

# *Billy Fury*

Number 19



**Statue Edition** **THE SOUND OF FURY**  
**Official Billy Fury Fan Club**







# **BILLY FURY**

*Always Remembered....*

## **THE SOUND OF FURY**

Official Billy Fury Fan Club

c/o 36 Manbey Grove Stratford London E15 1EX

**The Statue's Bronze, the Mag's Pure Gold  
And Just Nineteen Editions Old**

**Hello Fury Followers,**

**Y**ou've done it! All of you who've worked so hard and given so generously for the last six and a half years have achieved your goal. On 19<sup>th</sup> April 2003, two days after the anniversary of Billy's birthday, twenty years after his death, the Bronze Statue was unveiled in the courtyard of the Museum of Liverpool Life on the Mersey waterfront.

This edition of the mag is a "Bronze Special". It may bring back a few memories for those of you who were there and for those of you who couldn't make it, it will hopefully give you a flavour of a very special day. We hope you enjoy it.

Normal service will be resumed in mag number twenty.

**Love and Fury  
Maureen**

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

Date May 2003



# BILLY FURY STATUE UNVEILING SATURDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2003 MUSEUM OF LIVERPOOL LIFE

## Running Order

**1.45 p.m.** Drive past by **Ace Café Motor Bikes**

**2.25 p.m.** **Laura Buckley** sung "Colette" with her sister **Emily**



**2.30 p.m.** **Dr David Fleming**,  
Director of National Museums Liverpool, wel-  
comed everyone, on behalf of the National Mu-  
seums Liverpool and The Sound of Fury, to the  
Museum of Liverpool Life. He explained the  
programme and introduced Councillor Eddie  
Clein and Jack Good.





## Councillor Eddie Clein

**G**ood afternoon ladies and gentlemen. This sort of occasion, of course, could only happen here on the banks of the Mersey, in Liverpool, and of course it's the very reason why so many people outside of Liverpool are envious of what we do here!

People may well wonder why it's me, I'm actually of German descent. People might well wonder why am I here today helping out in the ceremony with an absolute icon of showbiz, Jack Good, and I'm absolutely delighted to be sharing today's ceremony with him.

Well, what a lot of you won't know is that actually Billy and I did have an awful lot in common. First of all we were both born in Liverpool; secondly we were both very good looking guys (this is where imagination has to play a part); and in all seriousness we both played the Essoldo in Birkenhead. I had my group the Mersey Coast Skiffle Group, and we won a competition at the Essoldo, Birkenhead where Billy Fury cut his teeth. I also played The Cavern with my group on several occasions,

there again following in the footsteps of the great Billy Fury. One other remarkable similarity is that at one time in the sixties, I owned quite a few race horses, I actually had one of my horses win at Bangor. Billy Fury's won the Derby! A similarity nonetheless! (Ed's note: Billy's horse actually came 4<sup>th</sup> in the 1964 Derby)

So, having gone right through that age, of course, I realized what a great influence Billy Fury was in Liverpool. Can you imagine for one minute if Michael Angelo had said: 'I'm sorry mate I don't do ceilings', the whole of history would have changed in that one sentence. Well, the same could be said of Billy Fury. Had he not given up his love of the sea and turned instead to music, it's quite possible that as a precursor to the Beatles the whole history of the rock 'n' roll



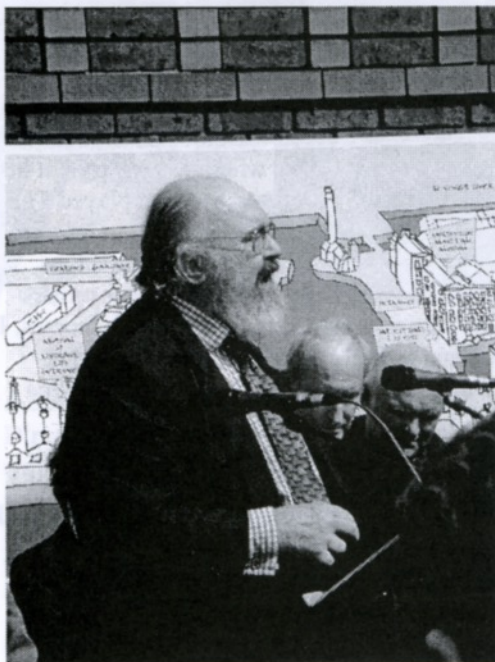
era in Liverpool might also have been very, very different.

Billy Fury was an icon, he was a son of Liverpool, and we are proud to pay tribute to him today. It is well known on record, that in actual fact he never had a No. 1 in the Top Twenty. That is amazing when you think of the wonderful songs that he churned out. He did have more Top 20 hits than practically anyone else. He had more than 20 hits in the Top 20, which is a fantastic record, when you think of the competition through the late fifties, sixties and early seventies.

