

Number 8

Billy Fury



THE SOUND OF FURY
Official Billy Fury Fan Club

BILLY FURY

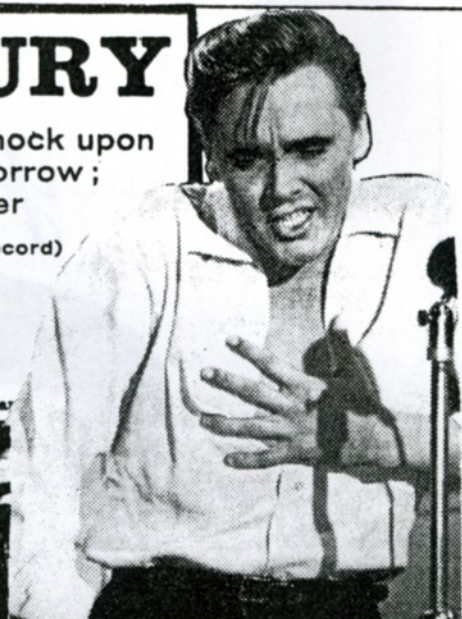
Margo, don't go; Don't knock upon
my door; Maybe tomorrow;
Gonna type a letter

© DFE 6597 (EP 45 rpm record)

DECCA

MONO RECORDS

The Decca Record Company Ltd Decca House Albert Embury



Meet the 'Carry On' Team

42°



NOTHIN' SHAKIN'

BILLY FURY



Meet the
'Carry On'
Team

In the
series
with
TONY
CURTIS

CHARLIE
DRAKE
from
riot



THE SOUND OF FURY

Official Billy Fury Fan Club

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

All good things are worth the wait
Settle down with number eight

Always Remembered

Hello Fury Followers

Welcome to our new members and thanks to the old ones for staying with us. I mean "old" in the nicest possible way of course.

The long awaited film based on the stage play "The Sound of Fury" hasn't materialised yet. Joe Boyle says Bill Kenwright's holding onto his money at present in case the opportunity arises for him to buy Everton FC, so we're in the lap of the gods there folks.

In the recent Radio Merseyside poll to find the all-time top 30 Merseyside records Billy came third with "Halfway to Paradise". Many thanks to all of you who voted. It was a brilliant result. The top two were John Lennon's "Imagine" and Gerry Marsden's "You'll Never Walk Alone".

Are you out there Graham Halliday? We still owe you a fan club mug as your prize in the Blackpool quiz. Do you want us to risk sending it through the post or will you pick it up at Mill Hill?

Sorry to hear Billy's mum's been in hospital. She's home now however, and feeling much better. Everyone sends their love Jean.

The dates for next years' reunions at Mill Hill are 30 January, 16 April and 1 October.

The Carousel are doing another Billy weekend. You'll be receiving details shortly.

Finally, on a personal note, I'd like to say a very big thank you to everyone who sent condolences and kind thought following my mum's death in May. I really appreciated it.

Love and Fury
Maureen



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



THIS 'N' THAT

with
Chris Eley

The Carousel Hotel Billy Weekend has long gone (and so unfortunately are the notes I took Dave!) but a quick thank you is due to everybody concerned with the event, especially Diane and Mrs Roth and the staff, bands and Neil Hiley (DJ). I particularly enjoyed Colin Paul and the Persuaders, what a great band to dance to, and Colin was as courteous as always. Everyone enjoyed Albie's set and of course, every penny for the Bronze Fund helps. Putting up with Mo and Dave B. was hell, of course, but we might be persuaded to do it again!!! Sadly the prime movers behind the Bronze Fund have resigned due to personal problems. When the statue is finally erected we must not forget a massive vote of thanks to Peter and Lynda Keller for all their time (many days taken off work), their own money (inevitably) and their dedication in getting Billy forever remembered.

I am terrible with names but thanks are due especially to the bidders at auction (the 78 of 'Maybe Tomorrow' went for a song unfortunately, but did go to a good home!, so that's OK!). A big thank you goes to the person who donated the lovely unreleased 1960 backstage shot of Billy for auction and for the backstage picture given to me by someone else (we hope to use it in the magazine).

On a more sombre note, Linda, Maureen and I are sorry we couldn't get to the April Mill Hill and we all thank you very much for the cards and condolences. Our thoughts were also with big Elvis and Billy fan Eileen Weston recently; why is it always the nice people like Mike Weston that we lose.

Since the last magazine we have lost Dusty Springfield, a truly great talent, and one of Billy's old touring mates, Karl Denver. There are numerous Dusty CD compilations around, I think one collection charted (Polygram pushed it more than they did the Billy Anthology), and there is a pleasant CD available of 1990s recordings by Karl on 'Just Loving You' Plaza PZA 004CD. 'Walk On By', 'Runaway', 'Travelling Light', a cover of Linda's favourite Del Shannon track, 'The Answer to Everything', and many more.

Everyone had big hopes for the Toyota Yaris advert promotion track 'Wondrous Place'. It was a nice advert and the 1978 re-recording sounded good but the expected chart success failed to happen. I explained to the very nice, friendly and helpful people at K-Tel that the single really should have featured a picture of Billy, which would have made it far more obvious and collectable. It was still nice to see both CD single and cassette versions on display (once again not in Our Price – what on earth is the matter with them), but in some stores the price tag was £1.99, in others £4.99!! Polygram, without notifying The Sound of Fury, rushed out the original 'Wondrous Place' on both CD and cassette formats, so all in all it became of bit of a circus. Although I don't personally rate the picture

used on the artwork, the Polygram (now Universal) single had the edge. In the event, sales were obviously split, only certain stores displayed one or the other, and, perhaps inevitably, that was it. I have another idea for an advert, one that's been fermenting for the last couple of years, so I must try it.

Back in 1982 I sent Billy a compilation tape in the hope that he might record some of the numbers on it. They were all contemporary or contemporary versions of old songs by yesterdays artists and I was told that Billy enjoyed playing the tape. Unfortunately I never got the chance to talk to him about it because of the events of January 28th. Apart from 'Rave On' by Rick Nelson (I think), there was a couple of tracks by Narvel Felts, 'The Feelings Right' and the truly classic 'Empty Chair'. Narvel also likes Billy's early music so for me there is always a connection between them. Anyway, just released by this truly great artist is Narvel Felts at Rollin' Rock, Goofin Records GRCD 6097. 19 rockabilly and ballad tracks cut in 1989 in the presence of my old friend Howard Cockburn, and nice they are too. Nothing comes close to 'Empty Chair' for me, but if driving genuine rockabilly style is your thing – this is it. I especially like 'Red Hair and Green Eyes' (just as well it wasn't the other way around – but today who knows!!)

Billy used to sing 'Break up' on stage and at one time, 1962 I think, either cut it or at least attempted it. Unless it's in a private collection or buried with the 20,000 other unmarked tapes in Decca's vaults, it's been lost. It is the Jerry Lee Lewis version that people are familiar with, but of course it was written by the 'Silver Fox' himself, Charlie Rich. More famous for his classic 'Behind Closed Doors' early 70s album (a 'Sunday Kind of Woman' is so beautiful), this guy started at Sun records in the 50s. For some time now two of my favourite tracks of his have only been available on a 1970s vinyl album (or early 80s). Well, both Elvis style tracks from 1963 are now available on 'Charlie Rich – Groove Recordings', RCA Camden. 'If I knew then what I know now' and 'Turn Around and Face Me' are joined by 'Big Boss Man'. 'The Ways of a Woman in Love' and a lovely new one on me 'Are You Still My Baby'. 'If I knew then' is a bit like Elvis's 'Suspicion' – great stuff, check it out, a snip at £5.99.

Talking about Elvis, the list of new releases is almost endless. A beginner would do well to start with the 3 CD set entitled 'Artist of the Century'. 'Pot Luck' or 'Something for Everybody' all have bonus tracks and are great to have, if overpriced, and if you haven't heard 'Reconsider Baby' you must pick up 'Elvis is Back', also with classic bonus tracks, certainly one of his best ever albums. For me the standout releases are 'The Memphis 69 Anthology' (chock full of alternate takes from his most professional ever sessions – pure class and such soulful interpretations of contemporary material). Too many classic tracks here to mention in such a short space, but you'll hear nothing more beautiful than 'The Grass Won't Pay No Mind'. Essential Elvis (unless you're too deeply rooted in pre-1969 to enjoy it). 'Burning Love' is the album that the old Camden album should have been; includes the underrated and beautiful 'I'm Leaving' and a previously unreleased 'Little Sister/Get Back' medley plus thankfully at last, 'It's a Matter of Time' a nice 70s collection. The same can be said for 'On

Stage', original album with additions, including the disposable but previously unreleased 'Yesterday/Hey Jude' medley. The real gem amongst the releases is 'Tomorrow is a Long Time'.

