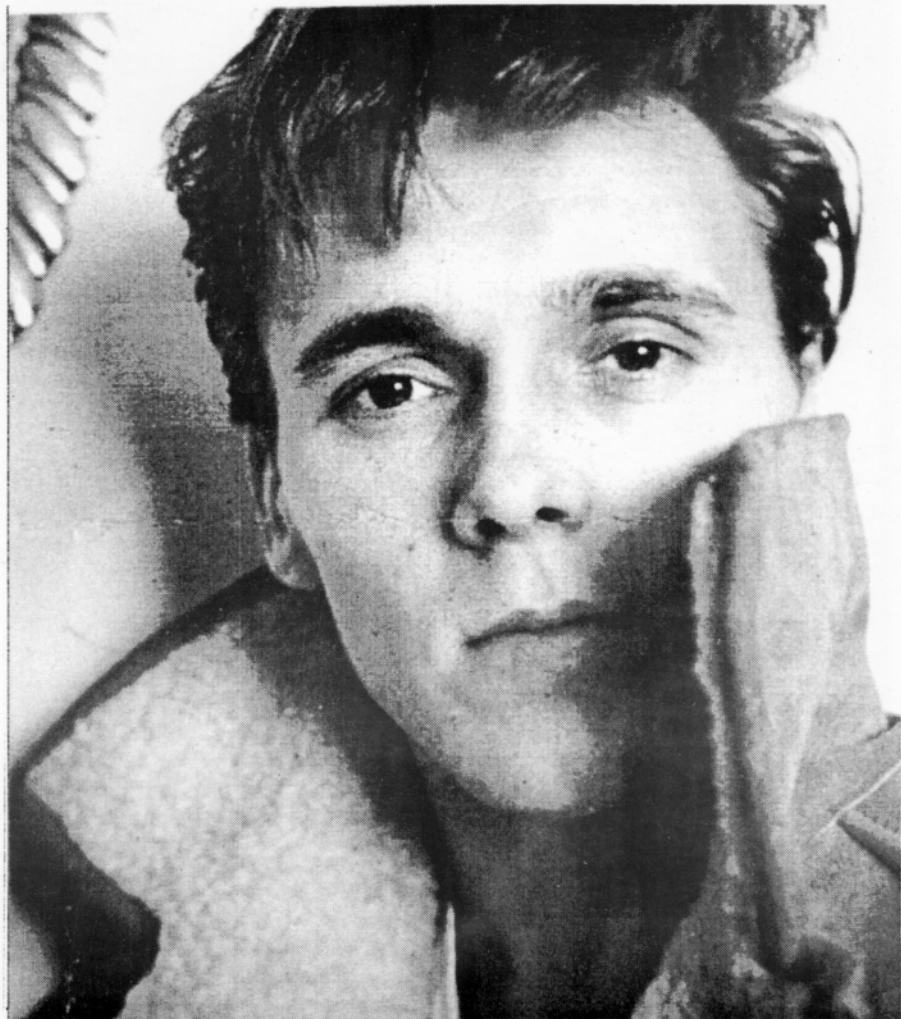
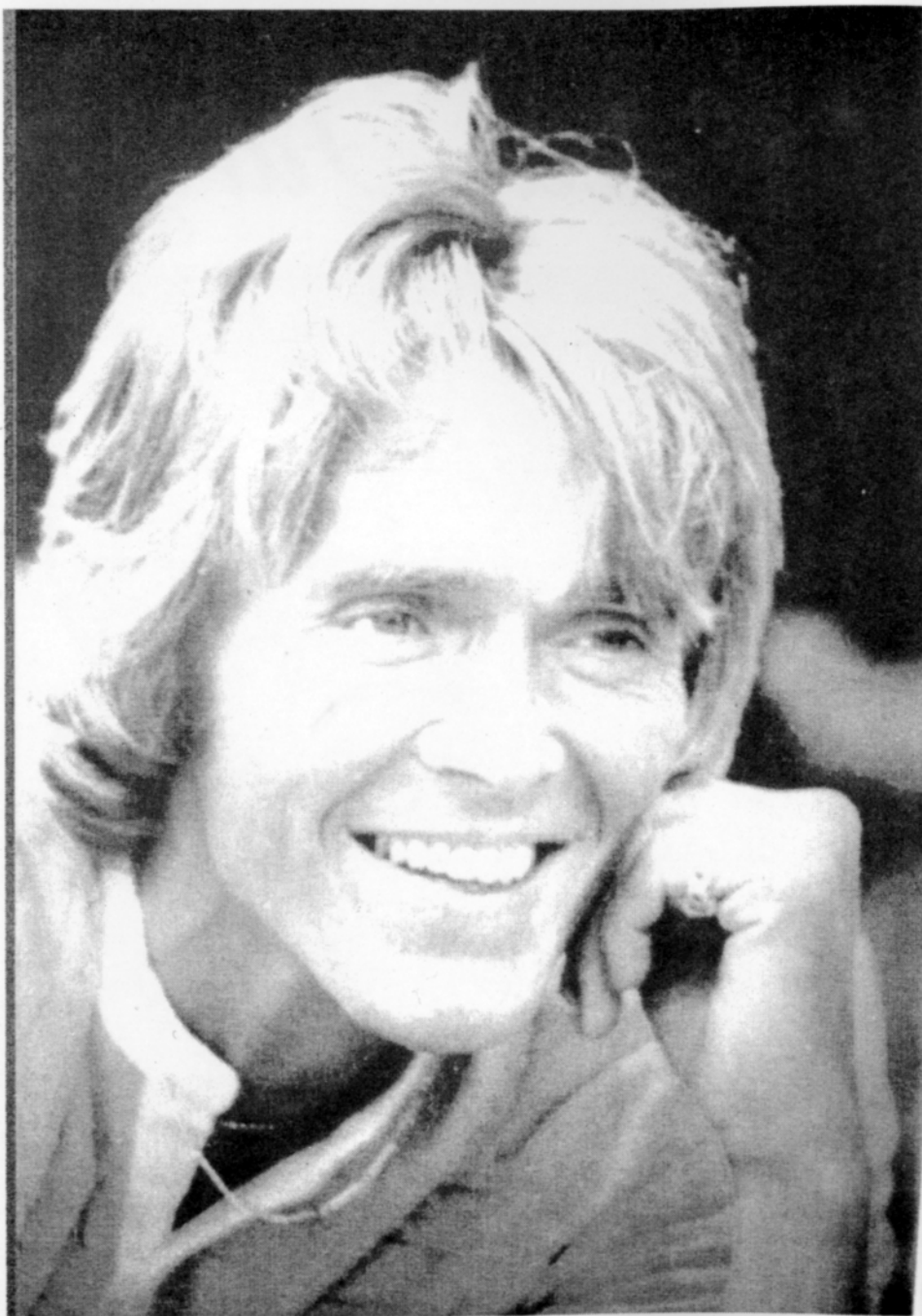


Number 17

Billy Fury



Official Billy Fury Fan Club



Front cover photo - Tony Gale - Pictorial Press



BILLY FURY

Always Remembered....

THE SOUND OF FURY

Official Billy Fury Fan Club

C/o 36 Manbey Grove Stratford London E15 1EX

Stand it in the corner, over by the record machine

This mag's too cute to be a minute over 17

(Apologies to Jerry Lee)

Hello Fury Followers,

I hope you're all refreshed and dried out after your summer holidays. Our member Sue Taylor from Norfolk thinks English summers are wonderful. Of course they are Sue, keep taking the pills!

Several of you have been asking what's happening about the film based on the musical "The Sound of Fury". I'm afraid there's no news yet folks but Joe Boyle, the script writer, has promised to let me know as soon as things start moving, so watch this space.

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



October 2002

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Cross My Heart

by Maureen Bowden

DJ's on local radio stations all over the country have played a huge part in keeping Billy's memory and music alive. Some of them, however, deserve a special commendation for their contribution over and above the call of duty. No doubt many of you have stories to tell about DJ's in your area and I'd love to hear from you if you'd like them mentioned in the mag. Here are a few who instantly spring to mind. Two of them, unfortunately, are no longer broadcasting.

On Radio Merseyside John Kennedy used to have an excellent golden oldies programme called "Now & Then". In his broadcast two days after Billy's death John said simply "Few words today but plenty of music". He then played "In Thoughts of You", "Run to my Lovin' Arms" and "I'm Lost Without You". Throughout the following years John became a stalwart in supporting Billy's fans in all their undertakings and in constantly playing his records. He had a perfect radio voice, smooth, unflustered and very professional. He was a pleasure to listen to. He's no longer broadcasting and he's sadly missed.

In complete contrast, throughout the same period we had Greater Manchester Radio's manic Manchunian 'Li'l Old Neil Hiley'. Neil's "Rock Back the Clock" was probably the most chaotic show on local radio. For an idea of his distinctive vocal delivery think back to those old Dansette record players with three speeds; remember how it sounded when you accidentally played a 45 on the 78 setting?

