

Music Files

ISSUE NO3 DECEMBER 1993

**MUSIC FILES WISH ALL THEIR READERS
A MERRY XMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR**



**INCLUDING :Reviews on The Dharma's
C.D Review & much, much! MORE!**

***HASTINGS FREE GIG GUIDE AND
REVIEW MAGAZINE***

I AIN'T DRINKING THERE!

Why are people so partisan when it comes to drinking in this town? When I speak to friends and tell them where I've been they are amazed. If I've been to the CARLISLE they say that it's full of GREBOS and they don't want to get their heads kicked in! If I say I've been to the TOWN CRIER they say it's full of YUPIES and they don't want to get their heads kicked in! If I say I've been to the PIG they say it's full of WEIRDOS and they don't want to.....What is wrong with these people. Here are three perfectly good pubs that people believe are full of violent, homicidal maniacs who will attack you just because you aren't wearing a leather jacket, Gucci loafers or a peruvian hat. IT IS SIMPLY NOT TRUE! How many of us have slagged off a pub without having been there? Why not make the effort to try these other pubs out? After all

you only have to walk in to know what it's like and how long does a half of lager take to drink if you don't like it? Try walking into the YORKSHIRE GREY with a suit on for some real fun. I have and other than a few surprised looks no-one wanted to kill, maim or injure me. These days people don't care what you wear.

Another excuse for not trying out a new pub is the distance from the safe haven you normally drink in. The BEER ENGINE has recently opened and at first I thought that it was a bit of a hike to get to. But it's no further from the Town Centre than the PIG and it's only a small detour if you're on your way to the STREET, the CARLISLE or FRENCH'S. So why not either take some time to visit all those pubs you've walked past but never been in or arrange to meet some friends in a new place. After all, it's only (at most) 4 hours out of your life to spend an evening somewhere new and who knows - you may like it.

Too Big To Feel (CD or Cassette) Jacobs Noak

Just after the first track started the phone rang and I had a conversation with Martin Richter which resulted in me having to get straight on the computer to type out something important. By the time I finished, the last track was just ending and without having really heard it apart from a couple of juicy guitar bits. I thought "That was good". It certainly is conducive to getting things done and deserved a more respectful listen.

One of the juicy guitar bits is near the end of the first number, the title track "Too Big To Feel", which features a solo, presumably from Roger Flack, that has the feel and bite of a top flight guitarist. Another solo and brass fade out in "The Wind'll Change" precedes a gentle acoustic postscript. Jacobs Noak are difficult to describe because it is nothing for them to bring several different styles to one number and in their typical fashion this CD is littered with variety.

"7/8", in fact mostly in 7/8 time, has a correspondingly cyclic bass riff and builds up to quite a pitch with heavy guitar overdubs. "Little Things", a mellow acoustic reflection is followed by "Jam It Up" featuring capable drumming from Phil Flack. Accompanying the Flack Brothers are multi-instrumentalists Darren Mepham and Nick Sharples and it's difficult to tell who is playing what on the individual tracks. Presumably

Darren plays bass on most tracks and Nick, wind instruments. Along with Roger, both sing.

Through the next three or four tracks the album takes a lighter diversion and investigates more folksy roots in a style not totally dissimilar to that of planetary popular Jethro Tull.

The titles of the last two tracks almost suggest the climax of a concept that might be in the album but so far escaped me. "Born Again II" opens with acoustic guitar and a vocal indictment of somebody or other. Then the arrangement brings in some nice sounding acoustic guitars that are begging for some strings. The orchestral type that is. "No Messiah" got "dirty guitars" and Black Sabbath gone jazzy riffs. There's a heavy message here but I'd rather listen to Roger's wailing guitars.

Containing over 53 minutes of music, "Too Big To Feel" is a must if you like variety in your musical diet. You can buy it at B & T Keyboards in Claremont where Roger will sign it for you if you ask him nicely. I've also seen it around at one or two of the other outlets that handle local produce.

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To the best of our knowledge, all
details are correct at the time of
printing and we regret we cannot be
held responsible for alterations or
cancellations.



NEWS JUST IN...Local ace bass Roger Carey has recently been entered in the Guinness book of records for the most un-needed notes in a single bar of music. Norris McWhirter is flying in and Roy Castle and Cheryl from Buck's Fizz said - Well done Roger!...not to be outdone another local bassman was thought to be scouring Harley Street looking for a hand specialist to sew on a couple of extra digits. Speaking from his hideaway, disguised as a newsagents FINGERS said 'blah blah blah blah'...Special forum award this month goes to local face-painter & Peruvian hat wearer Dave Arnold after reportedly telling locals of his intention to go to Somalia to help the relief effort - They need my music to help unify the country and would you like to hear my latest poetry?.er?...Another local in the news is fellow committee member John Ballard, John has won the top prize in the annual 'one man & his hat'

The Dharmas Halloween Party Hastings Pier Ballroom 30th October 1993

The Dharmas graduated at their recent *Halloween Party* in **Hastings Pier Ballroom**. They drew a good crowd and showed their maturity in the delivery of a very professional show. In this case the attendance approached 500 which, these days, is good and must be seen as a building block for future Pier performances. They had obviously put a lot of thought and effort into the evening and *extra-curricular* attractions like the *ultra-violet* jugglers were also entertaining.

One's attention was drawn from this by *spacey* keyboards and a change in the stage lighting as clouds of green dry ice cleared to reveal several *mummy* like figures stumbling in the vivid haze.