The 1968 recording of Chuck Berry's 'Too Much Monkey Business' kicks off a stunning later period resurgence. After all the Hollywood dross of post 1964/65 (admittedly with gems mixed in) the old guy really got it together in 1967 and 1968 with these 18 Nashville tracks which should, like Billy's 1970 Abbey Road recordings, have been turned into an album of the time. 'Big Boss Man', 'Down in the Alley', 'Come What May', the definitive version of 'Hi Heel Sneakers', the enchanting 'I'll Remember You' and my own personal favourite 'Goin' Home', are all here, with 'Guitar Man', the classic Dylan title track and a number of other goodies. Terrific stuff, much of it not known about by non fans – give it a whirl, gutsy, bluesy, soulful and beautiful performances, the man was finding his way back home.

Billy turns up on two compilation (full details in the discography update), The Rock 'n' Roll Scene which features 'Collette' (with 2 x Ls as per original 45 and LP release spelling) and on a strange EEC one, MCA Rockabillicious Vol 4 with 'Turn My Back On You'. A whole collection of quite rare and unusual British R & R numbers. I see that releases now such as the new Tommy Steele CD are back on the Decca label, what a pity the Anthology was brought out on Polygram prior to the Universal take over or Billy would have been on Decca again!! Talking about the Anthology, it's sold over 7,000 copies, as of May '99, has been on sale in Los Angeles (thanks to Tony Philbin for that info) and is being pushed a little again with a new sticker advertising 'Wondrous Place'. Still, quite unforgivably, not been reviewed by Record Collector despite several fans phoning and writing in. None of the radio programmes, 'Sounds of the Sixties' or 'Let it Rock' have featured any of the rarer tracks from it. Disappointing and inexplicable. Nice to hear 'If I Lose You' being dedicated to Billy fan Pam Rogers on 'Sounds of the Sixties' and to meet up with Pam, Shirley Bolton and hubby Pete, and Colin Gold and Beverley at Jenny Payne's bash for boyfriend Graham. A cottage! she said, some cottage!, some evening, what a party and a set, or was it two, from Colin just for the birthday boy! Everything from 'Mustang Sally', 'Kingston Town', Billy numbers of course, to 'Funny How Time Slips Away' from the forthcoming new CD. Done in the old days Colin by Jimmy Elledge, covered by Rick Nelson, a big hit for Narvel Felts in the 1970s and covered twice by Elvis. Also done by at least 20 other artists, Bryan Ferry, Jerry Lee Lewis, Ray Price etc. A more problematic gig followed at Wick Football Club where timings etc. didn't go to plan, but the set that was still delivered was even better, despite the circumstances (and the top class roadies!!). A great weekend. Even the speedboat hired by Colin and Beverley was called 'Fury'!

'Kansas City' by Billy is great and it broke my heart having to leave it off the Anthology, along with 'You Better Believe It Baby', 'If I Lose You', 'Sleepless Nights' and others, but it was nice to hear this and 'You Got Me Dizzy' being played by Brian Matthew also, and the redeeming feature of being subjected to

watching Eastenders was to hear a snatch of 'Halfway' being played in the Vic. 'Wondrous Place' (K Tel) got some Radio 2 airplay I noticed, included by Joe Brown on his latest great radio series. Some terrific music and all the better for including 'Modern' Rock 'n' Roll including Linda Gail Lewis (phew, some woman!), Darrel Higham (what a talent) and a great version of 'Way Down' on an in theatre only CD release by Tim Whitnal I think – would love a copy of that CD but at least I have it on tape. Joe mentions Billy during his show, although there were no anecdotes about him at Southsea the other night. What an artist Joe is, and his version of 'Little Queenie' ought to be recorded, the standout track of the evening for me. The 40th Anniversary Brochure featured four pictures with Billy, very nice to see. Probably the best Tour Brochure/Programme I've ever seen, with a nice tribute to Vikki Brown, sadly lost to Joe and family in 1991.

A new CD is out, 'On a Day Like This' Round Tower Music RTMCD 92 with nice country based tracks. 'City of New Orleans' is nice and 'Freight Train' is the best version I've heard. Bobby Vee is much maligned by rock 'n' roll purists yet he was there in 1959 (which is when Joe Brown had his first single release) and so has every right to lay claim to rock 'n' roll roots. 'Down the Line' is a quite superb collection of 15 Buddy Holly associated numbers. The vocals are no longer saccharine sweet but complement the rockabilly and country feel. On first playing there was a disappointment that my Holly favourite 'Tell Me How' was not taken at the usual pace and yet the change of style and tempo works on things like 'I'm Gonna Love You Too' (which Billy, being ahead of his time, also tackled in a different way to Holly). 'Down The Line', 'Rock Me My Baby', 'Blue Days Black Nights' really rock and although I've never liked 'It Doesn't Matter Any More', this version works for me. Try this CD, you may discover that Vee has more going for him than you think, and he'll certainly need to be able to rock if he's going to tour with Little Richard next year, possibly the greatest pure r 'n' r voice in the world. When is someone going to get Richard into the studio again for the classic album he surely has left in him (if his version of 'Something Else' with Tanya Tucker is anything to go by on a recent country rock compilation).

Billy and Eddie Cochran had a strong mutual regard, as friends but as artists too. How I wish I had been old enough to experience them together in 1960 on 'Boy Meets Girl' or live on tour. Rockstar Records hold rare tracks by Billy but sadly they haven't officially surfaced yet. On 'The Town Hall Party' TV show Rockstar CD RSRCD 016 we get 26 tracks mostly by Eddie and fellow legend, Gene Vincent. Sound quality is not excellent but is better than many 'old' live recordings and the CD is worth the price alone just for Eddie's version of Chuck Berry's 'Schooldays' (sadly the vocal has been dropped off the first verse – the engineer must have been asleep) but it's still great. Gene performs 'For Your Precious Love' (beautifully), 'You Win Again' and 'Roll Over Beethoven' among others. This set is a must and reminds us how badly we need the Billy TV numbers in full, and the 1961-67 live BBC shows. Why people are always depriving the Billy fans of such great material I really cannot fathom. Perhaps we'll get lucky over the next two or three years, before it's all too late. Have you

noticed how everything today, clubs, pubs, musak even, is 70s, 80s, 90s, even the easy listening crowd like Andy Williams, but hardly any pre 1968. We will just have to try really hard to make ourselves heard in asking for 'our music' from the 50s/60s. Sorry to hear that Billy's mum is in hospital again as I write. We wish you well Jean and hope by now you're back to health.

The other day I first heard the Chuck Berry number 'Dear Dad'. It's great and I searched for it, unfortunately it's only available, I think, on a deleted single and two now deleted CDs. A friend gave me his CD copy (I'm lucky enough to have a handful of such great, generous friends) but if you see it about, give it a listen, it's not on the usual compilations. 'Talkin Bout You' Chuck there's a BGO 2-1 CD 'The Latest and the Greatest/You Never Can Tell' featuring several tracks not found on the endless re-hash compilations. 'The Little Girl from Central' is really just 'Sweet Little 16' re-hashed, and 'Big Ben' is version No. 3 of 'Schooldays', yet they are enjoyable. Some classic tracks 'Promised Land', 'Back in the USA', 'Come On' and some dross, 'Diploma for Two' etc. complete the picture. Billy drew from the Chuck Berry songbook of course, 'Sweet Little 16', and in later years 'Johnny Be Goode'. The ability of an artist to sing Chuck numbers is a sort of 'litmus' test as to their rock 'n' roll ability, and Billy used to handle these numbers brilliantly!

Another worthwhile release is Carl Perkin's 'Live at Gilley's', with storming versions of 'Matchbox', 'Hi Heel Sneakers' etc. Hopefully the Billy 'Crash' Craddock performances at Gilleys will end up on this series of releases. If you like Elvis, you'll love Craddock, especially his 70s material, another virtually unknown (over here) with a great voice.

Well, that's about it for now, except to say watch out for a promised release of rare Billy live tracks on a CD called 'Wondrous Place/Live' and some others, courtesy of OZIT Records and with rare photos etc courtesy of Billy's family. For details you should write with a s.a.e. to:

OZIT Records
Record Range)
PO Box 116
Northwich
Cheshire
CW9 5UG

Thanks Tony (Philbin)
for notifying us of the
advert.