The show was a little gem for Rock 'n' Roll lovers. Neil's extensive knowledge of everything from early 50's doo-wop to the present generation of Rock 'n' Roll bands was truly impressive. He played records you were never going to hear anywhere else and you are never likely to hear again. He's a dedicated Billy fan and over the years he did some wonderful tributes to him. He was DJ at countless Billy nights and now that he's no longer broadcasting he continues to organise Billy nights for charity. Tapes of "Rock Back the Clock" used to be sent all over the UK and beyond and when the mighty Beeb in it's dubious wisdom cancelled it, there were howls of protests from fans everywhere but to no avail. We haven't given up however. You recall how at the end of Hammer Horror films the monster/vampire/zombie/mummy or whatever says those immortal words "I will be back"? Well, that's what Neil said when he left GMR for the last time, so we live in hope.

Radio Merseyside's own musical authority is writer and broadcaster Spencer Leigh. Spencer's speciality is managing to get interviews from people to whom no one else has managed to get within a mile. In the process of his interviews he has a knack

of bringing the conversation round to British music of the '60s. At the first opportunity he pops in the question "What did you think of Billy Fury?" Good old Spence, he never fails. His knowledge and genuine love of the music shine through and along with John and Neil he's given a tremendous amount of support to Billy events over the years. Spencer also co-wrote the stage play "Be Bop a Lula" which was about the Eddie Cochran/Gene Vincent tour of 1960. The portrayal of Billy by Liverpool actor Gary Mavers did a lot to awaken interest in Billy in a new generation of fans.

Also on Radio Merseyside we have Frankie "Machine Gun" Connor who must be the main contender for the Neil Hiley Award for Erratic Vocals. (I said erratic, not erotic; calm down Frank.) Not only do they exceed the speed of light but also he occasionally lapses into Scouse back slang. (Yaygess Freygank eygi ceygan deygo eygit teygoo.) Like the rest of us Frankie loves Billy. He very rarely misses playing a Billy record on his Saturday programme, he's acted as compere for several Billy events and he's regularly supported the Bronze Fund. He also loves cats. One of his moggies recently passed on to that Great Litter Tray in the sky. Condolences Frank I know how you feel. I wept buckets when our Archie "moved upstairs". Okay folks, over to you now. Let me know of your own shining stars in the DJ firmament and I'll give them a mention.



From the film "Play it Cool"

THE BILLY FURY BRONZE FUND

by Jean Prosser

After our April Mill Hill meeting we had £10,320 in The Billy Fury Bronze Fund account. We now have £11,600. Thanks go to Bob Paskins, Marion Cave, Sue Taylor, Di and Ann Vickers, Colin Paul and The Persuaders for their fund raising efforts and of course Billy's fans for buying the merchandise and sending in donations.

We needed approx £17,000/£17,500 to complete the statue so we now have left to raise approx £5,900.

We are almost there!



A great night for these fans at the ABC Lincoln in November 1962 when they met Billy Fury (left) and Marty Wilde.

Copyright Lincolnshire Echo Supplement

THIS'N'THAT

with
Chris Eley

What great news over the very special Jubilee Weekend to see that Billy was voted number thirty in the Radio Two Top 50 songs from the Golden Jubilee period -with Halfway to Paradise of course. It is great to see that so many fans bother to take the time to support him; if only more would buy the CD releases! Talking of which, Love Songs is ready to hit the streets, unfortunately without the unreleased bonus track, which could not get clearance for some reason. It is a nice little package although I did try at the eleventh hour to get the front cover changed to a 1962 Play it Cool off set photo instead of the portrait. Universal are going to run with it because it is so striking and different from the 'Beefcake' shots found on a lot of the cheaper releases. People will either love or hate it; but won't be able to ignore it! The 14 or so page booklet artwork is stunning with great work by Phil Smee; several unreleased photos, and others that may have been out in a ghosting way before, but which are now clear. Billy with a sheepskin car coat collar turned up (later than the usual shots, perhaps 1965/66, in his white woollen jacket and others. With hindsight I would have changed about 4 tracks or so for B sides/EP tracks but originally when compiled it was to have been a companion to Billy Fury-Beat' n' Blues so I left off 'A King for Tonight' etc. The latter CD idea failed to get approval, which was a blow for me, seeing as it would, in my view, have been a real belter with so many tracks not currently available. Also a perfect 'Male' companion to the 'Female' Love Songs. Never mind! How I came to leave off Somebody Else's Girl (a favourite of mine), I really don't know, but at the time the pressure was on (as usual) to get it done and in quickly. A bit like life in the Forces really-all 'hurry up and wait ' Full marks to discerning fan Will McNeil for the album concept, and to Chris Thomas for the stunning (but probably controversial) art cover. It is, all in all, a lovely package.

After spending the Jubilee in lovely Wales we motored down to Kent to attend the 'Billy' wedding of mega fans Steve and Ann Baker. It was a privilege to be there and nice to meet old friends from the Allandale gatherings in attendance. The evening performance by the Flames was enjoyable and the numbers that Danny Rivers took the vocal on were superb.

As I write, the talented and pleasant Laura, via her manager, nice guy Kevin Summerfield, is trying to launch her tribute single to Billy through Universal. On behalf of the SOF I have supported them in this and suggested to Universal that Billy's 20th Anniversary on Jan 28th would be the perfect vehicle for this. Also I requested that Decca /Polydor (part of Universal) considered releasing a (tasteful) modernisation of one of Billy's hits, perhaps coupled with a track off Love Songs and on the same CD as Laura (or separate if necessary). Jenny Warwick has to take

the credit for thinking of a re-mix release. There has been no response yet. People either loved or hated the recent Elvis No1 (it is great to dance to and has put him ahead of the Beatles). I liked it-always liked the song anyway. Providing any re-arranging does not detract from Billy's performance, and if it would succeed I see no reason why it should not be done. Look how stunning the re-arranged version of Forget Him turned out, with its 70's vocal and 80's backing.

Provisionally planned for Billy's 20th is the CD BillyFury/Halfway To Paradise, a two on one. It was scheduled for last year! Whether it will meet the 28th is in the lap of the gods but it should make the year! As for other projects, who knows! I will be writing any day now to the BBC for a re-showing of the Omnibus tribute-as near to the 28th as possible. If you would be kind enough to write in to the BBC in support it would be very much appreciated-may even work !!

Just discovered that during 1967 the Gamblers were not always available to back Billy so before the Plainsmen took over, Billy was backed on some gigs by the Puppets. I always loved the sound of Billy backed by the Gamblers; it was a crime that no LP was released, especially a live one. For my money it was a combination to equal, indeed better, anything around in the 60's, Beat Groups and all. Anyone having any knowledge, and especially photographs of the Puppets (with or without Billy) and who is prepared to share them with SOF readers please contact me via the SOF address at 36 Manbey-thanks. It seems that in 1967 Billy also won his heat of Radio Luxembourg's Battle of the Giants; against Cliff! In 1966 he had won the trophy of course.

For those of you interested in other artists versions of Billy tracks there is a nice stereo version of Somebody Else's Girl on the new digipack 'Freddie and the Dreamers' CD-EMI 7243-4 99472-4. Nice little CD-great voice. The Best of Billy Fury LP, released in 1967, was advertised in the Suffolk Fan Club Magazine as costing 20s nine and a half pence! Happy days. I am sure my LP Billy cost 32/2pence.

Missed Lord Sutch but caught John Leyton and Dickie Pride on Juke Box Heroes; quite good I thought. When will Shane Fenton and Mike Berry, among others, get done I wonder.

The Ace Café British Rock'n'Roll weekend in aid of the Bronze Fund. We at the SOF cannot take any credit for it; it was the brainchild of Chris Jones of Spinning Disc with Mark Wilshire of the Ace Café. The Ace bikers do a drive past of Billy's resting place (usually) on the anniversaries and have expressed willingness to help before. We are very grateful to anyone who is prepared to raise money for the Bronze-especially, as next January looms ever closer. Our only involvement was one auction item and some raffle prizes.

Billy appeared on the Simon Dee show, Dee Time, sometime in 1967 and apparently went down very well. He also appeared on -wait for it! "Doddy's Music Box". That's one I do not recall. Robert Longmuir of Brechin wrote in to the

Suffolk Branch of the Fan Club during 1967. " I enjoyed Billy in sound and sight on Monday 27th February, when he appeared on "Doddy's Music Box". Billy was really and truly fabulous. He was dressed in a dark suit, white shirt with pointed collars dark tie, and high-heeled boots. Billy unfortunately was not the guest star; it was Dusty Springfield, and also featured Billy, Paul and Barry Ryan and the Searchers. Billy stood on three steps with pillars down the side of them. The A.B.C. Television Show Band backed Billy, and in my opinion the band was a little flat, but it didn't seem to put Billy off at all. Down the steps Billy slowly walked singing 'Hurtin' is Loving' with the microphone in his right hand and his left arm resting on his hip. Billy pointed his left index finger towards the left side of his head when singing "My memory does me wrong, it does me wrong" and then slowly dropped his arm to his side pointing his index finger towards the camera whilst singing "I wish you were gone". To close his song Billy bowed and smiled four or five times. Bill's hair style has changed; it is combed down at each side, with the rest of his hair falling on the front of his brow".

Thanks Robert; much of 'Parlophone Billy' is often the best in my view, greatly underrated.

