

Number 7

# *Billy Fury*



**THE SOUND OF FURY**

Official Billy Fury Fan Club





# THE SOUND OF FURY



Official Billy Fury Fan Club

c/o 36 Manbey Grove, Stratford, London, E15 1EX

Here's a little piece of Heaven  
S of F mag number seven

*Always Remembered*



Hello Fury Followers

Well, have you recovered from Patricroft, Mill Hill, The Montrose and the Carousel yet? Sit down, have a rest and read your mag.

Many thanks to you all for renewing your membership. We can't acknowledge each renewal individually as the postal costs would be too high but if you'd like an acknowledgement please tell us when you send your subscription and enclose an S.A.E.

Clare sends her apologies but she can't do any more tapes of the Radio 2 programme "Like I've Never Been Gone". If you still want one put a "Wants" ad in the mag and maybe some kind person will help you out.

Ray and Dee Johnson's ad in mag number six should have mentioned that they need £1 P & P with any orders for photos. Sorry Ray and Dee.

"Beat Goes On" have offered us a stall at the Millennium Festival in Brighton this summer. Details are in the mag. Be there or be ....

There's been a lot of interest in Albie's CD which includes a tribute song to Billy written by Frankie Connor and Alan Cowley. Details are in the mag. Well done Alb.

Nice to see the bikers from London's "Ace Café" at the cemetery in January. They did a "ride past" at Billy's grave. It was impressive. Thank you lads. "The Ace" is putting on a "Billy Fury Day" for us. We'll let you have details when it's arranged.

The autumn Mill Hill reunion will be on 3<sup>rd</sup> October. We meet at the cemetery about one o'clock, if you want to turn up earlier the cemetery opens at 11 o'clock. We go round to the Community Hall in Salcolme Gardens about 2 o'clock. Everyone's welcome. Come along if you can.



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





# *Cross My Heart*

by

**Maureen Bowden**

The sun shone on Blackpool in February this year. The Carousel Hotel hosted a Billy weekend from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>. Dave and I didn't get lost until we reached Blackpool, followed signs for the South Shore and somehow or other ended up at the North Shore. Every turn we took seemed to bring us into a car park and we spent half an hour driving round in ever decreasing circles. However, we still arrived well ahead of Chris and Linda who'd had car trouble.

At dinner on Friday evening we made the acquaintance of our waiter who bore an uncanny resemblance to Manuel from "Faulty Towers" and spoke with what sounded like a Mediterranean accent. Every time we spoke to him we expected him to say "Que?"

After dinner the entertainment was soon in full swing with Neil Hiley's hot wax and Colin Paul and the Persuaders who get better and better (and I'm not just saying that because Colin's one of our members). I gave out the quiz papers devised for us by Roy Harvey. They caused a bit of brain wracking and raised £87 for the Bronze Fund at 50p per sheet. Thanks very much Roy. They also raised some pretty funny answers. My foster daughter Rebecca typed the questions on our typewriter and printed off several dozen copies. It kept her occupied for about four days. Thanks again Roy. She had typed 1937 instead of 1973 in one of the questions which would have confused a lot of people if we hadn't spotted it.

The Flying Scotsman, John Kingstree, soon put in an appearance wearing the first of a series of snazzy ensembles. John never ventures into society without his entire wardrobe. Over the course of the weekend he was a vision in white leather, a demon in black leather and a cool dude in powder blue. I ventured out onto the dance floor with John and at the second attempt we managed to reconcile Liverpool 'jive' with Dumfries 'jive' and come up with a satisfactory compromise.

It was about this time that Chris' lethal notebook first put in an appearance. He was scribbling in it all weekend but no-one lacking paranormal powers has a hope in hell of deciphering what it says. (I believe I've mentioned Chris' writing before. It's legendary.) Dave called the notebook "The Thoughts of Chairman Eley"! Perhaps we should bury it in a Time Capsule and give the archaeologists of the Third Millennium something to think about (should they be able to decipher it of course).



We made the acquaintance of Mo Cooper who set up a stall of her beautiful hand made 50's outfits. Mo's very kindly given us a skirt to auction at Mill Hill for the Bronze Fund.

At the end of the evening we got lost on our way to the bedrooms. The Carousel is a bit of a rabbit warren. There are three alternative routes and we never got the hang of any of them. Manuel must have been fed up with us trouping through his kitchen.

Next morning we got lost again and were late for breakfast but once again, we arrived ahead of Chris and Linda. Can't remember what their excuse was this time. After breakfast we set up the fan club stall and "The Biscuit Tin" put in its first appearance. This close companion to "The Note Book" was the receptacle of Bronze Fund donations and fan club subscriptions that accumulated over the weekend. By Sunday morning we could have used a little help from Uri Geller to lift it. On Saturday afternoon Dave and I went out to brave the sea air and Chris and Linda went to get their car fixed in Bolton! (Don't ask, it's far too complicated.) While we were out we missed Gerry Sandon's set. Sorry Gerry we'll catch you next time. We heard he was very good though.

Guess who was late for dinner on Saturday night? They arrived back from Bolton and ordered their soup when everyone else was deciding whether to have rhubarb crumble or black forest gâteau for desert. Manuel looked harassed.

Saturday night we did the raffle. Veronica West and Linda McCaw helped me sell the tickets. Thanks girls. Jean picked out the first ticket and Auntie Rose was one of the first winners. We were running a bit late so we had to rush through the raffle with Chris calling out the numbers and me shepherding the winners to the prizes like sheep through a dip. We then had excellent sets from Colin and from Alan Hayes, another fan club member. Watch out for him, he has a great future if there's any justice.

Later in the evening Albie did a spot for us although he hadn't been feeling too well all day. He was as good as ever though and he got a great reception.

We stayed up till the early hours talking music then we got lost again on the way to the bedrooms. The lift only holds three and it was occupied by Chris, Linda and "The Biscuit Tin" so Dave and I took the stairs. We got lost and so did Chris, Linda and "The Biscuit Tin". Perhaps he should have written directions in "The Note Book". Not that it would have done much good.

Sunday morning we'd arranged to meet Diane Wardle, the hotel proprietor, before breakfast to discuss the morning's itinerary. We got lost, had our conference with Diane, had breakfast, hauled "The Biscuit Tin" down stairs and set up the stall again. We then got through the jive competition, the twist competition, the quiz results and the presentations while taking turns to mind "The Biscuit Tin"! Colin judged the jive competition. Only two couples entered and they were both brilliant so he diplomatically named them both winners and gave them a trophy each. He then judged the twist competition and I announced the winners of the quiz. First prize went to Brian and Sheila Russon. Runner up was Darren and Tracy Copley and Graham Halliday. Where were you Graham? I still have your prize. Get in touch and we'll arrange how to get it to you. Diane then presented Jean and Auntie Rose with lovely bouquets and we gave Diane a bouquet and a framed photo of Billy to display behind the bar.

We then had a final set from Colin and Neil Hiley finished up with more great records. The morning ended with the weird and wonderful "Dance of the Ovalteenies" and "Wish Me Luck While You Wave Me Goodbye" from the inmates of the Jive Inn. It was hilarious. In the Seventies this is what we would have called "A Happening".

A video of the weekend was made. Details of where to get it are elsewhere in the mag.

At lunch time Chris and Linda had already departed, inadvertently taking their room key with them and leaving us holding "The Biscuit Tin". They took "The Note Book" though.

Lunch was relatively uneventful, Manuel turned out to be from Swansea so we said "Diolch yn fawr" before we left and he didn't say "Que?"

Diane is considering making the Billy weekend an annual event. If you didn't get to this one try to make it next year.

On Monday evening I had a phone call from the Carousel. The message was "Can you ask Mr Eley if we can have our key back please?"

Love and Fury  
Maureen

P.S. We bought Colin's new CD. I haven't had chance to listen to it at the time of writing but Dave has and he's impressed. I'll review it in the next mag.



## BILLY FURY WEB SITE

By Jean Prosser

I was sitting in my office one morning during the middle of February when I saw that I had an e mail from Nalle Westman in Finland. The message read "I just wanted to inform you that the Billy Fury Web Site has won an award! It's some sort of 50's and 60's music legacy award. I was about to dash off to work this morning so I didn't have enough time to read the whole message, but I'll let you know about it as soon as possible - Nalle The Happy Graphic Designer". I sent a congratulatory message back to him with a request that he send me more information when he could. Today, I got the second e mail which reads:-

"Dear Jean - About the award, The Billy Fury Web Site has been recognised as one of the best rock 'n' roll sites on the web and as such, it has been awarded the Legacy Choice Award for Excellence. To be selected, they apply the following criterion:

- ❖ The site must be related to 60's rock 'n' roll.
- ❖ The site must provide extensive information about a band or subject not available elsewhere.
- ❖ The site is exceptionally well designed.

