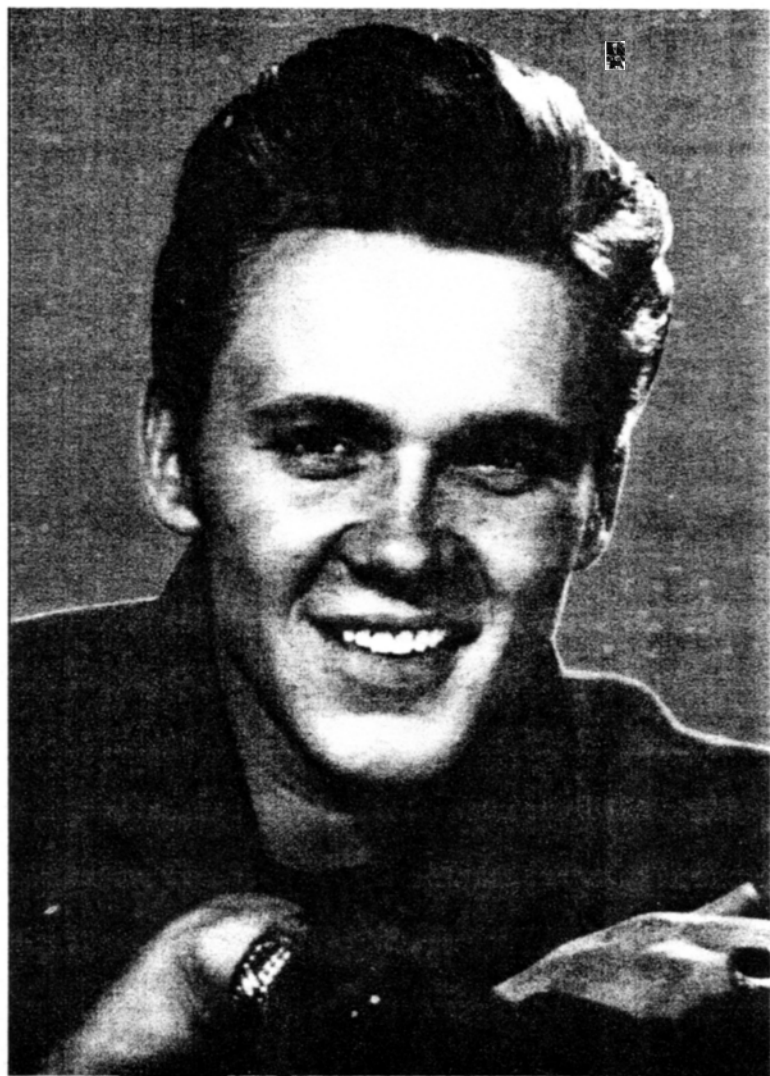


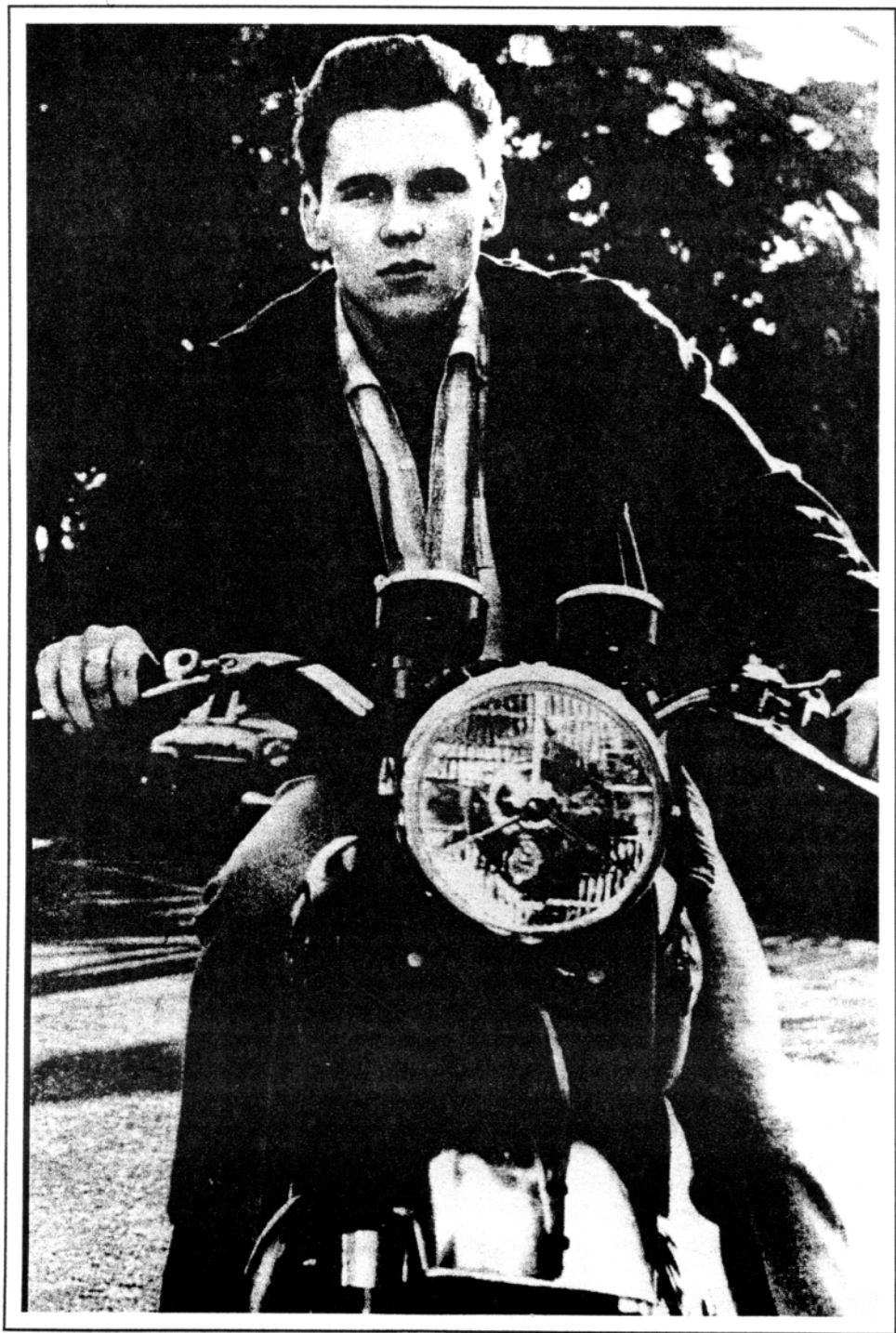
Number 12

# Billy Fury



**THE SOUND OF FURY**

Official Billy Fury Fan Club





# ***BILLY FURY***

***Always Remembered ....***

## **THE SOUND OF FURY**

**Official Billy Fury Fan Club**

**C/o 36 Manbey Grove Stratford London E15 1EX**

Good things in life don't cost a lot  
Number twelve is what you've got

Happy New Year Fury Followers.

Thank you all for staying with us and for helping to keep Billy's memory alive.

Thanks also to the many DJs out there who continue to play Billy's music.

They're not all in the UK either, when Neil Riley was on holiday in Greece last August he heard "Wondrous Place" on a Jazz programme, on Radio Athens, and it wasn't advertising Toyota.

Welcome especially to new members. It's good to have you with us.

Enjoy the mag.

Love and Fury

Maureen

Maureen Bowden, Jackie Clark, Chris Eley  
Clare Mehmet-Nugent, Jean Prosser



February 2001

## THIS 'N' THAT

With Chris Eley

It's November and the current major story is the proposed film of Billy's life, to star Ewan McGregor. It promises to be a 'feel good' film, which is great, providing it's more accurate than the Jerry Lee biopic, 'Great Balls of Fire' and others. What with the film, the statue, the plethora of tribute bands, and a promised boxed set from Decca, this promises to be a great and very full couple of years.

It's a Saturday afternoon and I'm watching a video of 'Unforgettable' live from 'Cintras'. What a pity no-one has thought to package up and re-release the whole series on re-mastered video, nearly every copy I know of is fuzzy (it was 1983 after all). This is how I remember Billy, 1982 was the year for me, seems like only yesterday that we were rushing to Hucknall, Burton-on-Trent, Northampton (and Norwich for some), to catch him after such a long absence, since 1976 at least. Such a large part of our lives, magical, memorable, and sad, but finally Billy just may be getting the status that he so deserves.

Nice to hear 'Nothin Shakin' on Sounds of the 60s, I missed the dedication unfortunately. Some nice reviews of the Sound of Fury re-issue in NDT, Record Collector, and others. An unnecessary comment in one Sunday paper magazine about Billy looking (on the front of the first LP) like Norman Wisdom trying to be a rock 'n' roll star! Agreed, it's not the best photo ever, but it is the most classic British rock 'n' roll LP of all time (including the classic cover!). One thing every reviewer agreed upon – the music is great. How could they not agree.

Just heard from staunch fan Fay Slater that the Essoldo (formerly the Ritz), has just been knocked down. This is tragic, especially as the scene of Billy's official debut might have been needed for filming purposes. As I write, Fay plans to offer approximately 80 bricks which she managed to liberate, to fans who make donations to the Bronze Fund. The plan is apparently to paint them bronze coloured and make a plinth and placard to accompany them – what an innovative idea. Needless to say Fay and John never make a penny themselves (they make plates featuring pictures of the bronze miniatures – with permission from the Sound of Fury). Obviously these bricks, like the plates, can only be taken to venues such as the Carousel, so hopefully if any remain, they should appear at Mill Hill in January. We still have a long way to go and it would be nice to have the statue up before the film is released. Every pound helps so if any of you can help to fund raise in any way, please do.

