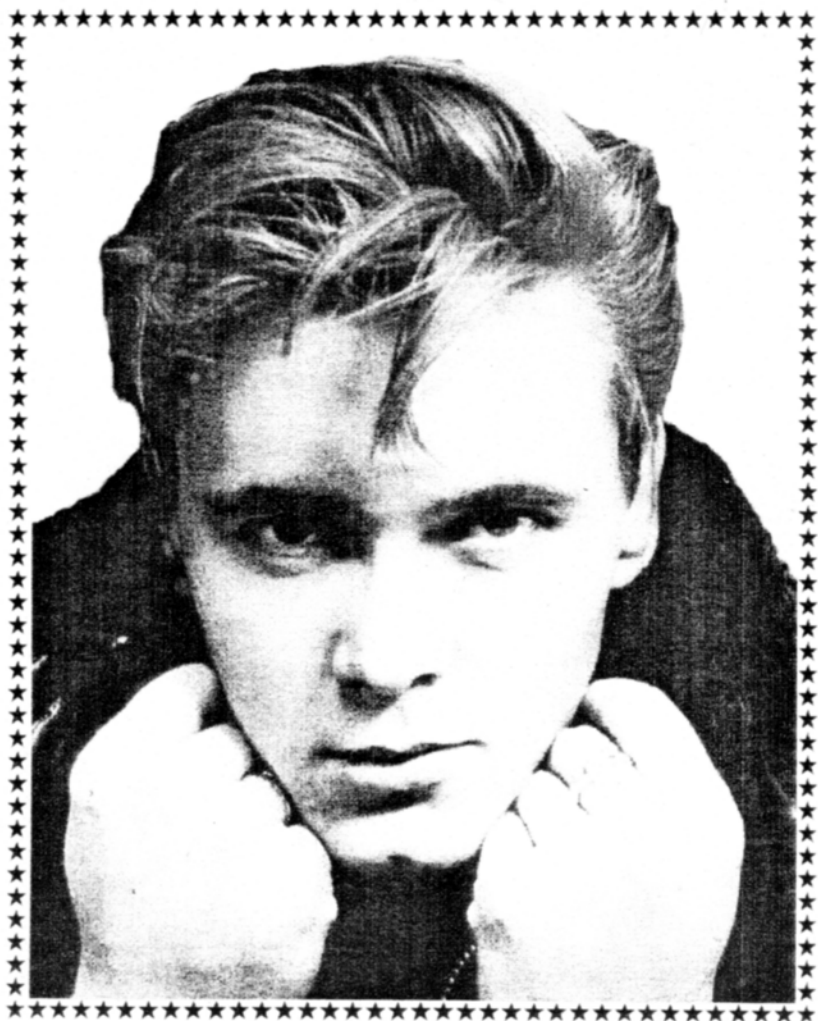


Number 13

# Billy Fury



**THE SOUND OF FURY**

Official Billy Fury Fan Club

# **BILLY FURY – A BIOGRAPHY**

**By  
Marion Cave**

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# ***BILLY FURY***

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

## **THE SOUND OF FURY**

**Official Billy Fury Fan Club**

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

**Cheer up if you're feeling yukky  
Mag 13 is not unlucky**

Hello Fury Followers

**W**e hope you're all well and looking forward to a wonderful summer. Well we can hope!

The film "The Sound of Fury" has been temporarily delayed. Ewan McGregor has dropped out so the search is on for a new star. Watch this space.

Our best wishes go to Kelly Warner who isn't too well at present and our deepest condolences go to Debbie Miller who recently lost her dad.

Thanks very much to all of you who have sent "get well" cards and good wishes to Mick. All our thoughts are with him and Val.

Enjoy the mag, folks.

Love and Fury  
Maureen

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



April 2001

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## THIS 'N' THAT With Chris Eley

Regrettably, as I write, there is no news regarding the 'Love Songs' Collection which Decca and SOF had planned for a February 14<sup>th</sup> release but – do look out for it, it may still escape before the magazine hits your doormat. A 'new' Billy double has become available since the last mag, details are in the discography update. A nice little release is Teen Town USA Vol 3 on the YEAAH! label, YEAAH18. For once, an early 60's collection of (largely) obscure numbers, that can be played without skipping too many tracks. 'My Wish is You' by Ray Ruff, through 'Waitin' by David Box, the great 'The Pain is Here' by Dick Lory and a real Big 'O' copy by Jimmy LeFevre on 'Blue Teardrops', with other nice tracks make this a desirable little package. Talking of the Big 'O', the recent double CD 'Love Songs' is a must: nice mix of original, live, later 60's and 1980's numbers, including one or two I'd never heard before, e.g., 'You Make Me Feel Like Crying'.

Billy was undoubtedly influenced to a degree by Ricky Nelson; he often spoke of Rick before launching into his version of 'My Babe', and the new 4 x CD (Import) boxed set is a thing of joy. It would be nice if Decca's promised Billy box set ended up like this: 'Legacy' Capitol 72435-29521-2-0. Stunning booklet with pictures of the U.S. picture cover 45; great notes and pictures but of course the music is great. Most readers will only be interested in Ricky's 1957-65 period but Disc 4 in particular shouldn't be ignored with the beautiful 'Dream Lover', the previously unreleased 'Tired Of Toeing the Line' etc. CD 1 features the promised 'fast' version of 'Lonesome Town', a stereo take of 'It's Late', fast version of 'Cindy' and other gems. There are strong parallels between the careers of Ricky/Rick and Billy; both widely regarded as being No 2 singers in their respective countries, both extraordinarily good looking idols, both talented song writers, both with a 'wilderness' period, and, tragically both to be lost before their time. Both incredibly shy too.

Most people will have seen the articles on Billy in the Mail Magazine on January 27<sup>th</sup>; what a pity they (the paper) spent all that money colourising the great rockin' 'Boy Meets Girls' shot – then printed it with a reverse image!!

I remember, on December 4<sup>th</sup> 1982, watching Freddie 'Fingers' Lee leave Billy's dressing room (unfortunately at the time I was in the audience waiting for Billy to appear, and not backstage – I had to wait until later to speak with Billy). Anyway, whether this meeting and the concert triggered Freddie to write the beautiful 'Chains' is anyone's guess. I remember reading years ago that Freddie had written 'Chains' with the intention that Billy should record it. Later information (thanks to Chris Woodford of NDT) indicates that Freddie actually wrote it for his 1983 Billy tribute concert appearance in France. Either way, it's beautifully performed, haunting and so sad to think that we'll never hear Billy's version of it. If Jerry Lee style rock 'n' roll is your bag, that's what this great little CD of mostly self-penned numbers has to offer, plus the neat country styled 'Joe Brown and Me'. You just have to hear 'Chains', one of the most beautiful and evocative numbers I have ever heard, not a pumping piano in sight either! Available from Boogie Boy Productions, 65 The Moorland, Blackhill, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 9UW – Tel 01207-500689, £10.50 inc P&P.

Billy's 'Please Don't Go' is a gem; even more so when you realise how well it stacks up against the Ral Donner original, presented in the Ral Donner Anthology 'You Don't Know What You've Got' – Castle Music CME:DD 043. A 2 x 28 track double CD with 15 cracking stereo versions collected on CD 2 (pity they couldn't locate stereo cuts of 'Please Don't Tease' (Cliff's number) or 'Girl of My Best Friend', but an essential collection for lovers of

Elvis type early 60's music. Worth having for 'I Didn't Figure on Him to Come Back' alone. What a voice!

Covers of Billy numbers turn up again on Gary Slade's latest pleasant 28 track offering. 'Hurt' features, 'I Will', 'I'll Never Fall in Love Again', 'Forget Him' and a tribute medley: 'A Thousand Stars' – 'I'd Never Find Another You' and 'Halfway'. I especially like 'Lotta Lovin', 'Little Sister' and 'Pocketful of Rainbows'.

The 'Cross My Heart' CD features just that one Billy number, but nice versions of Eden Kane's 'Well I Ask You' and 'Teardrops' (Shakin Stevens I think, don't know who had the original – nice anyway). Gary, who is one really nice guy, used to have a band, and both CDs would have benefitted from a full backing as opposed to the karaoke style, however, both offerings are really enjoyable and worth having. You can order/book Gary via 01527-540784.