Many people will say that Billy Fury in his lifetime got 'Halfway To Paradise'. I think that after today we may well say he got 'All the Way To Paradise'. Many thanks, thank God for Billy Fury and the Fury Family. Thank you all very much.

## Jack Good:

**I**'m sorry I'm such an old fart, but it happens to people you know. I used to be Jack Good and now I'm Father Christmas (*Ed's note: Jack Good now has a long shaggy beard and moustache*). I don't have much to say to you, except what a fantastic event this is and what great taste you all have in supporting Billy Fury, because I reckon, let me just say, that he was, at his peak, the *Best Rock 'n' Roller* in the world; in the world. There were others around, Elvis had gone into the army and started taking a few pills, Cliff had got religion and



started being a bit soft. Billy rocked on, he was a great rock 'n' roller. I'm not particularly keen on ballads myself, but I'm thrilled about this event. He was the first one of that stature, magnificent large stature, to write his own songs. People say – oh that started with the Beatles – it was Billy Fury who did it first and he did it marvellously well. He wrote his songs with all his heart. We used to get together for meetings to discuss, to try to find a way to get Decca to make his favourite songs, which we finally got done in 'The Sound of Fury', which was a record Decca really didn't want to make and I don't know why! They only gave him six hours, two three hour sessions to do it and the whole thing



had to be done there and then, there was no editing, there was no changing of channels or anything. The thing was done in six hours, the whole album and I think it's a tremendous tribute to him and to the guys who were playing with him. I think it's a major achievement. I've said all I have to say about Billy, but he was great.

## Maureen Bowden's speech:

**L**adies and Gentlemen, certain rare people have a special quality that touches and effects the lives of many others. The man we're here to remember today was just such a person. His talent, his considerable charm and his personal magnetism were undeniable but he had something more, not so easy to define. Many of us were young when he was young. We admired him, we recognised his natural affinity for the music which he loved and which we loved. It gave him the outlet he needed to express that inner turmoil which is part of adolescence and early adulthood in every generation. He did it right and he



did it for us.

We also responded to his vulnerability and the courage he demonstrated in his life-long battle against illness.

Since his death he's been rediscovered by a new generation who see in him something which is as appealing and as relevant today as it was nearly half a century ago.

It's fitting that his memorial should be here, close to the river that has a special place in the hearts of the people of this crazy, beautiful city. This was his river; this was where he came from. Liverpoolians are proud of this city, of its heritage and of its exceptional sons and daughters who become its ambassadors throughout the country and beyond.

We're here today to honour the memory of a boy who was a role model for his generation, an artiste who took British rock 'n' roll to new heights and a man who was a credit to his city and his country. The Sound of Fury Fan Club, on behalf of everyone who's efforts made this possible, are proud to present this statue to the Museum in celebration of the life of Billy Fury.

## Chris Eley's speech:

**T**hank you Maureen. Honoured guests, ladies and gentlemen, Billy Fury fans good afternoon. In the words of Stuart Coleman Billy was a home grown icon, but one with the authenticity of someone who could have come from Memphis, and when I say that I mean in no way to detract from other British artists, but he had that edge and he put that edge to good use. How many people can take such a diverse musical style from Johnnie Ray, from Hank Williams, from Jimmy Jones, Ral Donner, all of those names, from Jimmy Reed the Blues man, and even from Elvis with 'Because of Love', and Ray Charles in particular, and yet make those songs sound as though they'd been tailor made just for them, not many, Billy could and he did. He wrote killer rockabilly tracks, and rock and roll, blues and country, and many will remember him for the classic 60s hit ballads, those 26 hit singles. And many of the albums, the EP tracks, and those 'B' sides, those great 'B' sides, 'King For Tonight' should have been and would have been a hit, and others 'Cross My Heart', just as good as any of the 'A' sides and that's partly why we'll remember him, and also of course for 'Forget Him' which was a posthumous hit and means a lot to a lot of people. When you take that distinctive, unique voice, those classic rock 'n' roll looks, that underrated song writing ability, then what you have together with the stage performance is a real pop idol. Sir Paul McCartney, of whom you may have heard, said that: 'Billy Fury was the best and most believable British rock 'n' roll star' and I think there are thousands of us who would agree with that.



Now many events have taken place to honour Billy. Since we lost him in 1983 things have happened like the Lectern in the Cathedral and various other events, but it wasn't until 1995 when Liverpool fans Peter and Lynda Keller came out of the stage show 'The Sound of Fury', it was sort of like a 'Road to Damascus' thing for them, they came out and said: 'Hey' and they had a vision and today that vision is being realized, and without them there'd be no statue, no vision. They took this vision to Billy's family, who approved of it, and then they brought it down to us at Mill Hill where the Fan Club, the fans gather regularly. We had no idea when we started, we collected £57.60 something, Jean P knows exactly what to the penny, because without her holding the books together we'd be nowhere, and we thought, oh this isn't going to be too difficult and six years and four months later here we are.