Many exciting releases are scheduled for 2001, 'Billy Fury Love Songs', the second and third albums back to back on CD for the first time, the boxed set of course, and who knows what else. Certainly, I would think, a soundtrack album to tie in with the film. I do hope they include some material from 1967-74 in the film, for realism, and because I love those tracks so much, as I know, do many other fans.



Several fans have chastised themselves to me for not being 'proper fans', just because they stopped collecting the singles from 1967 onwards. They really shouldn't do that, there's no such thing as a 'proper' fan; everyone is different, and if they have loved Billy's music for 40 years, or four, it makes no difference. There are many reasons for that so called 'neglect', usually that fans were suddenly fully adult, with pressing family and work needs, life had other priorities, and the whole music and social scene did change beyond recognition.

I have a friend who only owns 'We Want Billy' and nothing else, yet she adores Billy. The battered old mono original goes on during the housework each day, and comes off when she has finished. I don't understand anyone who doesn't have to have everything Billy ever did, but I accept that everyone is different and that those fans are perfectly happy, perhaps happier than those unfortunate ones of us who are driven to collect. The forthcoming film will probably bring in a host of young fans who will be most welcome, and help to ensure the survival of Billy's legacy well into the future.

Also scheduled for next year, but available in the USA now, is a four CD set of Rick Nelson, a career overview with rare and unreleased tracks, seemingly from all periods of his career. This will be a must for fans of the USA equivalent to Billy. Billy loved r 'n' b, I'm not sure how he felt about the blues, but a lot of the time the distinction is hard to establish. I remember when I used to play Billy and Elvis 'B' sides on the jukebox around '63, '64, there was a blues track I couldn't play enough, 'Smokestack Lightning' by Howlin' Wolf. Little did we know that it had been cut back in '56. His unique and penetrating 'howlin' and growlin' vocal style is something else and on 'The Genuine Article' Chess MCD 11073 you get 'Lightning' but also 24 other tracks such as 'Spoonful' (covered well by Dion), 'The Red Rooster' (Sam Cooke, Rolling Stones etc.), 'Dust My Broom' (Elmore James) and the wonderfully earthy 'Goin' Down Slow' and '300lbs of Joy'. Great value at under a tenner. If this guy had the guitar skills of Bo Diddley or Chuck Berry and received the right promotion, he would have been a major mainstream artist I'm sure.

Two essential releases available from specialist oldies dealers, are digipack collections from The Beatles and the Rolling Stones. I had never heard The Beatles version of 'Take Good Care of My Baby' or 'Crying Waiting Hoping'. These plus the definitive version of Gerry's pleasant 'How Do You Do It' and many others can be found on The Decca Tapes LK 4438. The Stones were brilliant, particularly at r 'n' b, and on Rolling Stones Stereo SHZT 531, there is great evidence of this. Billy really should have cut 'Route '66', it would have been brilliant, but here we have the Stones version live, in perfect sound, together with the fabulous 'You Better Move On', and 'Mona', also live. It's great to hear, for the first time, the 'Last Time' (sorry about that!), and 'Satisfaction', in perfect stereo. Gives these, and many other numbers here, a new life, more vibrancy.

Of interest to collectors of versions of Billy's songs by other people is a version of 'Halfway To Paradise' that I had never heard before –Barbara Ruskin does a

mid-60's version which, in truth, is nothing to write home about, but is essential for us completists. There are 30 tracks on 'Going Back' 'The Songs of Goffin and King' Sequel NEMCD 376. I particularly liked Johnny Sandon's attempt at the beautiful Drifter's number, 'Some Kinda Wonderful'. Billy, as I mentioned before, would sometimes open with 'One Mint Julep' and another version has surfaced on Johnny Otis – 'Rock 'n' Roll Hit Parade', a worthwhile CD. The version here is by the Jayos, but it is nice to imagine Billy's lighter, but beautifully expressive blues voice, performing the number. Nice version of 'Long Tall Sally' to give Little Richard a run for his money too, also 'Hey Hey Hey', 'Earth Angel' and others. Back in the 60s Dion was set to tour on the same bill as Billy, but I don't think it happened, it was mentioned in Disc. Both were great, both had terrific non-smooth vocals, both wrote great songs, and both had a large 'wilderness' period.

Although album of the year is undoubtedly the Rockstar Gene and Eddie CD, 'Rock 'n' Roll Memories' (with Billy pics!) as mentioned in the last mag, a close second has got to be, 'Dèja Nu', by Dion, ACE CHCD 765. Several numbers were written by him during the 1959 tour with Buddy Holly and have only now surfaced. My buddy Alan French (of Billy's backing band Dr Marigold's Prescription) and I particularly love 'Hug My Radiator', a real Chuck Berry type slice of Rock 'n' Roll (I only wish Dion wouldn't pronounce it Raddiator, spoils it a bit, but I guess if that's the way it's said down in the Bronx – so be it!) At least that awful word gotten doesn't seem to crop up here. All of the numbers have a raw rock 'n' roll/doo wop/blues flavour and that rasping, quite unique, and punchy delivery, sits well on these numbers. The recording technique has been kept simplistic, so the overall feel is a cross between the sound of the 50's and today. Nice – check it out!

During 1982 Billy was working up a number called 'Wind and Rain', I recall a tribute song being done (was it by Mark Haley of the Four Aces? – not sure) referring to Billy working on that (presumably unfinished) number. How apt a title now as I write, will it ever end! Hope none of you are flooded out or blown away!

The Beatles are at Number One in the album charts, understandable but I much prefer their first three albums to most of the stuff on this CD. Poor old Elvis rests only at No. 25 with the superb 50 Greatest Hits double CD package, it's he who should reside at No. 1! Great picture on his latest Christmas CD but the best release of all, in my view, can only be ordered from Mail Order outlets, namely the quite wonderful 'Too Much Monkey Business' Follow That Dream CD (RCA Special Products) 74321-81233-2. Back around the 80s Felton Jarvis took at least 18 tracks and added a more contemporary backing. Apart from the irritating incessant guitar jangle on the beautiful 'Loving Arms', and the totally disposable take of 'Blue Suede Shoes', the results are fresh and exciting. 'Burning Love' and 'Guitar Man', 'Too Much Monkey Business' and 'Kentucky Rain', among others, have been given the treatment and sound almost new. You will need to play them a few times, especially my favourite 'I'll Be There', which may not work on every level but is still lovely. Highly recommended, except for purists. Be adventurous, give it a whirl!

Heard on radio 4 on 29 June, a spoof on Like I've Never Been Gone, a comedy featuring the quite wonderful Roy Hudd and June Whitfield, both singing the title song (I think) 'Like They've Never Been Gone'. Only caught the tail end of it but it sounded pretty funny, as it would, but it shows a bit of Billy's influence on the nation's culture, other than the more obvious links with Morrissey etc. This is at least the third play now to feature that number in one form or another.

Well, time to close. I hope that each and every one of you will have had a great festive season. Many thanks to everyone who has been so kind to me during 2000, and those who have helped the Sound of Fury/Billy Fury Bronze Fund out, in whatever way. A big special thanks to Cecilia and Ken – their help throughout the year has been immeasurable.

The views and comments in this column, unless specified otherwise, are my own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the rest of the syndicate.

### **BOBBY VEE**

Thanks to Ann & Di Vickers

There was a recent interview on Radio Leicester with Bobby Vee speaking from his home in the States. One of the questions asked was "What was it like working on a film with such stars as Billy Fury and Helen Shapiro in "Play it Cool". Bobby Vee replied "Yeah. I've got a poster from that movie – all that stuff has become collectable over the years. I've enjoyed having some of those things. The actual fact is, I've never seen the movie and when I recorded my bit for it we just came in and spent one day in the studio. I met Billy only briefly for a prearranged photography session. We had some pictures taken for about ten minutes and said hello to each other and said y'know I like your records and that was it".

When our Clare heard about this she got a copy of "Play It Cool" and gave it to Bobby Vee when she went to see the Solid Gold US Rock 'n' Roll show in Croydon. Brian Hyland told her that he'd been trying to find a copy of Billy's 10" LP for years. He now has a copy of it plus the CD courtesy of Clare.

## FURY MEMORIES

by Mark Haley

I wasn't keeping a diary around the time I had the opportunity of meeting and working with Billy Fury. Fortunately the memories have remained strong due to the positive impact Billy had on the people around him.

It was the Swinging Blue Jeans who were responsible for bringing us together. Their manager Hal Carter was involved in the comeback that was gathering momentum in 1982. My band "The Haleys" played on the same bill earlier that year and when Billy was looking around for a new backing band "The Jeans" recommended us.

Tony Read sent a greatest hits collection along with some new material and we spent a busy week learning all the arrangements and harmonies. The first rehearsal took place in my living room! "Love or Money" had just been in the charts so I guess it was around late September. It was clear that Billy was not well yet his extraordinary charisma charged the room like electricity. We ran through all the hits and everybody was pleased with the sound. At the time The Haleys were still touring all over the country so Billy would travel to wherever we were for rehearsals. I recall him driving up to Sunderland on one occasion.