The last new CD, 'Young Blood' from the inimitable Jerry Lee Lewis had great vocals and terrific songs but suffered from terrible mixing and unsuitable western swing backing. We can only hope for another renaissance soon, after the fashion of the superb 1979 album 'Rockin' My Life Away'. Meanwhile we have the Killers Sister to help fill the void. Linda Gail Lewis has been touring recently and going down a storm. The recent CD on Sire 4344-31063-2 has some great country and rocking tracks. '1-2-3- I'm in Love Again' and 'Never Wear Mascara' could have come from the Jerry Lee songbook. 'Love Makes the Difference' is a beautiful country ballad. Cy Tucker is apparently alive and

gigging in Liverpool at Coopers Emporium on Thursday and Friday nights. Ah! teenage memories. Many thanks Kenny (Chapman). A big thank you is due to Cecilia and Ken Darvell for all of the work involved in processing my articles in this magazine, writing them has got to be easier!

Until January, take care, have a lovely Festive Season and promote Billy at every turn. Radio station requests, by pushing his CDs to the front of the rack!, wearing the T-shirt, whatever you can do to help promote his music and his name (but always in a polite and courteous way as usual).

REMEMBERING BILLY FURY THE BRIAN LEE WAY

A new forthcoming CD to tie in with Brian's resurgence onto the music scene. 15 studio recorded and several live tracks should make this a nice tribute from one of the most genuine artists in the business. Brian's act usually comprises Billy and Elvis numbers and also numbers made famous by other R n R and 'pop' music greats. Brian's management have provisionally agreed to donate a proportion of money from each CD sale to the Billy Fury Bronze Fund. More details of Tour Dates and the CD will be provided when available.

NEW CD FOR RELEASE IN AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

The Sound of Fury have co-operated with K-Tel on a digitally re-mastered 20 track compilation **WONDROUS PLACE – THE COLLECTION** features art work to tie it in with the TV advert and liner notes by Chris Eley. September release.



GONNA TYPE A LETTER

* What do you think of the Toyota advert? I wish they wouldn't keep cutting it. I've been to Virgin Records three times and they didn't know anything about it until last time when they realised it was a CD single. They weren't stocking it but they'd had orders for five so they ordered one for me as well. Let's hope it makes the charts, even if it's only in the top thirty or forty. **Eric Lander, St Helens**

* A gentleman I met at a car boot sale heard me ask one of the stall holders for Billy Fury memorabilia and he came over to tell me that Billy had been to his house for tea. The chap's wife was a hairdresser and her colleague was dating Billy at the time. Billy and his girlfriend arrived in an American car and stayed and chatted for a while. He told them about his racehorse "Anselmo" and how after the race at Great Yarmouth he was looking to try him in the Derby. I asked him if Billy was shy and he laughed and said "not with the girl!"

A couple of years later I discovered that a teacher at my sixth form was a Billy fan in her youth. Her father was a journalist on a local newspaper and had interviewed Billy on several occasions. Billy was his favourite star to interview because he was very polite and always called him "Sir". She was present at one of the interviews and her dad introduced her. Billy shook her hand and she couldn't bear to wash it again. More recently I met a lady in Great Yarmouth who used to babysit for the owner of one of the theatres at which Billy appeared. She was asked to come to the theatre to scream and chase after a double so the fans would follow her and Billy could escape out the back. **Sue Taylor, Aberystwyth**

* I worked closely with Billy for about six months as a member of a pop group, "Dr Marigold's Prescription" that he used for cabaret dates in 1970 and 1971.

The group made eight singles and two LP's, appearing many times on Radio One, including recordings backing Billy.

Many of the gigs were in and around Manchester, Blackburn and Liverpool. The Liverpool Empire comes to mind. We also backed Billy on a children's TV show called "Hats Off" at Granada Studios in Manchester.

I have many fond memories of those times and often think I was lucky to have met Billy as the group was based in London. We were connected with the "Arthur Howes Agency" in Piccadilly.

I'm sad to say after all the time I spent with Billy I never took a photograph of him and would like a nice one. **Alan French, Surrey** *(You should have your photo by now Alan, courtesy of Chris. Thanks for the memories Maureen).*

* Thanks a million for the fan club magazine. I was delighted to have been a part of it as Billy was a rather special guy.

I requested Billy's "Wondrous Place" recently on Brian Matthews' "Sounds of the 60's". Brian played it and said some nice things about Billy and me regarding "Oh Boy", "Thank Your Lucky Stars" and "Saturday Club".

I'll be looking forward to your next newsletter so till then give your syndicate, your family and Billy's family my love and God's blessings. Thank you. **Musically yours, Bill Forbes, Huddersfield** *(Thanks Bill. More of your memories are in the magazine Maureen)*

* We enjoyed seeing Billy's name mentioned in a recent cable promotion called "Review". The article was entitled "Back to the Future" and was about the resurgence of old songs accompanying new adverts. There was a gorgeous picture of Billy on the cover. **Karen and Wayne Sugrue, Nuneaton.** *(Yes, I saw it. Good wasn't it? You'll find a quote from the article in the mag. I've written to the writer, Colin Irwin to thank him for his appreciative comments about Billy Maureen).*

* Billy got a mention on Channel 4's "80's Romantics" earlier this year. Apparently "ABC" singer Martin Fry took inspiration from the fact that he was told he looked like Billy. That was why he started wearing a gold lamé suit on stage!! **Kath Jamieson, Chorley**

FOR SALE

**Original copy (vinyl) of Billy Fury's
I've Gotta Horse LP in very good condition.**

Best offers (around £50) secures.

Ring Tony Pearsall Tel/Fax: 0121 684 4615

Gonna Type a Letter

.... A little about the Fun Dance. It is usually quite a modest do. I have a hard core of family and friends who will always come and support me, about 30 people. I then try to get the numbers up to about 50 or 60 to make it worthwhile and usually manage to get around 60. I then get people phoning or telling me how much they enjoyed it and to let them know if we do another which is nice. The flyer sent to the Birmingham fans resulted in 8 people booking to attend which was great. Unfortunately only 4 turned up. Of course I have to order and pay for meals for everybody so unfortunately the fund lost £24. A big help to me is Teresa, a lady who is Functions Manager of the Cadbury Club who let me have the room free, perhaps you could give a mention of thanks to her in the next mag and to all who support the do. Our next Fun Dance will probably be in October. I get so much pleasure from Billy's music.

Cy Moy, Birmingham. *Cy, we're happy to thank Teresa of the Cadbury Club and your family and friends for supporting your event. Our biggest thanks however must go to you for your continuing support for the Billy Fury Bronze Fund. Cy raised another £120 for the Bronze Fund. If you would be interested in attending one of Cy's dos, please write to the fan club address enclosing a stamped addressed envelope and we will pass it on to Cy.*

.....I am just writing to thank you all so very much for a wonderful, unforgettable evening at the Billy Tribute Night at Arlesey. I will remember it always.

When Dave Sampson chatted about Billy on stage, I am sure that we were all in total agreement that Billy was there with us and that his star shone the brightest that night, and always will. A true paradise. I managed to have a few quick words with Dave about Billy and can honestly say what a lovely, warm and friendly man he is. It was a great pleasure to meet him and what a brilliant voice he has.

I have never seen a live band before and when Paul and the Flames came on stage I was totally overwhelmed. They were so smart and their performance brilliant. It was just like time had stood still on Saturday, everyone together in the 50's/60's, the brilliant music, the dress, the dancing and of course the main reason why I was there was to remember Billy, and do every day through his music.

When I came to Mill Hill on Sunday, I could not believe all the people that were there. I am just so pleased that so many people care and it was great to meet Billy's mum and brother Albie.

Before I close may I say I am proud to be a member of Billy's fan club and can only wish that we could turn back time. Many thanks for

accepting me into the fan club and should you ever speak or write to Dave, please thank him for taking his time to speak to me on Saturday.

Wendy Rowe Winslow. *Wendy thanks for writing and hope you enjoy belonging to the fan club for years to come. Thanks also to Jim Brady and Paul Neon for the "do" and for letting us run a raffle for the Bronze Fund. I believe Jim is planning another do in April next year at a larger venue. More details to follow in the next mag.*



Penfriends



Jimmy Phimister 570 Green Street Plaistow London E13 9DA is separated, has lots of interests, very friendly, down to earth person, easy going. Still living in the 50s / 60s as far as music is concerned. Likes meeting different people especially anyone who's into rock n roll and Billy gatherings, shows, etc. Aged 52. Would like to meet a fairly attractive lady who shares the same interest in music and that he can strike up a personal friendship with.

Phil Bartrop 12 Kestrel Way Woolwell Plymouth PL6 7SY is 50 and has been a Billy Fury fan since he was 12. Likes to keep fit, ice skate and is currently learning Spanish. He's self employed as a Decorator. He's lived in Plymouth all his life and lives alone since his divorce 10 years ago. Is looking for a single female around the same age, maybe from Liverpool, and someone with a young outlook.