Legacy Links is the largest collection of 60's rock sites on the web and the Billy Fury Web Site is now linked to their central index. This naturally increases the traffic on the site. Legacy Links was founded on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 1997 by Casey Butler, owner of Viable Software Alternatives. He saw it as a means of linking the community of Classic rock 'n' roll web sites together in a cultural region of cyberspace and also as a means of encouraging and rewarding the hard work of the webmasters. In November 1998 the site was purchased by Old Goat Publishing who run it now."



Legacy Choice Award for the best rock 'n' roll site

From all of us, Nalle, well done and thanks for all the hard work that you've done in getting this Web Site up and running. This is the new advert for the web site.

# Billy Fury

*Always Remembered*

**THE SOUND OF FURY**  
The Official Billy Fury Fan Club

**Sent from Jean Prosser 16 Norton Crescent BALDOCK Herts SG7 5BE**

## TO ALL FAN CLUB MEMBERS

*We have sent a letter similar to this to celebrities and companies who we think may be interested in bidding for the original Bronze Maquette. We are reproducing it in the magazine in case anyone is interested in bidding for it.*

We are supporting a project aimed at having a bronze statue of the late Billy Fury erected on the Liverpool waterfront.

We have commissioned the well known sculptor and artist, Tom Murphy. He has many works of art throughout the city of Liverpool and beyond including bronze statues of Sir Bill Shankly, Sir John Moors, war hero Johnny Walker and Diana Princess of Wales. Tom has produced a two foot bronze maquette of Billy Fury for us. This bronze is a beautiful piece of art and so very much like Billy.

The maquette will be on show at Mill Hill on 18<sup>th</sup> April, the next reunion of Billy's fans. If you would like further details on this location please let me know. The maquette is currently in Liverpool and a private viewing could be arranged there.

We are now auctioning the maquette to assist in financing the statue, with a reserve price of £4,000. The closing date for the auction is 8<sup>th</sup> May 1999.

If you would like to participate, please send your bid by 8<sup>th</sup> May to Jean Prosser, 16 Norton Crescent, Baldock, Herts, SG7 5BE.

Yours sincerely



For & on behalf of  
The Sound of Fury

On behalf of the syndicate  
Maureen Bowden, Jackie Clark, Chris Eley Mick Hill, Clare Mehmet-Nugent, Jean Prosser

The Sound of Fury, 36 Manbey Grove, Stratford, London, E15 1EX  
Billy Fury Web Site: <http://www.dlc.fi/~nallew/fury.html>



### **NEWS FLASH**

**Tom Murphy is donating to the Fan Club a fibre glass miniature of the Statue and we will raffle it at £5 per ticket.**

**WATCH THIS SPACE!**



## THE BILLY FURY BRONZE FUND

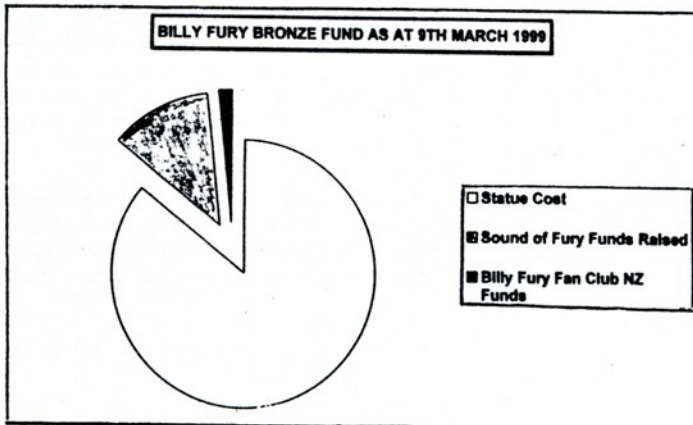
### A BIG THANK YOU TO:-

- All of you who sent "a bit extra for the Bronze Fund" with your membership renewals.
- Those who've sent in donations of money or goodies and who regularly support our raffles and auctions.
- Ian and Sheila Alexander of the Allendale Hotel.
- Cy Moy who again held a "Fun Dance" at the end of last year and sent us the money from his raffle.
- At our last Mill Hill get together Ann Green said that she'd love to do something to help raise money for the Statute. She did – by holding a raffle at her !?!?! birthday party (*it's not polite to give a lady's age away*).
- Rose Quinn who kindly agreed to do the raffle for us at Neil Hiley's bash.
- Diane Wardle and the Carousel Hotel

We all appreciate your generosity and support for this project.

Remember Jackie is climbing that mountain soon so if you've not sent her your sponsorship form yet please do so. She'll appreciate your support when her feet hurt, her muscles ache and she wished her knees and back belonged to someone else. Some fans have such confidence in Jackie's ability to get to the top they've already sent her their sponsorship money. Good luck Jackie and remember what Mike told you!

We are now seeking a buyer for the maquette (see the letter elsewhere in the mag). My pie chart shows the amount of money we've got in the bank for the Statue, not the amount of money raised so far.



## QUESTION TIME

People have assumed that question time was originated by Chris Eley who would like to put the record straight and give the credit to where it's due, with Fan Club Member and avid Billy collector, Will McNeil. The questions are still being researched but the article contributed by Fan Club Member, Peter Davies, provides some of the information requested. It must be remembered that reported dates in music papers often failed to take place, and that the gruelling toll of package touring plus the passing years can make the best of memories falter. In 'Billy Fury On Stage' we hope in the future to feature as many Tour Dates as are known about (with help already provided by Tony Philbin and others), and also unreleased tracks, backing bands, etc. A lot of research is obviously involved in this. The BBC radio sessions are also to be listed, but given that they have confused Saturday Club with Top of the Pops on some listings, more work is needed there also! More general information can be found on Nalle Westman's Web Site on the Internet and in the booklet notes of the available CDs.

More questions from Will will appear, together with whatever answers are available, in future issues of the magazines. Meanwhile, I'm sure the information from Ray Randall, a former 'Tornado' will prove of interest. Special thanks are due to Peter Davies for his efforts in obtaining the information, and to Ray Randall for imparting it; it's this kind of participation that makes things so much more interesting for everyone, including those of us at the Sound of Fury. Thanks also to Tony Philbin for his contribution regarding Billy's Tour Dates, hopefully for inclusion in the next issue.

## RE: "THE TORNADOS"

I refer to your question on page 33 of 'Sound of Fury' issue number six and thought that you would be interested to hear of the following.

About one year ago in my business as Estate Agent I was invited to visit a lady's house one evening to value and place the house on the market in Great Harwood, near Blackburn, Lancashire. During my visit I noticed that there were some musical instruments and paraphernalia of a musician in one of the bedrooms. She explained that she and her partner were moving to Whitby, Yorkshire and he was a professional musician. His name is Ray Randall and he was a member of the second generation group The Tornados, having taken over as bass player from Heinz Burt. I had a long discussion with Ray much of it concerning Billy. In due course the property was sold and they moved to Whitby, but kept in touch. Ray is currently appearing on stage in the North Yorkshire area.

During January 1999 I received a tape from Jenny and Ray which was an interview which was broadcast by BBC Radio Cleveland on 27 December 1998 called 'Dave Wiseman's 60s Souvenir'. Apparently this programme links up with other North East radio stations. So some readers of 'The Sound of Fury' may have heard the programme.



The tape of the programme included a lot of 60s music particularly from the Joe Meek productions at that time. Ray Randall apparently worked for Joe in his London studio and spoke affectionately of his experiences in the sixties. Among the quotes extracted from the programme he says:

'The highlight for me was backing Billy Fury. We would play our hits to moderate appreciation but when Billy came on stage the whole place would just erupt. It was like Beatlemania but before the Beatles. He would come on and we wouldn't be able to hear what we were playing for the whole of the act.

I don't know what it was with him, he looked good and moved well and he had, as far as I was concerned, a brilliant voice. I have to be honest and I might be biased but I preferred him to Elvis Presley really, and I think if Larry Parnes had got him into the States he would have done well out there, but it was never to be.