The first gig was held at the Beck Theatre, Slough. We spent the afternoon running through the set and I can confirm how nervous Billy used to get before the show. He need not have worried – it was a huge success. The ovation he received walking out on to the stage was overwhelming and he gave a memorable performance. High points of the show for me were "Unchain my Heart" which powered along, "Wondrous Place" which has gone on to enjoy great popularity in recent times, "Halfway to Paradise" because it's arguably Billy's best loved song and "Johnny B Goode" for the firework display that really startled me. No one had said *that* was going to happen. Best moment of all was at the start of "It's Only Make Believe". When he sang "People see us everywhere ..." a scream went up that would have deafened the Beatles. It was at my prompting that we performed "Devil or Angel". The record meant a lot to Billy but I think he was a little concerned about doing new material that might be unfamiliar to his fans. Not after we finished! The song went over really big and from then on you couldn't stop him singing it. Photographs taken that night feature on "The One and Only" album sleeve. My brother Lawrie just gets in the picture playing bass guitar (I was cropped out on the other side of the stage!) You can see the fireworks in the background.

That night the audience would not let him leave the stage. In the end he said he'd have to stop or he might pass out! He literally gave them everything. It remains the most charismatic performance I've seen during my career and I've worked with the best. He needed thirty minutes after the show to get his strength back during which time a long line of people queued to meet him. Billy was absolutely thrilled by the

response during and after the show. We all were.

What isn't well known is that Billy's last performance was in January 1983 at the Holiday Inn, Leicester. His record company, Polydor, were holding a meeting there for their employees and Billy agreed to do a show for them. Although his fans didn't have the chance to attend, he still put on a great show. A few days later I got a phone call from the local paper with the tragic news.

Billy had lots of plans that year. A national tour was being planned; he had several recording projects he was looking forward to (including mine – Bill wanted to produce some tracks) and "This is Your Life" were planning to present him with the Red Book. It wasn't to be ....

I attended the funeral along with Lawrie and our dad Freddy. It was a highly emotional occasion. The choir sang a beautiful version of "I'm Lost Without You". Working with Billy was the start of a career that flourishes to this day. Every now and then Lawrie and I do a "Haleys" gig and play a couple of Fury songs. Knowing Billy was priceless. He really was the gentle, kind man we all perceived him to be, and boy could he sing!

I think it's wonderful that so many of his fans still care for him after all these years. Good luck to you all.

Footnote: Mark now plays piano for The Rubettes.

*Thanks to Ann & Di Vickers for asking Mark to share these memories with us.*

## A STAR IS BORN

by Maureen Bowden

Neil Hiley gave me a glowing report of fan club member Mike Button's performance at the Carousel Billy weekend in November.

Neil's seen countless numbers of young "wanna be's" but he was very impressed with Mike. He said he looked good, he sounded good and he was definitely a hit with the ladies. He added that if anyone ever does a show based on Jack Good's "Oh Boy!" Mike must be in the running for the part of Little Tony. (Don't you lot pretend to be too young to remember him.)

Neil concluded that Mike has a great future and he's a credit to the fan club.

Well done Mike and thanks Neil.

## **CROSS MY HEART**

by Maureen Bowden.

Well that's Christmas out of the way I hope you had a good one. Thanks very much for all the cards. I received one from someone who forgot to put his or her name on it. I bet it was one of you lot. I also received several with the most amazing variations of my address. I agree it's a bit tricky. Val Deavol accuses me of living in an anagram. The name of my house is "Gorffwysfa" which is Welsh for "Resting Place" - some hopes!. One or two, or three or four of you have realized that with a bit of jiggery pokery you can stick "Fury" in the middle of it, so it's metamorphosised into "Gorffurysfa". God knows what that's Welsh for. I even received one addressed to The Billy Fury Fan Club, Llandudno. I don't live anywhere near Llandudno and there are about 600 places in Wales which begin with Llan but it reached me. Aren't our postmen wonderful?

Chris and Linda and Harry Whitehouse sent cards with lovely pictures of Billy on them. Harry's can be viewed on his excellent web site "The Billy Fury Story" [www.billyfury.co.uk](http://www.billyfury.co.uk). If you're a net surfer it's definitely worth a visit. We bought our foster daughter Rebecca a computer for Christmas so I'm making the attempt although I'm not so much a surfer as a paddler. The damn things are weird aren't they?

Rebecca is now busy recycling all the Christmas cards into gift tags to sell for the Bronze Fund so watch out!

Now that January's here it's time to start thinking about Billy's anniversary reunion at Mill Hill on the 28th and I have to decide whether or not I dare throw myself on the mercy of Railtrack (not literally) to get me to London. By the time you read this I'll have made the decision but at the time of writing I'm still dithering about it. Anyone who's had even the slightest experience of my driving will understand why I won't go anywhere near London at the wheel of a car. After I scraped through my driving test at the fourth attempt (probably because the examiner didn't want me to ever cross her path again), my instructor said to me "let's face it Mo, you're not what I'd call a natural driver but I don't think you're exactly dangerous." I said "So I won't kill anyone then?" He said "No, but you'll frighten a few." That's why I take the train to London. I must admit I usually survive pretty well although I have had a number of traumatic experiences involving an amorous drunk in Crewe Waiting Room; an incontinent Labrador and an inflatable Mr Blobby - but they're other stories.

Anyway, If I don't make it in January because the railways are still playing silly  
beggars I hope to see lots of you at Billy's birthday reunion in April, when we'll be  
able to say, in the immortal words of Spike Milligan

"Spring is sprung the grass is riz

I wonder where the birdies is.

The birds is on the wing, no that's absurd

The birdies isn't on the wing the wings is on the bird."

Well, even Spike has his off days.

Love and Fury / Maureen

### **MONTY REMEMBERS**

Personal memories of Radio Merseyside presenter Monty Lister

Interviewed by Maureen Bowden

Back in 1960 Monty did a regular lunchtime record programme for the workers  
of Unilever Ltd Port Sunlight Merseyside. The programme was broadcast from  
Gladstone Hall Port Sunlight. He also did two regular hospital programmes,  
"Sunday Spin" from Clatterbridge Hospital and "Music with Monty" from Clever  
Hospital. He used to pounce upon artistes at any theatre he could get to and persuade  
them to give him a taped interview for the hospital shows. He did an historical  
interview at the Liverpool Empire with Billy, Joe Brown, Eddie Cochran and Gene  
Vincent. The tape is now much sought after.

When the interviews were finished he asked Billy and Joe if they'd take part in his  
lunchtime show at Port Sunlight. They agreed. The show included competitions for  
which Billy's and Joe's records were given as prizes. When the winners came on  
stage for them Monty had to put his life on the line fighting off the girls who were  
trying to get at Billy

The show finished at 1.55 pm then Monty, Billy and Joe walked across Port Sunlight  
Village to the Bridge Inn for lunch.



The workers' cottages in the village impressed Billy and he asked Monty if he thought it would be possible for him to buy one. Monty said "Not unless you get a job at Unilever." Luckily Billy didn't want one that much!

They reached the Inn at 2.05 pm, five minutes after closing time, but they were allowed in and they had the place to themselves. They finished their meal and ordered a sweet. It was a long time coming. They waited – and waited – and waited. Finally, Joe took matters into his own hands. He produced a starting pistol and fired it into the air as a gentle hint to the chef to hurry up

Monty remembers Billy as extremely shy and modest. He described him as "A very nice kid."

Chris has reminded me that the interviews with Eddie and Gene are on the "Rockstar" CD reviewed in "This n That" in mag 11.

Many thanks to Monty for providing the photo below.



## THE A-Z OF BILLY FURY

by  
Lorraine "Lolly" Whitaker

A is for ALWAYS	He'll be in our hearts
B is for BEAUTIFUL	Performing his art
C is for CHARM	Which he always displayed
D is for DELIGHT	Every record he made
E is for EVER	We'll forget him never
F is for FAME	His will last forever
G is for GENTLE	Our own gentle King
H is for HAPPINESS	So much did he bring
I is for INTEREST	When he came along
J is for JEALOUSY	That fabulous song
K is for KING	Our British King of Rock
L is for LOVE	Non-stop round the clock
M is for MEMORIES	Most happy but some sad
N is for NEVER	Was he thought of as bad
O is for ORIGINAL	His own special sound
P is for POLISHED	Performer all round
Q is for QUALITY	And quantity too
R is for ROMANCE	Just when you felt blue
S is for SEXY	What more can you say
T is for TALENT	His inimitable way
U is for UNIQUE	Such a great fame
V is for VICTORY	Known by his first name
W is for WONDROUS	That place we all know
X is for EXCITE	Each record film and show
Z is for ZENITH	BILLY'S GREATEST & ZEST

The end of this alphabet – it was easy to do  
So much to remember – BILLY, how can we forget you?



## GONNA TYPE A LETTER

**G**raceland Memphis .. So different from that cold, wet and windy September Sunday for my first visit to Billy Fury's final resting place.

It's impossible not to compare the two experiences of that first visit .. remembering back to my first trip in 1985 to Graceland and the feeling I had at that moment in the Meditation Garden in front of Elvis's grave .. piled so high with flowers it was difficult to see any words and could only feel the loving silence from fans of every nationality paying their respects.