Not to detract, in fact there were six of us then, there was the late Mick Hill, who was a great guy and did the magazine 'Rock You Sinners' as many of you will know, we miss him, and Clare Mehmet-Nugent who can't be here today as she is unfortunately unwell. So we raised that first amount, not to detract from those people who are not fans who have made contributions, and certainly without the Museum of Liverpool Life for what they've done, at this particular stage, it's a heck of a commitment, and we're very grateful. But it was the fans, it's all of you

the grass roots fans, who have achieved this, over 98% of that £40,000 has come from you, each and every one of you, from the venues, the special venues, the people that have organized the venues, those of you that went, and all the entertainers that went there and drew the crowds. The raffles, the auctions, the crazy people from Liverpool who went across to the Essoldo got hold of the bricks when it was being knocked down, painted them gold and then sold them to the rest of us at £10 each. That was quite considerable. All of those people are very, very special people and they did it and you did it. Young, very young fans, whose grandmothers are Billy Fury fans and their mothers, bring their pocket money. People on benefit bring money in, and our Jackie going up Ben Nevis, which was actually quite something.

We are all tremendously indebted to a supremely talented artist Mr Tom Murphy who happens to be a gentleman and also happens to be very, very patient, because six years and four months is a long time to wait for something like this, and we are very, very indebted and when you see that statue you will know where we are coming from. We are indebted also to the Museum of Liverpool Life, to the director Dr David Fleming, to Janet Dugdale, to Councillor Eddie Clein and to our music legend guest Mr Jack Good, you try and follow that, no way. Thank you, Jack.

This statue which unlike the one in 'Suzanne in the Mirror' I'm sure will not melt in the sun, really belongs to every rock 'n' roll fan, every Billy Fury fan, every lover of sixties music and it was great music in the sixties, the early sixties as well. So it is with great pleasure that the four of us here, from the Sound of Fury, on behalf of each and every one of you, because you have done this, now officially hand over this statue to the Museum of Liverpool Life, where it's going to be part of a development of a major collection relating to Liverpool music and we know that this museum is going to promote the image and the legacy of Billy Fury for a long, long time to come. Thank you very much indeed.

Dr David Fleming thanked The Sound of Fury and the fans for the generous gift of the statue.

The assembled group was organised into two groups for the two unveilings and asked Councillor Eddie Clein and Jack to unveil the statue with the help of Tom Murphy, assisted by Jean and Albert Wycherley.

Refreshments were then served in the Merseyside Maritime Museum.

The courtyard of the Museum of Liverpool Life stayed open until 6 p.m. to enable fans to have another look at the statue.

*Asst Ed: There were of course 29 hit singles in total—I referred to the Decca Hits in the speech.)*



# PRESS DAY

## THURSDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2003

by Jackie Clark

**W**hat a beautiful day to have the press call for the unveiling of Billy's statue, especially as it would have been Billy's sixty-third birthday,

Approximately forty fans, including Jean and Albert, Tom Murphy the sculptor, Arthur Johnson and Phil Young of Johnson, Young and Associates who have been instrumental in ensuring that the Statue was placed in Liverpool, were at the Museum of Liverpool Life to see the Statue unveiled in order for the media to get their stories and pictures.

Jean, Albert and Chris Eley were also interviewed for the BBC's North West News.

It was very informal but a great event to witness. I'm sure everyone present must have been very excited and satisfied when they saw this magnificent piece of work uncovered. It is certainly a wonderful likeness of Billy.

Of course, many cameras and videos were in action for a long time; everyone wanting to have their photos taken next to Billy, towering seven feet above them.

Bouquets were presented on behalf of The Sound of Fury to the three ladies from the Museum, Janet Dugdale, Helen McAloon and Anne-Marie Mason to thank them for all their help over these past months. It has been a hectic time for them.

Two other people present who must not be forgotten are, of course, Lynda and Peter Keller whose idea the statue was. It must have been a great day for them to see their six year four month dream become a reality.



# The Billy Fury Bronze Statue Unveiling Weekend

a personal perspective by Chris Eley

**O**n Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April Linda and I ventured up to Liverpool to Peter and Lynda Keller's house where we were made to feel at home for two nights, with wonderful hospitality and much Liverpool humour! At 0810 the following day, on what would have been Billy's 63<sup>rd</sup> Birthday, Peter and I were shivering with museum press agent Stephen Guy in front of the statue inside the courtyard of the Museum of Liverpool Life waiting to go on air.