By now many of you will have seen Colin Paul in concert and will know how good he is. On 'The Elvis Inspiration' CD 3, a live in-concert recording you can experience the joys of nice versions of 'Girl Happy', 'Let Yourself Go', 'Memories', a tremendous 'Kentucky Rain' and, in closing a stunning version of 'If I Can Dream'. It's great to hear good live versions of 'Follow That Dream', 'I Got Lucky' and 'Kissin Cousins', and to be able to pull off 'Just Pretend' is quite a coup. Linda and I played the CD driving home from Blackpool; it made the miles fly by. A very talented, unaffected, big voiced entertainer who loves Elvis and Billy. Enrich your life, give him a spin. – ColinPaulandthePersuaders@hotmail.com

Colin's Billy tribute CD is also still available and before next Christmas you must get hold of his Christmas CD. If a record company would get behind him and push out 'Christmas in Dixie' in November, I really believe it could be a seasonal hit.

Last night I saw one of the finest 'tribute' acts I have ever seen; when I closed my eyes Billy Geraghty was the Killer!, in fact even the look was there and the actions too. Both the 50's sound and later classics such as 'Rockin' My Life Away', were (apart from the town hall acoustics), as good as it gets. When it tours again – see it. Linda and I travelled down to Weymouth to see 'Raised on Rock', Vince Eagers' trawl through his musical roots. It was nice to see Wee Willie Harris for the first time and Big Jim Sullivan's excellent guitar work and humour helped the evening along. I did enjoy hearing a few anecdotes about Billy in the early days and also Vince's performance of 'Lend Me Your Comb'.

I discovered another version of 'It's Only Make Believe' some time ago, by Connie Francis; from her Rock 'n' Roll Million Sellers LP MGM C-804. After discovering 'Tell Me How You Feel', and 'The Right Time' aka 'The Night Time is the Right Time' and 'That's Enough' on 'Bobby Darin sings Ray Charles' London LP SAH-4 6243, I wondered if Billy had been influenced by this as opposed to the Ray Charles originals. However, upon checking the release date, 1962, I can only conclude that as Billy was using Charles' numbers on stage back in 1960 that this album could only have reinforced his desire to cut two of the tracks, which he did in 1963. Nice to be able to compare them though, and, all prejudice aside, Billy really does have the edge, which is actually saying something for his vocal ability, Darin being a supreme world class vocalist in almost every musical genre.

Nice new import, 'Johnny Rivers Live – Back at the Whisky' (a go-go!). 'China' is a beautiful number, 'Sea of Heartbreak' and 'He'll Have To Go' thoroughly enjoyable, and with 'Memphis' and the truly classic 'Secret Agent Man' (inevitably), it's a nice little set. Soul City Records SCR1 1008. A great performer that someone should really bring over here, together with Dion and Narvel Felts – what a package. If Dion is your bag you'll need King of the New York Streets – 3 CD Set with notes, discography etc. All sixties tracks on CD 1.

he other 2 CDs covers from the beautiful 'Abraham Martin and John' to date, 65 tracks overall: The Right Stuff 72435-28677-2-1. 'It Happened at the World's Fair' (Elvis) now available for the first time in years/ever, on import video (via 0116-253 7271). Very dear at £17.00 though.

Billy snippets – By June 1965 the Billy Fury Fan Club had a branch leader in the USA. Many letters were received from American fans following Billy's performance of 'I'm Lost Without You' on Jack Good's 'Shindig'. Billy was so well received that he intended going back for more shows – there is no evidence that he did though, can anyone remember?

The first release dates for 'I've Gotta Horse' were scheduled as April 11, 18, and 25 1965. Food for thought, if Billy was 'discovered' at the Essoldo on October 1 1958, what was he doing entering (and winning) a talent contest as Ronnie Wycherley, in Liverpool on Saturday 8 November 1958!! (Reported in Liverpool Weekly News November 13 1958 – with thanks to Billy Fury Ltd). When asked in 1966 where he would most like to live in the world, Billy answered, 'Ireland I think – somewhere where it's nice and clean you know'. He achieved part of his wish, but in clean and beautiful Mid-Wales.

Well apart from a brief review of the last successful Carousel Hotel 'do' (where a little over £1,000 was raised for the Bronze Fund, thanks to the generosity of everyone present, from owners, staff, performers, through to the guests especially), that's about it for now. Let's hope that by the next magazine we have more recording and hopefully, film news. Take care, and please do whatever you can to help to keep Billy's name alive, by wearing a T-shirt, holding conversations, buying and playing CDs, calling Radio Stations etc, whatever will get future generations into the 'King of British Cool'. Recently someone told me that as long as there is radio, Billy's memory will endure. Having spoken to two young female assistants in CD stores this week, who did not know who Elvis was! I beg to differ. True, 'Oldies' stations will play Billy at least until we have all 'shuffled off', but younger fans will have to keep the CD releases (or whatever replaces it) coming so that people who hear that great voice on the radio in future years, can go out and buy the back catalogue, or part of it at least!

Finally, 2 x CDs to look out for. 'As Good as it Gets – Great British Rock 'n' Roll' – Disky DO 999892 – 2 CD set, for under £9.00. Despite the title, no Billy, Cliff or Marty but a nice little package, indeed, essential. Jimmy Crawford, Dave Sampson, Dickie Pride etc. I had never heard Bill Forbes 'Once More' – the authoritative sleeve notes by Dave Travis refer to Billy in the context of this nice little number. Also worth having are the Rockabilly and Rhythm and Blues packages in this series.

Fingers are crossed that the issue of an alternative version of 'The Wonder of You' will hit the No 1 spot, giving Elvis his 18<sup>th</sup> No 1 – one better than the Beatles! Available now is 'Elvis – The Live Greatest Hits' RCA/BMG 74321 847082 – 21 tracks including the proposed new single. Pity it's not a picture disc though.

Linda and I are looking forward to seeing the excellent Billy Fury Experience next month (April); please do support these 'Billy' acts, it all helps to keep the legend alive – and do take care. Please remember the views I express in my column are my own, unless stated otherwise.

## CROSS MY HEART

by

Maureen Bowden

A couple of "Cross My Heart"'s ago, I cast aspersions on the navigational abilities of my good friend, Rita Smalley. She swore vengeance and she got it. Last time I stayed with Rita I'd undergone a disastrous encounter with a manic hairdresser who'd done something indescribable to my hair. In an attempt to make me look human again, Rita set about me with her heated rollers. While I was sitting at her kitchen table with a head full of 'ironmongery' she sneaked up on me with her camera. The result was a truly horrendous photo of what looked like one of the more imaginative monsters off "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" (*Comment from the Phantom Typist - Believe me the photo could slay vampires at ten paces - JP*). She sent the photo to Jean Prosser. Jean gave it to her husband Mike who did some jiggery pokery with it and a photo of Billy, combining them into one photograph of Billy looking as handsome as ever, sitting at Rita's kitchen table alongside the creature from the Black Lagoon. I've been warned that at some future date this "work of art" is to be prominently displayed at a Mill Hill reunion. Who needs enemies?

The moral of this tale is never incur the wrath of a redhead!

To change the subject completely, have you ever had something you thought was lost forever suddenly turn up unexpectedly? This happened to me recently. An ex of mine from way back discovered a box of my old 78's hidden at the back of his garage. It was obviously mine as it had terms of endearment to Billy written all over the lid. With the help of some mutual acquaintances the box was returned to me. It contained, among others, several of Bill Haley's including the first record I ever bought "Rockin' Through the Rye"; Danny and the Juniors "At the Hop"; The Teddy Bears "To Know Him is to Love Him"; some pre-army Elvis classics; Buddy's "Peggy Sue"; a load of The Ev's; Tommy Steele's "Butterfingers"; Charlie Drake's "Splish Splash" (for which I make no apology. It's as good as Bobby Darin's any day) and Billy's "Maybe Tomorrow" with a crack in it. This was the result of my over-enthusiasm with a hula-hoop. Happy days!