Quote from Weekend Magazine 9th July 1960. BILLY FURY, 19, (real name Ronald Wycherley)-ex-Liverpool tugboat hand, who says his contract, is for £18,000 over five years. Fury was one of the stars of Jack Good's *Wham!* Said Fury; *"I never learnt to sing or play the guitar at all. I think my voice is terrible, to be honest. Yet it sells. If I take lessons it might not sell any more. I do sing flat. I know this."*

That's news to us Billy.

Do invest in the new Elvis 'Today, Tomorrow and Forever ' 4 CD boxed set but if you wait a little it may come down in price; because it consists of mainly alternative takes it's sales potential is probably limited and specialist dealers could be knocking it out a little cheaper. Conversely, it could be soon deleted. ! Worth it for the duet with the gorgeous Ann Margret on the title track and the stereo outing of the beautiful '68 TV Special track, Memories. Downside, a couple of really bad movie songs.

Carl Perkins was a great cat and it is nice to see the 1978 BBC Sessions on CD at last, with a charming interview and many unreleased numbers. It's not vintage, but it is worth having for the great rockin' versions of classics like Matchbox. It's on Castle Music, CMDDD 510. Another sad loss to our musical lives-and a true gentleman as well as supreme talent.

Sam Cooke had a beautifully expressive voice and influenced many artists. His best work is collected on a four CD set entitled 'The Man who invented Soul', RCA 07863 67911-2. I had not heard A Whole Lotta Woman before (not the Marvin Rainwater number). There is some nice stuff on here. Unfortunately Blue Moon is one of the tracks not included and could well have replaced one of the standards

type tracks. I am now frantically looking for a copy of the deleted CD soundtrack to The American Werewolf in London film-it has Blue Moon on it I am told! Just released is the 21 track CD - 'A Tribute to the King-Elvis has left the building' -Sony Music TV Columbia CD 509490-2. It's a mixed bag of covers of Elvis numbers and other numbers that Elvis covered. Bryan Ferry performing Girl of My Best Friend makes this worth the 'cheapish' purchase price alone. Other highlights are Andy Williams's version of Can't help falling in love, Billy Joel doing All Shook Up (the way Elvis should have done it during the 70's) and Mac Davis with a funky version of A Little less Conversation.

If, like me, you love the music of Roy Orbison then don't forget to look out for the Larry Branson Tour in October. Larry does a fine job on Orby and by all accounts is a nice guy who values his fans. For details check out your local Theatres/Assembly Rooms etc or contact Sound of Fury member and Larry's Fan Club President, Martine Peake. Her address is 15 Elviston Road Poulton-le-Fylde,Lancs,FY 6 7 TH.

Well, that's about it until the January issue. Please do buy the new Billy CD for your loved one and have a great festive season.

I will close with special thoughts from all of us at the SOF, and from our partners, for those people we have lost from the Billy fraternity, for those fans who have lost loved ones, those who have been unwell, and for those unwell at present. Mick and Rosalie Vale were a lovely couple who visited Billy's resting place and Linda and I were so sad to hear of Mick's loss; Rosalie was so nice. Our thoughts are with Mick (also a Billy fan) at this time. Another really nice person (why is it always the case-why seemingly never the bad hats of this world?) was Tony Scott, formerly a memorabilia collector and record dealer who sadly passed away this August, aged only 53. He ran the Broad Green Record Centre in Corydon then two shops in Hove. He was editor of the rock'n'roll magazine, Red Hot and co-editor of the Eddie Cochran tribute magazine, Something Else, compiled by Eddie Muir. I remember when Tony imported the Dutch Bopstar LP, The Sound of Billy Fury, the 'release' of which prompted Decca to re-issue the classic tracks soon after. How we relied on those guys back then, to come up with the collectable 'goodies'. It seems that he recently sold his private collection to raise funds for research into the disease which finally claimed him. Like our Mick, he fought bravely against it right up until the end, and always saw the best in people (which lets face it, is a pretty rare quality!). Our thoughts are with his family, and close friends including Eddie and Chick Muir. Well, until next time, "May your God go with you." As always, the views expressed in my column are my own and do not necessarily reflect those of the rest of us here at the SOF.

A WORLDWIDE INTERNET INTRODUCTION TO THE MUSICAL WORLD OF BILLY FURY- ARGUABLY BRITAINS FINEST EARLY SIXTIES 'POP' STAR. - 12 SELECTED TRACKS

by

Chris Eley of the Official Billy Fury Fan Club-The Sound of Fury
(Produced for the Billy Fury website www.billyfury.org.com and appears in
abridged form on the net)

To select just 12 tracks from a catalogue of 29 chart singles and 4 Hit albums; and from a career spanning Billy's record debut in 1958 until untimely death in 1983, is no easy task. Everyone who knows the music of this immensely talented singer/songwriter has their own idea as to what is best so this choice has been made using the criteria of diversity, excellence and, of course, personal choice! The US link has also prompted, or assisted with, the choice of some tracks. All of the tracks listed are currently available on CD,(for ease of access for those who will hopefully develop a strong taste for more of this all too often, underrated music.) Check out these great sounds and begin to understand that both before, and during, the success of the Beatles, Searchers etc, Liverpool produced great music, in the form of Ronnie Wycherley (better known as the legendary, Billy Fury). It may help the reader to know that the writer is a lover of late 50's and early to mid 60's music in general; that the likes of Elvis, Dion, Ricky Nelson, Roy Orbison, Cliff Richard, Johnny Kidd, PJ Proby, Dee Clark, Jerry Lee Lewis, Chuck Berry, Del Shannon, Bobby Vee (much maligned-without cause), the truly great and massively underrated Narvel Felts and a host of other artists of the era are also highly rated and enjoyed. This will hopefully give more balance and far less prejudice than might otherwise occur when a person gives voice regarding their favourite artist! Please do yourself a favour, and click onto the magic of an artist voted Britains No2 Male Singer and No1 Live Performer for 3 consecutive years during the early 60's.

Track No1. LIKE I'VE NEVER BEEN GONE

This classic No3 hit from 1963 has been described as being the finest 'Deck' that Billy ever cut; certainly this was probably the case until I'M LOST WITHOUT YOU', and perhaps IN THOUGHTS OF YOU came along. Certainly it's still my personal favourite of all time, by any artist. A very fine version was released in the USA by Chase Webster (who also released the enjoyable 'HANDFUL OF FRIENDS'), a number which actually is quite 'Fury' like in a way. If anyone in the USA can forward a very good or better copy of LIKE I'VE NEVER BEEN GONE,

or any more of Chase Webster's output we would be very grateful. Is he still alive? Chase, are you out there ?. Is so please get in touch.

Track No 2. WONDROUS PLACE-VERSION 2 (There were 5 released versions in all)

This punchy, bluesy interpretation of the US original (which was by Jimmy 'Handyman' Jones), may lack the breathy and classic appeal of the 1960 version by Billy which is so beloved by the UK 50's rock'n'roll fraternity, but the powerhouse performance all round of this 1963 release makes it an essential recording. Do check out the 1960 version as well; you will not be disappointed .

Track No3. IN THOUGHTS OF YOU

Billy's final Top 10 hit, right in the middle of Beatlemania, and deservedly so. A beautiful song, well performed and arranged it is justifiably well regarded by the fans (and indeed is the personal favourite of Billy's Mum, Jean.) The original flipside was the catchy hand clapper, AWAY FROM YOU, at present not on CD but a stereo alternative (inferior but enjoyable) version may be found on the 40th Anniversary Anthology CD (Deram). Billy almost always turned in a 'B' side, which equalled, indeed often bettered the 'A' side of the single (which is more than a lot of 60's artists managed to achieve!).

Track No 4. TURN MY BACK ON YOU

Billy is rightly revered by many as being a great rock'n'roll singer in the Elvis style and indeed , that's how he started out before moving into the beat ballad field which brought him the more fame and chart success. In 1958 Billy started his career with self-penned classics, both ballads such as MAYBE TOMORROW, (his first single), and rock numbers like DON'T KNOCK UPON MY DOOR (the flip of his second release.) Heavily influenced by Elvis, (Johnnie Ray, Ray Charles and Hank Williams also) Billy developed his own unique brand of rock'n'roll and rockabilly, which, although obviously derivative, was also uniquely his own; no mean feat. The most Elvis sounding was the above, which is widely regarded as a classic to equal MOVE IT by Cliff Richard and SHAKIN' ALL OVER by Johnny Kidd and the Pirates (these in turn are (arguably) up there with the best of the genre from the US). Having enjoyed this great slice of rockabilly check out the whole classic Sound of Fury double CD on UK Decca-844 990. Many believe that the classic ten inch album, is, in the artistic sense Billy's finest ever moment

Track No. 5 FORGET HIM

A hit in the USA and UK for Bobby Rydell (still performing in the States) this version gave Billy his final chart hit single (unfortunately posthumously in 1983). It seems that Bobby Rydell likes this version and it's easy to see why. The vocal

track was actually laid down in 1970/71 and for some still unexplained reason, Billy left out a verse, something he also did with NOBODY'S CHILD back in 1963. Written by Tony Hatch under the pseudonym of Mark Anthony this is a beautiful and haunting performance and the title is the total antithesis of what fans have done since the untimely loss of their idol. Available on the PARADISE CD-Spectrum Label 550 011-2 and forthcoming Love Songs CD Decca.