The statue was covered in a blue waterproof and an inside cloth covering. When asked by the outside radio broadcast girl what I thought I said what a great job Tom Murphy had done with the bronze! It turned out to be a good guess. Getting out of bed for five seconds on air did not seem such a good deal, especially as the poor girl got the details wrong, but there you go.

Next it was off to meet up with our Jackie at Janet Dugdale's office for coffee and a briefing as to all of our roles on the actual day. We also had to work out the best way to get everyone to see the unveiling. My suggestion of a large video screen was not feasible (insufficient time) so Janet came up with an idea I had previously joked with someone about - two unveilings! We also met the lovely Helen McAloon and Ann-Marie Mason, both of whom had worked so hard with Peter and Lynda in setting up the whole event. Eventually the courtyard filled with a few well-known fans and Jean and Albie. There was little structure to the day and the sculptor, Tom Murphy, unceremoniously removed the covers. There was actually no other way of doing it. With the sun shining on his creation it was a very emotional moment for everyone present, and I felt it very keenly. This was what we had spent a major part of six years and four months working for. TV and newspaper coverage took place and that evening there was a snippet on local TV. The following day it was in the local papers again. Thanks to Phil Young, Lou Baxter and Philip Key there had been some previous extensive local media coverage. It was nice to see so many local fans there. I had an interesting but all too brief chat with local radio DJ Frankie Connor who was still waiting for his copy of the original US King for Tonight to arrive. A nice knowledgeable guy. I felt privileged to have a photo taken by the statue with Tom Murphy and another with Colin Paul. Linda was later 'made up' as they say in Liverpool when we visited with Billy's mum Jean and Linda had the chance to see where Billy used to stay. Thanks Jean (who now looks to be a little better in health but is still not right yet.) Enjoyed the tea and cakes. Chatted to Albie too who was there for a



little while and who is also still far from well.

My job on Saturday was to look after Jack Good from mid morning until the unveiling, which was awkward because I had to be also at the museum for 2pm. It became a problem only when we knew that Chris Jones of Spinning Disc had the idea of a biker escort for Jack Good. I had thought the idea was originally from the Ace Café but either way it turned out to be a great idea. Linda, Jackie and I had lunch with Jack and his accountant companion, Paul, whilst the remainder of us prepared to meet fans down at the museum. I spoke to Jack at length about the famous TV shows and the recording of the famous ten-inch album. He put the record straight on a few things about the session, rated Billy as the finest rocker bar none and spoke of how fantastic Elvis had been in Las Vegas in 1969.

After the unveiling I handed Jack back into the care of Harry Whitehouse. Without Harry, and Vince Eager (who couldn't make the day), we would not have had Jack's presence. Thanks so much Harry, and for your generosity in collecting Jack, taking care of him over the event, then taking him all he way home.

At 1345 Peter Keller turned up with his nice flash motor and we solved the problem of using my car and being late, or spoiling the cavalcade by all piling into the motor! I had arranged for the outside chains to be opened for the bikes and we set off. With bikes in front, stopping at junctions, and bikes behind it really was something never to be forgotten. I know Jack was in his element. There was a change of plan at the car park gate - instead of stopping to let Linda and I out to walk the last one hundred yards we carried on to the museum - what the heck! The moment Jack was spotted the quest for photos and autographs began. I attempted to 'mind' him but he did not turn anyone away and went where he wanted to. He gravitated towards those in wheelchairs first and eventually found the group of bikers in the statue courtyard. He really is a rocker still at heart and was glad to be amongst the bikers, many of whom eat, sleep and breathe rock'n'roll. Nice to see Mark from the Ace there too. Without the Ace it would not have happened on that date, and also the Metropole and the Allendale events before and after Christmas, among others.

At 1435 Laura (struggling against a sore throat) duetted on Colette with her young sister Emily, backed by Jeff Morgan from the Persuaders. We owe our thanks to Laura's manager, Kevin Summerfield, for her attendance. A nice touch I thought. The place was packed and it was almost impossible to get through the court-



yard out to the little stage facing the Mersey. Tommy Bruce was there and I think it was Tony Crane but I didn't recognise anyone else. I had hoped to see John McNally of the Searchers there because he liked Billy and is always friendly towards Billy's fans. We met some of the other people behind the event such as Sharon Granville, the Director of Public Services and Barbara Hope, Head of Marketing and Public Affairs. Eventually we got the special guests into their seats on the right of the stage. It was the first time I had seen the layout because on the Thursday it was just a germ of an idea to hold the speeches etc outside then move into the courtyard for the unveiling. The Museum Director, Dr David Fleming opened the proceedings and the speeches began. They are contained elsewhere in the magazine so suffice it to say that Councillor Eddie Clein paid a nice tribute to Billy but of course it was Jack Goods brief, humorous and punchy speech, which carried the day and raised a cheer. He told the faithful exactly what they wanted to hear. Maureen and I shared the speech honours on behalf of the Sound of Fury; Jackie and Jean stood with us on the platform. Not wanting to read it all out but not having memorised it (I had rewritten it only on the Friday morning at Peter and Lynda's), I missed out whole sentences about Billy being happiest in a bird hide, about the fact that he had given us, musically, his all and ultimately so much more which was why he must never be forgotten, and a few