### **This 'N' That Extra Carousel Hotel Weekend**

Although it followed the pattern of the previous weekends many people expressed that this was the best weekend so far! If there is a (Bronze) winning team, why change it, it certainly ain't broke! Some fans are missing Maureen though. The entertainment was, as usual, first class. Gerry Sandon, all glasses, voice and guitar! A really nice set from this likeable and versatile performer. Gary Slade was up to his usual enjoyable standard and his version of 'I'll Never Quite Get Over You' in particular was well received. Colin Paul displayed his usual vocal excellence and has really worked on his presentation, black shirt, gold jacket and all, and it's no surprise that he has a whole host of followers in his own right. Some great music – 'Honey Hush' with vocals by Martin Davies, I think, really rocked. Usual superb performance; and Albie, still recovering from his recent illness turned in, what has now become, habitually, a good set. Danny Rivers tackled his usual favourites including 'Little Sister' and 'Baby Let's Play House', but it was his version of possibly Elvis's finest number 'Reconsider Baby', that surprised everyone. It's time Danny rehearsed a full set – the vocal power is awesome and the stage presence undoubted. Neil Hiley, as usual, held it all together with some great (often wonderfully obscure) mostly British music of the era – great stuff. On Saturday night Billy's mum was visibly moved at the early 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday surprise arranged by Albie, Chris Hewitt and the Carousel. A cake, flowers, cards from well wishers and a stunning framed print (from a painting), presented by Glyn and Jan Holloway. Happy Birthday Jean.

It was a highly enjoyable and successful weekend, raising a little over a £1,000 for the Fund. Special thanks are due to Mrs Roth and Diane Wardle and all of the hotel staff for their hard work and courtesy, and to them both for setting up the weekend. Also to Mrs Roth and Diane for paying for the framed raffle prizes, a much appreciated gesture. To everyone present who contributed the amazing amount for the Bronze Bucket (brainchild of Peter and Brenda Basnett), and the two raffles. To those persons who gave so much in auction, Jeff Hutchinson (what a mover too), Jenny Payne, and Jan Holloway. To Tony Hopper for contributing the autographed music sheet and 2 posters, all quite valuable and much appreciated. Thanks are due again to John and Fay Slater and Mike and Lyn Quinn for moving on more of the Essoldo bricks! Monica O'Bierne for raffle prizes (with thanks too for your company, together with that of Joe and Nathan, nice to reminisce about Billy's Irish Tour). Glyn and Jan Holloway again brought, at their own considerable expense, prints from a stunning new painting of 1960 Billy, and Margaret Gunn spent in excess of 136 hours producing a cross stitch portrait of Billy. A hundred limited edition prints were produced, profits to the Bronze Fund – a generous and original gesture. Thanks are due to Billy's Auntie Rose who donated her Billy 45s collection for sale and Colin Paul who dropped in some Billy tribute CDs to be sold for the Bronze. Thanks too, to Chris Hewitt for his donation from Billy Fury Ltd. Thanks in general to everyone else who contributed to the undoubted success of the weekend. If you have never been, give it a whirl, the next weekend is 9–11 November 2001.

## Billy Fury Rare and Unreleased

By Chris Eley

In 1999 I was told by a dealer that back in the 60s, in Poland and other Eastern Bloc countries, rock 'n' roll/pop artists from the west were released on postcard 45s/33 $\frac{1}{3}$ rpm. No pictures of the artists were put on the release, only scenic shots. This may have been due to copyright, but more likely was due to the authorities not wanting images of decadent idols circulating in their country, stirring up the young. Luckily I have managed to get hold of a few copies, but they are not original 60s issues, but post bar code issues! This is passing strange as they say, and I really don't see why they should do this for any other reason than to 'skin' collectors! Although some of the cards constitute an advert for paintings! Anyway, if anyone can help with information, especially on original releases, please contact me. Some more recent editions actually feature pics of Billy and come in different coloured vinyl.

Title	Format	Remarks	Value
Halfway to Paradise Bill Fury	Postcard 1998 Clown photo by Jerzy Mankowski	No pic of Billy. Sounds like 'Unforgettable' or K-Tel version – poor sound quality.	£15.00– £18.00
As above	Postcard 1995 Different clown photo by Jerzy Mankowski	No pic of Billy. Poor sound quality. As above.	£15.00– £18.00
Colette Bill Fury Hand written	Postcard showing Hotel Mron-govia. MRA Gowlo in red letters on front. Dated 97/numbered 97	With bar code PRT 024/199/97 P/K/ A11	£15.00– £18.00
Baby Come On Billy Fury	Postcard showing red flowers in a vase. MOC LYOKEN on front. Dated 97/numbered 97 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ rpm	PRT-024/19/97 DG-01-166 Original track very poor quality	£15.00– £18.00
She Cried Billy Fury	Details exactly as above	DG-01-166 As above	£15.00– £18.00

## **Mill Hill East Church**

Those of you who attend our Mill Hill gatherings regularly will all know that once we've visited Billy's grave we then go round to the Mill Hill East Church Hall. We have used this church hall for many years now. When they introduced a **NO SMOKING** policy we advised everyone. This No Smoking policy extends throughout the building. The Sound of Fury has just received a complaint from both The Vicar and The Warden of the Church about a few people smoking in the foyer during our get together on Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April. A funeral was held up on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April whilst church members dealt with the debris left in the foyer by the few people who were smoking there on Sunday.

The Vicar has been very good to The Sound of Fury. As many of you know, he has held some excellent Memorial Services for Billy over the years and the Church Warden, Mrs Bedford, has always gone out of her way to accommodate our reunion dates.

We have written to them and apologised but we would ask everyone to please refrain from smoking anywhere within the Church Hall. If you smoke, please go outside. Once you've finished your cigarette please put your extinguished cigarette ends in the waste bin by the entrance rather than leave them littered around the Church grounds.

The Sound of Fury is now "on probation". If anyone smokes in the Church Hall again, they will refuse to hire out their hall to us and we will find it extremely difficult to find another venue.

## **BOOK REVIEW** **by Maureen Bowden**

"Brother, Can you Spare a Rhyme"  
by Spencer Leigh

**T**his is a big glossy book of 288 pages covering one hundred years of Hit songwriting. Spencer Leigh is Liverpool's walking music encyclopaedia and in this publication he puts his extensive knowledge to good use.

The forward is by Dennis Loccorriere from "Dr Hook" and the book covers everyone from Abba to Frank Zappa. It includes artistes as diverse as Hoagy Carmichael, Gordon Lightfoot, Chaka Khan and Malvina Reynolds as well as the more obvious inclusions, The Beatles, Dylan, etc. I was a little disappointed not to find much about Billy. His name isn't in the index although I did find two references to him and there may be more. This is a book you dip into rather than read from cover to cover.

Whatever your taste in music there's something to interest you here.

It's very well written and extremely comprehensive.

The book costs £16.99. It can be ordered through any bookseller or via the internet through [amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk). It can also be ordered from Gazelle Book Services, Falcon House, Queen Square, Lancaster, LA1 1RN.

I recommend it to music lovers everywhere.

## **The Billy Fury Bronze Fund**

**by Jean Prosser**

**W**e had just over £2,000 in the Bronze Fund account in January. As at 24<sup>th</sup> April 2001 we now have:-

**£6,046.00**

This £4,000 has been raised from two Mill Hill gatherings, The Carousel weekend, Jim Brady's Hitchin bash, net profit from the merchandise that we sell, fans' donations and Billy's mum Jean and his brother, Albie.

At Mill Hill on Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April, a fan club member handed me a cheque for **£1,000** for the Billy Fury Bronze Fund. They want to remain anonymous but we all appreciate this very, very generous donation. To raise funds for the Bronze Fund Billy mum, Jean ran her raffle and The Sound of Fury had an auction. Fan club members were also there raising money – Fay and Lynne were selling their “bronze” Essoldo bricks, Joan Billham was selling a couple of photos of Billy, Di and Ann Vickers had been busy baking. They all gave me the money they'd made. Pauline Barker, Joan Billham and Di and Ann Vickers contributed articles to either the raffle or the auction. Thank you very much for your fund-raising efforts, we all greatly appreciate your support. Thanks also to all of you who support our raffles and auctions.

Jean Wycherley, Billy's mum, recently celebrated her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and she was presented with a plaque from The Dream Team/Sound of Fury Fan Club. After she'd thanked everyone she then said how much she and Albert appreciated the efforts that all Billy's fans are making to raise funds for the statue and she's looking forward to the day when Billy's Bronze Statue is raised in the Albert Dock where it belongs.

I've recently transferred over from the Sound of Fury account to the Billy Fury Bronze Fund £166. It came from all of you who added a “little bit extra” to your membership renewal cheque. This £166 is in addition to the donations you sent me which went directly into the Bronze Fund. Thanks to you all for your generosity.

As most of you know we've paid Tom Murphy, the sculptor, for the original maquette and for the clay model of the statue. In total around £21,000. We now need to raise approx £17,500 to £18,000, which is approx £15,500 for “bronzing” the clay statue. Around £1,000 for a stand and around £1,000 for transporting and lifting the statue in place (these last two figures are “guesses” at the moment). So the total raised so far for Billy's statue is

**Around £27,000.00**

We at the Sound of Fury would like to thank each and every one of you who has helped us to reach this figure.