Larry Parnes apparently said that 'If you don't have Billy Fury then you don't get The Tornados', so the Americans said 'Well we will go without', and that was our American tour down the drain really, and I think you can probably get away with it in the UK, but I don't think you can deal with the Americans like that.

I think The Tornados would have gone on for quite some time if we had gone to the States and I think it would have made an awful lot of difference. Whether they would have accepted us I don't know, but I think it probably was the beginning of the end for us.

Joe Meek was not particularly liked in the business and was a very hard businessman. There was one night, I think it was in South London playing one of the Gaumonts when they closed during the day for the stage show. Joe had come along to the show and Larry Parnes said to Ray Randall 'When Billy comes on stage stand back because the spotlights are picking up your white hair'. So I stood right back and then Joe in the interval said 'What are you doing standing back?' So I said that Larry had told me when Billy comes on stage, to stand back. So he said I am your Manager and when Billy comes out I want your hair to be picked up in the spotlight. So I spent the second set of the show walking backwards and forwards! It was very difficult actually and Joe wasn't really cut out for business, he was a great engineer but not for business.'

Ray Randall was apparently with The Tornados from September 1963 to 1966 starting toward the end of the season in Great Yarmouth and then touring for the remainder of 1963 with Billy and Dicky Pride, playing a total of 82 venues. Apparently The Tornados line up on Billy's Tour was:

**Ray Randall (Bass Guitar) – replaced Brian Gregg who had replaced Heinz Burt**

**Stuart Taylor (Lead Guitar) – replaced Alan Caddy**

**Bryan Irwin (Rhythm Guitar) – sadly died recently at Christmas 1998**

**Jimmy O'Brien (Keyboards)**

**Clem Cattini (Drums) (still with The Tornados)**

**Stuart Taylor left (The Tornados about 1965 – Asst.Ed) to join Dusty Springfield.**

(Although there are contracts post 1964, naming Billy Fury and The Tornados, and some radio show introductions post '64 mentioning The Tornados, Billy was backed from early 1964 by The Gamblers, and then in 1967, by the Plainsmen – Asst. Ed)

Ray also remembers Joe Brown (by this time a star in his own right – Asst. Ed) entering his dressing room during the tour and saying that J.F.K. had been shot (22.11.63) and also that there were late dates in Holland during the tour. Lee Everett was with them and bought Ray a pair of clogs!

Billy apparently did a few numbers live on a Dutch Radio show, does anyone out there please have any transcripts? (Asst. Ed)

Should any reader or former colleague wish to contact Ray, I am sure that he would be pleased to hear from them and he can be contacted through myself – Peter Davies (01254) 888255.



## **MORE ANSWERS TO QUESTION TIME**

By Maureen Bowden

Question 7 asked about unreleased songs in Billy's stage repertoire. He used to sing the old blues song "If you Don't Want You Don't Have to Get Into Trouble". You'll remember the cleaned up version by The Evs and Ray Charles released as "Leave My Woman Alone". The original, which Billy sang was "earthier". I heard him do it on the Liverpool Empire in 1959 or 1960.

His mum Jean remembers him singing "Old Shep", also on the Liverpool Empire. The audience stopped screaming and it was very quiet then she dropped a bag of mint balls and they all went "plop plop plop" down the steps in the circle.

Question 9 asked when Joe Brown ceased to be in Billy's band. He was never actually in Billy's band although he played on "The Sound of Fury" LP. Clare met Joe recently and he told her any time he played with Billy he was helping out as a friend.







# This 'n' That



with Chris Eley

Another packed, light hearted and successful Mill Hill gathering on January 24th. Lots of new faces, and young ones, which is always so important for the future. I believe Billy would have been chuffed to see so many young bikers paying their respects, he was so keen on bikes and speed himself.

Mill Hill regular Dave McMaster was much missed, we hope you're feeling a great deal better now Dave after such a big op. Sad to hear of the passing of Tony Tait who, we are told, was once a member of one of Billy's backing bands.

Thanks to everyone who took part in the surprise and signed a 50th birthday card for me, also to Frank Bull for his vote of thanks, it was a nice way to finish off my birthday week. It's sad to hear that Frank is unwell again – get well soon Mate!

The night before Linda and I were lucky enough to get to the Elvis Concert at Wembley. It was a stunning night, and great to see the original 1970s band line up, especially James Burton, who did such a good job for Elvis, later on for Jerry Lee Lewis, and of course, the great Ricky Nelson, long before the Elvis connection. The Aloha from Hawaii video shots of Elvis were, in particular, stunning, and the event worked on most levels. There was, however, such an underlying current of sadness because he really wasn't there, I suspect that's why there was an unusually subdued response to American Trilogy, always a real Tour de Force.

This year Elvis is being touted by RCA as Artist of the Century. The worldwide jury is out as to whether it's Elvis or Sinatra, but not in this house, sorry Frank! The new Elvis CD Sunrise 07 863 676752 contains the seminal and absolutely essential Sun recordings. I prefer Billy's live version of 'Baby Let's Play House' (BBC Documentary) but 'That's All Right' 'Mystery Train' and especially 'Trying To Get To You' are brilliant. The previously unreleased track 'It wouldn't be the Same Without You' is interesting, but a couple of plays is enough. Some of the tracks on side 2 are the equivalent of Billy's first recordings on his P.F. Philips 78, which were 'I'm Left, You're Right, She's Gone' (there are 4 original versions on Sunrise), 'Have I Told You Lately That I Love You', 'Love's a Callin'', 'Paralysed', and 'Come Go With Me' (the latter title being a misnomer, it's really a self written number which could more accurately be called 'Baby').

A big thank you to Cy Moy for his contribution to the Mill Hill raffle, the lady who brought in those huge boxes of chocs, and everyone else who brought stuff in, we need it folks (especially Billy associated stuff, but of course chocs and gifts etc. are always welcome). Thanks are due too, to Cy for his 'Fun Dances', which raise money for the Bronze Fund, if only more of Billy's fans could do similar events we would get to our goal quicker. I would like to say a big thanks to those other (same old faces) who continually, even if they can't afford to, donate to the Bronze and to the Heart Charities. A big thanks to Brendan Dodd for contributing the autographs, and to new Fan Club member John Giles who ended up with one of them!

Albert's plaintive tribute to Billy is now out 'I Never Met Colette', I think purchase details are elsewhere in the magazine. This is a very nice little picture disc package, well worth having, 4 tracks including the tribute title song, the previously released 'Helpless',

'I Know I've got a Heart' plus a new one that I particularly enjoy, 'Believe in Love'. The Documentary is due to be re-shown in the autumn, with repeats (thanks for the info Paul – let's hope you do win the award). 'That'll be the Day' is now available on video again, as part of a double with 'Stardust'. Available from HMV, Tower etc. quite cheaply, Warner Brothers SO 38342 (the picture of Billy is far too small!).

Paul Anka's 'Diana' is a kind of classic but for me the best version by far is by Conway Twitty, a guy who could really sing, in the almost over the top style of Ral Donner. This great version, along with solid versions of 'Handy Man' 'Treat Me Nice' and 'Long Black Train' (Conway's equivalent of Elvis's 'Mystery Train') can be found on Globe CD 283 (specialist dealers only). Another option is to shell out for the (expensive!) Bear Family boxed set. The best option currently is to pick up 'The World of Conway Twitty' Spectrum S51-432-2, a snip at £5.99 with not only the above (less 'Long Black Train') but a quite wonderful 'Blue Moon' with a spoken intro which sounds like James Stewart. 'Lonely Blue Boy', 'It's Only Make Believe' and 'Blueberry Hill' are superb of course, but 'Unchained Melody' is a disaster. Still one really duff track out of 20 isn't bad. Also on here is 'What am I Living For', good, but not up to Billy's treatment of the song. Another quite different version of 'Diana' can be found on the new Bobby Vee double CD 'Hits of the Rockin' 50s/with Strings and Things, BGO CD 444. The vocal mix is a little lop-sided, but the Crickets style drumming drives it along in an enjoyable way; perhaps this is how Buddy Holly would have tackled it. Still on the subject of Vee there is another really nice 2-1 CD release, perhaps two of the best of his albums (except for the Crickets backed tracks). Take Good Care of My Baby/Recording Session, BGO CD 438 includes 'He Will Break Your Heart' (from the Billy 'Halfway' LP). That's five versions that I know of, Billy, Johnny Rivers, Bobby Vee, Ben E King and Jerry Butler, all of them slightly different (anyone know of any others?). I think the last one was the hit one. Anyway, great stuff here, 'You Better Move On', 'What's Your Name', 'Forget Me Not' (a cover of Eden Kane's classic), the brilliant 'I Can't Say Goodbye', 'Golden Chance', 'Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow', a superior cover (sorry Ed and Frank)!, of Adam Faith's 'Who am I' plus a whole lot of hits, 'Sharing You' etc. Essential for lovers of early 60s pop.