other things. Not to worry, the pressure was immense and I had been running (as a good friend said) on pure adrenaline for the whole few days. Considering the residual effects from the night before (not to blame Peter and Brendan of course!), it was a wonder that I was standing.

There were two unveilings, the first by Eddie Clein and the second by Jack Good; although it was planned they would do it jointly it did not turn out that way. Both were done in the presence of Billy's family, Jean and Albie and then flowers were presented to Jean on behalf of fans worldwide. It was such a crush that good photos could not be taken from up close. Linda and I only got better shots on the Sunday morning when some fans were trickling in to the courtyard. We went to the paper stall just down from the Adelphi on Sunday and the seller turned out to have just bought a Billy tape - pity we didn't buy the Times though because we missed the article in it. It seems to have been the only national paper to pick up on the statue. Anyway, on that Saturday afternoon several people were trying to talk with me but because I was worried about the speech, then the organisation of the day, then the presentations and Jack wanting to get away, I may have been short with some folk - I apologise unreservedly for that. Hopefully I was never rude. There are so many key persons in the bronze fundraising that it can be invidious to name a few I know but from a personal fund raising perspective it was nice to see Ian and Sheila Alexander and the Allendale 'crowd' plus Diane Wardle, formerly from the Carousel, there at the unveiling. Also my Scottish friend who bought the first statue that helped us so much. Also other personal friends gained through Billy; too many to mention, many of whom write regularly but whom we see too little of. I was very surprised, and deeply touched by a thoughtful and really special 'Billy Bronze' gift from some of our Liverpool friends, a true and ardent Billy fan and her husband. We all ran with the project because we love Billy, but it is still nice to be appreciated, especially in such a tangible way.

Finally, everyone went off for tea and biscuits to the Maritime Museum, (everyone that is except half of the people that the SOF had made up presentations for!). When, thanks to Anne-Marie grabbing my hand (taking pity on this poor old stressed out guy!) I eventually located the framed pictures (secured there somewhere on Thursday) Jack Good got his with a picture of Billy from 'Oh Boy'. I think he was pleased but he was very tired by now, and having stuck it out like the trouper he is he went for a drink and a rest. Unfortunately we had tired him out that much he was unable to attend the concert in the evening. Janet Dugdale, received a framed picture on behalf of the Museum and Peter and Lynda were, I hope, surprised at getting a lovely 1959/60 shot of Billy too.

Tom Murphy, Eddie Clein and publicist Phil Young subsequently received theirs and are I'm told quite pleased. Then it was all over. Folk went their separate ways and we were fortunate in having been invited to a meal with





# BILLY FURY

(RONALD WYCHERLEY)

17th APRIL 1940 - 28th JANUARY 1983

LEGENDARY BRITISH ROCK 'N' ROLL  
STAR, MAJOR UK CHART ARTIST,  
OUTSTANDING AND CHARISMATIC  
LIVE PERFORMER, SONGWRITER,  
ANIMAL LOVER AND GENTLE MAN.

THIS STATUE HAS BEEN ACHIEVED THROUGH THE  
DEDICATION OF BILLY FURY FANS WORLDWIDE.  
SCULPTED BY FELLOW LIVERPUDLIAN,

TOM MURPHY.





friends prior to the show. Without the money expended and the generosity and hard work of everyone at the National Museum of Liverpool Life and the work done by Peter and Lynda, Phil Young, Tom Murphy and others this day would have still been in the future.

On Saturday night we went to the concert at the Philharmonic Hall. Laura opened with a fine performance: how I would like to see her with a band behind her. She was let down by technical problems with the backing track but carried on to much applause. Colin Paul and the Persuaders have never appeared in a venue such as this (apart from veteran drummer Paul Attwell who must have done when with Eddison Lighthouse), and you would never have known it. Colin's set was, as always, superb but with more movement and verve than a hotel stage permits. His vocals were spot on and so powerful and authentic that a youngish guy who was sitting next to us just looked at me with amazement. I said, "He's a friend of mine, isn't he great". The rock 'n' roll was both visually and vocally a treat (Colin opened with Such a Night) but the treatment of Hurt and If I can Dream in particular brought much applause and a standing ovation. Deservedly so! I foresee more theatre bookings.