As the Dharmas struck up the opening chords of their introduction white and coloured lights exploded to show the band all dressed in effective *horror* costumes with theatrical make-up. Except for violinist, **Eleanor**, who was dressed *radiantly* as a bride. Who's bride remains a mystery.

The opening number, "**Delighted**" ran smoothly into "**Field Day**" with the effective introduction of a "**Bo Didley**" drumbeat from **Russell Field**. Everybody was at the front of the stage now, and this is what it must have been like when the Pier was in it's heyday as a *live music venue*.

The familiar introduction of "**Living For The Day**" brought a *huge* cheer from the crowd. Excellent base playing throughout from **Dave Walton** stood out musically, but the gigfit band gave a demonstration of "*tightness*". "**Tamla**" sounding bass lines and **Simon** occasionally changing to *Electric guitar*. Is this a hint of the Dharmas future direction?

"**A Thousand Points Of Light**" rang out the bells of Freedom and a carnival style ending left the crowd stomping and cheering for more. *Three* encores followed. Firstly "**Bin So High**" in a country *hoe-down* style. Then **Jackie Wilson's** "**Higher**" with more of **Dave Walton's Tamla** feel, and finally the original "**Living For Today**".

competition for the **BEST BERET IN THE BIZ**. John wins an all-expenses trip to a Gauloises factory (perfect for that gravel voice)...Disturbing news reaching Forum H.Q. - we'll have two reports coming up next...Firstly a gig by local band **MORE POTATOES PROCONSUL** was cancelled at a local crash helmet wearers pub after the last edition of **MYSTIC FLIES** went to print - but who got the blame for the mis-information (answers on a postcard please)...Secondly a gig arranged some time back for local band **THE PUSHFRONTS** was cancelled at the 1,576 pub in Battle at the last moment when the landlord decided he didn't want to pay the agreed fee. He said the band could play upstairs and take the door money (if they provided a doorman). He then told expectant punters that the band had cancelled on him...Any such bad practices should be made known to the forum so that we can keep bands and punters up-to-date. Also good gig information would help and for that we need you to tell us!..p.s. **LANDLORDS** - why not make a forum member happy by making your gigs easy to access by your staff. We suggest writing the next month's gigs on a piece of Paper and leaving it by the phone for when we ring up...let's not have a **PUBLICAN IN NEGATIVE ATTITUDE TO FREE PUBLICITY SCANDAL**....That's all for now. keep the gossip coming in (truth-what truth?) and - keep music live - before they put VAT on it - or worse still - make it **LEGAL!**>@!

It's a brave attempt to stage a show at the Pier (unless your **Hawkwind**) and the Dharmas are to be congratulated on making this a successful evening. *The first of many we all hope.*

Transcendental Hastings Pier Ballroom 30th October 1993

Prior to The Dharmas set **Transcendental** inspired the crowd into an active mood with a brilliant set of *up-tempo* dance numbers from their partly acoustic-orientated six piece line up.

Fronted by **Layanne** on **Lead Vocals** and **Dancing**, the band delivered a mixture of Rap, Ska, Reggae and you name it, through their *percussive ensemble*. Like the Dharmas, Percussion features prominently in their sound but conga playing with "feel" from **Buzz** gave Transcendental the edge in this department.

After the second number the audience wised up to the fact that these people had *rhythm* and started *gravitating* towards the front to join in with Layanne who whirled wildly but with inspiration, sometimes singing at the same time. She gave a beautiful performance and reached out into the people drawing them in toward her. She also played the *tambourine* with technique, making the most of it's dynamics.

Original numbers with titles like **Morning Town**, **Going Home**, and **Big Brother** all had one thing in common. They got you *moving*. In **Visionary**, and the final number, **Outside Inside**, percussion passages resolved into a "**Santana**" feel and the atmosphere hummed.

A great cheer went up at the end of their set and they have definitely won themselves some fans in Hastings. The band, from **Southampton** are sharing other dates with The Dharmas, so we may well see them here again. *Looking forward to it.*

Grapevine

Hastings Local Radio will broadcast on 100.5 FM (*In Stereo*) 24 hours a day commencing *Saturday 27th November* until **CHRISTMAS EVE**. Station Manager **Mark Briggs** promises "an unbeatable mix of music from the past right through to current releases" as well as local news and events, live broadcasts, competitions, phone-ins and much more. While there is no specific show covering the local scene, several D.J.'s plan to feature tracks from *local bands* who submit CD's, Vinyl or suitable quality cassettes. Send your tapes to **Hastings Local Radio** at **7 Bank Buildings, Hastings TN34 1NJ**. Hastings Observer journalist, **Paul Williams** has a show between 6-9pm on Saturday Evening and will be playing tracks from some local bands as well as giving out our gig guide. Paul will also plug local gigs if you phone them in. Listen in for the phone number, D.J. **Simon Veness** brushing up on his *Jazz* at the **Marina Jazz Club** the other tuesday, in the auspicious company of legendary American Jazz Guitarist **Al Casey**. Simon recorded an interview with the charming and personable elder cousin from the States for broadcast on one of his shows, or maybe all of them, who knows? Simon has the *Saturday* and *Sunday* morning shows between 7 - 10am where he will be featuring some local stuff and also giving out our gig guide. Simon also has a *Jazz* show on *Sunday night* between 10-12 Midnight and here you might also hear some of Hastings extremely talented Jazz fraternity.