Mike Berry is a real gentleman, in the mould of Dave Sampson and other artists we know, so its nice to see a brand new CD, 'Rock n Roll Daze' Roller Coaster RCCD 6002. Not all of the 16 newly recorded tracks work but most do. They range from competent and enjoyable to really good. I especially like the Ricky Nelson covers, the inevitable Buddy covers, 'Rave On' in particular, and even 'Only the Lonely' works, great effort Mike (and a brave one in tackling an Orby number!)

Right in the middle of doing this column I got a surprise telephone call from St Louis, Narvel Felts on tour, about to fly to another gig in the South. A new CD of rockabilly style material is due for release soon, more details when available. You really must catch this brilliant performer at one of his rockabilly or country gigs this year (Fan Club details in Mag No. 4 or via Sound of Fury if you don't have a copy of No. 4). Narvel's lovely wife Loretta has been unwell recently and the Sound of Fury extend their best wishes and hopes for a speedy recovery. Fan Club member Sean Mitton is unwell at present. Sean sings Billy numbers well and we wish him all the best at this time. That goes for anyone



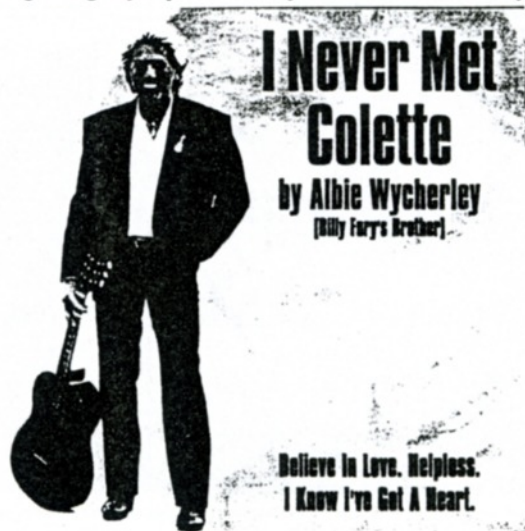
that we may have missed, good luck to everyone undergoing a tough time at present, for whatever reason.

Enjoyed Paul Pierrot's article in the last magazine and the making of 'The Sound of Fury' too. It was a real privilege to have my 'Halfway To Paradise' Billy Fury story included in every programme of the show, basically three quarters of the profile I had done for Albert's Montrose Charity Nights. Thanks for your help there by the way Albie. I thought the stage show was really enjoyable and loved Danny McCall in the lead. 'Be Bop a Lula' and 'Good Rockin Tonight' were also great; a real tragedy that the Sound of Fury didn't travel further and end up where it belonged, in the West End beside 'Buddy'. 'Only the Lonely' was great too, with uncannily authentic vocals.

Thanks to Terry from Spinning Disc for contributing some music sheets to the Bronze Fund. Talking about Cy Moy does anyone remember Cy Tucker?, a Liverpool artist who did a nice version of 'My Prayer' in about 1964, I remember buying it at the time. Congratulations to Bill and Jean French on their wedding anniversary (well done). Our Clare has been unwell recently, and I'm sure everyone joins us in saying hope things are a little better now. New member George Rab is looking for a copy of the original 60s magazine (Jackie?) with Billy's handprint in. Can anyone please help with this? Contact George via the Fan Club.

'The King' singing 'Dock of the Bay', 'No Woman No Cry', 'I Heard it Through the Grapevine', really!! Except that this is Jim Brown who has the (tongue in cheek) temerity to call himself 'The King' on his new CD. The King/Gravelands EMI Electrola 7243 4 98004 2. Tasteful, not exactly, enjoyable, very; you'll either love it, or hate it. 1970s style Elvis vocal, quite weird to hear 'Whiskey in the Jar', nice version of 'Something Else' and a real 'hidden' acoustic version of 'That's All Right'. Try it!

As I finish to beat the deadline we are one week away from the Carousel Hotel weekend which I'm sure will be enjoyed by all, details to follow at a later date. It will be 40 years since the charting of 'Maybe Tomorrow', just where did the years go! Welcome to all new members and thanks to everyone, who has stayed with us, also my thanks go to Jenny Payne and my new phantom typists Julie Runicles and Cecilia Darvell for helping me with my work. Until October, take care, and please keep that information coming regarding any aspects of Billy's life and career that you have good knowledge of.





**Compilation CD Discography (Non exhaustive)**  
 Compiled by Chris Eley with special thanks to Roy Harvey

TITLE	TRACKS	CAT NO.	RELEASE DATE
ROCK N ROLL Vol 1	Maybe Baby	Object Enterprises  OS00 22	1987
ROCK N ROLL Vol 4	Sheila	Object Enterprises  OS00 25	1987
ROCK N ROLL - 1960	Collette	Connoisseur Collection  YRNR CD 60	1987
ROCK N ROLL - THE BEGINNING	Sheila/Maybe Baby	Hollywood Nites HNC0040	1987
THE LONDON SOUND	Halfway to Paradise	London 820 - 489 - 2	1988
RAIN AND TEARS - HIT BALLADS OF THE SIXTIES	I Will	Pickwick PWK 119	1988
THE GREATEST EVER ROCK 'N' ROLL MIX	Maybe Tomorrow/Halfway to Paradise	Stylus SMD 858 Double CD	1988
WHERE THE ACTION IS	In Thoughts of You	London 820 496 - 2	1988
GREAT EASY LISTENING HITS OF THE 50's & 60's	Last Night Was Made For Love  <i>Free CD with 'The Pop Legends' CD set)</i>	RDS 10579 (GLEG A-9-190)	1989  <i>Readers Digest Mail Order</i>
THE 60's COLLECTION	Last Night Was Made For Love	Pickwick Music PWK 125	1989
NOW HEAR THIS	When Will You Say I Love You	Deram 820 774 - 2	1989
THE GOLDEN YEARS OF THE SIXTIES Simon Bates	It's Only Make Believe	Pickwick PWKS 556	1989
AND THE BEAT GOES ON	Last Night Was Made For Love	Deram 820 769 - 2	1989
JUKE BOX JIVE MIX	Collette/Last Night Was Made For Love	Stylus SMD 993	13th Nov. 1989 Double CD
UNFORGETTABLE	Halfway To Paradise	EMI CD EMTV 46	1989
GOLDEN HITS OF THE 60's	Halfway To Paradise	Disc 1 Box D16P Boxed set	1989