Sharon Hocking 135 Cooks Close Bradley Stoke North, Bristol BS22 0BB is aged 33 (too young to remember Billy in his hey day). Is interested in 60s music. Animal lover. Ardent Billy Fury fan. At present learning desk top publishing. No car but rides a bike everywhere. Is interested in writing to someone with similar interests.

Godfrey Machen "Thespis" 43 Lindsey Avenue Poppleton Road York YO26 4RP is 62. He's a big Billy fan but also likes Slim Whitman, Ronnie Hilton, Reg Dixon and organ music, Gilbert & Sullivan, going to the theatre, amateur dramatics and crosswords. He would like to correspond and meet someone with similar tastes.

NEWSFLASH

We now have a supply of "The Sound of Fury" Omnibus TV documentary videos. The price is £10 + £3 p&p. Please make cheques payable to "The Sound of Fury". We only have a limited supply so be quick if you want one. Allow 28 days for delivery.

The City of Westminster Planning and Environment Department have very kindly renovated the Memorial bench in the cemetery for us free of charge.

The Bronze Fund

By Jean Prosser

I am pleased to inform you that the maquette which we auctioned went to a good home. For obvious reasons they want to remain anonymous but they are big Billy fans and will get great enjoyment out of the maquette for years to come.

Jackie Clark's Ben Nevis Climb raised almost £250. It was a very brave climb especially since Jackie wasn't 100% fit. Thanks to everyone who sponsored her.

Other recent significant donations are as follows.

£250 from Sir Paul McCartney
Almost £400 from Albie Wycherley's Liverpool gig
£100 from Neil Hiley's April "do"
£150 from Paul Neon/Jim Brady's "do"
£500 from Toyota (thanks to Trisha Clark for helping us with this)
£300 from the Carousel Hotel



We have also received donations from Cy Moy and his Fun Dance and Jenny Payne and her Bar-B-Q. We've received donations from existing fans as well as from fans who've recently joined us.

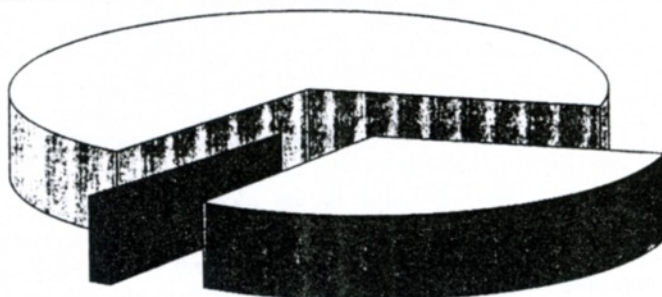
So thanks to all of you. Your continued support for the Billy Fury Bronze Fund is greatly appreciated.

Before I close I received a lovely letter from Sir Cliff Richard's secretary. "Sir Cliff will not be bidding in the auction for the maquette, and is unable to make a donation at this time. However, he thinks the statue is a great idea and wishes you well in your campaign to have this erected in Liverpool"

Postal Problems

We're still having problems with mail going missing. If any of you didn't receive magazine number 7 or anything you've asked us for please let us know. Allow 28 days for a reply to correspondence as Clare often sends your letters onto the rest of us to reply to.

Billy Fury Bronze Fund as at 31.8.99



- ☐ Statue Cost
- ☐ Sound of Fury Funds Raised
- ☒ Billy Fury Fan Club NZ Funds

The Billy Fury Rarities Corner



An ultra rare Iranian various artists EP featuring 'I'm Lost Without You' value £30.00. May have originally come with a colour sleeve. Any information welcome.

BEN NEVIS CLIMB FOR THE BILLY FURY BRONZE FUND

**by
Jackie Clarke**

Hopefully you will all remember that I volunteered to climb Ben Nevis in aid of the Bronze Fund. Unfortunately, I only climbed to 3,000 feet (the mountain is 4,406 feet high) due to the blood clot which has recently appeared behind my left eye. This has caused restricted vision. I am extremely disappointed at not reaching the top but it was really pointless trying to continue with the pain from the eye and the very real possibility of causing more problems to my sight.

The weather conditions were atrocious. When we started off at 8.30 a.m. it was sunny with quite a strong wind, but within an hour we were battling against snow, hail and gales. At one point, on turning a corner on the pathway I nearly got blown off of the mountain by the strong wind. The mist and cloud engulfed us very quickly and it was quite frightening at times.

Fortunately, the Mountain Rescue Team walked with us and one stayed with me all the time. When I said I could not continue he radioed his colleagues who were by this time 1 ½ hours ahead of us, to say that he was returning to civilisation with me and one other girl. He accompanied us all the way back, for which I am really grateful. I would not attempt to climb Ben Nevis again even if the weather conditions were good and I had vision in both eyes.

Incidentally, the other 66 people in the party did reach the summit but could hardly see each other because of the low cloud. It is rather embarrassing to admit that 4 children under the age of 12 succeeded in reaching the top.

I'm sorry not to have achieved my goal, but would like to thank all those sponsors who paid me their money anyway.

Many thanks for your support and again I am sorry not to have fulfilled my ambition in aid of the Billy Fury Bronze Fund.

(Well done, Jackie. You have absolutely no reason to apologise. It was a very brave attempt and we all hope your eye problem is sorted out soon. Thanks also to all of Jackie's sponsors, most of whom sent their donation even though she didn't quite get to the top. The amount Jackie raised is mentioned elsewhere in the mag - Jean Prosser.)

Like I've Never Been Gone – The Play

This play, partly inspired by Billy's song, has been recorded at BBC Radio Wiltshire, but as I write the transmission date has not been notified. It should be broadcast through most local BBC radio stations, certainly in the South West. If it has been transmitted before the magazine is read then we will hopefully have obtained copies for any interested fans, details to follow in the next mag.

The play is about a young girl's love for the music of the 50s/early 60s, about relationships, bands and the promotion of their material. Billy and the title song get a mention as being the favourite singer and song of one of the female characters. There are 15 songs in the soundtrack, including a performance of Billy's version of 'Like I've Never Been Gone' and a totally different rocking song with the same title, performed by one of the cast. It promises to be a lively and enjoyable play.

The writer, Alison Bruce, is herself a massive 50's fan (and has now gone out and bought the Billy Fury Anthology!). In the early 90s she got the idea for the play whilst sitting in her 1960 Ford Zodiac outside of the dance hall in Bristol where her friend had just finished playing his gig. Looking through her blue tinged rear view mirror gave the venue a black and white perspective and when she switched on the radio, guess what track was playing! Alison got such a buzz from it all that by the end of the Billy number the idea was firmly in her head for the play. It was completed by 1995.

Out of the soundtrack comes a 6 track CD of original songs (no Billy numbers here) penned by Alison's husband, Jacen Bruce, with two numbers being co-written by Alison. All the vocals are handled by Jacen. Copies of the CD (details below) can be ordered from any major record store or specialist dealer, cost about £7.99. I believe. I have contacted Alison and Jacen and thanked them on behalf of Billy fans for their efforts in helping to keep Billy's name alive. They seem a very nice couple.

NB. There is no attempt on the CD, with either song or vocals to emulate Billy's style. In fact some tracks have a stray cats type feel.

Any problems obtaining a copy then send a s.a.e. for details to:



Jacen and Alison Bruce
'Sunningdale Lodge'
10 Collins Hill
Fordham
Ely
Cambridgeshire
CB7 5PA

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

'You Said' Jacen and the Racketeers
Spindrift Records Spin 2

Billy Fury – On Stage

By Chris Eley with special thanks to
Tony Philbin and Maureen Bowden.

This series of articles, based on information received from fans, culled from tour programmes and music papers etc. is non-exhaustive but more a general outline of what, for so many people, was considered to be the best of Billy Fury – his live 'on stage' performances. Often tour and gig dates were projected, programmes were produced, but due to ill health or other reasons, shows failed to take place. This is where the memories (based on tickets and programmes) of those who were there is vital. If anyone out there can throw any further light onto the outline in this magazine, of gigs from 1 October 1958 (or before in Liverpool), until his final live (non-TV) performance in December 1982, then please do so.

In essence, Billy undertook package tours and summer seasons right up until early 1967 when Sunday Specials seemed to be the mainstay. Personal appearances then continued, also with a move into cabaret in the late 60s and this pattern, interspersed with a 1972 appearance at the Wembley Rock and Roll Show on 5 August and a major national Rock and Roll Package Tour with Marty Wilde etc. in 1974 carried on until the comeback in 1981/82. In the first of these articles we cover the period 1958-60.

The 1950s appearance dates

1957/58	Pre October 1958 Billy was apparently gigging at clubs and entering local talent competitions in the Liverpool area, probably performing predominantly skiffle. He had his own 'Formby Skiffle Group' but Margo King recalled fixing him up with one date, presumably a solo date, in 1958, at a working mans club in Aintree.
1958 October	The first professional appearance on the evening of October 1 st at the Essoldo (Ritz) Birkenhead, inserted at the last moment into the Larry Parnes Extravaganza Show, headlined by Marty Wilde and featuring Vince Eager and Jimmy Tarbuck among others.
October	Apparently continued with the Larry Parnes Tour for a few dates before heading for Decca studios in November to record 'Maybe Tomorrow'.