## MEMORIES OF BILLY FURY

By  
Brian Shuttlewood

I will try to bring to mind the recollections that I have on meeting Billy but first you must understand the circumstances of our first meeting in 1959. If Billy had been a major recording star at the time I would have had the experience indelibly imprinted in my mind, but Billy was an unknown and I remember being disappointed that on my visit to the studio I had not seen anyone famous! My cousin was a trainee sound engineer for Decca and had only been there for a couple of months. Having found out that he worked there, and being a serious collector of pop records, I asked if my dad and I could stay with my aunt and uncle for a few days and maybe get to see the studios. It was arranged for a week in February (I think) and I looked forward to seeing loads of stars and bought an autograph book for the occasion. I remember meeting my cousin at the station and going off into this strange city called London. I was very excited and it seemed to take ages. We came to a building that I vaguely remember as being 1930s looking. Around the side was a huge pair of double doors with a wicket gate. We went in to what looked like a warehouse, then through corridors and doors until we came to a room that I can only describe as what I expected a recording studio to look like, only smaller, with a deck and loads of knobs and dials on it. I was led into an anti-room and told to stay there. In the main room various people came and went; then in came a young man, tallish, light to blond hair and very good looking. I tried to think who it could be (it wasn't Tommy Steele who I'd hoped to see) and I couldn't leave the room to ask. The young man went into another room with two older men and the lights came on to reveal a small stage and lots of microphones, music stands and a set of drums. I remember the speakers seemed to be all around me and the sound of a tune starting somewhere in the middle and then being played backwards at high speed. My cousin Graham was in the same room as the young man and the two others and was busily picking up and coiling cables and moving blocks (which I now know were sound absorption cabinets).

The two older men shook the young man by the hand, each in turn, and then left the room to join the sound engineer in the booth with all the equipment. I watched a man operating the tape machine but could not hear a thing myself. I wished I was in the actual recording room. The young man listened in his headphones and spoke back and forth to the engineer. My cousin left the recording room after making some adjustments to the sound blocks and then joined me. I immediately asked who the bloke was in the studio. "I don't know who he is" he said "they call him Ron." I asked why we couldn't hear anything and he went into the control room, spoke to the engineer and within seconds the speakers came on. The cue was given and music came from nowhere, the young man began to sing .. Maybe Tomorrow .. You'll understand .. went wrong and stopped. This happened I seem to recall a few times until everyone was excited. The young singer came into the control room and spent a further few minutes listening to the song he had just sung. Graham came in and said they would break now and that he had to go and fetch some tapes from another part of town but he'd put me on the underground back to his place. I asked if I could talk to the singer and he brought him into the room and introduced me to him. If my memory serves me correctly he said that he hoped I'd buy the record when it came out and I said that I would. He said that he had to do the other side and was I staying to hear it. I told him that I had to go. He also said either be honest or be serious "Did I like the song?" I think I told him that it was great but I thought at the time that it's not good cos it ain't rock 'n' roll!

A couple of months later I heard the song on Radio Luxembourg. They announced the singer as Billy Fury and I couldn't understand why it wasn't Ron something or the other. I'd told my friends about him and now I was going to look like a liar. When he became famous and his real name was known to all, I was vindicated! Can you imagine how I felt? I had met Billy Fury but I didn't know it and didn't even have his autograph in my new book, or anyone else's for that matter.

In 1971 after I'd appeared on radio and TV on the south coast and had also had a very successful 1950's rock 'n' roll society on the Isle of Wight, I received a letter from Goodtimes Enterprises. I opened it to find that Goodtimes were a film company who were planning to make a film set in the 1950s on the island and would I assist them in finding suitable extras who had period dress. I replied that I would.

We all met up at the Puckpool Park Holiday camp in Ryde in late September and began the selection process. Filming began shortly afterwards and it was then we learned who the cast was. First on set was Ringo Starr and David Essex, Deborah Watling and Pattie Love. After correcting the props department a few times about items shown on camera that were not 1950s I was considered a sort of period advisor and all shots were vetted for anything not in the fifties style.

Very early one morning we were gathered for a shoot when Billy Fury appeared on set, accompanied by a woman. I didn't want to immediately crowd him so waited for an opportunity to talk to him. I'd already spoken at length to Ringo and had driven him to Ryde station when he had to go to court over the Beatles Management case dispute.

Towards lunchtime when he was standing at the side of the hall we were shooting in, I approached him. "Hello Billy" I said "what's the chances of Ringo and the rest of 'em sorting out this management mess?" He replied that he thought that the boys would get their wish as they were very astute when it came to business, but he was even more sorry, he said, that the boys couldn't get together again and sort out their own differences. I asked him then, what he was doing after the film and he replied that he was talking with an agent about recording again and perhaps going on the road but not as much as before because of his health. I asked him if he remembered me from 1959 and he said he didn't. I reminded him that he'd asked me if I'd liked "Maybe Tomorrow" and I told him that I did. He looked pretty blank and then said Yes he did. I don't think he really remembered me but then he had met millions of people.

He was called away to get ready and it wasn't until Keith Moon arrived that I again got to speak to him. Billy and Keith seemed to hit it off instantly, laughing together and sharing the odd smoke together, they were just like teenagers and Billy, although looking very thin, seemed to be very happy and reasonably healthy. I asked him what he'd been up to over the past few years and he said he'd been living in a state of harmony with nature. Keith interrupted and said "He's been living in a nudist camp" and we all laughed. "No" he said "I love animals and I love the peace and quiet and I've been with both but I have to live and so I must work and earn so that I can buy the farm I want and perhaps settle down for good." He looked really serious and the spell was broken by Keith again with an off-the-cuff comment. "It won't be the first or last time that he's been in the ....." We all laughed again and Keith asked Billy if he would be partying that night. Billy looked back as he walked away and said "Party with you? You'd kill me with my liver": with that he went.

Billy talked very little whilst on the set and was not socialising much off set either. He seemed to spend most of the time with his young lady. We spoke only a few times and mostly about trivial things. I stayed with the film crew the entire seven weeks of shooting and got on

very good terms with them but during Billy's short say he was very withdrawn to most people.

On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July 1982 we met again. Billy was approached to come out of retirement and perform a few gigs around the country. I think he first appeared in Birmingham but I could be wrong or he could have appeared first at the Blue Boar Festival site in Hucknall Nottingham.

He was top of the bill above some specialist rock 'n' roll bands. I was DJ and compere was Paul Barrett. The show was brilliant and the weather good. Billy arrived for his 10.15 appearance. Then I got the news! Billy was not going on; he was not able to; he was sweating profusely and was worried about singing to a specialist audience. I was asked to go and talk to him. I found him walking about, very nervous, people were virtually grilling him that he must go on. I said "Hello Billy, remember me?" He looked and said "That'll be the Day." We both laughed because it sounded so silly. I said "Billy I've got to get back, I'm the DJ. Can I tell them that you're OK and rarin' to go?" "I'm thinking about it" he said. "Don't disappoint them" I replied and left. I hoped the others wouldn't try to force him.

When the time came to go on he was opposite me in the wings. He looked across and made a sign to me as if to say here goes. He came on to rapturous applause and launched into his first number, stumbling with the words, not hitting the right keys, he was hopelessly lost. He turned to the band and gave a signal to start again. He looked into the audience and what I can only describe as the epitome of a teddy boy, with large quiff, drape coat and beetle crusher shoes, looking for all the world like one mean hombre, said "We love you Billy" and the song began again, this time perfectly. The whole of his act was knock out, he could still sing and the audience heard it. They treated him as they would have done an English Elvis Presley. After his set, he went off stage and because I had to play records till the end of the night I never spoke to him again. Some months later I was hit by the tragedy of his death.

Although I lived in Leicestershire until 1966 I never went to see any of Billy's shows which I regret now. I was certainly involved in entertainment at the time so I may have been busy at my own gigs. I've got some show programmes from around that time but none feature Billy at the De Monfort Hall although I'm sure he appeared there. The only mention I have of Billy is in the souvenir programme of the 1964 "Oh Boy" show tour and on the cover is a promo for Billy at Great Yarmouth for the season. I believe Billy preferred seaside seasonal shows

because he didn't like too much travelling. I seem to remember he told that he preferred to be based somewhere.