## THE LONDON SOUND



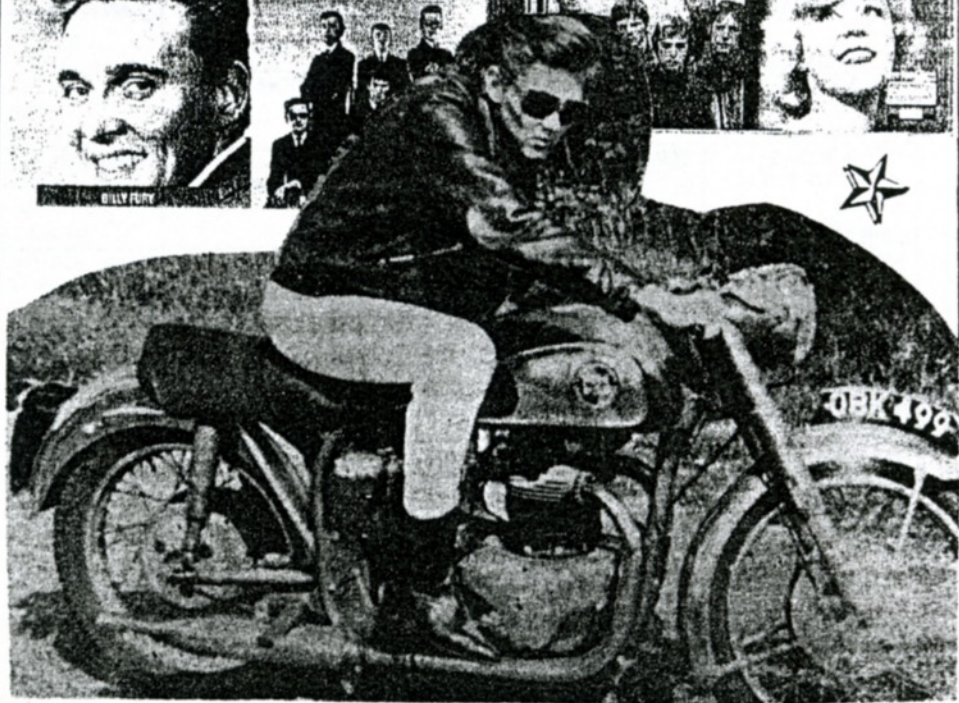
## WHERE THE ACTION IS



## NOW HEAR THIS!



## AND THE BEAT GOES ON





GOFFIN AND KING SONG BOOK Connoisseur Collection	I'd Never Find Another You	VSOP CD 134	1989
1959 - THE ROCK 'N' ROLL ERA	Maybe Tomorrow	Time Life RRC EO1	1989
1960 - THE ROCK 'N' ROLL ERA	Colette	Time Life RRC EO2	1989
1961 - THE ROCK 'N' ROLL ERA	Halfway to Paradise	Time Life RRC EO5	1989
1962 - THE ROCK 'N' ROLL ERA	Last Night Was Made For Love	Time Life RRC EO3	1989
1963 - THE ROCK 'N' ROLL ERA	When Will You Say I Love You	Time Life RRC 10	1990
THE GOLDEN YEARS OF THE 60's Vol 2 Simon Bates	In Thoughts of You/Halfway To Paradise	Pickwick PWKS 581	1990
HALFWAY TO PARADISE Double CD	Halfway to Paradise	Teledisc TFL CD 47	1990
THE NORTHERN BEAT	Halfway To Paradise	London 840 968-2	1990
THE GREATEST HITS OF 1962	Last Night Was Made for Love	EMI CDM 7 950072	1990
THE GOLDEN YEARS OF THE 50's Vol 2 Simon Bates	Margo (mis-spelt Margot)	Pickwick PWKS 591	1990/91
1962 - STILL ROCKIN'	Once Upon a Dream	Time Life RRC E18	1991
THE OLD GOLD COLLECTION RE-DISCOVER THE 50's & 60's	Collette	OG 3202 Double CD	1991
THE OLD GOLD COLLECTION RE-DISCOVER THE 50's	Halfway To Paradise	OG 3203 Double CD	1991
1963 STILL ROCKIN'	Like I've Never Been Gone	Time Life RRC E20	1991
THREE STEPS TO HEAVEN Nice line drawing of Billy on front cover	Like I've Never Been Gone	Quality TV Q7V DO11	1992



THE 60's HALL OF FAME Readers Digest Box set	Halfway To Paradise/Jealousy/I'd Never Find Another You/Last Night Was Made For Love/Once Upon A Dream/Like I've Never Been Gone/When Will You Say I Love You	RDCD 381 - 386	1992
U.K. ROCK 'N' ROLL	Margo/Don't Walk Away/Letter Full of Tears/Do You Really Love Me Too/I'm Lost Without You/Play It Cool	Time Life - Mail Order TL516/33	1992
25 YEARS OF ROCK 'N' ROLL 1959	Maybe Tomorrow	EMI RRT CD 64	1992
25 YEARS OF ROCK 'N' ROLL 1961	Halfway To Paradise	EMI RRT CD 61	1992
BRITISH BEAT BEFORE THE BEATLES Vol 4 1959	Maybe Tomorrow	EMI 07777-89223-22	1993
BRITISH BEAT BEFORE THE BEATLES Vol 5 1960	That's Love	EMI 07777 786 224 - 21	1993
BRITISH BEAT BEFORE THE BEATLES Vol 6 1961	Halfway To Paradise	EMI 07777 89225 -20	1993
AS YEARS GO BY	Halfway to Paradise	Companion to book by David Wedgebury & John Tracey (Decca) ISBN 185793007X - Deram 844014 - 2	1993
THE BEST OF HEARTBEAT Double CD	Last Night Was Made For Love	MOOD CD 37	1994
THE BEST ROCK 'N' ROLL ALBUM IN THE WORLD - EVER! Double CD	Halfway To Paradise	VIRGIN VT DCD 37	1994
THAT'S ROCK 'N' ROLL Double CD	Halfway To Paradise	EMI 7243 8 - 363339 -2-0	1995
JUST FOR YOU - THE STARLIGHT COLLECTION	Last Night Was Made For Love	K Tel WISEPACK WPCD 042	1995
HEARTBEAT - FOREVER YOURS Double CD	I'd Never Find Another You	Sony TV8 CD	1995
ESSENTIAL HITS COLLECTION	Sticks 'n' Stones/In My Room/Suzanne in the Mirror	WISEPACK LECDD 668	1995






JACK GOOD'S ORIGINAL 'OH BOY'	Don't Knock Upon My Door/Collette (with Marty Wilde - both live from 'Boy Meets Girl')	ORIGINAL SOUNDS JEOB 1007	1996
TRUE LOVE WAYS	Halfway To Paradise	Crimson Crimod 05	1997
THAT'LL BE THE DAY Limited Edition Double CD	A Thousand Stars/Long Live Rock/That's Alright Mama/Get Yourself Together/What Did I Say (should be What'd I Say)	Ronco TBTD 1/ TBTD 2	1997
THE No 1 ROCK 'N' ROLL ALBUM Double CD	Halfway To Paradise	Polygram TV55017 -2	1997
READY STEADY GO - THE NUMBER ONE SIXTIES ALBUM Double CD	I Will	Polygram CD 553934 -2	1997
AND THE BEAT GOES ON Vol 1	Do You Really Love Me Too	Debutante 535 693-2 Double CD	1997
AND THE BEAT GOES ON Vol 2	In Thoughts of You	Debutante 535 668 - 2 Double CD	1997
AND THE BEAT GOES ON Vol 3	When Will You Say I Love You  <i>These three CD's available in a boxed set</i>	Debutante 553 065 - 2 Double CD	1997
AND THE BEAT GOES ON Vol 4	Like I've Never Been Gone	Debutante 555 000 - 2 Double CD	1997
THE GOLDEN AGE OF ROCK 'N' ROLL 1960 Mail Order	Collette	Readers Digest RDCD 1231-3 Double CD	1997
THE GOLDEN AGE OF ROCK 'N' ROLL 1961 Mail order	Halfway To Paradise	Readers Digest RDCD 1241 - 3 Double CD	1997
THE GOLDEN AGE OF ROCK 'N' ROLL 1963 Mail Order	In Summer/Like I've Never Been Gone/When Will You Say I Love You	Reader's Digest RDCD 1571 -3 Double CD	1997
THE GOLDEN AGE OF ROCK'N' ROLL 1964 Mail Order	Do You Really Love Me Too/In Summer/In Thoughts of You	Reader's Digest RDCD 2141-3 Double CD	1997
THE YEAR IS 1961- Mail Order - 'The People' Newspaper	Halfway To Paradise	K Tel Duet CD 1961	1998
HALFWAY TO PARADISE Mail Order- 'The People' newspaper	Halfway To Paradise	K Tel ECD 3156	1998 Pressed 1995
THAT'S LOVE Mail Order - 'The People' newspaper	That's Love	K Tel 9020	1998



THOSE WERE THE DAYS Mail order -The People' newspaper	A Thousand Stars	K Tel (Number not known)	1998
ROCK 'N' ROLL LOVE SONGS - EARTH ANGEL	I'd Never Find Another You	Pegasus PEG CD 027 (K Tel)	July/Aug 1998
ROCK 'N' ROLL LOVE SONGS - ONLY YOU	Maybe Tomorrow	Pegasus PEG CD 007 (K Tel)	July/Aug 1998
UNCHAINED MELODIES 18 SONGS THAT WILL LIVE FOREVER	Halfway To Paradise	K Tel ECD 3196	
HEARTBEAT THE 60's GOLD COLLECTION	Halfway To Paradise	Global RA DCD 90	Nov 98
HEARTBREAKERS 18 CLASSIC TEAR JERKERS	I Will	K Tel ECD 3213	1998
READY STEADY GO - THE NUMBER ONE SIXTIES ALBUM Vol 11	Halfway To Paradise	Polygram TV 5655322-2	Nov1998
BROKEN DREAMS 18 BALLADS FOR THE BROKEN HEARTED	It's Only Make Believe	K Tel ECD 3249	1998
100% LOVE - 101 UNFORGETTABLE LOVE SONGS Vol1- Halfway To Paradise	Halfway To Paradise	K Tel ECD 3155 4 x CD box	1998
AS ABOVE Vol 3	Laughter and Tears/ It's Only Make Believe	As above	
50 OF THE GREATEST ROCK 'N' ROLL LOVE SONGS	Halfway To Paradise	Global RADCD 115	Jan/Feb 1999
THE ULTIMATE LOVE COLLECTION - VOL 3 So This is Love	Last Night Was Made For Love	K Tel ECD 3420 4xCD boxed st	Feb 1999
Vol 4 Love is All Around	I Will	As above	
ETERNITY	It's Only Make Believe	K Tel Mail Order Free CD with other purchase	Feb 14th 1999
YOUNG LOVE	Halfway To Paradise  Purchased individually or as part of a 5xCD boxed set	Mail Order CD	Feb 14th 1999