Track No.6 LETTER FULL OF TEARS

The delectable Gladys Knight had a US hit with the original version in 1961, curiously enough on the Fury label! Billy didn't like his own version later claiming that it was difficult for him to master. You would never know it The UK record buying public had yet to fall for the black sound of America and this excellent white UK interpretation of black r'n'b only reached the number 32 position. This was self evidently an appalling indictment of UK musical taste at the time. It's a classic with Top 10 written all over it. The Gladys Knight and the Pips version fared no better over here either. A great song by Don Covay. I dare any tribute acts to attempt this one !

Track No.7 I'M LOST WITHOUT YOU

Beautifully arranged by the gentlemanly (and sadly deceased- Ivor Raymonde) this struck the then Fury fans as being the first number not to bear any trace of the transatlantic style vocal inflections which had come to be known and loved by the Fury faithful; and recognised by everyone else! In truth Billy had already been moving away a little from that vocal style with the beautiful I WILL (done in the USA by Vic Dana and Dean Martin), and other subsequent releases. Despite being performed on Jack Good's Shindig in 1965, by a tanned and well groomed Billy who outclassed every other act on the show, this superior track, probably Billy's finest, still failed to break his lack of hits in the USA. He never was to make it over there, perhaps because of the unjustified and unflattering comparison to Elvis, but more likely because the ill health that dogged and ultimately claimed him would not allow him to really capitalise. A special choral arrangement of this haunting number was arranged by Ivor Raymonde especially for Billy's memorial service in 1983.

Track No.8 JUST BECAUSE

One of Billy's greatest talents was his almost unequalled ability to whip his largely female (and teenage) audiences into a frenzy with his combination of classic rock'n'roll good looks, sensuality, vulnerability and electrifying vocal intensity. Regrettably there is little audio or visual record of this apart from, in particular, the live album We Want Billy from 1963. By now Billy was largely tamed and the Tornados (of Telstar fame) fail to emulate the drive of the earlier Blue Flames or

the later Gamblers. They do however, provide a workmanlike and enjoyable backing and one spin of the 'beat' side of this album is enough to convince the listener of Billy's live performance credentials during the height of his fame.

The above track, with its Elvis style ending is a perfect indicator of the live Fury effect. Perhaps the finest performance is the (far too short) BABY COME ON. All are exciting and without the live audience would have formed half of a great rock'n'roll album-but that actually misses the point! Available currently on CD BGOCD 358. (Beat Goes On Records.)

Track No.9 HALFWAY TO PARADISE

The number most popularly associated with Billy; his anthem. This definitive cover of the very young Tony Orlando's US original has a way of lifting the hairs on the back of the listeners neck every time it's heard. This was the song that put Billy really on the map and earned him his first definite Top 10 placing. Retrospectively, due to a change of reference, it has become fashionable to cite the self penned COLETTE as being the first Top 10 hit but this was the track that most remember as doing it-including Billy. There as a good re-recording done about 1968 but this is currently not officially available-which is a scandal. Also recorded in the USA by Johnny Nash (excellent) and Ben E King (enjoyable).

Track No. 10 BABY WHAT YOU WANT ME TO DO

Blues and rhythm and blues were much loved by Billy; this much is evident from knowing who his major influences were ,but in truth he was a fine exponent of that musical form. Regrettably virtually all of his best such performances (except for TELL ME HOW DO YOU FEEL-available on the Anthology CD) are not currently available but this superb 1964 cover of ace US bluesman Jimmy Reeds original is. Worth a listen just for the superb harmonica break (ownership currently still not firmly established), this more than holds its own with the original artist and other covers by the likes of Dion (excellent), the Everly Brothers and even the Elvis late 60's live versions. Billy had a natural feel for this musical genre (as can be heard from some live radio snippets from 1965-67 which have slipped out into the collectors arena).

Track No 11 YOUR WORDS

Billy continued writing through the chart barren years, especially through the late 60's and early 70's when the majority of solo singers from the previous era were suffering lack of commercial success; on both sides of the Atlantic. This self penned soulful gem is available in its original commercial format on Halfway to the Hits -Going for a Song CD GFS 307 and will be available with its more 'modern' backing track on the forthcoming Love Songs CD on UK Decca. The soul of Billy Fury may well be found by listening to the classic Sound of Fury

album-but the soul of Ronnie Wycherley, the shy, gentle, self effacing, multi-faceted human being and passionate animal lover is surely lurking in quite wonderful tracks like this. A total contrast to the commercially successful output.

Track No 12. A KING FOR TONIGHT

A flipside from 1962 and one of the very best tracks by any artist worldwide that year ,which, had it of been the top deck would have stormed the charts for sure. As it was, the 'A' side, the quite wonderful LAST NIGHT WAS MADE FOR LOVE with its own also superb growling vocal ,reached a pleasing No. 4 anyway but it was this side that the juke box junkies favoured-and its easy to see why. All too many of Billy's, admittedly fine releases, were regrettably bereft of the much loved guitar work found backing the likes of the great Rick Nelson and highly professional Cliff Richard . On stage with the Blue Flames during 1961 the guitar sound behind Billy was superb so it seems that Decca and/or Manager Larry Parnes were to blame for the general lack of prominence of recorded guitar sound. When the group style backing did take place on a recording, as on the Billy Fury and the Tornados EP, it turned out to be a weak let down. Conversely it seemed to work relatively well on the live album, We Want Billy. Given the commercial success following the more general switch to orchestral 'Pop' sounds the approach is understandable .It did make Billy a household name and no amount of backing could obscure that most distinctive of voices! The above is a majestic tour-de-force-play it loud !

There you have it, a brief trawl through only some of the best work of the late , great and still much missed Billy Fury. All of the above selected tracks.(unless otherwise indicated), may be found on the 1998 63 track double CD-The 40th Anniversary Anthology- Deram 844 874-29(available through Universal and compiled by Chris Eley (with Dorien Wathen and Jean Prosser).

Footnote: It seems that this item receives an average of 20-25 'hits' per day. A testament to the pulling power of Billy



CAN BILLY TAKE CLIFF'S CROWN?

The only way for an artiste to go when he's at the top is downwards. At least that's the maxim in show-business. However there are exceptions to every rule. One of them is Cliff Richard. He is at the top. The other is Billy Fury who has now been the No. 2 singer for the last six years in this country. Second only to Cliff. Now after seventeen consecutive Top-Twenty records and a great deal of hard work on packed-out stage shows, films like "I've Gotta Horse" etc., and Billy still doesn't go up or down but just remains at the No. 2 popularity slot.

The amazing thing is that Cliff and Billy have been appearing on tours and shows for years. Cliff has always been this country's No. 1 disc star as a solo singer. Billy has always been the No. 2. Cliff of course is more popular abroad, but Billy has always had some reason for not really wanting to push himself abroad.

The reason I believe is that he is waiting to take the crown away from Cliff. For Billy is determined that after six years of being No. 2, although he hates rivalry between pop singers, the battle must get closer and closer every day. Billy has now started to gradually move faster into the field of international pops. Few stars make the grade in Great Britain to the extent that they are always hitting the charts. Fewer still make the grade abroad, and continue to hit the Top Ten at home as well.

Certainly Billy has the talent to back up the feeling that he can start to really go mad on new discs. He has behind him an army of fans who are dedicated to taking care of his career by sending numerous requests to the radio programmes, the TV companies and by asking his record company to do as much advertising of Billy as possible.

On top of this, Billy has a distinctive voice, a face that his fans describe as a cross between James Dean and Elvis and a quiet, shy personality that is rapidly becoming stronger and more noticeable every day of his life. Certainly if one is going to choose the artiste who must make his name even bigger in the coming year, it must be Billy. He has been striving for chart recognition here (the No. 1 slot that is) for so long that his fans have got quiet accustomed to his discs hitting the Top Five and then not going any higher. Certainly it will be an unusual day when Bill doesn't make the Top Twenty. It hasn't happened for four years yet, and it's hardly likely to happen, judging by the thousands of dedicated fans who attend his shows and nightly scream their enthusiasm for him.

That is another point that many people forget about Fury. That he has, in fact, become one of the very few artistes who can headline a big tour and make the grade by having full houses wherever he goes. Certainly I have yet to see any artiste, except for the Stones, The Beatles and Cliff who have received so much enthusiasm



Article and Photo from *Time* 1941

Image and Design



on stage and who have so many ardent fans. Fans who not only worry about Billy's health, but who take delight in knowing that he has a great potential for being one of the biggest stars in the world.

However, as Billy told me long ago, "If I keep on staying No. 2 in the popularity charts, which doesn't worry me, some of my fans are bound to get fed up. I only wish that a few more charts put me in the No. 1 slot. It's honestly not because I'm that worried about gaining more fans, but losing some of them who have stuck by me for the last five years, and who have been working and hoping for me to reach higher in the popularity ratings. Tho' I hope that they understand that I'm grateful for what they have been doing for the last few years anyway."