Hope this is OK. I've tried to be as accurate as I can but the mists of time can cloud the recollections.

*Thanks to Ann & Di Vickers for contacting Brian Shuttleworth (The Big Bopper)..*



LARRY PARNES  
presents his

1964

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Billy with Rusty



## JULIAN REMEMBERS

**Personal memories of Julian Scott (previously Julian X)**  
(following a phone conversation with Maureen Bowden)

My memories of Billy are varied, and all my memories are of affection and certainly admiration for one of the greatest, charismatic rock artistes Britain ever produced.

I will take you back to my first ever meeting with Billy, as this seems a logical way to approach things .....

Halfway through 1959, after several appearances at the 21's coffee bar plus having my own rock 'n' roll band (I/we were then known as Del Fonteyn and the Five Stars) I was fortunate in being asked to attend an audition for the television talent show "Lou Preager's Find the Singer Show".

Very nervous, I attended along with several other hopefuls, and much to my delight, I won both the audition and the TV show. I do remember I sang Marty Wilde's "Donna" and was the only rock/pop type singer at the audition ... everyone else seemed to be singing Frank Sinatra.

To cut things short, Lou wrote to Larry Parnes on my behalf who in turn wrote to me to arrange a meeting in London. We met. He seemed to like what he heard and saw, and immediately booked myself and my band for what would be my first real professional appearance at Walthamstow Granada, London. On the bill were all "my idols", Marty, Billy, Vince Eager, Adam Faith, etc.

On arrival at the theatre, Larry greeted me as did Marty (soon to be my co-manager) - another first. I was very excited at meeting all the boys and I vividly recall Billy's first words to me. He came wandering over to me backstage and said hello, and asked me where I had obtained my stage shoes! which, because money was short, I had painted silver. They were so heavy; I called them my moon boots. I explained this somewhat embarrassed. We both laughed and the ice was broken.

I will admit, although becoming successful myself, I always considered Billy was in a class by himself and, although we were always on good terms, I was also a fan and had the greatest respect for him.

I was on most of the major tours with Billy, including the period after Marty married and Billy started to enjoy major hits and was topping the bill.

One period you may not be aware of ...

During 1960 a few of us rented apartments in the same block in Paddington, including Billy, Peter Wynne and me. We had some great parties with a constant stream of pop visitors. We became quite close during this period. Billy was going out with Lee at the time and I was dating some of her close friends. We had some good times.

I remember, during Billy's close friendship with Dickie Pride, they were both going through a "second childhood" i.e. wearing Stetson hats and heavy western revolvers. We were boarding a coach after one particular show: one of the fans got a little excited and Dickie lost his temper and hit the poor guy over the head with the gun! Needless to say this did not go down too well with the fans. I recall they stopped wearing this apparel soon afterwards.



I could go on and on, picking up happenings concerning Billy.

I was always struck by his apparent vulnerability! I'm sure that he felt the pressure, and was often exhausted due to his condition.

I will always remember him with great affection and admiration.

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## THE EARLY YEARS

### JULIAN SCOTT



### **The first time I met Billy**

*I first met Billy in 1959 at The Civic Theatre in Halifax. He was topping the bill, which included Joe Brown, Georgie Fame, Johnnie Gentle and Tommy Bruce. We talked for about 30 minutes before the show. That night, I watched the show from the wings. Billy was all in black, a black suit and black shirt with the collar turned up. He gave a wonderful performance amid all the screams.*

*The next time Billy came to Halifax was a year later, to the Odeon cinema. I went back stage to see him and he signed the photos I had taken the year before. That night, Billy had a sore throat and was gargling antiseptic before the show. He couldn't do his full set, so he did a short set to close the first half, and John Leyton closed the show. Also on that show was Eden Kane and Karl Denver. I was disappointed that Billy could not do his full set, but I enjoyed the night all the same.*

*After this I met Billy another two or three times when he was in our area. These are great memories and I'll never forget them.*

Keith Cairns

Morecambe 20-02-01



Photos courtesy of Keith Cairns

## UK Discography Update

By Chris Eley

Title, Format and Track Listing	Label and Cat No.	Release Date	Remarks
Unchained Melody – Easy Listening from the Sixties 25 tracks inc 'Wondrous Place' by Billy Fury (version 1 – 1960)	Debenhams (with Universal) DEB 0006	1999	Says Stereo but isn't. No notes, no pics of artists.
Top Ten Party Hits – 8 CD Collection CD 2 – Colette/Once Upon a Dream CD 3 – It's Only Make Believe/In Thoughts of You	Pegasus EMG 751861 PEG BX 801	1999	Billy tracks are all K-Tel cuts – some dodgy re-cuts by other artists. No notes, or pictures – 136 tracks for £9.99
The Ultimate 60s Collection – 8 CD Box CD 2 – Idols of the 60s 'Wondrous Place' CD 7 – The Game of Love – 'Halfway to Paradise'	No label on Display case D BOX 3156	2000/2001	Almost certainly more K-Tel tracks at £19.99 for the set! No artwork or notes that I could tell from the advertising copy in Woolies.

Title, Format and Track Listing	Label and Cat No.	Release Date	Remarks
<p>Billy Fury at his Best – 2 CD Set  Volume 1 – Maybe Tomorrow/  Colette/  That's Love/Wondrous Place/  Halfway to Paradise/Jealousy/I'd  Never Find Another You (mis-  titled I'll)/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  Volume 2 – Sticks 'n' Stones/  Things are Changing/Loving  You/I'll Go Along With It/  Suzanne in the Mirror/Phone  Box/Any Moment Now/Lady/  Certain Things/All the Way to  the USA/Well Alright/Baby Get  Yourself Together/Driving  Nicely/Your Words/Maybe  Baby/ Sheila/Lazy Life/I'm  Gonna Love You Too/In My  Room/I Love You/Lyana/Going  Back to Germany/Come Outside  and Play/Easy Living/Day By  Day/Dreaming of St Louis</p>	<p>Planet Media  2 X 2004</p>	<p>2000</p>	<p>Black card box pack-  aging, so tight that it  has to be broken in  order to get the 2 x  CDs out! No real art-  work, no notes. Small  2" x 2" colour photo  on front and repeated  on each CD single  sheet front cover in-  sert. CD 1 is same old  K-Tel. CD 2 the en-  joyable tracks  from Rough Diamonds  and Pure Gems /  Halfway to the Hits  CDs. A misleading  title – no mention on  packaging that CD 1  consists of re-  recordings – naughty!  But does say on CDs.  Still worth having at  £6.99 or under</p>
<p>Sounds of the Sixties – Roman-  tic Love Songs  3 x CD Set CD 3 – A Groovy  Kind of Love – The Stars Sing  Romantic Love Songs  'Wondrous Place'</p>	<p>Readers Digest  L 5525-A-015  RDCD 3071-3</p>	<p>2001</p>	<p>No pictures of Billy, a  couple of mentions in  booklet. Far too expen-  sive set but quite well  presented.</p>

## Billy's Birthday Bash at Hitchin Town Hall

by  
Jean Prosser

When Mike and I arrived at Hitchin Town Hall last Saturday the foyer was heaving with people and the hall itself was packed although the doors had only been opened for ten minutes. Strollin' Steve was already playing some superb discs so we found some seats and settled down. It was good to see so many Sound of Fury members there.

First on stage were The Flames. I've seen this group a number of times and they are quite superb. Whether they are the main attraction or acting as the backing group, they are brilliant musicians. I could sit at the feet of the lead guitarist all night; because he makes it look so easy to get such wonderful sounds from his guitar. The base and rhyme guitarists are also terrific musicians and they always seem to be having a ball on stage and what a drummer. He's got drum playing down to a fine art, never drowning out the rest of the group but absolutely awe-inspiring when he does his drum solo. If they're ever playing in your area, go see them. You'll not be disappointed.

The Flames then became backing group for Dave Sampson. Dave, who lives in Hitchin, was a good choice to kick off the evening. He's not only got a fabulous voice but also a wonderful personality and he got everyone out of their seats and on the dance floor. You can understand why such a talented guy toured with Billy, Cliff and so many others. Cliff also had Dave as backing singer on a few of his hit records, so Cliff obviously recognised a talent when he heard one! Such is the character of the man that as he was chatting to the audience about life on the road with Billy and Cliff, he made you feel as if you were having a one to one conversation with him. Dave sang "Wondrous Place" in memory of some of his friends, and of course Billy. Brilliant, Dave, thanks.