1959 March 15	Series of one night stands starting at Worksop Regal with Johnny Duncan and his Blue Grass Boys and Jill Day. 7 days – Matlock, Scunthorpe, Newark, Wombwell, Burnley, Pontefract, Mexborough.
March 22/23	13 date concert series starting at Blackburn City Hall (some Scottish dates projected on this tour).
June 6th	Liverpool Empire
Dec 12th	Liverpool Empire
May	The Arthur Howe 'Marty Wilde Show' with the Beat Boys, Duffy Power, Vince Eager, Johnny Gentle, Billy Fury, Dickie Pride, Sally Kelly, The Viscounts and Marty Wilde and his Wildcats. Played dates in Blackpool.
July 16 – August 15	Harold Fieldings 2.30 Special with stars from 'Oh Boy' at the Palace, Blackpool. The Viscounts, Cherry Warner, Dickie Pride, Cuddly Duddly, Red Price, Billy Fury, Mike Preston, Sarah Kelly, Marty Wilde, The Beat Boys, The Wildcats, The Tony Sheridan Trio.
August	The Larry Parnes produced Marty Wilde Show and the Big Big Show Wow! (2 shows in 1). Beat Boys, Gerry Myers, Duffy Power, Gerry Dorsey, Dickie Pride, Vince Eager, Billy Fury, Little Tony and his Brothers, Terry Dene, Sally Kelly, The Viscounts and Marty Wilde and his new Wildcats.
Sunday September 20th	The Great Pop Prom, Royal Albert Hall, London Alma Cogan, Neville Taylor and the Cutters, Craig Douglas, Bill Forbes, Billy Fury, The Mudlarks, Duffy Power, Dickie Pride, Little Tony and his Brothers, Harry Robinson and Lord Rockinghams XI, The Vernons Girls, Bert Weedon, Cherry Warner, Don Storer, Terry White, Marty Wilde, Compere – Tony Hall.



Blackpool Programme



TWO YOUNG BRITISH ARTISTS ON DECCA

BILLY FURY

Margo; Don't knock upon my door;
Maybe tomorrow; Gonna type a letter

DECCA 4557 (10" 45 RPM)

P. 11107

P. 11128



MIKE PRESTON

In Surabaya, Dirty old town

P. 11120



Produced by...

Produced by...

Produced by...

Produced by...

Produced by...

Produced by...





Extract from The Great Pop Prom Programme



To/Vick
Dorak

**BILLY
FURY**

Billy Fury,
that's the guy with
the sparkling blue eyes.
Stands 5 feet 8 in his socks.
Born in Liverpool
now has a flat in London.
Any spare time he spends
making model aeroplanes.
Been so busy lately
he hasn't had much time
to make any more!
Remember "Maybe Tomorrow"
and "Margo"?
His best friend's
a guy called Crackers.
Crackers is a large
brown-eyed boxer dog
who won't leave Billy's side.



Big Beat Show - Wow!

PROGRAMME

The Big Beat Show - Wow!

1. MEET THE BOYS
2. GERRY MYERS
Most and Cutest
3. DUFFY POWER
The new Teenage Singing Star
4. GERRY DORSET
From T.V.'s "Oh Boy"
5. DEBBIE PRICE
The Shout of Shouts from "Oh Boy"
6. VINCE SAGER
Resident Star of "Drumbeat"
7. BILLY FURY
Britain's newest Teenage Idol

- Interval -

The Marty Wilde Show!

8. The Italian Singing Star
LITTLE TONY & THE BRONCOS
9. TERRY DENE
The outstanding young Showman
10. SALLY KELLY
Miss Rock'n Roll
11. THE VISCOUNTS
Britain's newest Vocal Group
12. The Sensational

MARTY WILDE

Britain's youngest and most Entertaining
AND THE NEW WILDCATS
Presenting the new "Rock" and "Teenage" Stars

Oct, Nov,
Dec.

The Big Beat Show played for 6 weeks at some venues. It was at the Theatre Royal in Dublin in early October that Billy was first warned about his stage act and then the curtain was brought down on him, resulting in his leaving the tour. Monday 30th November saw 6 nights at the Leeds Empire.

Billy Fury – On Stage During the 60's

By Peter Davies (with special thanks to
Ray Randall and Alan French)

The Sound of Fury readers will probably recall that I produced an article in Issue No 7 relating to Ray Randall of the Tornados and some of his memories with regard to touring with Billy.

Ray also told me at the time that Billy always carried a flask with him, which he kept at the side of the stage and would obviously drink from on occasions. I wonder what was in the flask, coffee or something stronger? Maybe one of the readers will know. (It was whiskey – Assistant Editor).

As a result of the previous article I have now had a contact from Alan French, who is a London based musician, and he tells me that he belonged to a backing group of Billy's known as "Doctor Marigolds Prescription". The group at that time comprised Dave Morris on drums, Bill Friend on Bass, Guitarist Fred Radley and Alan French on keyboards. Alan tells me that the group backed Billy for a period of time during several months in 1968.

Doctor Marigolds Prescription were booked through the Arthur Howes Agency by a gentleman called Bill Fowler and although the group were mainly a recording group based in London they also toured and did some television. Alan French has some memories of touring with Billy and in particular he remembered them all staying at the Hotel in the middle of the New Forest and Billy had the habit of kicking his shoes out on trees. The group were accommodated in a dilapidated caravan in the grounds and when they complained about the rain coming in they managed to get transferred into the hotel itself with Billy!

Billy and the group appeared in a programme called "Hats Off", which was a children's programme recorded at Granada TV Studios, Manchester. I thought Alan meant 'Lift Off' but he is sure that the programme was 'Hats Off'. Does anyone remember either 'Hats Off' or 'Lift Off'? Well I remember Billy on 'Lift Off', singing 'All the Way to the USA'. The programme was hosted by the delectable Ashya Brough, who can forget that! (Assistant Editor)

Alan French went on to mention that his wife Judith (Hall) came to the Theatre almost every time Billy was in concert. He also has many anecdotes relating to Billy and although it was customary not to meet up before a show he remembers one occasion when they were appearing at Leigh in Lancashire. They all did meet up and whilst they were walking down the main street in Leigh, an old lady was crossing the road with a walking stick, slowly in front of a bus. The bus driver was getting annoyed, and Billy observing this took up the old lady's cause. He gave the bus driver an ear bashing!

Alan remembers on stage on one occasion when Billy was performing "My baby left me", that he used to pause and everyone on stage stood like statues for a good few seconds. A female in the audience then took the opportunity to shout out "Turn it down" and Billy laughed.

On another occasion at Burnley "Ace of Clubs" the audience threw beer mats. Not as a sign of displeasure but just the opposite and Billy had to ask them not to throw the mats because of the danger in doing so.

Billy had several shows when the supporting acts were magicians and Alan remembers Billy taking the magician to task regarding the birds and said to them "How would you like being stuffed up someone's sleeves?" His love of animals obviously shone through.

Alan says that Doctor Marigolds also worked on and off with Billy for approximately twelve months and he recalls that on one occasion the group were a little short of work and they were invited down to Joe Brown's house in Chigwell, which had a recording studio. The group asked Joe if he could provide them with some work, but Joe said that he could not use them out of respect to Billy.

On another occasion during 1968 Billy and the group all went to Epsom for the Derby where Billy had a horse running called "First Rate Pirate". Many readers will, of course, have heard of Anselmo but probably not First Rate Pirate. I assume that it did not win!

Among the final points that Alan French has mentioned he says that Billy was an "amazing draw" and "very popular" and, although off stage he kept himself to himself and did not mix with the musicians, he was extremely well respected and much admired in the business.

Should any reader wish to contact Alan French or wish to add to any of the anecdotes mentioned they may call Peter Davies on 01254 888255 who will pass on any information.

Alan has since written a further letter with more interesting recollections. This will probably be published in the next magazine. (Assistant Editor)

The Projected Sale of "Rhos House" Crugybar, Llanwrda, Carmarthen

By Peter Davies

I received a telephone call one evening from Clare Mehmet-Nugent, the Sound of Fury secretary, to let me know that Billy's home in Wales is now up for sale again. The asking price is £175,000. The bulk of the land that Billy used to operate on is already in the hands of other parties. (Assistant Ed.)