I asked him about this. Why not have hits all over the world? "Well, again because I'd be disappointing my fans. You see if I do tours all over the world I feel that I'm bound to be disappointing some fans somewhere. You see, I'm almost certain that in the countries like America, you can have hits. But always there are going to be fans in Britain that you want to play to and who can never see you. It's a ridiculous situation. I know it's silly in a way, but I like to feel that the fans who helped my career in Great Britain will also help my career in the rest of the world.

"They do in a way you know. Some countries that I have never visited have all got news of what I'm doing and things like that. Mainly because the fans over here have pen friends or someone over there and are writing to tell them about me. It's fabulous of them."

The life of a pop star is always a hard one, and for someone like Billy, who isn't very strong, it's harder still. Certainly I hope that in the next few months we are going to see some kind of change in the Fury image and that he at least manages to get on equal terms with Cliff throughout the world. It must be terrible knowing that you are always nearly at the top, but not quite. But I do believe we will see the name of Billy Fury get bigger and bigger!!





While not agreeing with reader C.D.Bailey's opinion of the new Billy Fury record (Readers' Page w/e 20.1.68), we would like to inform him that we had the record in stock and on sale on Thursday, December 28. We do, in fact, stock every new single released in this country. We would like to point out, however, that it is impossible for many record dealers to do this, considering that there are somewhere between 40 and 90 different singles issued per week. If readers that they have trouble in obtaining new releases, we suggest that they write to us and we will send them details of our postal service. - **MICHAEL ASHWELL**, Director - One Stop Records Ltd. 40 South Molton Street (Oxford Street), London, W.1.

Article and photo from Record Mirror 3rd February 1968.

MILL HILL REUNIONS

The dates for our Mill Hill reunions in 2003 are

26th January, 13th April and 5th October

Everyone is welcome. We normally meet at Billy's grave around 1 p.m. to 1.30 p.m. and then go to the Mill Hill East Church Hall for refreshments and a chat.

Thanks to Debbie Miller and Rita Smalley for supplying all the tea, coffee, sugar and milk that we all drink.

Please remember there is **NO SMOKING** allowed anywhere within the Church Hall

20TH ANNIVERSARY MEMORIAL SERVICE

Mill Hill East Church – Sunday 26th January 2003 @ 2.30 p.m.

As 28th January 2003 will be the 20th Anniversary of Billy's untimely death, there will be a Memorial Service at Mill Hill East Church, Salcombe Gardens, London, NW7 at 2.30 p.m. on Sunday 26th January 2002.

We are hoping to have Bob Paskins (with his guitar), who was in Billy's backing group "The New Tornados", give a short talk at the service.

The Church is in the building where we always meet in January, April and October. The nearest tube station is Mill Hill East where you can get the 221 bus and ask for the first stop in Sonders Lane. The Church is opposite the bus stop.

If anyone would like a map please contact me by phone on 020 8785 9575 and I will be happy to send one.

Jackie Clark

Billy Fury topped the 'scream rating'

KETTERING ROCK SHOW

WERE the girls in your office or factory this morning complaining of sore throats, and did their voices sound a little hoarse? If so, they were probably among the 1,500 or so teenage girls who at last night's variety show in Kettering Granada nearly raised the theatre's roof with their screaming.

But there was, to them, a very good reason for their screams – in fact more than half a dozen good reasons. For on the programme were three recording stars who have in recent months had records at the top of the Hit Parade, due almost entirely to teenage sales, of course; and another four artistes or groups of artistes, who have had records figuring in the Top Twenty. So last night it was a case of who could scream the loudest and longest to prove that their particular favourite was the best? One assumes the artiste who "collected" the most screams (and as a result was inaudible for the longest time) is at present at the top of the teenage "popularity stakes". And quite naturally it was the star of the show Billy Fury, who had the audience screaming through every number, in between each number, and even before he came on to the stage, and after he had left it.

As a result, to comment on his act was rather difficult, but he certainly turned in a more polished performance than when he visited Kettering last year. This extra polish is probably what, after a couple of years of trying, has clinched Fury's position as one of the country's leading "rock" artistes.

But he still has a long way to go before he can claim to be a complete artiste and entertainer to rank with Cliff Richard, Adam Faith and Tommy Steele. For instance one can hardly visualise him topping the bill at the London Palladium and gaining an international reputation as this trio have. Though, admittedly, he is quite capable of filling any provincial theatre, as he did at Kettering.

VOCAL GROUP

Eden Kane, who shared top billing with Fury, has achieved success in the last six months. More time may bring about changes that will bring him up to the standard of Fury, though again, he seemed to lack the personality that would make him a real showman and entertainer.

At present, his popularity rating is well below that of Billy Fury, as the less voluminous screams which accompanied his act showed.

On the scream rating the vocal group of the Viscounts did better than Kane, and deservedly so. For here was a really polished act of its type, and their skit on colleagues in the entertainment world was particularly enjoyable.

An equally good "scream rating" was recorded by Tommy Bruce, but as to why you had better ask the teenagers. Sex appeal alone seems to be the answer. It certainly wasn't his voice or personality.

COCKNEY

But the personality of Cockney "rocker" Joe Brown was one of the things which scored well for him and gave him almost as high a rating as Bruce. His relaxed style enabled him to get over his natural friendliness very well, even though his act was to some extent copied from

Tommy Steele.

Best voice of the night undoubtedly, belonged to Karl Denver, whose powerful singing was accompanied by a most impressive yodelling effect. But, obviously, a good voice has little effect on the "scream rating", but he was the one singer whose every word could be heard distinctly.

MEDIOCRE

The Allisons, who with Fury and Kane make up the three who have had records at the top of the Hit Parade, were disappointing, as again audience reaction indicated. Their big hit "Are You Sure?" which won the Allisons second place in the Eurovision Song Contest seems to have been very much a "flash in the pan" for their act was mediocre in both content and presentation.

The instrumental group, Peter Jay and the Jaywalkers, who also did some of the backing work, went down particularly well with the audience in their solo spot, the highlight of which was a marathon session on drums. Compere for the show was Don Munday.

Kettering Evening Telegraph 8 Nov 1961 (with special thanks to SOF members Di and Ann Vickers).

LAURA – Billy Tribute/Retro Artist

by

Chris Eley

Laura is a talented and charming young lady who has a genuine love for Billy Fury and this music. Universal (Decca) have been approached by Laura's manager, Kevin Summerfield, and by The Sound of Fury, with a view to getting the tribute (and Laura!) launched into the main pop scene in January, to coincide with Billy's 20th Anniversary. No positive response has yet been received, but we must be hopeful.

Please note that Laura's tribute song is not at present available in any form. Those fans who have watched Laura perform it live have been impressed with her sincere (and highly catchy) performance. Laura has a very attractive voice.

The following points are lifted directly from the advertising sheet that nice guy, Kevin has released about his talented young protégé.

Laura came to the attention of leading television executives when she was just 12 years old. She has appeared on BBC1 with *Steps* and on Channel 4 with *Johnny Vaughan*. She will be 16 years old on 26th January.

Laura already has considerable recording experience. Her professional ability is recognised and provides her with studio "session" work.

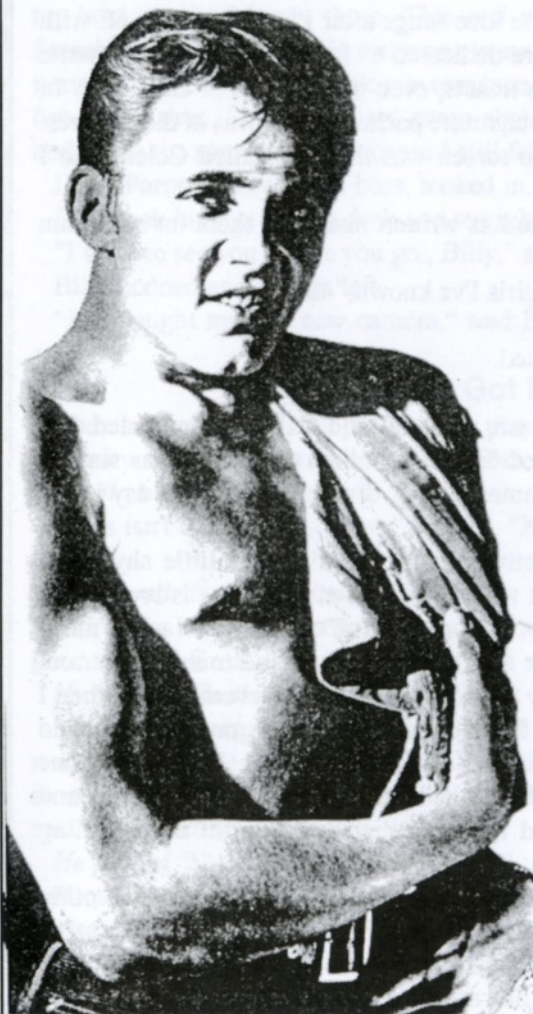
Laura made her professional debut at *The Empress Ballroom*, Winter Gardens, Blackpool in *The Billy Fury Tribute Show* (August 2001). Laura was invited to appear as a result of sending a recording ("Legends Never Die" – tribute to *Billy Fury*) to Jean and Albie Wycherley. The lyrics of the song were inspired by the observations of Laura when she was first shown video clips of *Billy*.

Laura's vocal ability encompasses material from *Carole King* to *Eva Cassidy* and she performs contemporary versions of '60's hits.