Albie came on with a whole lot of film footage of Billy, some quite rare, playing behind above the stage, albeit none too clearly. He played to the faithful in the front row in particular (who responded accordingly) and paced his set with banter, engaging the audience. I had chatted with him on the Thursday at his mums and, given his pretty self-evident poor state of health, it must have taken a lot to deliver the set on Saturday. Colin and the band supported him and it was nice to hear Running Around and Somebody Else's Girl live for the first time. For once I was totally switched off, enjoying the music, but for the first time I wrote nothing down as regards any artists song running order. I do remember the audience enjoying Albie's rendering of You Don't Know, one of Billy's most beautiful self penned numbers and Albie saying, "If you want to know anything about our kid, ask me!" Colin came back on and closed the evening with a really well handled Billy number, I'm Lost Without You. It is probably Billy's finest performance, certainly I can think of no-one in the world who could have done it better than Billy, not even Elvis. Finally the night was over and it was time for all of us to start the process of unwinding and getting on with our lives. Back to the Adelphi and the real world. We still need a plaque for the unveiling but that's about it. I like to think that Billy, although outwardly disapproving of our efforts, would be secretly chuffed to be still so loved that fans could achieve this for him. As we used to say in law until recently, "Res ipsa loquitur" (may the thing (statue) speak for itself!).





# CROSS MY HEART

by Maureen Bowden

Over the weekend of the Great Unveiling I stayed in Liverpool with my sister Jean and her husband Brian. Throughout this narrative I'll refer to my sister of Jean T, Jean Prosser as Jean P and Jean Wycherley as Jean W because like an End of Season Wranglers Sale we had a surplus of Jeans! On the way to the Albert Dock on the "Day of the Bronze" (I'd call it B Day but that sounds like a bathroom implement) we had Radio Merseyside on the car radio and Frankie Connor was playing Billy as we drove through the city centre, the early afternoon sun cast a glow on the wings of the Liver Birds and the gentle folk of Liverpool went about their business with a spring in their step and laughter on their lips. Cross My Heart!

We arrived at the museum after parking about half a mile away and nearly breaking our necks on the cobblestones in our high heels. (Jean T and myself, not Brian – he's a big lad.) The place had been invaded by you lot. It was lovely to see you and get the chance to chat to so many of you from far and near. Please forgive me for not naming you all but it would take up too much space in the mag and Jean P would shout at me. I would just like to mention Maggie and Les Clarke though, who made the journey from Rhos-on-Sea in spite of Les being so ill. It was nice to meet you at last Les.

Tom Murphy said he was nervous but he looked very proud, as well he might. He asked if I liked the blue drapery cover the statue. He said he thought Everton supporters would like it and he hoped Liverpool supporters wouldn't mind. I told him I'm strictly neutral so it was fine by me. While we were chatting to Colin Paul, Brian was staring at the guy standing next to Colin. He whispered to me "I know his face. Who is he?" It was Tommy Bruce. I managed to speak to Jack Good for a few minutes. I told him the first thing I used to read in "Disc" every Saturday was his column "Sidetracks". He said "My dear, if you can remember that long ago time has dealt more kindly with you than with most of us." What a nice man. Nice hat too Jack.

After Jean W and Albert arrived we were ready to move to the courtyard for the speeches and the unveiling. Eric Lander said he just needed to run off and stick on his quiff. Eric, you're a peach, with or without a stick-on quiff.

Outside, a platform had been erected for the speeches, etc. It was ffffreezing out there. Two young ladies sang "Collette", Councillor Eddie Clein and Jack Good gave their speeches then Chris, Jackie, Jean P and I climbed on the platform. Chris and I gave our speeches and presented the statue to the museum on behalf of you all. Jean P's husband Mike took a photo which you will find elsewhere in the mag. It shows Chris giving his speech and me standing next to him



with a puzzled look on my face, scratching my head. Jean P said she'd considered adding a bubble above my head with "Thinks ..." written in it and we could have a caption competition for people to say what I was thinking. My suggestion is "Who the Hell is Narvel Felts?" Of course we all know that Narvel Felts is a soft furnishing manufacturer don't we? Sorry Chris, only joking. (He didn't actually mention his friend Narvel once in his speech but I've made up for it now haven't I?)



We then had the unveiling – twice. There were too many people there to get everyone into the courtyard at one time so we did it once, put the drapery back over the statue and did the whole thing again. Chris presented Jean W with a bouquet and the paparazzi snapped away happily with their little flashes going off everywhere.