## U.K. CD Discography Update

TITLE	TRACKS	CAT NO.	RELEASE DATE
NOTHIN' SHAKIN'	Hippy Hippy Shake/Glad All Over/Nothin' Shakin' (but the leaves on the trees)/You better believe it baby/Where do you run/I can feel it/ Turn your lamp down low/You got me dizzy/ Saved/I belong to the wind/Don't let a little pride (stand in your way)/She's so far out she's in/I gotta horse/*Stand by me/*Do the old soft shoe/*I like animals/*Find your dream/*Won't somebody tell me why/*You've got to look right for the part/*Finale (medley) I've gotta horse - I like animals -Find your dream-I've gotta horse.*	Deram  820 983-2  * All film tracks stereo	1994
BILLY FURY LEGENDS	18 K Tel tracks  <i>Previously listed - but see additional information in release date column</i>	WISEPAC LES 086	1994 Re-issued with matt silver lettering instead of embossed silver
BILLY FURY - HALFWAY TO PARADISE  	16 K Tel tracks  <i>Previously listed but see boxed set information</i>	PRISM LEISURE PLATED 49  PLAT B x 817 (Boxed set number)	1997 Can be purchased either as individual CD or part of boxed set (8 x CD's) Other artists: Chuck Berry/Fats Domino/Little Richard/Elvis/Rickie Nelson/Duanie Eddy & Bill Haley- Jerry Lee Lewis - Gene Vincent- Carl Perkins compilation CD



**Please, please help us to cut our costs.** Would you all please remember to enclose a stamped, addressed envelope when you write to the Fan Club, or to individual syndicate members. Our postage expenses are very high and most syndicate members buy the stamps they need to reply to your letters themselves rather than deplete Fan Club funds. Your help would be appreciated.

## DISCOGRAPHY UPDATE/CORRECTIONS

with special thanks to Tony Philbin  
Lee Wallace and Teresa Illingworth  
SINGLES EP'S LP'S

TITLE	CATALOGUE NO.	RELEASE DATE
JEALOUSY/LAST NIGHT WAS MADE FOR LOVE  (Single)	F13767 Mid blue plastic label - blue and white Decca sleeve	Between 1978 - 1981 (probably 1978) British pressing It is therefore likely that the red label re- issue of Don't Knock Upon my Door and Gonna Type a Letter were also pressed with blue plastic centres. (Any info - please contact Sound of Fury)
BE MINE TONIGHT  (Single)	POSP 355 ( <i>not</i> 335 as previously stated)	
E.P. MAYBE TOMORROW	DFE 6597 (correct title as shown - <i>not</i> Margo)	
E.P MY CHRISTMAS PRAYER	DFE 8686 (not 8689 as shown)	
LP Boxed set - Hits of Rock 'n' Roll	QUALITY - QPLP 002D/QPLP 002E Tracks: Halfway to Paradise/In Summer	





## BILL REMEMBERS

Personal memories of Bill Forbes who appeared  
On "Oh Boy" and "Thank Your Luck Stars" with Billy  
Interviewed by Maureen Bowden

It was 1959, Bill Forbes was a young singer who was appearing regularly on "Oh Boy". He and Billy became good friends and Billy stayed with him for a while at his London flat. During the day they would hang around the coffee bars in the West End. One of their favourite places was "The Bread Basket" in Tottenham Court Road. They used to go there with Emile Ford, Jimmy Justice and Jim Dale.

On one of the "Oh Boy" shows Jack Good had the idea of having Joe from the Dallas Boys as a lead singer with the solo stars making up his vocal backing group. The "Super Group" consisted of Marty, Cliff, Billy and Bill Forbes.

On another occasion Billy and Bill were both appearing on "Thank Your Lucky Stars". A craze for yoyos had hit the country at the time and all the artistes were asked to pose for publicity photos playing with them. (Have a look at the inside cover of mag number five.)

Bill remembers Billy as being very quiet and unassuming and a good friend.

Bill himself is a genuine, charming guy. Many thanks to Alan Haigh for putting me in touch with him.



I put an ad in the last mag for help with typing. We now have four volunteers so the Phantom Typist has three Assistants and one who will help out in emergencies. My thanks to Julie Runicles and Cecelia Darville who will be kept busy by Chris and Kelly Warner who is Maureen's typist. Once Pat Donaldson has recovered from her op she'll be happy to help out if we need her. Lolly Whitaker has for some time been printing out our mag labels on her computer thereby saving me hours and hours of typing them on my trusty typewriter. Thanks girls, now I can get some beauty sleep. Thanks also go to Jenny Paine for being Chris' temporary typist until we could find a more permanent solution.

## GONNA TYPE A LETTER

\* I'm now aged 52. When I was 17, Billy's "I'd Never Find Another You" was in the charts. He used to come to Woolwich with Marty Wilde, etc. I wrote to him and asked if I could meet him backstage sometime. I enclosed a photo and told him I'd had polio when I was 10 which had left me with a limp. Since I heard "Maybe Tomorrow" I'd been in love with the Sound of Fury.

He replied, inviting me to tea at 4 o'clock at the Great Cumberland Hotel, London. Hal Carter picked me up at 88 Hudson Rd, Plumstead in a limousine. I wore a kookie dress, bouffant hair style, white shoes and bag. We arrived late after being caught in traffic. Larry Parnes and Billy were there to greet me. There were white plush carpets everywhere and a white poodle. The furniture was bamboo. We had sandwiches and cake on silver plates and tea in silver cups.

Billy was tall, so very, very handsome and shy, very modest, a perfect Prince Charming. I wished I was Cinderella. I was completely in adoration of him, he was wonderful and so kind. After saying goodbye to Billy and Larry Parnes I was driven home by Hal Carter.

There were no cameras, newspaper reporters or other people there. I was the only girl. Billy did this for an ordinary fan like me. Just like Billy's song I'll never "Forget Him" and "I'd Never Find Another You" Billy.

**Patricia Killen, London**

\* I enclose my renewal cheque and would just like to say how very much I enjoy being a member of Billy's Fan Club. I think the magazines are great reading – keep up the good work. I was fortunate enough to see Billy at Chelmsford Odeon it was just about the time he was told he was too sexy on stage. Long time ago but still vivid to me. HE WAS GREAT. **Doreen Bantock, Maldon**

\* Some years back, as a cat lover, I asked Chris Eley if he'd ever seen a pic of Billy with a cat. He thought a bit then answered no. "I didn't think he'd like cats," said I sadly, "after all, birds were his passion ... and then there were the dogs and the horses. I know he's always described as an animal lover but it's pretty clear cats weren't counted in." Unable to offer any comfort, Chris said stoutly "Well, I'll keep looking." "And if you ever find a photo of Billy with a cat, I'll make a donation to the Lectern Fund" said I (or it might have been The Stone Fund in those days). Anyway, on 17<sup>th</sup> December 1998 I opened a Christmas card to find Chris had sent me a really super pic of Billy with a tortoise (bonus!) and a gorgeous tabby kitten. At a tenner it might well be one of the priciest Christmas cards ever, but I don't grudge a penny of it! **Lesley Johnson, London** (*Thanks for the tenner for the Bronze Fund, Lesley. It just shows that once Chris gets a challenge ...Jean*)



\* I've just read that Albert is releasing a 4 track CD dedicated to Billy – "I Never Met Colette" on Holly Records available via Ozit (whatever that is!). Are you aware of an address I can contact to buy this CD please? Any news yet on the Omnibus video's availability? I enclose sae. Thanks again for another superb magazine – great value and so much appreciated. **Tony Philbin, Stockport** (*Details of Albert's CD are in the mag, Tony. Clare will have put your name on the list of people who want the video. Watch this space! Thanks for your kind comments. Keep readin' and rockin' – Maureen*)

\* I just wanted to write and let you know how much I enjoyed Sunday in Mill Hill with the Fan Club, and to meet people like you, Clare and Chris who have been so helpful and friendly on the telephone and in your letters. I really felt comfortable with everyone there and it seemed to me a nice balance of enthusiasm and respect for Billy.