How to
end a
romance

Billy sings for his lost loves

BILLY FURY, the heart-throb with the blond, unruly hair, the sexy looks and the quiet unobtrusive manner is one of the mysteries of the world of pop, rock and what have you.



For Billy Fury has never had a number one hit disc.

Yet his stage appearances always bring forth howls and screams of delight from his large, teenage feminine following.

Why then, don't they buy his records? Said Billy: "Because I know for a fact that I can't sing!"

Billy's road manager, who sat opposite us in a conservative - looking office three floors above busy Oxford Street, looked shocked.

"What's wrong Billy?" he asked. Are you feeling moody today?"

Billy turned to answer. He was saved by a telephone ringing in an outer office.

A well-built little girl appeared.

"It's for you Billy!" she said.

"Who is it?" asked Billy.

"Margerit!"

"Margerit!!" cried Billy, and disappeared towards the phone.

He returned full of smiles.

**Ken Ferguson talks
to Billy Fury**

A song for every girl

(Continued from page 23)

"Who's Margerit ?" I asked.

"A friend. She's a model. A peach," he said. "I'm going to write a song about her. I've written over a hundred songs. Recorded twenty-one of them. They're simple songs really. Nothing complicated. I can't write that Rodgers and Hammerstein stuff yet. Man, they are the greatest. I can only write songs when I have a feeling about something or someone. And I can only write them when I'm alone."

"What are they about ?" I asked him.

"Girls !" he said. "I find it easy to write love songs after I've just broken off with a girl. Most of the songs I've written are dedicated to former girl friends. I write them all over the place, on bills, on bus tickets, even on the back of envelopes. In fact once I wrote a song on the back of a cigarette packet while I was at the pictures. A French film was showing and on the screen was this girl called Colette. So I called the song 'Colette.'"

Billy has collected ten of the songs he has written and sang them on an album called "The Sound of Fury" (Decca).

"All the songs on that album were to girls I've known," he said.

"Tell me about them"

"What, the songs or the girls ?" he asked.

"Both"

"Well...." Said Billy. "Some of them are personal and a little complicated. Let me see now....Well there's a song called 'Phone Call.' At the time I was staying with Dickie Pride. I had a pet tortoise named Jimmy. Jimmy got lost one day in the tall grass in Dickie's back garden.

Across the way lived this very attractive girl. I was always a little shy about speaking to her. I'm always shy at first with a girl, but after the ice is broken I'm O.K. She must have seen us looking for Jimmy because one day she asked me if we'd found him. Well, that broke the ice a little and I got around to asking her out for a date. But at the time she had a boy friend. But I saw her several times, then I went away on tour. When I came back I found she'd been going around with the old boy-friend again. We used to have little rows and afterwards she'd always phone me and patch them up. Well one night we had another row. I went home and waited for her to ring. She didn't. And that was that. I sat up all night feeling terrible. So I wrote the song and called it 'Phone Call.' "

Someone brought the long playing album in and I glanced at some of the other titles.

"What about this one - 'This Way' ?" I asked him.

Billy looked out of the window and smiled a forlorn smile.

Met On A Blind Date

"I spent more money on that girl than anyone else I took out. She came from North London and we met on a blind date. But I made sure what she looked like before I met her. Took a scout around you know. She was cracking. Used to take her out to all the most expensive places and bought her presents..."

"Jewellery ?" I asked.

"Jewellery !" exclaimed Billy. "Are you kidding. I can't afford to buy girls jewellery. Not yet anyway. No, I used to buy her toy animals and things. Funny thing though, just before I was due to cut the album we broke it off. Three days before I recorded it I sat down and wrote a song called 'This Way.'"

"I see you call one of your songs 'My Advice.' Who was this about ?" I asked.

"She came from Liverpool. My home town. I once wanted to be captain of a tug-boat on the Mersey there. This girl was very good looking and very dark. Smashing. But you see this girl was always around with other fellas. It got on my nerves a bit. But I don't think our romance really got started. I was quite stuck on her at one time. She didn't care much about me. We called it a day. I went home and wrote the song, maybe because I still felt something."

Larry Parnes, Billy Fury's boss, looked in.

Billy took his feet off the desk and straightened up.

"I want to see you before you go , Billy," said the chief. "Got your camera yet ?"

Billy nodded and Parnes left.

"Just bought myself new camera," said Billy relaxing again. "Cost me £50. It's great."

Almost Got Engaged

Then he moved over and put his long player on to the record player. "Let me play you a few tracks and you'll hear what those songs are like," he said.

He played "You Don't Know."

"This isn't to any special girl," he said. "Just sums up the way I feel about love, I guess."

He played "Don't Say It's Over."

"I'd met a lovely dancer in London. She disappeared. Found out later that she'd gone to Italy. Great shame."

He played "That's Love."

"I almost got engaged to this London girl. We met at a party. I don't like parties much. I was there for about five minutes. We seemed to get on with each other as soon as we met. Spent our first date looking around Madame Tussauds. That romance petered out to."

He played "Since You've Been Gone."

"I met this girl in Southend. We bumped into each other on the dodgems at the Kursaal. I dig fairs. But the girl got very serious. I think she wanted to get married. Well I don't reckon I'm ready for that yet. Girls who get too serious scare me!"

The disc ended. Billy frowned.

I asked him what else he didn't like about girls.

"I don't like it when they want to walk along the street arm in arm. I don't like it. And I don't like it when they hold on to you as though they own you," he said.

As well as writing some pleasurable love songs, Billy is well up on his love letter writing.

"I just love writing them love letters. I've even written them for some of my mates. I mean there is so much more you can write in a love letter than you can say to a girl's face, isn't there?"

OCTOBER, 1960



Our thanks to Frank Bull for sending us this photo. Frank's the gent in the top right corner (you're doing a wonderful impression of Buddy Holly in this pic, Frank)!

BILLY FURY COMMISSIONS

SIMON PRITCHARD

10 LONGE ROAD

OLD CATTON

NORWICH

NORFOLK

NR6 7D

Tele: 01603 466 586

Simon Pritchard undertook a freelance artwork and cartooning course in 1991 and now various Rock 'n' Roll artwork. He works in various media, initially working mainly in watercolour but has recently moved on to producing some striking, colourful work using acrylics, often on canvas.

His first solo exhibition in March 1998 at the Theatre Royal Norwich coincided with the "Buddy" musical which lead to some local publicity and also a commission from local author/rock 'n' roll historian Alan Mann to design the cover for his 'Buddy Holly A-Z' book. Simon's also illustrated Alan's latest book about the linked lives of Elvis Presley and Buddy Holly. He's also held a very successful Beatles related exhibition at Cinema City Norwich to coincide with their screening of 'A Hard Day's Night', following this up with an Elvis exhibition during the screening of 'Elvis - That's the Way It Is'. He was proud to be part of the annual international Beatles exhibition at St Georges Hall Liverpool in 2001 and has consequently made many contacts in Liverpool with this work continuing to be on display and for sale there.

He regularly displays and sells work at rock 'n' roll festivals and has recently been asked to supply some work for sale the 'Heartbeat' museum in Whitby.

Simon's work reflects his own passion for the 50's and 60's music and culture and when attending shows and gigs likes to present original singers from the period with a specially done portrait of themselves. Stars to date who possess a piece of Simon's work include Bobby Vee, Bill Wyman, Gerry Marsden, Marty Wilde, Joe Brown, Georgie Fame and bass guitar hero Jet Harris.

He can produce pop and rock 'n' roll portraits, prints, canvases, posters, greeting cards, calendars, record and CD covers, tattoo designs, jacket paintings, etc.

Billy Fury designs are available. So if you are interested, please contact Simon at the above address.

Simon Pritchard sent us a donation to the Billy Fury Bronze Fund for advertising in our magazine.

Please remember to send a **STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE** when writing to The Sound of Fury. It does help us to keep costs down.
Thanks to all fan club members who always remember

NEW BILLY VIDEO RELEASES (and raise money for the Billy Fury Bronze Fund too)

At last Billy's two films are available again on video. The release date for them is 7th October 2002.

You can order your copy of both films from the official supplier – **DD Video, Unit 1 Pool Bank Business Park, High Street, Tarvin, Chester, CH3 8JH.**

Credit card customers can also order copies by ringing the DD Video hotline on **01829 741490**. All major credit cards are accepted.

To order your copy please quote the following video reference numbers and also ad code **A668**.

"Play It Cool" – ref no **04357** – price **£10.99**

"I've Gotta Horse" – ref no **04355** – price **£10.99**

It is also very important that you do quote ad code number **A668**

Post and packing costs £1.80 for one title or £2.75 for two or more. Overseas post and packing will be charged at cost to the customer's credit card.

A668 is the ad code that will generate the royalty payment which DD Videos will send to THE BILLY FURY BRONZE FUND.

It was sad to see that the inventor of the Top Twenty died in February this year. Percy Dickens' idea is said to have changed the British music business forever. He proposed supplementing the early 1950s system of measuring a song's popularity by sales of its sheet music with figures for weekly record sales.

