly. So, for some months there will be three meetings - in such months the plan is to have a theme night - the theme for 31st January is 'Love'. We're sure that we can count on your continued support and look forward to even more great Thursday nights.

The Website

For four years www.ashingtonfolkclub.co.uk has been the envy of many - it boasts over 250 pages, 1,000 pictures and 750 soundclips. As well as reviews of our nights from 2004 to the end of 2007 it has performer profiles and a growing history section dating way back to 1964.

It has therefore been decided to keep this valuable archive of Ashington Folk Club intact, and a new website will be set up for the club from 2008. The new address will be www.ashingtonfolkclub.org.uk - each of the sites will have prominent links to the other.

jìva

Although Jimmy & Val have stepped down from running the club they certainly plan to be back as performers, whether it be as regular floor singers or possibly a longer spot or two! Already a regular feature in many north east clubs, they plan to promote the jìva sound even further afield with more club appearances, fundraisers, festivals, social and corporate events... even a house concert in your front room if you wish! Details at www.jiva.co.uk.

Highs & Lows

The statistics give an idea of the level of activity, but they don't tell the whole story. What were the ups and downs? What was it really like?

Mostly it was good fun - we met some great people, heard lots of smashing music and poems and stories and made lots of new friends. There were surveys (online and/or paper-based at the club or through the post) to gauge people's opinions on various issues (eg smoking, door charges, guests, venue, etc), and suggestion slips were always readily available.

So it was very upsetting when some who disagreed with the decisions tried to sabotage our efforts by spreading unfounded rumours of the demise of the Folk Club - even phoning the Institute, cancelling our bookings.

Although we were distressed almost to the point of

resigning, we decided to carry on and double our efforts to ensure that Ashington Folk Club would continue to be a great place for performers and audience alike. It takes more than bully tactics to beat us into submission.

We'll always treasure the memory of the wonderful guest nights by Allan Taylor and Cathryn Craig & Brian Willoughby - true professional performers par excellence.

However, our most important achievement was to provide a positive and supportive environment for others to develop their abilities. It has been an honour to see many of our regular performers grow in confidence and stature, culminating in their own spotlight night performances.

Thank you all, and goodnight

jìva (Jimmy & Val)

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