For Billy. Maybe in January and April the hundreds of fans would pay their respects and I wouldn't be able to see for flowers – those months representing very deep feelings and memories of him. Travelling from Yorkshire by coach/ train and staying over in Surrey, luggage kept to an absolute minimum .. lung problems causing frustrating carrying limitations! I needed to bring some kind of "token" to leave on the grave, and decided to make something tiny to bring with me. After all, it's the thought that counts, and I never leave Graceland without leaving something I've taken over for the grave so no way could I do that to Billy. Discreetly placing the tiny silk flower spray and Billy picture in the bottom corner, I must admit I felt slightly inadequate seeing the other lovely flowers being lovingly placed there .. but I knew in my heart it was all I needed and to feel that loving, respectful "quite whisper" of fans exchanging thoughts and experiences.

It has to be said you could just about hear teeth chattering also – it was so very very cold and damp. September in Paddington Cemetery I'm frozen like ice wishing my woolly vest was on! Graceland in September you'd be sizzling in suntop, shorts and covered in suntan lotion! Well I certainly got my punishment for braving our consistently unreliable weather – that night I started a streaming cold with resultant chest infection and ended up 4 days later in Leeds General Infirmary for 5 days .. OK yes I'm back on course now and can only presume one thing .. somehow Elvis got word I was going to visit Billy's grave and got a little jealous pang, ha ha! Was it really JEALOUSY, SUSPICION, or just the DEVIL IN DISGUISE from that U S MALE .. I GOTTA KNOW then MAYBE TOMORROW it will be just LIKE HE'S NEVER BEEN GONE. Oh, IF I CAN DREAM ... Rest in Peace and Lots of TLC for you both from **Lorraine Whittaker in Leeds**

Now two letters from **Cy Moy in Birmingham**. Letter No 1 ... I have a confession to make and I hope I don't upset you. I had a venue booked and one of Birmingham's Top Line Dance DJs for a Charity Line Dance. It was my intent to send the proceeds to the Bronze Fund. However a lady friend of ours approached me and pleaded for help to raise funds for an Animal Sanctuary in Bromsgrove. Evidently the volunteers who run the Sanctuary are desperate for funds and are in danger of closing down. After some heart searching the thought crossed my mind that Billy would want to help if he was in my situation. So I have agreed to give the proceeds to the Animal Sanctuary, provided that it's dedicated to the memory of

Billy. I hope you approve. There will be other events for the Bronze Fund in the future. *We think it's a wonderful way of keeping Billy's memory alive and we're sure that Billy would have been approved too.* Letter No 2 ....Dear Jean, Maureen and Clare, Many thanks for your good wishes and generous donations for the recent Charity Line Dance in aid of the Bromsgrove Animal Sanctuary. The event was a tremendous success and £1,000 was raised. Lyn, the lady who runs the Animal Sanctuary was overjoyed and as the event was dedicated to Billy and was organised in "The Sound of Fury" name, she sends her thanks. I made sure Billy's pictures and info were all over the place, and "Halfway to Paradise" was played and sung by all as a tribute to him.

My very good friends John & Brenda (Ranch Dance) provided music and dance instruction on the night, free. They are a lovely couple. Brenda is a long time Billy fan and tells me she was actually a guest at Billy's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday party. They have promised to give their services free to me if I do another Charity night for The Sound of Fury.

*Thanks Cy for all you do in keeping Billy's memory alive and for the fund raising for the Bronze – Jean P*

**Hillfield Animal Sanctuary** A Big Thank You for supporting this evening and for helping to provide much needed financial support for Lyn who runs the Hillfield Animal Sanctuary. The Sanctuary looks after many types and shapes of rescued animals who have either been discarded or ill-treated. It provides a haven for them where they will be treated with love and compassion and a lot of TLC for the rest of their lives. The Sanctuary looks after about 50 goats, 6 horses, 3 pot bellied pigs, numerous rabbits, many ducks of all shapes and sizes, chickens, 5 dogs, 35 cats, 20 sheep and an 18 year old cow. They all need feeding and caring for and your contribution will help. **Hillfield Animal Sanctuary Green Hill Blackwell Nr Bromsgrove Worcs B60 1BL**

**Moya Gleave, New Zealand** .... There is a karaoke CD out here with 18 of Billy's songs on it. If anyone is interested let me know. I got a surprise when I saw the inside cover of the Billy Fury Wondrous Place Live CD and saw the picture of Billy sitting on the scooter. I was with Billy that day in Blackpool and we both had our pictures taken on that scooter after we had been to see the fortune teller. I still have my picture and that one of Billy sitting side by side in my album. We were both so young! *Weren't we all, Moya - Maureen*

**John Bridge Luton** – Thank you for the fan club literature, etc. Wonderful, evocative, nostalgic memories and information. *Thanks for your kind comments John. We aim to please – Maureen*

**Eddie & Chick Muir Brighton** ... Thank you very much for the mags. They are as good as ever and we are extremely grateful for all the sterling work done by The Sound of Fury. *Thank you both. We hope you continue to enjoy the mags – Maureen*

**Philip Solomon Willenhall** Thanks for writing and welcoming me to the Billy Fury Fan Club. It sounds like a lot of fun. Clare sent me an example mag which quite amazingly had a reference to Billy's ancestry in Shropshire. My great grandfather had links to the same villages and some of the family were blacksmiths like Billy's family, so we may even be related in some way.

I've enclosed a copy of the tape I sent Clare. It has a few Billy Fury songs on side A. I hope in the future to bring a tribute into my entertainment work (not the taking off thing though) which I will probably mention on my web page at some time. It's [www.philipsolomon.co.uk](http://www.philipsolomon.co.uk). E mail [philipsolomon@freenetname.co.uk](mailto:philipsolomon@freenetname.co.uk) and of course I would be delighted to hear from other Billy Fury fans who want to contact me. *Thanks Philip. Now I've been dragged kicking and screaming into the computer age I'll be in touch - Maureen*

### THE BILLY FURY BRONZE FUND

By Jean Prosser

I'm not doing an article on the Billy Fury Bronze Fund for this mag, due to lack of space but I will do a full report in mag 13. After I'd paid Tom Murphy for the clay model, the bank account had approx £300 in it. We now have around £2,000. Thanks to everyone for helping to raise this. We've still got a lot of money to raise but I would just like to say a very big thank you to Rebecca Bowden (aged nine). Becca worked hard converting Christmas 1999 Cards into Gift Tags and she raised £5 for the Bronze Fund. Thanks Becca, you'll be able to tell your grandchildren that you helped to get the statue raised.



## ERIC'S ENIGMA

By Maureen Bowden

Eric Lander sent us this photo. Does anyone know where it was taken? The white mark on Billy's head is not a deposit from a seagull with a dose of the Skitters; it's a crack on the original print.

Eric thinks the guy on Billy's right is Sherlock Holmes. If he is, perhaps he can help us solve the mystery.

Over to you folks and thanks Eric.



## BACK COPIES

We have the following back copies of our magazines for sale.

Magazine numbers 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 priced at £3.50 per mag.

Magazine numbers 1, 2, 4, 5, 10 are sold out but we could supply you with a photocopy at £3.

If you would like any back copies please write to The Sound of Fury, 36 Manbey Grove Stratford London E15 1EX enclosing your cheque made out to The Sound of Fury. Please allow 28 days for delivery.

BILLY FURY wrote this for RECORD Magazine readers while on his "one-nighters". He writes about his 1962 plans and hopes with sincerity and refreshing humility. We appreciate that he took the trouble and spared the time to do this in between shows and travelling just before Christmas.

## Billy Fury

TAKES A LOOK AT 1962

When New Year's Eve comes round very soon, it is going to be very different for me in 1962 than from previous years. I have a big New Year to face, really not knowing what the future has in store. However I do have lots of hopes and plans.

My hopes are really to keep selling records and to try and improve with every one. I am also going to do two LP's and two EP's. The EP's will be with my own backing group, and I hope that some of my own compositions will appear occasionally on singles, LP's and EP's, if they are thought to be good enough.

I want to keep on touring with one-nighters as much as I can. To me they are very exciting, and they bring me in such close contact with my fans. I always get a feeling of great satisfaction after I have completed a one-night appearance, because I feel that I have met all my fans personally.

The only regret I have here is that I cannot give all the girls a little kiss and shake all the fellows by the hand. I do owe all these people so much, without them buying my records and coming to see me, I am a complete nobody. That's why I shall always be grateful to all the girls and boys for helping me in the way they have done.

Another of my ambitions is to make a film in 1962. Don't get me wrong, I don't have ideas that I could be a great dramatic actor. I just want to prove to myself that I could have a go at making a film. Then if this year turns out O.K. I would like to do one a year. That way it could give me plenty of time to do at least three or four one-night tours a year, make records, and also keep up with my song-writing.

But here I go with all my dreams and hopes for 1962. Really all my plans are made by manager Larry Parnes, and then we get together and discuss all of these, and they are put into practise. But Larry knows what I like doing, and he always tries to keep me happy, so maybe all my dreams and hopes for 1962 will come true.



Hear Billy on LP  
*Halfway to Paradise*  
on Ace of Clubs ACL 1083



## BILLY FURY NO. 2 - Extended Play Review

by Charles Chunter

**B**illy Fury No. 2 DFE 6699 was released on an unsuspecting public on 19th January 1962. It was Billy's third extended play album and the first that featured four previously unreleased tracks. A very popular format, the EP album bridged an economical gap between the single 45 and the expensive full blown 33 rpm Long Player. With a picture sleeve and the near obligatory four tracks it's popularity was assured, even when the LP became de rigeur with the 'progressive rock' bands in the 70s the EP re-emerged as the maxi single. While technology has all but eradicated the vinyl single, the EP format is still with us in the form of the CD single.