Everything went so smoothly, but it was obvious that it was because of all the work and preparation that was put into it by the backroom workers that it all seemed so relaxed.

I think the most moving part of the day for me was to hear the powerful sound of the bikes as the bikers rode in to pay their respects at the cemetery. I'm sure that will be a lasting memory for everyone who was there. I'll not go on and on about how good it was to be there, but it really made my day to find that there was an autographed photo to be auctioned – and I could not believe it when I found myself returning to Wales with it! Even better was the knowledge that the money for it was going towards the Bronze. Thanks again. **John Giles, Carmarthenshire** (*Thanks for your kind comments, John. See you at Mill Hill in the near future. Jean*)

### LATE EXTRA

At the time of going to press (mid March) Spinning Disc had a number of Billy CDs for sale. For further details contact The Spinning Disc 54 High Road Chiswick London W4 1SZ (0181 994 4606) mention the Fan Club when making your enquiries.

### JOE BROWN

Joe Brown's manager contacted Nalle Westman to tell him that Joe now has his own web site on the net. The address is [joebrown.co.uk](http://joebrown.co.uk). Nalle is putting a link from our site to joe's and vice versa.

## WANTS, SWAPS AND PENPAL COLUMN

If you would like to include an entry in this page but don't want your address to appear in the magazine, please use the Fan Club address and we'll send any response on to you. Remember, however, to send us a stamped, addressed envelope.

### WANTS

**GAVIN STEVENS** 66 St Winifreds Road Cefn Glas Bridgend S Wales wants any video footage of Billy (any shows or appearances in the 60s) apart from "Play It Cool" & "That'll be the Day". Also any "Billy" magazines from the 60s.

**JOHN KINGSTON** 83 Dorchester Drive St Albert, Alberta Canada T8N 5T6 wants any videos of Billy, any live concerts, interviews, radio shows on cassette, photos.

**RICHARD PERRIN** 17 Woolbarn Lawn Whiddon Valley Barnstaple N Devon EX32 8PQ wants Once Upon Dream (CD), The Other Side of Billy Fury (CD/LP), EP Collection (CD/LP). Any picture cover singles, sheet music. Also he wants any Vince Eager or Johnny Gentle records.

**GEORGE DOWNIE** 22 Cadzow Crescent Coatbridge Scotland, M25 6NY wants My Christmas Prayer (F11189), Margo (F11128), Don't Let a Little Pride Stand in your Way (F12409)

**FERGUS WEST** wants film of the Billy Fury concert at the Sunnyside Inn, December 1982, as featured in the BBC Omnibus programme. Good price paid. Telephone 0131 441 2728

**MIKE BUTTON** 12 Beaulay Rd Southville Bristol BS3 1PX wants sheet music of any of Billy's recordings, photocopies will do.

**SHEILA RUSSON** 32 Arbor Way Chelmsley Wood Birmingham B37 7LA wants the single "Devil or Angel"

**PAT DONALDSON** The Hawthorns 33 Furnace Lane Loscoe Derbys DE7 7LD (tele: 01773 765663) wants any of Billy's 45's (for a recently acquired Juke Box)

### PENFRIENDS

**THELMA GRIFFIN** 4 Lesseps Road Liverpool L8 0RD is 50 years old, divorced, a staff nurse. Has been a fan of Billy Fury and Elvis Presley since childhood. She enjoys keeping fit, travelling (especially America). She has 3 grown up children plus 4 grandchildren. Good sense of humour. Likes going out for a drink, is very easy going and 5' 10" tall. She's looking for someone around her own age with similar interests &



personality, male or female, preferably tall, to meet up with and maybe go for a meal or drink or just correspond with or meet at future Billy events.

**LINDA GEHRES** 515 Oakland Park Avenue # 108 Columbus Ohio 43214 U.S.A. is aged 47 and is blind. She works as a Word Processor for a rehabilitation centre. She loves music and is just discovering Billy's music. She also enjoys reading and metaphysics. She's newly divorced. She's also just learning Windows 95. Her computer and scanner have been specially adapted so that she can read TYPE WRITTEN letters. She would like to hear from those who are particularly knowledgeable about music. Also, if possible, other blind fans of Billy, male or female. If you would like to correspond with Linda please send either typewritten letters or tapes please.

### FOR YOUR INFO

(please mention the Fan Club when contacting the following)

**THE JIVE INN** - 0161 223 3759 - after 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday - Monday. Dedicated to rock 'n' roll. 58-60 Cornwall St, Openshaw, Manchester. Rock the night away at this unique venue. DJ Jim (The Jive) Killey.

**VIDEO OF THE BILLY FURY WEEKEND** The Carousel Hotel Blackpool on 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> February 1999 from: Roy Cross Broadcast TV News Halls Place Oldham Gt Manchester OL4 4PG (tel: 0161 652 8281) £9.99 including post & packing. 50p for every video sold will be donated to the Bronze Fund.

**50's ROCK 'N' ROLL FASHIONS** Hand made, glitter motifs, high quality. All proceeds to charity. Enquiries welcome. Ring Mo Cooper 0161 928 9599

**COLLECTORS RECORDS** 45s, LPs, CDs, mail order. Beach Market 11a Station Rd South Shore Blackpool FY4 1BE (Tel/Fax 01253 402753)

Good suggestion from Roy Harvey:-

If you want a local radio station to do an interview or a tribute to Billy consider going in and talking to them. They'll usually be very responsive. Letters to radio stations don't always reach the right person.

Please let us know if you're interested in a high quality digital copy of the BBC Omnibus documentary "Halfway to Paradise". Don't send any money yet but please enclose a stamped, addressed envelope.

# Your Letters

30th January 1999

My Mum's birthday is a couple of week's after Christmas and One Saturday, in 1986, for my Mum's 36th Birthday, at the tender age of 15, I went to the local shops to find mummy a gift.

Knowing of my mum's love of songs and music, I went into, "Hollywood Nites", a record store on the corner. I didn't have much money, but I looked at a few different albums that I thought my mum might like.

After a while I chose an album by Diana Ross and took it home to my mum.

Upon opening it, she was thrilled and said that she was pleased with her present. I replied, "Phew, thank God, I wasn't too sure. It was either Diana Ross or someone called Billy Fury." My mum's eyes lit up and she said, "Oh Billy Fury's excellent, that too would have been nice."

I returned the Diana Ross album to the shop and exchanged it for, "The Billy Fury Hit Parade." When I got home, my mum put it on straight away, singing to all her favourites. I remember a couple of songs, at the time, that struck a chord with me. "A Thousand Stars" and "Halfway to Paradise".

After that, I became one of Billy Fury's greatest fans. I found out that he was buried nearby, after an article in the local newspaper and frequently visited my idol.

Over the years my mum was so surprised at my liking of Billy. She said that if a fortune-teller told her, when she was 16, that she would get married and have children that would have posters of Billy Fury on their bedroom wall, like she once did, she would have totally dismissed the idea. How could it be that in 30 years time, a completely new generation would be fans of Billy Fury?!!

Unfortunately, as you grow older, along with work and other commitments, life ties you down and you can't always continue attending all the various Billy functions that occur. Sadly, with this in mind, life changes and One Saturday, last year, I found my dear Mum semi-conscious in her bed. I shouted to my brother, Marino, to call an ambulance and my mum was rushed to Barnet General Hospital.

My Dad came home minutes later and we went to the hospital, where the doctor told us that my mum had a major bleed in her head, a subarachnoid haemorrhage. There was nothing that could be done but to "let nature take its course". At half past three, the following morning, Sunday 6th December 1998, my mum died, aged just 48.

My mum meant everything to me. Maybe now she's in Paradise with the peace she so dearly wanted and deserved. Music and Songs were the most important thing to my mum after her family. Although she's at peace now, along with Billy, I no longer have her Loving arms to Run to.

Pierre Petrou  
30th January 1999.





## BILLY REMEMBERED BY RADIO STATIONS



Nearly 200 Radio Stations were contacted in January, requesting that they remember the 16th Anniversary of Billy's death.