This new chart-Dickens' starting point was to telephone shops weekly asking for their most popular records-became the Top 20. This was then published in the New Musical Express which Mr Dickin co-founded in 1952. He also launched the NME poll winners concert-seen as the forerunner of awards shows such as the Brits.

LIKE I'VE NEVER BEEN GONE

by Moya Gleave

The Billy Fury Fan Club, Wondrous Place, 106 Harry Dreadon Road
RD 4, Drury, Auckland, New Zealand

Last year my friend Jacqueline and I were lucky enough to win a trip 'back home'. Cathy Pacific were giving away 20 return flights to 15 of their destinations – Manchester was one of those destinations. I knew immediately I heard about the competition that I was going to win. To be in you had to dress up as something depicting the destination you wanted to go to. Out of more than 300 competitors we won – I was Hilda Ogden and Jacqs was Bette Lynch from Coronation Street and boy – did we put on a show – I was determined to make my pilgrimage to Billy's grave. The winners were announced at 6 pm one Sunday in June and we had to fly out at 10 am the following morning – no probs. I'd already packed and got my life in order!

All those miles up there in that Wondrous Place in the clouds – Halfway to paradise was when I felt Billy's presence for the first time during the trip. As I was trying hard not to think about how much I desperately wanted a cigarette (it was Billy who introduced me to the pleasures of smoking in the first place when I was 15); he was with me as I planned the next Billy Fury Fan Club event for his birthday for charity. It was to be Around the World on BILLYair Flight 62.

There were more 'spooky' incidents to follow.

As we were heading down to London on the train, on a beautiful sunny day – I said to Jacqs "You watch – when I get to Mill Hill there'll be a bloody great clap of thunder." We were met at Euston Station by a mutual friend of mine and Billy's, who whisked us off to the cemetery. Stopping first to order a large terracotta pot filled with plants for me to leave at Billy's resting place (although I still maintain that's not where he should be). Whilst waiting for the plant we went to 'do' lunch. Jacqs had just finished telling our mutual friend what I'd said about the thunder when all of a sudden it happened – an almighty BOOM! Along with the biggest hailstones I have ever seen in my life – the size of golf balls. Wish I'd had the camera directed at Jacqs face. I laughed – I knew HE was present and it was his idea of a joke (wicked sense of humour). Don't Worry (Billy song) said I – when we get to grave the sun will shine. We picked up the plant and arrived at the grave in sunshine as predicted with my legs like jelly and shaking like Dickie Pride putting on the best performance of his life and clutching the poster I had made laminated with the words 'Legends Never Die' and pledging my devotion to my man.

The sun continued to shine as I sprawled on the grave for a very long time. I talked to him and sang him our New Zealand Fan Club National FANtham to the tune of Land of Hope & Glory – (Fans of Billy Fury – Evermore we'll be, He will live

forever – In our memory, etc). Believe it or not – I could not think of one Billy Fury song the whole time I was there – the only song that came into my head was 'Everything I Do, I Do It For You'. I vowed to him that as long as I had breath in my body I would continue to keep his memory alive. Oh Boy – he had better recognise me when I get to those Pearly Gates(or The Stage Door as I call them) and saved me a place as he promised to do if he went before me.

Now here we were in Liverpool – staying with Jean. Jacqs in Albert's old bed and me beside her in Billy's. The first morning I woke up, reached out my hand to turn the radio on in between the beds and what song was playing (no not one of Billy's) it was 'Wherever I Lay My Head, That's My Home'. The second morning I woke up, again reached out to switch the radio on, only to hear a talkback conversation about tawny owls. Facing my/Billy's bed on the wall was a picture of a tawny owl. Billy used to care for tawny owls. The hairs stood up on my arms once again.

I am convinced that there is life after death and that when we all get all the way to Paradise there will be a fantastic show with Billy topping the bill.

I love you Billy.

Thanks a Bunch

This week's recipient of a bunch of flowers is Moya Gleave (pictured), of Papakura.

An anonymous letter says: I would like to nominate Moya Gleave, who runs the Billy Fury Fan Club.

Every year she puts on a concert at Hill Park School to raise funds for the South Auckland Hospice.

She spends long hours of her time and energy to make this a success.

Last Saturday's show was brilliant.

Also a big thanks to all the people that give many hours of their time to help and perform on the night.



Fury fans for a cause

By CAITLIN SYKES

Fans of 1960s pop idol Billy Fury continued to keep his memory alive by taking a trip around the world to raise \$4062 for the South Auckland Hospice.

Around the World was the theme of a charity concert at the Hill Park School hall by the Billy Fury fan club. More than 80 performers entertained the audience with musical items during a four-hour "flight" which touched down at various destinations around the globe.

The concerts have been an annual event for 12 years.

Organiser Moya Gleave says she hit on the travel theme while returning from England on a trip she won in an airline competition last year.

"People were just gobsmacked when they walked into the [school] hall because it was all set up like an airport terminal with check-in and passport control. We even had an X-ray machine and sniffer dogs," says Mrs Gleave.

More than \$4000 was raised from the concert. South Auckland Hospice resource manager Jennifer Kent says the money will go a long way to help patients and the hospice community.

"We always have a wish list of things we need and this money will help us care for our patients," says Ms Kent. "Without the support of such groups we couldn't continue to provide the services for those in need. We're extremely grateful."

FUNDRAISING FURY:

Performers from the Billy Fury fan club, from left: Trish Sexton, Sandra Horton, Chris Mears, with South Auckland Hospice resource manager Jennifer Kent, Moya Gleave and Jacqueline Herring.



Photo: CAITLIN SYKES

I'm afraid of my fans says Billy the Fury

Once he was a carefree sailor. Now he shuns the people who idolize him, for fame has brought fortune – and fear

Young Ronnie Wycherley doesn't look like a lad who's earning £480 a week more than he needs. Come to think of it, he doesn't look much like young Ronnie Wycherley any more. Not that he's complaining. Only five years ago Ronnie was a frail, fair-haired deckhand on a Merseyside tug, singing to the seagulls on the treacle-black Liverpool waters.

He doesn't sing as hard these days, and he doesn't sing as often—but then with a name like Billy Fury he can't afford to waste a free performance on the birds.

The sleepy-eyed pop singer has travelled a hard road since, at seventeen, he slung his guitar on his back and set out from Liverpool to find a new name and fortune.

He has found money on the way—£500 a week of it. "But I only get through about £20 a week on myself."

He has found Larry Parnes, the manager who named, tamed and aimed him towards the top. And he has found a fear that he never had before—a fear of people.

"My fans scare me. After a show we always try to find a quiet way out of the theatre, you know. And we get the kids to send in their autograph books.

"Going out there among them frightens me."

Billy Fury has had to take plenty of sneering criticism on his way to the top. He appeals to the young folk and for many people that's a crime in itself.

Part of the trouble has been the big publicity gimmick they used to launch him when he was just another silk-shirted guitar player with a name hauled out of the storm.

They billed him then as the blond Elvis Presley—a label that stuck in his hair long after he'd tried to shake it off.

He's beginning to out live it now—but only just.

Try to talk to Billy Fury and you get, more often than not, a bashful nod of the head.

Larry Parnes, the man who works non-stop at shining up Billy's image, does most of his talking for him.

"He's got great talent," he insists. "But at first I had to push him on the stage.

"I've always had great confidence in him. I remember Cliff Richard once wrote that there were only three pop artists that mattered—himself, Adam Faith and Marty Wilde. Billy Fury wouldn't last, he said."

Billy looked uncomfortable and nodded again. Suddenly he spoke up:

"I don't like it when people say my work is money for old rope. It's hard work—rehearsing, recording, one-night stands, dodging the fans. I can't go out casually any more."

The hard work has taken its toll. Billy, now twenty-two, has been kept off the stage from time to time with flu, kidney trouble, measles, fibrositis and bronchitis.

And that's a harder handicap than you might imagine in these days of top-pop competition

that labels a star a "has-been" if he hasn't been seen out and about for a couple of weeks. He has been hurt, too, by some of the razor-edged criticism.

"They said my act was too sexy. Objectionable. Well, of course, I don't move around so much on the stage now. They reckoned, too, that I used to use a lot of bad language.

"I know I've been a seaman and I remember once calling the tugboat skipper a b.... I know a few more swear words now, but believe me, I never use 'em."

True to pop idol tradition, bashful Billy has bought his mum and dad a house in the suburbs of Liverpool.

The future? Billy Fury becomes the old Ronnie Wycherley for a few moments.

"How long will it last?" he echoes, with a strong trace of Merseyside in his voice.

Then just a shrug, a rueful smile and the candid admission: "It could easily end next week. You can never tell."

Billy Fury hasn't been blinded by his public image. He knows he's only "Half Way to Paradise."

And that whether he makes the full trip depends, not on him, but on the fans that scare him.

By **CHARLES BAYNE**

DIALOGUE WITH A DRAGON

He's got teeth but doesn't bite—and he never says Billy's language is too strong

(Article from The Today Magazine/Week ending 7 September 1963, With special thanks to Roy Harvey.)