BF No. 2 echoed its predecessor using a close up of the same picture used on the 'Billy Fury' EP showing the star smiling, looking flushed with newfound fame and fortune. Not renowned for carrying any excess weight, on this view Billy was probably at his heaviest. Decca was notorious for uninspired album covers even compared to their rather artless contemporaries and this was certainly not the greatest picture they could have chosen for two EP sleeves. Nevertheless, the emblazoned fire-red backdrop on No. 2 ensured that the sleeve stood out when punters were flipping through the record racks.

The music was a varied blend of styles, from suicide threatening rock to impassioned ballads and sweet romantic after-hours croon tunes. Billy was surprised, no doubt pleasantly, that his cover of **Halfway To Paradise** had been such a huge earner in 1961. He preferred to record his own compositions but management had persuaded him otherwise and significantly they had been proved right. After the success of 'Paradise' and its follow up the tango classic standard **Jealousy** there was no turning back. But the lad from Dingle had a clutch of self-composed songs that were burning a hole in his back pocket. He insisted on laying some of them down on tape at Decca's West Hampstead studios in London. For his compromise with the cover song singles his wish was granted and two Fury originals saw the light of day on BF No. 2.

The opener and stand out track is the rather unusual, especially for the time, **Don't Jump**. Having lived with the song for so long, it's difficult to be objective. When I struggled home from junior school at the tender age of seven the record invariably hit the turntable signaling that at last I was home and free. Now the psychological aspects of a young child listening to a song about a lovelorn guy wanting to throw himself off a cliff is for me and my analyst to discuss. Here all that need concern us is the validity of the track nearly forty years on. The musical backing is pure rock, heavy guitar phrasing and forceful back beat with a superlative vocal performance by Bill. If it were not for the toe-curling male backing vocals doing the call and response chorus bits the song could hold its head above the parapets without getting howled down. But there they are, right or wrong and posterity must judge. Despite

my rational mind telling me that **Don't Jump** should be filed close to the tacky death songs of the era, **Tell Laura, Ebony Eyes, Leader of the Pack** etc. I still love it and blush in its defence. By the way, the only grave ditty that I think succeeded in keeping its feet out of the corn patch was Phil Lynott's elegy to Elvis – **King's Call**. Strictly speaking, 'Jump' is not an elegy or even a lament, it's a goodbye cruel world' song. Much in the same groove as numerous blues wails that incorporate such lines as 'I believe my time ain't long', and 'I'm gonna lay my head on some lonesome railway line...' which would elevate the tune's street cred, if it were not for those awful chorus lines. *"Don't jump Billy boy don't jump. I wanna die... no woman's worth the trouble. Tell me why, why, why. You can always find another. I don't believe you brother"*. At the final chorus Bill capitulates with *"I believe you brother"* and all is well until the drums culminate the proceedings in parodying the guy falling down the cliff face. In short the song is kooky but great!

One wonders what other ideas Billy was carrying around at the time. **Don't Jump** was recorded on 19th July 1961 with producers Dick Rowe and Mike Smith while the remaining tracks on the EP were all recorded on 14th November 1961. We know of **Fury's Tune**, a slightly earlier composition, experimental and original, being relegated to filler status on the Ace of Clubs 'Halfway To Paradise' album. Both songs show an inventive lyricist's mind at play. It is such a shame Billy wasn't encouraged to write and record more of his own stuff because the skill was undoubtedly in place. Instead, he struggled on in spite of the rather indifferent response. Even if, in later years, he occasionally lost his way with numbers such as **Phone Box** and **Driving Nicely** he more than redeemed himself with melodic, solid structured songs such as **At This Stage** and **Do My Best For You**.

The other Fury original on EP No. 2 is the full-blown rant **If I Lose You**. With anguished ravings, full backing and that raucous vocal Bill could sometimes pull out of the bag to show he was no lightweight singer, the only disappointment is the song's brevity. It was later issued to complete the lion and the lamb dichotomy of the single **Once Upon A Dream**.

The gorgeous Phil Spector enhanced US hit ballad by the Paris Sisters, **I Love How You Love Me** is covered by Billy in his inimitable style that rightly brought recognition from the record buying public. Sounding tender and sincere, with vocal phrasing, intonation and pace all spot-on. After hearing this performance, the early 60s sweet young things were no doubt left melting in heaps of adoration. The song was written by Barry Mann and Larry Kolber in half an hour and was a hit Stateside in 1961. Coming from the famous Brill building production line it could have been ideal single material for Billy, although other versions were doing the rounds, notably Jimmy Crawford's version which reached No.18 in December '61. Also, back then, Billy was not exactly short on offers of other great songs to record.

That leaves Ral Donner's **Please Don't Go** to complete the quartet. Here Billy's new vocal gimmick was utilised to great effect. Emphasising vowels in key words, using the technique to further his moody, sexy, lounge-lizard persona that he put such

great store by at the time. It worked well becoming something of a trademark through hits such as **Last Night Was Made For Love, Like I've Never Been Gone** and most notably **Because of Love**. Where the idea sprang from or what influenced the vocal approach is anybody's guess but it was wisely dropped after **Like I've Never Been Gone** for a lighter, more natural delivery. The risk of self-parody was obvious and too great. Analogies with Adam Faith's effected vocal style come to mind demonstrating how quickly the reaction turned from quaint to tiresome. It's with affection that we hear Billy's vocal idiosyncrasies today and his talent was such that he could make you believe every line he uttered, pulling it all together to produce classic pop.

So BF No. 2 was the complete package, showing several facets of the Fury craft, capturing him in his bright based prime. I still have my original copy with dog-eared cover and some very elaborate tracery across the record surface. For collectors the disc has become a tricky one to track down with prices ranging from £60 to £80 for mint examples.



*Billy  
Fury*  
no. 2

side one  
1. DON'T JUMP  
(Fury)

2. I LOVE HOW YOU LOVE ME  
(Rosen, Heller)

side two

1. PLEASE DON'T GO  
(Rosen, Lipton)

2. IF I LOSE YOU  
(Fury)

Musical Director: YORR BAYMORDE  
Producers: Dick Rowe & Mike Smith

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## **END OF AN ERA – The ESSOLDO THEATRE 1937-2000**

by Lyn and Fay

Opened in 1937 by Gracie Fields as The Ritz Theatre, it was the showpiece of Birkenhead, just over the water from Liverpool. With sadness, we read in a local paper that the theatre was to be demolished.

Our mum who is ninety-one reminisced how she was there when Gracie made an impromptu appearance on the outside balcony and sang to the fans that had gathered around the perimeter.

Knowing that this theatre, later to be known as the Essoldo, was also the venue of Billy's debut appearance, sharing the stage with Marty Wilde, Jimmy Tarbuck and others, it was agreed a memento was in order. We decided to visit the demolition site, flash our eyelashes and see if there was anything to retrieve. The men in hard hats were very helpful and recommended we came back on a day when the site was safe for visitors. We arranged this for the following Saturday and roped in our spouses John and Mike who also flashed their eyelashes!!

We thought some bricks would be a good idea, so with bolsters, lump hammers, welly boots and hard hats we arrived on site and salvaged approximately eighty bricks. These will be painted bronze and mounted on a plinth featuring a card explaining their history, and can be obtained by those people making donations to the Bronze Fund at venues in coming months.

Cold and wet, but in good spirits, it was an eerie experience to be standing in the shell of a once beautiful theatre. It was so quiet we decided to put on the car radio, listening to local D.J. Frankie Connor playing some golden oldies. To round off what was a memorable day our visit to the historic site ended with our personal request of Billy singing 'You Don't Know' echoing from the speakers.

Footnote (Assistant Ed.)

Lyn and Mike Quinn, Fay and John Slater dried out the bricks, painted them, made wooden plinths and commemorative cards, then raised £110.00 from donations received at Blackpool for the Bronze Fund. A marvellous effort from some truly dedicated fans. Hopefully, fans who wish to make a donation and receive a slice of 'Billy' history can do so at future fan gatherings, until the remaining bricks are gone.



## England's Glory

With special thanks to Frank Bull

Following on from Stormy Tempest's tribute to Ian Dury in the last magazine, it was interesting to hear about this Ian Dury/Melvin composition which was recorded and released as a 45 in 1976. Interesting to note that Billy was the only Rock 'n' Roll artist to be mentioned, the nearest type of artiste being Frankie Vaughan. The A side features the lyrics being recreated over a Chas and Dave type backing. The B side is enjoyable enough. It's just nice to hear Billy mentioned in the context of England's Glory, rather befitting, which is of course, what Ian Dury perceived. The cover is reproduced below. I don't know if the versions recorded by Demon and Macc Lads are of the same song, perhaps readers could help to confirm that.