Next up was Paul Neon who again gave us a wonderful selection of Billy's songs; some A sides and some B sides. Paul decided this year to perform with his own backing group and they performed perfectly. He came on stage originally in a very snappy grey suit and nipped off stage halfway through to change. When he reappeared wearing his leather trousers, an audible gasp could be heard from the ladies present! Paul ended his performance with Forget Him. Another great performance from Paul, thanks.

Terry Dene was the third act. He's the man whose name everyone knows but they can never remember what records he made. I'm so glad he sung "A White Sports Coat" as I'd last seen him perform that number when I was starting senior school! He gave a very fine performance and his voice is still superb. Thanks for keeping rock 'n' roll alive, Terry.

Finally Matchbox came on. They looked fabulous in their outfits and kicked off the evening with a number called "Forty Days". The only other time I'd heard this was way back in the sixties when Cliff Richard included it on one of his LPs. They gave a stunning performance and it was much appreciated by the audience.

Jim Brady very kindly allowed me to run a raffle for the Billy Fury Bronze Fund. Again I'd like to thank Gemma Jeeves for helping me to sell the raffle tickets. The task of folding and splitting them was made much less tedious thanks to the assistance of Linda Braham and Pauline and Eric Barker. We raised £162 for the Bronze Fund thanks to the generosity of the audience.

I know Jim Brady has plans to keep Hitchin Town Hall rocking 'n' rolling this year. He's got

a do lined up in October for Bill Haley fans. He's hoping to bring Linda Gail Lewis back again.

So if you do want more details you can write to him at 98 Winston Crescent Biggleswade Beds SG18 0EZ but please remember to enclose that all important stamped addressed envelope.

Thanks Jim for another memorable evening.



Paul Neon and his group The Hilites in action during his tribute to Billy Fury at Hitchin.

## THE BILLY FURY EXPERIENCE

by  
Jean Prosser

I saw that the Billy Fury Experience were playing at the Cambridge Corn Exchange so I booked a couple of tickets for Mike and I.

We set off from home, got to Cambridge and parked the car. Had we turned right when we walked out of the car park, we'd have been five steps away from the ticket hall but you've guessed it, we turned left. It took us twenty minutes to get back to where we started! We found the box office, collected our tickets and then went to a nice little Italian restaurant for dinner, then a leisurely stroll and we were at the venue in plenty of time.

The foyer was packed with people but I managed to wave to a couple of fan club members and we chatted to some friends that live quite close to us. We then decided to find our seats. We sat down and I realised I'd forgotten to buy a programme so Mike went off in search of one. Mike thinks I'm mad but I do have hanging from my handbag a Billy Fury key ring and an Elvis one. The lady sitting next to me saw the Billy key ring and started talking to me and I explained that I helped to run Billy's fan club. She said she was a big fan of Billy's. When she was courting her husband back in the early sixties they went to Great Yarmouth for a week's holiday. Billy was appearing there so she made him take her to see the show five times! The guy in front heard the conversation and told me he was an undergraduate at one of the colleges; he's seen the ad for the show and wondered who Billy Fury was. He'd got his girlfriend to phone up a local radio station and asked them to play a Billy Fury number, which they did. They both liked what they'd heard so they'd booked to see the show.

The lights went down and Fury's Tornados appeared on stage. They kicked off the show with a couple of instrumentals and I was delighted to hear "Just Like Eddie" which I thought was not only a fabulous tribute to Heinz Burt (who was my idea of a Greek God) but also to the late, great Eddie Cochran. Colin Gold then started singing in the wings and slowly walked on stage: I just knew I was going to enjoy the show. They covered all of Billy's biggest hits and my personal favourites were "Wondrous Place", "Margo" and "In Thoughts of You".

Whenever I hear Billy singing "Nobody's Child" it always brings a tear to my eye. The Billy Fury Experience included this number in their show. The drummer, pianist and bass player left the stage and Colin Gold started to sing "Nobody's Child" accompanied only by the lead guitarist. Throughout the number the audience was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop. It was performed brilliantly: the audience loved it and I had a tear in my eye! I also loved their treatment of "Devil or Angel", the five guys sung unaccompanied in close harmony – absolutely wonderful.

During the first half of the show Fury's Tornados looked really cool in their black drape suits. Colin wore a gold jacket. For the second half they all came out in sharp suits which my late dad used to describe as "bottom freezers" or something similar!

They had been teasing the audience all night with "Halfway to Paradise" and when they finally performed it, the audience loved it and showed their appreciation in the time honoured way.

All too soon the show came to an end and I said to Mike that I'd like to have a few words with Colin and the guys. It took over half an hour for me to get near them. Whilst waiting we bumped into some friends, then we met fan club member Cecelia and her husband Ken. I left Mike and Ken talking computers and eventually managed to get near enough to chat to them. I said I'd review the show in the next mag and asked if I could take a photo of them. Mike

took a couple of photos of me with The Billy Fury Experience (a marvellous excuse for a "girl" of uncertain age to get amongst such a good looking group of fellas). However I put the film into the shop to be developed and they lost it so I can't reproduce it here.

Whilst chatting Colin did tell me that at their next venue they were changing the show. I'll not give too much away but Colin was talking about wearing a leather suit and including a film.

Should the show appear anywhere near you, it's too good to miss. Shirley Bolton who runs The Billy Fury Experience Fan Club will sent you further details if you write to her but remember to include that all important stamped addressed envelope. Her address is 6 High Street Eyeworth Nr Sandy Beds SG19 2HH



Billy Fury Experience with Shirley after the show

## THE JIMMY CRAWFORD CONNECTION

With special thanks to Eddie Muir and Terry Jones

Most fans will have a copy of the 1962 film 'Play It Cool', either on Lumiere video LUM 2014 1993, (now deleted and hard to find), or from the TV. Even from memory everyone will remember an 'arty' part of the film with Lionel Blair and his dancers, and where Jimmy Crawford, complete with apparently dyed blond hair, belts out 'Take It Easy'. I'm no vocal expert but technically the performance seems to be flawless and the vocal range very good. With hindsight I can now enjoy it for what it is. The song itself however, does nothing for me personally, nor for most of my Billy friends who much prefer Shane Fenton and the excellent Fentones (and Billy!) performing 'It's Gonna Take Magic'.

I can't remember ever seeing Jimmy on TV, or hearing him on radio in the 'old days'; mostly because his biggest hit charted before early 1962 (my discovery of 'pop' music through Billy). Later I discovered the UK original of 'I Love How You Love Me', which Billy covered on his excellent 1962 EP 'Billy Fury No 2'. Hearing 'Our Last Embrace' the flip side to 'I Love How You Love Me' converted me instantly and reversed the negative opinion that the 'Play It Cool' performance had left me with since 1962. This track is so dramatic, and so beautifully over the top, that it just grabs you in a way that the pleasant 'A' side fails to do. Quite simply, Jimmy has a distinctive, and great voice!

Having heard Billy's superb cover of 'I Love How You Love Me' I tracked down the US original by the Paris Sisters and the UK cover by Maureen Evans. It was great to have these 'breathy' female versions and I began to realise why so many female Billy fans liked his version, and why so many girls bought Jimmy's UK cover version, it's a very intimate song! I thought nothing more about Jimmy Crawford, just another great early 60's voice that never fully realised its potential. A few months ago I picked up a CD in the Time Life series and, lo and behold, a cracking version of 'Love or Money'. I had been told that Billy covered the Blackwells' version and had heard the mid-60's version by the Wackers, but this one was new on me. So, for the completists out there, there are now four versions of 'Love or Money' to get your hands on. My first thought was to wonder how well Billy would have tackled it back in 1960, because he did such a fine job (assisted by Stuart Colman's excellent arrangement) in 1982. The nearest we are ever going to get to that is to listen, I believe, to Jimmy's fine 1960 version. Jimmy's two hit 45s gave him a total of 11 weeks in the charts.

'Love or Money' started me off on a collecting kick but I have still been unable to locate all of Jimmy's 45s. His first single 'Long Stringy Baby' (written by Trevor Peacock, who wrote 'Stick Around' among others), is a competent rocker. It's also hard to find and quite expensive I'm told! In title it could be the UK answer to 'Long Tall Sally', but doesn't reach that standard as a song. It is however, a nice little rocker, which, vocally, in places owes more to Adam Faith than Billy, yet also manages a US vocal feel. A contender for inclusion in the UK Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame, in my view. Some nice guitar work, the whole thing reminiscent of Cliff's early Rock n Roll 45s, e.g., 'High Class Baby'. Why it didn't grace the British Beat before the Beatles series of CDs is a mystery to me.