If you wish to **advertise** on Hastings Local Radio during the month leading up to Christmas call **(0424) 434 434** for information on their very reasonable packages.

Last months article on Latin American Percussion Band, "**Blocco Liberdade**" was somehow parted from the relevant telephone number so once again contact **Damien Hammill** on **(0424) 431263** if you want information on the Blocco or how to join. There is really no limit to it's size and you are sure of a place in the band if you attend the rehearsals. Or maybe you saw the band at the third Forum and want to book them for an appearance.

November will have seen the **Hawkwind** gig at the **Pier** and we would like to think this is the first of a long series of *major gigs* at this ideal venue. The Pier, in it's former glory, saw headlining acts like **The Rolling Stones**, **Jimi Hendrix** and **The Sex Pistols** grace it's boards. (*Incidentally, the day of this gig would have been Hendrix's 51st birthday*). Maybe Halcyon days are set to return. *Critics* should remember that Hastings needs to attract visitors and this kind of major event will bring people from a wide area, creating the Impression, and reinforcing our claims, that this is a "*happening now*" town. Witness the **Dharma's** successful October gig.

Big changes have taken place on national **Radio 1 FM**, with a new Director promising a greater accent on *new* music and *live* music. **John Peel's** weekend show has been given a prime time *Saturday* slot near where his ground breaking "**Top Gear**" show sat for years in the sixties and seventies. Mr and Mrs **Dave (Genius) Kitchenham** in **St Leonards** sadly complaining of the axing of **Bob Harris** midnight *soft rock* show. Also moving on are **Alan "Fluff" Freeman**, **Simon Bates** and **Dave Lee Travis**.

Have any *Hastings* bands *sent tapes* to **Radio 1** of late? There are several shows that take in bands tapes. **John Peel** apparently listens to every tape he receives. Also there is an "*unsigned band*" slot every week day on the **Steve Wright** show. There are others, and the addresses for all the Radio Stations are in the letters column of *The Radio Times*.

Our thoughts go out to **Dennis Reed**, who has been poorly recently and had to stop gigging. We wish him a *speedy* recovery and hope to see him back *bouncing the boards* in **1994**. Keep your spirits up Den, from everyone in the **Live Music Forum**

Popular *canine* patron at the **Pig In Paradise**, "**Wulluff**", is a bit poorly and in need of an *operation* on his leg. It's likely to be a bit expensive and a collection is underway to ensure the very best for the good natured dog. So all you *animal lovers* can give to the collection at the pub or give your money to manager **Todd** next time you see him.

"**Adaze Amaze**" are back on the road, **Nic Monahan** informs us. Following two successful *London* gigs at the **Fulham "Swan"** and **Brentford "Red Lion"** they are getting into *Hastings venues* and can be seen at **The Crypt** on **8th December**. The band would like to thank the *30 or more* local fans who travelled up to see them and were partly responsible for the band being *rebooked* to *headline* at both gigs in the *New Year*. Here's sticking it to 'em. Their *12 track cassette*, called "**Graze Amongst**", is on sale at gigs for £2.50. Now that is cheap. If they are that cheap then they can send us one.

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A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

As well as being traditionally the party season, *Christmas and New Year* are probably the peak period of the year for live gigs. Even places that don't have any music during the rest of the year try to get a band in for *Christmas or New Year*.

They do this because they want "the real thing". They want the atmosphere and experience that a travelling band carry with them. If they can get by without it through the rest of the year they need it all the more at this festive time.

So what this means is that we are going to have a ball. Keep your Music Files stuffed down the side of the sofa or somewhere equally accessible for quick reference and you will be able to keep track of *where* and *when* it's happening, in between mountainous feasts of food and drink.

On behalf of the rest of the Forum Committee I would like to wish you a very *Happy Christmas* and an even *Happier New Year* with more live music.

Phil Little

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* Anyone wanting to put an advert in this publication please send it to the same address as the copy for the MUSIC FILES. Musical ads or in fact just about anything you can sell is welcome, but if you want to sell *dads* antique coin collection (which has taken him 25 years to collect) kids, ask mum first!



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STREET JAZZ

On 26th October the **STREET** celebrated 2 years of *live jazz* with a mega night of music. When I arrived I caught the end of a set by **Jack Peach** and **John Dyson**. This was followed by sets by **Lianne Carroll & Liam Glenocky**, **Pete Burdon & Roger Carey** and a host of others. At 11pm the whole event went downstairs to the **CRYPT** and featured an extended **JAZZ JAM** by (among others) **Steve Demitrious**, **Dragon (from Yugoslavia)**, **Cathy Dyson**, **Manus McDade** and probably hundreds of others. The music ranged from Jazz standards to some pretty avant - garde stuff but was received well by the audience. Towards the end of the evening it a got a bit chaotic but we still loved it. The *Tuesday night sessions* at the **STREET** are always of the best quality and always varied. Personally I find that sometimes it's a bit too *jazzy* but you can always go to the back of the bar for a chat! The whole scene is more of a social event than a gig and it's proof that a small, intimate venue can do well. It's also proof that duos can entertain. Two things that stick in my mind about these events are firstly in the long hot (!) summer when the place was spilling out onto the pavement and people were dancing in the street and **THE STREET (?)** and secondly, at the party, watching **John Dyson** playing in the **CRYPT**, bathed in red light, among the arches. This was the stuff jazz is made of and if only I'd had my camera? So, the best of luck to **Simon & Pete Wilkes** and a special mention for **Roger Carey** for booking such diverse and entertaining acts. Keep up the good work and as well as seeing you there *next week* I'll see you at the *3 year party next year*.