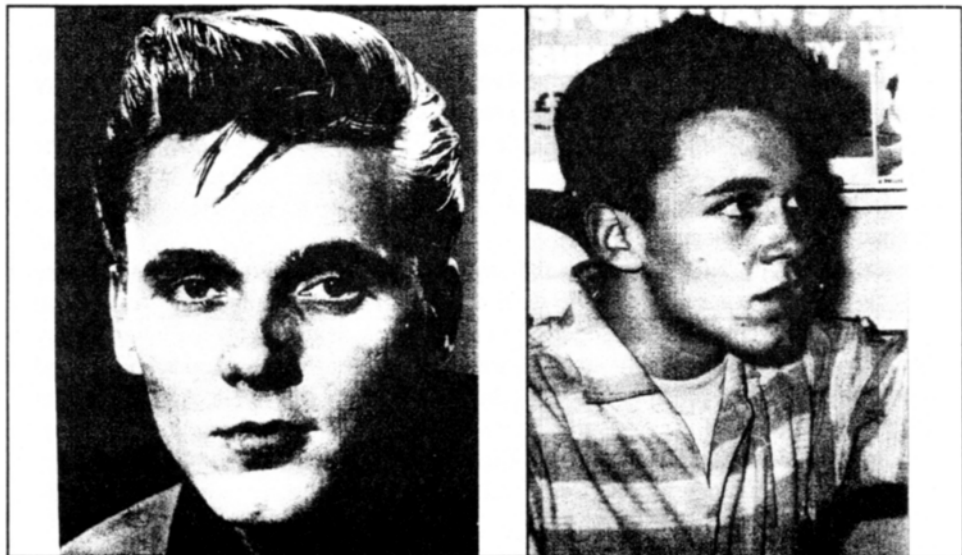


## UK Discography Update

by Chris Eley

Title Format and Track Listing	Label and Cat. No.	Release Date	Remarks
'The Mood I'm In' A collection of crooning classics 'Wondrous Place' 1960 version.	Marks and Spencers MS 4925	2000	A 20 track compilation – mostly easy listening. Billy in classy company but outclassing them all!
The Best of Billy Fury Maybe Tomorrow, Colette, That's Love, Wondrous Place, Halfway To Paradise, Jealousy, I'd Never Find Another You, Last Night Was Made For Love, Once Upon a Dream, Like I've Never Been Gone, When Will You Say I Love You, I Will, It's Only Make Believe, In Thoughts of You.	Planet Media PML 1017	September 2000	Only 14 K-Tel tracks. Nice picture (Billy on the stool – again!) disc, artwork. Wrong year of birth, otherwise nice brief notes by Chris White. Thankfully does say Original Artist – re-recordings.
Billy Fury – Halfway to the Hits. Maybe Baby, Sticks 'n' Stones, Things are Changing, Loving You, I'll Go Along With It, Suzanne in the Mirror, Phone Box, Any Morning Now, Lady, Certain Things, All the Way to the USA, Well Alright, Baby, Get Yourself Together, Driving Nicely, Your Words, Dreaming of St Louis, Sheila, Lazy Life, I'm Gonna Love You Too,	Going for a Song (CEDAR) GFS 307 Parlophone Tracks. Different running order to 'Rough Diamonds', CD – same tracks.	September 2000	Picture disc – new shot on me. Sleeve notes lifted, I am told, directly from Harry Whitehouse's web site, except for the mistake, Billy was <u>18</u> at the Essoldo, not 17. Nice to get these tracks again but a pity that the pictures and the sleeve notes don't match the period, or the songs. A strange title really.

Title Format and Track Listing	Label and Cat. No.	Release Date	Remarks
In My Room, (still credited to Billy instead of to its writer – Jimmy Campbell), I Love You, Lyanna, Going Back to Germany, Come Outside and Play, Easy Living, Day by Day			Overall, at £4.99 well worth having for the tracks and the different photograph. Once again, unfortunately, the picture of Billy with a guitar, sitting on a stool, features in the artwork. Otherwise, attractive packaging. Sound sounds the same to me, according to some fans it's clearer.
Unconditionally Guaranteed 2000 8 'That's Love' (Track 14) Other tracks by artists I've never heard of! (except Steve Earle.)	Uncut U G-2127 Promotional copy – sold with magazine only. (For back numbers – if still available call: IPC – 0208 5030588	September 2000	Free with Uncut Magazine September 2000 issue. Nice little tribute to Billy on page 6 of magazine (small 3×3 picture b/w).





## **"ROC AT THE LOC"**

**20<sup>th</sup> October at the Olympia Theatre Liverpool**

A review by fan club member Trisha Clark

The day had come at last! After months of anticipation we were in Liverpool (for the first time ever!) to see the "Roc at the Loc" rock 'n' roll show starring Albie Wycherley. We had travelled from Eastbourne to see the show and we had such a fantastic time we thought others might like to hear all about it.

The Olympia Theatre (previously called the Locarno) had been carefully refurbished and decorated in magnificent style. It's situated on the West Derby Road just on the outskirts of the main centre of Liverpool. The inside is a feast for your eyes, it's beautiful with ornate decorations adorning the whole building. There's an "Eastern promise" style to the theatre, with elephants and Taj Mahal type décor painted in dark peach and gold. The theatre boasts two upper seating levels, the lower floor had a large dance floor area with raised seating surrounded by a bar. There was some seating on the dance floor next to the stage with an area selling Billy/Albie merchandise from pictures to mugs and tee shirts.

We arrived a little early as we were not certain how long the journey would take from the Albert Dock, where we were staying, to the theatre. The staff on the door let us in around seven and a great surge of people eagerly rushed in. The whole place has a wonderful atmosphere and, as people met up with old and new friends alike, the place was soon buzzing with chatter, glasses clattering at the bar, people embracing; it was just like being with one large friendly family! We were so pleased to see loads of familiar faces from the Mill Hill gatherings such as Fay, John, Lynn, Mike, Danny and his wife, Brenda and Terry.

The DJ started the evening off with some good old rock'n' roll music and many took to the floor warming up for the evening ahead. Some people's outfits were outrageous and it was evident that everyone was in for a fun-filled evening.

Frankie Connor from Radio Merseyside was the compere for the evening and the money raised was for the "Children in Need" fund. Frankie came out dressed to kill in black sunglasses, pink draped jacket and blue suede shoes! He got rapturous applause for his amazing efforts!

He started off by introducing the first act, Merseyside's Juke Box Eddie, whose energy and enthusiasm rocked the theatre. Looking very young for a rock'n'roll group, the lead singer had a superb voice and gave us a set to remember. They certainly know all the popular songs to sing and the floor was packed with legs and arms going all ways! Each act was introduced in turn and this may not be the correct order but others performing were:- Terry Dene 50's Teen Sensation; a female rocker, who was superb called Jean Vincent; "Ain't Misbehaving" man Tommy Bruce; the superb Flames; Mike Berry and the Outlaws and a special performance by

Wee Willie Harris who, for the latter part of his performance, decided to take off his shirt! They all entertained the crowd well and the rock'n'rollers certainly danced the night away. Great to watch!

Halfway through the evening they drew the raffle. Jean, Billy and Albie's mum, was invited up on stage to do the draw. She looked a million dollars. I don't know how she looks so lovely all the time, dressed in black velvet and lots of pretty sparkly stars on the top bodice (reminiscent of "A Thousand Stars")! One of the winners was John Kavanagh, a super chap (and a Billy Fury fan all his life). This was rather special as John had travelled all the way from Dublin to see Albie in the show, which shows John's dedication.

It was getting on for midnight and no-one seemed at all tired as the rock'n'rollers were getting more adventurous in their antics, some even falling to the floor to add effect to their dancing! What were they on? Frankie came on stage to announce Colin Paul and the Persuaders who sing Elvis numbers in the main and they did not disappoint us. Colin is renowned for swinging his hips and grinding his body, which he did with great ease as he sung a repertoire of Elvis numbers. He just sounded great whatever song he sang and the rest of the group, who are excellent musicians, kept everyone dancing. The floor was packed! It soon came time for them to finish and with the crowd showing their appreciation, they moved to the back of the stage to form the backing group for the last act.

The lights dimmed, smoke cascaded over the stage and Colin moved over to the mike to announce what was the finale of the evening - Ladies and gentlemen, here is the one you have all been waiting for - Billy Fury's brother, previously known as Jason Eddie, .. Albie Wycherley! As Colin and the Persuaders took their positions, Albie stepped out into the spotlight, closely followed by a film crew who were filming him for a documentary (should be out next year). There he stood in black looking absolutely fabulous, deep smouldering eyes and captivating smile. No wonder all his fans rushed to the stage to be closer to him. As he stood there you could almost imagine that Billy had returned. Albie looked so like his brother it completely takes you unawares. As his voice filled the theatre you felt like you were listening to Billy sing because he sang with such feeling and moves his body just like Billy used to. Nobody could get enough as he sang so many wonderful songs such as In Thoughts of You, I Will, That's Alright Mama, A Thousand Stars, Last Night Was Made for Love. His mum Jean was in the audience right near the stage and he sang I'd Never Find Another You especially to her. She must have been so proud of him. To think that both of her sons had such talent and to see Albie singing Billy's songs must be so emotional for her as it was for us. It was lovely to see members of the Billy Fury fan club singing along with Albie, the film crew weaving in and out of the crowd to capture special moments, and many people made their way to the front of the stage just so that they could touch Albie's hand. He sang Wondrous Place with bubbles floating all around as they do in the advert and it felt like the whole audience was singing along too. Everyone just loved him, his hypnotic charm and

magnetism left the audience spellbound as they looked up at him singing.