Eventually we all made our way to the fourth floor of the Maritime Museum for tea or coffee and biscuits. One of the bikers from the Ace Café made off with a whole plate of biscuits! Boys will be boys I suppose. The Vickers sisters were

handing round home made cake. Thank you ladies, it was lovely. I managed to get some before the bikers spotted it. Frankie Connor with his cute little smiling face showed up. Nice to see you again Frank. Radio Merseyside's Billy Butler and Spencer Leigh were also there but I didn't get chance to speak to them. A lad called Alan from the magazine "Beats Working" (great name isn't it?) asked me for a copy of my speech to put in his mag. I e-mailed it to him when I got home. I hoped it reached him; my computer skills are zilch. I just don't get along with machines. "Things" come off in my hand. I once said that to a lad I used to work with and he said "I wouldn't take you out." Whatever did he mean? Before we left Chris presented Lynda and Pete Keller with a beautiful framed picture of Billy (the one on the second album where he's sitting on a stool) as a token of our appreciation for all they did to make the Bronze a reality. You're stars, both of you.

When we were leaving the Dock complex the banjo player who busks for the Lifeboat Fund was playing "Halfway to Paradise".

In the evening Jean T, Brian, Rita Smalley, Jean P, her husband Mike and myself went to the Shangri-La Restaurant in Victoria Street. We all enjoyed the meal except Jean P who didn't get chance to taste hers because Brian ate it by mistake. She very politely ate his and didn't make a fuss but she's probably plotting her revenge right now. When you get your own back Jean, can I watch? (*Of course you can, Maureen. I'd never recognise him again so you're gonna have to point him out to me – Jean P*). Afterwards we went to the Pump House, a local hostelry down by the river. It was even more fffffreezing than it had been during the day but it was nice and warm in the pub and we had a very relaxing evening although Rita was having trouble with neuralgia and a rebellious pair of tights. That sounds like an exhibit of contemporary art, doesn't it?

Next morning, Jean T, Brian and myself went to have another look at the statue. Everywhere we turned we kept bumping into Billy fans still roaming around. In the afternoon we visited Jean and Brian's son and his family. When they asked how the Great Unveiling went, Brian said, with a dazed look in his eyes "I stood two feet away from Tommy Bruce"!







10 a.m. Sunday morning



# THIS 'N' THAT

with Chris Eley

So sad to hear about the loss of Adam Faith, one of the 'Big 3' of 60s Britpop, and deservedly so. I loved his work with the Roulettes when he suddenly came back in from out of left field and really did the business with the First Time etc. I wasn't around to know the impact of his early hits but I do know that he kept Billy at the No. 3 popularity slot until around 1961. I hear that a BGO 2-1 CD of two of his albums is hoped for. It would be nice to get 'I Ran all the Way Home' (the Impalas hit) and others in stereo - been after that for years. His great stereo version of 'Forget Him' should also be on the forthcoming (hoped for) release. Ironically, just a couple of weeks ago, I bought two of his EPs including 'A Message To Martha' from a little shop in Liverpool on the way back from the Blackpool function. So long Adam - and thanks.

I have an apology to make to Vince Eager. In the last mag I mentioned the disappointment felt by fans when Vince Eager and PJ Proby failed to show at the Ace Café. That was a genuine disappointment but what I didn't know was that Vince had informed the organisers in good time, of his inability to attend due to commitments.

January's Mill Hill was a very well attended event, about a hundred folk I guess. Thanks are really due to our Jackie for organizing the excellent service. The Reverend Roy Ashley delivered his usual original blend of religion and humanity, well personalized for Billy. Ex Fury's Tornado Bob Paskins delivered a eulogy based on his memories of working with Billy in 1975 and then performed, rather well, an acoustic rendition of 'I'd Never Find Another You'. Tribute acts Rob Dee and Ray Shenton did an enjoyable 'Chapel on the Hill' and everyone belted out Billy hits with a will.

Many people contributed to the raffle and auction and it was nice to see Ian and Sheila Alexander at Mill Hill, handing over yet more money for the Bronze Fund from the preceding December get together at the Allendale. Pauline and Dave Squires contributed two nice framed pictures of Billy that went well at auction due to their rarity. There was a special framed picture from 'Play It Cool' donated for auction by devoted Billy fans Anthony and Tracy-Jane Grist,

It was nice to see Harry Whitehouse (Billy web site) present and my old friend Brian Lee, who unfortunately felt unwell. He soon recovered, in time to put a (humorous) cramp into the proceedings - typical Brian, larger than life. Thanks are due to Cy and Irene Moy for yet more chocolates for the raffle and there are many more folks that thanks are owed to, so sorry to anyone who I may have omitted due to memory lapse.



Old friend Frank Bull, who has done so much for Billy, the lectern in Liverpool and the grave surround and pictures, reminds me that it was 31<sup>st</sup> January 1988 when the grave improvements were done, the blessing of the stone and the beginning of the Stone Fund for the upkeep of the grave.