Music Files, reaching
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FORUM COLLECTION BOX

Watch out for our **Town Centre collection box** which will be going up any day now, in the **Street Cafe Bar**, Chambridge Rd. Hastings.
Post your Music Files contributions direct to us. As well as ideas, suggestions and offers for help.

...And Another Thing

...**Bob Balchin** of **STREET LEGAL PRODUCTIONS** wants to say HI to **HASTINGS LEATHER**. Bob has been a promoter, band manager and general all-round good guy for years. He is responsible for stage managing the **Kent Custom Show** and all the biggest and best events throughout the South. He is currently (*through the winter*) working with a Rock and Blues Roadshow (disco?). So, if any bands, Pubs or Punters want this sort of entertainment at their event - give *Bob* a call on **(0622) 682365**. He's also got a good roster of bands up his sleeve...

We're still waiting for the local pub owner to come up with the official '*how much to pay the band formula*' - as used by the biggest brewery in the country - so come on our number is **442891**...

Ideas just in...how about a Forum social evening? Instead of waiting for a full (*and Formal*) meeting we could all get together to agree the next agenda and have a good old chat ...What about some **FORUM awards**? Or maybe two sets! one could be serious - **BEST PUB - BEST VENUE** etc., and the second could be more irreverent - most boring pub, guitarist etc. Send your nominations to the usual address...Winners will receive a **certificate (framed at no extra cost)**....

We are hearing disturbing reports about a certain **hall for hire** in the old town who will *cancel* an event at the drop of a hat because they get a better offer - **hey!** we always thought that an agreement was **an agreement**...more details anyone?

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Merry Christmas!

The Third Hastings Live Music Forum

Following individual contributions from the Committee the verbal half of the **third Hastings Live Music Forum** was highlighted by a speech of support from Hastings Mayor **Richard Stevens**, who said that the local authority were prepared to talk to the musicians and people of *Hastings*. He also put forward the suggestion of **The White Rock Theatre** as a possible site for the *Forum Live Music Festival* proposed for next year.

The Mayor's speech followed in informal but informative contribution from **Richard Homewood**, *Hastings Borough Council's Principal Environmental Health Officer*, who also emphasised the local authorities willingness to listen.

Following a meeting between representatives of the *Forum Committee* and the *Environmental Health Dept.*, the Live Music Forum announced that it will formulate a *proposal* to Hastings Borough Council, that they petition the Government to review the relevant laws restricting the performing of *Live Music in licensed premises* with a view to their abolition.

The Forum's argument is based on the fact that the existing laws merely duplicate other legislation and, as well as being an administrative burden, they are also restrictive to trade.

Mr. Homewood agreed that the *Public Entertainment Licensing* was essentially a duplication but pointed out that *non-licensed* premises would still require the Health and Safety regulation this presently provided.

The Mayor, in expressing his support, acknowledged that current legislation was, at best, *outdated* and undertook to respond to any approach made to his office.

"This has opened up the opportunity for the Forum to put forward a plan to liberate live music throughout the land and it will be a record of Hastings saying positive things" said Phil Little afterwards.

"**Blocco Liberdade**" played a short set of *Brazilian Samba* which drew a rousing cheer from the crowd. This was the percussion group's first outing and the instant reaction from the audience suggested that once more people get to hear them they will be the talk of the town.

Music from **Pete Prescott** and **Rick Pentecost**, **Spit Sunset** and **Simon Shaw's Allstars** provided a veritable musical feast which, especially for free, deserved better than the attendance of fifty or so.

"I was *dissappointed* with the *number* of people who could be bothered to make the effort, but the fact is that the *spirit* of this thing lives on and we had a really good time. Now we have to concentrate on building a series of connections with people in other towns. We are already in two counties and we are finding that when people elsewhere see what we are doing they want to connect with us. I got back from the Forum to a message from the **Kent and Sussex Gig Guide** who want to link up with us after seeing a copy of *Music Files*. These contacts are coming in every week and I cannot understand why bands, particularly, are so reluctant to take advantage of this medium.

With a positive appraisal of our suggestions by *Hastings Borough Council* we could find ourselves leading a *national* movement of unity between the people who really matter in the music business and, as I have said at the Forums, people with influence will have to look at the heart of it to see what is going on. People like Record Company Executives. Whatever happens will be good for Hastings and perceptive individuals like our *Mayor* can see this." summed up **Phil Little**.

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HOW TO SURVIVE PLAYING AT WEDDINGS

1. **WHAT TO WEAR** - The thing with weddings is that you have to remember that everyone else is going to be dressed to the nines. Dirty, ripped jeans are probably out as are lured glittersuits. Try to keep it "smart but casual." Shirts are a good bet (with or without a tie but T-Shirts with "fuck" written on them will make few friends).

2. **TIMING** - You'll probably have to turn up quite early for a wedding. The worst thing (for everyone) is to turn up and set up during either the speeches, the meal or the photos. No-one wants their funny anecdote about the groom and the transvestite drowned out by your drummer Stumpy dropping a cymbal or loads of hairy guitarists lugging their Marshalls around in the back of the photos. Setting up during the meal is just down right bad manners and a distraction.