Albie gave his all and his performance was first class, very professional and I know, because of his likeness to Billy, many people were completely overcome with tears in their eyes. His last song, which brought the house down, was of course Halfway to Paradise. Everyone in the theatre sang along, some with arms raised. The atmosphere was incredible. I've never experienced such a feeling before with over one thousand people almost raising the roof with their singing. As Albie finished the last note everyone wanted more, no one wanted him to go. The encore was deafening and he came back to finish with It's Only Make Believe. What an end to a fantastic evening! Everyone was clapping and cheering and I know this evening will remain in my memory for every. Albie was the best, there is no other who can sing and look so like Billy.

As Albie left the stage I looked around this magnificent theatre and couldn't help feeling that credit must be given to all the people who made it possible for a show of this magnitude to go on. Without their tireless hard work, dedication and commitment, we would not be able to enjoy our trip down memory lane and be able to experience the awesome presence of Albie bringing Billy back to us. Chris Hewitt, the driving force behind the production, along with Albie should have special thanks. Dave and I met him for the first time and what a lovely genuine guy. He worked so hard during the evening making sure everything was running smoothly.

As everyone slowly disappeared about 2 a.m., you could feel their reluctance to go home as they'd had such a good time, they wanted it to last forever. The realisation took over that we had to go home (or rather back to the hotel) we didn't want to go. Let's hope that Albie performs again soon so that we can recapture the magic of Billy's music with him. Well done Albie, you gave the fans the nearest experience they could possibly have to being with Billy and we're so grateful. If you're a fanatical fan or just a lover of Billy's music, you cannot miss "The Real Billy Fury Show". Albie, together with such a great backing group as Colin Paul and the Persuaders are a recipe for success. Thanks for a terrific night!



## **THE BILLY FURY TRIBUTE NIGHT**

**Arcadia Hall Dartford Kent  
Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2000**

Reviewed by Roy Harvey

Firstly I would like to say a big thank you to John & Jan Beech, Terry Dilks from Derby and Paul Shed, the promoter, for organising a memorable night to raise funds for the Billy Fury Bronze Fund.

Allen Austin and The Krys gave a very professional and sincere tribute to Billy. The line up of the band was Allen Austin – lead singer; Martin Williams – drums; John Pool – lead guitar, Mick Hackett – bass. Richard Bourne was the DJ.

On route to the gig, fan club member Steve Baker developed a puncture and we switched to my car for the rest of the journey to Dartford. When we got there we found about 100 people of all ages in the hall. To get everyone in the mood, records from the sixties were played including The Beatles, Kathy Kirby, Gerry and the Pacemakers and The Shadows, to name a few.

The moment everyone had been waiting for arrived! Allen Austin & The Krys were introduced and impressed everyone with a fantastic rendering of Telstar. What a great drum sound! Then it was time to fasten our seatbelts for The Halfway to Paradise Show as Allen, clad in gold jacket, ran onto the stage to rock us with A King for Tonight, followed by the beautiful slow ballad I'd Never Find Another You, then back to 1959 for Gonna Type a Letter. We all knew this wasn't Billy but the genuine way this man sung Billy's songs has to be admired. He had all the hand movements with the microphone clasped tightly throughout the songs and during Maybe Tomorrow his hands were tucked into his trouser pockets. I'll Never Fall In Love Again got everyone up dancing as did A Thousand Stars. We all enjoyed Cross my Heart which finished suddenly with an unexpected drum roll. Don't Leave me this Way was loud but lacked Joe Brown's guitar rift. Margo was next with powerful drumming followed by an outstanding rendition of In Thoughts of You. Allen is very powerful and sincere in his interpretation of Billy's songs and there is something in his voice that is very similar to Billy's without sounding too much like him. During the drum breaks in Wondrous Place the huge set of lights on either side of the stage highlighted the build up by flashing on. We didn't expect this and for a few seconds we were almost blinded by the lights. They followed up with Colette, I Love How You Love Me, In Summer, I'm Lost Without You and It's Only Make Believe.

Before we knew it, the interval had arrived. During the break we had a raffle. There were ten prizes on offer including some wonderful framed photos of Billy and Wondrous Place CDs donated by The Sound of Fury Fan Club and a Krys CD with

twelve of Billy's songs on it.

The second half of the show kicked off with The Shadows' Kon Tiki and dashing from the side of the stage Allen, this time in a silver jacket, who went straight into Nothin' Shakin', then good solid performances of Last Night was Made for Love and I Will. Remember those leg movements of Billy's? Well, Allen delivered. I looked around at people's faces – some were open mouthed, some were singing along but all were happy enjoying the show. Some of the younger people there were shown how it was in Billy's day in the sixties and what they had missed by not being able to see the UK's top performer and live entertainer in person. Two lesser-performed numbers were next, Play It Cool (which I thought was excellent) and Because of Love. During Jealousy my friend Steve Baker stood in front of the Derby fans and they were amazed at his interpretation and movement on the dance floor. Probably the vodka helped! Well done, Steve. All of us enjoyed Do You Really Love Me Too and Once Upon a Dream.

The fans had travelled from Telford, Derby, Skegness and many other places in the north of England. Well done, John and friends.

Running Around and Run to my Lovin' Arms followed, the audience was buzzing and wanted more and were calling out the names of their favourite songs. Devil or Angel and When Will You Say I Love You finished all too quickly and there we were, on the final song of the set which had to be Forget Him. A brief history of Billy Fury was read out. Everyone called for more and the band played the intro to Halfway to Paradise. Dressed in a black leather jacket, Allen came running from the side exit singing the song we all love and associate with Billy. Allen sure if a very fit guy! Thunderous applause. More, more, more! And one last song was played – Give Me Your Word. Words cannot describe the show but Fantastic! Smashing! Great! Fabulous! all come to mind.

There was a surprise for the band. For their sincere tribute and dedication and continued fund raising for the Billy Fury Bronze Fund, a framed photo was presented to them. The look on Allen's face was a picture. We chatted for a while after the show.

Thank you Allen Austin and The Krys for your brilliant show. Please come back again soon.

## **THIS 'N' THAT EXTRA**

### **The Brighton 60s Festival**

August 2000 was a long time ago now, but I couldn't let it pass without saying a very big thank you to Terry and Chris Smith of Spinning Disc for their help. They sold Sound of Fury merchandise for us at Brighton, without taking a cut, and helped to raise a considerable sum for the Bronze Fund. As Linda and I entered via the back door loaded down with merchandise we encountered security. What a turn up when we discovered that the security guard was a paper boy in 1964/65 and delivered papers to Billy's farm in Ockley! He was obviously young and couldn't remember much, except that Billy's driver? paid him a fiver as a Christmas bonus. Small world.

We had pre-booked for the weekend and were therefore unfortunately unable to attend the Krys announced later gig which occurred in Kent at the same time (see review elsewhere). Marty Wilde stole the Brighton show, better than I have ever seen him and better received than anyone else. Mike Berry was a true gent and great, as was Dave Berry, and the BFE were, as always, great, and well received. Lovely to meet Charlie Elston of Milky Way and Fury's Tornados, a gentleman. What a pity there was no organ available, otherwise it would have been a full band complement, just as during 1971-76.

Great to see Fan Club faces there, too many to mention, friends old and new. A great weekend, and successful for the Bronze.

### **Blackpool Carousel Hotel Weekend**

Time and space preclude a full review but it must be reported that this was a highly successful weekend in raising a considerable amount of money for the Bronze Fund. The achievement is due to everyone in the 'team' including the generous guests and fans. A special thank you is due to the event organiser Diane Wardle and Mrs Roth, who, together with their staff worked so hard all weekend. The entertainment on Friday from Rockin' Maurice the resident D.J. and the vivacious Justine who raised the lads blood pressure, led into the usual superb performance by Colin Paul and the Persuaders. On Saturday musical oracle Neil Hiley held the day, evening (and next morning! together) in his inimitable style. A varied and very enjoyable set of 50's and 60's material was delivered on Saturday evening by the 6 foot 5 inch presence of Garry Slade, a really nice guy who knows his music. His CD 'Something For Everyone' is available from 01527-540784. A pleasant selection ranging from 'Just Tell Her Jim Said Hello', 'Fame and Fortune', a Billy Medley, to 'Forget Him' and others. The strangest tracks are actually the 'bonus' rockabilly tracks, a 'Mystery Train' which really rocks and a competent 'Cast Iron Arm' (Peanuts Wilson). I think he sang 'The Shape I'm In' on the night,

pity it isn't on the CD. He also did a great 'Well I Ask You' at the gig.

The Persuaders were less Martin Davies who became a proud Dad later in the evening (congratulations from all of us to the happy family!), but the stand in bass player played a blinder. Albies' set was well received, and deservedly so, the highlights being 'Mess of Blues' and the loosely rehearsed duet with Colin on 'Helpless' which was excellent. Nice to hear 'Cross My Heart' (thanks Albie).

Sunday brought Colin again, his take off of Shakin' Stevens, P.J. Proby and Rick Nelson was uncanny, a great voice. A terrific version of 'Pocketful of Rainbows' also. The real surprise was the standard of the Billy Karaoke, some pretty convincing performances to round of the event.