Regrettably, our Clare has announced her intention to retire from the SOF in October. She has been a powerhouse and done much more than she really had to do. I shall miss her very much.

I was sad to hear that my friend Roy Davis has recently lost his wife Rita. Roy and Rita were always staunch supporters of the Sound of Fury and our thoughts are with him.





occurred due to memory lapse.





## Fury Fest 03

Palace Theatre, Newark Nottinghamshire,  
7 pm-midnight on Fri. 19<sup>th</sup> Sept. and 9 am-midnight on Sat. 20<sup>th</sup> Sept.

Friday: **Rob Dee and the Fury Sound** plus more

Saturday: **Vince Eager and Rockola**  
plus **Laura, Ray Shenton** and many more.  
(We anticipate at least 15 artists/bands will appear over two days)

Saturday events:

**Play It Cool** and **I've Gotta Horse** showing on full size cinema screen.  
Vince Eager talks on living with Billy (Another celebrity speaker not yet confirmed)  
Video footage running in anterooms throughout the afternoon  
Disco at second nearby venue in afternoon.— Theatre bar.—Merchandise  
Prize Trivia quiz running throughout the weekend (Entry forms £1. Proceeds to  
the Heart Unit of Alder Hey Children's Hospital)

Full Festival ticket admits to everything: £25 (by cheque)

Day ticket: £10 for Friday, £20 for Saturday (by Cheque) (not available from theatre)  
Only available from Harry Whitehouse, 48 Queen Street, Balderton, Newark NG24 3NS  
Full Festival tickets available from Theatre (credit card/cheque): £29 (Not yet booking)

Please contact Harry by e-mail at [harry@billyfury.org](mailto:harry@billyfury.org) or by phone on 01636 683914  
Please note that though day tickets are now on sale seat allocations will not be  
made until two weeks before the event.

**NB EVERYTHING IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE**





## BILLY FURY TRIBUTE NIGHT

**A** further celebration (to the Bronze event) will be held over the weekend 4th-6<sup>th</sup> July in New Brighton, Birkenhead. On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> the two films 'Play It Cool' and 'I've Gotta Horse' will be shown at the local cinema - all of the proceeds from this are going to the local children's hospital.

On Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> there will be a Tour Bus in operation, leaving from Fort Perch Rock, New Brighton, and covering Billy Fury and Merseybeat places of interest. (Anyone wishing to go on this tour will need to pre-book by telephoning **0151-638 1961**) In the evening - from Operation Big Beat, comes the Billy Fury Tribute Show starring:

**Marty Wilde / Terry Dene / Vince Eager / Dave Sampson**

**Tickets for this show will be on sale from mid-March at the New Brighton Floral Pavilion box office. (Telephone) 0151-639 4360.**

On Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July at Fort Perch Rock, New Brighton - there will be various stalls of Rock & Roll records, CDs and memorabilia. There will also be a Billy Fury stall with many items of interest. It is also hoped that several celebrities may pop into the fort. Chris Jones from Spinning Disc is helping to organize this function, continuing to promote Billy, for which we are extremely grateful. A new Spinning Disc Catalogue is now available.

Blackpool Holidays Ltd.

Diane Wardle presents

### **Billy Fury Tribute Weekend**

at The Metropole Hotel, Blackpool  
21st—23rd November 2003

Starring :-

**Colin Paul and the Persuaders**

Little OLE' Neil Hiley—spinning the wax.

**Ray Shenton**—plus surprise guests.

**Graham Holly.**

Dinner, Bed and Breakfast and Sunday lunch

Enquiries—Telephone :- **01253 722300** (24hr answerphone)

Or write to :- **Blackpool Holidays Ltd.,**

**P.O. Box 153, Lytham St. Annes FY8 2WY** (details will be sent by return)

The management reserve the right to amend the programme as necessary.

## BILLY FURY BRONZE MINIATURE STATUES AND BRONZE BUSTS FOR SALE – LIMITED EDITION

Tom Murphy the excellent sculptor who fashioned the statue of Billy in Liverpool is offering the excellent and highly collectable items as shown below.

Approx 18 inches high bronze Maquette £1,250 (inc VAT)

Billy Fury bust (the size of the actual head on the 6ft 8inch statue in Liverpool)  
£1,500 (inc VAT)

Please contact Tom direct on:

07788-666837

[tom.murphy@talk21.com](mailto:tom.murphy@talk21.com)

[www.sculptor.uk.com](http://www.sculptor.uk.com)

Please note that the maquettes will be fashioned on the actual full sized statue.

They will not be an exact match but will approximate it, right down to having Billy's neck chain reproduced. This will not be an indefinite run – the maximum number has yet to be decided by the sculptor.







Sculptor Tom Murphy at last sees  
the back of the project