3. **WHO'S WHO** - It is vital to find out who everyone is as soon as possible and also any quirks they may have. There's nothing worse than dedicating a song to the "happy couple" (because you don't know their names) or to "Denise and...er...her new husband (because you only know one of them). Also find out who are the respective parents and who the best man is. Another tip is to find out any family traits that rear their heads at these events i.e. Auntie Maud who will get badly drunk and start taking her clothes off etc. Also find out who is going to pay you and remember that by the end of the night the Fathers will be really pissed and the best man will spend all day seeing if you are alright (he's never met a band before).

4. **PARENTS** - Being nice to both parties parents is the secret of success. You will probably have to do a lot of hand-shaking and cheek-kissing to get by but if you make the right impression as "nice people" to the parents you can get away with murder later. Fathers are invariably called John and will smoke cigars. As the evening progresses their ties will get lower and their faces will get redder. Even when they are incoherent - be nice to them (as they could turn nasty at this very emotional time).

5. **FOOD & DRINK** - When you arrive the best man (with best intentions) will say either "do you want a beer?" (if there's a bar or "help yourself to a drink" (if it's a posh do). The same will happen for the food. Don't scream P-A-R-T-y !!! and proceed to dismantle any alcoholic refreshments or demolish vast quantities of food. After all, buffets and drinks are worked out to the precise number of guests and another five mouths to feed and water may put a strain on the consumables. Also you are being paid to be there and should try to keep a low profile and not take the piss. When the best man says "help yourself" he is only trying to be polite. He doesn't mean "load your van up with whatever you want".

6. **WHAT TO PLAY** - Two things to remember here - firstly, the only people who are likely to have seen you before are the bride & groom and secondly, that the band is secondary to the event. Don't crank it right up and show everyone what your 4K rig will do. Don't do your normal show of guitar heroics, stage dives or outrageous solos. Just play it straight and well. After a few numbers you will be able to suss out the guests and know what you can get away with. Remember, that like the best man you are there to "jolly up" the proceedings (not take over). A couple of ballads are always a good bet, if only to get the "mums & dads" up and dancing. Remember that your own brand of thrash and heavy metal is OK at the Carlisle but maybe not at a wedding. The best man and the

brides father will try to get everyone up and dancing and will tell you how good you are. Mum's will tap their feet or clap but no one will really know what's going on. The spotlight will suddenly turn from the happy couple to you - so do your best to please everyone.

7. **FIGHTING** - Towards the end of the evening there will be a fight. There are two kinds: the first is between the groom and his best man or other close friend. The second is the inter-family feud, between any combination of either family. The second has usually been brewing all day and is easy to spot but the groom fighting is usually a spur of the moment thing. These fights usually involve a lot of screaming and overturned tables and chairs but thankfully very little real pain. But, what should the band do? If you carry on playing (to try and ignore it) it appears that you are used to people fighting when you play. If you stop, then it only draws attention to the rumpus. Don't ever join in or try and stop it as you will end up getting a right good kicking from both sides. Alcohol brings out extreme emotions at these times.

8. **DISCO DISCO** - The disco will always think that they are the reason for people being there. Depending on which disco is present you will either get an evening of rock and roll or an evening of rave. I've yet to meet the disco that can please all the people all of the time (although Terry Johns comes close). The disco usually comprises of a father, his son and his son's mates who will have turned up at midday and nicked all the power points for their stuff. They will either have two banks of lights (red, blue, yellow) or they'll have a rig big enough for Wembley. The worst thing is that you'll have to be nice to these assholes as you'll need at least one socket. You will have to do a bit of negotiating with them and the best man to decide when you will be playing. You can always spot a disco person as they wear nice black Farah's with red shirts and will be seen with outrageously stacked plates of vol-au-vents and sausages on a stick. These guys are generally real assholes who will look down their noses at you - but if you want a power point you'll have to speak to them. (Terry Johns runs the only mobile disco I have ever known that is a laugh to work with and also the only one that is actually tolerant towards bands).

9. **EXIT** - Once you have played it's always difficult to know when to leave as weddings start early, finish late and put the band in the middle. It can also be difficult to get paid late at night (due to alcohol). The best bet is to pack up your gear quite soon after you've played and reserve the right to put it in the van until you've been paid. Get out quick as weddings can degenerate into a drunken, emotional melee of dancing, snogging and throwing up and no-one wants to find regurgitated quiche inside their guitar case. Shake hands with or kiss all the right people and make a dignified exit. Don't wait until the last minute as you'll have to wait until the disco has reversed their juggernaut up to the doors and loaded up.

10. **GENERAL TIPS** - Don't get really pissed and insult anyone (you never know who they are). Don't try and make the event into a gig - you are there to entertain everyone - not get a return booking (although that could be interesting - playing at someone's wedding for the second time). Be nice to everyone - even mad relations and be prepared to shake hands a lot. Unfortunately weddings are a necessary evil in the live music world and I'm sure they can be fun - but every one I've played at has been a nightmare - whatever you do is wrong. Maybe we could not do them and leave them to the many caberet bands that are around but, the people who book you usually really, really want you to be there and the money is good - so why not.