The sales particulars were obtained by myself from the agent selling, Messrs Russell Baldwin & Bright of High Street, Brecon. Powys and in their opening description they state the following:

"The former residence of the rock singer Billy Fury, an attractively situated, at the end of a long drive, surrounded by farmland, a centrally heated, double glazed, detached period property together with barn, stabling, paddock and all weather exercise area."

The property has created a lot of interest, according to the agents, in the time that it has been on the market. Some of the enquiries have been from fan club members and others from normal intending purchasers.

I have spoken with the selling agents and at the time of going to press they tell me that they have received an offer for the property but the applicant does in fact have a house to sell, and the matter cannot proceed until that property is sold. The proposed purchaser is, I understand, a fan of Billy's.

Whilst speaking with the agent he tells me a little of the background to Rhos House but seemed unaware of its being featured in last years stage play. There is no visible sign at Rhos House of Billy having lived there and he said that it was surprising who lived in this remote area. He chanced to mention that the late TV personality Kenny Everett has also lived close by and obviously this ties in to Billy through Lee Everett.

The estate agent mentioned that Billy was well known in the area to the local inhabitants, local builders and public house etc. He also seems to think that the present vendor of the property had a connection with Billy. The present vendor has actually advertised the house on the Billy Fury website. Let's hope an amenable fan buys it! (Assistant Ed.)





NEW RECORD MIRROR.

Week ending May 26, 1962

ELVIS MEETS A HOMESICK BILLY



WELL, one thing is certain: Billy Fury won't work in America—he's had offers—for more than three or four weeks a year.

So says his manager, Larry Parnes, who has just returned from a look-see holiday with Billy.

In fact Billy, although he enjoyed his vacation, was homesick after a short while. "He's a home-loving boy and was miserable. We talked about making a film, but one thing emerged. If he makes it, Billy will do it in England."

The Americans, says Larry, were impressed with a rough cut of Billy's first film, "Play It Cool," which was sent over.

Highspot of the working holiday was, of course, the meeting with Elvis Presley, on the set of Presley's latest film, "Girls, Girls, Girls."

And Larry Parnes found Elvis very aware of what was going on in Britain:

"Naturally we were impatient to meet Elvis, and it turned out to be very interesting. Elvis is a very self-assured person, was beautifully dressed and much better looking than his photographs show.

"He asked us all about England during the 20-minute chat we had during a break in filming, and there is no doubt that he knows what is going on.

"Elvis is no puppet to be jerked when someone else pulls the strings.

"He asked after a lot of people on the English disc scene, and told me he'd been to see Marty Wilde in "The Hellions" (Marty's western film set in South Africa), no less than five times.

"Elvis said he was so impressed by Lionel Jeffries in the film.

"We didn't get to meet Colonel Parker, Elvis's manager, but we

chatted to his right-hand man, Tom Diskin. He took Billy on one side and gave him a lot of help.

"Billy and I watched Presley doing a few shots on 'Girls, Girls, Girls.' No doubt about it, Elvis is very cool, very calm, and now he talks like an actor."

In Hollywood, Billy and Larry ran into Phil Everly ("Very shy," said Larry), Richard Beymer, star of "West Side Story," and actress Ann Helm, Elvis's leading lady in "Follow That Dream".

Larry Parnes also took in the more general show business scene in America.

He told me: "Take television. Our TV is certainly better than the American counterpart. For instance, the Ed Sullivan show isn't a patch on its equivalent here, 'Sunday Night at the London Palladium'.

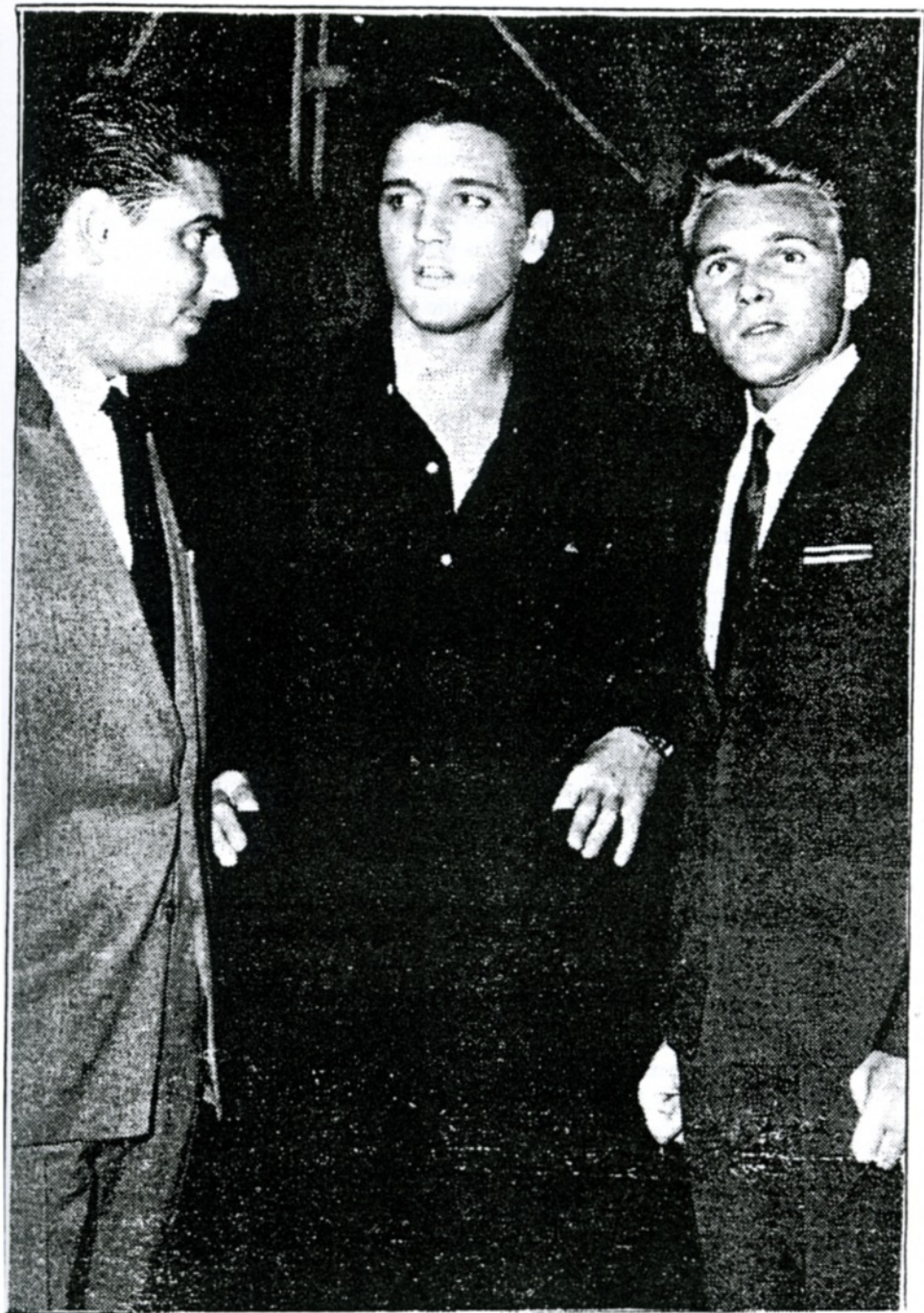
"I really don't know why our artists in Britain don't work more in American television. Our standard of artists in Britain is equal to, if not better than, America. I'm not just referring to the disc side of things, but generally.

"I was rather disappointed about American television. I expected so much and saw so little. We can more than hold our own.

"I suppose that the American show business people brainwash their audience more than we do . . . into thinking that the American artist is the world's best.

"Well, my bread is buttered in England, and there's plenty of butter to spread around, I can tell you."

IAN DOVE.



LARRY PARNES, ELVIS PRESLEY, BILLY FURY: big three in Hollywood.

THIS 'N' THAT EXTRA!

The Millennium 60's Weekend

The Millennium 60's weekend at Brighton over 21/22 August was a triumph for the music and name of Billy Fury and for early 60s music. The Billy Fury Experience (BFE) were stacked up against hardened music professionals, many of whom had been playing since the late 50s, and yet they drew the most applause. The 'Master', Brian Matthew (what a lovely man and such a professional) applauded from the wings and was later full of praise for what he had just witnessed. According to one very pleasant (and young) Beat Goes On female event assistant, people who left the hall were glowing with contentment, on a high, and fulsome in their praise for the BFE. Certainly, getting near to Colin and the boys was problematic for a while, due to the press of persons. The band was placed under a great deal of pressure, more so it seemed to me, than any other; a terrible stage set up and crackling electrics everyone had to contend with, but the BFE had probably the shortest preparation time of all.