UK Discography Update

by Chris Eley

Title, Format and Track Listing	Label and Cat No.	Release Date	Remarks
<p>Billy Fury – Love Songs CD, 28 tracks. Forget Him/Like I've Never Been Gone/Give Me Your Word/I Love How You Love Me/I'll Never Fall in Love Again/Once Upon a Dream/Didn't See the Real Thing Come Along/Let Me Go Lower/In Thoughts of You/Halfway To Paradise/Because of Love/Run To My Lovin' Arms/Don't Tell Me Lies/ single version – 1st time on CD/Do You Really Love Me Too/I Will/We Were Meant For Each Other/That's The Way It Goes/Be Mine Tonight/I'm Lost Without You/I'll Never Quite Get Over You/Devil or Angel/Last Night Was Made For Love/When Will You Say I Love You/Jealousy /Your Words (single version – 1st time on CD/I'd Never Find Another You/ Wondrous Place/Maybe Tomorrow (stereo version).</p>	<p>Decca/Polydor (Universal) 882951-2</p>	<p>30 Sep 2002</p>	<p>Proposed portrait cover looks great as a large painting – not sure about it as the front cover. (But it is very striking.) Should have been released February 14th 2001!! Track compilation and notes by Chris Eley. Concept – SOF member Will McNeil – aimed primarily at the girls, and general lovers of early '60s music. A very attractive 16 page booklet.</p>

CD – Memories – the Greatest Love Songs of the Sixties. 16 tracks by various artists – re-recordings. ‘Halfway to Paradise’ by Billy Fury	K-Tel ECD 3709	2002	‘Flower Power’ cover. No Billy pic.
Lipstick on Your Collar CD. 25 tracks by various artists – original tracks. ‘Maybe Tomorrow’ by Billy Fury	Marks and Spencer MS 49037	2002	‘Drive-in Cover’. No Billy pic. Wonderful version of ‘That’s Alright Mama’ by Carl Perkins. Nice little collection.
The Buddy Holly Story – Goodbye Buddy CD – 16 tracks by various artists. Cover versions by Mike Berry, Jimmy Page, James Taylor and others.	Trend CD 156538 Austrian release	2001/2	Tenuous Buddy Holly connection on two of the tracks – 14 Holly covers. (Special thanks to my friend Peter Baldia.)
Teen Town USA – Vol 4 CD – 30 tracks by mostly obscure artists. ‘Running Around’ by Billy Fury (from US London 45 No 9548)	YEAHH 56	2002	50’s female pin-up on cover. No Billy pic. Nice little CD of obscure late 50s, early 60s pop. Nice complementary 104 word essay on Billy.
Halfway To Paradise CD – 18 K-Tel tracks. I Will/Like I’ve Never Been Gone/ Last Night was Made for Love/I’m Lost Without You/When Will You Say I Love You/ It’s Only Make Believe/ Maybe Tomorrow/In Thoughts of You/ That’s Love/Once Upon a Dream/Colette/ A Thousand Stars/I’ll Never Find Another You/Fools Errand (Do You Really Love Me Too)/Jealousy/Halfway To Paradise/Wondrous Place/Somebody Elses Girl. (Tracks 13 and 14 mis-titled.	Pegasus PEG CD 377	July 2002	Nice cover – 1963 pic of Billy in brown suit and gold tie. Looks like a reversed image to me! No sleeve notes. Same shot on back cover. To obtain copies Tel: Ray at Crusader on 01424 435511.

The Songs That Made Them Famous CD. 16 tracks by various artists. 'Halfway to Paradise' by Billy Fury	K-Tel	2001	K-Tel version. Small 60's colour photo of each artist on front cover. Gold coloured cover.
Top Five Hits of the 60's CD. 19 tracks by different artists. 'Jealousy' by Billy Fury	Pegasus PEG CD 593	2001	60's girl talking on the phone. No Billy pics. K-Tel version.
Top Five Hits of the 60's. 20 tracks by various artists 'I'd Never Find Another You' by Billy Fury	Pegasus PEG CD 394	2001	60's girl with miniature radio on cover. No Billy pics. K-Tel version.
Top Five Hits of the 60's CD. 19 tracks by various artists. 'Like I'd Never Been Gone' by Billy Fury	Pegasus PEG CD 395	2001	Girl on a scooter cover. No pic of Billy. K-Tel version.
CD - It's Only Rock 'n' Roll 23 tracks by various artists. Mostly non-original recordings. 'Maybe Baby' by Billy Fury	Going for a Song GFS 004	2001/2	Pictures of Elvis '56, Billy about '62 and an awful Bill Haley pic on the front. Worth having. Picture disc.
The Rock 'N' Roll Jukebox CD - 23 tracks by various artists, not original for the most part. 'Well Allright' by Billy Fury	Going For a Song GFS 003	2001/2	Elvis, Fats Domino and Jerry Lee Lewis on front. No Billy pic.
Pop Legends CD - 16 Superstars of the 60's. Various artists - re-recordings. 'Wondrous Place' by Billy Fury	K-Tel ECD 3708	2002	Reddish colour (inc photos). A one inch square pic of Billy (the 'Roving Minstrel' shot from Top Pop Star book.)

GONNA TYPE A LETTER

My husband Bob and I and 15 bikers recently went to Scarborough for a week. Bob was on his bike, I went by car and carried the bikers' luggage. On the Sunday I picked up my friend Pam Rogers and on the Tuesday we sent to see Colin Gold's show. I've seen it twice now but Pam has seen it 35 times so I have a long way to go.

Christine Wilde, Blackburn

I'm sure Colin appreciates such devotion, Christine – Maureen

I've recently sent my cheque to join the fan club and I have some used stamps for Pauline. I'll collect more for her later. I've loved Billy since the '60s and there are no words to explain how I miss him. Bless him. I play his songs every day. I particularly love "The Sound of Fury" which I play all the time.

There is a great show called "Halfway to Paradise" starring Colin Gold and The Tornados, Billy's original band. I've seen the show 5 times. Colin is just like Billy and the show is fantastic. I met Colin and the band after the show in Liverpool in May. They were great.

It must be wonderful when you all get together at Billy's grave. Maybe I'll go myself one day and see it.

Wendy Lloyd Pwllheli

Welcome to the club Wendy. I hope to see you at Mill Hill sometime – Maureen.

WANTS

Andrew Cameron Top Flat 10 Hepburn street Dundee Tayside DD3 8BN wants three to four hour video with good sound and picture quality of Billy's TV material over the years. Prepared to pay a reasonable price.

Answers to the Lyric Competition

Congratulations to Sue Taylor, the winner of the Lyric competition in mag 16. I'm glad you liked your prize Sue.

Answers below.

- 1....Don't Jump 2....Fury's Tune 3....King for Tonight
- 4....Sleepless Nights 5....Magic Eyes 6....I Belong to the Wind
- 7....Don't Leave Me This Way 8....She Cried 9....Be Mine Tonight
- 10....I Love How You Love Me

**A BILLY FURY BRONZE FUND RAISER
ROCK 'N' ROLL CHRISTMAS WEEKEND
THE ALLENDALE HOTEL
BLACKPOOL**

Ian & Sheila Alexander are holding their fifth annual rock 'n' roll Christmas weekend. Arrival Friday 29th November in time to attend a candle-lit dinner which starts at 7 p.m. Then there's singing, dancing, drinking and cavorting until late. Saturday starts with breakfast at 9.30 a.m. then you're free until 5.30 p.m. when you'll be served a six course Christmas dinner. A cabaret is followed by some kareoke competitions, then keep rockin'. You'll depart on Sunday 1st December after breakfast.

During the weekend Ian and Sheila will hold a Bronze Fund raising spot plus auction a Billy Fury shirt that is currently displayed in their Legends Bar. They will also donate 10% of room takings to the fund.

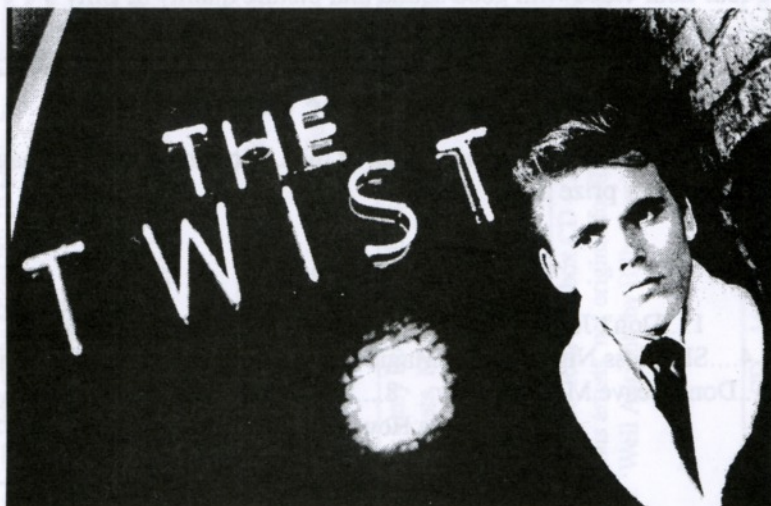
Since we started raising money for a statue of Billy, Ian & Sheila have raised a considerable amount for the Bronze Fund. Their support and generosity is greatly appreciated.

Further details from:

Tel: 01253 623268

E.mail: salexander@ukonline.co.uk

Why not contact Ian or Sheila. It promises to be a weekend to remember.





From the film "I Gotta Horse"



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