LOCAL GIG GUIDE - DECEMBER

Wednesday 1st
Blues Ridge Boys - Old Gold Cross
Smouched - The Crypt

Thursday 2nd
The Lost Boys - The Cellars

Friday 3rd
Blues Broekers (Drummer of Pretty Things) - Carlisle
Lazy Train - The Sixbells (Chiddingly)
Nemo James - Yelton
The Frillies - The Comet
More Mushroom Vicar - The Yorkshire Grey
Paring Skeletons - The Golden Martlett

Saturday 4th
Big Spanner - Carlisle
Roger Hubbard - The Three Oaks
Span & the Strangers - The Sixbells (Chiddingly)
The Six 'T's - Yelton
The Amigos - The Yorkshire Grey
Rainy Taxi - The Golden Martlett

Sunday 5th
Blues Ridge Boys - Old Gold Cross
Paul Milins - Ypres Castle Inn
Jazz (Lunch) - Bin Ice Level - The Sixbells (Chiddingly)
Yaldene Men Band - The Two Sawyers (Pett)
Papa Brittle (on stage 9pm) - The Crypt

Tuesday 7th
Zanies (60's) - The Sixbells (Chiddingly)
Passion Dance (Guitar Duo)
& Tony Cameron + Roger Carey - The Street Jazz

Wednesday 8th
The Wishplants & Adaze Amaze - The Crypt

Thursday 9th
Blues Ridge Boys - Maidens Head, Uckfield
The Bullbacks - The Cellars
IAN Bennett - C & W - Pretty Mouth - The Crypt
Inside Out - Pig in Paradise

Friday 10th
Flying Arvi - Carlisle
The Bullbacks - The Sixbells (Chiddingly)
King Taran (Reggae) - The Crypt
Blackman Bros Band - Yelton
The Turpin Bros - The Yorkshire Grey
Lizzardmen - The Golden Martlett

Saturday 11th
English Roudes - Carlisle
John & Kathy Dyson - The Three Oaks
Hackney Slim - The Sixbells (Chiddingly)
Swift Half - Yelton
The Frillies - The Comet
The Bullbacks - The Yorkshire Grey
Subject Too - The Golden Martlett

Sunday 12th
Blues Ridge Boys - Old Gold Cross (Lunch)
John Pearson & Roger Hubbard - Ypres Castle Inn
Jazz (Lunch), Primitive Instincts - The Sixbells (Chiddingly)

Tuesday 14th
Folk Club Xmas Party (Open till 12) - The Sixbells

Wednesday 15th
Blues Ridge Boys - Old Gold Cross
Angry Barty (with Julian Arquesles & Tom Bancroft)
& John Ballard & Simon Shaw Duo - The Street Jazz

Wednesday 15th
Local Bands Night with 5 Bands
Including Day Tripper, Pretty Mouth, Soul Inside
& Inside Out - The Crypt

Thursday 16th
Blues Ridge Boys - The Crown (Eastbourne)
Disorganised Crime - The Cellars

Friday 17th
The Lost Boys (Xmas Party for Charity) - Carlisle
Disorganised Crime - The Sixbells (Chiddingly)
Institute of G.O.A. (Dance) - The Crypt
No Limit - Yelton
Big Spanner - The Comet
Image what Image - The Yorkshire Grey
Groundhogs (Tickets Only) - The Golden Martlett

Saturday 18th
Die Laughing - Carlisle
Duck Soup - The Sixbells (Chiddingly)
The River Boys - Yelton
Music Night (3 bands Day Tripper + Supp.) - Pig in Paradise
Jacobs Noak - The Yorkshire Grey
Rough Cut - The Golden Martlett

Sunday 19th
Spencer Jones - The Three Oaks
Blues Ridge Boys - Old Gold Cross (Lunch)

Turpin Bros. - Ypres Castle Inn
Jazz (Lunch), Back to Back - The Sixbells (Chiddingly)

Tuesday 21st
Cowpokes (C & W) - The Sixbells (Chiddingly)
Liane Carrol & Lirr Genocky - The Street Jazz

Wednesday 22nd
Blues Ridge Boys - Old Gold Cross
Jah Shaka (Reggae) - The Crypt

Thursday 23rd
Bennett Gig - Carlisle
The Lost Boys - The Cellars
The Bolivian Bros. - The Yorkshire Grey
House Party - The Golden Martlett
The Dharma's Hawlian Night - The George Street Hall

Friday 24th
The Bullbacks - Carlisle
Pat Valente's Experience - Beer Engine
Duo (T.B.A.) - Ypres Castle Inn
T.B.A. - The Sixbells (Chiddingly)
The Amigos - The Bulverhythe
The Six 'T's - Yelton
The Thunderbirds - The Comet
The Dharma's Xmas Party - The Golden Martlett

Sunday 26th
Blues Ridge Boys - Old Gold Cross (Lunch)
Live Music Night - The Golden Martlett

Tuesday 28th
George Ricci + Dave Holdsworth
Street Jazz Xmas Party (till 2am - Host of Artist) - The Crypt

Wednesday 29th
Blues Ridge Boys - Old Gold Cross

Thursday 30th
Blues Ridge Boys - Mount Pleasant
Emerald - The Cellars

Friday 31st
Threes a Crowd - The Three Oaks
Turpin Bros. & Eric + Phil - Ypres Castle Inn
Double Vision (Ticket Only) - The Sixbells (Chiddingly)
Pete Prescott & Rick Pentecost - The Bulverhythe
Roadhouse - James Burton
Soul Express - Yelton
More Mushroom Vicar - The Golden Martlett
Live Music & Dancing - The Two Sawyers (Pett)