Apart from one error (Billy's chart success did not end with 'In Thoughts of You' Tufty!) the performance was superb, often moving, probably the best I've seen by them to date. For me, only the enigmatic, superbly professional and courteous Dave Berry (who really liked our Fan Club T-shirt design and will receive one as soon as possible) and the incredible Merseybeats, come anywhere near. There is no room here for a blow by blow account; I'm sorry to have missed what would have been, I know, a great act, Mike Berry, and I enjoyed, as did the crowd, virtually all of the acts, including Mike Penders Searchers and Cliff Bennett. Nice to see Clem Cattini again, Jess Conrad's tribute to Billy, Jet Harris on stage, and so many more.

For far too long the accent everywhere in the world has been on the 'Swinging 60s' and the myth that only the groups/bands counted. Yet, for many of us (as proved by the BFEs reception) the early 60s (up to about 1966) were the key years and meant Billy, Elvis, Cliff, Adam, Bobby Vee, Dion, Rick Nelson, P.J. Proby, Del Shannon, Roy Orbison, Gene Pitney and several more all of whom had chart success, many up until 1966.

The 60s were all things musical, to all people, early 60s (late 50s hangover), soul, beat, folk, psychedelia, the start of 'Rock' music, and so a 60s event should ideally reflect all of these things. Mike and Christine Neal laid on a superb, varied weekend and hopefully early 60s music will continue to be included in future (how about Larry Branson's Orbison tribute together with the BFE), as well as the original bands. Perhaps Brian Lee (without his jumpsuit) doing various 60s songs and what about a special performance by Al Trent and the Centremen!! Johnny Rivers and Dion would be great, but perhaps too expensive.

Thanks are due to our Clare (BGO staff remarked on how dedicated she was), all of the Sound of Fury and BFE members who came to support Billy's name (too many to mention here but nice to meet you all, including my new 'Phantom typist' Cecilia and her husband Ken) and to BGO for handling our merchandise. A great weekend with Billy's music to the fore – where it should be!

QUESTION TIME

Norman Spencer has kindly provided the following information on Billy's live performances. Many thanks Norman. I did speak to Chris Raynor of Fury's Tornados and it appears that some members of the above band were also in 'Star'. The Sound of Fury are presently trying to piece together the locations of Billy's recording studios, including the locations for the 'One and Only' album, so if anyone can help, please write in. Also does anyone know the location of the record shop in Peckham, apparently owned for a short while by Billy and opened by him in 1964? Help!

BILLY ON STAGE

Dear Chris,

In response to the 'Question Time' section in Magazine No. 6, Q8, my memory returns to late summer 1974 and the one and only time I saw Billy on stage. It was at the 'Stowaway Club' in Newport, Gwent – now after several changes renamed as the 'Zanzibar' on Stow Hill. Around this time Cabaret shows often featured amateur talent shows based on the popular T.V. format of the 70s. Billy was advertised as a 'personal appearance' and after the various six acts had performed he duly appeared on the tiny stage. Looking fit and sun-tanned he introduced his new backing band. They were called 'Star' – Billy sang about seven songs and disappeared into the darkness to rapturous applause. I can still visualise his slender figure walking within a few feet of me en route to the dressing room. The winning act of the competition was a group of Schoolchildren imitating the Bay City Rollers – it was announced that for their encore Billy's band would provide the backing music – more applause and a fitting end to a memorable evening. Hope this is of interest,

Norman P. Spencer

Quotable Quotes

"... What about the unspeakably fabulous Billy Fury whose hauntingly sensitive voice has been heard to good effect singing "Wondrous Place" on our screens recently coaxing us to buy something or other. If I could remember what it was they were plugging I'd buy it. I mean, if you can't trust Billy Fury, who CAN you trust?!?"

Colin Irwin (From the magazine "Highnote")

Billy Fury Web Site: <http://www.dlc.fi/~nallew/fury.html>

BILL REMEMBERS

Personal memories of Bill Forbes

Interviewed by Maureen Bowden

In 1959-60 when Bill was appearing on "Oh Boy" with Billy, they also took part in three shows in the Albert Hall called "The Pop Proms". Other artists taking part were The Vernons Girls, Lord Rockinghams XI, The Mudlarks, The Avons, Craig Douglas and Bert Weedon. All the artists did two songs each.

Bill was sharing a room with Billy at the time. He remembers they were both very nervous at the prospect of doing the Albert Hall. Everything went well though and afterwards, by complete contrast they did a tour of one-night stands taking in a series of Northern cinemas.

These included the Matlock Ritz, Scunthorpe Pavillion and Pontefract Crescent. They may not have been the Albert Hall but they were a lot of fun.

Bill's still writing songs and singing in pubs. Look out for him if you're ever in Yorkshire.

The photo is of two "Oh Boy" fans with Bill and Billy. From left to right Nicky Hilton, Bill, Faye Kennedy and Billy. Many thanks to Alan Haigh for sending me the photo and to Bill for identifying Nicky and Faye.



Fury fans get Billy through school



FANS: Moya Gleave (right) of the Billy Fury fan club with Billy the pup and his new mum-for-a-year Julie Littlewood.

Moya Gleave can't see past 1950s rock'n'roller Billy Fury.

But her blind adoration of the English Elvis has paid for a new set of eyes for a blind person.

Billy the golden Labrador pup is about to begin a year-and-a-half of training through the Homai guide dog centre.

He will cost \$22,000 by the end of his 10-year working life.

But Billy won't leave Homai with a student loan, thanks to the Manurewa-based Billy Fury Fan Club. Their biannual fundraising party has paid his tuition fee.

Billy will only go on duty if he passes 12 months of socialisation and six months of training. A quarter of would-be guide dogs don't make the grade.

At the end of their careers, the dogs are adopted, often by old people keen for some reliable company. And there's even a guide dog cemetery when they go to the big lamp-post in the sky.

Funding and development co-ordinator Peter Joblin says the Royal New Zealand Foundation for the Blind guide dogs get no government funding.

The dogs depend on donations from grooving givers like the fan club.

Bequests and trusts are the main source of income. If you'd like to help, call the Foundation, phone: 309-6333.




WANTS



MOYA GLEAVE Wondrous Place 106 Harry Dreadon Road RD4 Drury Auckland New Zealand. Does anyone have any photos taken at Mill Hill last January, particularly any showing the "ride past" by the bikers from "The Ace Cafe"? Also, does anyone know the whereabouts of Johnny Laker?

DISCOGRAPHY UPDATE

Title and Format	Label and Cat No	Release Date	Remarks
The Best of Billy Fury Picture disc CD and Cassette release	Music Digital CD 6193 Delta Music Ltd	July 99	16 K-Tel tracks in crisp re-mastered stereo sound. 1964 colour picture of Billy previously featured in Orbis History of Rock magazine (plaid jacket and paisley style shirt)
MCA Rockabillies Vol 4 CD	Big Tone Records (EEC) BT 5716	1993 Picked up in Amsterdam by Billy fan Eddie Muir in July!!	30 great R 'n' R tracks especially 'Turn My Back on You' (the only Billy track) 'The Shape I'm In' by Kenny Lee Martin and 'Living High' by Vince Everett
Single Heroes 'Wondrous Place' 45rpm EP/Maxi single	Dakota Dak 8	04-1983	As previously listed. A picture cover release but also issued with a plain black sleeve.
Superstars of the 60s 6 x CDs or Cassettes	Readers Digest RDCD 94401-6 Cassette RDC 94401-6	1999	24 x 60s artists. Tracks by Billy are Halfway to Paradise/Like I've Never Been Gone/When Will You Say I Love You/It's Only Make Believe. Each volume features mini pictures of the artists. Billy pic is same as for Billy Fury Hit Parade CD.

Title and Format	Label and Cat No.	Release Date	Remarks
The rock 'n' roll scene	Decca originals Deram 844.892-2	1999 	25 quite rare British r 'n' r tracks including My Baby's Crazy about Elvis, (Billy Boyle) and 'Tryin' to get to You by Joey Castell, also Danny Rivers doing My Baby's Gone Away. Large picture of Billy sat on a stool playing guitar (the v-neck pullover and white trousers shot).
Wondrous Place CD	EMI/Spectrum 544134/2	August 1999	1 Billy number/original version of Wondrous Place plus 17 tracks by various other artists

BILLY FURY MILLENNIUM WEEKEND

Carousel Hotel Blackpool, 25th, 26th, 27th February 2000

Booking forms with you soon – book quickly or non-Billy general r 'n' r fans will get there first.

Mill Hill Dates 2000

January 30th, April 16th, October 1st
NB. Hall prices have increased again!