Hal Carter, who was present when 'Play It Cool' was filmed, recalls that Jimmy and Billy were never mates in the way of Michael Cox, Dave Sampson, Joe Brown etc., largely because they never shared the same bill, and Jimmy, living in Sheffield (or thereabouts) was not part of the London circle. Hal remembers that Jimmy was no prima donna, but a man's man without the showbiz 'edge' that some performers displayed.

Sometime in 1998 Jimmy was an audience guest on 'Clive James on TV' where an apparently unflattering clip of Jimmy performing on New Faces was played. It's high time that all of Jimmy's singles were collected on CD. None of the other singles, A's or B's, equal those already mentioned, but are very pleasant early 60's pop, and worth having in a collection.



Jimmy Crawford – Still from 'Play It Cool'

# JIMMY CRAWFORD DISCOGRAPHY (May not be complete)

(With special thanks to Terry Jones and Eddie Muir)

Single/Album/CD	Label and Number	Year	Chart Entry
Long Stringy Baby/ Unkind	Columbia DB 4525	1960	
Love or Money/Does My Heartache Show	Columbia DB 4633	1961	No 49 on 8 Jun 61
I Love How You Love Me/Our Last Embrace	Columbia DB 4717	1961	No 18 on 16 Nov 61
I Shoulda Listened To Mama/A Boy Without a Girl	Columbia DB 4841	1962	—
There'll Be No Good- byes/Thank You	Columbia DB (Number not known)	1962	—
Rockin' Again at the 2 "i"s	Ace Records CHA 77 Pressed in Germany	Unknown	'Long Stringy Baby'
Great British Rock n' Roll - As good as it gets - "Long Stringy Baby"	Disky DO999892	19th Feb 2001	

Any further information on Jimmy or his recordings and appearances  
would be most welcome.



# POP PARADE

by Ken Ferguson

## Billy Fury changes his tune

"Billy Fury is one of the most sensitive boys I have ever known," said manager Larry Parnes, when we met at his lavishly furnished flat in South Kensington. Billy had just left us.

"He was deeply hurt when reading some of the reviews of *Play it Cool*," continued Parnes.

"He worked hard on that film and, considering it was his first, I thought he did well. Take Presley's first film. And Cliff's and Adam's...they weren't very good, were they? But they've learned through experience.

"I would like you to see Billy's first screen test. I thought he was great. But Billy is terribly self-critical. When he thinks he's done a bad show he gets very depressed.

"I've known Billy a long time. He's changed in many ways... he's matured, he has better control on stage and he knows what he wants. I don't have to tell him what to do these days. I leave it entirely to him."

Larry re-named him "Fury" at a time when the fans were begging for a sensational stage act. Billy gave it to them. Now times have changed and Billy has quietened down considerably, scoring today with ballads as well as rock numbers.

Off stage Billy Fury is a quiet, unassuming young man.

He's a dreamer at heart. A sentimentalist. He spends his spare time writing poems and songs.

Before Billy left us we had discussed his tremendous popularity. Today, he is rapidly becoming a family entertainer, like Tommy Steele, Cliff Richard, Elvis Presley and other pop idols, who have aimed at a wider market.

"The other day," said Larry, "Billy was stopped by a woman of about 50 who congratulated him on his act."

"I was so surprised" said Billy. "I can remember, a few years ago, girls telling me that their parents wouldn't allow them to come and see my shows. Things have changed."

"Has the Billy Fury image changed?" I asked Parnes.

Billy looked at Larry. Larry thought for a moment and said, "I'd say his image is stronger."

"What is my image, Larry?" Billy asked.

"Well," Larry said, "I don't really know. But personally, I think Billy has a great future in this country—greater than any other singing personality. Why? Because he's so flexible.

Parnes is now planning to build Billy Fury into a leading film personality.

"As far as Billy's film future is concerned," said Larry, "there are two important things to consider—the story and the director. In fact, I'd say the director is most important.

"I need an experienced director," added Billy. "I'm not ready to tackle anything dramatic yet. I'm not mature enough to play passionate love scenes. Maybe when I'm 28 I'll be ready.

"I want Billy's next picture to be a light comedy," said Larry.

"I think a film with plenty of song and dance numbers, combined with a hint of romance. That would be the ideal thing."

*If anything, Billy has been overworking recently – and the strain is beginning to tell. "In fourteen months he's done 131 one-night stands, breaking records all over the place," said Parnes. "I would say that Billy has had more success with one-nighters than any other entertainer".*

*"I enjoy one-nighters, but they can be exhausting," Billy said.*

*"He'll go on the road for two weeks, and then come back for a week's rest before going out again," Larry explained. "He won't be doing a spring tour this year. Instead we're going to concentrate on his TV series (which is coming up later) and recordings. Personally, I think Billy's recent disc, "Like I've Never Been Gone" is the best thing he's done since "Halfway to Paradise." You know," continued Larry, "we once said in a TV interview, that we didn't care for one of Billy's new recordings. That disc was "Because of Love". To be honest, we didn't like it at all – not to start with. Elvis Presley actually recorded it after Billy – and sang it in his film Girls! Girls! Girls!"*

*"How about that?" smiled Billy.*

*Added Larry, "After the TV show we were told it was a bad policy to say we didn't like one of Billy's discs, because if we said we didn't like it the fans might not. Although the disc sold over 150,000 copies, it didn't do as well as Billy's other hits. I'm sure our comments on that show killed the chances of a larger sale. We're going to be very careful what we say in future."*

## **"Billy has a great future in this country," says Parnes**

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Nice to say a few words to  
you all, just want to say  
Keep Swingin and take care  
Good Blues

Billy Fury

Now here's a boy whose handwriting shows he's definitely "different" from the crowd—a rebel. He won't be told, and likes to work out his own attitudes and opinions. Yes, Billy Fury's unconventional, but fun to know.

# They are changing

## Billy Fury

***and he doesn't  
even know it !***



*"They don't scream so much any more" says Billy, seen here during his recent appearance on ABC TV's "Thank Your Lucky Stars"*

It came as a bit of a surprise to Billy Fury when I told him: "Decca say you're NEW ... that you're appealing to an adult audience now ... that you've been reorientated."

This claim by Decca is because of Billy's latest release, "Halfway to Paradise" which, according to A and R man Dick Rowe, "represents our first out and out 'pop' approach with Billy Fury. Up till now we have really only concentrated on making him appeal to the teenagers."

The surprise? "It's the first time I've heard anything about all this," said Billy. "I've changed a bit but not *that* much. Anyway I don't even like this record really."

Billy, mind you, has never been known to like any record he's made, apart from one or two classed as uncommercial and still in the racks.

But the record *is* different, even if Billy does say he can't see it. It's as different, in fact, as Billy is himself. He's growing up, and quietening down.

On stage he's no longer so mean and moody. It's seldom that he prostrates himself on the floor or deliberately sets out to get the girls screaming.

And it's not because of orders from above.

"I just don't feel it any more," Billy explained. "I can't do it now ... I'm growing out of it. Just occasionally I get in the mood and I'm all right, but if I'm not I cut out most of the movements."

How have the audiences, who in the past have come to expect a moody performance taken to the new, toned down Billy Fury? "Well, they don't scream so much any more," he said. "It's a more restrained applause."

It's not only in his work that Billy's attitude has changed. "I don't take life so seriously any more. I don't worry so much."

He's taken up horse riding and his plans to race a car have been postponed, temporarily, and he tells me he hasn't been out on a motor bike for months.

With his records Billy is likely to have to wait a long time before he gets the satisfaction he wants.

**"I want to try something really different. I'd love to do some rhythm and blues numbers and I know you might think this sounds a bit funny but I want to cut a disc of a spiritual with no musical backing, just a big vocal group."**

Billy, in his growing up, wants to accept challenges. He's not being conceited when he says that in the past he's found record-making easy.

"I've done it so many times," explains Billy. "Now I want to try things that are difficult so that I can get some real satisfaction."

Like most people, only a few weeks out of teens (Billy was 20 on April 17) he's impatient – uncompromising.

In annoyance because he isn't recording the songs he likes to write he stopped writing them.

"What's the point?" he asks me.

The sort of records he wants to make? "Rhythm and blues and I'd also like to sing some of the old standards. Not with a beaty backing but just straight and as they should be sung."