Saturday 1st
Cunning Stunts - Carlisle
Phoenix (Reggae) - The Golden Martlett


Every Tuesday, Chris Fyfe & Friends at the Cinque Port Arms

**Send Your Gigs to
Music Files Address.
See Box Ad**

The Directory

The Carlisle	0424 420193 (Hastings)
The Yelton	0424 422240 (Hastings)
The 1066	0424 773224 (Battle)
The James Burton	0424 422705 (Hastings)
The Crypt	0424 444675 (Hastings)
The Street	0424 444675 (Hastings)
The Pig in Paradise	0424 439444 (Hastings)
The Comet	0424 439117 (St. Leonards)
The Beer Engine	0424 420074 (Hastings)
Ypres	0797 223248 (Rye)
The Wilton Cellars	0424 223200 (Bexhill)
The Sixbells	0825 872227 (Chiddingly)
The Two Sawyers	0424 812255 (Pett)
The Crown	0424 428308 (Hastings)
The Golden Martlett	0323 843728 (Hellingly)

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BAND TIP

Take a 1.5mm mini jack (stereo) connected to 1/4 inch jack (mono) lead with you to gigs. Then, if any body has a walkman or ghetto blaster, you can play them through you P.A. This is especially handy for out door gigs where you often find that sounds haven't been organised properly. Alternatively you can play your demo in between sets & realise a few more sales.

Out Of Town

When was the last time you travelled to a gig or for a night out? And I don't mean as far as the end of the road or to *Wembley Stadium!* I mean travel within the local area. There are loads of good things happening within a short car, taxi or train ride's distance. Here are some of them:

THE COMET in *Harley Shute Road*. This band has fought hard and long for a music license to put on gigs and is having some great entertainment within it's walls. It is only a short bus ride from the town centre (no.98) and the buses do run quite late. f not then a cab back to the town between 4 people will cost about four quid. The same goes for the **WISHING TREE** in *Hollington* but it's a bit further.

BATTLE: The **1066** in the *High Street* has regular well attended Folk Nights on a Sunday with some very well known acts (**Jake Thackery** etc.) and is only a two pound train ride away. Once again the last train back is quite late or a cab will cost 7-8 pounds.

ROBERTSBRIDGE: Both the **OSTRICH** and the **GEORGE** were both putting on live music on the same night (when will landlords work out agreements between themselves?), but recently only the **GEORGE** is doing it. Once again it's only a short train ride away but a cab back might be quite dear.

BEXHILL: Bexhill is not the sleepy home for geriatrics we all think it is but quite a *buzzing* little town. Two places worth a mention are: **The WILTON CELLARS** which has good local live music on *Thursdays* and the **BEXHILL ROWING CLUB** which has music on different days (*usually Fridays*). The Rowing Club is members only but membership is free and the beer is cheap (*hurrah & hussar*). Trains & buses run quite late and cabs are available at the station. For a different night out why not try **SHUNTERS** which is *under new management*.

PETT: The **TWO SAWYERS** at *Pett* is a little

further away but on Sunday nights is well worth a visit. They have a really nice scene going with duos including cut down versions of **The BOLIVIANS**, **The VARLEYS** & **The DHARMAS**. The main bar serves excellent food while the bands play out the back.

ALSO RANS: THE SIX BELLS at Chiddingingy, **The SHERLOCK HOLMES** and the **PRINCE ALBERT** in Eastbourne. **The GOLDEN MARTLETT** in Hellingly. **The SHELLY ARMS** at Nutley.

So why not get your bus pass out or better still find a sober chauffeur and get *travelling* - there's some good night to be had away from the town centre!

Son Of Grapevine

International Rescue informs us that **The Thunderbirds** will be reforming for a **XMAS Eve** gig at **The Comet**. Following several months absence from the scene. Keyboard player and spokesman, **Steve Todd**, said "*I'm not really bothered about the money, but I would like to show people how much I have improved*".

Steve, who works for drug and alcohol re-hab agency "Trinity Project" has recently become a *Buddhist* and is experimenting with *Electric Shock Therapy*, which he hopes to work into the band's set. "*I think it will be very exciting, if I can just get the MIDI connections sorted out*", declared Steve.

Another band in limbo is "**Bass Foundation**", following one members *Sabbatical* to India. Although, he hasn't quite left yet, in fact, **Ben Rizzla** is thinking of postponing his trip in order to complete a course on *Motorcycle Maintenance*. Rolling an *enormous* cigarette with only one hand, Ben confided "*I'm not interested in the money. I just want to get around!*"

Following heavy *all-night* sessions working on **Music Files**, poor old **Jez Gillett** had to pay a visit to the *doctors* after seeing "*space ships*" over **Hastings Pier**. He was playing a gig with the **Lost Boys** in *Ashford* at the time.

Ex-band **Fountains** guitarist and writer '*Dangerous*' **Nick Chisholm** back in town after getting kicked out of *University* for forging tickets to Students Union gigs. Nick was rehearsing with a new band but they *split* following a disagreement on the *name*. Now he plans a *new line up* excluding a drummer because, he says, "*They are nothing but trouble and just make a mess!*"

"*Lapidari*" singer and guitarist, **Mick Walker** reporting an odd *communion* with nature recently. Mick is very fond of the odd *early morning ramble* along the beach and claimed that he was sitting on the edge of the **Harbour Arm** one night and a **Dolphin** popped it's head out of the water alongside and *spoke* to him.

Mick admitted to having had a couple of *sherberts* but said he was perfectly okay to drive. He claimed the Dolphin spoke to him for **15 minutes** but even when pressed would not divulge the nature of the monologue because, he says, "*It was of a highly personal nature!*"

Q: What do you call a one-eyed Dinosaur ?