Many of them did play Billy's records throughout the day and several contacted me because they wanted to do a five or ten minute tribute to him and include an interview.

The BBC Local Radio Stations were very interested and I was asked to arrange interviews on Radio Shropshire, Lancashire, Humberside, Leeds, Norfolk, Nottingham, Southern Counties and Three Counties. Unfortunately, only two Independent Stations contacted me, Cambridge Red which covers the Fens and Magic 1548 in Liverpool.

I would like to thank June Clayton for doing the interview on Magic 1548 and Stormy Tempest for the one on BBC Radio Nottingham.

I have had several enquiries from people because of these interviews and hopefully they have joined the Fan Club.

If anyone is interested in being contacted by Radio Stations to do interviews in the future, please let me know. My phone number is 0181 785 9575.

Thanks to all the Programme Presenters and Radio Stations who paid a tribute to Billy on 28th January.

Special thanks to Frankie Connor and Pat Jones (the Cupboard Girl) who often play Billy's track on their weekly programme on BBC Radio Merseyside.

Jackie Clark

### STOP PRESS

- ❖ Toyota will be using Billy's "Wondrous Place" as background music for their next TV advertising. The ad is planned to run for 3 to 5 months and will be screened at peak viewing times.
- ❖ K Tel plan to release a 3 track CD with "Wondrous Place" as the 'A' side plus "It's Only Make Believe" and "Last Night was Made for Love". The single is planned for release on 26<sup>th</sup> April. (These are not the original Decca versions but the early 70s versions.)

## "BILLY NIGHT" AT THE MONTROSE

By Maureen Bowden

On 17<sup>th</sup> February a "Billy Night" organised by Albert was held at the new Montrose Club, Liverpool. Entertainment was provided by "The Undertakers", "Colin Paul and the Persuaders", Jenny Green and Albert himself. As usual on these occasions we rocked the night away and everyone had a great time. Radio Merseyside's Frankie Connor was the "Most with the Most", Li'l ole Neil Hiley spun the wax and guests of honour were Billy's mum Jean and Auntie Rose. Linda and Pete Keller brought the maquette along to impress everyone and of course everyone was suitably impressed. The night was completely sold out and many of the fan club members came from far and wide. It was nice to see Ian and Sheila from the Allendale and Sue Taylor and her mum who travelled up from Aberystwyth. Maggie Clark chased all the men and caught Colin Paul. Frankie Connor and Pat, his Radio Merseyside co-conspirator were selling Albert's CD (details elsewhere in the mag) and we're getting £1 donation for the Bronze Fund for every one sold on the night. Colin Paul and Barbara Taylor (Sue's mum) also gave generous donations to the Fund and Geoff Bell auctioned another football signed by the members of Liverpool FC. Pass our thanks to the Anfield lads Geoff and give Michael Owen a cuddle from me. (If anyone out there can get one signed by Emmanuel Petit tell him I'll deliver the cuddle personally.)

The event was supposed to finish at midnight but Albie took so many encores that Colin's last set didn't end till about 12.35 a.m. Thanks a lot Albie and when's the next one.





**HOLLY RECORDS - NEW RELEASE - HOL/OZITCD501**

**A SPECIAL SONG TO THE MEMORY OF LEGENDARY  
LIVERPOOL PERFORMER "BILLY FURY" SUNG BY  
HIS YOUNGER BROTHER "ALBIE WYCHERLEY".....**



## **"I NEVER MET COLETTE"**

**IT'S FORTY YEARS SINCE BILLY'S FIRST  
HIT "MAYBE TOMORROW" (1959). HE WAS TO ENJOY A  
FURTHER 28 HITS ( INCLUDING 11 TOP TEN ENTRIES)**

**THE SONG ( AND THREE MORE ORIGINAL TRACKS) WERE  
WRITTEN BY BBC RADIO MERSEYSIDE PRESENTER  
FRANKIE CONNOR & ALAN CROWLEY, AND WAS PRODUCED  
BY LIVERPOOL EXPRESS / MERSEYBEAT GUITARIST  
BILLY KINSLEY.**

**THIS 4 TRACK CD COSTS £3.95 ( £4.50 INC P&P)  
AND CAN BE OBTAINED BY WRITING TO :**

**Geoffrey Bell (Cheques payable to G. Bell)  
PO BOX 130  
SOUTH EASTERN  
LIVERPOOL L13 4HA**



## THE WYCHERLEY FAMILY

By George & Teresa Wycherley of Coventry



In this family photo taken about 1890 is the great-grandfather of Billy Fury. Can you spot any resemblance? Walter Wycherley is standing at the back, second from the right. In fact from his dress, the occasion may well have been his wedding day. With him in the photo are his parents and his seven brothers and sisters. The pretty child sitting on his mother's knee is actually a boy. My grandfather, Richard (Walter's brother) is seated on the right at the front. In 1909, their eldest sister, Annie Louise (standing back left) emigrated with her husband and six children to Nebraska, USA. One day their daughter Alice went to the assistance of a large lady whose long skirts had got caught as she was getting out of her horse-drawn buggy. They became good friends and the lady offered her a job at her ranch named "Scouts Rest". The lady was Louise Cody (Mrs Buffalo Bill).



## THE WYCHERLEY FAMILY

Wycherley's had lived in Shropshire for centuries (the earliest recorded is 1398). About 1881, William and Mary Wycherley and the children migrated to Birkenhead where William's blacksmithing skills were used in the shipyards. Walter as young as thirteen followed the same trade. What a coincidence that nearly eighty years later, Billy Fury got his big show biz break after appearing at "The Essoldo" in Birkenhead.

The family moved again and at the time of the photo were living at 122 Stanley Road Liverpool. By 1909 William and Mary had crossed back over the Mersey and spent the rest of their lives at 9 Palatine Road in Wallasey. William died in 1914 but Mary lived on until the 1940s. Walter Wycherley was living at 5 Beattie Street in Bootle in 1896 where his son Albert (Billy's grandfather) was born. Albert's son, also named Albert (Billy's dad) was born at 29 Barnet Street, West Derby, Liverpool in 1918. Of course after that, as they say, .... "the rest is history".



## FANZINE REVIEW

By Maureen Bowden

### ROCK YOU SINNERS

This is a little gem of a fanzine, produced, edited and generally master-minded by our own Mick Hill, it covers exclusively British Rock 'n' Roll. It's crammed with interesting articles about current artistes and "oldies" who are still treading the boards. Add to that a good smattering of photos, press cuttings, hilarious cartoons, readers "Top Twenties" and more than a fair bit about our Billy and as you can see you've got a winner.

The last edition included a fascinating history lesson on the growth of the popularity of Rock 'n' Roll in Britain. The article "It Started with Bill Haley" written by Paul Nihill, MBE was informative, well written and stirred up a lot of childhood memories. It also contained these immortal words from Ted Heath (the band leader, not the politician) "I don't think the Rock 'n' Roll craze will come to Britain, you see it is primarily for the coloured population and I can't see it ever becoming a real craze." Oh yeah?! A black friend of mine said "Don't blame me mate, I wasn't even born."

Rock You Sinners is in the same format as our fan club mag with a glossy front and back cover. It costs £2 plus 30p post and packing from Mick Hill, 117 Worlds End Lane, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 7RG and it comes out approximately three times a year (a bit like the sun). Give it a try, you'll love it.

Okay Mick? You owe me babe.





# ROGUES GALLERY



Pete June Linda  
Keller Clayton Keller  
 Naomi & Kate wanted  
 to model our t shirts  
 but we had a better  
 offer. Sorry girls!



Steve Baker  
 Main contender for the  
 role of Billy in the  
 film? Don't give up  
 your day job Steve.

Rita & Debbie  
Smalley Miller



Claims to fame:- Conversa-  
 tion between Rita & Billy  
 in 19.. Rita "Do you still  
 have the lamb?" Billy "Yes  
 but it's a sheep now".  
 Debbie had the opportunity  
 to speak to Billy in his  
 dressing room. As she was  
 leaving she caught him  
 looking at her legs.

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♪ THE NASHVILLE TEENS    ♪ JESS CONRAD  
    ♪ MIKE BERRY & THE OUTLAWS

**SUNDAY 22nd AUGUST from NOON**

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♪ FREDDIE & THE DREAMERS    ♪ MARMALADE  
♪ BRIAN POOLE & ELECTRIX    ♪ JET HARRIS  
    ♪ CLIFF BENNETT & THE REBEL ROUSERS  
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