A thank you is due to Graham and Bernard from Dream Team who donated a beautiful one-off framed proof print for auction, and also high quality prints and calendars on a sale or return basis in support of the Bronze Fund. Also to Lyn Quinn and Fay Slater (see elsewhere) who popped in from the Allendale to collect donations to the Bronze. Thanks too, to Ian and Sheila Alexander for their courtesy when we popped into the Allendale for a chat, nice to see the Legends Bar again.

A very big thank you is due to Janet and Glynn Holloway for donating 7 prints of a painting for sale, thereby donating £175.00 for the fund, a very generous contribution. I understand more may be available next year. Nice painting. Our thoughts over the weekend were with Wendy Wright and family who could not attend due to the loss of a loved one.

John Bennett had a great Billy story to tell. About two years ago he was backstage at the American Solid Gold Show, wearing his Billy T shirt, when he was approached by Brian Hyland. Brian said 'I need that rock 'n' roll album by that guy', pointing to the T shirt. John had to tell him it was unavailable, although of course the Sound of Fury + 10 CD in stereo was available. Well, during November 2000 the US Tour was back in Blackpool and John told Brian the vinyl LP was now re-issued. Brian apparently turned to his son (who plays drums for him) and said 'Make a note of that, we have to get it.' What a tribute to Billy. (see page 7).

It was nice to meet Harry Whitehouse, who has such a great up to date Billy web site. Thanks Harry for your courtesy, interest and for donating 10 full colour Billy Calendars for the Fund, they went for £6.00 each, some at Blackpool, some later, a nice little contribution. We have been unable to produce all colour for general distribution because they actually cost as much as we have been selling them for, and it's very time consuming.

#### Footnote:

Saturday night of course we clustered around the T.V. for a sight of Guy Clover on 'Stars in their Eyes'. Horror, no volume on the set! Colin Paul summed up the general feeling later from the stage when he said 'Good Luck to Guy Clover for going on national television and helping to keep the name of Billy Fury alive.' A nice gesture, as might be expected.



### **Brian Lee Retirement From Live Performances**

Brian Lee was the first Elvis act to play the London Palladium, had his own Fan Club, and long before today's current tribute acts started was including Billy Fury numbers in his act. During the late 90s he would do a complete Billy set, including great versions of 'Stand By Me' and 'You're Swell'. Laid low by a stroke Brian battled on, buoyed up by his irrepressible humour and courage, and the love and support of his lovely wife Jeanette. However, although now on his feet he is not yet robust enough to continue on stage and has opted to become a Promoter. Linda and I were fortunate enough to have been invited to his farewell function in Thorington Village Hall on the 18<sup>th</sup> November. Typical of Brian, the main reason for the function was to raise money for the Parish Church windows, which some unspeakable creatures had apparently damaged. Special guests were Doc Cox (That's Life) and Charles Blackwell (Joe Meek producer and producer of Billy's 'A Thousand Stars'). Doc turned out to be able to play a mean blues guitar, in addition to his quirky humour, and was something of an aficionado on early rock n roll. It was great to spend half an hour chatting to Charles who recalled that Hal Carter was about right in calling Billy a one take man, and that Billy would just walk in, sing, and leave, dead quiet and shy. It was all done live, the orchestra, band and engineers, producer and Billy. Charles could not be sure but thought that either Jimmy Page (apparently also a mean harmonica player as well as ace guitarist) or Cyril Davis, played harmonica on Billy's cover of 'Baby What You Want Me To Do'. New female duo 'Liaison' also entertained, Brian did a couple of numbers helped out by his friends and the whole event was held together most ably by Neil Diamond tribute artist and really nice guy, Harry Hay. It was nice to meet a few of our Fan Club members there and it turned out to be a great night, packed out with both locals and Brian's friends and fans from afar, including Nottingham. Linda and I feel privileged to be friends of Brian and his lovely family and I am sure we speak on behalf of Billy and Elvis fans everywhere when we say, thanks to Brian for all those years spent entertaining us, the happiness given to so many people, and the very best of luck with the change of career.

**Don't forget the next Mill Hill on April 22nd.**

### **SOUND OF FURY ADDRESS**

**O**ur address hasn't changed. You should still send all your normal correspondence and inquiries to **The Sound of Fury 36 Manbey Grove Stratford London E15 1EX**. It's the address for membership renewals that's changed. These should now be sent to **The Sound of Fury P O Box 60 Biggleswade SG18 0SR**. This is the last magazine you will receive for your Year 2000 membership; if you want to continue receiving them please send your cheque/postal order to The Sound of Fury P O Box 60 Biggleswade SG18 0SR. They should be made payable to **The Sound of Fury** (£8 UK and £10.50 overseas). As it is too time consuming and expensive to send out individual reminder letters, why not send your renewal payment now?

If you would like to make a donation to the Bronze Fund please make your cheque/postal order payable to **The Billy Fury Bronze Fund** and also send it to The Sound of Fury P O Box 60 Biggleswade SG18 0SR

**The photo on the adjacent page was kindly sent by Julian X and his manager Paul Armstrong.**

There are no prizes, so don't send in the answers, but just for entertainment see if you can fill the names.

A .....	B .....	C .....
D .....	E .....	F .....
G .....	H .....	I .....
J .....	K .....	

Choose from the following :-

Little Richard / Lance Fortune / Johnny Gentle / Georgie Fame / Joe Brown  
Terry Dene / Duffy Power / Elvis Presley / Julian X / Peter Wynne / Cilla Black  
Davy Jones / Jerry Lee Lewis / Danny Rivers / Gene Vincent / Vince Eager  
Cliff Richard / Dickie Pride / Everly Brothers / Posh Spice / Wee Willie Harris

### **Answers on page 38**

There will be no fighting, should there be any disagreement with the answers here, or with any other club members who may have a different opinion.

**LARRY PARNES  
AND THE  
BOYS**

THE LARRY PARNES "ROCK STABLE" (MARTY WILDE ABSENT)

BILLY \*LARRY  
FURY. PARNES.

A

B

C



W

4

工

—



K

7

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more CD and  
Tape info

### WANTED

**Stephen Moorhouse** 24 Becket Walk, Lowedges Sheffield S8 7HG wants Anything to do with Billy Fury on video please.

### PENFRIENDS

**John Bridge** 17 Ketton Court Ketton Close Luton Beds LU2 0QZ – Slim 51 years of age, non-smoker, single (bachelor). Is interested in the late 50s/early 60s era generally, and interested in the music and artistes of the period such as Billy Fury, Helen Shapiro, Craig Douglas. Is a former “Meekling” (lapsed member of the Joe Meek App. Soc). Is also interested in British films of that time such as The Edgar Wallace Mysteries, The Scales of Justice series (theme music provided by The Tornados for this series. Would like a female penfriend of similar age, or younger, who has similar interests.

### Answers to the Crossword which was in Mag No 10

#### Across

1. Place    4. Halfway    6. Drum    8. Johnny Laker    11. If I Lose You.    12. Room  
13. Ben    16. Fury Followers    17. This    18. Worry    20. If    24. Wonderful  
26. From You    27. In    29. You've Gotta    31 Ann    32 Let  
33 Dec    34. Stardust

#### Down

2. Look Right For The    3. Can You    4. Haliburton    5. Feel    6. Day  
7. My    9. King for Tonight    10. Ronald    14. Ross    15. Reed    22. Alvin  
23. To    25. Do    28. It    30. One

Congratulations to the winner, Tony Philbin and thanks for your donation to the Bronze Fund, Tony.

This should have been in mag 11, but the gremlins struck again. Sorry folks!

### Answers to the photo quiz on page 34 / 35

A.....Davy Jones	B.....Peter Wynne	C.....Duffy Power
D.....Julian X	E.....Dickie Pride	F.....Joe Brown
G.....Gene Vincent	H.....Vince Eager	I.....Lance Fortune
J.....Georgie Fame	K.....Danny Rivers	

## IN THOUGHTS OF YOU

Our special thoughts in the New Year

To our Mick Hill who's battling against a serious illness and his wife Val, his tower of strength. Lots and lots of love to you both from all of us.

To Alan Haigh and Graham Alexander who both lost their mum last year.

To Lolly Whittaker who copes with her illness with such courage.

To our Clare who's still recovering from her operation.

To Jackie Cain (who runs the John Leyton Fan Club) and Sue Vale (who runs the Eden Kane Fan Club), both lost loved ones last year.

To Janet Coote who we hope gets back to better health soon.

And

To anyone else out there who hasn't had a good year.

We wish you health and happiness for 2001.

## SPECIAL THANKS

by Jean Prosser

When we Maureen, Jackie, Clare, Mick, Chris and I started the fan club over four years ago I was the only typist and Maureen christened me "The Phantom Typist" (*I think because I often used to add my comments to her letters to fans in italics without signing my name!*) Eventually I decided I needed help and so we advertised for volunteer typists. A very special thanks from me and the rest of the syndicate goes to Lolly Whitaker, Kelly Warner and Cecilia Darvell for all your help again over this past year.

Also thanks from Clare and the rest of us goes to Dennis Chappel. He helps Clare in so many ways and nothing is too much trouble for him. Without Dennis's help Clare wouldn't be able to get the mags out as quickly as she does.

My husband, Mike, enjoyed putting the last mag together and has agreed to continue doing it. He's the non-Billy Fury fan but we all appreciate his help.

We'd also like to thank Rita Smalley and Debbie Miller who have, for many years, supplied the tea and coffee that is available at Mill Hill.

Finally our thanks to all Billy's fans for helping to keep his memory alive.