### **My own ballads**

**"And I'd also like to sing some of my own ballads. I don't feel I can sing ballads written by other writers but I think I could my own. I wouldn't mind if it's all a terrible flop. I just want the chance to try."**

One of the few discs that Billy has made and liked has been released in America. It's "Would You Stand By Me?", a slow blues number. "I was going over there to plug it," says Billy. "They thought it would stand a better chance in America, but they're not going to release it over here. They say it's not commercial enough."

Billy, of course, knows that his advisers are right. But this doesn't help very much when you're ambitious and 20 ... all set to prove to the world that you're more than just a rock singer.

*Richard Adams*

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## GONNA TYPE A LETTER

"I was very shocked to hear of the death of Terry (from Spinning Disc). I've spoken to him on the phone on numerous occasions over the past few years, usually about Billy. He's always been very helpful and friendly. I was planning to ring him this week about an Eddie Cochran video, which made the news seem all the more shocking.

My thoughts are also with Mick Hill. I wish him all the very best and I'm sure his zany personality will help him through the ordeal.

The fan club mag arrived a couple of weeks ago. I especially enjoyed reading the article by Mark Haley. It was very moving."

### **Sue Taylor from Somerset.**

*(Thanks, Sue. We were all very sad to hear of Terry's death. He's been enormously supportive and helpful to the fan club over the years. Also thanks to you and everyone else who've sent their love and best wishes to Mick. He and his wife Val are in all our thoughts. Maureen)*

*(I sent a card on behalf of The Sound of Fury expressing our condolences and also sent a donation in memory of Terry direct to The Guide Dogs for the Blind. Our Mick wrote to me recently saying that he's so well-known at the hospital now that even the porters call him Elvis! Jean P.)*

"I had a lovely time at Blackpool. Monica from Dublin and a few other people asked about you. You're missed when you're not there.

The weather was nice. I went round the shops on Saturday morning but I can't walk too well at the moment as I'm having problems with my hip.

Danny Rivers sang for us and he was very good.

Colin Paul was nice to me. He's still the best."

### **Maggie Clarke Rhos on Sea**

*(Sorry I couldn't be there Maggie. I'll do my best to get there next time. Your hip obviously hasn't stopped you chasing the men ... Maureen)*

"I must say how much I have enjoyed being a member of the Sound of Fury and how I really look forward to receiving the Fan Club mags. They are always a really good read, packed with facts and information, which really keeps Billy to the fore. Many thanks to you all for the really hard and dedicated work you put in."

### **John Winder Lancaster**

"Please find enclosed 'subs' for fan club. I think the magazines get better and better – nice and informal with loads of "Billy info". Must be the best £8 quids worth you get. Keep on Rockin'."

### **Ian Allendale Hotel 104 Albert Rd Blackpool FY1 4NP (01253 623268)**

*"Thanks Ian for your note. Ian tells me they're putting on a Rock 'n' Roll Christmas Weekend on 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> November. They're taking bookings now so why not give them a ring. It sounds like a great weekend. Jean P)*

## **PENFRIENDS**

**ALAN TEGG** of 47 Cedar Way Belfields Estate Guildford Surry is 39 years old, 5 feet tall, is a widower. He has two children aged 7 and 8. His interests are rock 'n' roll music, football, gardening. Is a little bit shy and finds it easier to talk to ladies. Would love to hear from anyone with similar interests.

## **Billy Fury Tribute in Majorca**

If you are spending your holidays in the Carla Bona area of Majorca try to catch David Nichols' act. He does a lovely tribute to Billy Fury.

If you haven't booked your holiday, then try Carla Bona. You'll get a sun tan and your daily "dose" of Billy!

Thanks to Beryl & Mark Jeeves for this info.

## **THIS 'N' THAT EXTRA Terry Jones of Spinning Disc**

**I**t was a hammer blow to get a call on February 15 saying that Terry Jones had passed away quite unexpectedly on the 13<sup>th</sup> from a suspected heart attack. I had dealt with Tel on the phone for years and finally got to know him last August at the Brighton Festival. He was a gentle, humorous and thoroughly nice guy, who did so much for lovers of 'our' music. Why I switched his name to Smith in the last magazine, well, perhaps Dr Anthony Clare can sort that one out! I have apologised to Kate Jones and I have the consolation of knowing that Tel would have said 'That's alright mate'! Tel loved in particular, Roy Orbison, Del Shannon, and Billy. We were unable to attend the service but Bob Thomas informed me that Tel had requested 'Wondrous Place' – and it was played. I am told the business will not continue and that anyone with unfinished business should still write in to the shop where a family friend will sort it out. I shall miss him, as I know, will a whole lot of people.

Thanks Tel, and Kate, for all you did for rock 'n' roll, Billy and for the Bronze project.

Chris Eley

## **Run To My Lovin' Arms**

### **Another Fund Raiser for The Billy Fury Bronze Fund**

**by Jackie Clark**

**Y**ou would have thought that I would have learnt my lesson after my Ben Nevis experience two years ago, but No. I have now applied for a place in the Great North Run on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2001.

I want to do this run to raise more money for the Billy Fury Bronze Fund so would appreciate it if anyone would like to sponsor me.

I will not have sponsor forms this time. If you would like to sponsor me – assuming I get a place – perhaps you could phone me on 020 8785 9575 to let me know the amount you are willing to part with if the “old crock” completes the course. It is **thirteen miles** – and I think I may have to walk and jog a bit as I know I couldn't run the whole distance.

I guess the song that will be in my head during the run will be Billy singing “Run To My Lovin' Arms”.

### **Further Info on Our Jackie by Jean Prosser**

**F**or those of you who don't know Jackie let me give you the low down. Jackie, like Clare, Maureen and myself, are sixties “dolly birds” (and you need to be of a certain age to even remember the expression). We remember teddy boys in their very chic drape jackets, drain pipe trousers and those shoes! Three inch stiletto heeled shoes with winkle-picker toes (and stuffing cotton wool down them to stop them curling up), then the birth of the chisel toe shoes (one of my boyfriends loved them because he could get closer to the bar). The wireless that could only pick up the Light programme, the Home Service and the Third programme. The birth of the pirate ships, Radio Caroline and Radio London, which for the first time played our sort of music all day long. Previously we'd have to wait until 7 p.m. for Radio Luxembourg and that always seemed to crackle and fade when the best records were played. Watching “Oh Boy” on the black and white tellic in the corner of the room (my dad banned me from watching it because it would “ruin my morals”). However I always used to have a homework problem that I could only sort out with my friend Iris who's parents let her watch it). Then “Wham” and “Top of the Pops”. Mods and rockers and the birth of “Ready, Steady, Go”.

The last time that Jackie ran any distance (other than a three mile run last year) was at school in the sixties when physical education was compulsory and they made you run twice round the school playing field on a cold, damp November day because the teacher couldn't think of anything else to do. If you were lucky, you found a large hedge and hid behind it, waited until you saw some athletic creature pass you for a second time, then out you'd run.

Two years ago, after consulting her Doctor, Jackie attempted to climb Ben Nevis. She didn't make it to the summit because of her eye problem. So she's now attempting a thirteen mile run. Jackie is a quiet, unassuming lady and as you will see she's definitely not in her “first flush of youth”.

She'll not be first across the finish line but with her determination and courage she will get there. Good luck Jackie, I hope you get a place but regardless of whether you get a place or not I'm sending a fiver for the bronze just to say thanks for having the courage to put your name forward, with another fiver pledged once you cross the finish line. Mike is sending you some "Bliss Ease" because they really do help with the blisters! So come on Fury Followers how about giving Jackie some encouragement? If you live near the route of the run why not go out and give her a cheer. You'll recognise her. She's the sixties dolly bird wearing the Billy Fury tee shirt!

### A Billy Fury Bronze Fund Raiser

A fan Club member has recently bought Billy's farm in Llanwrda Wales. To raise funds for the Bronze Fund they have very kindly offered to auction a weekend away (two nights) for two at the farm; bed, breakfast and evening meal.

Please send your bid for the complete weekend for two to:

**The Sound of Fury, P O Box 60 Biggleswade Beds SG18 0SR**

**By THURSDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2001**

The highest bidder will be offered the weekend.

All the money raised will go to the Billy Fury Bronze Fund and should be paid to the Bronze Fund prior to the weekend starting. The date for the weekend to be arranged convenient to both parties.

Thanks. What an innovative way of raising funds.



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