MIGHTY MAN PRODUCTIONS

34, Warwick Road, Barnet, Herts EN5 5EH. 0181-440-1034



PRIDE WITH PREJUDICE

(A play which includes the persona of Billy Fury)

THIS NEW play by Charles Langley looks at one of the great might-have-beens of British show business. A star at just 17, Dickie Pride from Croydon was by common consent the finest singer to emerge from British pop in the late 1950s, an era that produced Cliff Richard, Tommy Steele, Adam Faith and Billy Fury. A dramatic performer, he reached the brink of greatness, but fell into an abyss of madness, drink and drugs. Unlike others, this was no self-inflicted indulgence, but a classic Greek tragedy. Dickie's genius possessed within it the seeds of destruction. He had genuine mental problems that could have been dealt with effectively today, but in the early 1960s were little understood. Despite the efforts of his great friends Billy Fury and Duffy Power, he was admitted to mental hospital where the theory of the day dictated that drug problems were caused by depression and that curing depression would cure all else: so he was given a lobotomy. He was just 24.

The play opens with Dickie being treated by a young psychiatrist desperate to cure him, while his professor is interested only in getting a good research paper out of the case. We follow Dickie through the early days of British rock in the stable of impresario Larry Parnes - a man so mean he was known as Mr Parnes, Shillings and Pence - through a world of rock and roll, glitz, vodka, dope, increasing paranoia, disappointment and into his final decline.

At the hospital young Dr Riley becomes so frustrated in his efforts to cure Dickie that he takes to drink and drugs himself until it is no longer clear, even to him, whose head he is inhabiting. Is it his? Is it Dickie's? Or is he somewhere else entirely, where Dickie has grown to maturity and reappears as the artiste he should have been?

PRIDE WITH PREJUDICE takes a good look at the world of rock before the Beatles and at several leading characters of the time: Billy Fury, Duffy Power and Larry Parnes and contains classic numbers, including Great Balls of Fire, Slippin'n'Slidin', Half Way To Paradise and Baby Let's Play House.

Finally, how good was Dickie Pride? Joe Brown, himself a No1 pop star, a contemporary who knew him well, a great musician and still a force today, summed it up when he said: "Dickie Pride was the most talented of us all, he was a great singer. Ask any of the boys and they'll all say Dickie Pride."

Dickie died of drugs related illness in 1969. He was 27.

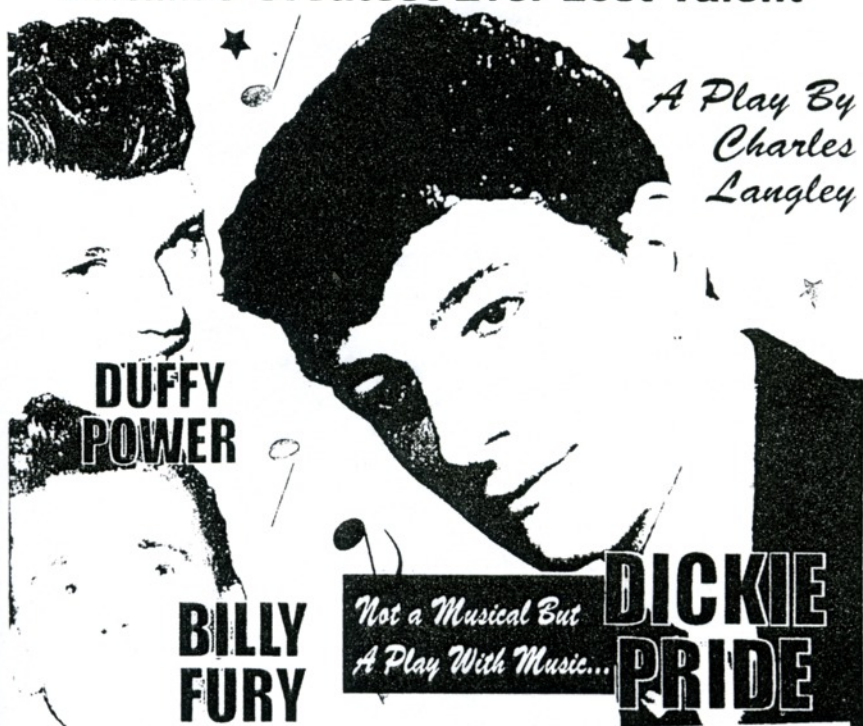
PRIDE WITH PREJUDICE is at The Gatehouse, Highgate, from Tuesday October 5 to Saturday October 30. Box office 0181-340-3488. Performances at 8pm, Tuesday to Saturday. Sunday, matinee only, at 4pm.

The Gatehouse is on the corner of Hampstead Lane and North Road N6. The nearest tube is Highgate on the Northern Line.

PRIDE *WITH* PREJUDICE

THE DICKIE PRIDE STORY

'Britain's Greatest Ever Lost Talent'



How the birth of Rock 'n' Roll was the death of one of its greatest discoveries...

Running From Tues October 5th to Sat October 30th 1999

THE GATEHOUSE, HAMPSTEAD LANE/NORTH ROAD,

HIGHGATE, LONDON N6 Box Office: 0181-340 3488

Performances at 8.00pm Tuesday - Saturday. Sunday Matinee only at 4pm

Tickets: Tues/Sun £7, £5 Concs. Wed/Thurs/Fri £8, Concs £6 Saturday £10, Concs £8

www.dickiepride.com

CQA STYLING

Cross My Heart

by
Maureen Bowden

I heard the rumour spreading. Oh what a fate!
They say I was a teenage reprobate
Believe me daughter I never told a lie
Cross my heart and hope to die

Maybe a rock star set my heart a whirl
That doesn't mean I was a naughty girl
If you hear otherwise it's just a dirty lie
Cross my heart and hope to die

Pay no attention to the things you've heard
My halo stayed in place I give you my word

They say I climbed the wall of his backyard
And spent six shillings on his birthday card
Believe me daughter it was only three and five
Cross my heart as I'm alive

Alright, I threw things at him on the stage
Why did the bouncers get in such a rage?
Were they upset with me? I really don't know why
Cross my heart and hope to die

Pay no attention to them I must stress
I was respectable, well, more or less

Perhaps I tore bits of his clothes and hair
Perhaps I sewed them in my underwear
I can't remember that no matter how I try
Cross my heart and hope to die



BILLY CALENDARS

If you'd like a calendar for next year, please tell us now so we can assess the demand. The cost will be £2.00 + 50p postage and packing. Please don't send SAE's this time because last year the calendars didn't fit in most of them and Clare had to steam the stamps off and stick them on new envelopes! Please make the cheques payable to "The Sound Of Fury" with your name and address on the back of the cheque, then send it to - 36 Manbey Grove, Stratford, London, E15 1EX. Thanks.

The calendars will be produced by our Hero from Helsinki Nalle Westman.



The Billy Fury Experience **Forthcoming Dates**

9th October - Cannock
23rd October - Grimsby
3rd November - Hanley
26th November - Southsea
10th December - Nantwich



We all send our best wishes to Jean Prosser who's recovering from an operation.
Get well soon Jean.
Love from us all.



**NOW TAKING THE NAME OF
BILLY FURY
IN THE NEXT MILLENNIUM**

THE "SOUND OF FURY" SHOW

**THE ULTIMATE TRIBUTE
TO**

BILLY FURY

**THE LEGEND OF
BRITISH ROCK & ROLL**

Featuring the amazing voice of

'JOHNNY RED'

'HALFWAY TO PARADISE'

'MAYBE TOMORROW'

'WONDROUS PLACE'

'THOUSAND STARS'

'DEVIL OR ANGEL'

'JEALOUSY'

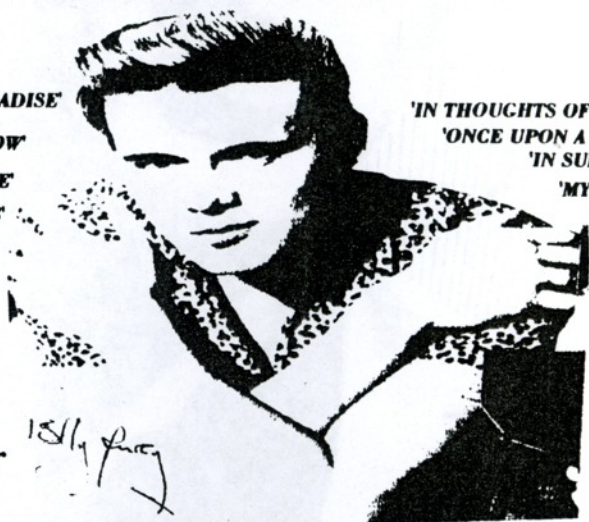
'IN THOUGHTS OF YOU'

'ONCE UPON A DREAM'

'IN SUMMER'

'MY ADVICE'

'MARGO'



**Friday
November
19th**

**Wellingborough Working Mens Club.
Cannon Street, Wellingborough, Northants.**



THE SOUND OF FURY

36 Manbey Grove Stratford London E15 1EX

Billy Fury Web Site: <http://www.dlc.fi/~nallew/fury.html>