A: Do you think hesaurus !

GRUMBLE ZONE

If you don't come I'll stop doing it!
A Promoters view by Keith Leech

I am into **Folk Music** and **Roots Music** in a big way. A couple of years ago I was going around moaning that no really interesting folk acts came into *Hastings* with the exception of the really big *White Rock* pullers. Somehow all the tours went to *Brighton, Tunbridge Wells, London* and missed out this corner. So I decided to do something about it. I set up a *folk arts section of Hastings Arts* and set about asking for Arts Council grants so that the people of Hastings could benefit from seeing these bands. We've had some good stuff. **The Barely Works, Rory McLeod.** We had **Radio Two** down to do a recording of a Breton group at the **George Street Hall.**

Tour Promoters call me and I try to get what's going around as cheaply as I can. Now, as a gigging musician this *hurts.* I understand that the bands need to live, yet at the same time know what the local market can afford. I deliberately try to steer away from quieter and solo outfits so as not to clash with the acts being put on at the **1066 in Battle.**

I have learned that the only way to pull people from out of town is to put on something which is not playing elsewhere in the **South East,** otherwise we are looking towards our own population and as I say to tour promoters, **50%** of our catchment area is Sea and the rest is **50%** Romney Marsh, so our catchment area is low. (This is how I get the bands cheap, along with calling on a lot of favours and having to pay back favours in the future with my own gigs).

So what happens, *nobody* comes! Let's give you a typical breakdown, if you could do better please tell me how!

I have a grant of about **£250,** this is to last *all* year. I need it as a safety net to prevent me losing too much out of my own pocket, while it is there I can book ahead with confidence. A band calls in asking for **£600** (Not unreasonable, there are five of them, they have to cover travel, and it is basically the equivalent of a days work), I *beat them down* to **£400.** (That galls but it is the only possibility). I manage to *scrounge* printing costs so they are **free.** The **hall** costs me say **£50-£75.** Other miscellaneous overheads such as **hire of PA** comes to **£25.** I am lucky if I can keep it as low as **£500.** I am in fact pleased to have put together the package so cheaply. The *capacity* of my venue is **120.** I know from experience that I never get more than 100 people. I have paid off the accommodation and support band with *free tickets.* It doesn't take a *brilliant* mathematician to work out that I cannot do it for less than **£5.00** a ticket, (I do concessions for **£3.50**) and then somebody comes up and moans about the *price!* Then you get the others who didn't come because it was *raining* or the *Terminator* was on TV. I echo what was said before, if you *want* gigs then *go to them.* The grant gets slowly nibbled away and the safety net goes, when it is finished that's the lot, no more gigs. *What do I get out of it?* **Blood Pressure** and wondering whether it was worth all the effort. So over to you. I have about **£200** left to put on Folk/Roots acts between now and next summer. Who do you want to see? And what is more, if it is raining will you bloody well come?

Keith Leech
Old Humphrey Avenue
Hastings

PS.

There is another malais in this town, "*If I haven't heard of them they can't be any good*". Quite frankly, what narrow minded **crap!** If they are big enough to play the **big Folk Festivals** they are big enough for me. There's more to music than **Radio One** and **Melody Maker!** But here we are into quite another can of worms - **now there's a point for debate!**

Grapevine News

FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE

Big cuddly thanks to **Graham at A.S.M. Music** (*Records, Tapes and CD's*) in **St Andrews Market, Hastings.** **Real Ale** Ian, Graham, put up with the *Guinness* for a night and came down to the third **Forum** to show his support for the cause. On hearing **Jeze Gillett** explain that the **Audio Gig Guide** was struggling a bit through lack of response (even though it was only **£15** a year to the bands) Graham has offered to cover the main operating expense, which is the *line rental.* This means that we can now offer the **Audio Gig Guide free** to local bands and promoters. **Yes Free!** See separate information box for details.

Don't forget that as well as thousands of rare and popular records in different formats, **A.S.M. Music** also stock releases by your local favourites like **Pete Prescott** and **Jacob's Noak,** as well as your humble tome's solo effort.

FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE

If you are stuck for *gift* ideas this **CHRISTMAS** why not give your *loved one* or *pal* a tape by a **local** artist or band. Or if you really love them a collection of all the bands tapes in a *handsomely* wrapped package. Nearly all the bands have their tapes on sale at gigs and if you know someone likes a band then they will surely appreciate a permanent record.

New band **"The Amigos"** have just completed recording their *demo* which should soon be on sale at their gigs. Featuring ex Bolivian **Kevin Francis** and ex **Jacob's Noak's Phil Flack** teaming up with guitarist **Dave Pellet** the band are filling their diary, and a *rush preview* of their tape suggests that next year we will be hearing a lot more of them.

Of course **Phil Flack's** departure has left a big drum hole in **Jacob's Noak** who are seeking a *committed* replacement. If you are interested you can contact **Roger Flack** at **B&T Keyboards** (Phone 0424 434480).

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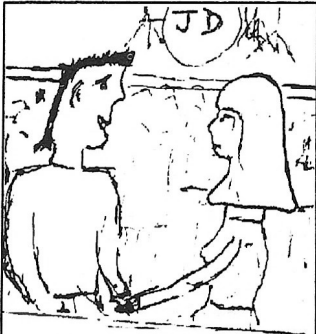
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